



NORTH HIGH WILDCAT

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Parents Partnering with Parents

The third parents' meeting of the 2008-9 school year will be Monday, February 9th at 6:30 pm in the North High IMC. The topic for this evening will be of great interest to all parents and has the potential to have significant impact on the students of Davenport. A city representative will share information and answer questions about the Davenport Promise, which comes up for vote in early March. Come learn all about The Promise and get your questions answered. Make this a top priority on your February calendar. Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to your participation in this informative discussion.

Thanks!

—Deb Frick and Joan Walton

Prom Expo

Sunday, February 15 from 1-5 PM the After Prom Committee will host a Prom Expo at the Central High School auditorium. Admission to this event is \$5. Patrons will have the opportunity to purchase "like new" prom dresses and get great ideas to help get in the mood for Prom 2009 held Saturday, May 2nd.

Don't miss out!

—The North/Central After Prom Committee.

Principal Points

Sophomores to Tour Scott Community College Campuses

108 sophomores who took the ACT Plan test in October will have the opportunity to explore their career interest areas during a tour of the Belmont, Kahl or Blong Center facilities February 5th or 6th. Students will be bringing home permission letters in the next week. Students will be grouped according to the responses they made on the interest inventory from the Plan test. Students will be bused to one of the campus facilities, be served lunch, participate in a tour of the facility and

learn about the post secondary programs available at this local institution. Students will have the chance to talk with instructors and ask questions about course work, affordability, employment options and how they can prepare for this transition while in high school. This is the second year North High has partnered with SCC to offer this exploration with a select group of sophomores. We look forward to the chance to offer this opportunity to even more students in the years to come.

ITEDs and Concurrent Enrollment & Advanced Placement Classes/Iowa House File 2679

Concurrent enrollment is now a term that applies specifically to courses arranged by which a community college course is delivered to high school students during the regular school year for both high school and college credit. Such classes have been referred to as "dual credit" classes up to this time. Eligibility for these courses and Advanced Placement courses has some new criteria. Generally speaking, it has been agreed that students accepted in concurrent enrollment classes for the 2009-10 school year will complete a student application for Scott Community College and meet or exceed the minimum performance measures on the Compass test. Students enrolling in concurrent or AP enrollment will take the prerequisites, if any, established by the school district or postsecondary institution, and **the student must be "proficient" in reading, math and science as evidenced by the last administration of the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED)**. This last requirement is of timely importance to our students as the ITEDs will be administered Thursday and Friday, February 19th and 20th. Courses that fall under the concurrent enrollment umbrella are Project Lead the Way course offerings, Vocational Childcare, Vocational Welding, Auto Technology, Student Built Home, Managerial Accounting, ProStart, as well as any SCC courses taught at Davenport high schools.

The ITEDs will be given over TWO days this year in an attempt to help students focus better on a limited amount of testing time.

Underclassmen will maintain a regular length school day for testing. The first 2 hours each day will be scheduled with testing while seniors will report and actual classes will run on a 2 hour late start schedule. **ONLY SENIORS WILL REPORT FOR THE LATE ARRIVAL. All underclassmen will report for testing at the usual start time of 7:40 am.** If questions remain, feel free to contact the guidance office for more details. All school buses will maintain their regular arrival and departure times. A copy of the testing schedule is included in this newsletter.

Parent Conferences

Annual registration conferences will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, January 27th and 28th from 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Students have been given registration materials to bring home as well as correspondence to schedule individual registration conferences with parents/guardians, your student and PAWS advisor. If you have not reviewed those materials, please check with your student and do so soon. It is important that we meet with EVERY family to ensure balanced input for your student's academic selections.

Third term Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held Wednesday, February 18th from 4 to 7 pm. Mark this date on your calendar now as the next few weeks are sure to be busy and we want to have the opportunity to visit with all our parents about the progress your student is making. Don't miss either of these very important chances to be actively involved in your student's academic life. The groundwork today will pay dividends in the future.

E-mail Blasts

Several email blasts have been sent this year. This is an additional layer of communication between the school and our community. Each email blast yields a number of addresses that are “kicked back” because they are no longer valid. It is extremely important to inform us here at school if your email address—or any of your contact information—changes. If you are not receiving these communications, check with us to verify your address. —Jane Artman-Andrews, Principal

ITED test day schedule 2008

Thursday, February 19

7:40-7:55—Attendance/Hand out materials, scratch paper/Sharpen pencils

7:55-8:40— Math concepts and problem solving test—calculators allowed if student brought one.

8:40-8:45—Stretch/Break

8:45-9:30—Reading comprehension test

9:30-9:35— Collect & count testing materials, dismiss students when done. **1st block starts at 9:40.**

Friday, February 20

7:40-7:55—Attendance/Snack in room/ Hand out materials, scratch paper/Sharpen pencils

7:55-8:40—Science test

8:40-8:45—Stretch/Break

8:45-9:05—Math computations test—**NO CALCULATORS**

9:05-9:10—Stretch/Break

9:10-9:30—Vocabulary test

9:30-9:35— Collect & count testing materials, dismiss students when done. **1st block starts at 9:40.**

9th Grade Academy Off to a Great Start!

North’s Ninth Grade Academy (NGA), a school-within-a-school organized around interdisciplinary teams of English, math, science, and social studies began with twelve North High teachers working with approximately one-hundred students on each team. All incoming freshmen are connected to a select team of caring academy staff who use research proven best instructional strategies to teach the curriculum as well as address their students’ needs more personally.

All three teams have worked hard to improve 9th grade student attendance as measured by the number of students attending all classes. Teachers have diligently met with students individually and in groups reminding them about the importance of completing and turning in assignments in each class. Academy teachers worked together by talking with students outside their content area and reinforcing that it is vital to do well in all core area classes.

Teachers demonstrated how not completing assignments and not doing homework can be detrimental to their grade point averages. Students are reminded frequently that they need to attend classes and complete homework to earn sufficient credits to become a sophomore in high school. In contrast to intermediate school, students are no longer promoted whether they pass their classes or not to the next grade level each year. Students who do not earn sufficient credits will still be classified as a 9th grade student. Academy teachers also encourage students to participate in extra-curricular activities and to attend school activities. Research validates that students who participate in extra-curricular activities are more successful in school.

At mid-terms each team contacted students who received Fs on their report cards to offer support and to ask students what the team could do to help students improve their performance. Academy teachers met with 150 students

during their team planning time during first semester where students were asked to sign contracts with their commitment to make-up any missed assignments and to ask for help from any academy teacher when they don’t understand. Students were given their missing assignments and encouraged to complete them immediately. Academy teachers conferred with 415 parents at Parent/Teacher meetings on September 24, 2008 and December 3, 2009.

Teachers related why 9th graders are unsuccessful as they enter high school: students do not complete homework, class work or projects and/or fail to hand in these items. Not doing homework creates two problems: (1) students are not prepared for tests and perform poorly, and (2) poor homework grades cause course averages to drop; students fail to attend school on a regular basis; and students select a course that is too difficult based on their ability level. Parents are encouraged to check with their students each night about any homework assignments. Students do have homework most every day. Academy teachers urge parents to contact them by phone (388-9880) or email at any time. Academy teachers’ email addresses are available on North’s web site.

If you have any questions regarding the 9th Grade Academy, please contact Jane Artman-Andrews, Principal, or Dr. Betsy Fair, Associate Principal, at 388-9880.



Questions to ask your high school student after 'How was your day?'

by Ed Redalen, Director, Iowa State-wide PIRC

The Iowa Parent Information and Resource Web site, www.iowaparents.org, has many resources for your use. Two booklets that contain useful questions for parents to ask their children after "How was your day?" have been used widely by hundreds of parents. One of these question booklets is for parents of 3-to-5 year-olds and the other includes questions for parents of elementary and middle-school children.

Included in this article is a sampling of questions written or reviewed by students in grades 9-12 that will soon be available in booklet form. By mid-January it will be on the PIRC Web site and will be downloadable for parents in your district. It will be included on the www.iowaparents.org home page under "Getting Involved."

All parents want their children to be successful, and research indicates that their involvement makes a difference. Staying "in touch" with your child's school day will communicate that you care and keep you informed about day-to-day events.

The following questions provide samples that are intended to start conversations that will strengthen family connections and support school success. If you are a parent, grandparent or friend of a high school student, select one or two questions and try them out. You could also have the high schooler choose one to talk about. Pick ones that are most appropriate to the amount of time available for conversation.

- What was the most interesting thing you learned today?
- What strategies do you use when something is hard to learn?
- What was the funniest thing that happened?

• What could you teach me that you learned today?

• What did you learn that you could use right away?

• What was the easiest class today? Explain.

• What was the hardest class today? Explain.

• What do teachers do that help you learn things faster?

• What would your teachers say about how the day went?

• What would your teachers say about you as a learner?

• How do you contribute to the learning of other students?

• What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

• How do you use technology in your classes?

• How are the courses you are taking now and in the future preparing you to continue your education after high school? Explain.

• When and how are you using your cell phone during the school day?

• How do you use text messaging? When is it appropriate and inappropriate to use during school?

• What are three things you can do when you are having difficulty learning something?

• Is there anything you would like to share with me about your day at school? Any interesting facts or ideas? If so, what?

• Did you meet anyone new today? If so, who?

• Are there any school events coming up that you are planning to attend? If so, what events?

• Are you happy with your grades? Why or why not?

• Are you equipped with all the material you need in your classes? If not, what are some needed materials?

• Did you enjoy a specific class today that you don't find interesting any other day? If so, what class?

• Are the classes you are taking any advantage to your future? If so, what classes?

• Is there anything that causes you to think

you cannot continue your education after high school?

• How important do you think your education is now and after high school?

It's easy for kids to tune out, so be sure to select just a question or two. Often, kids are more willing to talk as they're catching a ride to a friend's house, the mall, or an activity. Have some questions in mind so you're ready to ask whenever the opportunity arises. It's one more way to link to the vital parent-school connection.

Teens Unaware of How Public Their MySpace Pages Are

A new study indicates that despite what some adults may think, teens are actually unaware of how public the information is that's on their MySpace pages. Of the pages studied, over half contained referenced risk behaviors—41% mentioned substance abuse, 24% referenced sexual activity, and 14% alluded to violence. The information on the pages could be accessed by anyone. Fortunately, when researchers tried to warn teens against the dangers via e-mail interventions, they quickly responded and almost half changed their profiles within a month. *Milwaukee Wisconsin Journal Sentinel*, 1/6/09

TAG Program

Representatives from the Talented and Gifted class will be at Wood Intermediate on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, to talk with the incoming 9th graders about the TAG program and answer questions they may have as well. We will meet in the Wood library where North High students will relate their experiences in TAG and why they would encourage the 8th graders to become part of the program. ACT/SAT preparation, vocabulary building, student driven learning, internships, reading, and multimedia projects are just a few of the learning activities we are engaged in.

MOCK Trial is firing up as we prepare

for a return engagement as a state qualifier in Des Moines next spring. We have just received the case and are getting our teams set up. If your student is interested in learning more about what it takes to be a lawyer, please have him/her stop by the TAG room, 415, and see me, Mr. Marshall, to sign up. No previous experience is required. Mr. Will Ripley will be one of our coaches this year as we prepare to begin our quest after our return from the winter break. At that meeting we will establish the practice schedule and the exact location of practices that will be held off site so the students can concentrate on the case and be undisturbed in their quest for another state qualification.

Attention Parents

The Parent Assistant Program is up and running. This is the program that allows parents/guardians to access the teachers' electronic grade books and check their child's attendance, missing assignments, and grades for each class that your child is currently taking. Enrollment into the program must be done in person. Sign up in the Main Office at school and you will be assigned a unique user name and password in order to access this program.

Guidance Corner

Free Application for Federal Student Aid Help

Would you like assistance filing the FAFSA form? A representative from the Collegeboard will be at North High on Wednesday, February 17, 2009, from noon—7:00pm, to assist you with the process. This is by appointment only. Please contact Mrs. Borgstadt, Counselor, at 388-9880, ext. 149, to schedule an appointment.

***Schedule Change Week – February 23 - 27**

February 23-27, is schedule change week for students interested in requesting a change in their schedule for 4th term. Remember, requests must be in by Friday, February 27, for consideration!

***Scholarship Season**

It is a busy time of year for scholarships! Watch for updated scholarship postings in the senior display window or guidance window. Also, listen to announcements that we have posted another scholarship list! \$\$\$\$\$\$

***ACT Testing - ACT Tests at North High School**

Juniors ~ Are you planning to go to college and need to take the ACT test? Here are the next dates to register. North will be a testing site for both dates. Students may pick up a packet in the guidance office or apply on-line at www.actstudent.org

***Test Dates Registration Deadline**

April 4, 2009 February 27, 2009
June 13, 2009 May 8, 2009

***ITED Testing for grades 9, 10, 11**

All 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will take the Iowa Test of Educational Development tests on the mornings of Thursday, February 19 and Friday, February 20th. Students are encouraged to do their best on the tests for personal growth as well as helping North to meet the NCLB goals.

***NAEP Tests for Seniors**

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will be given on February 17, 2009 to 85 seniors. These students were randomly selected by the Department of Education. A letter will be sent to parents whose senior was selected to participate. If you have any questions regarding this test, please contact Ms. Kay Anthony, Counselor at 388-9880.



ATHLETIC NEWS

Spring sports are fast approaching—the start dates are listed below. If you are interested in joining the following activities, please stop by the Activities Office.

Boys/Girls Track—2/16/09

Boys Soccer—3/16/09

Girls Golf—3/16/09

Girls Tennis—3/16/09

Boys Tennis—3/23/09

Girls Soccer—3/23/09

Students are reminded that in order to participate in any athletic event, they need to have a valid physical. The date for our annual spring physicals will be forthcoming.

THANKS AGAIN TO THE DCSD AND TO YOU, THE TAX PAYERS, FOR FUNDING OUR NEW ATHLETIC FACILITIES THROUGH THE 1-CENT SALES TAX. OUR NEW FACILITIES ARE A WONDERFUL ADDITION THAT OUR STUDENTS ARE ENJOYING!!!

Diversity Statement

The Davenport community School District ("DCSD") provides equal educational and employment opportunities and will not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, ancestry, or actual or potential parental, familial, or marital status. DCSD will take affirmative action in recruitment, appointment, assignment, and advancement of women and men, members of diverse racial/ethnic groups, and persons with disabilities for job categories in which any of these groups of people are underrepresented. Inquiries related to this policy may be directed to the DCSD Director of Assessment, Equity and Record Services. Inquiries may also be directed to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, the Region VII Office of the United States Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, or the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, United States Department of Education.