

Kit Carson School District R-1

Robert Framel, Superintendent
rframel@rebeltec.net

719-962-3219 phone
@KCR1Wildcats

719-962-3317 fax
www.kcsdr1.org

Jim Trahern, Principal
jtrahern@rebeltec.net

Wildcat country is alive and well !!

The Wildcats are working hard in the classrooms and the courts. The basketball teams just completed the holiday tournament in Lamar and will get some rest before a full schedule in January. Please see the calendar or website for game times and locations. Both teams are ranked in the top ten and are planning on another possible state run. The classrooms have been busy with finals and ending the semester on a positive note. Speaking of positive notes, the Christmas concert was awesome!! The students did a great job singing and playing during the hour long concert.



Internet Info:

Kcsdr1.org Access daily bulletins, class schedules, activity calendar and more!

Communication:

As superintendent I am always concerned with communication. Communication from me to the staff, parents and the students. Communication from the staff to parents and students. Communication skills among the students themselves. Communication, as we all know, is the foundation of education and problem solving.

I look forward to feedback from parents and the community on happenings around the building and possible changes in some practices. Here are some of the conversations going on around the building at the moment. The staff and I will be working on building a 2017-18 calendar. This calendar could include 9 to 10 late starts on specific Wednesdays. The late starts would only be about an hour long, so school would start at 9:12 on those days assuming the overall schedule doesn't change. I would like feedback on possible complications with this late start idea. The late start will be designed to give teachers time for READ, RTI, GT plans, collaboration time for interdisciplinary projects, professional development time on questioning strategies, scaffolding, and grading techniques.

The Board of Education and myself has a strategic planning session led by Don Anderson from the East Central BOCES. We worked on developing priorities for the district which will become the basis for all decisions and work around the school.

These priorities are being finalized, but the first draft includes: 1. **Student Growth** — Provide both rigorous and proactive teaching of standards by using the elements of intentional design with a specific focus on helping students help themselves to achieve one year's growth or more. 2. **Establish SAFE and HEALTHY Learning Environments** — District facilities will be designed and maintained to prevent and protect students from bodily harm and the culture of all buildings will promote emotional and social well-being of all students 3. **Instruct with focus on THINKING STRATEGIES and FEEDBACK** — Provide both rigorous and responsive teaching by using the elements of intentional design with a specific focus making student thinking visible and giving specific, meaningful feedback in the learning process 4. **Build Professional and Community COLLABORATIVES** — Establish and sustain systems for teachers and staff to strengthen delivery of instruction through on-going conversation and critique of practice and develop partnerships with the community. All of these will soon be on the website along with evidences of how we are implementing and diagnosing our strengths and weaknesses.

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MAPS Scores: The MAPS scores are used to diagnose strengths and weaknesses in our students and help teachers to plan for the next semester. When looking at scores I personally look at student's percentage and growth percentage. If a student's percentage is listed at 62% then they are scoring higher than 61% of the kids in that grade on that test. The growth percentage relates the student's growth in a subject compared to students just like them. So a growth percentage of 70% means the student grew more than 69% of the students in the country that started at the same place as them. Here are the results from December.

Grade:	Student % ave	Growth % ave.	Grade:	Student % ave	Growth ave.
K	69.8	52.3	1	78.5	86.2
2	74.3	58.4	3	71.1	55.6
4	85.1	67.1	5	70.7	66.1
6	65.8	45.5	7	64.5	58.8
8	72.6	60.4	9	65.3	56.1
10	77.8	56.4			

So what does this tell us about our students. ON average our students are outperforming 71% of the other students in the nation and our students are out growing 60% of the students in the country. These results are great and I am very proud of our students and teachers for their hard work.

Now, being a type A personality, I still see room for more growth and will continue to strive for that also. Jim Collins wrote, "Good is the enemy of great." and that is why we will always strive for greatness ! Merry Christmas !

The next school board meeting will be January 17th at 7:00pm in the library.