

# Council Grove High School Newsletter

Council Grove High School  
129 Hockaday, Council Grove, KS 66846  
www.usd417.net

Kelly McDiffett, Principal

August 1, 2009

## **FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK**

The 2009-10 school year is fast approaching! The *Council Grove High School Newsletter* is one of our tools for communicating with CGHS parents. During the school year a newsletter will be posted on the USD 417 website near the beginning of each month. We will be placing hard copies of each newsletter at the USD 417 central office in Council Grove and at each USD 417 attendance center. In an attempt to cut expenses, we will not be mailing any newsletters.

Be sure to view the interactive calendar on the USD 417 website. Although we try to maintain a consistent schedule, school events can change from time-to-time due to many factors. We expect the interactive calendar to be the best way to keep everyone current.

Have a great summer and upcoming school year! **GO BRAVES!**

---

## **SCHOOL ADDITION TAKING SHAPE**

On August 5, 2008, the USD 417 Board of Education placed a bond question on the primary election ballot which district patrons approved. As a result, CGHS is on the edge of a construction zone which will be exciting to see develop as the school year progresses.

During the summer construction crews have made several changes to the current gymnasium area. Ferrell Construction, the general contractor for the project, also has worked to complete a portion of the south parking ahead of schedule in order to benefit our students, staff and patrons during the upcoming school year. Although this parking was not scheduled to be completed until much later in the project, we greatly appreciate the efforts to make this available sooner.

Our students and staff have adapted well to the changes necessary for initiating the construction project. We look forward to seeing the addition come to completion during the next 12 months.

---

## **TRIMESTERS ARE HERE**

Students returning to CGHS will notice a different look to their class schedules this year. This is the year we will be implementing a trimester scheduling format. Much research has been conducted, and it is time for putting the information into practice at CGHS.

Below is a comparison of a trimester schedule to our previous semester schedule:

## **Semester Schedule**

**7 periods per day**  
**50 minutes per class**  
**18 weeks long**  
**4 grading periods**  
**2 semesters per year**  
**14 class segments/year**  
**7 credits possible/year**  
**August to May school yr.**

## **Trimester Schedule**

**5 periods per day**  
**70 minutes per class**  
**12 weeks long**  
**6 grading periods**  
**3 trimesters per year**  
**15 class segments/year**  
**7.5 credits possible/year**  
**August to May school yr.**

As with any change initiative, we anticipate minor problems to arise in spite of our intensive planning. We will address these problems as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. We look forward to the enhanced classroom time for students and staff that this schedule will provide.

---

## **MENTORING PROGRAM EXPANDS**

The Community Mentoring Program will enter its third year of existence at CGHS this fall. The Class of 2011 was the first class to experience the program. The program expanded last year to include the Class of 2012. More adult mentors from within USD 417 have been selected to mentor the Class of 2013 following interviews, KBI background checks, and training sessions.

Each mentor has five to seven students assigned to his/her group. The mentoring group for the Class of 2011 will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., the Class of 2012 mentoring will meet on the second Wednesday of the month, and the Class of 2013 will meet on the third Tuesday of the month. A Community Mentoring Program letter was mailed to all members of the Class of 2013 to give to their parents. Please contact the CGHS office if you need a copy of this introductory letter.

---

## **PATRONS WANTED ON SITE COUNCIL**

The CGHS Site Council meets eight times during a school year. The next meeting is **Wednesday, August 5, at 7:00 p.m.** in the CGHS conference room (Room 24). This room is located on the second floor of the CGHS building.

Any interested USD 417 patron may attend. The Council is always seeking input from patrons interested in improving the educational landscape at CGHS. Please consider becoming a member. If interested, contact the CGHS office or attend the next meeting.