

Kansas School for the Deaf

TO ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS WE SERVE ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL IN A LANGUAGE-RICH ENVIRONMENT



July 17, 2023

To: KSD Staff

From: Luanne Barron, Superintendent

Re: Welcome Back to a New School Year

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the school year of 2023-2024. As the days of summer are quickly ending, I hope you are anticipating the start of the school year with excitement and a strong feeling of renewal. I know that we are going to have another wonderful year and do it the way we always have – together.

We have a number of new employees joining the KSD team and they will be introduced at the opening of the school year celebration. The New Employee Orientation will be on August 1st and 2nd in the Roth west wing conference room. All Staff: The opening meeting will be in the Murphy Auditorium on Monday, August 7th and catered lunch will be provided. The schedules for the professional development week, August 7-11, can be found on the KSD website. Please contact your supervisor if you are not sure which group you are assigned to. Substitutes, please contact the principals or Dean of Student Life about which training you should attend.

Andrea Sonnier Babin will be our special guest on August 7th. She is the founder of Critical Consciousness School, a program centering critical self-reflective practices that unlock one's fullest potential in promoting healing, transformation, and freedom in their classroom, school, or community. The title of her presentation is: Practicing Critical Self-Reflection and Transformative Action in Deaf Education.

A lot has happened during the summer:

- As you come on campus, you will notice the beautiful transformation in our Foltz and Roberts building. Multiple renovation projects are still occurring and some will continue until early fall.



- Both the ESY (Extended Summer School) and ASL Family Immersion Camp were successful and our students, parents & guests commended KSD about how much they were appreciative of our wonderful programs. Commendations go to the coordinators, volunteers, maintenance, kitchen, janitorial and other employees who had vested interest in making this a rewarding experience and memories for our community. Kudos to KSD staff!
- Dedicated staff came in during the summer for the curriculum work/training to ensure our students continue to receive quality education and preparation for the new school year.
- As you know, our School Resource Officer – Officer Schmidt has been diligently learning ASL and working with the administration to clarify the roles of the SRO and administrators and identify the best shelters in place, guest identification system, etc. This will be shared during the opening day.
- To maximize our school spirit, it has been years since we had a Jackrabbit costume and now it is being ordered.
- The Kansas School for the Deaf Endowment and the Museum of Deaf History, Arts, and Culture (MDHAC) cordially invite you to participate as a Sponsor of the 1st annual ASL (American Sign Language) for All Walk/Run. This event will create and promote shared signing communities using American Sign Language (ASL) where BOTH Deaf people and nondeaf use sign language to communicate with each other in the areas where they live, work, congregate, or play. The event will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at the Frontier Trail Park in Olathe. [ASL For All 5k](#)

This year, as in the past, we must concentrate on the processes that spur continuing advancement: evaluating what we have, determining what we can do to improve, and identifying what we need to make those improvements, for the sake of our students.

Once a Jackrabbit, Always a Jackrabbit! Go Big Blue.