

The Keystone

Special Edition

April, 2020

From the Director's Desk.....

Last week, the President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act has some specific implications for special education. Funding, funding, funding and waivers from the requirements under the IDEA that the Secretary of Education can submit going forward are the 2 key implications for those of us in the special education world.

How many dollars will be available in Kansas and how they might be allocated is yet to be seen. We do know that using those funds for the provision of special education services is an allowed or approved practice. Stay tuned and we'll revisit this conversation in the weeks ahead.

In terms of waivers from IDEA requirements there are several that are primary considerations. Can we put off annual IEP meetings that come up during the time we operate under continuous learning plans? Likewise, can we put off or extend the period in which we conduct the initial evaluation and/or 3 year re-evaluation? What about IDEA part C to IDEA part B transitions? Again, stay tuned to our daily updates, social media outlets, and weekly Zoom meetings – we'll get information as soon as it becomes available.

Thanks for all you do!
Andy



Keystone Learning Services 500 E. Sunflower Blvd. Ozawie, KS 66070

Phone: 785.876.2214

www.keystonelearning.org

Find us on Facebook - Keystone Learning Services & Twitter - @KeystoneLeading

Keystone Learning Services Office Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

April Calendar of Events

Tuesday 7th Superintendent Advisory Council (Virtual) Meeting 12:30
Wed 8th Region 3 (Virtual) Meeting 10:30;
Special Board Meeting 7 p.m. (Virtual)
Friday 10th Keystone Office Closed for Easter Holiday
Wed 15th Board of Directors (Virtual) Meeting 7 p.m.



NEWS FROM THE KEYSTONE OFFICE

- ★ 2019-2020 contracts have been sent out by regular mail with a return envelope. The contracts either need to be signed or the changes on the contract initialed and dated. Please return to Beth Folks in HR in the envelope provided ASAP.
- ★ Para surveys have gone out to each para. If you have not received a survey by 4-8-2020, or if you have any questions regarding the '19-'20 contracts, please call Beth at the Keystone office.
- ★ Please send any outstanding and future IEP's via email to Khrystyan Masters as soon as possible, kmasters@keystonelearning.org.



Hello Keystone Family!

The office staff is trying to provide as much assistance as possible during these unprecedented times. Effective immediately, the Keystone Ozawkie office hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 pm. If you need to reach someone after hours, please email them directly and they will get back to you as soon as possible. You can find email addresses for all staff by going to the Keystone website, staff tab and selecting staff contact list.

Just a reminder, all calendars, timecards and expense/mileage vouchers for March need to be turned in asap. Para timecards and certified staff calendars can be located online through your google drive. If you need an expense/mileage voucher, please contact Karla Bradford at kbradford@keystonelearning.org.

If you are needing to come to the Keystone office, please call ahead of time to set up an appointment. The phone number to the office is (785) 876-2214.

Please stay safe, healthy and feel free to reach out to the office staff if you need!

Thank you

Lisa Morando
Business Manager



We are navigating through an unprecedented time in our lives. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our students and families as we move ahead in the coming days and weeks.

As we embark on Continuous Learning, remember to keep our students and families at the forefront. The relationships we continue to foster or develop over this time period is critically important. Our families and students need to know that we care about them and their well being during this challenging time. The CDC has released some talking points for school personnel and families as they work with students during the COVID-19 crisis: <https://bit.ly/2vTue1D>.

As you begin meeting with students and families through Zoom, you should consider reading this article titled, [“How to Keep the Party Crashers from Crashing Your Zoom Event.”](#) This article outlines specific settings that might be important when setting up Zoom meetings for your students. Another article that you might share with your parents is from Bark titled: [“How does Zoom work?”](#) This article gives some tips for parents they might find useful in the coming weeks.

Lastly, don't forget about taking care of yourself now and in the coming weeks. PBS has an article titled: [“5 Tips for Self-care.”](#) In this article written by Kristen Harris, she outlines five ways to find our calm.

Nathanael Norman



School Closing Information- COVID-19

As all Kansas school districts are closing, it is my hope everyone is closely monitoring the news and best practices regarding the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). At the direction of Governor Laura Kelly, school buildings in Kansas were ordered to close for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year on March 17, 2020. It was included in the order that school districts must find alternative ways to deliver educational opportunities to Kansas students.

Kansas educators have written guidelines on how to continue to deliver those services to all students. Teachers and staff are currently writing and implementing Individual Continuous Learning Programs (ICLP) for all of our students. John Dewey teachers will be contacting students through phone calls and/or students' Keystone email accounts. We understand we have some challenges regarding internet access in our community and we are trying to determine a viable solution.

Students' school lunch services are being offered through their individual home districts. Please take advantage of these meals. Kansas will continue to feed students breakfast and lunch. Please contact your home district for instructions on how this program will be implemented in your district.

The coronavirus is thought to be spread via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge you to speak to your child about the following prevention measures:

- Wash your hands regularly, especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips and palms.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your elbow.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.

The symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and coughing. Some people with coronavirus have reported additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia.

Please know that we understand that our students' lives have been greatly impacted. We hope that you and your family stay safe and well during this most difficult time. I know the days ahead will be challenging for you and your family. May we all lean on each other going forward. We will make it through this tough time.

Terri J. Coughlin

JDLA Principal





[Coronavirus Support from Aetna](#)



[Coping with Stress, Fear and Uncertainty During Covid 19](#)



NEW PARA BIOS

Name: Terra Herring

Teaching Position at Keystone: Paraprofessional

Hometown/Home State: Mayetta, KS

Hobbies: Gardening, Photography, Scrapbooking

Family/Animals: Husband-Paul, Kids-Tanner (21), Emma (12), 2 dogs, 1 cat

Name: Mamie West

Teaching Position at Keystone: Paraprofessional

Hometown: Atchison, KS

Hobbies: Playing Piano

Family/Animals: 1 brother, 2 dogs

Thoughts on Working with Children: I love kids--their spirit and energy--and want to see them grow and improve.

Favorite Things/Other: Favorite animal is a penguin.

Name: Jennifer Faris

Teaching Position at Keystone: Paraprofessional

Hometown/Home State: Oskaloosa

Hobbies: Cake/Cookie Decorating

Family/Animals: Married to James Faris, one son, Elliot (9), 2 dogs (Scout and Baby) and one cat (Lyla)

Thoughts on Working with Children: I have always enjoyed working with children. Also I look forward to learning new ways/ideas when working with elementary students.



Hang on to your hat. Hang on to your hope. And wind the clock,
for tomorrow is another day.

~E.B. White

