



SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of the Principal

As we begin the 2019-20 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.



News from the Principal

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: Kirsten Gilliland-English, Shane Fernau-Connections Alt. Ed., Dylan Nicol-Social Studies, Greg Smith-Social Studies, Natalie Starostka-English, Jeff Vyhldal-Vocal Music. 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 25 and Thursday, September 26 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 Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, September 4. The meeting will be from 10:00-11:00 AM.

Tim Krupicka, Principal
Northwest High School



Option Enrollment

If you do not live in the Northwest district and have a child that you would like to option into the Northwest School system, you

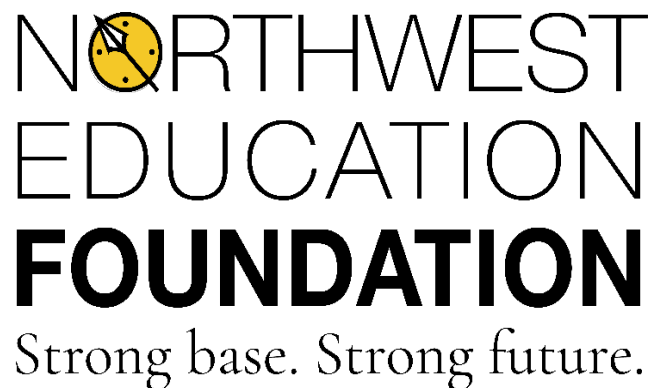
may complete the [2020-21 Typed Option Form](#). Please complete Section 1 of the form and return it to the District Office, beginning September 3, between the hours of 7:30am and 3:30pm. You may also scan the form to bhuls@ginorthwest.org anytime after September 1. If your child currently attends one of the Northwest schools, their option will continue on through high school.

If you have questions or need assistance in determining your district of residence please check the [Northwest District Map](#) or contact Barb Huls at (308) 385-6398, ext 5168, or email bhuls@ginorthwest.org.

Please share this information with friends, family or neighbors who may be interested in opting into the NW school district.

For the 2020-2021 school year:

- The first day to turn in option paperwork for the 2020-2021 school year is September 1, 2019.
- As September 1, 2019 is a Sunday, the next business day the District Office is open is Tuesday, September 3, 2019.
- Beginning Sunday, September 1, option paperwork may be emailed to bhuls@ginorthwest.org or paperwork may be dropped off at the District Office (located at the high school) on Tuesday, September 3, 2019, between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm.
- Option forms will **NOT** be accepted at the elementary sites.
- Requests submitted by 3:30 pm on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 (either dropped off or via email) will be placed into a lottery system for acceptance.
- Requests will be approved based on capacity at each grade level and building site.
- Building site placement will be determined by lottery order and capacity limits.



The Northwest Education Foundation is in growth mode and want all Northwest High School Alumni to be part of this exciting time! The goal of the Northwest Education Foundation is to develop and maintain programs that are in the best interest of Northwest Public Schools and the educational communities they serve.

The Foundation initiates, strengthens, and recognizes Academic and Vocational Programs,

Technology Education, Scholarships and Awards, Arts and Athletics, Facilities and Equipment. This is an exciting time to get involved with the Northwest Education Foundation. Start by going to <https://www.ginorthwest.org/> and click on the NWHHS Alumni Directory button (see below) to update your personal information in the Alumni Directory.

If you are interested in contributing to the Foundation, please reach out to Gian Baxter-Collins at 308-385-6389, Ext 5122 or gian.baxter-collins@ginorthwest.org. You could be part of taking the Northwest Education Foundation to the next level!

Freshmen Academy

Hello to the graduating class of 2023 and our newest Vikings in the building. The 2019-2020 school year is underway. I still cannot believe that I am entering my 25th year in the education profession. There is nothing better than the first day of school when all of the kids return. It was great to see all of the new freshmen show up for



orientation on August 14th 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 fifth 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 most of the class received their Chromebook within a week of school starting, but if your child has not received theirs yet it is due to the Chromebook fee not being paid or that a parent did not attend one of the Chromebook

bootcamp sessions. Please contact me for help with either one of these issues. 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) four 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 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. This is staffed by a different academy teacher 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 2023. Let's have a fantastic school year. Go Vikings!!!!

Marty Moser
Freshmen Academy Director / Assistant Principal

Check it Out @ the Library

Comfortable surroundings (awesome new look, come see it!) make the library a great place to find a good book to read, to study, and to research.

Hours

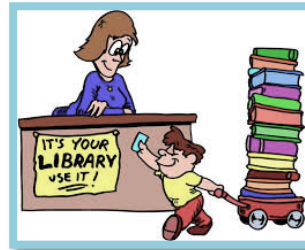
Monday - Thursday 7:20 am-3:45 pm
Friday 7:20 am-3:36 pm
****Exceptions**** early dismissal days & pre-holiday days the Library closes when school is dismissed.

Site

If you haven't looked at our site, please do! Students can access the library's book collection and place holds on items from the District [webpage/Links/Library Resources/Researcher + Circulation](#). Use the simple or advanced search tools to find what is needed. Click on the bulletins link from the Researcher to find links to trusted and efficient resources for research or homework help: the GI City Library, NebraskaAccess, research tools, citation tools, career information etc.

One of the links on our site is the City of Grand Island Library link. From this, students can access all the databases and resources that they have 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. Learning a new language or need practice? Try their **Mango Languages!** **Don't**

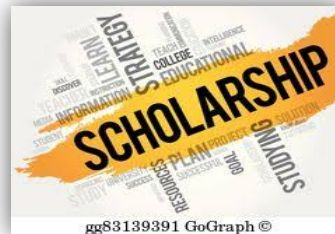


have a card? We have applications in the library and will get your card for you. **There will be staff from the City Library at Parent-Teacher**

conferences who will be able to answer questions, explain about the services/tools they offer, and sign up you for cards. Students can also get applications for a card in the library; all students 16 and older can sign up for themselves, if under 16, a parent signature is required.

Digital/Audio Collections

We are extremely excited to be a part of the Nebraska Shared Digital Collection (Sora site or app) through ESU#10. This is an excellent opportunity to check out digital books, audiobooks from our ESU purchased collection with the option to link to the City of Grand Island Library to use their collection as well. We'd love to help get it set up for your student, have them stop in to see us!



Counselor's Corner Senior Parents and Students

EducationQuest is coming to Northwest High School to help you

complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Any student attending a post-secondary school after high school should complete this form. This service is offered free of charge.

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 23

Time: Appointments available starting at 8:30-5:30 (30 minute increments)

Location: Located in the Northwest High School library breakout rooms

-Parent and/or student needs to bring all the items on the list (attached)

-Parent AND student must have created a FSA ID (directions attached)

**Call Brenda Dunn in the Counseling office for an appointment time. 308-385-6394 Ext. 5117

Senior Parent College/Scholarship Information

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 4

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: NWHS Auditorium

Parent Notice Concerning Disclosure of Student Recruiting Information

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires Northwest High School to provide military recruiters and institution of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that Northwest High School not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address and

telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental



consent. Northwest High School will comply with any such request. Parents and students wishing to deny release of information to military recruiters or institutions of higher education may do so by notifying the school's Central Office in writing.

Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act Notice for Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, requires that Northwest High School, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally

identifiable information from your child's education records.

However, Northwest High School may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Northwest High School to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include: A playbill, showing your students role in a drama production; Annual yearbook; Honor roll or other recognition lists; Graduation programs; Sports programs such as for wrestling, showing weight & height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require public schools receiving assistance under the Elementary & Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the public school that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. If you do not want Northwest High School to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the school's Central Office in writing by the end of the first week of the first semester, or for new students, within the first week of enrollment. Northwest High School has designated the following information as directory information:

Student's name; address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; date & place of birth; major field of study; dates of attendance; grade level; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; degrees, honors, and awards received; the most recent education agency or institution attended. ❖❖❖