## Kansas State Capitol Virtual Tour

**With Governor Laura Kelly**

**Elementary School**

**Audience – Grades 3-5**

**Length –**15:27:08 [minutes, seconds, frames]

### Objectives:

- Students will be able to:
  1. name the capital city in Kansas
  2. describe one purpose of the state Capitol
  3. understand the relationship between state, and local governments
  4. retell the story of one of the paintings or sculptures in the Capitol
  5. compare and contrast their school to one depicted in the Capitol murals
  6. name one Kansas symbol and explain why it is important to Kansas

### Location and Topic

- **Kansas State Capitol** (Joe Brentano)
  The Kansas State Capitol is in Topeka. Capital cities in each state have a capitol building or statehouse. The business of the state government is conducted here. Your legislators come here to the Capitol to work on the state laws.

  Our state gets its name from the Kaw Nation, also called the Kansa. They lived here before Kansas was a state. The Kansas River was named for them. The Capitol was built with the plans to add a statue at the top. But years passed while people debated the right choice. Finally, in 2002 Ad Astra was placed on top of the dome. He was named for the state's motto, meaning to the stars through difficulties. He symbolizes a Kaw warrior facing the North Star.

- **Ground Level Visitor Center** (Joe Brentano)
  Inside is the visitor center and on the floor here is a map of Kansas counties. Our state has 105 counties. Can you find the capital city, Topeka, on the map? It is in Shawnee County. Every county has a county seat where the courthouse is located. Can you find your county on the map?

- **Second Floor Governor’s Office** (Governor Kelly)
  Hello Kansas kids. I’m Governor Laura Kelly. And I’m here to take you on a virtual tour of the Kansas State Capitol here in Topeka. I’m doing this because ordinarily this time of year, April and May, there are hundreds of kids coming from all different
school districts from all around the state to tour the Capitol on a field trip. You didn’t get a chance to do that so I’m going to bring the Capitol to you. Here’s Joe Brentano. Joe gives tours of the Capitol all the time.

(Joe Brentano)
Well, thank you, Governor, this is a great honor.

(Governor Kelly)
Hey guys, this is my actual office. This is where I work. So over here I’ve got a lot of leftover stuff from the 14 years I spent in the state senate, lots of good gee gaws. One of my favorites is this box of baseball cards. This is actually Joe Dimaggio, some of you may have heard of him, he was very famous New York Yankee, they called him the slugger. I was a Yankees fan when I was a kid. My dad and my mom were born in New York, as was I, and so I grew up as a Yankees fan. I love the Royals now, but I was this. So, and the chief justice of the supreme court also was a Yankees fan and he gave these to me as a gift. So one of my favorite things. Up here, you’re going to see an elephant. If you know the symbols of the political parties, Democrats have donkeys, Republicans have elephants. And my Republican friends in the senate gave that to me when I broke my femur in a parade, and they gave that to me as a gift well gift. And up here you can see I’ve got a pair of boxing gloves. I was given these boxing gloves by people who work with children with developmental disabilities because I fight for kids.

(Joe Brentano)
So, Governor, working in this space, what are some of the most important things that you've worked on while in the office. Well, there’s absolutely no doubt that the most important thing that I’ve done since I’ve been Governor, aside from trying to get us through this public health crisis, was the passage of the school finance bill. When we finally started, you know, giving our schools enough money to do the job that they are entrusted to do. So getting the school finance bill passed was the most important thing.

(Governor Kelly)
We’re in what’s called the governor’s ceremonial office. This is where people come in if there are being recognized for a special award. Or if we are proclaiming a month as national school month. Everybody will come in here and have their picture taken.
with the governor. If you were to come here as a page during the legislative session you would come in here in the morning and have your picture taken with the governor.

As you know I'm the Governor of the entire state of Kansas. In the state we have 105 counties. Every county has a courthouse as the center of the county. So what I wanted to do was show off that part of Kansas. So I asked the Kansas Historical Society to put together a collection of photographs of all of our courthouses. And we've got 14 of them up now. The Historical Society will come and take these down and put up 14 more. And we will continue to rotate them so that all 105 county courthouses will be displayed in the ceremonial office over the course of my first term.

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<td>(Governor Kelly) You know, the laws of Kansas are made right here in the state Capitol. I'm standing in the Kansas House of Representatives chamber. Your moms and dads elect the folks who come here to help make the laws. I am going to let Joe tell you a little bit about this facility.</td>
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| (Joe Brentano) Thank you, Governor. Well our house is made up of 125 representatives. They come from districts from all over the state. And the districts are population based so each one represents roughly 24,000 Kansans. And they are elected to serve a two-year term. We don't have term limits on our legislators in Kansas so they may be elected to serve multiple terms there. Members are seated by their political affiliation. And you've got the leadership in each of the parties and their desks are up front. The large chair up front at the top of the podium or rostrum is where the speaker sits. The speaker is chosen by the group to serve as the leader. Clerks sit below and the podium in front is the well of the chamber where our laws are vetted and debated here. They have a procedure here in the house. Every member has buttons at their desks and they must be recognized by the chair to, when they are recognized they will go up front and debate at the podium. And there are two microphones up there so you might be standing next to your colleague debating the pros or cons of these bills or ideas that potentially could become our state law. Now when the members are ready to vote they do it electronically. So at each of their desks they have a series of buttons, a yes and a no vote, and the voting results appear on
the voting boards, which are at the top of the chamber. Because we are not in session right now the voting boards sit flush in the wall and you hardly notice they are even there.

| Third Floor Senate | (Governor Kelly) This is absolutely my favorite place in the entire state capitol. I spent 14 years here serving in the state senate, sitting at this very desk. Now let’s go over to Joe and talk about the chamber. (Joe Brentano) Well, welcome to the senate. And the state senate is made up of 40 members and again they are elected by districts based on population. Senators have a four-year term and they represent a larger constituent base of about 70,000 Kansans. Now behind me the senate also chooses a leader. He or she is known as the senate president. So the large chair at the rostrum is for senate president. Clerks sit below and those student pages, pages are 12- to 18-year-olds that come and work for the day, for their representative or senator and get to take part in the process. So if you're a page you get to sit up front here. Now unlike the house remember that had the large podium in the center, each senator has their own microphone. So the senators stand from their desk to address the group. They don't have to come up front as they do in the house. And notice on the desks there are no electronic buttons or tabulations for voting because in the senate it is by the division of the assembly, an oral yeah or nay vote. |
| Second Floor Curry's Kansas Pastoral mural | (Joe Brentano) We are on the second floor of the Capitol. This mural by John Stuart Curry is called Kansas Pastoral. Curry wanted to feature a Kansas farm couple with their children. Behind them are the red barn and the farmhouse. At one time most Kansans lived on farms. Farmers like this raised cattle, hogs, chickens, and sheep. |
| Second Floor Winter's Education mural | (Governor Kelly) So here we are still on the second floor but now we are in what’s called the rotunda sort of the central hallway of the statehouse. And what we’re going to talk about here will be this mural here, which has a one-room schoolhouse like kids used to go to in Kansas and then also a very special person in Kansas history, Joe. |
The one-room schoolhouse was often the center of the community and the teacher was responsible for all the curriculum for several grades, first grade up into the eighth grade there. So, she would be responsible for reading, writing, and arithmetic, the basics there. They used slates and slate pencils and that was their very basic supplies. The teacher was responsible for giving all the lessons for all the grades and of course it was the blackboard that was the main tool, sort of the iPad of its day I suppose where all the lessons were written down. And the students were expected to do recitations for testing and such. The older grades might bring in wood for the pot-bellied stove. Younger kids might be assigned to clean the blackboards, and clean those wool felt erasers, clap them together was often one of the fun things. The teacher might have a map in the classroom, a globe, and if the teacher was musical, there would often be a piano available.

Lumen Martin Winter specifically has this schoolhouse placed here and notice the teacher is leading the children to shelter because of the tornado. But I will share with you, you might notice there is one young man in the foreground not paying attention to his teacher. Well that happens to be the artist. Winter painted himself in the painting. He grew up near Larned, Kansas, and it’s said he patterned that schoolhouse to look like the one he attended growing up there.

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<td>Felten’s <em>Amelia Earhart</em> statue</td>
<td>And right here we have pilot, aviator, Amelia Earhart. Amelia Earhart grew up in Atchison, Kansas, there and one of the best-known stories is they created a roller coaster out of some roller skate wheels as a child and she got her sense of flying from that example as a child there. In the 1930s she will be the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. Today we still think about that spirit of adventure that Amelia Earhart had.</td>
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<td>Young’s <em>Brown v. Board of Education</em> mural</td>
<td>We’re on the third floor of the state capitol right outside the old supreme court room. A new edition to the state capitol was this mural done in 2018 and it depicts one of the most important events that ever happened in the state of Kansas and that probably has the biggest impact on your schools today.</td>
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Some schools were segregated by race in the United States. This mural shows two schools in Topeka. On the left is Sumner, for White children, and Monroe on the right, for Black children. African American families worked together to convince the courts to allow both White and Black students to attend school together. Brown v. Board of Education became a very famous case. The case is named for a Topeka family that was part of this fight.

Five flags at the top right mark the other states involved, which are South Carolina, Virginia, Kansas, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. All those cases were rolled together. They were argued in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, which is the building depicted in the center background. The court ruled in 1954 that separate but equal is inherently unequal and all nine justices agreed. That meant that schools could no longer separate students by race and Black and White children could go to school together.

We are now on the third floor and we are in the official Kansas State Library. This is an absolutely remarkable facility and I hope you have a chance to come visit this yourself.

Every state has a library system, however they are not always located in the capitol. Ours has always been here. Any Kansan can use the resources here. Maybe you are a Kansan that can’t travel to Topeka, you can go through your local library and get a state e-library card and access all of the resources here.

The Kansas State Library works with libraries in your communities and schools to help you find information. Did you know there are 326 libraries all around Kansas? Libraries are a great place to visit and explore when you can. Even when you can’t visit in person they can help you find a lot of free materials online.

You can see a lot of state symbols in our Kansas State Capitol. These brass sunflowers are in the state library. The sunflower is the state flower. They turn to face the sun. This is a carved limestone buffalo. The buffalo is the state animal. At one time
there were thousands of buffalo on the prairie. This cottonwood chair was carved from a tree planted when the Capitol was built. The cottonwood tree is the state tree. This Tylosaurus was young when it lived in the ocean when Kansas was under water. The Tylosaurus is the state marine fossil. What is your favorite state symbol?

Second Floor Rotunda Close

(Governor Kelly) We’ve come to the end of our tour of the Kansas State Capitol. I want to thank Joe so very much. You did a fabulous job. I’m sure the kids will enjoy it. And I want to thank all of you for taking the time to watch this. I hope so much that very soon you will actually be able to come here and meet Joe and have a tour of the Capitol in the actual building. You all take care.