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## Community Newsletter - April 2024

Dear South Nodaway Family,

Welcome to the 23-24 third edition of the South Nodaway School District Community Newsletter! We are excited to share with you the latest news, updates and highlights. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about important events, achievements, opportunities, and challenges within our educational community!

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE & DISTRICT NEWS

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As we enter the home-stretch of another school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect upon our shared goals and values and provide some important updates.

**Missouri's 2024 legislative session** is winding down. As always there are several **pieces of legislation aimed at Missouri's school districts!** A few items of note:

**Voucher Tax Credit & Charter School Expansion Omnibus Bill (SB 727 - Koenig)** – A large expansion of the current Ed Savings voucher program. The current system was framed as a mechanism for students in urban schools who are also lacking financial resources to use a tax voucher to attend other schools. This proposed expansion increases the state funding by 100%, increases the eligibility ceiling and reallocates public tax revenues to private schools. A concern that many public schools have is the lack of any accountability measures for those entities.

Furthermore, Charter school expansion language in this bill would include state funding of charter schools through the foundation formula – funding these schools from tax revenues collected across the state but once again without any transparency or accountability to the taxpayer.

This bill has recently gained momentum and has been expanded greatly through various amendments - some of which may have positive impacts and others that may include unintended consequences. Teacher pay language, formula changes, enrollment provisions, early childhood funding and small schools grants have all been added in some form. However, **only the voucher provision has been given guaranteed, sustainable funding - a cause of great concern for public school proponents.**

For a closer look at South Nodaway's academic focus please check out our CSIP! This **strategic plan** was **crafted by a committee composed of various stakeholders (including staff, parents, community members and students)** after three nights of collaboration, data analysis, needs assessments, reflection, and evaluation. Please use the following link to find the CSIP if you're interested in South Nodaway's strategic plan!

CSIP link: <https://www.southnodaway.k12.mo.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/CSIP>

I want to express my gratitude to our SN family for your unwavering support and dedication to our school. It is through your collective efforts that we continue to strive for excellence in education and create an inclusive and nurturing environment for our students to thrive!

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

South Nodaway's students have consistently demonstrated remarkable achievements in academics, with many receiving recognition at local, state and even national levels. Some recent triumphs and milestones include:

At FBLA State Leadership Conference, **Lyndon Hayden** earned the Community Level of Achievement for **Missouri FBLA's Community Service Awards**. During his two years in high school, Lyndon has accumulated **over 80 service hours for his school and community**. Included are hours spent carrying the banner for the marching band (which he is not a band member), volunteering to work at concession stands beyond the required, and helping with a local Vacation Bible School. **We are proud of you Lyndon!!!**

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Sometimes it's **creativity in lesson planning and engaging the students that make all the difference!** We'd like to take a moment to extol a couple of teachers that have gone **above and beyond** to create engaging learning opportunities for our students!

We'd like to commend **Nikki Carter** for her **efforts in preparing a March Madness reading tournament!** Mrs. Carter's tournament pitted 16 popular children's books against one another in an effort to crown a champion. Classes K-6 have read each story and **voted on which book will "survive and advance!"** The final four has been set: *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* faces off against *Cinder Toot* and *Stand Tall Mary Lou Melon* is matched up with *The Day the Crayons Came Home* with a spot in the finals on the line! The **excitement is palpable** and we applaud Mrs' Carter for her creativity in maintaining quality instruction for our SN students! **Thank you, Nikki!**

In a similar manner, **Hannah Wilmes**, has returned to our Longhorn family, as a long-term sub! Hannah, who recently completed her student teaching and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education, joined us in January to help fill an unforeseen temporary opening. As an alum Hannah is well-versed in the **Longhorn Way** and knows what it means to be a part of our family! Hannah is **a rockstar when it comes to differentiated instruction**, a skill rarely so prominent in a new teacher. Hannah's efforts to make the best of a difficult situation demonstrate **her commitment to children and their education**. South Nodaway and our students have reaped the benefits of her dedication! **Thank you, Hannah!**

## **CURRICULUM CORNER – Spring Testing & Summer School**

It's that time of year again-our students are taking the state-mandated tests. These tests, while cumbersome, are important because DESE uses them to generate our score on our Annual Performance Report (APR). Our teachers and students have been preparing for these tests for the last few weeks.

Additionally, as the school year winds down students will be taking (significantly more valuable) district-level assessments that inform decision making processes related to curriculum, classroom instruction, individual interventions and instructional practices. **Please help us stress the importance of doing well on these assessments by getting adequate rest, eating a good breakfast and giving maximum effort.**

South Nodaway will make use of **grant funds again this year to host summer school!** We'd like to invite K-6 students to participate in three weeks (Mon-Thurs) of **fun and supplemental learning** activities during the month of June. Please look for more **details and a daily schedule to be released soon!**

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

We are very **thankful for the Kawasaki-Maryville plant** and their **generous donation of \$5000** to the South Nodaway School District. These funds have been utilized by the district to update Chromebooks and maintain other technology-related expenditures as part of the **district's 1-to-1 program** in which every student has access to a device and the internet!

Funds from **Mosaic's grant** (see January newsletter) have also been put toward equipment to make **telehealth counseling** available to our students.

This allows students to meet with outside mental health providers **right here in our building** - cutting down on missed instructional time, and providing an added convenience in regard to travel. **We are beyond grateful for the generosity of our partners at Mosaic and their support for our students.**

## **PARENT RESOURCES AND INVOLVEMENT**

We strive to keep parents and the community informed about school happenings. Please visit our website at [www.southnodaway.k12.mo.us](http://www.southnodaway.k12.mo.us) where you will find a live master calendar of events. You will also find the Lumen Portal login to keep up with your child's grades and assignment information.

Community members can sign up to receive text alerts though TextCaster on your mobile device. Please follow our Facebook (South Nodaway Longhorn Family & Platte Valley Athletics) and Twitter pages (@SNLonghorns & @PlatteValley1) for additional content. Parents of students taking virtual classes also receive access to an additional parent portal through LAUNCH where they can monitor their online student's progress.

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

As always, we take the health and wellness of our students, staff, and extended Longhorn family very seriously. Fortunately we made it through the cold and flu season without significant illness here at school! **Thank you to Nurse Tabitha** and parents for **promoting healthy hygiene habits!** The mobile dentist was here on March 18th and saw several students! Our annual immunization clinic is on the horizon for 7th, 8th and 12th graders!

We hope you find this newsletter informative and engaging. **I can't emphasize enough that your involvement in your child's education is invaluable.** Whether it's attending parent-teacher conferences, participating in activities or simply being a supportive presence at home, **your engagement plays a crucial role in our collective success!**

Additionally, your involvement in our school district is essential and we encourage you to stay connected, attend events and support our students' successes. **Stay abreast of school events and initiatives through our website, school calendar, social media pages, text alerts and regular communications.**

If you have any feedback, suggestions or contributions for future newsletters please contact me! There is a lot of information contained in this bulletin, please reach out if you have any questions, would like more information or need clarification!

**Thank you for being a valued member of the South Nodaway family!** Together, we are committed to providing the best possible education for our students! I feel truly fortunate to have the opportunity to work and live in a community that places such a high priority on children and their education!

Warm regards,

Dustin Skoglund

Superintendent

South Nodaway R-IV

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