

# **COUNCIL GROVE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

129 Hockaday/Council Grove, KS 66846

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**Kelly McDiffett, Principal**

**September 1, 2009**

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

The school year is officially underway at Council Grove High School! We are excited about the upcoming school year. We have implemented the trimester schedule, experienced a technology breakdown in our school's data system (PowerSchool), and weathered the woes of minimal parking space due to construction. Our students and staff have shown tremendous resilience. The initial two weeks have been great, and we believe we are on our way to another outstanding year for CGHS.

We encourage you to closely monitor your student's progress. This newsletter will provide you with information you may find helpful when students stumble academically. It is very important that we intervene as soon as possible when a student has difficulty. Please encourage your student to communicate with his/her teacher when he/she has difficulty. Feel free to call or email your student's teachers if you have questions or concerns. **GO BRAVES!**

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## **ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE**

Council Grove High School is focused on student learning and academic success. If your student is falling behind in schoolwork or simply needs academic advice, there are several options.

**Seminar** is the time from 10:47 – 11:17 a.m. daily when students can seek assistance from an instructor or work on homework.

**After-School Tutoring** is available until 4:00 p.m. each day simply by contacting a teacher. Students who remain at school for academic assistance may use the activity bus following these sessions if necessary.

**Power Classes** have been placed in the CGHS schedule to promote study and organizational skills for students. Enrollment in each "Power Class" is kept low to provide optimal support for qualified students.

**National Honor Society student tutors** are available by contacting Mr. Jay Doornbos, NHS sponsor. This program matches a student who needs academic support in a particular subject with a senior who has shown academic strength in the same particular subject.

If you, or your student, become concerned about a student's academic progress, please contact a teacher, counselor, or administrator. Early intervention is crucial to helping a struggling student get "back on track". At CGHS, we have several opportunities for academic assistance in place

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## **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Mrs. Dana Reddick, USD 417 Nurse, has provided the following information for parents regarding **H1N1 Flu**:

- Keep sick children at home. Don't send them to school or take them anywhere else, except to receive needed medical care. Ill children should stay home until they are fever free (without the use of fever-reducing medicine like Tylenol or Ibuprofen) for 24 hours or more.
- Plan for the possibility that you will be called to pick up your child if he or she gets sick while in school.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and insist that your children do the same. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into the bend of your elbow.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing, and see that your children follow your

example. Alcohol-based hand cleaners will also work.

- Remind children to avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Encourage healthy habits. See that your child gets plenty of sleep, exercise, fluids, and healthy foods.
- Get your child vaccinated for seasonal flu soon. KDHE recommends that your child receive the H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available in the fall.

The symptoms of H1N1 flu are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu. They include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have also reported diarrhea and vomiting. If you suspect that you or your child may have this illness, please call your local physician.

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## **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.

**Seniors:** The first ACT test date is September 12, which required registration prior to August 7. The next ACT test date is October 24 with a fast-approaching registration date of September 18.

**Juniors:** The PSAT/ National Merit Scholarship test will be given on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. Students that are in the top 10% of their class or students whose parents work for the railroad should take this test. The test costs \$13.00 and students are responsible to pay for the exam. This test takes about 3 hours to complete. It will test math, reading, and writing skills. A sign up sheet will be available in the counselor's office.

**Sophomores:** The PLAN test will be given to all college bound Sophomores. This test also predicts how a student will score on an ACT test in their Junior or Senior year. It also has a career component. College bound or Vo-Tech bound students should take this test. Also, any student planning to take college classes through Butler Community College during his/her high school Junior or Senior year needs to take this test. The PLAN test will be given at CGHS on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. The cost to take this test is \$9.50 and is due the day of the test.

**Freshmen:** This is the time to explore different interests. It is a lot of work, but it is also fun. Classes at high school must be "passed" in order to get credit for the class. Freshmen need to be reminded that if they do not pass a class, they will repeat that class. Students are reminded to do the work assigned so they do not find themselves getting behind in what is required to graduate from CGHS.

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## **FROM THE AD'S OFFICE**

As the fall activities season approaches, we are reminded of the important role extra-curricular activities play in the educational process. Students involved in extra-curricular activities show increased attendance rates, higher GPA's, fewer discipline issues and increased self esteem. Whether through athletics, fine arts or performing arts, extra curricular activities within the high school setting are vital to a well rounded education.

At CGHS we are extremely proud of our programs, participants, and sponsors. Each group is working hard to make the 2009-2010 school year one to remember. We encourage everyone to get involved and make a difference within our school.

We would also like to take the time to remind patrons, parents, and spectators of the KSHSAA rules of good sportsmanship. It is often referred to as the **“High Five” of sportsmanship**:

1. **Show respect for opponents at all times**
2. **Show respect for officials at all times**
3. **Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest**
4. **Maintain self-control at all times**
5. **Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of the affiliation**

Remember to take pride in CGHS and represent yourself and your community in a positive manner.

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### KEEP TRACK WITH POWERSCHOOL

PowerSchool is the school data management system used throughout USD 417. Parents can have internet access to their student’s assignments and grades, as well as access to email communication with teachers. All parents should have received a **user name** and **password** during enrollment. If you used the PowerSchool parent portal last year, the user name and password are the same. If you did not receive your internet access information, you may contact the CGHS office to get this information.

If you have any problems or questions, email Joe Glotzbach, USD 417 Technology Coordinator, at [jglotz@cgrove417.org](mailto:jglotz@cgrove417.org) or call him at 767-5149 or 767-6852.

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### JUNIOR MAGAZINE SALES

Juniors began their magazine sales on Monday, August 31. This is a major fundraiser toward the juniors’ planning and creation of the Prom to be held in April. If you are not contacted and would like to buy a magazine, please call CGHS at 767-5149.

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### SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures are scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6**. Prior to the pictures being taken, packets explaining available options will be sent home with students. Students will return these along with payment directly to the photographer on October 6. **ALL STUDENTS** (including Seniors), whether purchasing pictures or not, will have their picture taken. These photos will be used by the Chief Yearbook Staff as well as for CGHS student ID cards in 2010-11.

Picture re-takes for those who are absent on October 6 will be on Friday, November 20.

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### SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

The annual **Club Fair** was held Friday, August 28, in the auditorium. Students had an opportunity to learn about CGHS organizations, and it provided a time for students to sign up to join clubs. The following is a list of club dues:

Art Club - \$5.00	CG Players - \$5.00
FBLA - \$12.00	FCA - \$5.00
FFA - \$12.00	FCCLA - \$12.00
KAYS - \$7.00	Key Club - \$12.00
Spanish Club - \$5.00	

Each club has different deadlines for paying dues. Please contact the club sponsor if you have questions.

### SPORTS PARTICIPATION

All of our fall athletic teams have opened their respective seasons. We look forward to following our Braves and Lady Braves throughout the upcoming season. We have 96 athletes (51 boys, 45 girls) competing for the Blue-and-Gold. Below is a list of the fall athletic teams and the number of athletes participating:

Boys’ Cross Country	9
Girls’ Cross Country	9
Girls’ Golf	4
Football	42
Volleyball	32

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### YEARBOOKS

The Chief 2009 yearbooks were distributed during August enrollment. Please contact the CGHS office to make arrangements to pick up your yearbook.

Orders are being taken for the Chief 2010 yearbook which covers the 2009-10 school year. The Chief 2010 may be purchased by calling the high school. The price is currently \$35.00.

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### SCHOOL AGENDAS

Our student agendas were distributed during enrollment. All students have received their agendas. Parents are welcome to ask their student to bring it home for them to review. The agendas are used for planning, organization, and communication. Agendas work as our student handbook and may also be used for hall passes during the school day.

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### HOMECOMING

Homecoming will take place on Friday, October 2. A full day of tradition is in store for the CGHS communities. The CGHS Block Party with hot dog feed and music will kickoff the festivities at 12:20 p.m. The pep rally will follow at 1:00 p.m. with the Homecoming Parade commencing at 2:00 p.m. The crowning ceremonies will occur at 6:45 p.m. at Legion Stadium prior to the 7:00 p.m. football contest with Herington. The Homecoming Dance, open to all CGHS alumni, will conclude the day’s activities from 9:30 – 11:30 p.m. on the CGHS patio. Get your Blue & Gold ready!

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**TRI-FOLD WALLET SCHEDULES HAVE  
ARRIVED – PICK YOURS UP AT THE  
CGHS OFFICE**

**GO BRAVES!**