

FALCON NEWSLETTER

“FROM OUR NEST TO YOURS”

From the Principal

As the page closes on the **2009-2010** school year, we have much to celebrate at **West High School**.

Despite a faltering national economy and the stresses and strains it brought to the building budgeting process, our **Department Heads** and **Activity Sponsors** worked hard to provide the same level of opportunities to our students with considerably less funding.

There are several highlights that stick out in my mind, marking this past school year; but, the most important is the success of our initial year with freshman students organized into an Academy structure. All Core (**Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies**) classes were taught as year long courses, rather than in the block format. Initial **ITED** results show the highest standard scores in

the past six years for our 9th graders across the board. Our 9th grade teachers are a dedicated group of professional educators who truly believe in the process of **continuous improvement** and all are excited to begin our second year with this structure.

We are anticipating summer work in our building and are also hosting **College for Kids** later in June. Please note that the **Guidance Department** and **Library** will be closed for most of June for re-carpeting.

This publication highlights many of the opportunities that are available to current and incoming students over the summer months. If you have any questions about these offerings, please feel free to call the building at **386-5500**.

Scholarship Award Winners

The **Senior Class of 2010** has been hard at work earning scholarships and grants for postsecondary study.

To date, 46 students have reported to **Guidance Counselor Lou Means** that they have been awarded a scholarship or grant.

The total dollars earned by all of the students who have notified Mr. Means is a staggering **\$2,296,691!** While the students may not use all of this money, (students may have been awarded money from multiple schools and will only attend one) this is a wonderful accomplishment and a testament to the hard work and sacrifices made by our students.

The following is a short list of the students who earned awards:

Linda Nguyen—Frank Armstrong Scholarship, Cornell College

Abbey Lucier—Honor Scholar, St. Ambrose University

Kassondra Amato, Corey Box, Logan Corrigan, Devon Mohr, Michael Richardson, and Tan Tai—Iowa National Guard Scholarship

Emily Goldsberry, Ben Ingram, Matt McCune, and Adam Soliz—Presidential Scholarship, Ashford University

Ashley Lorenz—Academic Scholarship, Ashford University

Lauren Schemmel—Trustee Scholarship, Simpson College

Lydia Sixta—Dean's Scholarship, Dominican University

Important Dates to Remember:

Final Report Card

Available for pickup in the main office the week of June 7

2010-11 School Registration

12-5:00 pm each day

Aug. 5 11th—12th

Aug. 6 10th

Aug. 9 9th

JUMP!

August 11, 8 am—2 pm

1st Week of School

August 19 - 2 Hr. Early Out

August 20 - 2 Hr. Early Out

No School—Labor Day

September 6

Parent Conferences

Term 1—September 22

Term 2—November 17

Term 3—February 9

Term 4—April 20

Inside this issue:

Guidance News	2
Freshman Academy	3
Summer Band	4
Project Lead The Way	4
Athletics	5

Information for Class of 2014 Parents



Soon the **Smart Eagles**, **Walcott Panthers**, and **Williams Hornets** will all **MORPH** together and become the **West High School Falcons Class of 2014**, and we can't wait!!!! Mark these **VERY** important dates in your calendar:

- **Monday, August 9th**—9th grade registration from Noon- 5pm in the LMC at West High School

We're all here for a reason. I believe a bit of the reason is to throw little torches out to lead people through the dark.

—Whoopi Goldberg



- **Wednesday, August 11th**—JUMP Academy 9am- 2pm
- **Thursday, August 19th**—First day of School- 2 hour early out
- **Friday, August 20th**—2 hour early out
- **Wednesday, August 25th**—Just for Freshman (an awesome party at West High School **ONLY** for the **Class of 2014**)

When you attend registration **PLEASE** dress **school appropriately**—you will be having your yearbook and student ID pictures taken. If you are **NOT** dressed appropriately you will have to wear your PE t-shirt to get your photo taken.

At registration you will get your schedule, meet your 9th grade teachers, take guided tours, find your classes and your locker, and purchase your PE t-shirt and planner. You will also have an opportunity to buy your yearbook, learn about some clubs and activities, and purchase West High Spirit Wear.

Make sure you make the most of 9th grade registration and get to know the building and meet your teachers. We believe that every student **CAN** be successful and building relationships and working together is great start to accomplishing our goal.

Can't wait to see you in August ☺

JUMP Academy for 9th Grade Students

WOW...8th grade is finally over! Attention West High School, here comes the **Class of 2014!** I know summer has barely started, but believe it or not soon it will be ready for the first day of school which is actually on **Thursday, August 19th!!!** At West we want students to do all they can to be prepared for high school. One **AWESOME** opportunity to be prepared is attending **JUMP Academy** on **Wednesday, August 11th**.

Some students may have a received an "**invitation**" to attend, but truly any **in-coming** 9th grader that is interested can contact **Ms. O'Hare** at: oharemark-erj@davenportschools.org for more information. Students that attend **JUMP** will learn more about the building, find their classes and lockers, meet new friends, see old friends, meet 9th Grade Academy teachers and learn some "tricks" to being successful in high school from the **REAL** experts (**current 10th, 11th and 12th Grade West High School students** ☺). **JUMP** is **FREE** and runs from **9am - 2pm**.

Contact Ms. O'Hare with questions or call **386-5500** to register your student.

There is still time to sign up for the APEX online Summer School Program. APEX will be offered in the mornings during the month of July. Please contact your student's counselor to see if APEX is an appropriate option to regain missing credits.

9th Grade Academy

Davenport West High School began a transition plan for the freshman class last school year. It is called the **9th Grade** or **Freshman Academy**. The motto of the Academy is “**Be Ready, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful.**” New 9th graders are scheduled into three groups of about 150 students. Each group is referred to as a house. The houses are named the **Blue, Green, and Orange** houses. The houses each have four teachers in the core areas of **Social Studies, Science, Math, and Language Arts**.



CLASSES

Most 9th Graders have all four of the core classes. Academy classes last all year with the same teachers. The classes meet for **45 minutes** each day. Students also take electives that last for 90 minutes and end after one term. Students will receive their class schedule and a tour of the building at **registration** to help them find their classes.

ACHIEVEMENT

This year, Academy students have been recognized for **outstanding achievement**. Each house has a **Student of the Week**, and also **Academic, Attendance, and Character** recognition activities. They have participated in a **Penny War** to raise money for the food drive, **team building** exercises, and many of our **club, music, and athletic** activities.

9th Grade students were very successful on the **ITED** achievement tests, reaching a six year high or better on the tests for the core subjects. The teachers worked very hard to provide **extra help** opportunities, **conferences** with parents, and **excellent communication** to students and their families.

COMMUNICATION

Home to school communication was very important for the Academy Houses. Green House had a **Tumblr** page on the web, Orange House used a weekly **email blast**, and Blue House made **phone calls** home.

Mr. Tollefson was the principal who worked with 9th grade students. He used many strategies to assist students with issues related to behavior and academics. Some of these include twilight school, lunch detentions, behavior plans, football academic teams, and extra help sessions. **Teamwork** is important between home and school. Mr. Tollefson often visited with students and checked on their **progress**. He met with many parents to work together for their **student's success**.

ON TO NEXT YEAR!

Next year the **Freshman Academy** will offer a **leadership** course as a pilot for a select group of 9th Grade students. It will help students learn the **keys to success** in all of life's activities.

2010—2011 Freshman Academy Teachers

	Blue House	Green House	Orange House
Social Studies	Mr. Cousins	Mrs. Wallace	Mr. Mosier
Math	Mr. Wells	Mr. Duquette	Mr. Curtis
Science	Mrs. Harrington	Ms. Spilger	Mrs. Chester
Language Arts	Mrs. Huizenga	Ms. Choate	Ms. Brown

Summer Band Information



Freshman Join The Falcon Marching Band in 2010!

The West Freshman Marching Band will be rolled into the Falcon Marching Band in the fall of 2010. Summer band will be critical to a successful transition. The Summer Band Program will begin on August 2 and run through our Ice Cream Social Concert on August 16th on the West High Campus. The band will be working **four days a week, Monday through Thursday.**

- Freshman will have marching basics camp from 8:30-9:30 am.
- Full band rehearsals will start at 9:30 am and end at noon.
- Marching band percussion and color guard will have additional rehearsal times to be announced.

Uniform Distribution

The schedule for distribution of both concert and marching uniforms will be from 5:30-8:30 August 10th and 11th. Remember all Davenport West Band members must have **black marching shoes** this fall. The music merchants carry a full line to try on, but then must order shoes, so allow time for this. The Impact by Style Plus with the rolled heel is still around \$30. **THE USE OF MARCHING SHOES FOR BAND CLASS IS MADATORY AGAIN THIS FALL.**

Fees

The West Band Program charges two yearly fees. The first is a uniform fee that is payable to **The West Band and Orchestra Parents Club**. The fee is \$20 per uniform used (marching and concert) for a total of \$40. We prorate fees for students who provide their own uniform parts such as a tux shirt or who are participants of the free or reduced lunch program. The second fee is charged to any student using school owned instruments and goes to the **Davenport School District**. It is \$40 and is also prorated to \$20 for students who use school equipment only for marching season or only for concert season.

Project Lead the Way Symposium

On May 27th, Engineering Design and Development students unveiled their hard work at the **1st Annual Davenport Schools Project Lead the Way Engineering Student Symposium** in the **West High Auditorium**.

EDD students presented projects related to an elderly drinking device, a hayrack braking system, a lawnmower/weed-eater combo, and the ultimate student desk. The **Civil Engineering and Architecture** class also displayed their **Local Option Sales Tax** plans for PLTW room renovations.

Also, this summer the **West High Engineering Design Club** plans to race their electric car at **Hawkeye Downs Speedway** in **Cedar Rapids**. Good luck to **Mr. Franzenburg** and the crew for safe and enjoyable racing!

2010 Marching Schedule

Aug. 20	Fall Sports Kick-off
Sept. 3	Football Game
Sept. 10	Football Game
Sept. 24	Football Game
Oct. 2	Iowa City High Contest
Oct. 7	Football Game
Oct. 14	Football Game
Oct. 16	IHSMA State Marching Band Contest
Oct. 30	Halloween Parade-tentative



Shannon Lange working on the Engineering Club's Electric Car

Summer Athletic Workouts

Summer is here again, and that means off-season weightlifting, speed workouts, and preparation for fall and winter sports!

The **West High Weight Room** will be buzzing with activity 3 days a week this summer. Workouts will be scheduled Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8—9:30 am. An evening session will also be available on Monday and Wednesday from 5—6:30 pm.

Open Gym will be held for boys and girls basketball this summer. Boys should contact **Coach**

Bigler for days and times. Girls basketball players will be meeting for open gym on Sunday evenings from **6—7:30 pm** starting **June 6**. Open gym continues through July, but not on July 4th. The first session will be held at West, but the rest will be at Williams. Contact **Coach Saladino** for more information.

The **Falcon Football Program** will offer **Football Camps** for both middle school and high school players. Camp for **5th-8th** grade players will be **July 26-**

29th from 10 am to noon. The camp for **Freshman, Sophomore, and Varsity**

players will be **August 2-5th from 10 am to noon**. Both camps will be held on the **West High Varsity Practice Field** and there is **NO COST** to attend. Contact **Coach Jeremy Mosier** for more information.



Nothing is more endangered in the modern world than the powerful combination of hard work toward meaningful goals joined with an exuberant embrace of the present moment.

Tom Morris

State Track Qualifiers and All Conference Soccer

This spring brought plenty of recognition for Falcon Athletes.

This years boys and girls track squads had some outstanding individual performances at the district track meets and qualified for the **Iowa State Track Meet** in several events.

The **Falcon Girls** qualified for the state meet in **five** events:

400M—Amada Milne

1600M—Jessa Perce, Kelsey McCreight, Makenzie Gray, Amanda Milne, Abby Willich, and Alexys Devlin

100M Hurdles—Tanner Werthmann

Shot Put and Discus—Renaë Stock

Renaë was the only place winner for the girls, earning an **8th place** finish in the **Discus** with a throw of **119'7**. She also finished **21st** in the **Shot Put**. **Amanda** finished in **11th** place in the **400M**, with **Tanner** also finishing **11th** in the **100M Hurdles**. The **1600M Relay** team finished in **22nd** place.

The **Falcon Boys** qualified for the state meet in **two** events:

Shuttle Hurdle Relay—Duffy Goodall, James Green, Kyle Bennett, Syd Fenner, Garrett Mengler, and Brett Mengler.

Long Jump—James Green

The **Shuttle Hurdle Team** finished in **16th** place with a time of **1:01.55**, and **James** finished **21st** in the **Long Jump**.

The **Boys Soccer** team also had several players receive **All MAC Conference** recognition.

Garrett Hass was a **2nd Team All-Conference** selection, and **Tyler Dirshcel, Ryan Ellenburg, Tyler Halterman, and Andrew Valett** were named as **Honorable Mention All-Conference** players.

Great Job Falcons!



*Photos courtesy of
Drake Relays.org*