

COUNCIL GROVE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Kelly McDiffett, Principal

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The school year seemingly picks up speed as we enter the month of October. By the end of October we will have finished most of our fall athletic regular seasons, sent in senior announcement and class ring orders, and hosted our first parent-teacher conferences. Please use this newsletter and the interactive calendar on the website to keep up with your "BRAVES".

Our staff and students have adapted well to the changes in the format of each school day due to the trimester schedule. **We will reach the end of the fall trimester on November 6.** Mid-term grades were given to all students on Friday, September 25, following a SchoolReach phone call which was made to the first phone contact of CGHS students on Thursday evening, September 24. By using the SchoolReach messaging system, we hoped that all parents would ask their CGHS student for a copy of the Mid-Term Grade Report to review. If any parent did not receive this phone message, please call CGHS during normal office hours to check that we have the correct phone contact number(s) in our data system. We also encourage parents to contact teacher(s) if you have concerns or questions regarding academic progress.

We are committed to using every effective method we can find to communicate with students and parents. SchoolReach is an automated, telephone messaging system which can make massive phone calls within a few seconds. This is just one way in which we try to stay in touch with the families of our students. However, it is only as effective as the information it is given. Thanks for keeping CGHS well informed of changes in a student's contact information data. **GO BRAVES!**

HEALTH NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Nasal FluMist Vaccination Clinic:

The Morris County Health Department will be at CGHS on **Wednesday, October 7, to conduct a Nasal FluMist vaccination clinic.** This will be a gentle mist sprayed in each nostril, and it is for seasonal flu only. It will not provide protection for the novel H1N1 flu virus. If you would like your child to participate in this, please request a consent form and information from your school nurse or office staff. The cost for FluMist will be \$25.00. Students should have their consent form and payment to the high school by Monday, October 5, to be able to participate. If you have any questions or concerns, please call your school nurse.

Medications in Schools:

According to state and USD #417 policy, students are not allowed to carry any medications in the school setting. This includes Tylenol, Ibuprofen, or any other over-the-counter meds. If you would like your child to have access to any medications at school, there must be a signed consent by the parent and physician. These consents may be obtained from the school office. Also be informed that USD #417 does not

provide medications. A parent must provide the medication requested. Medications should be kept in the nurse's office, and the nurse or delegated staff member will administer them.

For the safety of your child, please instruct them on appropriate usage of all medications you provide to them. For example, many students (as well as adults) are not aware of the maximum dosage of Tylenol and Ibuprofen in a 24-hour period. High school students and adults should not have more than 4000mg of Tylenol in 24 hours or more than 3200mg of Ibuprofen in 24 hours. Always remember to read the label instructions.

MAP TESTING

Freshmen and sophomores at Council Grove High School will be taking tests called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) very soon. The results of these tests will be used to determine each student's instructional level and to measure academic growth in reading and math. The ITED tests previously used have been discontinued in USD 417.

A letter will be given to participating students to take home to parent(s). USD 417 has designated the MAP testing to occur during the two weeks of October 12 – 23. The MAP tests are taken on a computer and adapt to be appropriate for the student's level of learning in reading and math. It will take participating students approximately two hours to complete these tests.

CHANGE IN PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held at CGHS on **Thursday, October 15, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** and on **Friday, October 16, from 8:00 a.m. until noon.** Grade reports will be issued to parents as they arrive to the conference.

In an effort to better accommodate parents, **the conferences on Thursday, October 15, will be held in the CGHS gym. All teachers will have specific locations within the gymnasium to allow for more convenient access by parents.** Each teacher will be in his/her respective classroom for the Friday morning conferences.

We encourage all parents to visit any or all of your student's teachers. If you do not have time to visit a specific staff member, leave contact information with the CGHS office staff.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Each year of high school brings about a different set of events. If you have questions about the following reminders, contact Sue Shoemaker, CGHS Counselor.

Freshmen: Ms. Shoemaker has visited with the freshman students about the differences between middle school and high school with regards to the importance of grade point average. A review of required credits for graduation was

presented as well. She introduced the concept of a 4-year plan of study that each student will develop. This plan will give the student a focus and prepare them for their future.

Sophomores: On October 16 the sophomores will take the PLAN test that is sponsored by ACT. This test is for College and Vo-Tech bound sophomores. It is a voluntary test, and it costs \$9.50. There is no school on October 16, so students will need to find their own rides to school to take the test. The test will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. at CGHS. Please be prompt.

Juniors: On October 14 the PSAT (National Merit Scholarship) will be given at CGHS. This test costs \$13.00 to take. The PSAT is recommended for students who are in the top 15% of their class or whose parents work for the railroad.

Seniors: Seniors should have asked three individuals to write them a letter of recommendation for their scholarship applications. Students need to do a credit check with the counseling office to make sure they are on target to graduate. Be sure to look at the school web site, (www.usd417.net) for updates and information on scholarships and financial aid.

FROM THE AD'S OFFICE

Council Grove High School will be hosting two large athletic events early in October. The CGHS Cross Country Invitational is Thursday, October 1, beginning at 4:00 p.m.. This meet is held at Canning Creek Cove of the Council Grove Reservoir. This meet has grown to include nearly 200 runners from as many as 18 schools. We could always use volunteers to help with this meet. If you are interested in helping contact Dave Watkins, USD 417 Activities Director, at Council Grove High School.

On October 10, CGHS will be host to the Council Grove High School Volleyball Invitational. This tourney will be held at two sites, CGHS and Council Grove Elementary/Middle School. First matches begin at 9:00 a.m. at each site. In addition to our Lady Braves squad, the tournament includes the following seven high school teams: Abilene, Clay Center, Lyons, Northern Heights, Sacred Heart, Santa Fe Trail, and Southeast of Saline. We are still seeking volunteer assistance for this tourney as well.

October 11-17 is National Federation of High School Activities Week. It is an opportunity for celebrating and recognizing interscholastic activities. Each day of the week has special significance and focus. Be looking for more information regarding this week's activities.

Student-athletes who plan to participate during the winter athletic season are reminded to have a current physical form on file in the office prior to the start of the season. The first day of practice for winter sports is Monday, November 16.

We are trying to promote positive character traits through our activities at CGHS. Following is the CGHS Character Quote of the Month:

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

SENIOR GRADUATION PRODUCTS

A representative of Jostens will provide information to the seniors regarding graduation products at 1:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, October 13**. Orders will be taken on **Thursday, October 22**, during lunch at CGHS. Seniors are not obligated to purchase any of these products, and we encourage seniors to consult with their parents in making this decision.

CLASS RINGS

Sophomores will have the opportunity to receive information regarding the purchase of class rings on **Thursday, October 8**. A Jostens representative will return to CGHS on **Tuesday, October 13**, during the lunch hour to take ring orders. Students are not obligated to purchase class rings. Much of the information about the rings can be obtained online. Contact the CGHS office after October 8 for more specific information. Any Junior or Senior who has not ordered a class ring can also receive the information.

CELL PHONES - AN ACADEMIC DISTRACTION

A majority of our students possess cell phones. Page 26 of the student handbook states, "Cell phones and pagers are not to be on or used during school hours". Cell phones can be very disruptive in a school environment. However, we also realize that a cell phone can be an important communication tool for a parent and child. Our cell phone mantra at CGHS is "not turned on and not visible – not a problem".

Remember that CGHS has a telephone in every classroom. We want to protect the academic environment as much as possible from unnecessary disruption. Please do not expect your CGHS student to receive or respond to cell phone messages during the school day, and remind your student to turn off and put away their cell phone when they arrive at school.

GOOD ATTENDANCE PAYS OFF

Research indicates that good attendance in school is not only a key to academic success, but it is also a great indicator of success in the work place as an adult. Make good school attendance a priority. Necessary appointments for students should be made on a day when school is not in session or after school is dismissed for the day, if possible.

If a student must leave during the school day, he/she must secure permission from the office following confirmation from the student's parent. The student or the student's parent will be expected to sign out in the office prior to leaving.

GO BRAVES!