

Editing

2013 KSPA Regional Contest

Description

You are a staff member of Ad Astra High School's newspaper staff. Your editor has asked you to edit the following story.

School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School

Location: Aspera, Kansas

Mascot: Box Turtles

Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12)

School Colors: Green & Gold

Yearbook: The Honeybee

Newspaper: The Star

Contest Info

This is an on-site contest.

Please attach your assigned contest number in the upper right-hand corner of your entry.

Do not put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA Executive Director. All work must be that of the contestant.

Assignment

You are to edit the newspaper story on the following pages for AP style, accuracy, libel, attribution, correct paragraphing, grammar, spelling and redundancy. Correct copy editing symbols should be used. Make corrections above the line containing the error. Do not rewrite the story. Use the margins for any questions you would ask the reporter. Students should edit in pencil. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and A.P. style manuals.



Story

Principal Hudnall Browne told students this week that math scores at Ad Apera high reached “frightening lows.”

Of the 854 students in grades eight through twelve, only 62 achieved what he termed “acceptable levels.” That translates into 2.4% of all the students attending school this year.

“This group of students is on track to become the the worst performing generation ever” he said at a special convocation. “If this doesn’t turn around soon, we will not only be the laughing stock of Kansas but we may lose state funding too”.

Browne was joined onstage by math teachers, Carl Kolchak, Joyce Lazkowski and Bernie Madigan. Each spoke about what they would do to improve science skills.

Madigan said he planned to create an investment project which student’s would start in ninth

grade, and follow thru there senior years. That project whic he said was pionnered by Charles Ponzi will help students learn about statistics and probability and other qualitative concepts.

Lazkowski plans to use building projects to teach such concepts as the Pythagorian therum, Fibinnaci numbers, erratic equations, vectors and compliments. Lazkowski, who often invites individual students to her house for “fun activiites” said she might have students build a garage for her. “They could see math at work first hand,” she said.

Kolchak didn’t offer specific projects he would use or might use if given the opportunity in the coming years, but he did blamed social media, video games and other “worthless electronic fascinations” for students declining scores. “Any body who goes around with ear plugs in their ears all day and watches a screen all night is bound to suffer from brain rot”



A Dismal Performance in Math

Figures released by Principle Browne show how bad students at At Astra have performed on recent tests in math and mathematical related subjects.

Grade	Number of students	Number that scored below superior	Percentage
9	280	196	94.2
10	215	199	92.6
11	212	209	98.6
11	219	198	90.4
TOTAL	926	792	92.7

Brown agreed. He said he would go before the school board and the city council and seek ordinances banning all personal electronic devices from anyone under the age of eighteen. Only after math scores improved would he reconsider allowing students to have back their devices and other paraphernalia.

A student in the crowded room of all the students at the convocation stood on her feet and told Browne that his plans would violate the first

amendment.

“The first amendment doesn’t apply to students who can’t do math,” Browne laughed.

After Brown’s tirade, a stunned convocation sat in silence.

Browne was unavailable for comment.