

USD 490 is proud to be the public schools serving El Dorado, KS.

## District Highlights

### USD 490 wins state publication awards

USD 490 was named a Sweepstakes winner for the 1700-4999 enrollment category in the 2018 KanSPRA/KASB Publications contest.

The district also received an Award of Excellence for the Wildcat Preschool Brochure and Certificates of Merit for six other submissions which included the El Dorado Middle School Newsletter, District Activities Calendar, BG Stadium Annual Report, USD 490 eNews, Chalkboard Chat, and the district Facebook page.

The full article can be found on the district website: [www.eldoradoschools.org](http://www.eldoradoschools.org).

### Mill Valley girls basketball team reads to Grandview students

The Mill Valley girls basketball team visited Grandview kindergarten students on January 25.

This is the eighth year that the team has visited Grandview between Lady Cat Classic tournament games to read and demonstrate basketball skills to students.

Grandview Media Specialist Nancy Wagner formed the partnership in 2011, when her cousin was the head basketball coach at Mill Valley. Drew Walter was hired as the new Head Girls Basketball Coach in Mill Valley five years ago, and he chose to continue the partnership.

"It's one of the highlights of our trip," Walter said. "The girls talk about it for months afterward."

Each player is partnered with two to four kindergarten students to read in the library for about twenty minutes. Afterward, they move to the gym and the team demonstrates ball-handling skills.



## School Board Members receive KASB leadership training

Several USD 490 school board members received recognition for their participation in the Kansas Association of School Boards Leadership Academy.

Heather Nichols, Rob Lane, and Sharon Waugh received Level One certificates for the 2017-2018 school year.

Board President Norm Wilks and Superintendent Sue Givens received Level Two certificates for the 2017-2018 school year.

The KASB Leadership Academy recognizes the dedication school board members and administrators exhibit as they commit to continuing education throughout the year. Points are awarded on a yearly basis for at-

tendance at regional and state conferences and participation in specialized training at the local level. The points are totaled at the end of the program year.

For this year, 482 KASB members received Level One Certificates (25 to 74 points), and 146 KASB members received Level Two Certificates (75 points or more).

## Sue Givens awarded 2019 Distinguished Service Award

USD 490 Superintendent Sue Givens received the 2019 Distinguished Service Award from KSSA during their annual awards banquet in Topeka on January 16.

The award recognizes service to the education profession and to the Kansas School Superintendents' Association.

Givens was surprised with the

award after the 2019 Kansas Superintendent of the Year was announced.

"It's such an honor," Givens said.

Superintendent Givens was the 2017 Kansas Superintendent of the Year and has held her current position in El Dorado Public Schools since 2007.

2019 Superintendent of the Year  
Glen Suppes and Sue Givens



## Spelling Bee Buzz

### El Dorado Middle School

- 1st Place- Kareena Bhakta (sixth grade)
- 2nd Place- Avery Baker (seventh grade)



L-R: Brecky

### Blackmore

- 1st Place- Gretchen Raple (fourth grade)
- 2nd Place- Ehryn-Joy Diffendal (fourth grade)



L-R: Gretchen Raple and Ehryn-Joy Diffendal

### Grandview

- 1st Place- Jacob Schafer (fifth grade)
- 2nd Place- Jackson Briggs (fifth grade)



L-R: Jacob Schafer and Jackson Briggs

### Skelly

- 1st Place- Ethan Beard (fourth grade)
- 2nd Place- Rhonald Lucas (fourth grade)



L-R: Rhonald Lucas and Ethan Beard

Students competed in building-level Spelling Bees on January 8 (EMS) and January 10 (elementary schools). The winners of those building-level bees will represent USD 490 at the Butler County Spelling Bee on February 1.

At EMS, Kareena Bhakta won first place, Avery Baker won second place, and Josh Crabtree placed third. Josh

also placed fifth in the eighth grade division of the Patriot League Spelling Bee and Avery placed sixth in the sixth/seventh grade division.

At Blackmore, Gretchen Raple won first place and Ehryn-Joy Diffendal was the runner-up. The spelling bee lasted seven rounds and the championship word was creature.

At Grandview, Jacob Schafer won

first place and Jackson Briggs was the runner-up. The spelling bee lasted 15 rounds and the championship word was supposedly.

At Skelly, Ethan Beard won first place and Rhonnie Lucas was the runner-up. The spelling bee lasted eight rounds and the championship word was juniper.

## 2019 KTOY nominees tour USD 490

Eight fellow 2019 Kansas Teacher of the Year candidates joined EMS Intellectual Disability Teacher Connie Allmond for a tour of USD 490 on January 23.

The KTOY team began the tour at BG Stadium where they received a brief overview of the district and learned about the scoreboard and district technology.

After the stadium tour, they visited Butler Community College to learn more about Project Search and the Butler County Special Education Interlocal's special projects and initiatives.

The next stop was Blackmore Elementary. They observed the pre-kindergarten classrooms and STEM lab before visiting the Intervention classroom where staff members spoke to them about math and reading interventions, Camp Pride (formerly Summer Academy) and Professional Learning Communities.

The team toured the Performing Arts Center's newly remodeled auditorium, back stage support area, and pocket theater and Extend's flexible seating, laundry room, and kitchen.

The next stop was El Dorado Middle School, Mrs. Allmond's home school. They learned about NWEA, MTSS, EMS news production, and the middle school science labs. KTOY team members met students in Mrs. Allmond's class. They spoke about Circle of Friends and the neat features of Mrs. Allmond's classroom.

The final stop was at EHS. The building tour focused on the various features of our focused classroom and student opportunities in the performing arts.

The KTOY team will visit each candidate's district in order to learn from each other and discover new ideas they can utilize to improve their own district.

## El Dorado Kiwanis donates money to El Dorado schools

The El Dorado Kiwanis Club donated \$3,000 to elementary schools in El Dorado on January 24.

Blackmore Elementary received \$1,000, Grandview Elementary received \$500, Skelly Elementary received \$1,000, and Oil Hill received \$500 to go toward student needs that are not covered by a regular school building budget. The money can be used to purchase glasses, hygiene products, or help cover medical expenses for families who need assistance.

"The Kiwanis motto is 'Helping one child at a time in our community,'" Kiwanis member Julie Jensen said. "We know that schools know the needs of students and can make the greatest impact."

They have donated money to El Dorado elementary schools for over 20 years, and the amount given to each building is based upon enrollment numbers.

Kiwanis members host an annual pancake feed and sponsor a flag placement for community members on Independence Day, Flag Day, September 11, Labor Day and Memorial day to raise money for the donation to schools.

### Important Dates

#### February 3-9

National School Counseling Week

#### February 8

Winter Homecoming

#### February 12

Parent-Teacher Conferences  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

#### February 14

Parent-Teacher Conferences  
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
No School  
Valentine's Day

#### February 15

No School

#### February 18

President's Day  
No School



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**El Dorado Public Schools**  
**USD 490**

