

**USD 247 Southeast**  
**506 S. Smelter St.**  
**Cherokee, KS 66724**



**Unified School District**  
**247 Southeast**  
 Serving Cherokee, McCune, Weir,  
 West Mineral, and SE Kansas  
**WE ARE SOUTHEAST!**

**VISIT: [www.usd247.com](http://www.usd247.com) @southeast247 FB: USD 247 Southeast**

**JAN/FEB 2012**

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- and More!!!

**620-457-8350**



Simple Machines Project  
 One of many new engaging projects at SJHS

**Joe Ulery- Board President**  
**LaDonna Hartman- Board Vice-President**  
**Dr. Glenn Fortmayer- Superintendent**  
**Roberta Sellers- Board Clerk**  
**Rita Mitchell- Board Treasurer/Secretary**

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“That is the way I remember it!” Remembering “the good ole days.”

Brag Page- Showing off students, staff, and district successes and noteworthy items.

Days to Remember! Activity calendar and news about activities and events.

Lancer Links- links to more news and programs of interest

Lancer Post- Messages and good thoughts

## Desire more information?

Ask for any of our school administrators or central office staff. We will be happy to talk with you or send any additional information you need. You can reach us by calling the USD 247 Board Office at (620) 457-8350, emailing to [superintendent@usd247.com](mailto:superintendent@usd247.com), or writing to

USD 247 Southeast  
ATTN: Information Request  
506 S. Smelter St.  
Cherokee, KS 66724

USD 247 is a progressive school district offering a wide range of classes and programs conducted by a highly qualified staff. Our professionals strive to create a positive climate where students learn through a wide array of classes and lessons designed for authentic engagement with emphasis on technology integration, differentiation, and individualization of the curriculum.

We look forward to sharing with you about our Standard of Excellence earning building staffs and programs and the success of our students that make us proud to proclaim.

“WE ARE SOUTHEAST!”

## **Days to Remember:**

### **January**

17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> Lancer Classic

23<sup>rd</sup> McCune PTO 6:30 PM

27<sup>th</sup> Winter Homecoming 6PM

### **February**

2<sup>nd</sup> SJHS Basketball Home 5PM

3<sup>rd</sup> SHS Basketball Home 6PM

9<sup>th</sup> District Site Council 6PM

10<sup>th</sup> SHS Basketball Home 6PM

13<sup>th</sup> USD 247 BOE Meeting 6:30 PM

17<sup>th</sup> No School Staff Development Day

20<sup>th</sup> No School Presidents Day

## **Project Rich Environment!**

**This year brought forth a district wide instructional initiative focusing on Authentic Engagement. What is Authentic Engagement? It is basically designing meaningful work for students that is so engaging that when a lesson has to pause or end the students want to keep going! Teachers across the entire district are developing lesson plans with the goal that over the next decade or less every lesson plan for every subject for every hour of every day of every school year will be designed at such a level.**

**If you visit SJHS you will see many projects in action. They are appearing as part of core subjects and in new elective classes. The creativity of the teachers and students really comes to light through these wonderful lessons. It is not an easy feat for teachers to design and coordinate lesson plans and rubrics for projects, especially newly created ones. The successes at SJHS are very encouraging as the district transforms to project based learning and true continuous authentic engagement.**

**You can see many of the projects that have occurred this past semester and ones to come by becoming a friend of Southeast Junior High on Facebook.**



Globes, Period Table Element names, and math houses were some of the projects made as part of studies.



Tacky Grandma sweaters were in fashion this past holiday season. SJHS art students created designs that would have been popular!



The Wax Museum as a class was a hit again for presenters and for museum visitors.

# Lancer Posts

USD 247 is seeking a substitute cook.

High School Yearbooks are on sale.

**Facebookers!** If you have pictures of school events for pre-k through 8<sup>th</sup> grades please email them to your principal for possible placement in the yearbook.

If you need resources to take an online course for continuous education purposes, or a course for a license renewal, GED, or other education purpose; USD 247 may be able to assist you. Call the BOE office at 620-457-8350 to see if we can help you with your course.

Mr. Jim Weber, the agriculture/vocational education teacher at SHS will assume ½ assistant principal duties at SHS in January 2012 and assist Mr. Proctor with the Federal Grant requirements that the SHS administration and staff must meet.

# LANCER NEWS

**The teachers bargaining association and the Board of Education met with a federal mediator and were able to come to an agreement over the 2011-12 school year contract with each side ratifying the agreement in January. The district will pay for raises due to teachers that reached a new column level in hours of college they have earned above a 4 year degree, pay for the increase in health insurance premiums, and set the teacher's salaries to be based on 174 work days versus 187 work days as the major points dealing with compensation. The BOE was unable to provide for raises across the board for teachers due to the cuts that have been passed down from the state. Classified staff had lost up to 8 days pay this school year as the district made changes to cope with the cuts. The BOE felt it could not give raises to teachers after cutting classified, especially when the district still has very limited cash reserves and the future of the budget is still bleak at best.**

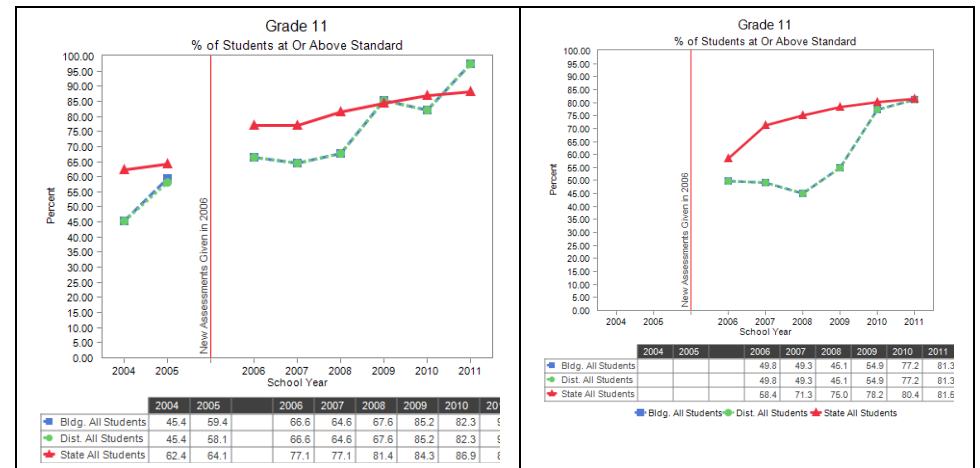
## HOME of the LANCERS

*2011 Standard of Excellence in Reading  
2011 Standard of Excellence in Math  
2011 Science Proficiency 100%  
2011 Challenge Certificate Reading  
2011 Challenge Certificate Math*

Achievements earned by USD 247 Students and staff based on Kansas State Assessment scores spring 2011

## ACT Scores on the Rise

We are happy to report that our current senior class has a composite ACT score of 21.4 which is our highest overall average since at least 2004. We are excited about this positive trend and look forward to continued improvement in this area as we focus on helping each student reach his or her highest level of personal success.



## Brain Games- Remember A-Z

Think back and list good memories of places you been, best books you have read, movies seen, gift received, or an event you participated in from your past that comes to mind for each letter of the alphabet, record it and then share with a friend.

A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
J	W
K	X
L	Y
M	Z

## WASHINGTON'S B-DAY-NOT PRESIDENTS DAY

The origin of Presidents' Day lies in the 1880s, when the birthday of George Washington—commander of the Continental Army during the [American Revolution](#) and the first president of the United States—was first celebrated as a federal holiday. In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill, which moved a number of federal holidays to Mondays. The change was designed to schedule certain holidays so that workers had a number of long weekends throughout the year, but it has been opposed by those who believe that those holidays should be celebrated on the dates they actually commemorate. During debate on the bill, it was proposed that Washington's Birthday be renamed Presidents' Day to honor the birthdays of both Washington (February 22) and [Abraham Lincoln](#) (February 12); although Lincoln's birthday was celebrated in many states, it was never an official federal holiday. Following much discussion, Congress rejected the name change. After the bill went into effect in 1971, however, Presidents' Day became the commonly accepted name, due in part to retailers' use of that name to promote sales and the holiday's proximity to Lincoln's birthday. Presidents' Day is usually marked by public ceremonies in [Washington, D.C.](#), and throughout the country.

## *Lancer Laughs!*

An efficiency expert concluded his lecture with a note of caution. "Please DO NOT to try these techniques at home."

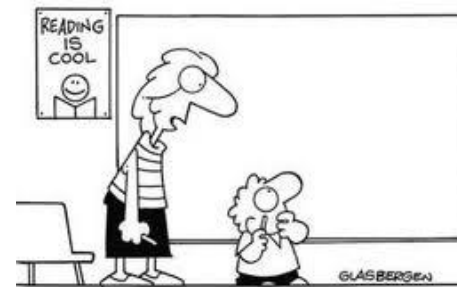
"Why not?" asked somebody from the audience.

"I watched my wife's routine at breakfast for years," the expert explained. "She made lots of trips between the refrigerator, stove, table and cabinets, often carrying a single item at a time. One day I told her, 'Honey, why don't you try carrying several things at once?'"

"Did it save time?" the person in the audience asked.

"Actually, yes," replied the expert. "It used to take her 20 minutes to make breakfast. Now I do it in seven."

"I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury- Groucho Marks



"There aren't any icons to click. It's a chalk board."

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"There's no control-X. That's what your scissors are for."

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www.glasbergen.com



"My teacher isn't qualified to teach spelling!  
She spells U 'y-o-u'. She spells BRB 'r-e-t-u-r-n'.  
She spells BFN 'g-o-o-d-b-y-e'..."

S  
I  
G  
N  
S  
O  
F  
T  
H  
E  
T  
I  
M  
E  
S

## Profiles- Charlie Becker

Charlie is the District Speech Pathologist. He is married to Jan Becker and has three children and two grandchildren. He went to school at Plainville High School in northwestern Kansas and has worked with district his entire educational career of 35 years. Charlie graduated from Fort Hays State University with a BA in Speech and Theater. He also received his Master's in Speech Pathology from FHSU. Charlie is also a US Army Veteran. He served in Vietnam as part of Company B, 4/31<sup>st</sup>, 196<sup>th</sup> LIB, American Division from 1970-71.

As a staff member of USD 247, Charlie says his favorite part of the job is working with students from pk-12<sup>th</sup> grade helping them correct speech problems and become productive citizens. He also enjoys working with patrons and staff from all the schools. Charlie also worked performing summer maintenance for the district for 30 years. He says it has been fun being part of and watching all the changes in the district schools and in education in general.

When not at school Charlie spends his time with family and friends, Jeeping in the Rockies, Canyon Lands, and Little Sahara sand dunes.

## "That's the way I remember it!"

**1942- Rose Bowl moved to NC due to fear of Japanese attack**

**1952- Dragnet with Jack Webb premiers on TV**

**1962- U.S. Blockades Cuba and John Glenn orbits Earth**

**1972- "Emergency" begins on TV, Nixon 1<sup>st</sup> president to visit China**

**1982- Letterman begins and Joe Montana Super Bowl MVP**

**1992- Spring Pro-Football starts unsuccessfully**

**2002- Mars Probe Mars Odyssey lands**

## **SUP's SPOT** ▫ Education has its own language of

acronyms. Here is a new one. I hope it will catch on in our communities. TEAM +C, Teachers, Education Workforce, Administrators, Members of the Board + Community; this is the team that makes the difference in the quality of life that our kids will have in the future.

Teachers are the forefront carrying the main load. It's their dedication, knowledge, and skills that develop our children academically. Education Workers are the personnel that ensure an education is possible. They get kids to school, feed them, care for their worries, check temperatures, process needed documentation and communications, keep the environment and grounds clean, and computers running. The administrators ensure safety and the best educational opportunities we can provide. The Board Members set the course of the system to assure that when our graduates leave us they are ready for college, career training, or the work force.

The +C is the community-families and patrons. Young or old, the community is essential. Like any family, there are rough times, but sticking together, working together, and encouraging each other bring our children through the hard times.

Public schools across the nation are suffering from the poor economy just as families and businesses are now. It is in these hard times that the TEAM +C has to unite and be strong, supportive, positive, and keep moving forward for our kids. TEAM +C exists for no other reason. We must dedicate ourselves daily to their future and seek ways to promote our TEAM +C so that the district can deliver excellence in order for our children to achieve their dreams in the future.

## **BRAG PAGE**

Congratulations to Senior Jennifer Dey on being selected to the 2012 Kansas All-State Honors Band!

Congratulations to the Southeast Lady Lancers on their 2nd Place Finish in the Lancer Classic. The following athletes were named to the Lancer Classic All-Tournament Team: Josh Thompson, Christine Bone, and Amy Martin

January is School Board Recognition Month, and **USD 247 Southeast** is joining school districts across the state to thank these community volunteers for their dedication to public education.

Most people don't want to place themselves in a position of such difficulty and controversy. Yet, school board members dedicate countless hours to meetings, functions, and preparation for the decisions they make.

It is a challenging, yet exciting, time. School board members in USD 247 Southeast develop policies and make tough decisions that shape the future of our education system. They bear responsibility and oversight for an annual budget of over 8 million dollars, 700 students, and over 100 employees in four building complexes.

USD 247 Southeast is grateful to have this opportunity to formally say 'thank you' to these education advocates as they provide vision and leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding and school facilities and act as to preserve the core of our democracy—public education.

The men and women serving USD 247 Southeast and their years of service are Joe Ulery, BOE President, 3 years; LaDonna Hartman, BOE Vice-President, 3 years; Tara Underwood, 5 years; Jerry Alexander, 3 years; Sundown Jacobs 1 year; Wade Kirby 1 year; David Stricklin, 1 year.

## **School Finance Still Dominates**

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**On January 25<sup>th</sup> the Governor's school finance plan that will begin in the 2013-14 school year was unveiled. The unnumbered 138 page bill has raised more questions. Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis spoke to superintendents in Wichita on the 26<sup>th</sup> to highlight major aspects of the plan.**

**The first change is that the 20 mils of property tax required for state education disbursed now by the counties will be sent to the state and distributed back to districts. This change with another part of the bill will make it impossible for districts to sue the state for suitable funding of schools as the bill will outlaw the use of money sent from the state to be used for legal action.**

**USD 247 will initially hold steady or receive some additional funding to help offset declining student enrollment. The district would also have about \$360,000 that it could add to its budget in the following year. This money is greatly needed to compensate for the loss of students as large classes graduate and much smaller classes enter kindergarten. It is also needed to cover the expenses that will no longer be paid for by the federal grant that ends at the close of next school year.**

**The Governor's plan will remove the cap on local taxes. Wealthy districts would quickly be able to pay staff, equip schools and programs better, and offer more in**

**comparison to economically challenged districts such as those in SE Kansas. USD 247 tax rates are at the state average, but our valuations are below average at just 26 million dollars.**

**Money to schools for approved vocational education programs will end if the school is within 30 miles of a junior college or trade school that offers the same program(s). Students will be bused away from the high schools unless the junior college or trade school sets up a program at the high school.**

**Emergency money in the "Contingency Fund," \$125,000 for USD 247 will end. Money will not be allowed to be banked in case of an emergency. The only money allowed to be banked will be for Special Education Expenses and for Capital Outlay used for purchasing equipment, buses, facility repairs, and building new facilities.**

**Teachers will be evaluated as Highly Effective, Effective, Approaching Effective, and Ineffective. If ineffective for two years the teacher can be dismissed. Students will have restrictions on being with ineffective teachers for two years consecutively. Teacher names and evaluation rank will have to be placed on the district website. 50% of the evaluation will be based on achievement scores, 40% administrator evaluation, and 10% professional service.**

**The Governor intended to make dramatic changes to the way schools are funded. His proposal meets his goal. Legislators need to hear from patrons, parents, and staff. Contact info is available on the USD 247 website.**