



Welcome to the first Newsletter for NCKSEC. This newsletter will feature student achievements, teacher achievements and news you can use to help improve student outcomes, add instructional strategies to your toolbox, and keep informed of happenings across the cooperative.

Continue to Invest in Yourself

Teacher Tidbits

Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Universal Design for Learning minimizes barriers of the curriculum and maximizes learning for ALL students. UDL is a set of principles that calls for creating educational goals, methods, materials, and assessments that work for all students.

Principle #1: Representation: This is the WHAT of Learning. For resourceful, knowledgeable learners, present information and content in different ways. UDL offers information in more than one format. Tools for differentiating are text, audio, video, charts and graphs, experiential learning.

Principle #2: Action and Expression: This is the HOW of Learning. For strategic, goal-directed learners, differentiate the ways that students can express what they know. UDL gives students more than one way to show what they know. Tools for differentiation are pencil and paper tests, electronic tests with word prediction, oral presentations, group projects, and videos.

Principle #3: Engagement: This is the WHY of Learning. For purposeful, motivated learners, stimulate interest and motivation learning. Tools for differentiation: kids make choices, play games, optimize relevance, kinesthetic activities, and experiential learning.

Tools for Differentiating

Chrome Books: Chrome OS Accessibility Settings

Onscreen Keyboard (Dictation and Word Prediction)	Select-to-Speak (Text-to-Speech)
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Chrome Books: Extensions and Apps

Read&Write for Chrome	Co:Writer Universal
Word Bank Universal	Snap&Read Universal
Select and Speak	Visor
WordQ	Learning Ally Link
Mic Note	Google Keep

Google Docs Tools

Google Keep Notebook	Google Voice Typing
VeritySpell	WriteWELL for Google Docs
EasyBib Bibliography	

Other Tidbits

- Text-to-speech:
 - Use as the first recommendation if a student has dyslexia.
 - Train the ear to read slightly at a faster rate because it stimulates silent reading better.
- Get familiar with the tech tool before teaching it to students. Digital natives cannot teach themselves the best ways to use the tool. Be purposeful in teaching the tool.
- Recommended read: [Fish in a Tree](#) by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. It is a story about a girl with dyslexia.
- Mobile devices, whether apple or android, have built-in accessibility tools just like computers.
- Access Infinitec for specific webinars and resources www.myinfinitec.org

Student Showcase

Abigail Wise

My name is Abigail Wise. I was born on December 20, 1999, in Las Vegas, Nevada. I have a visual impairment known as cone dystrophy.

Moving to Smith Center, Kansas changed my life forever. The school district in Las Vegas did not provide me with the accommodations I needed to succeed, so my grandparents enrolled me in Smith Center High School. SCHS has helped me become a strong and confident individual. I am so grateful for the accommodations that were provided over the years. After high school, I plan to attend Cloud County Community College, then transfer to a university where I will obtain a degree in psychology. I want to succeed in life, and my visual impairment will not stop me from reaching my goals.

NCKSEC is highlighting Abby Wise. She is a senior, attending Smith Center High School. Abby spends part of her day in Ms. Katie Grabast's fifth grade classroom as a senior aide. She collaborated with her Orientation and Mobility specialist to make a pair of goggles that would simulate Abby's vision, so others might understand her vision from her perspective. She also made and presented a slide show of her journey. She works well with younger students and they cannot wait for her to come to the classroom to help them finish their work because "she makes me feel better". What a wonder tribute to a fine young person destined to be a caring professional in her field of study. To view Abigail's slide presentation on her journey to fifth grade, [click here](#).

**CONGRATULATIONS, MISS ABIGAIL WISE, FOR BEING NCKSEC STUDENT
SHOWCASE IN MARCH 2018!**

Handhelds can also help special needs students by....

- helping students stay on task by self-monitoring.
- allowing students to self-correct their work.
- Using alarms to remind students to attend special classes or to take medications.
- Using calendars to help students organize and recall assignment instructions and due dates.

Why do you teach? How do you invest in yourself?

Send in your thoughts and ideas. We will begin a column for sharing your teaching perks.

Chuckles

Stressed is just desserts spelled backwards.

I asked my daughter if she'd seen my newspaper. She told me that newspapers are old school. She said that people use tablets nowadays and handed me her iPad. The fly didn't stand a chance.

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CALENDAR REMINDERS:

APRIL 10 – PROJECT STAY

APRIL 16 – PARA EVALUATIONS DUE

APRIL 18 – JOB OLYMPICS

APRIL 20 – LAST DAY FOR IEPS



PLC MEETINGS:

SCHOOL PSYCH – MAR. 9TH, APR. 6TH, MAY 4TH @ 1:00 PM

INTERRELATED – APR. 17TH, 19TH, 24TH @ 2:00 PM

SPEECH/LANGUAGE – APR. 27TH @ 9:00 AM

EARLY CHILDHOOD – APR. 27TH @ 1:00 PM

END OF YEAR CHECKOUT BEGINS MAY 8TH. MORE TO COME.