

Davenport Community School District

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NEWSLETTER

Home of the Wildcats!



“The Mission of North High School is to embrace and challenge a diverse community where students can become life-long learners with high expectations, in a positive and safe environment.”





Principal Points

The first half of the 2010-11 school year will officially conclude Tuesday, December 21st. My sincere thanks go to all the North High Family for your contributions to the successful first semester. It takes everyone---students, staff, parents, coaches and community members—working in unison to move the school forward. Without all stakeholders’ efforts and loyalty, we could not accomplish those daily tasks that make North High School a great school. I am looking forward to the start of second semester and hoping that everyone has a wonderful holiday season and happiness in the New Year! **A Happy Wildcat Holiday to Everyone! Enjoy the Season.**

Finals and Winter Break

Second term finals will be given Monday and Tuesday, **December 20th and 21th**. The finals’ schedule will start at 7:45 am. Two exams will be given each morning. Lunch will be served at 11:55 to 12:30 each day. Block 1 and block 2 finals will be Monday morning. Block 3 and block 4 finals will be Tuesday morning. School buses will run on their regular schedule. Consequently, bus students may find it beneficial to arrange alternative transportation home following lunch each day. Students remaining for the afternoons must be under the supervision of a teacher or be supervised in the cafeteria. **Winter break will officially start for students at 12:35 pm on Tuesday, December 21st** School buses will depart at

that time. Third term begins Tuesday, January 4th.

Parent Conferences

Annual course selection conferences will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, February 1st and 2nd starting at 3:15 PM. Students will be given registration materials during PAWS the first week of January. They should bring this information home as well as correspondence to schedule individual registration conferences with parents/guardians, your student and PAWS’ advisor. Please check with your student when classes resume so you have an opportunity to review those materials and to request a conference time that will work well in your schedule. It is important that we meet with EVERY family to ensure balanced input for your student’s academic selections.

Third term Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held Wednesday, February 9th from 4 to 7 pm. Mark this date on your calendar now as the next few weeks are sure to be busy and we want to have the opportunity to visit with all our parents about the progress your student is making. Don’t miss either of these very important chances to be actively involved in your student’s academic life. The groundwork today will pay dividends in the future.

Email Blasts

Several email blasts have been sent this year. (This newsletter will be sent as an email blast.) This is an additional layer of communication between the school and our community. Each email blast yields a number of addresses that are “kicked back” because they are no longer valid. It is extremely important to inform us here at school if you email

address—or any of your contact information—changes. If you are not receiving these communications, check with us to verify your address. With the transition to a new student information system, Infinite Campus, coming in January the most recent and accurate contact information will benefit all communications between school and home.

Student ID Badges

The staff and student ID initiative is going very well. Students have settled into this second year of implementation. When ID’s are lost, left at home or damaged, students are issued temporary ID’s three times before a new ID is printed. The fine for ID replacement is \$3 for the ID and \$2 for a new school issue lanyard. Please help your student keep track of their ID’s as the replacement process is time consuming for them and for staff—not to mention the additional cost. Replacement fines are not subject to fee waivers. Thanks to all you have done from the home front to help this student/campus safety initiative be so successful.



Happenings!

January will be busy again this year. Staff will report to school on **January 3rd** for district in-service and some much needed work time which will be used to close up second term and plan for their new classes third term. Second semester begins with students’ return to classes on **January 4th**.

Thursday, **January 13th** our Annual 8th Grade Orientation will be held for parents and students of the incoming class of 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Holzworth Performing Arts Center. If you, your neighbors, family or friends have a current 8th grader, please pass on this date to them. This will be the first opportunity for some families to learn about the offerings of high school and to start that very important transition to high school. Staff, counselors and administrators will be on hand to answer questions and share important information about the many opportunities awaiting the class of 2015! The *snow date* for this orientation is Thursday, **January 20th**.

Tuesday, **February 1st** and Wednesday, **February 2nd** will be the dates for our annual course selection conferences. Parents and students will meet with PAWS advisors to choose course selections for the 2011-2012 school year. Information about course selection will be shared with students and they should be sharing that information with you shortly after the semester begins. PAWS advisors will request an appointment time for this conference. Although the conference time is 3:15-6:15 pm **February 1st and 2nd**, advisors can agree to an alternative time to meet that would work better for you. Please be certain your student returns the conference request form to their PAWS advisor with your time preference indicated. These conferences are beneficial to students and parents in order to make informed, wise course selections that are compatible with the student's post-secondary plans. As for later in **February**, Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED's) will be administered February 10th and 11th. Dates and schedules will be sent out as the dates draw closer.

ITED's/Concurrent Enrollment/ Advanced Placement Classes

Concurrent enrollment is a term that applies specifically to courses arranged by which a community college course is delivered to high school students during the regular school year for both high school and college credit. ([Iowa House File 2679](#))

Students accepted in concurrent enrollment classes for the 2011-12 school year will complete a student application for Scott Community College and meet or exceed the minimum performance measures on the Compass test. Students enrolling in concurrent or AP enrollment will take the prerequisites, if any, established by the school district or postsecondary institution, and **the student must be "proficient" in reading, math and science as evidenced by the last administration of the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED)**. This last requirement is of timely importance to our students as the ITED's will be administered Thursday and Friday, February 10th and 11th. Courses that fall under the concurrent enrollment umbrella are Project Lead the Way course offerings, Vocational Childcare, Vocational Welding, Auto Technology, Student Built Home, Managerial Accounting, ProStart, as well as any SCC courses taught at Davenport high schools.

The ITED's will be given over TWO days this year to help students focus on a limited amount of testing time. Underclassmen will maintain a regular length school day for testing. The first 2 hours each day will be scheduled with testing while seniors will report and actual classes will run on a 2 hour late start schedule. **ONLY SENIORS WILL REPORT FOR THE LATE ARRIVAL. All underclassmen will report for testing at the usual start time of 7:45 am.** If questions remain, feel free to contact the guidance office for more details. All school buses will maintain their regular arrival and departure time.



Weather Related School Alerts

In the event of inclement weather, please refer to the local TV and radio broadcasts and/or websites for announcements of school closures, late starts or early dismissal times. **Please do not call the school.** The news stations are made aware of these closures before the buildings. Calls to the building will not yield any additional information other than what is already available through the airways. Thanks in advance for your cooperation with this as we approach the winter months.



BEST BUY RewardZone:

IT'S EASY!!! Tell your cashier to award your purchase points to NORTH HIGH SCHOOL for all your BEST BUY purchases.

Reward Zone points can be used by our school to purchase resources for many of our needs. Help us with points from your holiday purchases and all year long!

Dress Code Reminders

As we enter into the middle of the school year, it is time to refresh everyone's memory of the student dress code as was established by the Davenport School Board this past summer. The following guidelines are meant to assist students and parents in determining appropriate attire for school during the instructional day. School administration reserves the right to ban any item or clothing article which may cause a disruption to the learning environment or personal safety or promotes illegal products or acts, contains explicit violent or suggestive sexual content or is deemed obscene, profane or offensive

1. Students may not wear halter-tops or tops that do not cover their back, or tops that show cleavage.
2. Students' tops must meet the waistband of the bottom clothing they are wearing in a standing position and have shoulder straps (no spaghetti straps).
3. Undergarments should be covered at all times.
4. Pants may not 'sag'.
5. Pajamas and slippers are not allowed.
6. Footwear must be worn at all times. **Elementary Only:** For safety purposes flip-flops are not allowed.
7. Shoes with rollers on the bottom are not allowed.
8. Hats, bandanas, sunglasses, spiked jewelry, chains hanging from clothing or accessories or other items that pose a potential safety hazard may not be worn.
9. Coats cannot be worn in the classrooms and must be kept in lockers.
10. **High School Only:** School issued ID must be worn at all times during the instructional day.

Enforcement

Dress that is found to be in violation of board policy or rules and regulations require students to do one or more of the following:

- Turn shirts inside out
- Wear clothes provided by the school
- Wear P.E. clothes
- Tie up saggy pants
- Parents would bring in appropriate clothing
- Remove head gear

Single provisions of the rules and regulations may be waived by the school administration for a specific approved school activity.

If a student refuses to comply, parents are notified and the student may be assigned disciplinary action for insubordination. Multiple offenses will be addressed by progressive discipline.

Adopted: 6/17/10; Revised 8/13/10



This poster is displayed throughout North to indicate what the acceptable dress code is district wide.

What is SMART BLOCK?

SMART (*Students Making Academic Responsibilities Top Priority*) Block is an intervention designed to provide students with academic remediation and enrichment during the school day. This is an extension of the regular class. Sessions will be scheduled Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays by class block. The **SMART** Block will start at 10:45 and end at 11:15 on these days. **SMART** Block will only meet on regular school days and will rotate allowing all classes equal time. During **SMART** Block, students will be required to attend to make up missing assignments, receive extra help or enrichment.

Student Expectations

Students ask teachers for missing assignments, missing quizzes/tests, and missing homework. They are to take this class time to work on completing that work to improve their academic performance in their classes. Students who are up to date on their work may spend time in Silent Sustained Reading. Students may read books, newspapers or magazines appropriate and pertinent to their course work.

Teacher Expectations

Teachers will assist their students with extra-help, make-up work, enrichment activities or SSR. They will be responsible for keeping track of the assistance given to students and will compile a monthly report to be given to their evaluator. Teachers will use their "prep" SMART block to complete required forms, contact parents, and other related tasks. **NO PASSES ARE TO BE ISSUED DURING SMART BLOCK-THAT INCLUDES RESTROOM, OFFICE, GUIDANCE, LMC OR OTHER CLASSES!**

Administrator Expectations

All administrators visit classrooms on a rotating basis if they are in the building. This is not an evaluative visit; rather an opportunity for students to meet the administrative staff and to observe how SMART block works. Administrators complete monthly reports and gently remind teachers if their plans are not received on time.

SMART Block is off to a good start. Please encourage your student to take advantage of this time to make up missing and late work to improve their class performance and to earn class credits leading toward graduation. If you have any questions about the program, please contact any staff member or any administrator.



Congratulations Dr. Fair!

North High associate principal, Dr. Betsy Fair, has been named the **2010-11 Iowa Assistant Principal of the Year by School Administrators of Iowa**. This honor is bestowed annually to an assistant principal from among the nominees from the 15 SAI regional districts. Dr. Fair was interviewed in October by a panel of five peers from throughout the state. She was one of four state finalists. Among Dr. Fair's many duties at North is her supervision of our Ninth Grade Academy. She also plans our building staff development and is our liaison for High School That Work. Dr. Fair is a valued member of our administrative team and we are proud of her worthy recognition. The North staff recognized her Tuesday, November 30th at a reception in her honor held in the LMC. Remember to congratulate her when you see her next!



New 9th Grad Tutoring Off to a Great Success

North's 9th Grade Academy is able to offer tutoring for 9th grade students who need some extra help. Through a "Gear Up" grant North High is offering two St. Ambrose College tutors to work with 9th grade students in English, Science and Math on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** after school.

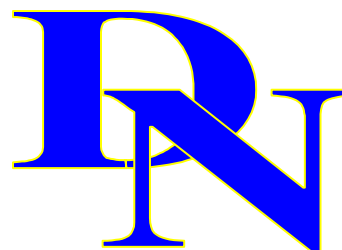
Tutoring starts at **2:45 PM and end at 3:45 PM** in the IMC on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. There is a limit of ten students per session. This program offers additional support for struggling students. Tutors will help students to understand concepts that they are having difficulty understanding. They may also work with students to complete some homework assignments that the students do not understand. Over sixty students have been served so far this year.

Students are recommended by their 9th Grade Classroom teachers to attend these help sessions. Teachers contact parents to let them know that their student is recommended for tutoring and remind parents to provide transportation home for students. If you think your student could benefit from a tutor, please contact any of your student's 9th Grade teachers to see if there is availability.



K9 Portraits Contest

The ballots have been counted and it is a pleasure to inform Trang Dang (Yari), James Lange (Kona) that they received the highest vote totals. The Police Department will be coordinating a date and time to congratulate them and present their awards to them at the Police Station, where the K9 Portraits will be on display. Mr. Dave Schaeffer, their art teacher will also be accepting an award for the art department for their participation in this contest.



Upcoming Activities Events

- Jan. 4 – Boy / Girl Doubleheader vs. PV
- Jan. 6 – Boys Swim to host Clinton 6:00
- Jan. 11 – Boys basketball hosts Muscatine 6 / 7:30
- Jan. 14 – Boy / Girl Doubleheader vs. Clinton (Cake night)
Band alumni, and teachers to perform
NBA night
- Jan. 15 – 9th Boys Basketball to host UTHS 9:00 AM
- Jan. 20 – Boys Swim host PV (Senior Night)
- Jan 21 – Boys Basketball to host Assumption
- Jan. 22 – THE BIG DANCE
- Jan. 28 - Boy / Girl Doubleheader vs. Burlington (Senior Night for the Girls Basketball) NBA night
LNBA night
- Jan 29 – Wildcat Wrestling Duals (Senior Day)
- Feb. 4 – Boys Basketball hosts Bettendorf 6 / 7:30
- Feb. 5 – 9th BB hosts West 9AM
- Feb. 11 – Boys Basketball hosts Central (Senior Night)



Infinite Campus Parent Portal Coming Your Way!

We are pleased to announce that Davenport Schools is moving from our current student management system, eSIS, to a new system called Infinite Campus. We are very excited about many of the new features and tools that the system will provide for improving student management, reporting and parent communications opportunities.

Infinite Campus will provide a superior parent communication experience through its online **Parent Portal**. Parent Portal is a secure web site that you can use to track your student's progress in school. The goal of the Parent Portal is to create a better partnership and dialogue between parents and teachers. We hope that you will use it regularly and become a partner with us in your student's education. Parent Portal will provide you the ability to view: **attendance, assigned lessons, daily grades, your student's report card, your student's class schedule, bus information, standardized test results and health records.** Parent Portal will also allow you to email teachers easily. The district will be working to bring this new system online in time for **midterm reporting February 4th**. During the interim required to transfer and setup the data system, we encourage communication through the use of email and phone conversations with your student's teachers about his/her progress.

For those interested in Parent Portal, a Parent Portal Acceptable Use Policy which will outline terms of use will be provided. Once the signed form is returned to the school, you will be issued a required activation code and easy step by step instructions on how to set up your account online.

North High will be offering opportunities for parent enrollment in this new system at various venues. Starting in January, we will have enrollment forms available at athletic events and parent conferences. Watch for email blasts, notices on our website and voice mail updates.



Guidance Corner

◆ Free Application for Federal Student Aid Help

College-bound seniors and parents ~ The Federal Application for Federal Student Aid is available online after January 1, 2011. FAFSA is an opportunity for college-bound seniors to apply for federal programs, grants and student loans. The website is www.fafsa.ed.gov.

◆ FAFSA Help from Scott Community College and St. Ambrose University

To receive help filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and get advice from financial aid experts, college-bound seniors and their parents may visit the schools are the following dates ~
Feb. 23 – St. Ambrose University
Feb. 26 – Scott Community College

Visit the following website or phone to find out what you would need to bring ~

www.IowaCGS.org or (877) 272-4692

◆ Schedule Change Week – February 14-18, 2011

February 14-18th is schedule change week for students interested in requesting a change in their schedule for 4th term. Remember, requests must be in by Friday, February 18th, for consideration.



◆ Scholarship Season

It is a busy time of year for scholarships! The senior display window, in the main hall, has an updated listing of scholarships. You may also pick up a copy of the newest advertised scholarships in the guidance office. Counselors are happy to help you find that extra \$\$\$\$ for your future education.

◆ ACT Testing - ACT Tests at North High School

Juniors planning to attend college should consider taking the ACT tests. Below are the dates to register and the testing dates that North will be a test site. Students may pick up a packet in the guidance office or apply on-line at www.actstudent.org.

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadlines</u>
Feb. 12, 2011	January 7, 2011
April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011

ITED Testing for grades 9, 10, 11

All 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will take the Iowa Tests of Educational Development on the mornings of Thursday, February 10 and Friday, February 11th. Students are encouraged to do their best on the tests for personal growth as well as helping North to meet the NCLB goals.

Student Course Selections for the 2011-12 school year

Students are in the process of selecting their courses for next school year. Parent conferences of course selection are scheduled for February 1st and February 2nd, with your student's PAWS advisor. Please refer to DCSD course selection catalog on-line at www.davenportschools.org.



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