

September 2015

# Get involved at Lewis Elementary

There are lots of ways for parents to be involved at Lewis Elementary. Some require face-to-face participation at the school building, and other things can be accomplished in your living room!

If you have ideas or want to be involved in the planning or participation of events-come to the PALS meeting on Monday, September 14. They are always

looking for parents who want to plan and follow through with fun activities for the students.

Volunteer your time helping the teacher prepare materials-cutting, sorting, organizing-some of this can be done at home.

Fill out the volunteer training and background check paper and attend a field trip or help in the classroom.

Stay connected with your child's classroom by reading papers sent home, calling or emailing the teacher, reading Facebook or Twitter, checking the blog or websites for the classroom, school, and district.

Follow through with making homework a routine time in your household. We all need to practice skills to get better. Young children especially do!

Get to know your child's teacher and build a trusting relationship with him/her. The teachers at Lewis know that the strong relationship between school and home can really have a positive impact on the student. Do you want your child to have the best year ever? Ask the teacher how you can help!



## LEWIS WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Lewis Elementary had a few new staff members join our family this year. Pictured from left to right are: Lisa Walter, Special Education; Courtney Sisson, Reading Specialist; Samantha Kalkowski, Early Childhood Center Speech/Language Pathologist; Kristen Verdi, Kindergarten; Amy Mika, Kindergarten; and John Anderson, P.E. They all come to ESSD with teaching experience and an excitement for students and learning. Please welcome them when you are visiting the building.



# Encourage excellent school attendance for your child!



The lifelong habits of good attendance begin at a young age. Just as an employer counts on employees to be in attendance during each of their scheduled work shifts in order to accomplish the work of the business, so schools count on students to be in attendance every day possible in order to get our job accomplished-teaching students the skills to be productive members of society and good citizens.

We want them to leave our school with the strategies to tackle any problem thrown their way and have the skills to provide for themselves and a family someday.

Teaching your child to be on time to school every day will start them on the path of good work habits. Requiring them to be at school each day shows that you respect the learning that takes place and the time the teachers take in preparing a quality education for your child.

Learning activities begin at 8:43 am and last until the end-of-day bell at 3:42 pm.

### Some general reminders and suggestions that will help increase any child's attendance.

- Students need to be IN THEIR CLASSROOM at 8:43 am each morning

- Parents must walk in and sign their child in at the office if they arrive after the 8:43 am bell
- Students should stay until the end of the school day and not get checked out early
- Please schedule dentist, hair, physical, counselor, etc. appointments after school or on school breaks

### Each month and quarter we will be recognizing good attendance in the following ways:

- Monthly-students with perfect attendance (no absences, tardies, or early check-outs) will receive a perfect attendance dog tag
- Quarterly-students with 90% attendance or better, and having less than 2 behavior referrals (including bus) participate in a classroom game party
- End of Year-students with 90% attendance or better, and having less than 2 behavior referrals (including bus) participate in inflatable game party

Let's model for our children the attitude that school is important! Let's show Excelsior Springs that Lewis Elementary students can have the best school attendance in the district!

## FREE EVENTS AT MID-CONTINENT LIBRARY

September 12, 2015, Saturday at 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
**CHESS TOURNAMENT**

Compete with other chess players in your age division. This three-hour tournament will be divided into rounds with prizes awarded to the winner of each group!  
(Ages 10 and up) Registration is required.

September 26, 2015, Saturday at 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM  
**ZOO TO YOU**

Kansas City Zoo staff and docents will provide touchable artifacts and bring three or four animals for an informal presentation and discussion.  
(Ages 3 and up) Registration is required.

## POSITIVE CHARACTER TRAIT FOCUS FOR SEPTEMBER

Our character trait focus for September is **RESPONSIBILITY**. Throughout the month, teachers read books about characters that show responsibility, they connect our school-wide behavior expectations to be responsible, and help students to recognize ways they can show they are responsible at school and at home. Here's a link to a cute video that gives great reasons to be responsible to each other:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ng3dp7q>



## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- SEPT. 7 .....No School due to Labor Day holiday
- SEPT. 10-11 .....Dental Screenings
- SEPT. 11 ..... Lewis Night at the ES Tigers Football Game
- SEPT. 14 • 6 PM . Lewis Parents And Lewis Supporters (PALS) Meeting
- SEPT. 16 .....Mid-Quarter Progress Reports go home
- SEPT. 25 ..... PALS Family Movie Night
- SEPT. 28 ..... No School due to Teacher In-Service
- SEPT. 29 • 11:53 AM .....Dismissal for Teacher In-Service
- OCT. 2 .....ESHS HOMECOMING!

# CARING CLASSROOM COMMUNITIES SUPPORT SCHOOL-WIDE PBIS

Each month I will be sharing a portion of our building improvement plan. This plan outlines our goals, strategies, and action steps we plan to take to increase student achievement at Lewis Elementary.

This month I will explain our goal to increase positive student behavior. While there are many details that go into the action steps, this will give you insight into the overall plan we have for students at our school.

So far this year, each of these action steps have been initiated. We believe in a caring, safe, structured environment to help students feel secure. They can easily learn routines and procedures that will help the classroom and school run smoothly if they feel cared for and nurtured at school. Each classroom teacher has been

conducting activities to help students build relationships and trust from day one. Administrators have been lucky enough to participate in several of these!

Last year, 77 percent of our students had less than two office referrals. This includes bus referrals. Several students behave appropriately in the classroom and school, but have a hard time on the bus where there is less structure. But the need for safe, respectful, and responsible behavior is ever bit as important on the bus. Please help us by encouraging positive behavior on the bus. We know we can meet our goal of 80 percent this year, or even exceed it!

Our building goal is: 80 percent of students will have 0 or 1 office behavior referral this year (including bus referrals).



- OUR ACTION STEPS TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS KNOW AND FOLLOW THE BUILDING EXPECTATIONS:**
- Teach and practice the expectations at least weekly, more often as needed
  - Reinforce positive behavior continually with gold and blue tickets
  - Follow the safe seat, buddy room, focus room continuum as needed
  - Create caring classroom communities
  - Active supervision of all student activities inside and outside of the classroom

## MAP Test scores will arrive in the mail soon!

If your child participated in the spring 2015 Missouri Grade Level Assessments at Lewis, you will be receiving their scores in the mail this week. Students took the test online this year with new questions and electronic tools to use for problem-solving and organizing information.

While the state warned districts of a possible drop in overall scores, we feel our students did as well as they had in years past with the written work in booklets and previous question sets. We consistently observed our Lewis students putting forth their best effort and sticking with the tasks as needed to complete their assessment. We were very proud of their effort.

We definitely have some areas we plan to work on to increase the overall performance of our

students. We believe that they are fully capable of scoring in the desired categories of “Proficient” or “Advanced”. Third, fourth and fifth graders take the tests each spring. We strive to expose them to content and strengthen their skills so they can perform at their best by late April. While our lessons and activities here at school throughout the year are meant to prepare them well, our motive is not to be test-driven or create anxiety for students.

You can help prepare your child all year long by seeing that homework practice is completed, making time for recreational reading practice at home, staying in touch with your child’s teacher regarding any issues of concern, attending parent-teacher conferences and family involvement activities

at the school, and by just encouraging your child to always do their best on any assignment or test.

Information regarding the ESSD policy on state assessments can be found through the district website under the Board of Education section.

Revised Statute 160.570.2 of Missouri school law states that:

“The school board of each school district shall establish a written policy on student participation in statewide assessments. The policy shall be provided to each student and the parent,

guardian or other person responsible for every student under eighteen years of age at the beginning of each school year and a copy of the policy shall be maintained in the district office and shall be available for viewing by the public during business hours of the district office.

“A school board may establish a policy designed to encourage students to give their best efforts on each portion of any statewide assessment established pursuant to section 160.518 which may include but is not limited to incentives or supplementary work as a consequence of performance.”

### Stay connected with us!

