Dear KSWLA Members,

Hello to all of my fellow Kansas World Language teachers. I am so happy to be serving as a representative for you as president of KSWLA. As I have stepped into the role as president, we are happy to welcome Marilee Marsal as our Vice President. Marilee is a Spanish teacher at the Independent School in Wichita and has served as the president of KATSP in the past. I am so glad to have Marilee on board!

As we navigate the school closures and move to distance learning, please know that KSWLA cares deeply about all Kansas teachers. **During this time, KSWLA will continue its goal of promoting and improving teaching, look for ways to provide professional development, and encourage cooperation.**

We are committed to maintaining communication with members as we all learn how to create distance learning experiences for our students.

Are you connected? There are so many ways to stay connected to other World Language teachers. Make sure you have subscribed to the World Language Listserv (contact Dr. Regina Peszat at rpeszat@ksde.org). Don’t forget to check out our KSWLA website and Facebook page, as well. And, don’t let distance keep you from connecting--explore the bustling Twitter community of #langchat, the Kansas CI Teachers Facebook page, or the free online resources available at the Open Language Resource Center (olrc.ku.edu)!

The Kansas World Language Association is an organization for you and by you. I want to extend a personal invitation to you all to get involved in KSWLA. From Regional Representatives to serving on the Executive Council, the Kansas World Language Association has something for you! Your voice is what keeps this organization running! Feel free to connect with me about how you might be more involved (kswlapresident@gmail.com).

Sincerely, Amanda Benavidez-Williams, KSWLA President

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This summer, the Kansas State Department of Education will be offering 2-day professional development workshops at 3 locations: Garden City (June 16-17), Goddard (June 23-24) and Manhattan (July 14-15). These workshops will focus on using the Kansas World Language Standards to plan lessons and units. There will also be a focus on personalizing learning for students. **Registration for these events is now open!** Dr. Regina Peszat, KSDE World Language Consultant

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Link to Continuous Learning Task Force Guidance from KSDE.
Lorranda Baldridge
Olathe Northwest
French Teacher

Why did you become a world language teacher?

When asked, "Lorranda, what do you want to be when you grow up?" I always said a teacher. I wasn't too sure what I wanted to teach, I just knew I loved working with kids. I'm the oldest of 6, babysat for years, tutored in the elementary school, and was a nanny.

In high school, I jumped at the opportunity to study abroad in Belgium. I learned French during my year abroad and fell in love with the language and culture. I combined two things I loved and stepped on K-State's campus knowing exactly what my future plans were: French Teacher!

The best activity I have done with my world language class is...

traveling to France with many of my students.

The best advice I could give new teacher is...

The best advice I could give a new teacher is to give yourself time to figure out your own way of teaching. Make sure you are having fun too!

Urgent Call to Action

Language teachers often feel that world language learning is misunderstood in our schools. A vote at the State Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, February 12, may be an example of that. Please read the news release from the Kansas Association of School Boards below. The following points should be discussed.

The opening statement indicates some misunderstanding. In Kansas, world languages are neither treated as a 'core' subject nor currently included in KSBOE state graduation requirements, so the mention of “foreign language” in this proposal is irrelevant. On the other hand, maybe this is a good time to point out that a language other than English should be required for graduation, i.e. our Kansas goal should be for every student to be proficient in English and at least one other language. If a local school district does include world language as a graduation requirement, then replacing a world language credit with computer credit is illogical. Language learning requires a continuous sequence of courses for as long as possible to become proficient. It cannot be replaced with an unrelated course. If this proposal intends to influence the Kansas Scholars Curriculum as defined by the Kansas Board of Regents, then we should adamantly oppose it. The Scholars Curriculum includes two years of a world language, a bare minimum for preparing for college study. It is important to learn whether or not this proposal has gone to the Board of Regents. While there is no denying that computer literacy is an essential skill in today’s world, and is often described as both a ‘language’ and a ‘science’, both of those terms are metaphorical rather than literal.

Please forward this to anyone who will advocate for maintaining or expanding high quality world language instruction in our schools. Consider making public comments at the next State Board of Education “Citizens Open Forum”. The next opportunity is Tuesday, April 14th at 10:00/10:30 use your voice as a constituent to communicate with the Board member representing you.
Hello all KSWLA Members! My name is Heather Potter and I am the Past President of the Kansas World Language Association. As the Past President, I am in charge of our Awards.

It is the time of year where we all need to step out of our classrooms, take a breather, and recognize all the wonderful things that our colleagues are doing for World Language Education! Luckily, we have just the outlet for doing this!

The Kansas World Language Association has awards for outstanding leaders and visionaries, exemplary teachers, promising pre-service teachers, and incredible students studying languages in our classrooms! We also have classroom mini-grants available and VIP Memberships to our fall conference available for new teachers in our profession! We all know many people who would qualify for these awards, please take a moment to recognize the work of your colleagues.

Visit the KSWLA.org website and/or click on the links below for more information and/or a nomination form:

KSWLA - Teacher of the Year

Phyllis Farrar Leadership Award

Garinger Scholarship Award for HS/College Students

Alexander Award for Preservice Teachers

Mini-Grants Visit KSWLA.org for grant requirements and send your application to KSWLAPastPresident@gmail.com.

Conference VIPS! Visit KSWLA.org for award requirements and send your names to KSWLAPastPresident@gmail.com.

All award nominations/submissions must be completed by June 1st.
The annual State German Competition, der Schülerkongress was held on Saturday, February 22, at the K.U. campus in Lawrence, Kansas, and is sponsored by the Kansas Association of Teachers of German. Approximately 150 students from 11 schools across Kansas and the Kansas City area took part in the event this year. Professors Emily Wallace and Bill Keel hosted the event. Participating schools were high schools from Abilene, Hays, Junction City, Lawrence, Lee’s Summit-MO, Lindsborg, Manhattan, Newton, Olathe East, Olathe North and the German Saturday School of N.E. Kansas/Lawrence.

The Schülerkongress is an opportunity for students to meet, be immersed in German, and to support and compete against each other in their German skills. The competitive events include two literature events: the recitation of a memorized poem and interpretive reading of a prose piece. Other competitive events are: a culture quiz; scavenger hunt to a nearby museum; break-out room; poster and video contest, and a game room. Each year a theme is chosen around which the poster and videos must be designed. This year’s theme was “Deutsch lernen: Du bist dran,” meaning “Learn German: It’s your turn.” The theme is also displayed on a T-shirt designed for the event.

Additionally, students are encouraged to speak German with German exchange students and other native or fluent speakers. For their efforts, they earn Kongresseuro, which can be exchanged for prizes donated by the German Consulate and Goethe Institute in Chicago, the German Embassy and Information Center in New York and by German car dealers in the Kansas City area: Bud Brown Volkswagen of Olathe, Baron BMW and Aristocrat Motors of Merriam, KS. At the end of the event is an awards assembly, where students are awarded medals for stellar literature performances and place ribbons for the other events. “Students are excited about the Schülerkongress, they have fun, are rewarded for their efforts and motivated to keep learning German!!”
Poster Contest 2020 Voting is now open to all current KATSP members. Members were sent a voting link via email that will remain open through noon March 19th. Winners will be announced Friday, March 20th. We have poster entries from K-12th grade again this year and the top three from each category will receive cash prizes and be entered into the National AATSP Poster Contest. Last year, we had four National winners from Kansas and we hope to have winners again this year!

The Spanish Language Competition scheduled for April 3rd has been cancelled. This message was posted recently on the KATSP Capítulo Girasol Facebook group from President Megan Reynolds: In accordance with recommendations from the CDC, KDHE, and other governmental organizations, we have decided to cancel the Competition scheduled for April 3rd to be rescheduled at a later date during the 2020-2021 school year. We will be in touch sometime in the next several months. We appreciate your understanding as we do our part to keep our communities safe and healthy. All already registered for the event have had their tickets refunded and the event has been closed.

For more information about KATSP and our events, please visit our new website [https://katsp.org/](https://katsp.org/)

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The Kansas Chapter of the AATF co-hosted French Immersion Day on February 29th at the University of Kansas. There were over 55 French teachers representing 30 different schools in attendance. This event was started 4 years ago, to offer French educators the opportunity to collaborate, learn new teaching methods, and to be immersed in French.

The day began with a presentation by Dr. Jon Perkins and Gillian Weatherley, who shared about the Open Language Resource Center and the French materials that are being developed through this program. Next, attendees learned how to use a dance called the “La Guimbarde” to teach culture in the context of a unit on Mardi Gras. This lively session was presented by Krysten Cypret and Andi Ghaderi.

After a coffee break, our attention was turned to phonetics. Kimberly Swanson and Mary Kelly offered several strategies and resources for practicing pronunciation. Then, the Mardi Gras theme continued with a mask-making workshop led by Beth Wood and Douglas Bartel.

During lunch, Regina Peszat spoke about the work she has done to foster connections with our regional partner in France, the Department of Orleans-Tours. After lunch, Brigitte Roussel presented a fun twist on Mardi Gras, coming from the region of Solesmes in France. Participants read a text about the huge water fight that they have on Mardi Gras, and Brigitte lead everyone through an activity using the PACE model.

Before heading to the Spencer Museum of Art to discuss and explore their Francophone collection with Diane Fourny and Caroline Jewers, Stephen Aspleaf and Hannah Sondreal spoke about the IB French Program at Sumner High School.

It was a wonderful day of new ideas and great fellowship. Other partners for this event include the Department of French, Francophone and Italian Students at the University of Kansas and the Open Language Resource Center at the University of Kansas.

-Katrina Carey, President AATF Kansas