



December 2020 Newsletter

From the Desk of the Principal

As we approach the time of year when we will be in between the break we take for Thanksgiving and our Winter Break, we reach a very important time of year for students. This period of the school year is vital for all students to make that last strong push for excellence to improve their academic progress.

The administration and staff have made the decision to not continue the practice of semester finals. The decision was based upon best practice in high schools and also the concept of continuing to teach and learn in a manner that best fits the needs of our students and teachers. In the past, in order for semester finals to take place, we stopped learning new material in order to allow time to review for semester finals. Especially in this extraordinary year, when many students are isolated or quarantined, we could not sacrifice any class time for the purpose of new instruction just to administer semester finals.

Congratulations to our Viking Volleyball team and coaches for continuing our streak of 20 consecutive trips to the state tournament. Congratulations to our Football team for qualifying for the quarterfinals of the state playoffs for and also for continuing our commitment for excellence in the post season. We are proud of all of our teams and coaches for their outstanding efforts and achievements.

With winter activities beginning, we need to maintain a strong focus on academics. Nights are busy with practices and activities, but a great deal can be gained or lost academically this next month. For those who are doing well, the significance may not seem relevant. For those students who are experiencing some academic difficulty, this time offers an opportunity to get things turned in or work toward a higher grade. I encourage all students and parents to take this time seriously and see this time as an opportunity to make improvement to move closer to high academic standards. Continue

to work hard to balance activities and academics to make this semester and its achievements memorable. Students at Northwest have a time built into the school day to get extra help from teachers in their classes. This time is called Intervention and it is on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:58 to 9:28. Some students are assigned to this Intervention, but students may also be there voluntarily for the purpose of getting extra help in a class. Please encourage your student to use this time where teachers are available to help.

Tim Krupicka, Principal
Northwest High School

Winter Break

Noon Dismissal	December 22nd
No School	December 23rd-January 4th
School Resumes	January 5th



School Closing Information

Northwest High School will announce school closing information on radio stations KRG1 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.

Freshmen Academy

Hard to believe that the first semester is closing in on Christmas break. At the time I wrote this, we had about 90% of the freshmen passing all of their classes and 91% passing 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. Lambert, 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 myself or Stacey Pawling (spawling@ginorthwest.org) and we will be glad to walk you through it.

The freshman really worked hard until the very end of first semester. Back on October 12th., we had only 75% 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 continues to be in place is 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 Wal-Mart, Hy-Vee, 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. If your student would like to help pick up trash around the school once a week, that would give them an opportunity to earn some hours. 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!!

Freshman Academy - Mr. Marty Moser



Counselor's Corner

SCHOLARSHIPS: Seniors, please check out the scholarship spreadsheet on the school website, new ones are always being added. A scholarship worth applying for is the Susan Thompson Buffett scholarship. This application will open soon and is online application only. There is an income stipulation with the Buffett scholarship, students/parents must first complete the FAFSA and must not have an EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) of more than \$10,000.

SCHOLARSHIP TIPS: Here are some tips to make applying for scholarships less stressful. **1.)** Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible, it opened Oct. 1. After you submit your FAFSA you will receive your SAR (Student Aid Report) in your email. Some scholarships require this information. **2.)** Plan ahead for computer glitches or other issues and email Brenda Dunn at bdunn@ginorthwest.org for a transcript. **3.)** When applying for local scholarships that require the Northwest Common Application, fill it out, save it and just change the scholarship name for each one you want to apply for, this can be done through DocHub. **4.)** Do **NOT** use your **school** email address on applications; your school email is deleted after you graduate. **5.)** Ask for 2 to 3 recommendation letters now. Recommendation forms are available in the counseling office. **6.)** Most importantly, **COME SEE US** if you have questions or problems, we want to help you succeed.

FEE WAIVER REMINDER: The **NCAA**, **NAIA** and **ACT** all provide fee waivers for their registration fees. If you are unsure if you would qualify, contact the district office and they will give you the information you need. A parent should complete a free/reduced application AND Sharing of information waiver form and submit it to the district office. These forms can be found on the school website and must be done every year. Come to the counseling office to pick up a waiver or if you have questions.

ACT REMINDER: The next ACT registration deadline is **JANUARY 8th** for the February 6th test. Come to the counseling office if you need help registering or need a fee waiver. Change for this year only: UNL, UNK and UNO and several other colleges are not requiring ACT or SAT scores, but, if you plan to apply for scholarships or other financial aid you will need to have a score. Scores are only used to help you, not hinder your acceptance in any way but it could get you more financial aid or scholarships, so definitely submit your score.

NCAA/NAIA REMINDERS: Juniors and seniors should start a NCAA or NAIA application now if you plan to play a sport in college. Apply online and let your counselor know so they can be checking their email for transcript or recommendation requests (***these emails may go to their spam email so make sure they know to look for yours***).

Library Lowdown

One of the links on our library bulletins page is the GI City Library link (access from the "links" menu on the District page). From this, students can access all the resources the city library has to offer.

Students can and should take advantage of the **Tutor.com** resource for homework and writing help. Tutors are online daily that will work with students on regular high school subjects, help revise papers etc. We cannot stress enough how beneficial having a city library card is for high school and college students. With a card, students have access to a multitude of resources: databases for research, tutoring as mentioned above, movies and other digital resources. Don't have a card? We have applications in the library and will take care of getting the card for your student. All of our students are eligible to have a library card.