



September 2018 Newsletter

From the Desk of the Principal



As we begin the 2018-19 school year, it brings thoughts to mind of looking forward to the future and also looking at past school

years. The memories of the past may include friends and acquaintances, past achievements, and teachers who have played a large part in who we are now. When we look forward, we may be excited and also a bit apprehensive about what lies ahead for us. Any sort of change may be difficult, but the start of a new school year should also be filled with anticipation of what may be. Our goal at Northwest High School is to prepare each student for the choices and the challenges they face after they leave our halls and classrooms.

At Northwest, we believe the students who are the best-prepared are the students who are actively involved in all our school has to offer. Statistics indicate that the students who achieve the most in high school are the students who are involved in some type of extra or co-curricular activity. We offer many opportunities for students at Northwest to get involved. Please utilize the opportunities to the fullest because it will make your high school years a much richer experience. Our Board of Education, administration, faculty and staff support and invest a great deal of time and resources into these activities and realize how important they are for our students.

We at Northwest High School also know that student success does not occur without a great deal of effort and teamwork. The greatest success comes when students, parents, teachers and administrators all work and communicate together to reach the common goal of student achievement. Everyone has a unique role to play in this success and we all must respect each other's efforts to make education work well. We

encourage students and parents to ask questions if something is not understood. Communication works best when it travels in both directions.

This year we welcome some new staff members to the Northwest Viking family. New teachers this year is: Ed Kinne-Ind. Tech, Pamela Moritz-Sp. Ed., Sara Olsen-Sp. Ed., and Katrina Rother-Media Center. We all welcome these educators to Northwest High School and our hopes are for all of them to have successful and rewarding careers serving the students of this district. I look forward to seeing all of you in the halls and at activities throughout this school year.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held at Northwest High School on Wednesday, September 19 and Thursday, September 20 in the Northwest High School gym. Times for conferences will be 3:30-8:00 PM on both days. We really appreciate the parents that attend the conferences and the input that you provide for us for completing the parent survey that will be available online at the conferences. We remind all parents to take an active role in making communication with teachers regarding your student's progress in school. The educational process cannot be a success unless we have the teamwork of students-teachers-parents. If you feel that more time is needed to discuss matters relating to your student, please make arrangements with the teacher to meet during the teacher's planning period or at another arranged time. We also encourage parents to actively follow your student's progress on Powerschool and also to be a frequent visitor on the Northwest High School website. It is on the website that you will find our school activity calendar and also, with the click of a handy button, the daily announcements.

Meeting with the Principal

In order to better communicate with the parents of Northwest students, I will be holding a monthly meeting with any parents that will be willing to discuss questions that arise, offer productive input, or just chat. These meetings will normally be held on the first Wednesdays of the month. The next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, September 5. The meeting will be from 10:00-11:00 AM.

Media Center

CHECK IT OUT @ the Media Center. Comfortable surroundings make the MC a great place to research, to find a good book to read, and is an excellent place to study.

Hours

Monday - Thursday 7:30 am-4:00 pm

Friday 7:30 am-3:36 pm

****Exceptions**** early dismissal days & pre-holiday days the MC closes when school is dismissed.

Web Site

If you haven't taken look at our website, please do! Students can access the media center's book collection and place holds on items at ginw.goalexandria.com/researcher or go to the District webpage/Links/Media Resources. Use the simple or advanced search tools to find what is needed. Click on the bulletins to find links to invaluable resources for research or homework help: the GI City Library, NebraskAccess, research tools, citation tools, career information etc.

One of the links is the Edith Abbott Memorial Library link. From this, students can access all the databases and resources that the city library has to offer. Students should take advantage of the Tutor.com resource for homework and writing help. They have tutors online daily that will work with

students on regular high school subjects, help revise a paper etc. Don't have a card? We have applications in



the media center and will get your card for you. There will be staff from the City Library at Parent-Teacher conference who will be able to answer questions, explain about all the services/tools they offer, and sign up you for cards.

Done with all homework? Then prepare for the ACT or SAT by reading a book! Access SAT/ACT reading lists by

doing a quick Google search. One of the better lists is by Collegeboard, the organization that creates/administers the PSAT, SAT, and the AP exams. Enjoy classics like *The Odyssey* or *Catch-22* as a study tactic to get the best possible college entrance exam score

Financial Aid Night

EducationQuest will be here Wednesday, September 26th at 5:30pm, in the High School Auditorium, presenting information on how to file the FAFSA as well as providing other financial aid information. SENIOR PARENTS are encouraged to take this opportunity to get



answers to their questions about financial aid if their son or daughter is planning to

attend college. JUNIOR PARENTS are also welcome to attend this worthwhile event.

Picture Retakes

Picture retakes are scheduled for Tuesday, September 11th in the school cafeteria. Order forms are available in the Central Office.

EF Tour of Peru

Due to parental and student interest, there will be an informational meeting for Class of 2019 Senior students and parents interested in going on an EF Tour of Peru in July 2019. The meeting will be on September 11th at 7 PM in the NW library. You can RSVP to the meeting at www.tinyurl.com/Mohr2019.

Forms

Students/parents, please make sure to check out the school website for the availability of forms. For your convenience many of the forms are available for you to download and print straight from our website, <http://www.ginorthwest.org> just go to the **PARENTS TAB**, and then **FORMS**. A few examples of forms available for you to print are: Option Forms, Travel Release Forms, Transfer Forms, Physical Forms, etc. We will have forms available in the office if you are unable to print them.

Freshmen Academy

Hello to the graduating class of 2022 and our newest Vikings in the building. The 2018-2019 school year is underway.



I still cannot believe that I am entering my 24th year in the education profession. There is nothing better than the first day of school

Vikings Class of 2022

when all of the kids return. It was great to see all of the new freshmen show up for orientation on August 8th with new clothes, new shoes and new hairdos. We have an awesome group of new freshmen here at Northwest. We are very excited to start another year and to work with your child(ren) each and every day. Since this is the fourth year for the Freshmen Academy, we want to keep working to make it better each and every year. It was so much fun to talk with the freshmen during the orientation and to see them get to know each other through opportunities built into the presentation. If you have any suggestions to make the orientation better for next year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I know that all of the freshmen did not get their chromebook the first day, but I believe almost the entire class received them within a week of school starting. These devices allow our students to stay current with technology and help them to learn at any hour and day of the week. Be sure to talk with your children at home about internet safety, check that they have their chromebook with them before heading to school and that the chromebook is sufficiently charged each and every night.

The freshmen have most of their core classes (English, Math, Science & Social Studies) during periods 3- 6 (9:32 - 2:00). We understand that it is impossible to always schedule doctor's appointments around these times but if it is at all possible, please try to do so. When your child does miss school, be sure to call the main office so they can mark their attendance correctly. After five absences to any class in a semester, a parent will receive a letter from the school, regardless if they are excused absences or not. This is in accordance with state statute while also allowing us to effectively communicate with parents. If your child is late to a class (tardy) three times, they will owe a detention for that teacher. Please call or email me to discuss any attendance questions you might have.

During the first month of school, the freshmen and sophomores will be given MAPS tests. Students just began to take these tests in Reading, Language and Math. These tests are norm-referenced tests, which help our district to place children in the appropriate level class. These tests also help us to show how our students compare nationally to other kids, along with giving us data to show if there is yearly growth. These tests are given in late August / early September and then again at the end of the year in April / May. Some of the freshmen may have had their Math class adjusted, depending on how they score on this test. We will be sure to call parents if that is the case.

We will again run an after school study hall for freshmen. This will be available on M, T, Th & F from 3:40 - 4:10 each of those days. A different academy teacher staffs this each week, and I make sure that I help cover this study hall from time to time too. The study hall is there as a support for students who may not be able to get answers from home or just a quiet place to get assignments done so they won't have homework. Students can be assigned to attend this study hall as a consequence though if they are not getting work done. If your child does need to stay after school on Wednesday nights, there is a study hall provided by the school due to the early dismissal each Wednesday.

As I conclude my newsletter, I want to make sure that all parents know how to get ahold of me. My phone number and extension at the school is 308-385-6394 (Ext. 5123) and my email address is mmoser@ginorthwest.org. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have. The goal of the Freshmen Academy is to make sure that your child is supported and that they have a good base after their freshman year so that they stay on track to graduate in 2022. Let's have a fantastic school year. Go Vikings!!!!

Option Enrollment 2019-20

If you do not live in the Northwest district and have a student that you would like to have attend a school in the Northwest School system next year, beginning September 4th, you may complete and turn in the option form located on the ginorthwest.org website (Parents-Forms). If your child currently attends 1R, Cedar Hollow, Chapman, St. Libory or Northwest High School their current option status in the Northwest district will continue through high school. Please share this information with friends, family or neighbors who may be interested in optioning into the Northwest Public School District.

Parent Teacher Conferences



SEPTEMBER 21st.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, September 19th & 20th from 3:30pm-8:00pm each day, in the new gym.

Lunch will not be served on these days.
NO SCHOOL FRIDAY,

Community Service

Students need to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service as part of their graduation requirements. If you are in question of how many hours your student has completed, please contact the counseling office.

[Community Service Form](#)



Counselor's Corner

Senior Parent Night

Wednesday, September 5 at 5:30 in auditorium. Counselors will present on senior information such as college applications, scholarships, and timelines for the senior year.

EducationQuest Financial Aid Night

Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 5:30 in auditorium. Speaker from EducationQuest will be presenting on Financial Aid and filling out the FAFSA. Senior parents should consider attending so they understand how the financial aid process works.

Apply 2 College Day-

Thursday, September 27 in the library. Counselors will be available along with some college representatives to assist seniors in filling out admission applications for college. Students should stop into the library to get this process started.

PSAT Test

Wednesday, October 10, at Northwest. This is an optional test for juniors. Cost is \$16. Sign up and pay in the counselor's office. This test is great practice for the SAT and is used for the National Merit Scholarship.

ASVAB Test

Tuesday, October 30 at Northwest. This is the military entrance exam typically given to juniors and seniors. The test is free. Sign up in the counselor's office. This test is used to determine eligibility for the military but does not mean you have to join the military.