



OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of the Principal

We are off to a great start here at Northwest High School. It doesn't seem that long ago that we were welcoming back students to the building and now we are nearly to the end of the first quarter. I am impressed with our students and their desire to achieve academically and in all activities. Students and teachers need to put in the commitment to education to in order for us all to achieve and we have the type of building that does just that. The administration appreciates the support that we receive from families in to make our work with students productive.

It takes teamwork to make education a success and the support that we receive from our parents, students, teachers, and community is essential if the process is to work well. We urge all parents to stay active and involved with the education of their students. Ask questions of your students when something appears to be wrong or out of character. Consult with teachers, counselors, and administration if there are issues that may be difficult to solve on your own. We are here to support your efforts with your children.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, September 25 and Thursday, September 26. Times for both days will be 3:30-8:00 PM. Students will be dismissed on the 25th and 26th at 12:39 PM. We really appreciate the parents who attend the conferences and the input that you provide for us and for our staff. We want to be the best partners possible in educating your students. 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.

Meet with the Principal Meeting

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 be held on the first Wednesdays of the month. In October, this meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2. The meeting will be from 10:00-11:00 AM.

Tim Krupicka, Principal
Northwest High School

Freshman Academy

It is amazing that it is going to be October already. The weeks seem to be flying by and all of the freshmen keep adjusting to high school at their own pace. I encourage you to have regular

conversations with your son / daughter about how their classes are going, if they are staying on track to graduate and if they keep giving thought to what they want to do after graduating. By no means do kids have to know what they want to do for the rest of their life during their freshmen year, but we do want them passing all of their classes and then taking classes that might help them discover a career path that they might not have originally thought of.

The other area that I need all parents to discuss with their children is in regard to cell phones / social media. If you do not regularly look at your child's phone, I encourage you to do so. It is critical that students promote themselves in a positive manner through social media. Future employers, colleges, and scholarship committees are all looking at how individuals are



portrayed in the cyber world. On September 19th, Karen Haase spoke with the entire high school. This is her bio: Karen Haase is a partner in the law firm of KSB School Law, where she focuses her practice exclusively on representing public school districts and related entities. She holds degrees from Hastings College, Kansas State University and the University of Nebraska College of Law. Prior to attending law school, Karen taught at both the high school and post-secondary level. Karen has been married to her high school sweetheart for 25 years and has two children. She spoke to our students about the dangers of using social media inappropriately and how it can affect the rest of your life if you choose to send or receive things that you should not. This area is constantly changing and is very hard to stay caught up with. One example from last year is the "My Eyes Only" in SnapChat. This takes a four-digit code to get into and I encourage you to look into this on your child's phone. Pictures that they do not want others to see can be hidden here. Your child's phone is an area that you need to make sure is a safe place for them, just as you would want them to be safe if they went to a concert or a part of town that you knew was not safe.

Our freshmen academy team continues to supervise an after-school study hall for freshmen. This is 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 they are failing a core class at the beginning of the week, it is REQUIRED that they set up one session to work with that teacher during the week. 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. Another academic support in place for our students is intervention time. Intervention is available to every student from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. every day of the week except Wednesday. A student may sign up to go to a teacher's room or the teacher may sign up the student to come in and work.

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 e-mail 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. Go Vikings!!!!

Marty Moser, Freshmen Academy Director
Northwest High School

ACT Test Prep Opportunities

In the spring of 2016 Nebraska Legislature passed a bill that requires all public schools to administer a college and career ready test to all students the spring of their Junior year. This year's Juniors will take the ACT exam at Northwest High School on April 7, 2020. We offer an ACT Test Prep class, however if that class does not fit into the student's schedule, any student at NWHS can utilize two

sources to help prepare them for the upcoming exam.

ACT Academy, academy.act.org, provides free resources for students that are unique to their learning gaps. Students in any grade can create an account on the site, then enter PreACT or ACT



scores to create a pathway for practice based on their test results. If a

student has not taken the PreACT or ACT he/she can still set up an account to access practice material which includes video tutorials and practice questions. The juniors have been asked to set up an account on this site using the PreACT scores from the exam they took in the Spring of 2019.

Another program, On to College, formerly John Baylor Test Prep, is available to all students who attend Northwest High School. Students may login using their school email at ontocollege.com. Freshman will use their school email and password to login. Students in Grades 10-12 will use the short name of their school email as their password. Students have been enrolled in courses which provide videos with hints and tips along with practice for the ACT and PreAct. All sophomores at NWHS will take the PreACT on April 7, 2020. If you have any questions please contact Jeanette Ramsey, Director of Teaching and Learning, jramsey@ginorthwest.org or 308 385-6389 ext. 5146.

If you are a senior, planning to take the ACT in December, both of these sites would be helpful as you prepare to take the December ACT.

Counselor's Corner

EducationQuest

EducationQuest will present on financial aid including how to fill out the FAFSA and scholarships on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 5:30 pm in auditorium.

Optional PSAT test for Juniors

The test is used for National Merit Scholarship eligibility but is also great practice for the ACT. Sign

up in Counseling office. Cost is \$17. Test is Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 8-11:30.

Optional ASVAB test for Juniors

The ASVAB test is a military entrance exam but student does not need to be going into the military to take the test. It is great practice for the ACT and has a career interest component to help student's explore careers. Sign up in Counseling office. Test is free. Test is Tuesday, Oct. 29 from 8-11:30 in auditorium.