

With greatly improved facilities, emphasis at USD 405 is quality academics and a caring environment so students can achieve their goals



The completion of the Lyons Middle School Annex (top photo) at the Lyons High School building was accomplished in 2015. With that construction completed the major components of the 2013 bond issue were finished which included new tennis courts (bottom left), new track facility (bottom right), and new cafeteria at Park Elementary (bottom center).

Interactive Projectors Highlight Educational Technology Advances At Lyons Middle School

Lyons Middle School teachers are using state-of-the-art interactive projection systems in their classrooms this year. These projectors are built and marketed by the Mimio Corporation. The projectors are controlled by teacher computers or in mathematics classrooms they can be manipulated by student iPads.

The projectors themselves are interactive and do not require a “smartboard” or a special sensitive touch surface to be projected on. They do however require a flat surface for the interactive features to work reliably. There are actually lasers that “see” when a finger, a marker, or any other writing device “touches” the projection.

The number of interactions the projector can read at one time is ten. The processes, both visual (computer output) and physical (writing on the board), that occur with the projector and the manipulation of the projection can be recorded and used by another class hour or even used another day. The Mimio device also includes a software package that has subject specific lessons in a curriculum library. It also has the capacity to allow teachers to use their own pre-made lessons in Word, PowerPoint, or other presentation soft-

ware to be run through the Mimio system.

As of the start of the 2nd semester the use of the Mimio has become the daily norm in many LMS classrooms. The biggest issue in getting the Mimio’s used consistently across all classrooms has been the physical “waviness” of some of the older whiteboards in the classrooms located in the LHS building. Plans are in place to replace these boards before the end of this school year.

The interactive nature of these projectors keep students’ interest and engagement in teacher lessons at a very high level. Our teachers have spent three of each four monthly Friday afternoon study groups sharing with one another about their Mimio experiences. The district is providing on-going professional development for our teachers to make sure their experiences with this technology is positive for both the educator and especially for the students.

We had a two training dates this fall and we are scheduling another one for this spring. This technology can be used in almost any classroom with any subject matter. Mimio allows multiple student inputs and records digitally what is done; unlike a traditional chalkboard

or marker board where student work is erased to make more room. This technology allows

our teachers to get as much visible guided-practice in front of our classes as possible.

Park Elementary Improves its Safety and Security

Over the course of a year and a half, Park Elementary has significantly improved the safety and security of the building and campus. Starting in the spring of 2014 the school began the process for planning, installing and operating a new magnetic keyless entry system. All of the major entrances have the keyless entry and the front entrance has a video component to double the security measures. All students and patrons must buzz-in and wait to be allowed entrance into the building while video is captured to verify the request. The final part of the keyless entry system is that all employees must wear and use an identification badge that doubles as a key to enter the building.

Along with the keyless entry, the campus has also increased its security with external and internal security cameras. All of the main hallways and the playground are currently covered by cameras. Work continues to install and cover the remaining portions of the exterior of the building with cameras. The security project should be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

All of these measures were taken to increase the safety and security of the students and staff of Park Elementary. Principal John Cannon commented on the topic and said, “Safety and security are top priorities for Park and USD 405. We’re committed to being vigilant and proactive when it comes to our students’ and staff’s safety.”



Recently completed construction at The Park Elementary School includes the Cafeteria above.



New Lyons Lion Mascot logo adopted in 2015

A big change for the Lyons schools during 2015 was the adoption of an official mascot logo.

The district held a design contest in the fall of 2015 with two rounds of voting. There were over twenty entries in the contest and approximately 1400 votes cast during the contest.

The winner of the contest was a graphic design of a lion head that was used by the Lyons High School debate team this past semester for a t-shirt design.

The winning design captured 44% of the vote in the final contest, 20% higher than the second place design--a pouncing lion silhouette, similar to the Detroit Lions logo.

Superintendent Bill Day said, “In the past, Lyons schools have used a wide variety of lion logos. There’s nothing wrong with that, but there is also not that single logo that is recognized as representative of the Lyons schools and community. By adopting an official logo, students, fans, alumni and hopefully opponents will begin recognizing the logo. That sort of renown helps build community, tradition and pride.

People wanting to use the official lion logo only need to go to the USD 405 web site (www.usd405.com) or Face Book (Lyons Schools; USD 405) page to copy it. The new logo is not trademarked or copyrighted and may therefore be used by anyone.

New playground is among several recent improvements at Central Elementary

Central Elementary School has some exciting additions last year and some in the near future to talk about. In January of 2015 we installed a new playground that is both ADA compliant and fun for all students to enjoy. We installed one large central unit and a four bay swing set. The large unit has four slides, a rock wall to climb, telescope, bongo drums and stools to sit on. We also moved some of our existing equipment so that we still have several choices for our students during recess.

To go along with our new playground equipment we just installed a new six foot chain length fence around the entire playground for safety and security of our students and staff. Are landscaping will be improving over the next few month

as we plant new scrubs along the front and east end of our building. We installed a new sprinkler system and over seeded or front lawns. This has been a wonderful addition and makes our building look much more appealing. We updated our lighting in the CES gym. The lights were lowered and new bulbs were installed and has added a new look to our gym. This summer we will begin a renovation on our cafeteria, sixth grade wing and old middle school gym. We will install new heating and air in the cafeteria and new heat in the old gym. They are plans for some further renovations planned for the cafeteria as well.

On the academic side at Central our IT department installed access points in each classroom to enhance

our connectivity to the internet. This was a very important for us during state assessments as we need to be able to connect for state assessments. It work to perfection last year as we had no or little problems during the assessments. All teachers at Central have attending training for Engineering by Design. It was offered through ESSDACK in Hutchinson. EbD is a K-12 engineering and technology curriculum developed by the International Technology Education Association, and has been adopted by twenty states. Teachers used the training they received to return to school and taught the lessons. The third grade focus for the year was Natural hazards, Fourth grade was on Solar Energy , Fifth grade Every drop matters, Water conservation.



The Mimeo projection system used at Lyons Middle School is state of the art interactive classroom technology