



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Spring 2017 Newsletter



From the desk of your Executive Director – The school year is about to end, and I am sure most feel some level of relief. I know I do having just wrapped up our 14th Annual KAMSA Conference, but the first one that I was responsible for as your Executive Director. Thanks go out to Jerry Meier, retired principal of Washburn Rural Middle School for all of the assistance he provided for me from the Topeka area. For those unable to attend, you missed a dynamic speaker, Mark McLeod, whose message was simply about providing unconditional respect and unconditional love for those we get to serve. Notice I said, “get” to serve versus “have” to serve. It’s all about the perspective you want to take.

Congratulations to everyone who was the recipient of one of the KAMSA awards distributed during the luncheon activities. I sent this list of recipients out in a previous communication, yet I list them again for anyone interested.

2017 KAMSA Executive Assistant(s) Recipients

Melanie Mann - El Dorado MS, El Dorado, KS. – Principal, Karla King

Jena Berschauer & Tammy Johnson - Valley Center Intermediate School, Valley Center, KS. –
Principal, Greg Lehr

Barb Reichenborn & Beth Schafers - Discovery Intermediate School, Goddard, KS. – Principal, Ryan
Jilka

Sue Silver, Teresa Minden & Misty Grayham - Paola MS, Paola, KS. – Principal, Mark Bloustine

2017 KAMSA Exemplary Assistant Principals

Justin Howe, Pioneer Trail MS

Amy Ines, Jardine STEM and Career Explorations Academy

Erik Semrad, Goddard MS

KAMSA Assistant Principal of the Year - Eric Filippi, Coleman MS

2017 KAMSA High Performing School Recipients

Baldwin Jr. High School – Baldwin City, KS – Joe Sample, Principal
Basehor-Linwood - Bonner Springs, KS –Amy Garver, Principal
Challenger Intermediate School – Goddard, KS –Jess Herbig, Principal
Chisholm Trail MS – Olathe, KS –Michael Wolgast, Principal
Discovery Intermediate School – Goddard, KS –Ryan Jilka, Principal
Hocker Grove MS – Shawnee, KS –Ben Pretz, Principal
Indian Hills MS – Prairie Village, KS –Scott Sherman, Principal
Liberty MS – Pratt, KS –Tony Helfrich, Principal
Mulvane MS – Traci Becker, Principal

2017 KAMSA Exemplary Principals

Amy Garver – Basehor-Linwood MS
Joe Martin – Southeast Jr. High
Jeff Pegues – Roosevelt MS
Ben Pretz – Hocker Grove MS

2017 KAMSA Principal of the Year – Terrell Davis, Truesdell MS, Wichita
2017 KAMSA Principal of the Year – Tony Helfrich, Liberty MS, Pratt

2017 KAMSA Exemplary Middle School of the Year

Basehor-Linwood MS – (Amy Garver, Principal)
Galesburg MS – (Jared Han, Principal)
California Trail MS – (Michael Wiley, Principal)
Hocker Grove MS – (Ben Pretz, Principal)
Indian Woods MS – (David Conrady, Principal)

2017 KAMSA Finalist Middle School of the Year

Chisholm Trail MS – (Michael Wolgast, Principal)
El Dorado MS – (Karla King, Principal)
Indian Hills MS – (Scott Sherman, Principal)
Jardine Stem and Career Explorations Academy – (Lura Atherly, Principal)
Mayberry Cultural Fine Arts Magnet MS – (Eric Hofer-Holdeman, Principal)
Mill Creek MS – (Josh Kindler, Principal)

2017 KAMSA Middle School of the Year

Truesdell Middle School (Terrell Davis, Principal)

Our next BOD meeting will be held in conjunction with the USA-KS conference on Friday, June 1, from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. at the Hyatt in the Eagle H room. Board of Directors pictures will be taken at 7:45 a.m. by Lifetouch.

Thank you to Vince Naccarato, USD 309, Reno Valley Middle School, Hutchinson, KS. for the only newsletter article submitted for this publication.

Manners matter. From opening doors to writing a thank you note, the 8th grade teachers at Reno Valley Middle School dedicate one day a year for formally instructing proper etiquette. Etiquette Day has been a part of the 8th grade curriculum for as long as Reno Valley has been in existence. Prior to 2001, the 8th grade at South Hutchinson Elementary learned about etiquette in the science room with parents making spaghetti for the event. It has since evolved to a day-long learning experience and instead of homemade spaghetti, students practice their meal etiquette in a banquet style format at a local restaurant.

Students dress nicely for the day with an emphasis of no hoodies or t-shirts and nice shirts tucked in with pants or a skirt. It's not uncommon to see girls in dresses and even a few boys in a suit and tie! An introductory video gets the day started and gives an overall picture of what etiquette looks like and why it's important to have manners. From there, students rotate through four sessions. One of the sessions has students learning the fine art of writing a thank you note. In another session, students have hands-on experience with how to tie a tie. Down the hall, one room is focusing on proper handshakes, introductions, and phone etiquette, while across the hall they are learning how to open a door for others and seat someone at a table. Volunteers from the community come in to assist with the etiquette lessons and lend their expertise.

After the workshops, students then have the opportunity to put these skills to practice as we head to the restaurant. Door and chair etiquette become real as students enter the restaurant and find their place at the table. A district office administrator then gives one last reminder lesson on table and meal etiquette before the food arrives.

If you were to peek in on our banquet, you would see students concentrating on using their utensils correctly. Every once in a while, a student would realize his or her elbows were on the table and quietly remove them hoping no one noticed. Polite conversation and nervous giggles are the extent of the noise level, a drastic change from the everyday volume in the lunchroom. As the waiters and waitresses move through the room, please and thank you's were heard throughout the restaurant.

2017—2018 KAMSA Membership Application

If you plan to join USA-KS (United School Administrators), select KAMSA as your “member organization.” **The membership year is July 1 through June 30.** If you decide to join KAMSA only, please fill out the membership form below and return it to KAMSA Executive Director Mike Maurer.

Note: First Year Principals—\$15. Regular Membership—\$50. **Make Check Payable to: KAMSA. Send to: Mike Maurer, KAMSA Executive Director, 14115 W. Onewood Ct., Wichita, KS. 67235**

Name _____

School _____

Address _____

Email _____

Position _____