IDD January 29, 2016 Lyons News • Plains & Progress THE GOAL AT CHASE/ RAYMOND USD 401 IS TO Teach kids the skills they need

Unified School District 401 includes the cities of Chase and Raymond and surrounding rural areas. The district has two buildings in Chase that house the Chase Elementary School, Raymond Junior High School and Chase High School.

The purpose of USD 401 is to assure that students will acquire basic academic and decision making skills necessary to become resourceful and responsible members of the world community.

On May 19, 1910, the voters indicated that a larger school was needed in Chase to replace a smaller one located on the west side of town. William Kenton donated two lots north of the city park; in return, the city

worked on improving the park area. Sidewalks were added, trees were removed, and holes were filled in. From there, work was started on a spacious two story building. On September 19, 1911, the building opened its doors for a new school year. The senior class, two girls and four boys, were the first to graduate from the new, accredited high school. With the new school, students also gained many activities and new experiences. Football, basketball, and baseball teams were organized for the boys; the girls played three basketball games as well. Music groups were also formed, and the first annual was published.

Later in the 1920s, the community decided that two

buildings were needed. Up until that point, grade school and high school classes had been held in the 1911 building. The new high school was built in 1923 and remains part of the present day school. Students moved in midterm in early 1924. With the move, they gained space and a new gym.

In 1928, work began on finding a mascot. Drawing and suggestions were accepted for the emblem. The Student Council presented three choices to the student body. They chose "Felix the Kat" on Oct. 4, 1928. The name originated from a popular comic character. Felix was a silent movie cartoon in 1914, but he also became a newspaper comic strip in 1923. From there, his popularity grew into comic books, toys, books, games, etc. He was also being seen in movie theaters in addition to the

main feature. By 1930, the silent Felix cartoon came to

an end, but in the late 1940s, Felix moved to the TV screen where he appeared in 260 short cartoons. This little cat faced adventures, enemies, and travels in his many cartoons. The district has received legal permission to use this copyrighted character for its mascot.

For more information about the school district visit their Web site at www. usd401.com or call the district office at 620-938-2923, the elementary, located at 312 Ash Street, 938-2996, or the junior / senior high school, located at 308 East C Avenue, 620-938-2923.

The current superintendent of USD 401 is Carl Helm.

Clubs and organizations offered at Chase High School include C-Club, scholar's bowl, FCCLA, forensics, National Honor Society and student council.

Sports offered at Raymond Junior High are football, volleyball, basketball and track and field. At the high school level, those sports are also offered to students in addition to golf, cheer squad and dance team.

The district encourages parents and interested community members to visit the classrooms. Interested per-

sons are asked to sign the register which is located in the office before they visit.

There may be occasions because of snow blocked roads or bad weather when it will be necessary to either delay the opening of school, change bus routes, or cancel school for the entire day. Any such changes will always be announced over KZSN Wichita, KHUT-FM 103 Hutchinson, KVGB Great Bend, KSAL Salina, and KSKU Hutchinson. If conditions are such that we know the night before, we will make the announcement on TV Channels 2, 10, and 12 as well as the radio stations.

There may be times when weather conditions are such that we can have school, but road conditions are not good enough to run regular bus routes. Snow routes will be used on those days. Those students not reached directly by a snow route can meet the bus at a point on the snow route nearest to their home or can drive all the way into Chase or Raymond, or not come to school at all. Snow routes will be announced after enrollment is complete and routes are established. The school also utilizes School Reach to call parents and staff members about calendar changes and school closings.

Senior Brandon Smith uses the plasma cutter to trim the edge of some flat iron.







Chase Grade School Raymond Junior High Chase High School





A positive school environment working to prepare students for the future

Student-Teacher Interaction

> Community Involvement

Free Preschool All-Day Kindergarten Low Student-Teacher Ratio Dual Credit Classes (up to 18 hours) Junior ROTC

Other advantages include:

Innovative Educational Programs Vocational Programs PreK-12 Music Program Student Involvement

Individual Help

PreK-12 1:1 Technology Ratio Individualized K-12 Reading Programs