

Relationships to Partnerships

The Coffeyville school district has seen a significant increase in the number of community partners recently. These partnerships come in the form of site council members, attendance at various events held at the schools, the involvement of organizations such as Rotary and Kiwanis, financial donors that have given to the public school foundation and the early learning project, and many, many more. These partnerships do not just happen, they are a result of cultivating relationships first.

Many of you are probably aware of the tremendous success Coffeyville has had with the Dr. Jerry Hamm Early Learning Center. The partnerships involved here were no different. A great deal of time was spent creating relationships with community partners and growing the collective knowledge of the group. The end result is a coalition for early learning that is currently unmatched in our state.

The school district is also seeing an increase in involvement and engagement at each of the other buildings. This is important to ensure the public schools truly reflect the needs of our local community. Hardly an evening goes by that there isn't something going on in at least one of our buildings, usually multiple events. From literacy nights, to plays, to athletic events, there is almost always something to attend.

Changes have also been implemented at the secondary level. Several programs have been revived at both the middle and high schools. Students in middle school at Coffeyville have as many or more course offerings of any school in Southeast Kansas. These include agriculture, business, art, music, band, foods, career and life planning, and the newly established drama/theater program. These are in addition to the basics of math, language arts, science and social studies. The high school takes these programs and expands on them further, even partnering with our community college. We have as many career pathways as any other 4A school in the state and offer far more than the majority. Our students are fortunate to have so many opportunities available to them.

As your superintendent, I will continue to evaluate the courses and programs offered at the secondary level to ensure they are meeting the needs and expectations of the community. A new advisory group has been established consisting of community and business leaders from the Coffeyville area. Their focus will be to learn what Coffeyville Public Schools have to offer and provide critical feedback to the district. The new Kansans Can educational model provides us with an opportunity to rethink, not just what we offer our students, but how we deliver what our students need. This is an exciting time to be in Coffeyville! I look forward to creating more relationships and securing even more partnerships for our school district. Remember, we are Coffeyville's public school system.