

# Celebrating Pi: The Infinite Number Behind Circles

Every year on March 14 (3/14), math lovers around the world celebrate Pi Day, honoring one of the most famous numbers in mathematics:  $\pi$

(pi). The date was chosen because the first three digits of pi are 3.14, making March 14 the perfect day to recognize this fascinating mathematical constant.

Pi represents the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. No matter how large or small a circle is, this ratio is always the same—approximately 3.14159. Because circles appear everywhere in nature and technology, pi is widely used in math, science, engineering, and physics, especially when working with circles, spheres, and ellipses.

One of the most intriguing aspects of pi is that it is an irrational and transcendental number. This means its decimal digits continue forever without repeating or forming a pattern. In fact, modern com-

puters have calculated more than 50 trillion digits of pi, and mathematicians continue trying to compute even more. Despite this infinite length, only a few digits are needed for most real-world calculations.

The symbol  $\pi$  itself has an interesting history. It was first introduced in 1706 by Welsh mathematician William Jones and later popularized by the famous mathematician Leonhard Euler. Before that, people used long descriptions such as "the quantity which when the diameter is multiplied by it yields the circumference," which made discussions about the number quite cumbersome.

Pi Day celebrations often include fun activities such as reciting the digits of pi, solving math puzzles, and eating

pie (a playful pun on the word "pi"). In 1988, physicist Larry Shaw started one of the earliest Pi Day celebrations at the Exploratorium science museum in San Francisco, where people marched in a circle while holding digits of pi. The holiday became even more official in 2009, when the U.S. House of Representatives passed Resolution 224, encouraging schools to celebrate Pi Day and promote interest in math and science.

Over the years, people have taken their fascination with pi to impressive levels. In 2015, Rajveer Meena set a world record by reciting 70,000 digits of pi from memory, a feat that took more than 10 hours to complete. Others have even created a writing style called "Pilish," where the number of



letters in each word corresponds to the digits of pi.

From ancient mathematicians using polygons to approximate its value to modern supercomputers calculating trillions of digits, pi has captivated human curiosity for thousands of years. Whether you celebrate by solving equa-

tions or simply enjoying a slice of pie, Pi Day is a reminder of the beauty and mystery found in mathematics—and in numbers that never end.

Legal Notice  
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## Storage Vehicle Auction

March 20, 2026 10:00AM

Strickland Road Service  
I-35 and Hwy 166  
South Haven, KS 67140

2007 TOYOTA  
4T1BE46K37U016041

1998 CHEVROLET  
1G1NE52MXW6178243

2013 FREIGHTLINER  
1FUJGLDR6DSBU2031

2015 BMW  
WBS3C9C50FJ276156

1991 HONDA  
1HGCB7553MA192584

FREIGHTLINER  
3ALACWFC0SDWF1929

2005 IMPALA  
2G1WF52E959365457

2014 FORD  
1FT7W2BT6EAA31733

2024 RAM  
3C6UR5HL6RG251205

LONESTAR  
3NGGF4028S1001056

1996 BUICK  
1G4GD2213T4708899

Strickland Road Service reserves the right to make the final high or last bid on all items for sale in this auction.

## Kansas House Sends 'Bell to Bell, No Cell' Bill to Governor

March 10, 2026 - The Kansas House of Representatives has approved legislation requiring schools to limit student cell phone use during the school day, sending Kansas HB 2299 to Laura Kelly for consideration.

The bill requires public school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to adopt policies prohibiting students from accessing personal electronic devices — including phones, tablets and smart

watches — from the beginning of the school day until dismissal. Devices must generally be turned off and stored out of reach, with limited exceptions for medical needs or special education accommodations.

Supporters say the "bell to bell, no cell" policy is intended to reduce classroom distractions, improve student engagement and address concerns about social media and student mental health.

### Timeline Leading to Passage

February 2025: HB 2299 was introduced in the Kansas House and referred to the House Education Committee.

February 2025: The House committee held hearings and advanced the bill after amendments.

March 2025: The House approved a substitute version of the bill.

January 2026: A related Senate bill on school cell phone

restrictions received hearings and testimony about the impact of smartphones on students' learning and mental health.

March 5, 2026: The Kansas Senate passed a substitute version of HB 2299 with amendments in a 32-4 vote.

March 10, 2026: The House voted to concur with the Senate's changes, sending the bill to the governor's desk.

If signed, school districts and accredited private schools

## USDA Announces New Funding to Connect Farmers to Local Markets

(Washington, D.C., March 10, 2026) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced it has awarded over \$26.8 million to grant projects through the

Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP). The program helps local and regional food entities develop, coordinate, and expand producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets, and local

food enterprises. LAMP includes the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP), Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP), and the Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP).

"Part of our efforts to put Farmers First is to boost demand for locally grown food and connect our farmers to these growing regional markets. The Local Agriculture Market Program is an important part of USDA's work to grow strong local and regional food systems," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins. "This funding is putting Farmers First by helping them connect with new markets, strengthening their businesses, and boosting economic resilience in rural communities. At the same time, it gives families better access to fresh, locally grown food, making it easier for everyone to enjoy healthy meals while supporting the farmers who grow them."

Through RFSP, about \$4.7 million is being awarded to seven partnerships RFSP FY2025 Description of Funded Projects across 10 states. The program supports the development of relationships between local and regional food businesses and institutions, such as schools, hospitals, and governments, to increase local and regional foods in institutional cafeterias and meal programs.

LAMP and its accompanying grant programs are administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and are funded through the 2018 Farm Bill. These programs require a 25% cost share amount of federal funds being requested. For more information, visit the AMS LAMP webpage at <https://bit.ly/4biNEg2>.

LFPP is awarding almost \$11.1 million to 37 projects LFPP FY2025 Description of Funded Projects across 24 states and territories. The pro-

gram supports local and regional food businesses that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer-to-consumer marketing. The awarded projects focus on activities such as supporting the processing, aggregation, distribution, and storage of local and regional food products; developing value-added products; and facilitating regional food chain coordination.

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• May 8, 2026
- Kansas Civic Games - Topeka, KS  
• October 29

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Events, dates, and times are correct as of print date. Updates to these events can be found on the school website calendar at [www.usd509.org](http://www.usd509.org)

**Upcoming Events**

Mar 12 Thu  
FFA Banquet 6:30 PM, South Haven South Gym

Mar 13 Fri  
No School (Teacher Work Day)

Mar 16 Mon - Mar 20 Fri  
Spring Break 3/16/2026 - 3/20/2026

Mar 23 Mon  
No School (Teacher In-Service Day)

Mar 25 Wed  
Spring Picture Day

Mar 26 Thu  
HS Baseball vs Oxford @ Caldwell  
4 PM - 5 PM  
HS Softball vs Oxford @ South Haven  
4 PM - 5 PM

Mar 30 Mon  
HS Baseball vs Udall @ Caldwell  
4 PM - 5 PM  
HS Softball vs Udall @ South Haven  
4 PM - 5 PM

Mar 31 Tue  
JH Track @ Burden  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM