

USD 444 Little River/ Windom

Quality teaching is the goal with 12:1 student/staff ratio

USD 444 builds new greenhouse, gets new superintendent

By Ryan Carlson
A new superintendent and greenhouse project have helped to grow USD 444's plan to make children's learning a success in 2016.
In total USD 444 serves a around 335 students from Rice, Mcpherson and Ellsworth counties. It's schools are split between Windom Elementary School which serves students from kindergarten through fifth grade and Little River Junior/Senior High School that serves students sixth through twelfth grades. For those needing preschool services, the district has a program through the Learning Center in Little River. The high school has a 12:1 student/teacher ratio, allowing for more personalized learning and instruction.
Finding classes that meet students' goals can be a difficult prospect. Including the fact that students only have so many class periods during a normal school day. The district offers online classes through it's Redskin Online program. Further, the district has an ongoing relationship with Hutchinson Community College to help provide

post-secondary dual credit classes to students at their expense. The classes can be taken either on site at Little River Junior Senior High School or at the Hutchinson Career Technology Education Academy.
The current Superintendent Brent Garrison came to USD 444 after previous Superintendent Betty Summers retired. Summers worked for the district for two years. Garrison was previously a teacher and principal for 18 years with USD 331 Kingman-

Norwich School District, and he started working with USD 444 in July of 2016.
In 2016 big strides have

to wait, raise more funding, and put together a plan that would provide long term stability for the new structure. A two year effort began in which community organizations, patrons and members of the surrounding communities helped raise funds. At no point did the district have to allocate any extra funding to support the greenhouse project.
After successfully raising additional funding and finishing work on the greenhouse's design; a groundbreaking ceremony was finally held at Windom Elementary on September 23. The ceremony included various stations where children could learn about plants and greenhouses. Some fund raising continued through the fall with the sale of mums by grade school students.
The final size of USD 444's new greenhouse is 18x32 feet. It is large enough to accommodate an entire class of children as they use plants to learn about science, math, writing and various other academics. To prepare for the coming spring semester of plant learning the teachers

have prepared lessons plans by meticulously combing through their curriculum and finding ways to apply subjects to the greenhouse. Students have also prepared by growing plants over the past few months in their classrooms for the greenhouse. This took place in a special classroom dubbed the "Bloom Room." The students' plants will later be sold to help further raise greenhouse funding. The district hopes to use plant sales and other activities as a way to keep the community invested and aware of the greenhouse project.
Individuals who would like to contact USD 444 can contact Windom Elementary's principal Jon Paden at (620) 489-6241, Principal Audrey Johnson of Little River Junior Senior High School at (620) 897-6201, or Superintendent Brent Garrison at (620) 897-6324.



USD 444 LITTLE RIVER - WINDOM

Low Student-Teacher Ratio

Excellent Teaching Staff

Early Education

Extra Curricular Activities

Education Foundation

Redskins Online High School Course Options

"EXCELLENCE THROUGH EDUCATION"

usd444.ss5.sharpschool.com

District Office
455 W. Prairie Ave.
P.O. Box 218
Little River, KS 67457
Phone: 620-897-6325 or 620-897-6324

Little River Jr/Sr High
430 Waverly St.
P.O. Box 8
Little River, KS 67457
Phone: 620-897-6201

Windom Elem.
101 E. Olive Ave.
P.O. Box 67
Windom, KS 67491
Phone: 620-489-6241