



# Principal's Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Northwest Community,

It has been a month since the last Newsletter from Northwest High School. Much has changed as we continue to navigate the uncharted waters of the COVID19 Pandemic. I trust you continue to stay safe and healthy and that, like me, you look forward to the day we can return to some sense of normalcy.

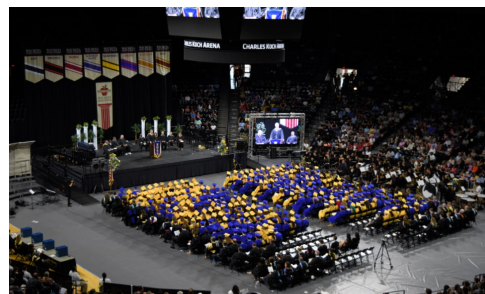
I encourage everyone to read through this April Newsletter *in its entirety* as this is one key avenue through which we can disseminate information to you. Thank you!

### Senior Tribute Video on KWCH:



Wichita Public Schools and KWCH have partnered to bring Senior Tribute videos to the TV airwaves! Tune into KWCH, or its sister channel KSCW, on May 13th, our original graduation date, to watch a 30-minute tribute to our graduating class of 2020. The tribute will consist of the National Anthem, a message from superintendent Dr. Alicia Thompson, a message from principal Mr. Eric Hofer-Holdeman, and then senior Cap & Gown photos of all seniors at Northwest. During the pictures you'll be able to listen to the band play our Alma Mater, the School Fight Song, and then four Senior Speeches. Thank you to Josie Deckinger, Haley Johnson, Jace Dulohery, and Jared Givens for providing your words of wisdom!

### Potential Alternative Graduation Plans:



Leaders from both high schools and the district have been looking into the *possibility* of conducting in-person graduation ceremonies for all USD259 high schools some time toward the end of July. The emphasis is on the word *possibility*. Please don't jump to conclusions and begin making plans as this is all contingent upon the relaxing of social gathering guidelines. As you would agree, *if* those guidelines are indeed relaxed it is good to be prepared with a potential plan.

Communication will go out via all possible channels if as soon as details are set.



### Summer Learning Opportunities for the summer of 2020:

There are three summer learning opportunities that will all look different this year than past summers.

1. The first summer learning opportunity is called Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) and will run from May 26<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup>. ELO is for those students that ended either semester with a grade between 50%-59% to allow a bit of extra time to attempt to raise that grade up to a "D". It is also for those students that ended with a grade between 60%-69% to allow a bump from a "D" up to a "C". See more detailed information from Assistant Principal, Steve Parks, on Page 4. The cost of ELO is nothing or **FREE**.
2. The second learning opportunity is our Learning Center. The Learning Center is for credit recovery, or for repeating courses that have been attempted previously. It utilizes an online program called Edgenuity for students to work at their own pace. Students must have access to the internet and a computer or Chromebook. The cost of the Learning Center courses is nothing or **FREE**.
3. The third and final summer learning opportunity is Summer School. This year Summer School will be online as well utilizing Edgenuity. That means that it will not be at a central location, but rather will be online through the Northwest Learning Center. There is really no difference between Summer School and Learning Center (#2 above) other than original credit classes. If your student wants to take either Financial Literacy or Government for original credit, then there will be a \$90 fee.

Summer School PE will not be available this summer due to the COVID-19 crisis.

\*Those students that were planning on taking Summer School PE for original credit this summer will be allowed to wait until Summer of 2021 to take PE and will not be required to take PE Foundations during the school year. If this applies to you, please be sure to communicate with Freshmen Counselor, Scott Cathey, during enrollment in the fall.

### Continuous Learning Plan:



Teachers continue to reach out and work with students to not only improve their grades, but more importantly, to continue the learning. Please encourage your son or daughter to continue their part in the learning by communicating regularly with their teachers through Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, emails, texting, and more.

### US News & World Report High School Rankings:



Not to toot our own horn, but...

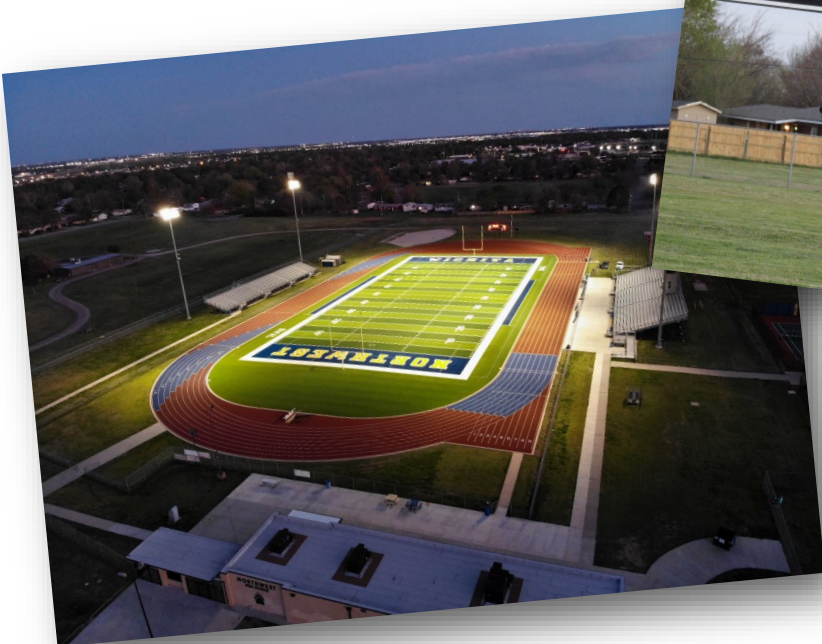
For the third year in a row, Northwest High School ranks as one of the top high schools in Kansas!

Check out the complete article on Northwest at [usnews.com/education/best-high-schools](https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools).

These are extraordinary times that we are in. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters. And although we are apart physically, know that we are together in *spirit*, and know that we will always demonstrate *Pride*, *Respect* and *Excellence* in all that we do!

Stay safe and healthy, Grizzlies!

-Eric





## Extended Learning Opportunity

If you have questions as we get closer to the summer, then please do not hesitate to contact Steve Parks at [sparks@usd259.net](mailto:sparks@usd259.net).

This is an ***optional*** opportunity for students who earned a 50 – 69% for first/second semester core courses. The **Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO)** is open to primarily sophomores and freshmen (with potentially upperclassmen – based on demand). This summer, due to the COVID-19 crisis, all classes will be held virtually and will run from May 26<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup> (Monday – Thursdays only). The hours of expected work for ELO are 7:30 am – 11:30 am. For students who are enrolled, they will need to show concept mastery sufficient to requirements set by their respective core subject teacher. If a student achieves this goal prior to June 18<sup>th</sup>, then they are finished with the ELO and can resume normal summer activities. For students enrolled in ELO, two or more “absences”, or failure to communicate with ELO teachers, will result in removal from this opportunity. If this opportunity sounds like it might work for your student, then please send an email to Mr. Parks at [sparks@usd259.net](mailto:sparks@usd259.net). This is an important step to take as Mr. Parks will need verify a student's eligibility for this program.

This is a great opportunity for your son/daughter to raise their grade from an “F” to a “D” or a “D” to a “C”. If you have further questions, then please contact Steve Parks (10<sup>th</sup> grade administrator) at 973-6010 or [sparks@usd259.net](mailto:sparks@usd259.net).

## National Honor Society

Any community service hours required for this semester are no longer required to be turned in by April 1st. Obviously, social distancing cancelled lots of people's plans for doing community service over spring break. Community service hours that you have already completed prior to social distancing, and/or that you are able to complete over the next few months as the situation evolves will be counted in your FALL 2020 required hours. Again, in fall 2020 and spring 2021 you will need to turn in 15 hours each semester (obviously, this is pending the social distancing situation).

If you have turned in hours already prior to spring break, they will count toward your 15 hours required for Fall 2020. If you have your own documentation, keep it and turn it in by the deadline that will be set upon return to school. Again, this means that you will do 15 hours by the end of the fall semester of 2020. In the spring, you will do another 15 hours.

Students who want to apply to join should hang on to their applications. We will post a new application deadline once we return to school in the fall.

## AP Chemistry & AP Physics

Attention next year's AP Chemistry & AP Physics students & parents: be on the lookout in mid-May for information from your 2020-2021 AP science teacher regarding your class. If you are not contacted by email or Student VUE /Parent VUE please email your teacher: AP Chemistry (Fields, [LFields@usd259.net](mailto:LFields@usd259.net)) or AP Physics (Weaver, [dweaver@usd259.net](mailto:dweaver@usd259.net)).

## Library Resources

Any library book that is currently checked out will not be charged an overdue fine while school buildings are closed.

Links to Kansas newspapers, the New York Times, USA Today, and the Associated Press can be found on your Northwest Library web page. There is also a link to OnlineNewspapers.com. It provides links to newspapers in countries around the globe.

Did you know you can check out e-books or audio books for FREE?

### Kansas Library e-Card

One option is a Kansas Library e-Card. You will have access to e-books, audio books, and tons of other resources.

\*Any Kansas resident can check out from this collection. Individuals will need a Kansas Library eCard (which can be obtained from any library in the state) to login to or register for these services.

The Kansas Library eCard is only for accessing online materials available for all residents of Kansas, and is separate from your local library card used to checkout physical books.

Need a card? Contact Mrs. Sanderson at [asanderson@usd259.net](mailto:asanderson@usd259.net)

We can help! You will need to have the following information to get one.

We will create a card for you and send the card number back to you ASAP.

- First Name
- Last Name
- Middle Initial
- Email (account info sent here)
- Birthday

<https://kslib.info/128/Digital-Book-eLending>

<https://kslib.info/801/First-Time-User>



### Wichita Public Library

A Wichita Public Library Card you can get you access to both e-books and audio books. Need a card?

"If you do not have a library card, call (316) 261-8500 between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. We're issuing Wichita Public Library e-cards over the phone so customers can access our digital resources while our buildings are closed to the public."

<https://www.wichitalibrary.org/ebooks>



## Counseling News

### SENIOR NEWS

If you have questions about your student's status for earning their diploma, please call Scott Cathey @ 973-6016 or at [scathey@usd259.net](mailto:scathey@usd259.net)

### SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

There are many scholarship opportunities available for the class of 2020. 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 Teketa Paschal, College Career Coordinator at [tpaschal1@usd259.net](mailto:tpaschal1@usd259.net).

### 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](http://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.

### You must use your student's LEGAL NAME in order to process transcripts.

Paper transcripts will only be printed for scholarship applications.

### ACT TEST DATES: 2019-2020

Test Dates	Registration Deadlines	Late Registration Fee Deadline
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	May 8 <sup>th</sup>	May 22 <sup>nd</sup>
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	June 19 <sup>th</sup>	June 26 <sup>th</sup>

Register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org); our school code is **173214**. Contact Mrs. Tibbetts or Ms. Paschal if you are on free or reduced lunch and need a fee waiver.

### ACT PRACTICE

Need some help practicing for the ACT? Check out the new ACT Academy at [www.act.org/academy](http://www.act.org/academy).

This FREE resource provides your student with videos, practice tests and personalized pacing guides to help them get the best score possible!

### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE WITH XELLO

Helping students plan for their futures is the goal of Individual Plan of Study. To facilitate this, all students at Northwest have a career and life planning app called Xello.

Xello can be located by going to [portal.usd259.net](http://portal.usd259.net) and using their district login. Xello has an interest inventory, entitled "Matchmaker" as well as a personality style inventory. Careers are suggested and students can investigate careers as well as post-secondary education that is needed for their goals.

This school year, each grade level has three different lessons that help students start to plan and investigate their future. Students were working on Xello in their Advocacy class, but can access this account anywhere they have internet access. Ask your student to see their Xello account.

### SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

See information on Summer Learning Opportunities on page 1 of this Newsletter.

## Counseling News

### STUDENT AND PARENT RESOURCES

#### Crisis Text Line

Crisis Text Line serves anyone, in any type of crisis, providing access to free, 24/7 support and information via a medium people already use and trust: text messaging.

How it Works:

- Text Hello to 741741 (from anywhere in the United States 24/7.) You can text about whatever is a crisis to you – addiction, anxiety, assault, bullying, depression, eating disorders, self-harm, suicide etc.
- The Crisis Counselor listens without judgement, invites you to share more, and helps you move from a hot moment to a cool calm. You'll text back and forth sharing only what you feel comfortable.
- After 2 automated responses, you'll connect with a live trained volunteer Crisis Counselor who receives the text on their computer.
- The goal of the conversation is help you find calm. That may mean sharing resources for you to check out for more help; sometimes it means listening.
- It usually takes less than 5 minutes to connect you with a Crisis Counselor, maybe longer during busy times.
- Conversations usually end when you and the Crisis Counselor feel comfortable that you're in a "cool", safe place, after 15 – 45 minutes.



**NORTHWEST ENGLISH  
DEPARTMENT**

# WE MISS YOU!

