LYON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Staff Travel Report
to
School Board of Trustees

Your recent request to travel has been approved. Within two weeks of the date of the conference, the following report is due in the office of the Deputy Superintendent.

Please Download & <u>TYPE</u> the following information.

Staff Member: Jessica Volkov

School: SSMS

Conference: STAR Academy

Staff Assignment: Training

Do not use acronyms

Location of Conference: New Orleans, LA

Dates Attended: 9/30/26-10/2/26

General Overview: Do not use acronyms

Attending the Star Academy Summit was a transformational opportunity to deepen my understanding of the entire program framework. As a new Star Academy site, our team received direct, one-on-one mentorship from master instructors, which answered our implementation questions and gave me a crystal-clear vision of a thriving daily classroom setup. Hearing success stories and practical advice from veteran teachers across the country built immense confidence in the program's design, leaving me thoroughly prepared and eager to establish a supportive, high-achieving environment for our students.

How will this impact student learning in a positive way?

This training directly enriches student learning by equipping me to implement the Star Academy model with complete fidelity and precision. Students will thrive in a personalized learning environment designed to meet them where they are, allowing them to master concepts and grow at their own speed. This tailored approach fosters self-advocacy, rebuilds academic self-esteem, and keeps students motivated as they experience consistent, measurable progress every day.

How will I implement what I learned and how will I share this information with my colleagues?

I am integrating these core program structures into my daily classroom routines immediately to ensure every student benefits from self-paced, high-fidelity learning. To support our campus team, I will share the pacing models, setup strategies, and instructional tools I acquired during our upcoming grade-level collaboration time. Working closely with my colleagues will allow us to align our expectations and create a seamless, cohesive Star Academy experience across all content areas.

Other Comments:

I am deeply grateful to Mr. Marciniak, the Board of Trustees, and Lyon County School District for funding this invaluable training opportunity. The hands-on guidance and clarity provided at the summit will significantly strengthen the launch of our new Star Academy program, and I appreciate your commitment to empowering both our staff and our students.

Site Principal/Supervisor Approval

11-9-26

Date

Stacy L Cooper, Ed D

Deputy Superintendent Approval

11-9-26

Date

LYON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Staff Travel Report to School Board of Trustees

Your recent request to travel has been approved. Within two weeks of the date of the conference, the following report is due in the office of the Deputy Superintendent.

Please Download & TYPE the following information.

Staff Member: Melissa Wungnema School: SSMS

Conference: Star Academy Summit Staff Assignment

Do not use acronyms

Location of Conference: New Orleans, Louisiana Dates Attended: October 30th-3rd

General Overview: Do not use acronyms

Attending the Star Academy Summit in New Orleans was an incredibly valuable experience. Hosted by NOLA Education, the conference brought together educators from across the country to share best practices for empowering students and helping them succeed. I gained practical strategies in project-based learning, student recruitment, active engagement, and authentic project evaluation. Having the opportunity to collaborate directly with program support staff and network with teachers who share similar classroom goals reinforced why the Star Academy model works so well. I returned with fresh ideas, renewed energy, and proven tools to make an immediate impact in my classroom.

How will this impact student learning in a positive way?

This experience directly benefits my students by allowing me to bring interactive, cutting-edge teaching strategies into our daily lessons. By implementing the project-based learning techniques I learned at the Summit, I can make science lessons more hands-on, relevant, and connected to real-world career paths—which aligns directly with Lyon County School District's focus on Career and Technical Education (CTE). These strategies are designed to re-engage students who have lost interest in school, helping them build academic confidence, improve daily attendance, stay focused in class, and take pride in their growth.

How will I implement what I learned and how will I share this information with my colleagues?

I am already putting these project-based learning and project evaluation strategies to work in my science classroom. To get the most out of what I learned, I am collaborating with our Star Academy math and English language arts teachers so we can align these engagement techniques across all three of our core subjects and strengthen our program as a team. I also plan to share key takeaways and session materials at an upcoming faculty meeting and stay available to support any colleagues looking to bring more hands-on, CTE-aligned learning into their own classrooms.

Other Comments:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Marciniak, the Board of Trustees, and Lyon County School District for granting me the opportunity to attend the Star Academy Summit. This conference was an exceptional professional development experience that provided valuable tools, strategies, and resources to directly enhance student engagement and support our Star Academy program at SSMS. Thank you for your continued investment in our professional growth and student success.

Site Principal/Supervisor Approval

11-5-26

Date

Stacy L Cooper, Ed D

Deputy Superintendent Approval

11-9-26

Date

LYON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Staff Travel Report
to
School Board of Trustees

Your recent request to travel has been approved. Within two weeks of the date of the conference, the following report is due in the office of the Deputy Superintendent.

Please Download & TYPE the following information.

Staff Member: Monica Copple

School: SSMS

Conference: Star Academy

Staff Assignment: SSMS 8th grade Math teacher

Do not use acronyms

Location of Conference: New Orleans

Dates Attended: 10/1-10/2

General Overview: Do not use acronyms

The summit united passionate educators nationwide to reignite their purpose and translate that energy into powerful outcomes for their students.

As a cornerstone of the Star Academy Program framework, the event advanced a shared commitment to empowering non-traditional and academically at-risk learners through high-impact STEM experiences, hands-on project-based learning, and exciting career pathways. By connecting dedicated teachers and leaders, sharing proven strategies, and energizing classroom vision, the conference inspired educators to return home ready to drive transformational, lasting change in their schools.

How will this impact student learning in a positive way?

Participating in this summit directly enhances student learning by equipping me with strategies to make learning more interactive, relevant, and engaging. Specifically, it impacts student outcomes in the following ways:

-Stronger Star Academy Engagement: I gained actionable advise to help engage reluctant learner. The Star Academy helps non-traditional and academically at-risk learners connect abstract concepts to practical applications, increasing both academic comprehension and classroom participation.

-Clearer Pathways to Future Careers: By integrating the latest industry insights and career exploration tools shared at the conference, I can better help students see the direct link between their current coursework and future career opportunities, boosting their long-term motivation and goal-setting.

Ultimately, these refreshed strategies will allow me to execute the Star Academy framework with greater precision and enthusiasm, creating a dynamic classroom environment that drives measurable growth and ignites a lifelong interest in learning.

How will I implement what I learned and how will I share this information with my colleagues?

I am actively implementing the insights and strategies gained from fellow Star Academy math educators to make abstract mathematical concepts more tangible and relevant through real-world problem-solving. By integrating hands-on, CTE-aligned math projects and practical evaluation tools, I am helping students see the direct, real-world applications of what they are learning.

To maximize the impact of this conference experience, I am collaborating closely with our Star Academy science and ELA teachers to drive strong student engagement across disciplines.

Other Comments:

Site Principal/Supervisor Approval

11-9-26

Date

Stacy L Cooper, EdD

Deputy Superintendent Approval

11-9-26

Date