

Norton Learning Center offers diploma opportunities

A high school diploma is a virtual necessity for success. Besides being a requirement for most college admissions and many jobs, a high school education has a positive effect on society as a whole.

A study by the Economics Center for Education and Research in Ohio found that high school diplomas benefit taxpayers and state economies, with high school graduates contributing more to a state's economy and requiring less state assistance. In addition, the study showed that high school graduates earn, on average, a staggering \$470,000 more than non-graduates over a lifetime.

The USD 211 Learning Center is for adults who want to succeed in completing a Norton Community High School diploma. Now in its fifth year of operation, the Learning Center offers a whole new way of learning. In a user-friendly setting, students can learn while still meeting job, family, and community responsibilities. Teachers are caring individuals who believe that success is directly linked to supportive relationships and who know how to help adults learn and succeed in their studies. They will work with students one-on-one, providing individualized instruction when appropriate.

Enrollment is underway now at the 211 Learning Center. Any non-graduate 18 years of age or older whose class has already graduated and who needs a diploma, may start the program immediately. Daytime and evening classes are available; students may also work from home or any other location with internet access. Learning Center staff can answer your questions and help you find the learning path that is right for your needs. Hours are 8-8 Monday-Thursday and 8-4 on Friday. For more information call 785-874-4333 or come by the Learning Center at 126 S. State in Norton.

Stressing back to school safety

With students getting back to school, there are some important safety reminders the Kansas Highway Patrol would like to point out to students, parents, and motorists in Kansas.

Tips for Children

Do not hurry to get on or off the bus. Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled.

As the bus approaches, stand at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the roadside, and line up away from the street.

Wait until the bus stops, door opens, and the driver says it's OK before stepping onto the bus. Use handrails to avoid falls. Be careful that clothes, shoelaces, book bags, or other items are secure and won't get caught on the handrail or door of the bus.

If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road at least 10 feet ahead of the bus before you cross in front of it. Be sure the driver can see you, and you can see the driver. Never walk behind the bus, and walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus.

Children should stop at the

bus's edge and look both ways twice for oncoming traffic before crossing the street. Kids must learn the importance of watching for traffic before getting off the bus and before crossing the street, because drivers may not see them.

If you drop something, tell the driver, then make sure the driver understands before you try to pick it up, as they may not see you bending down. A child's less likely to drop something in traffic if they carry a backpack.

Obey the bus driver, sit facing forward in the seat, use an inside voice, and do not stick anything out the windows.

Tips for Drivers

When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or riding a bicycle to school.

When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking about getting there safely.

Slow down. Watch for children congregating near bus stops.

Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street

without looking for traffic.

Know that it is illegal to pass a school bus stopped for loading/unloading. In Kansas, the fine for this potentially deadly violation is \$315 plus court costs.


If you see a bus ahead, slow down in preparation for its possible stop. It's easy to misjudge the speed at which you can overtake a bus, and they make frequent stops. The sooner you slow, the more prepared you will be to stop.

Learn the flashing signal light system that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions. Never pass a bus when flashing lights are displayed.


Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop.

Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm indicate the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before starting to drive again.



Welcome New Teachers



Susan Havlicek comes to Northern Valley from McCook, Neb. She graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a Bachelor's degree in Vocational Business Education. She also earned her Master's degree from UNK in Special Education. Her previous teaching experience includes substitute teaching for many years and, last year, she served as an Interrelated teacher in Holcomb. Havlicek and her husband have six children and seven grandchildren. This year, she will serve as the interrelated teacher for Northern Valley.




Alissa Krafft grew up in Oakley and graduated from Kansas State University in May, 2011. Prior to joining the Northern Valley district, she was a student-teacher at Blue Valley High School in Randolph. Alissa and her husband, Eric, are excited to become a part of the community. This year, she will be teaching Agriculture Education and serve as the FFA Advisor for Northern Valley.



ADMINISTRATION:


Steve Taylor, Superintendent
and 9-12 Principal, Almaena
785-669-2445 or
Marvin Gebhard, PK-8 Principal
785-664-2446 or 854-7681




USD 212 NORTHERN VALLEY

ALMENA AND LONG ISLAND


Meet the Newest Additions to Norton Unified School District 211




Traci Jilka grew up in Hill City and graduated from Fort Hays State University in 2010 with a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Prior to joining the Norton district, she provided speech services at Palco and Natoma. Jilka is married to Kyle Jilka, who teaches physical education and coaches at Hill City. This year, she will serve as the speech-language pathologist for the Norton district.




Kellie Blume grew up in Clarinda, Iowa and graduated from Northwest Missouri State University in 2004. For the past three years, she has served as a kindergarten teacher at Florence Wilson Elementary school in Garden City. Blume and her fiancé, Eric Thompson, plan to be married Oct. 1. This year, she will serve as the second-grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary in Norton



Jennifer Hauser grew up in Long Island and graduated from Norton Community High School. She also graduated from Bethel University with a degree in Language Arts/Secondary Education. She later earned her Master's degree in School Counseling from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. After nine years of serving as the high school guidance counselor in Norton, Hauser decided to become a stay-at-home mother. She and husband, Keith, have three children: Hadley, Tessa and Roman. Five years after leaving the district, Hauser returns this year to serve as the elementary/junior high guidance counselor.



Kayla Rutherford grew up in Norton, then graduated from Fort Hays State University with a degree in elementary education in 2010. During the last school year, she served as the grades four through six at-risk tutor for the Norton district. This year, though, she is stepping into the position of first-grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary.



Don Burge grew up and attended school in Norton. He is a Highland Community College graduate, where he played baseball. He also graduated from Washburn University in 1991. Currently, Burge is working toward a Master's degree in Special Education. This year, he will be a long-term substitute in the resource department at the Norton Community High School.


Welcome Back to School!



“WE ARE PROUD YOU ARE BLUE JAYS!”

USD 211 Norton Schools

NORTON, KANSAS



Ben Gordon is originally from Marysville and recently graduated from Kansas State University. Excited to become a part of the Norton community, Gordon's extra-curricular interests include working on his truck, watching football and racing, time at the lake, and spending time with his dog, Emma. This year, Gordon will teach K-8 art for the Norton district. He will also serve as Assistant Coach for the high school football program.