



January 2020 Newsletter

From the Desk of the Principal

The start of a new semester seems to be a time for both a renewal of the old and a look forward to the new. For all of us, it should be a time that we reflect on what we did well in the previous semester and to make attempts to better ourselves for the second semester. Our winter concerts are behind us and all of our winter activities and sports are in full swing. It is a time when our students and coaches/sponsors are sometime caught up in the flurry of activities that our family time is moved to the back seat. Please make every attempt to put family time at the top of the list. This may mean, in most cases, that the entire family attends the school events. Make the best of the limited time that we have together as families.

It is very important that in spite of some dark and cold weather in the winter months that we start the second semester with enthusiasm and a strong sense of purpose. If grades weren't to the levels that were expected in the first semester, the second semester offers renewed hope and promise. Students should utilize every opportunity, including the Intervention period offered on M,T,Th,F, to get the help needed for grade improvement. We strongly encourage parents to make contact with your student's teachers and to keep student progress updated with the PowerSchool system.

This is also the time for students to begin making registration plans for the 2020-21 school year. Please take note of any information in the school newsletters and the letters that come from the counseling office. It is really important to encourage your son/daughter to take a challenging course load their junior and senior years to better prepare themselves for the next level of education. Statistics indicate that the highest rate of dropouts in college occur between year one and year two. Many experts attribute this, at least in part, to a less rigorous schedule the last year of high school. Please help us to do all we can to best prepare students for their future.

Please note that second semester resumes after our winters break on Monday, January 6th.

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 advice, or just chat. These meetings will normally be held on the first Wednesdays of the month. The next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, January 8. The meeting will be from 7:15-7:45 AM in the NWPS Board Room.

Tim Krupicka, Principal
Northwest High School

8th Grade & New Student Orientation

On February 6 Northwest will be holding their annual 8th Grade and New Student Orientation event. All current 8th grade students who are considering attending Northwest High School next fall are encouraged to attend with their parents. This evening



is also open to

students in all grades who are looking to attend Northwest High School in the fall of 2020. This orientation gives students and parents an opportunity to learn about the Northwest district.

If your student is not currently enrolled at Cedar Hollow, 1R or St. Libory and is not a resident of the NW district and plans to enroll at Northwest High School next year you will need to fill out an option enrollment form. The form is available on the Northwest website www.ginorthwest.org. If your student has opted

out of the NW district and plans to attend NWHS, please contact the District Office.

Mid-January registration packets will be emailed to all 8th grade students currently attending Cedar Hollow, 1R, or St. Libory and to students who have been accepted as an option student. If your student does not attend one of these schools please call 308-385-6398 or email kgibson@ginorthwest.org or bhuls@ginorthwest.org with your student's name, address and the current school they are attending and the registration packet will be emailed to you.

Freshmen Academy

Hard to believe that this is already the fifth year with Freshman Academy, and we again have one of our largest groups of freshmen at Northwest (200 students). At the time I wrote this, we had about 90% of the freshmen that will pass all of their classes and 93% who will pass all of their core classes (English, Math, Science and Social Studies). Way to go! Way to go! First of all, thank you to the following Freshman Academy teachers who help advise and work with me in order to make it successful: Mrs. Mazour, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Haith, Mr. Menke, Mrs. Coates, Ms.

Welch, Mrs. Damman, Mrs. Verba and Mr. Harders. I really appreciate all of their time and dedication to help the freshman transition to high school and the willingness they all have in order to help our students be successful. For all of the parents that are getting on PowerSchool and checking their children's grades, I thank you. If you have not got on PowerSchool this semester or are not sure how to do this, please contact Stacey Pawling or me and we will be glad to walk you through it.

The freshman really worked hard until the very end of first semester. Back on November 4, 2019, we had only 69% of the freshman class passing all of their classes. We continued to make very good progress and after the first semester ends, we should have at least 90% of the freshman passing all classes. Congratulations to all of the students and teachers on achieving this percentage and also for working very hard right up until the very last day. A support that was in place during the entire semester, was the after school study hall. This runs from 3:40 - 4:10 each night (except Wednesday), and it is held in a different Freshman Academy teacher's room weekly. We will continue to offer this support throughout the second semester. We use the following guidelines as a general rule of thumb. If a student is failing one class, they **must** come to this study hall once during the week OR work with a teacher in their room before school for 25 - 30 minutes OR during intervention. If a student is failing two classes, they

must go to study hall twice, or work with a teacher before school or in intervention. This same pattern follows for students failing three or four classes. Between these supports and also having intervention three to four times per week, students should be able to get the help they need. I have my teachers document if students are coming in to put in this extra work so that I can have accurate conversations with students and parents. If you ever want to check on your student and see if they are getting in for this study hall, please feel free to give me a call.

Throughout first semester, some freshmen were awarded Viking Bucks for demonstrating good character. Once a month, all students at Northwest had lessons taught to them from John Wooden's - Pyramid of Success. These building blocks of character education include loyalty, poise, cooperation, etc, as examples. If a student received one of these Viking Bucks, they had to turn it in to Mr. Moser so that he could personally congratulate them. Then it was placed into a box and their name could be drawn for some additional prizes donated by local businesses (Thank you to Walmart, HyVee, Dairy Queen, Arby's, Taco John's,). Congratulations to all students who received these Viking Bucks. If any student did not turn theirs in to Mr. Moser, please do so as it is never too late.

One area that I want to work on with the freshmen is in the area of community service. In order to graduate from Northwest, you must have 40 hours of community service. I will be working on setting up an opportunity for the freshmen some time in the spring. This will give them the chance to get some of those hours done and will help them understand what opportunities are out there, as well as, truly know why helping to give back to the community is so important. I will also give the freshman academy teachers information, which they are to pass along to the freshmen, detailing opportunities for community service. Please look for this information in one of my upcoming newsletters.

If any student or parent of a freshman has any questions, please contact Mr. Moser at 308-385-6394 (Ext. 5123) or

mmoser@ginorthwest.org. The best way to prevent problems is through excellent communication. If a student



is failing or nearly failing a class, or if they have attendance issues, you will be receiving a phone call from me to discuss things that can be done to help and to possibly set up a parent meeting. If there is ever anything that I can do I am happy to help and want your children to be successful at Northwest. Go Vikings!!

Robotics & Computer Science

If you are interested in being in the Robotics class next fall we are going to have “Robotics after school” on Monday nights starting second semester. See Mr. Paige when we get back to school in January for more details.

Also a shout out to those who are interested in learning computer coding make sure to check out Computer Science Principles for next year. The curriculum has been updated and improved significantly over the past year. I am excited about the new curriculum for this class. If you have questions see Mr. Paige when we get back to school in January.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics: “Employment of computer and information research scientists is projected to grow 16 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. Computer scientists are likely to enjoy excellent job prospects, because many companies report difficulties finding these highly **skilled workers.**”

AR/VR in Education

Technology has and continues to transform the classroom. Students have gone from passive learners to active learners. As we work towards providing access to technology-supported learning opportunities we also strive to create more student centered learning opportunities. Virtual reality puts the power in the hands of the learner. With the support of the Grand Island Community Foundation, The Wolbach Foundation, Northwest Education Foundation and the Virgil Eihusen Foundation, Northwest Public Schools has been able to purchase Google Expedition Kits.

These Google Expeditions or Virtual Reality opportunities open up a world of possibilities for students and educators. Rather than relying on static materials such as textbooks and videos, teachers who incorporate virtual field trips into their curriculum can provide an interactive learning experience for their students—all without leaving the comfort and safety of their classroom. With access to virtual field trips, learning becomes an interactive and engaging experience. Students can explore at their own pace without being rushed through an exhibit, lecture, or tour. There is a wealth of virtual field trip opportunities for teachers of every subject, from math to art. Virtual field trips allow students to be immersed in the experiences that could include locations outside of the city, state, or country, specific periods of time in history, and even college and job site visits.

Virtual field trips allow students to be immersed in the experiences that could include locations outside of the city, state, or country, specific periods of time in history, and even college and job site visits. Recently, students in Mr. Nicol’s and Mr. Smith’s U.S. History classes had an opportunity to experience what life was

like in a trench while exploring World War I Trenches via Virtual Reality. We are excited for these continued learning opportunities for our students at Northwest and across the district.



School Closing Information

Northwest High School will announce school closing information on radio stations KRGI AM/FM, KSYZ, KZ100 and TV stations KSNB, KOLN/KGIN, NTV AND KLKN. Northwest will remain in session whenever possible. Parental/guardian decisions, with the respect



to the ability of the child to get their child to school safely, or return home from school

safely will not be questioned. We do require parental/guardian notice before we will excuse a student, or all a student to leave the building. Please report absences, or early dismissals to the Central Office 308-385-6394.

