

# Language Arts Newsletter: May 2019



## Welcome!

### Agency Update

You did it! You made it to May. While the end is in sight, it is never an easy month; graduation, finals, grades, goodbyes...the ride never stops. I want to preemptively wish you all a very happy Teacher Appreciation Week. This year, May 6-10 is designated as a time to celebrate and thank teachers. While you do far more than can ever be recognized in one week, I want to make sure you all know how much you are valued and what a difference you are making in the lives of Kansas students. Thank you for all you do.

I had the opportunity to screen teachers from Spain at the beginning of April. What amazed me most was seeing how the heart of a teacher truly transcends time and place. There is something about being a passionate teacher that is truly universal. I am excited to be part of bringing some fantastic educators to Kansas.

In April, our online course focused on teacher leadership. One key aspect of teacher leadership is embracing a cycle and mindset of continuous growth and improvement. For May, I put together an activity for teachers to reflect on this past school year in order to plan for your summer PD. You can access the reflection in the "Professional Opportunities" section.

As we wrap up the year, I would love to update the homepage on our ELA site. If you have any ELA-related 'end of year' activities you would like to share on the ELA page, please send me a narrative and pictures. As always, if there is anything I can do to better support you, please let me know. Best of luck as you finish out this school year.

-Sarah Perryman

### Professional Learning Opportunities

**May Professional Learning:** Being a Reflective Practitioner

Reflect on your 2018-2019 School Year [Here](#)

**June 3:** Culturally Responsive Teaching (Topeka, KS)

Learn more and register by going [here](#)

**June 25-26:** Santa Fe Trail Symposium over Literacy (Carbondale, KS)

Learn more and register by going [here](#).

**June 27-28 (Topeka) & July 17-18 (Pratt):** KSDE Summer Impact Institutes

Learn more and register by going [here](#).

**June 2019:** KATE Camp

Learn more and register by going [here](#).

**October 25-26, 2019** in Wichita: KATE Annual Conference

Learn more and register by going [here](#).

**October 28-30, 2019** in Wichita: KSDE Annual Conference

Learn more and register by going [here](#).

If you have not joined the National Council for Teachers of English ([NCTE](#)), I would encourage you to do so! After that, join our Kansas Affiliate-[KATE](#) (Kansas Association for Teachers of English).

\*\*Have you ever wondered how your schools' resources measure up to the rest? Visit <http://www.edreports.org> to review their evaluations of the many instructional resources schools have available to them today.

\*\*Have you ever wondered what curricular resources were being used across the state? Greenbush recently surveyed curriculum leaders to find out the answer to that popular question. You can access [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) results.

## Standards and Assessment News

### Structure of the Month- [Develop Syntactic Awareness to Increase Reading Comprehension](#)

When discussing best practices for reading, the site Reading Rockets claims “To read complex, challenging texts, students must become familiar with increasingly complex sentences of written language. They need to cultivate a syntactic awareness of sentence structures used in the more formal language of books.” Learn more about the importance of grammar instruction by clicking the above link.

### ELA News:

The Kansas Book Festival is currently promoting their Youth Writing Contest. They are accepting student essays until May 10<sup>th</sup>! Don't miss out on the opportunity to participate. Students in grades 3-12 are eligible to submit original essays related to Kansas history; this year's theme is 'To the stars'. Learn more [here](#). We are moving forward with our Handwriting committee. This summer, a group of 20 educators will meet to review and improve our Kansas standards for Handwriting. We hope to have a copy put before the State Board of Education in the Fall so that we can train teachers next Spring and have the standards go into full effect for the 2020-2021 school year.

### Agency News:

The theme for this year's KSDE Summer Impact Institute is: [Kansans Can Ignite](#)! Our first summer institute will be held at Washburn University in Topeka on June 17 and 18. The second institute will be held in Pratt, Kansas at Pratt Community College on July 27 and 28. You can register using the link above.

If you are needing to renew your 5-Year Professional License, you can now do that online. Learn more [here](#).

On April 16, the KSDE School Redesign Team announced the 'Apollo' schools to our State Board of Education. For this next phase, we have 19 districts and 40 schools ready to engage in the Kansans Can Redesign Project! Learn more about Redesign [here](#).

### Assessment News:

The assessment window is now closed. Thank you for your hard work during the testing window. This time of year can be stressful for teachers and students, and we appreciate your efforts to motivate and encourage students to do their best. It is always the goal of KSDE and our testing provider to have score reports back to schools by the time school dismisses for summer. You can learn more about reading these score reports by going to [www.ksassessments.org](http://www.ksassessments.org).

## Good Things

**The Kansas Masonic Foundation** – They offer scholarships to many Kansas Students wishing to attend two year or four year universities. Learn more about this opportunity for your Juniors and Seniors by going [here](#). They also sponsor a book club that offers incentives and recognition for students to improve their reading. You can learn more, and get involved, by clicking [here](#).

**Kansas Association for Teachers of English (state NCTE affiliate)** is pleased to announce the [keynotes](#) for their 2019 Fall Conference: authors Tiffany Jackson and Alan Gratz will be both be there! KATE is also planning an Ed Camp for this June, so stay tuned for more details. Also, if you are not a KATE member, now is the time to join. Not only will you have the chance to connect with strong ELA leaders and teachers, you will also have access to professional learning resources produced by KATE teachers.

For more information, contact:



Sarah D. Perryman, Education Program Consultant-ELA  
sperryman@ksde.org  
785-296-1074

CSAS- Career, Standards, and Assessment Services  
Kansas State Department of Education  
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 653

[www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)

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