

"FROM OUR NEST
TO YOURS"

Summer 2009

Dates to Remember

REGISTRATION

12:00 pm—5:00 pm

- August 10th—11-12th
- August 11th—10th
- August 12th—9th

9TH GRADE JUMP

- August 13th

8:30 am—2:30 pm

1ST DAY OF SCHOOL

- August 20, 2009

10-12 7:45—9:45 am

9th 7:45—12:45 pm

JUST FOR FRESHMAN

- August 26th

4:30—6:30 pm

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Falcon Newsletter

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From the Principal

We've had an extremely successful year at West High School. The highlight of the year for me personally was the success of our first **Falcon Futures Day**. This special day, held last September, celebrated the many opportunities available for our students and provided them with information to assist with decisions impacting their future.

Included in this publication is a wealth of information concerning opportunities available to current and future

students over the summer months. Dates and events of interest to parents with regard to the start of the 2009-2010 school year are also included.

There is no such thing as "downtime" in a high school during the summertime. Thanks to the generosity of residents of the Davenport Community School District, nearly **\$450,000** is being expended out of the **Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)** at West High School this summer replacing our boilers that are nearly 50 years old. Interior painting, which

is on a ten year cycle, will also commence on June 9th.

Twelve teachers who will be teaching classes next year as part of our new **9th Grade Academy** will spend considerable time this summer planning for this new venture.

Our Main Office flooring will be replaced this summer. We hope that work will start around July 20th. Please call our office at **386-5500** if you place to visit around that time to check our hours.

Have a great summer!

—Nancy Jacobsen, Principal

9th Grade Academy Comes to West High

Beginning with the 2009-10 school year, WHS will have a Freshman Academy. The 9th grade students will be divided into three houses (with approximately 150 students in each house) with four teachers from the core content areas leading each house.

Students will attend Math, Science, Social Studies, and English courses for their entire 9th grade year. The core classes will be scheduled as "skinnies" (45 minute periods) and students will remain

with their original core teachers the full year.

Academy teachers will work in teams to ensure that all students in their house are making adequate progress and that parental contacts occur frequently. All 9th graders will enjoy consistent behavioral and academic expectations.

Elective courses will still be offered on the block schedule. Even though electives are taught by teachers outside of the Academy, these teachers will be en-

couraged to communicate with Academy teachers should they have suggestions or concerns.

WHS will attempt to place all 9th grade lockers and Academy classes on the 2nd floor. The logistics of the Academy have been designed to ease the transition to 9th grade and to avoid creating another transition to 10th grade.

If you have any questions, contact the Guidance or Main Offices **386-5500**.

Guidance News and Notes



The following list of tips for your Freshman student comes from **ICAN**, the **Iowa College Access Network**.

Freshman Year To Do List:

- Start off on the right foot with your grades. Your freshman year grades will affect your overall high school GPA.
- Research careers. Having an idea of what you want to do after high school will help you prepare in advance. Is college for you?
- Create a study schedule. Set

aside a time each day that you will devote to homework and studying. Stay organized by using a planner or electronic organizer.

- Learn more about yourself. What are you good at? What are your interests?
- Get to know your teachers, school counselors and administrators, and take advantage of all the resources that are available at your school.
- If you're considering college, start saving money now. Talk to your parents about how you might pay for it.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities. They're a great way to meet new people and will help you develop important skills.

- Get in the habit of reading in your free time. Doing so will help you develop a strong vocabulary.
- Talk to your parents about your plans for the future. Discuss your personal and academic strengths and how you plan to reach your career goals.
- Take advantage of your summer. Volunteer, attend summer camp and catch up on reading.
- Meet with your counselor to review your four-year plan and make changes, if necessary

For more information see the West High Guidance staff, or visit the ICAN website at www.ICANsucceed.org

*Life is too short
to waste.*

*Dreams are
fulfilled only
through action,
not through
endless*

*planning to
take action*

—David J.
Schwartz

Important Info for 9th Grade Students

Can you believe that the school year's over??? In the blink of an eye and poof...we're heading into summer. Here at West we've been planning for the 2009-2010 school year, and we are ANXIOUSLY anticipating the incoming 9th graders (AKA "The Class of 2013"). The last week of school we had all of our incoming 9th graders visit West...what an adventure we had.

The first day of school is RIGHT around the corner and we already have LOTS of important dates scheduled. Wednesday, August 12th from Noon to 5pm is **9th Grade Registration**. Parents, be sure to attend registration WITH your student. Remind them that they will get their yearbook/ID pictures taken and CANNOT pick up their schedule until they do this. We will have our GREAT Student Ambassadors here to take students on guided tours, make sure lockers work, and answer questions. Paperwork can be filled out for Free

and Reduced Lunch, and money can be deposited into lunch accounts. Students will also get their PE t-shirts and planners, and they can purchase yearbooks and spirit wear.

Please note other important dates:

- The **first day of school** is Thursday, August 20th – remember our day starts at 7:45. This is a GREAT day for Freshman because we have two solid hours of Freshman only activities.
- Friday, August 21st—2 hour early dismissal (12:35pm).
- **Just for Freshmen**, our Annual Freshmen party, will be on Wednesday, August 26th from 4:30—6:30pm at West and it is FREE for the Class of 2013 to attend.

Have a GREAT summer; practice going to bed early so you can get up early—(remember school starts at 7:45 am). READ every day and make good decisions.

Can't wait to see you in August!



Summer Camps and Clinics

Again this summer, West High School is offering summer athletic camps. Our camps feature fundamentals and game experience provided by the varsity coaching staff of each sport.

Boys Basketball Fundamentals

West Family YMCA

Camp will provide quality instruction in all phases of the game of basketball. Every camper will receive individual attention with an emphasis on improving fundamental skills; such as shooting, passing, ball handling, rebounding, offense, and defense. (Camp T-shirt included)

Incoming 3rd-8th graders

Contact Mark Bigler @ 563-340-1441 or West Family YMCA @ 563-386-4414

Girls Basketball Camp

West High School Gym

Learn to play the game of basketball competitively. Approximately 45 minutes of fundamentals each day followed by scrimmaging and other competitive basketball games.

Incoming 8th-12th graders

Wednesday and Sunday—June and July
6:30 pm—8:30 pm

Football Camp

West High School Practice Field

Camp will provide quality instruction in all phases of the game of football. Every camper will receive individual attention with an emphasis on improving fundamental skills.

Cost: \$25.00 (Camp T-shirt included)

June 9-11 Incoming 6th—8th graders

9:00 am—10:30 am

August 3-6 Incoming 9th—12th graders

3:00 pm—6:00 pm

Running Camp

West High School

Incoming 7th-12th graders

This camp is for all students. Individual attention will be given to all runners, beginners to advanced. The camp will emphasize: proper stretching, conditioning, and running techniques.

Cost: \$20.00

June 8-11 3:30 pm—4:30 pm

Softball Camp

Softball Complex—W. Kimberly Rd.

Camp will teach athletes the various fundamentals of softball; hitting, bunting, throwing, catching, fielding, sliding, and pitching. Be part of a winning tradition where we **“Expect to Win”**.

Girls 3rd-8th graders

Cost: \$25.00 (Camp T-shirt included)

Monday, June 22nd, 2009

Time: 9:00 am—11:00 am

Volleyball Camp

West High Gym

Girls Grades 7th-12th

Cost: \$10.00

July 25, August 1 and August 8

Time: 8:00 am—10:00 am

Summer Weight Room

The West High Weight Room will be open to all athletes on **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday** from **8:00—9:30 am** from June through July.

Join Hands Day

On **Saturday, May 2nd**, students and faculty members from the Business Academy; Ecology Club; Environmental Club, I-JAG; SADD Club, Science Club and Spanish Club came together for **Join Hands Day**. Join Hands Day is an event sponsored by **Modern Woodmen of America** to make an impact on the community through service projects.

This years **Join Hands Day** event was successful because it gave the opportunity for diverse school clubs and classes to work together to complete a common goal: To give the **West High School**

campus a much needed face lift.

Our group of over 65 people included teachers, students, and several community members from organizations like the **Sierra Club** and the **Audubon Society**. Participants worked for three hours donating their time, effort, energies, and even a lawn mower!

Each of these interested parties came to West High School to make it not only more appealing, but also more ecologically friendly.



West High School would like to thank the following staff members for supporting this successful event:

Renee Lietz, Jodi Zimmerman, Stephanie Hansen, Barb Lipnick, Aaron Cousins, Dan Kelley, Steve Verdon, Kim Strunk, Mike Ross, Ann Gadosh, and last but not least, **Joe Hack, Custodian Extraordinaire!**

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

West High School

1008 W. Kimberly Rd.

Davenport, IA 52806

Phone: 563-386-5500

Fax: 563-386-5508

Webmaster E-mail:

beorkremb@davenportschools.org



West High School Administrative Team



Standing: Bob Tollefson, Associate Principal; Mike Lawler, Assistant Principal; Al Blocker, Athletic Director; Matt Hassig, Assistant Principal

Sitting: Gwen Maxwell, Associate Principal; Nancy Jacobsen, Principal; Kris Whalen, Associate Principal; Marilyn Peters, Head Counselor

Administrative Changes for 2009-2010

The West High Administrative Team will undergo some changes for the 2009-2010 school year.

Al Blocker, our Dean of Students for the past three of four school years, will move to the position of **Athletic Director**. Al is a **1982** graduate of West High School and has been with the Davenport Schools since 1986. He has taught at **Smart Intermediate, West High, and Hayes Elementary** and has been an **Assistant Varsity Football** coach at West for 23 years. Al has previously served

North High as its Athletic Director for the 2006-2007 school year.

In addition, **Matt Hassig**, Associate Principal at Smart Intermediate, will return to West High as an **Assistant Principal**. Matt is a **1989** graduate of West High School who taught **Language Arts** at West before moving to Smart in December, 2007.

The **West High Family** welcomes both of these **Lifelong Falcons** to their new positions and wishes them all the best for the upcoming school year.