



Principal's Newsletter

SEPTEMBER

- 4 No School-Labor Day Holiday
- 7 Jostens Junior Class Ring Orders during lunch in front of Pupil Services
- 8 Jostens Junior Class Ring Orders during lunch in front of Pupil Services
- 9 ACT Test at 8am
- 11 Grizzly Pride Meeting at 6:30pm in Library
- Project Grad Meeting @7pm in Commons
- 15 Top 10% Senior Breakfast at 7am
- 18 Fall Pictures all day in Auditorium
- 19 Fall Pictures all day in Auditorium
- 20 Official Enrollment Day
- 25 Student of the Month Reception @ 2:50pm in Library
- Parent-Teacher Conferences @ 4:15-7:30pm in Commons
- 27 Parent-Teacher Conferences @ 4:15-7:30pm in Commons
- 29 Coffee House @7pm in Commons



Principal's Message



I trust this first newsletter of the 2017-18 school year finds you well and as excited about the new school year as I am! My name is Eric Hofer-Holdeman, and it is my great honor and privilege to call myself the Principal of Northwest High School. Over my professional career I have spent 17 years as a high school math teacher and basketball coach (11 here at Northwest!), one year as an Assessment Coordinator, four years as an Assistant Principal at West High, and most recently four years as the head principal of Mayberry Middle School. I am entering my 27th year in education and I could not be more excited to be here, in what I consider to be the *premiere* High School in, not only all of Wichita, but the state of Kansas! As we move forward into the 2017-18 school year, if you ever have a question, concern, or comment, please know that my door is always open. Feel free to contact me at 973-6000, email at ehofer-holdeman@usd259.net, or stop by for a face to face chat. I want nothing more than the best for your student and will do everything in my power to make that happen!

We have had an amazing start to the school year as we continue our 39-year tradition of **Pride, Respect, and Excellence**. The vision of Northwest is to make our school one where we “*empower all students with college and career ready skills and challenge all students to achieve their personal best through increased opportunities for success in a global society*”. The heart and soul of what I do as principal on a day to day basis is to assure that we are *all* striving to reach this vision; it is my hope that you will join us in this noble endeavor!

School Goals for 2017-18

I would like to share two school-wide goals that we as a staff will focus on this year: one academic and one behavior:

Academic: NWHS will improve college and career readiness through implementation of building identified WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) strategies, emphasizing Inquiry, to improve student learning where ***50% of our students will be in levels 3 or 4 on the Kansas State Assessments***.

Behavior: NWHS will continue to support excellence for ALL students with an emphasis on providing a positive climate by putting student needs first, by holding students and staff accountable, by building positive relationships between staff, students, and parents, and by focusing on maintaining behavioral expectations as outlined in our school-wide behavior plan while ***reducing tardies, chronic absenteeism and office referrals by 5%***.

We will continue to keep these goals in front of us as we move through the school year. The help that you, as parents and families, provide in regard to these goals is critical to our success. Thank you in advance for your partnership with us.

In conclusion, I want to thank parents and families for being part of our greater Northwest Family. Thank you for sending your students to us, for entrusting this great responsibility upon us. Together we will do all that we can to best prepare your students for college or career. Together we will demonstrate ***Pride, Respect and Excellence*** in all that we do!

Northwest Site Council Needs You!

The Northwest Site Council will meet just once every nine weeks this year. The first meeting will be **Thursday, October 5, in the Northwest Main Office Conference Room A-5 at 6pm**. The **Site Council** is a committee that provides the parent perspective on important school activities or issues such as school budget, student achievement, policies, behavior expectations, and much more. This advisory committee is a critical part of our school and we encourage you to participate. If you would like to join, please contact Mr. Hofer-Holdeman, Principal, at ehofer-holdeman@usd259.net or 316-973-6003. We hope to see you there!

Parent Teacher Conferences

You are encouraged to join us for Parent Teacher Conferences at Northwest in the Commons on Monday, September 25 or Wednesday, September 27 from 4:15-7:30 p.m. This is a good time to connect with your student's teachers and talk about his/her progress.

Secure Entrance Procedure at Tyler Entrance

Nothing is more important than providing a safe, secure and high-quality learning environment for our students. The interior doors to the school will lock at 8 am so all visitors and students entering the building after 8 am will need to enter through the main office. Students who are late will proceed through the office to pupil services. All visitors who come to our school and who have the opportunity to interact with students will be required to sign in using the Hall Pass system each time they visit the school from 7:30am to 3:30pm. **Please bring a driver's license or government-issued ID** when visiting the building. The Hall Pass system quickly scans it and performs an instant screening for sex offenders. Visitors will receive a custom-printed photo ID badge that they are required to wear while they are in the building.

Chronic Absences

Attendance is crucial for the success of your student. An absence issue that tends to go unnoticed is what we refer to as "**Chronically Absent**". **Excused** and **Unexcused** absences are calculated for chronically absent. We have two fewer weeks of instructional time this year, so it is crucial that your child does not miss over 9 days for the entire year.

Truancy only takes into account the unexcused absences. Nevertheless, absences, whether excused or unexcused, will eventually have a negative impact. We want you to be informed and assist your student with being on time and regularly attending school, so that we can provide the best educational experience possible.

Our percentage of chronically absent students was 28.8% last year, (2016-2017). Our goal is to lower our chronically absent numbers by at least 5% for the 2017-18 school year.

Tardy Policy

The Northwest tardy policy has drastically reduced the number of tardies. We continue to see a decrease in tardies from year to year. This may be due—in part—to the implementation of our tardy sweeps each class period, but is also a result of our parents partnering with us to make sure an important life skill is learned. The trend shows that as the school year progresses, more and more students will start coming to school or class late. Each student gets four free tardy passes at school per semester for emergencies. Once they pass the fourth tardy, students are given detentions which eventually can lead to other consequences. Please help us by reminding your students that attendance and getting to class on time is important so they don't get behind and don't disrupt the class that is already in session.

Counseling News

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Northwest will be hosting our annual financial aid night on Wednesday, October 11, at 6 pm in the Commons. Yes, you are reading this right; it's happening in October! What?! Why?!

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available for the class of 2018 beginning on October 1, 2017. Come and find out about this important date change and what this means for your student!

If you have questions, please contact Danea Cramer, College Career Coordinator at dcramer@usd259.net or 973-6058.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

There are already scholarship opportunities available for the class of 2018. Check out: <http://www.usd259.org/Page/10764> for a link to the College Career Center Scholarship Page. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Danea Cramer, College Career Coordinator at dcramer@usd259.net or 973-6058.

NORTHWEST TRANSCRIPT REQUEST PROCEDURE

Northwest High School utilizes the Parchment Transcript Electronic System to deliver transcripts electronically to community colleges, colleges and universities. To utilize Parchment, the student must create an account at www.parchment.com. From there, the student will be able to request that his/her transcript be sent to the school of his/her choice. Please allow 24 hours for the request to be processed.

Make sure you use your student's LEGAL NAME in order to process transcripts.

Paper transcripts will only be printed for scholarship applications.

ACT TEST DATES

Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
September 9	August 4	August 5-18
October 28	September 22	September 23-October 6
December 9	November 3	November 4-17
February 10	January 12	January 13-19
April 14	March 9	March 10-23
June 9	May 4	May 5-18
July 14	June 15	June 16-22

Register online at www.actstudent.org; our school code is **173214**. See Mrs. Tibbetts or Mrs. Cramer if you are on free or reduced lunch and need a fee waiver.

Counseling News cont'd.

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE VISITS TO NORTHWEST

Throughout the school year various college admissions representatives will be at Northwest during Advocacy (2:44–3:30) to visit with any junior and senior student interested in learning more about a particular institution. Interested students will need to sign up with Mrs. Cramer in the CCC (College and Career Center) A24 for a pass.

September 12 Pittsburg State University
September 19 University of Kansas
September 26 Newman University
October 3 Vanderbilt University
October 12 Emporia State University & Kansas State Polytechnic
October 17 Cowley College
October 19 Kansas State University
October 26 Wichita State University
October 31 Fort Hays State University
November 14 Kansas Wesleyan University

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY ACT PREP WORKSHOPS

ACT Prep (all four subjects)

October 7, 2017
November 11, 2017
January 20, 2018
March 10, 2018
May 5, 2018

ACT Math Prep

September 16, 2017
February 17, 2018

All workshop dates are on Saturdays

*ACT Prep: 8 a.m. to noon

ACT Math: 9 a.m. to noon

Fee: \$32 for ACT Prep / \$25 for ACT Math

Registration can be done online at: www.registerblast.com/wsu

For paper registration, please call: 316-978-3440



LEARNING CENTER INFORMATION

Learning Center is a program to help students retrieve credits in failed classes that are required for graduation. The cost is \$90. It is mostly online, so students are able to work at their own pace. Students will attend a mandatory orientation on either a Tuesday or Thursday to get started working on their class after payment for the class is made. The Learning Center is open 3:45 – 5:45pm Monday through Friday in B15. For questions and an application, see your student's grade level counselor or Angela Harrell, aharrell1@usd259.net.

Counseling News cont'd.

FRESHMEN

It's never too early to start planning for college and/or careers. Much of your freshmen and sophomore years are about exploring options. While exploring, however, you want to make sure you are organized, taking rigorous courses, and getting good grades. The websites below have resources to help guide you through your freshman year. You want to make sure you aren't limiting yourself in your post-high school options by taking only the basics. Our goal for you is that you are able to pursue whatever you want after high school and have the prerequisites to be successful. Check them out!

- <http://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/BCF1A04A/High-School-Freshman-Timeline-and-Checklist/>
- <http://www.cafecollege.org/freshmen/make-a-plan/freshmen-checklist>
- <http://www.connectionsacademy.com/blog/posts/2012-09-28/Getting-Ready-for-College-A-Four-Year-Checklist-for-High-School-Teens.aspx>
- http://www.collegeprep101.com/uploads/1/1/7/2/11721368/freshman_year_checklist.pdf

LUNCH AND LEARN

Students from all grade levels are invited to come to the CCC to hear information regarding careers. This is a perfect opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge about a career you may be interested in. Interested students can stop by the CCC in A-24 to sign-up.

Career: Lawyer
Date: September 19th
Time: 1st lunch...10:53 – 11:38am

K-STATE CELEBRATES

K-State is coming to Wichita to celebrate all of the opportunities that await you as a future student. You're invited to introduce your family and friends to the K-State family at this free event.

- Monday, September 18, 2017,
- Visit with admissions representatives,
- Explore what's new and exciting at K-State with Pat Bosco, vice president of student life and dean of students,
- Meet students and recent graduates,
- Register online @ <https://www.k-state.edu/admissions/celebrates.html>

NEWMAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS VISIT EVENTS

Health Professions Day: Saturday, October 7

Health Professions Day is for high school students looking to explore careers in Nursing, Allied Health and Sciences. Students will participate in an interactive activity to explore careers in the healthcare industry, connect with Newman faculty, explore campus life and more during this interactive event!

Preview Day: Saturday, November 4

Preview Day is an event for junior or senior high school students looking to discover more about Newman. Connect with professors in our academic programs, take a tour, learn about scholarships and financial aid, plus get a glimpse of campus life!

Register at: <https://newmanu.edu/admissions/visit-campus>

Counseling News cont'd.

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS EVENTS

WSU is holding an open house event for high school juniors, seniors, and transfer students. Experience the day and life of a WSU student during this inside look at Shocker Nation.

Friday, October 13, 2017 and Monday, October 30, 2017, 8:30am - 2:30pm, Black and Yellow Day

RSVP: <https://apply.wichita.edu/Datatel.ERecruiting.Web.External/Pages/Events.aspx>

K-STATE CAMPUS EVENTS

You're invited to attend a Senior Day at K-State! Spend a day exploring K-State's campus. Your day will include opportunities to discuss your academic interests with a K-State faculty member and hear the latest information about financial aid, residence halls and much more! Take a tour of the campus and enjoy lunch in the K-State Student Union. Our lunch program includes a student panel and prizes and one lucky student will receive \$250 toward textbooks for his or her first semester at K-State. Fall 2017 Senior Day dates include:

- Monday, October 2
- Friday, October 6
- Monday, October 9
- Monday, October 16
- Friday, November 3
- Friday, November 10

Cost is \$20 per student and \$15 for each parent, family member, or guest, which covers program materials, parking, and lunch. Register at: <https://www.k-state.edu/admissions/seniors.html>

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS EVENTS

Crimson & Blue Day is for anyone interested in attending KU. We also have customized visiting options for students who have already been admitted to KU. This open house style visit provides an overview of all the amazing things KU has to offer! Registration and additional details for Crimson & Blue Day will be available on September 1, 2017. This open-house style event allows guests to choose which tours and sessions they would like to experience. Come and go as your schedule allows. The day is completely up to you!

- Friday, October 13, 2017, 8:30am-4:00pm

Register at: <https://admissions.ku.edu/crimsonandblue>

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY TIGER DAY

The Fort Hays State University Admissions Office invites all high school juniors, seniors, and transfer students to spend a day on our campus and discover the reason why so many students are choosing FHSU! Tiger Day is October 28 and provides you with an excellent opportunity to attain important information regarding academic majors, scholarships, financial aid, student life, athletics, co-curricular activities and much more. Visiting campus is the best way to determine if FHSU is the right choice for you and it can give you a head start on the road to college. We are proud of what we have to offer and are certain that you will like what you see. If you're unable to attend Tiger Day, we welcome you to schedule an individual visit to campus.

Register at: <http://www.fhsu.edu/admissions/tiger-day/>

Counseling News cont'd.

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS VISITS

Emporia State will host several Black and Gold Visit Days during the Fall 2017 semester.

Each special visit will highlight:

- An Admissions, Financial Aid, and Scholarship Presentation
- Transfer student sessions at each Black and Gold held in February
- Tours of the campus and residence halls
- An Academic and Student Life fair
- Complimentary Lunch

2017-2018 Black and Gold Visit Days:

- Friday October 6
- Saturday October 28
- Saturday November 4
- Friday November 17

Register at: <http://www.emporia.edu/events/>

COWLEY COLLEGE CAMPUS EVENT

Senior Day: October 25, 2017

Do you need transportation to Senior Day? We will be sending a Cowley Bus to the Towne East Mall parking lot to bring students to and from Senior Day. The bus will leave Wichita at 8:15am and return around 2:30pm. Please send an e-mail to admissions@cowley.edu to sign up for the Senior Day bus!

Register at: <http://www.cowley.edu/senior/day/>

HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE EVENT

Blue Dragon 2018 Senior Day: Friday, October 27, 2017

Check in from 9:30-10:00am. Program runs until 1:50pm at the Hutch Sports Arena south entrance.

Register at: http://cms.hutchcc.edu/hcc/home.aspx?menu_id=10&head_id=990&ekfrm=9732

Senior News

Welcome back, Class of 2018! We have had a great start to the year and are looking forward to a fabulous senior year full of learning and fun. All seniors were given a year-at-a-glance calendar that lists important dates for the year. A copy of that calendar is attached. Please check the Senior News page and the NW Master Calendar regularly to keep track of all the year's events. If you have any questions about senior activities, please feel free to contact Jake Henning, Senior AP (jhenning@usd259.net), Ann Burgett, Senior Class Sponsor (aburgett@usd259.net), or Kyla Tibbetts, Senior Counselor (ktibbetts@usd259.net).

September	9	ACT Testing
	15	Top 10% Breakfast (by invitation only), 7 am
	18-19	Picture Day
	25, 27	Parent-Teacher Conferences
October	4	Senior Hot Dog Roast (Stadium), 6 pm
		Powderpuff Football Game (Stadium), 7 pm
	6	Homecoming Parade & Game
	7	Homecoming Dance

Social Networking Help

Social networking is the practice of expanding the number of one's social contacts by making connections to individuals through technology or the internet. As a result, we are seeing many types of social networking such as Facebook, Twitter, blogs, Snapchat and even cell phone text messages becoming a problem in schools. Pictures or videos taken at school could then be posted on different social networks for negative reasons like cyber-bullying, name-calling, etc. When this happens, we spend a large amount of time trying to find out who is posting these negative comments. We are asking parents to help us monitor your student's use of social networking sites so we can solve these problems together before it causes a disruption to the school day. It is imperative that we monitor our student's use of social networking, cell phones and internet for their safety and the safety of all students. Thank you for your help in managing this challenge.

Official Enrollment Day – Wednesday, September 20

Although every day is an important day to be at school, September 20th is a very special day for all students to attend. We call September 20th "Official Enrollment Day" and the district gets funding from the state for every student that attends on this day. We want all our students to be at Northwest on Wednesday, September 20th. Please try to avoid doctor's appointments on this day and have students at school on time. Thank you for your cooperation!

Calling all Grizzly Families!

Grizzly Pride gives over \$35,000 to NWHS annually! 100% of membership fees go directly to support NW students. Support the Grizzly Pride Booster Club by becoming a member today! Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends...Get involved and get to know other Grizzly Parents/Supporters. Sign up by Friday, September 8 to have your name included on a banner to be hung at home athletic events throughout the school year. You will also receive a free Grizzly Pride shirt (while supplies last) and gift from BearWear. Questions on how you can get involved and help support your student and others at NW? Contact Kathy Darnell at (316)640-1945 or kathydarnell@cox.net. Our membership form can be downloaded from the NW website under Parents – Grizzly Pride.

Who does Grizzly Pride support with important funding?

- Your Student
- Scholastic Clubs and Student Related Activities
- All NW athletic teams - assistance with meals, uniforms, equipment, etc.
- Fine Arts and Performing Arts
- NW Teachers and Staff
- Infrastructure gifts - i.e. library furniture, copiers, etc.

What does Grizzly Pride Provide?

- Funding for all school sponsored student activities
- Student / Volunteer recognition activities
- Teacher grants
- Staff dinners during parent teacher conferences
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- NWHS College Scholarships

Project Graduation

Are you interested in helping organize Project Graduation? Many parents are already working behind the scenes to plan the annual after-graduation celebration, but parent volunteers are always needed! All interested parents of seniors are encouraged to contact Mr. Henning. The Project Graduation committee will have its initial meeting on **Monday, September 11, at 7 pm in the Commons**. All parents of seniors are invited to attend.

Safe and Civil Schools Climate & Safety Survey

Our school is committed to providing a safe and encouraging place for your child. You can help us continue to make improvements to our school by completing a short online survey. All responses are anonymous. The resulting data will allow us to see if the three groups—parents/guardians, students, and staff—agree or disagree about important issues. We will be able to identify what we are doing well and what we need to work on, such as safety in a particular location of the school, students' understanding of the expectations for behavior, or communication with families.

- The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.
- It's available online, 24 hours a day from **September 5—October 29**.
- You can complete it on any computer with Internet access—at home, work, the public library. (Cellular connections do not work well, but tablets and phones with WIFI will work.)
- Just one parent or guardian from each household should take it.
- You can choose to read the survey in English or Spanish.

Go online to <https://www.safeandcivilsurvey.net/wichitasurvey/surveylogin.aspx>

(Use Internet Explorer, Safari, or Chrome browser.)

Enter the User ID: VQGDRV

Enter the Password: parent_NW

Be sure you complete every page of the survey until you reach the final page that says "Survey Complete." Then click Close.

Thank you! If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to call the school office.

Soccer News

Our Varsity team is scheduled to play in the South High Tournament on Monday, September 4 at 3pm vs Emporia. The Championship games will be played on Saturday, September 9.

Northwest will host a JV Division and a C-Team Division Tournament on September 13, 15 & 16. Thirty two teams are scheduled to compete for Saturday's Championship Rounds. Our JV's first game will be on Friday at 2:05pm vs Salina Central and our C-Team will play their first game on Wednesday, September 13 at 6:05 vs Heights.



Your attendance is greatly appreciated! Go Grizzlies!

Wednesday Tutoring

Northwest will begin after school tutoring for all core subjects on **Wednesday, September 20**, in the Commons and Library. Tutoring will be available every Wednesday as follows:

Tutoring for all students – 3:30-5:00 pm

Snack Break – 5:00-5:30 pm

Mandatory Tutoring For Athletes (with C, D or F's) – 5:30-7:00 pm