

## Cheylin holds parent-teacher conferences

By Norma Martinez  
bc.times@nwks.com

Cheylin students, grades kindergarten through 12, were dismissed at 3 p.m. on Monday and teachers remained to meet the students' parents for parent-teacher conferences from 4 to 8 p.m. Elementary teachers were in their rooms and high school teachers were available in the cafeteria.

The younger children and students enjoyed cookies while their parents talked to their teachers, others waited in the halls and older students attended to the younger children not in school at the present time.

Tammy Bartels, Kansas PTA president, drove from Tonganoxie to give a presentation, on the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) tests. Bartels began by answering the question as to what the tests are about and explaining the process of how and why they were developed.

The tests are a set of internationally educational standards benchmarked for all students, grades kindergarten through 12, and ensure every student's college and career readiness in English language arts and mathematics. They also provide clarity and consistency of what all students need to know when they graduated from high school.

The standards were developed in 2009 by the 48 states, the District of Columbia and two United States territories and adapted by Kansas in 2010. Tests are divided into two categories: 1) kindergarten through 12 standards that provide assurance the students are prepared for college or career; and 2) readiness standards assuring what the students need to know in preparation for college, technical school or career.

The standards were released for comment in March 2010 and more than 10,000 comments were received and reviewed by an advisory group of education, college and state policy administrators and experts such as National PTA, the National Association of School Administrators; the James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute; the Business Roundtable, Achieve; ACT; and the College Board.

In 2002, the No Child Left Behind mandated every state to implement a standards-based accountability system as assurance every child is proficient in reading and English language arts and mathematics by 2013-14 school year. Each state had its own method of setting standards which caused a patchwork system of standards that was proven to be detrimental within the United States mobile society. This prompted the development of the Common Core Standards.

In a survey conducted with high school dropouts, two-thirds reported they would have worked harder if more was demanded of

them such as higher academic standards of more studying and homework. When asked what would improve their schools, 91 percent of high school students said providing more challenging courses would be an improvement.

The intent of the standards set is to increase the reading level of students to what they will experience in college and career. Reading such as Charlotte's Web and Diary of Anne Frank are necessary exposure towards literature and informational text. Reading is necessary to read history and science books and understanding of math is necessary to learn the formulas in science.

Each core subject (language arts, math, history/government, science-along with English for speakers of other languages) required for graduation is to be reviewed every seven years according to state statute.

The High School American College Testing (ACT) standardized tests are being reassigned and aligned with the mathematics and reading so they will be Common Core Standard effective as early as this school year. An assessment system has been developed by the American College Testing for grades three through 10 - called ASPIRE. A few Kansas school districts have applied for permission to use the ASPIRE and ACT as their assessment measure while the Kansas assessment system is in transition. Students who take the American College Test will be better prepared with the adoption of our new state standards.

Kansas has routinely updated the state education standards and is routinely revising the associated state tests accordingly and in compliance with the State statute. Implementation of the Common Core State Standards did not have federal data collection requirements.

Kansas is collaborating with a consortium of states, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium to develop new assessments for mathematics and English language arts standards the state has a vote on all major decisions. There are no membership fees, which mean a savings to the state and those in the consortium. Over one million students participated in the field test of items in the spring 2013 and another million are anticipated to participate in spring 2014.

Ms. Bartels said, the requirements are set by the district and will stay the same. The testing takes less time than the present means of testing. Tests will be given in grades kindergarten through 8 and the high school students will only have to take the Common Core State Standards tests just one time.



HEATHER MCPHERSON and Morgan Kauten, first grade teacher, hold a parent teacher conference.  
Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



ABBI DIXSON, Cheylin language arts teacher, holds a parent-teacher conference with Alex Ramirez's mother, Rosa Rascon and grandmother Avery Rascon.  
Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

## Hospital trauma center now Level IV

The trauma center at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis has been designated as a Level IV Trauma Center by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

"Trauma center designation is one component of a comprehensive statewide trauma system designed to get patients with life-threatening injuries to a hospital with the necessary resources," said Robert Moser, M.D., Kansas Department of Health and Environment secretary, and state health officer. "We congratulate Cheyenne County Hospital for serving as a vital resource when every second matters."

Level IV trauma centers are rural hospitals

whose primary role is to stabilize seriously injured patients. If necessary, they are transferred to a higher level trauma center. Hospitals that have achieved Level IV trauma center designations have demonstrated a commitment to providing optimal care for those who have been seriously injured.

Designated trauma centers must meet the essential criteria that ensure trauma care capability and institutional performance as outlined by the American College of Surgeons and endorsed by the Kansas Advisory Committee on Trauma.

There are four separate categories of designation by the Kansas Trauma Program. Each

category has a specific criteria that must be met by a facility seeking that level of designation. A trauma care system includes a network of hospitals providing a spectrum of care for the injured patients. Trauma center designations are based on the hospital's care capability, from the highest, Level I, to hospitals designated Level IV.

Injuries are a leading cue of death and disability in Kansas. Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Trauma Program works to assure those that are injured in Kansas have access to a organized system of trauma care that offers them the best chance of recovery.



CHEYLIN ELEMENTARY girls and boys participated in the Cheylin Cheer Camp and Basketball Camp, then entertained during the halftimes of the varsity games against Logan. Pictured above are participants from preschool through second grade doing their "Go Big Blue" cheer.  
Photo provided by Darci Shields