

Auburn-Washburn EARLY CHILDHOOD



September Newsletter

Upcoming Dates:

- **SEPTEMBER 16TH** - NO EARLY CHILDHOOD
(DISTRICT WIDE EARLY RELEASE)

Picture Day Dates:

September 22nd - Indian Hills
September 23rd - Pauline Central
September 25th - Wanamaker
September 29th - Farley
October 5th - Jay Shideler
October 6th - Auburn

PTO DATES:

Pauline Central - October 6th 5:30

Indian Hills - September 29th 6:00

Jay Shideler - October 13th 6:00

Farley - October 13th 6:00

FarleyPTO News

MEET OUR SOCIAL WORKERS!

See attachments

Our school social worker is here to support students and families throughout the school year. They work closely with children, families, teachers, and staff to help students feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

Extra Clothes

Accidents, spills, and messy learning activities are all part of Early Childhood! Please make sure your child has an extra set of weather-appropriate clothing at school. Don't forget to label clothing and personal belongings with your child's name.

Building Independence

-  Put on their shoes and coat
-  Help pack their backpack
-  Clean up toys
-  Help with simple household tasks
-  Practice communicating their needs
-  Identify and talk about their feelings

CHECK BACKPACKS DAILY

Important information may be sent home throughout the school year. Please check your child's backpack each day.

Parents As Teachers (PAT)

See attachments

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a free program that partners with families to support children's learning and development from birth through the early years.

PAT educators work with parents and caregivers to provide ideas, resources, and support that help children learn and grow at home. Visits can include talking about your child's development, answering parenting questions, sharing fun activities, and connecting families with community resources.

Resources:

- [Topeka Public Library](#)
- [Stormont Vail Health](#)
- [Child Care Aware](#)
- [Topeka & Shawnee County](#)
- [Astra Mental Health](#)
- [Families Together](#)
- [Shawnee County Food Pantries](#)



Dear Family,

We are thankful for you being part of our school community! The world is changing quickly and we want to do everything we can to help students be successful in school and life.

We are excited to tell you that we will be using a program called PurposeFull People this year. This program teaches skills that will help students be successful in school and in life.

We believe that students should have safe, predictable places to learn where they feel included. Students should have healthy and helpful connections with teachers and classmates. They should also experience learning that will help them tackle challenges inside and outside of school. PurposeFullPeople is more than a set of lessons - it is a partnership between schools and families to create a place where students feel like they belong and learn skills that will help them be the best they can be!

Purposefull People has three main goals for students: Be Kind, Be Strong, and Be Well.

- **Be Kind:** Social skills like listening, friendship, solving conflicts, and leadership.
 - These skills are taught alongside **Empathy, Respect, & Cooperation**
- **Be Strong:** Skills that help students focus, stay organized, and set goals.
 - These skills are taught alongside **Responsibility, Courage, & Perseverance**
- **Be Well:** Skills that help students handle their emotions and deal with stress.
 - These skills are taught alongside **Gratitude, Honesty, & Creativity**

This year, you'll be invited to join the fun! We will send letters home about the skills and strengths being taught each month. Each letter will include some ways to build these skills at home, discussion starters, and fun challenges you can try with your family.

The path forward is full of growth! We cannot wait to partner with you in this work...

- To teach students how to build strong friendships
- To work together to solve problems, big and small
- To grow skills for life
- To become PurposeFull People

With Gratitude,

Auburn Washburn Early Childhood Program





Kindness KICKOFF

Family Connection

PurposeFull
People

Welcome!

Dear Family,

We are excited to tell you that we will be using **PurposeFull People** this year, a program that teaches skills to help students be successful in school and in life.

We believe that students should have safe, predictable places to learn where they feel included. Students should have healthy and helpful connections with teachers and classmates. They should also experience learning that will help them tackle challenges inside and outside of school. PurposeFull People is more than a set of lessons - it is a partnership between schools and families to create a place where students feel like they belong and learn skills that will help them be the best they can be!

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Conversation Starters



- What does Kindness mean to you?
- What is something Kind you did for someone else today?

Kindness Overview

Our world needs more Kindness! That's why Kindness is how we are starting the school year. Our definition of Kindness is acting with understanding, generosity, and care. You'll hear a lot about Kindness this year because it is also 1 of our **3 outcomes**:

- **Be Kind:** Teaching social skills like listening, friendship, solving conflicts, and leadership. These skills are taught alongside **Empathy, Respect, & Cooperation**
- **Be Strong:** Skills that help students focus, stay organized, and set goals. These skills are taught alongside **Responsibility, Courage, & Perseverance**
- **Be Well:** Skills that help students handle their emotions and deal with stress. These skills are taught alongside **Gratitude, Honesty, & Creativity**



♥ MEET OUR PAULINE CENTRAL AND AUBURN SOCIAL WORKER! ♥



PC & AE SOCIAL WORKER

WHITNEY ELLIS

Elliswhi@usd437.net
(785)339-4989

Meet the Social Worker

About Me:

Hello, name is Mrs. Masilionis aka Ms. Mary. I'm the School Social Worker for Auburn-Washburn Early Childhood Program. With 13 years of experience as a school social worker, I look forward to partnering with you this year to help your child reach their full potential. In my free time, I love to read and explore new places with my husband, son (7) and daughter (4).



Mrs. Masilionis

Education

I earned both my Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work degrees from Washburn University. Go Ichabods!

Schools I Serve:

Farley
Indian Hills
Jay Shideler
Wanamaker

How Can I Help

I support students and families' in various ways:

- Individual Support: One-on-one student support with social/emotional concerns
- Group Sessions: Small groups focusing on topics like friendship, sharing, and recognizing emotions
- Crisis Intervention: Immediate support during stressful times
- Family Support: Connecting families with resources (housing, food, counseling, etc.)
- Community Engagement: Connecting with local agencies around Topeka

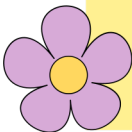
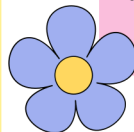
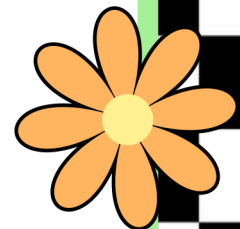
Contact Info



Phone:
785-408-8374



Email:
masilmareusd437.net



What Can Parents as Teachers Help With?

-  Your child's early learning and development
-  Understanding developmental milestones
-  Building language and communication skills
-  Social-emotional development
-  Fun learning activities to do at home
-  Parenting questions and support
-  Connecting families with community resources

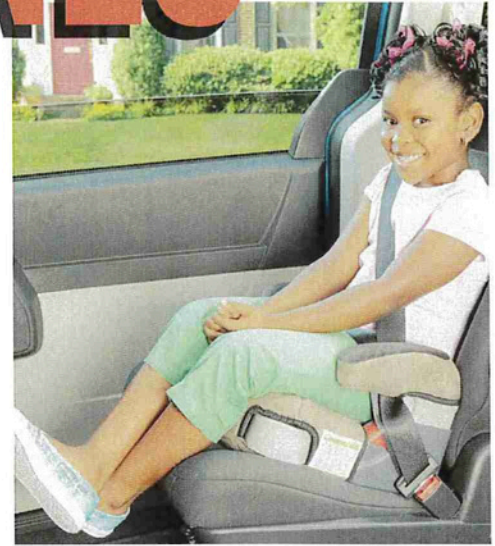
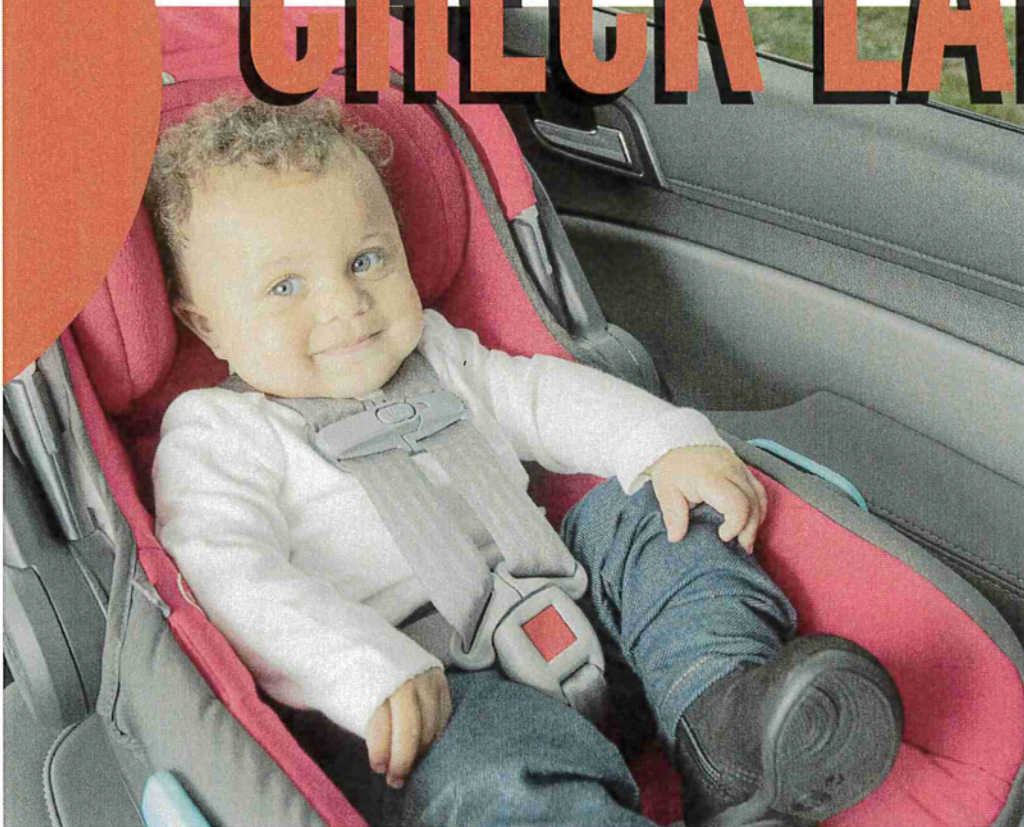


September 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 FARLEY MORNING PLAYGROUP 9:30-10:30 A.M.	2	3 P.C. MORNING PLAYGROUP 9:30-10:30 A.M.	4	5
6	7 LABOR DAY- OFFICE CLOSED (NO PLAYGROUP)	8 FARLEY MORNING PLAYGROUP 9:30-10:30 A.M.	9	10  P.C. EVENING PLAYGROUP 5:30-6:30 P.M.	11	12
13	14 FARLEY MORNING PLAYGROUP 9:30-10:30 A.M.	15 FARLEY MORNING PLAYGROUP 9:30-10:30 A.M.	16	17 P.C. MORNING PLAYGROUP 9:30-10:30 A.M.	18	19
20	21 FARLEY MORNING PLAYGROUP 9:30-10:30 A.M.	22 PAT STAFF TRAINING (NO PLAYGROUP)	23	24 P.C. MORNING PLAYGROUP 9:30-10:30 A.M.	25	26
27	28 FARLEY MORNING PLAYGROUP 9:30-10:30 A.M.	29  FARLEY EVENING PLAYGROUP 5:30-6:30 P.M.	30	Legend: ● Farley ● Pauline Central 🌙 Evening Playgroup Unless otherwise noted, morning playgroups are held Mondays and Tuesdays at Farley and Thursdays at Pauline Central from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Evening playgroups vary by time and location.		

2026 CAR SEAT CHECK LANES



WHEN: 2-4PM ON THE LAST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

WHERE: DCCCA/KTSRO OFFICE
1207 SW Executive Drive, Topeka

PLEASE NOTE: If the temperature at the time of the check lane is below freezing, the check lane will be cancelled.
If the temperature is forecasted to be over 95 degrees, the check lane will be held on the same date, but from 9-11AM.

QUESTIONS? Call KTSRO at 785-233-5885

January 26
February 23
March 30
April 27
May 18
June 29
July 27
August 31
September 28
October 26
November 30
December 28

**KANSAS TRAFFIC SAFETY
RESOURCE OFFICE**

Lost and Found

Please contact 785-339-4675, if these items belong to your child!

