

Free State Firebirds Update

Let's Go State!



Updates from the Firebirds Athletic Department



Class of 2022 Athletic Signing Recognition Ceremony

Wednesday, May 11th
2:20pm

Attention Senior Student-Athletes!

If you're continuing your academic and athletic career at the collegiate level and would like to participate in the Athletic Signing Recognition Ceremony, please contact Dr. Faunce no later than 3pm on Wednesday, May 04th.

Firebird of the Week Congratulations!

Junior Leah Mueller | Softball

Leah Mueller is a Junior on this year's Lady Firebirds Softball Team and has battled through naggy shoulder injuries to becoming one of the leading hitters on the team. She is extremely dedicated, passionate, and committed to her team. Leah's hard-work, love, and care are all attributes of this incredible individual I am honored to coach. She is to whom most of her peers look to for guidance and comfort.

Firebird of the Week Congratulations!

Senior Evan Darrow | Boys Tennis

Evan has been a member of the Firebirds Tennis Program for all four years. He has consistently been dedicated to the program and a leader within the program. Evan far exceeds all expectations of a student-athlete and has set a high bar for all those future seniors of the Firebirds Tennis Program. Congratulations, Evan!

Girls Swim & Dive Congratulations!

vs. Lawrence, Olathe South, SM North | 1st Place

200 Yard Medley Relay | 1st Place

Bradie Ward, Halle McCullough, Lolly Hindman, Samantha Packard

200 Yard Medley Relay | 3rd Place

Jocelyn Wilson, Mina Khosh, Liza Engelbrecht, Silvia Liu

200 Yard Free | Emma Day - 2nd Place, Molly Nuckolls - 3rd Place

200 Yard IM

Bradie Ward - 1st Place, Jocelyn Wilson - 3rd Place, Gayla Gao - 4th Place

50 Yard Free | Liza Engelbrecht - 1st Place, Samantha Packard - 2nd Place

1 Meter Diving

Audrey Hoey-Kummerow - 2nd Place, Chaney Finkeldei - 3rd Place, Maya Huang - 4th Place

Girls Swim & Dive Congratulations!

vs. Lawrence, Olathe South, SM North | 1st Place

100 Yard Fly

Liza Engelbrecht - 1st Place, Lolly Hindman - 3rd Place, Halle McCullough - 4th Place

100 Yard Free

Samantha Packard - 1st Place, Jocelyn Wilson - 2nd Place, Silvia Liu - 4th Place

500 Yard Free | Molly Nuckolls - 2nd Place, Nisa Kay Khosh - 4th Place

200 Yard Free Relay | 1st Place

Emma Day, Halle McCullough, Jocelyn Wilson, Samantha Packard

200 Yard Free Relay | 2nd Place

Gayla Gao, Aidyn Guy, Lillie Outcalt, Molly Nuckolls

Girls Swim & Dive Congratulations!

vs. Lawrence, Olathe South, SM North | 1st Place

100 Yard Backstroke

Lolly Hindman - 2nd Place, Abbey Hossler - 4th Place, May Gao - 5th Place

100 Yard Breaststroke

Halle McCullough - 1st Place, Emma Day - 3rd Place, Mina Khosh - 5th Place

400 Yard Free Relay | 1st Place

Liza Engelbrecht, Silvia Liu, Emma Day, Bradie Ward

400 Yard Free Relay | 3rd Place

Gayla Gao, Abbey Hossler, Molly Nuckolls, Lolly Hindman

Boys Track & Field Congratulations!

Gardner-Edgerton Invitational | 8th Place

100 Meter Dash | Michael Romito - 8th Place, Roman Jasso - 10th Place

200 Meter Dash | Michael Romito - 10th Place

400 Meter Dash | Havea Hafoka - 10th Place

800 Meter Run | Ben Shryock - 3rd Place, Jake Loos - 8th Place

1600 Meter Run | Jake Hedges - 8th Place

110 Meter Hurdles | Trevor Sidabutar - 9th Place

300 Meter Hurdles | Trevor Sidabutar - 7th Place

Boys Track & Field Congratulations!

Gardner-Edgerton Invitational | 8th Place

4x100 Meter Relay | 4th Place

4x400 Meter Relay | 2nd Place

4x800 Meter Relay | 4th Place

High Jump | Rebuke Ennyinnaya - T-8th Place

Pole Vault | Cooper Stone - 4th Place, Dylan Farrell - 10th Place

Long Jump | Cameron Stutler - 10th Place

Triple Jump | Quez Lee - 8th Place

Shot Put | Tyler Gourley - 8th Place

Javelin | Brian Lane - 5th Place, Spencer Doan - 9th Place

Girls Track & Field Congratulations!

Gardner-Edgerton Invitational | 3rd Place

200 Meter Dash | Aubrey Duncan - 5th Place, Emma Evans - 10th Place

400 Meter Dash | Samantha Whittlesey - 6th Place

800 Meter Run | Cayman Barnes - 6th Place

1600 Meter Run | Isabelle Pro - 4th Place, Allison Babbitt - 7th Place, Elle Cormaney - 10th Place

3200 Meter Run | Olivia Goesser - 2nd Place

100 Meter Hurdles | Marrah Spriggs - 4th Place

300 Meter Hurdles | Marrah Spriggs - 5th Place

Girls Track & Field Congratulations!

Gardner-Edgerton Invitational | 3rd Place

4x100 Meter Relay | 5th Place

4x400 Meter Relay | 4th Place

4x800 Meter Relay | 4th Place

High Jump | Reese Hulcher - 2nd Place

Pole Vault | Isa Evans - 1st Place, Ashley Mai - 4th Place, Avery Qualseth - 8th Place

Long Jump | Reese Hulcher - 5th Place, Harper Merrill - 9th Place

Triple Jump | Harper Merrill - 3rd Place

Javelin | Aubrey Duncan - 1st Place, Julia Chapman - 7th Place

Firebirds in Action!



Great Green Help Day!



Students from the Class of 2023 participated in Great Green Help, a day of community service, on Friday.

Students volunteered at the Lawrence Police Department, Van Go Inc, Habitat for Humanity, and other non profit and local organizations.

Mr. Mitchell's U.S. Government Class

Members of Mr. Mitchell's 5th block U.S. Government class participated in a jury simulation earlier this week. Students were given the facts of a real-but-modified case and had to deliberate and unanimously arrive at a verdict. The activity gives students an appreciation for the role of juries, and the difficulties in determining exactly what "beyond a reasonable doubt" actually means. These students did an excellent job with their deliberation!

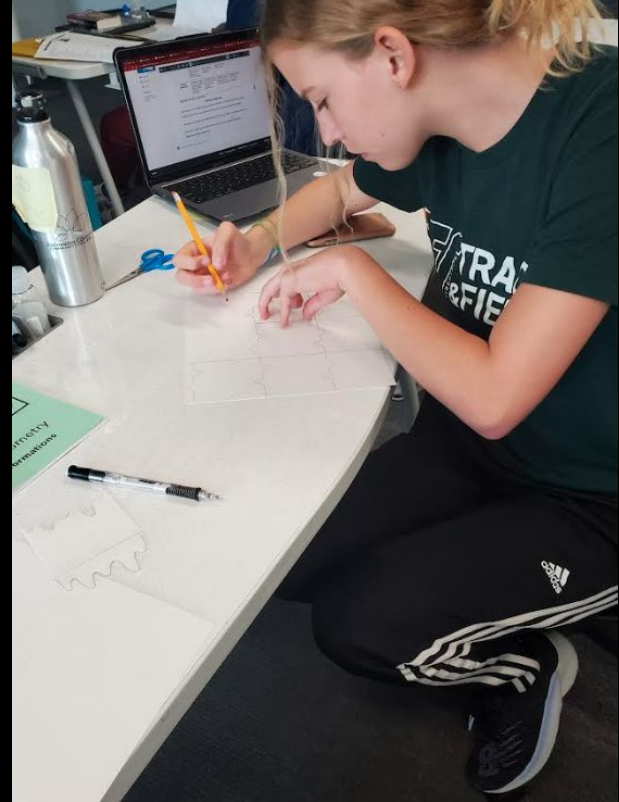
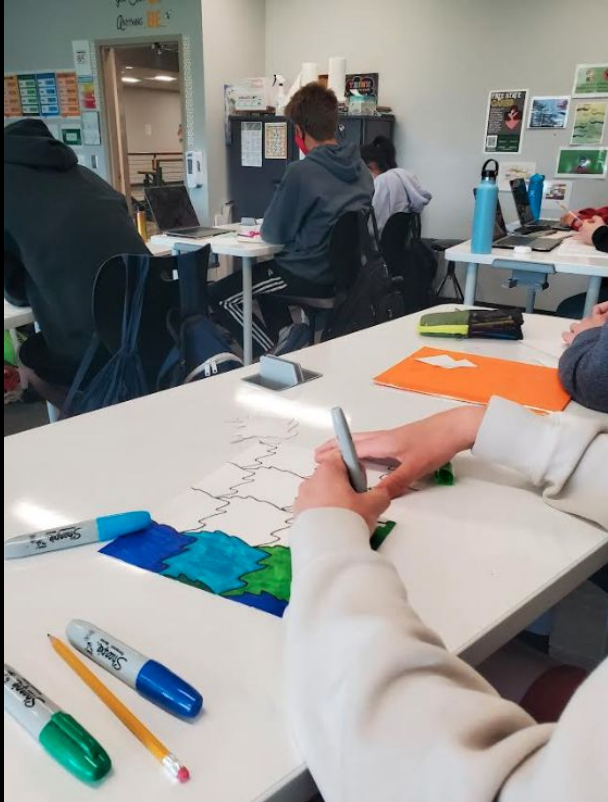


Art in Mrs. Phillippi's Advanced Geometry Class

Students making Tessellations in
Mrs. Phillippi's Advanced Geometry class!



Art in Mrs. Phillippi's Advanced Geometry Class



Art in Mrs. Phillippi's Advanced Geometry Class



Don't Miss This!



Free State Debate Congratulations!

On Monday night, the Free State Debate team of seniors Serena Rupp and John Marshall won the National Championship at the Tournament of Champions! This is not only the first national championship in school and district history, but is also the first time a team from Kansas has ever won the Tournament of Champions!

John and Serena spent the season ranked in the Top Five of the National Coaches' Poll. They entered the tournament as the #4 ranked team in the country having appeared in the elimination rounds at every tournament they attended this season, and placing in the Top Three at the three round robins, featuring exclusively Top 25 teams in the country, that they competed in.

Free State Debate Congratulations!

On Saturday, Serena and John were 2-2 in the tournament's first four debates. On Sunday, though, the pair started an eight round win streak which included earning votes from 17 of the 18 judges who saw them over the tournament's final eight rounds. After the seventh debate, the tournament condensed to its elimination rounds featuring all teams who earned a 5-2 record in the preliminary rounds. John and Serena qualified for the single elimination bracket as the 11-seed, and were joined by their Firebird teammates, junior Aaron Persinger and sophomore Sophie Racy, who were the 13-seed. Free State represented the only teams from Kansas to qualify for the elimination debates.

Serena and John defeated teams from Decatur HS (GA), Peninsula HS (CA), Little Rock Central (AK), Mamaroneck (NY), all on unanimous 3-0 decisions, on their way to the final round. In the Championship debate, John and Serena were matched up against a team they'd split debates with all season from Berkeley Preparatory School (FL), and emerged victorious on a 2-1 decision by the judges.

Free State Debate Congratulations!

This concludes a record-shattering high school policy debate career for John and Serena, which saw them become the first team from Free State to ever earn a TOC bid, to ever win a TOC qualifying tournament, to ever debate at the TOC, to ever break at the TOC, to place in the Top 30 of NSDA Nationals two times, and of course, to win the TOC. They'll graduate next month as one of the most successful teams in Kansas history, and they'll both continue their debate careers at Emory University (Serena) and Kansas University (John), respectively.



Free State Theatre Congratulations!

**Congratulations to the Free State Theatre Department
on earning TWO Starlight Blue Star Nominations!**

Senior Mary Kate Shultz, Rising Star Scholarship

Junior Julia Ruddy, Performance Scholarship

The Blue Star Awards Ceremony is at 7:30pm on March 26th at Starlight Theatre.

What are the Blue Star Awards? Here is a description from Starlight's website:

Modeled after Broadway's Tony Awards®, Starlight's annual Blue Star Awards recognize achievement and excellence in musical theatre among Kansas City area high school students. Established in 2003, the program is one of the largest and most admired high school musical theatre awards programs in the nation. All high schools in metropolitan Kansas City and selected outlying communities are invited to participate. Each year the program serves 5,000 area students who contribute either on the stage or behind the scenes to their schools' musical theatre productions. Adjudicators, who are theatre professionals, performing artists, designers and theatre arts educators, attend each participating school's musical and provide evaluations and commentary to Starlight's Community Engagement Department. Their comments are also compiled and shared with each school's theatre teacher and students. Each year, the program culminates with the red-carpet Blue Star Awards Ceremony on the Starlight stage.

Free State Theatre Congratulations!



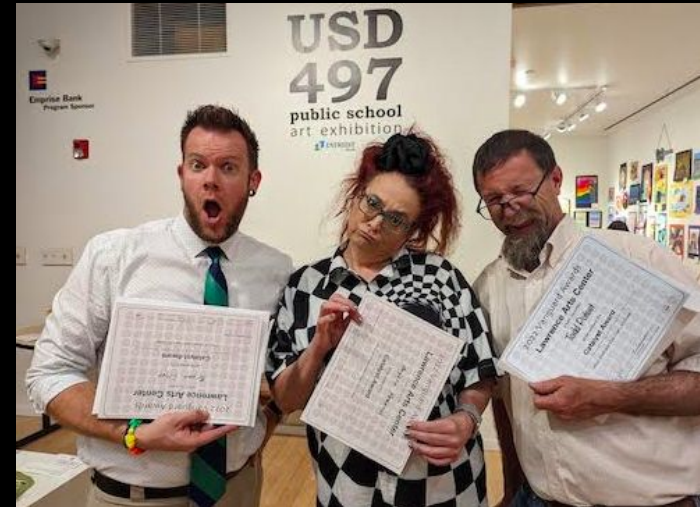
USD497 District Art Show!

The USD497 District Art show opening was Friday night and Senior Brooke Smith won the Trailblazer Award for her piece, "Library Mice!" Other Free State Students received Honorable Mention for their 2-D and 3-D artwork. Honorable Mention recipients include: Senior Akosua Dansa, Senior Madison Seelye, Senior April Haight, and Junior Franzi Siepe. The show is on display in the main gallery at the Lawrence Arts Center until May 13th. Congratulations on an amazing job, Artists!

USD497 District Art Show!



USD497 District Art Show!



April Staff Member of the Month Congratulations!

Mrs. Katie Coldham

Everyone knows that Mrs. Coldham cares deeply about all the people in our school community. She has seemingly limitless cheerfulness and energy, always praising and uplifting others. Mrs. Coldham does not make a display of her work or toot her own horn, but she arrives ready to go-go-go every morning!



April Staff Member of the Month Congratulations!

Mrs. Meg Lyles

Mrs. Lyles is one of our unsung staff members doing job at an “11” at all times. The amount of heart and soul she pours into her students and colleagues is admirable. She works tirelessly to support our students with compassion and understanding.



April Staff Member of the Month Congratulations!

Mrs. Anita Nelson

Mrs. Nelson has been in this building for longer than many of us and during that time she has been a dedicated leader, thoughtful mentor, and trusted colleague. Despite the “not so glamorous” aspects of her job (ie. paperwork!!), Mrs. Nelson has always met the challenges with a positive and sincere attitude.



What's Happening this Week!



Birthday Wishes!

Oather Strawderman
May 02nd

Rachel Smith
May 07th



Monday, May 02nd

Varsity Boys Tennis at 2022 Sunflower League Tournament
9am, CBAC-Tennis

Varsity Boys Golf Host the Justin Siler Memorial Tournament
1pm, Lawrence Country Club

Tuesday, May 03rd

Varsity Baseball vs. Olathe East
5:30pm, CBAC-N

Varsity Softball vs. Lawrence
5:30pm, Firebirds Softball Stadium

Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Olathe South
7pm, ODAC-Soccer

Wednesday, May 04th

StuCo Executive Board Applications Due

Thursday, May 05th

Varsity Girls Dive at 2022 Sunflower League Prelims | 4:30pm, SM Aquatic Center

Forensics Showcase Performances | 5pm, Commons

Varsity Baseball vs. Gardner-Edgerton | 5:30pm, Firebirds Baseball Stadium

Varsity Softball vs. Olathe North | 5:30pm, ODAC-N

Varsity Girls Soccer vs. SM East | 7pm, Firebirds Soccer Stadium

Friday, May 06th

2022 6A Regional Boys Tennis Tournament | 9:30am, CBAC

StuCo Executive Board Elections | Lunch, Commons

Varsity Boys and Girls Track & Field at 2022 SM North Relays | 2pm, SM North Stadium

Student Equity Council Applications Due | 4pm

Varsity Girls Swim at 2022 Sunflower League Prelims | 4:30pm, SM Aquatic Center

Student Equity Council Applications

Apply for Equity Council

Application due Friday,
May 6th 4 pm.

Email

kylee.johnston@usd497.org or
tmitchel@usd497.org if you
have questions.

SCAN HERE



Saturday, May 07th

Varsity Girls Dive at 2022 Sunflower League Finals
10am, SM Aquatic Center

Varsity Softball Doubleheader vs. Shawnee Heights
11am, Firebirds Softball Stadium

Varsity Girls Swim at 2022 Sunflower League Finals
12:30pm, SM Aquatic Center

Upcoming Next Week!



Monday, May 09th

Math 101 Final Exam

8:30am, Main Gym

Tuesday, May 10th

Varsity Boys Golf at 3rd Leg of Sunflower League
8am, Sycamore Ridge GC

Varsity Softball vs. SM East
5:30pm, Firebirds Softball Stadium

Varsity Baseball vs. Lawrence
7pm, KU-Hoglund Ballpark

Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Lawrence
7pm, Firebirds Soccer Stadium

Wednesday, May 11th

StuCo Representative Applications Due

Class of 2022 Athletic Signing Recognition Ceremony
2:20pm, Main Gym

Varsity Girls Swimming at Last Chance Meet
4pm, LIAC

Thursday, May 12th

Varsity Boys Golf at Lawrence Invitational
1pm, Eagle Bend GC

2022-23 Free State Spirit Squad Tryout Clinic #1
6-8pm, Aux & Main Gym

Pops Concert/Spring Choral Concert
6:30/8pm, Auditorium

Varsity Girls Soccer vs. SM West
7pm, SM Soccer Complex

Friday, May 13th

2022 6A Kansas State Boys Tennis Tournament | TBA, CBAC-Tennis

Academic Assembly | 9am, Main Gym

StuCo Representative Elections | Lunch, Commons

2022-23 Free State Spirit Squad Tryout Clinic #2
6-8pm, Aux & Main Gym

Spring Play Performance | Blithe Spirit by Noël Coward
7pm, Auditorium | Purchase Tickets [Here](#)

Saturday, May 14th

2022 6A Kansas State Boys Tennis Tournament | TBA, CBAC-Tennis

2022-23 Free State Spirit Squad Tryouts

9am, Aux & Main Gym

Spring Play Performance | Blithe Spirit by Noël Coward

2pm, Auditorium | Purchase Tickets [Here](#)

Spring Play Performance | Blithe Spirit by Noël Coward

7pm, Auditorium | Purchase Tickets [Here](#)

Let's Go State!

