

FCDC NEWS

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USD 289— Removing Hurdles, Breaking Barriers, Building Greatness

Dear FCDC Members,

Approximately 18 months ago, USD 289 concluded a strategic planning process designed to gather stakeholder ideas, expectations and combine it with economic data to formulate an outstanding educational system that would prepare students not only for the world today, but the world in the future. At the heart of this process is a vision for a system that “Removes Hurdles to Break Barriers --- One Whole Child at a Time”. A recent survey by the Kansas Department of Education yielded only 6 respondents who say that content knowledge is the most important skill for students to possess. Only 1% of business owners said students needed more “hard skills” in the workplace yet for years our educational system has been designed around those very things.

In today’s world smart technology has replaced and will continue to replace humans in routine tasks. We need students to be unique, creative, critical thinkers, active listeners, and entrepreneurial. We need to stop designing our educational system to prepare students to become average at everything and great at nothing --- and begin helping everyone become great! Greatness comes from a lot of efforts, but it can only be built on passion and strengths.

Each student in USD 289 grades 6-12 has an Individual Plan of Study. Through students’ individual plans of study, they have the opportunity to identify their passion, assess their strengths and match these to careers and post-secondary training. Job shadowing and internships allow students to fine tune this interest at a greater level and they can begin preparation for these careers through concurrent courses in high school. Additionally, through job shadowing and internships students are able to apply “soft skills” they have developed in school into real world situations.

A key piece in continuing to move forward with the above mentioned initiatives and others is to continue to partner with community organizations and businesses. We have excellent resources and potential partnerships in our own backyard. It is critical that we continue efforts to help connect our students and staff to area businesses and opportunities that exist with these partnerships and job opportunities. This is a big part of “removing hurdles” for our students. Dr. Cobbs spoke of an initiative in a previous edition of the FCDC newsletter and we are very excited to be a participant in that endeavor.

The Wellsville community has a strong tradition of many of its graduates returning to live in and around Wellsville following graduation from high school and/or post secondary training. That can be a tremendous positive for both the economy and businesses who are looking for employees. If you would like to discuss ways that we can partner together, please do not hesitate to contact me at rbradbury@usd289.org or 785-883-2388. Working together the future is bright for both the students and businesses in Franklin County!

Ryan Bradbury
Superintendent
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