

Kansas Student Council

2022 Advisor of the Year

Kendra Ploutz – Ellsworth Jr/Sr High School



Congratulations to Kendra Ploutz for being selected as the 2022 Dr. Earl Reum Kansas Student Council Advisor of the Year. Kendra currently teaches English/Language Arts at Ellsworth Jr/Sr High School. Mrs. Ploutz’s students describe her as dynamic, passionate, creative and driven. In her first year returning to the classroom, she used these traits to take Ellsworth Student Council to another level. With the assistance of her leadership, the first event the student council hosted was a back-to-school block party. This event provided a fun way for students to kick off the school year with various yard games and photo booths. Additionally, the event included booths for school club recruitment and local merchants.



In many small, rural towns, communities and traditions are very important, and in Ellsworth, Homecoming is among the biggest events. This year, Mrs. Ploutz wanted to increase the community’s involvement in the parade festivities. In addition to the fifteen to twenty floats involved in the parade, all district schools were invited to the pep rally downtown, making it a community event. Mrs. Ploutz then challenged her council to organize a unique event for the student body. In coordination with the Kanopolis drive-in, one of the few remaining in the state, the student council arranged a night at the drive-in for students and staff of both the high school and the middle school. All these activities were organized and led by Mrs. Ploutz and the student council.

Mr. Cannon, Principal of Ellsworth High School, describes Mrs. Ploutz as, “an amazing advocate for kids.” This year she expanded the “Caring Cart”, containing materials for mental health self-care, from only serving teachers to serving both teachers and students. Additionally, Mrs. Ploutz organized a large group of parents to prepare a school-wide breakfast on KAP testing day.

The Ellsworth High School Student Council is active at the state level with students and Mrs. Ploutz, herself, attending annually the KSHSAA STUCO Summer Workshop at Emporia State University. Their school also supports the KSHSAA STUCO Fall Regional Conferences by attending or hosting each year. Rod Garman, Kansas Student Council Director, states, “Kendra and her student council members with smiles on their faces can always be counted on to lead and support!”

Mrs. Ploutz develops servant leaders through her dedication and passion for students. Dr. Earl Reum once said, “Great leaders are developed, not simply born!” Thank you to Mrs. Kendra Ploutz and all the student council advisors across Kansas for doing this daily. “YOU KAN LEAD!”

