

everybody benefits

FROM GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

News from LAWRENCE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION | LEAP

Spring 2016

Their Future Starts in the Classroom

Research has proven that a student's long-term education achievement is directly linked to a successful beginning. To break the cycle of school failure associated with children raised in poverty, we must start before they arrive to kindergarten. Our work today in early childhood education goes beyond state funding to ensure that all children begin school ready to learn, setting the stage for achievement in life. Our state legislature currently does not include early childhood education in its budget. Therefore, the Lawrence Public Schools' early childhood program is funded with grants and private donations. Thanks to our generous donors, the Lawrence Schools Foundation has contributed more than \$2 million to this program since its inception in 1996.

► Early Childhood Program

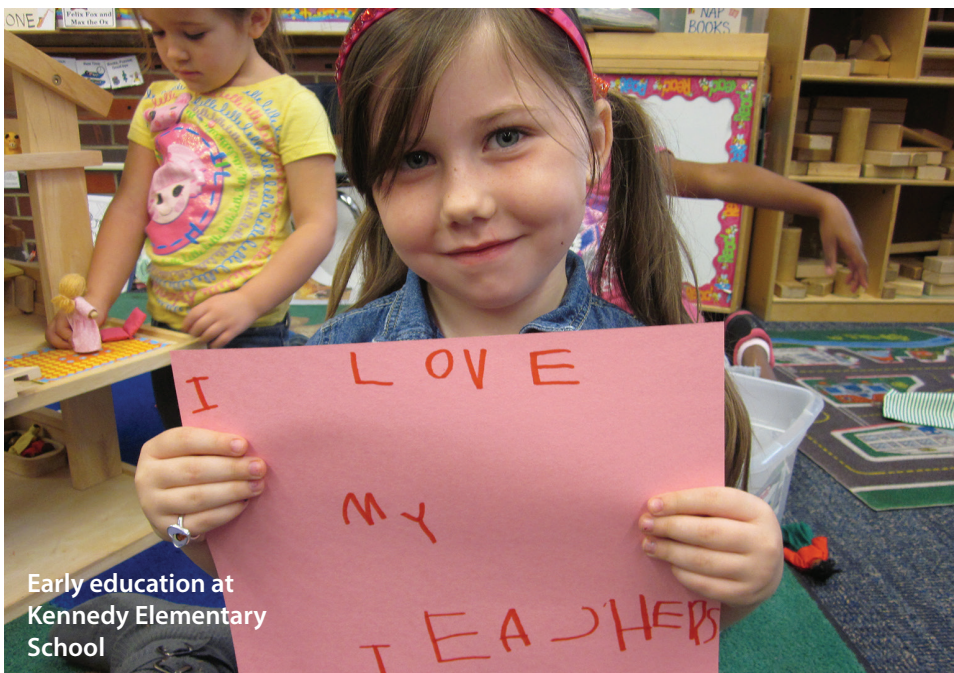
Q: How many children are in our early childhood program?

A: Kennedy Elementary School currently serves approximately 125 "at risk" 4-year-olds and other preschoolers with special needs.

Q: How does my donation help?

A: Your donations help to offset costs and provide preschoolers with a full day of school-based curriculum with certified teachers, nutritious meals, and music and exercise activities to families who must meet income guidelines and other program requirements.

Last school year, the program served 193 children, and parent educators made more than 1,000 personal visits, according to a report delivered to the board. The program usually has a waiting list of about 35 children.



Early education at
Kennedy Elementary
School

IN THIS ISSUE

- Your Legacy, Their Future
- LEAP into Action: Business + Community = Great Schools
- In the News
- In the Spotlight: Where Are They Now?
- Upcoming Events: Join us at TGIFollies!



Your Legacy, Their Future

The joy of philanthropy can be yours, no matter how wealthy, healthy or old you are. You just have to be passionate about education and see the far-reaching impact your planned gift can have. Your gift of any size will help ensure your good works outlive you and enrich the education of young lives in our public schools. You may be a teacher who has nurtured those young minds or a physician who has cared for them. Perhaps you are a business owner who has strengthened our economy, a parent, a volunteer or a musician. You have benefited from this great community and now you can give back. Please take the time to plan your estate — you may be surprised to learn how many ways you can give and benefit financially today.

► What Is a Planned Gift?

A planned gift is a gift other than cash — such as a bequest in your will, appreciated stock, charitable trusts or life insurance. We encourage our donors to discuss their desire to leave something to the Lawrence Schools Foundation with an attorney or financial advisor. In addition to the personal satisfaction of leaving a legacy, you may also reduce your income tax, avoid capital gains tax, reduce or eliminate estate tax, or increase or defer income. Most importantly, you will continue to enrich the education provided to the students in the Lawrence Public Schools after you are gone.

► Did You Know...?

Did you know that your **planned giving** helps grows futures in a variety of ways?

Our Students. Our Teachers. Our Community. The quality of a community's public schools affects the quality of life for its residents. Industry, small businesses, residents and college students are attracted to our city, directly or indirectly, because of our excellent public schools. Our students are the future of this community. A planned or estate gift for education is an investment in many futures — our children, our grandchildren and *their* children. Contact us about how YOU can help today!



Lawrence Education
Achievement Partners

**Business + Community
= Great Schools**

Our Goal

LEAP establishes and facilitates mutually beneficial partnerships between community businesses/organizations and schools to enrich learning by sharing knowledge, time and resources. Partnership activities are tailored to the needs in each school and the interests of the organization/business.

LEAP into Action

Interested in starting a relationship that engages students and supports academic achievement?

Here are just a few things we can do together:

- Reading to students
- Tutoring
- Connecting classroom activities to work life
- Job shadowing
- Guest speakers
- Workplace tours
- Classroom volunteering
- Mentoring
- Serving on school site councils
- After-school programming

Join us!

To learn more, call LEAP at 785-330-1854 or visit lawrenceschoolsfoundation.org.



A representative from HyVee, one of our LEAP partners, talks with local students

Success in the Classroom



Anderson and McNorton with Gail Vick, president of the Lawrence Schools Foundation Board, and Dr. Rick Doll, superintendent

Kennedy Elementary School teacher Cara McNorton was selected as the recipient of the 2015 Dedication to Education Award, given annually by the Lawrence Schools Foundation in collaboration with Lawrence Public Schools. The award provides \$5,000 to the recipient.

"When I think of Cara McNorton I smile," said Kennedy principal Cris Anderson. "She is one of those teachers that every child will remember as the one who played an important part of their life. She is the type of teacher that every principal dreams of having on their team. Cara is a teacher that challenges herself, motivates her students and inspires her peers."

In the spirit of "paying it forward," McNorton hopes to create a scholarship for Kennedy alumni because she believes in the power of an education and wants students to know that opportunities are available for them to continue their education after high school.

"It is my goal to teach kids to be independent of me and to continue their learning even when I am not with them," she said.



2015 student champions Hunter Gudde, Kyleigh Severa, Amani Bledsoe and Claire Sanner

Where Are They Now?

Four student champions were recognized by the Foundation at the 2015 Community Education Breakfast. Because the keynote speaker was Clint Bowen, an assistant football coach at the University of Kansas, the champions named all were student-athletes cited for their outstanding accomplishments, not only on the fields of play but in the classroom and the community.

Hunter Gudde, Free State — A standout on the baseball field and basketball court, he earned first team all-state honors in baseball as a junior. In basketball he was a first-team all-Sunflower League selection. Gudde will play baseball at Johnson County Community College.

Kyleigh Severa, Lawrence — A captain on the volleyball team, Severa really excels on the track. She has been a part of three school-record relay teams which have won three state championships and helped lead LHS to the 2015 state title as a team. She has committed to Wichita State University for track.

Amani Bledsoe, Lawrence — A top-11 football player in Kansas and one of the most recruited players in the state, Bledsoe is also a state qualifier in the shot put in track and field. The future college defensive lineman entertained offers from such programs as Ohio State, Oregon and UCLA before selecting the University of Oklahoma.

Claire Sanner, Free State — An all-state selection in both cross country and track and field, Sanner has led Free State to state championships in both sports. She boasts a perfect 4.0 grade-point average and is involved in volunteer work in the community. She will attend KU on a track scholarship.

Mark Your Calendars

► 26th Annual Foundation Follies

Friday, April 15, 2016 (doors open at 6 p.m.)

Doors open at 6 p.m.

7 p.m. Showtime and Golden Apple Awards

Liberty Hall

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS AT
www.lawrenceschoolsfoundation.org

► Community Education Breakfast

Friday, September 16, 2016

7:30 to 9 a.m.

Guest speaker: Karen Hough, '85 LHS grad,
founder/CEO of ImprovEdge

CONTACT US

Your support continues to be instrumental in changing young lives and building a foundation for successful futures.

The Lawrence Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.

110 McDonald Drive
Lawrence, KS 66044

Phone: 785-330-1941

Email: djohnsto@usd497.org

Visit us on the web at
www.lawrenceschoolsfoundation.org



**Lawrence
Schools
Foundation**



Lawrence Education
Achievement Partners

110 McDonald Drive
Lawrence, KS 66044

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 557
LAWRENCE, KS