

USD 376 Sterling Sets the bar high for academic and athletic acheivement

It seems as if it was just yesterday when the 2008 \$20.4 million bond issue passed and construction renovations were planned and completed a few years hence. The brand new grade school is not brand new any more, but well broken-in as are the major renovations to the high school which were completed three years ago. The new facilities have proven to be a valuable asset not only for the school but for the community as well.

The grade school construction was completed nearly 6 years ago. The old grade school building is just a memory now. The first classes at the grade school are now in the middle of their high school experience, having benefitted from the new amenities at both facilities.

The high school and junior high building now features a theater which was open in 2012. It seats more than 400 people, and houses classrooms, and offices for the administration.

The junior and senior high schools are located in the same building with separate entrances. The junior high entrance is located at 412 North Fifth Street and the high school is at 308 East Washington. The main entrance into the high school is located on Fourth Street.

The grade school has received Standard of Excellence awards (which are no longer awarded) in reading in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012; math 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012; science in 2010; social studies 2005; and writing 2003, and 2004.

The principal of the grade school is Brennan Riffel, who is in his thirteenth year in that capacity, and in his fifteenth year of Sterling School Administration.

SJHS is the home of the "Bear Cubs." The junior high consists of seventh and eighth grades, serving approximately 95

students. Sterling Junior High School is a member of the Central Kansas League and participates in the following activities: football, volleyball, cross-country, basketball, track, and scholars bowl. Co-curricular activities include instrumental and vocal music, yearbook, student council, J-Teens, and A Few Good Men.

The junior high has received Standard of Excellence awards for reading in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012; math in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2012; and science in 2011.

Dr. Bill Anderson is the principal of both the Junior High School and Senior High School. He has served in that capacity for nine years having been in school administration for the past 10 years. He was with the Nickerson school district nine years before moving to Sterling.

The mission of Sterling High School is to provide an environment that expects excellence from staff and students, welcomes community and parental involvement and promotes a well-rounded program of academics and activities. This fosters a spirit of lifelong learning, enabling students to succeed in their chosen life path.

SHS offers a variety of activities for students to take part in outside of the classroom including debate/forensics groups which have won several championships, sports (volleyball, football, basketball, softball, track and field, golf and tennis), drama and music.

- Multi-age classes – students ages 5-12 years of age are grouped into classes according to the number of students for each age group. Working together as a group on projects, interacting with those who are of different ages has shown to increase learning as well as providing a family type of atmosphere.

- Academically challenging curriculum – students will work on project-based instruction and individualized learning in small classes not to exceed 15 students. There is an emphasis on thematic units, integration of subject areas, use of technology and problem solving. Enrichment programs in music, physical education, Spanish, and keyboarding will be included to support and extend the learning for the whole child.
- Character education – Education is not only for the head, but the heart. Virtues such as perseverance, kindness, honesty, and respect are embedded into the program to allow students an awareness of each virtue and how it is carried out throughout the day. Literature connections are made in reading and discussion for each of the character education traits.
- Safe schools- Sterling has an emer-

gency action plan for all buildings and drills are done on a regular basis to teach students and teachers what to do in case of an emergency.

The Sterling School Superintendent is Dr. Fred Dierksen. He has 34 years of public education experience and came to Sterling in 1997 as the grade school principal. He is 1982 graduate of Sterling College and also has post graduate degrees from FHSU and WSU.

Dr. Dieksen's office is located in the District Office which was moved to 308 E. Washington a couple of years ago.

To keep up to date on what's happening in Black Bear Country visit USD 376's Web site at www.usd376.com or call one of the schools (high school, (620) 278-2171; junior high (620) 278-3646, grade school (620) 278-3112) or the district office, (620) 278-3621.






SHS Debate teams placed second and third at state this past week. Teams coached by Betsy Dutton have consistently placed in the top three for the past twenty five years. Congratulations to Mrs. Dutton, Mrs. Wagley and all of the students involved in SHS Debate this year.

USD 376

STERLING, KS 67579

STERLING GRADE SCHOOL ENCOURAGING LIFE-LONG LEARNERS








"WORK HARD, BE NICE"

MAKING PROGRESS...

STERLING HIGH SCHOOL

AND JR. HIGHTOP FLIGHT FACILITIES

AND A TOP FLIGHT STUDENT BODY



TOWARD THE FUTURE.