

# **COUNCIL GROVE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

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Kelly McDiffett, Principal

**February 1, 2010**

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

As we enter the final weeks of the winter sports season, Council Grove High School is gearing up for state assessments. We refer to this as a time to encourage each student to "Show What You Know!" High school students in Kansas do not take assessments each year, as they may have in elementary school. The assessments are most prevalent during one's junior year. However, the freshmen will participate in the state life science assessment and sophomores will take the state math assessment near the end of the spring trimester. The senior class will not have any state assessment this spring.

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**CGHS WILL RECOGNIZE STUDENTS WHO SCORED "EXEMPLARY" ON THE 2009 KANSAS ASSESSMENTS AT THE HOME BASKETBALL CONTESTS WITH ABILENE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9.**

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There is continuous progress on the new addition. You can keep track of the progress of the construction by checking out the pictures posted on the USD 417 website.

As we constantly strive to improve, we will be changing the processes for the February Parent-Teacher Conference. As the February 11-12 conference time occurs between the winter and spring trimesters, we will be using this as a time to gain parent involvement in pre-enrollment for the 2010-11 school year. Current freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be pre-enrolling with his/her seminar teacher prior to February 11. Parents will be required to sign the pre-enrollment plan in order for the student to be placed in the scheduled classes for the next school year. **Go Braves!**

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## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

We are going to change the way that pre-enrollment is conducted at the Council Grove High School. Seminar teachers will help their students enroll in the proper sequence of classes to meet the requirements necessary to graduate. The seminar teacher will have a copy of each student's transcript. This will facilitate enrolling your student in the correct courses.

During the approaching Parent-Teacher Conference, the high school will be finalizing enrollment for next year's Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes. Parents are asked to please attend on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> in the evening or on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> during the morning hours to sign off on their child's enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year.

Seniors -- The Financial Aid night was held on January 20<sup>th</sup>. As you and your parents are filling out the FAFSA, you may find that you have questions. Please feel free to call Sue Shoemaker at CGHS if one needs help.

Also on February 21<sup>st</sup> is the annual College Goal Sunday provided to help families fill out their FAFSA Forms. The event is from 2-4 p.m. across the state. There will be an event held in Junction City and Emporia high schools. If you

attend, you may enter in a random drawing for a \$500.00 scholarship. This is a great opportunity.

The ACT Deadline to register for the April 10<sup>th</sup> ACT test is March 5<sup>th</sup>. Many scholarship deadlines are approaching. Make sure you have completed your letter of application, your resume' and you have asked three individuals to write a letter of recommendation for you. Some scholarships require income tax information. Please read through the scholarship applications and include all information that they request.

Juniors -- Make plans to take the ACT test. It is important that you take the test before the beginning of your senior year. See Mrs. Shoemaker for information. Enrollment will begin very soon for 2010-2011. It is our hope that during the February Parent-Teacher Conference we will be able to finalize your schedule with you and your parents. If you have questions about your credits please stop by the counselling office.

Freshman and Sophomores -- Pre-enrollment will begin very soon. If a student has failed a required class, he/she will have to repeat the course. This is often an eye opener for freshmen. When a student fails a class it jeopardizes his/her opportunity to graduate with his/her class. Parental support for each student's academic success is very important. Thank you to parents for all you do to help your student be successful.

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## **DRIVERS EDUCATION**

Council Grove High School offers drivers education during the summer. The "classroom instruction" for drivers education will be held in the CGHS auditorium beginning on Tuesday, June 1, 2010, and ending on Monday, June 14, 2010 (10 days). The "driving instruction" will be offered from June 7 through August 2. Students must have reached the age of 14 on or before June 1, 2010, to be eligible to enroll. We anticipate approximately 50 USD 417 students will be eligible to enroll for the Summer 2010 session.

Drivers education in Kansas requires successful completion of classroom instruction and successful completion of driving instruction. The state of Kansas recommends that students receive drivers education shortly after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. The fee is \$150 for students currently enrolled in a USD 417 school and \$300 for students not enrolled in a USD 417 school. **The fee must be paid by April 1, 2010 in order for a student to be scheduled in the summer sessions.**

The 10 classroom sessions are from 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. Since state law requires 30 hours of classroom instruction, it is imperative that students be in attendance every day. USD 417 will not be providing bus transportation to the classroom sessions this summer.

The driving instruction is conducted with groups of three students. An individual group can anticipate being completed following six days of driving at three hours per driving session.

Bruce Hula, CGHS drivers education instructor, will begin registering students at his/her respective school in March at which time eligible USD 417 students will be notified. Current

9<sup>th</sup> graders will be allowed to register prior to 8<sup>th</sup> graders registering. During this registration students must complete a DE99 form required by the Kansas Drivers License Examination Bureau. There is a **\$2.00 processing fee** for this form which is due at the time of registration. This form will ask, among other things, for medical information such as prescribed medication. Make sure the necessary information is available.

Mr. Hula will return to middle school sites in April to schedule registered students for summer driving sessions. Families are encouraged to have summer vacations scheduled so that students will be able to honor the driving session for which they are scheduled.

Students and parents with questions are encouraged to contact Bruce Hula, CGHS drivers education instructor, or Kelly McDiffett, CGHS principal.

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### **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE BECOMES PRE-ENROLLMENT PLANNING**

**February 11 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and February 12 from 8:00 a.m.-Noon**, Council Grove High School will be hosting Parent-Teacher Conferences. As stated in the counselor's corner, this year parents will meet with his/her student's seminar teacher to approve the pre-enrollment plan for the 2010-11 school year.

Prior to the conference dates, each student will be working with his/her seminar teacher to continue to fulfill his/her respective academic plan by choosing courses to enroll in for next year. Parents do not need to make appointments. **A parent signature will be required for each student to have his/her course requests placed in a schedule for the 2010-11 school year.**

Although priority will be placed on parents meeting with his/her student's seminar teacher, we encourage parents to stop in to visit any of our teachers.

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### **SCHOLARS' BOWL ON A ROLL**

The Council Grove High School Scholars' Bowl team won the varsity and JV divisions of the 2010 Flint Hills League Meet hosted at CGHS on January 28.

The freshman/sophomore Scholars' Bowl team has competed in five meets this year, gaining one 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish in addition to its FHL title. They have an overall match win-loss record of 16-21. The varsity has compiled a 50-25 match record in 10 meets this season while winning two meets and earning 2<sup>nd</sup> twice.

The CGHS Scholars' Bowl team now prepares for the **3A Regional hosted by Thomas More Prep in Hays at 3:30 p.m. on February 4. The top three teams qualify for the 3A State Scholars' Bowl Meet held at Cimarron High School beginning at 12:00 p.m. on February 13.**

Our Braves will be trying to earn their 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive trip to the state meet. Last year the Braves placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 3A

State Meet. Look for the results of the Hays regional to see if our Braves can continue their streak of state qualifying teams.

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

The winter activity season is in full swing and as we prepare to enter the last run to regional and sub state competition, we want to say "thank you" to all the volunteers, patrons, staff and students that have helped make CGHS activities a rewarding experience for all our participants.

We wish to highlight several special events that will be occurring in February. Some of these events have been changed due to weather-related postponements.

In conjunction with the home basketball games with Abilene on Tuesday, February 9, we will be recognizing our **community mentors** as well as the **CGHS students who earned exemplary scores** on the 2009 state assessments.

On Friday, February 12 the CGHS Bravettes will host a dance clinic for USD 417 youngsters while there is no school for P/T Conferences. The Little Dancers will perform in the evening during the basketball games with Northern Heights. **The 2010 Winter Homecoming Ceremony will take place between the varsity games on February 12.** Homecoming had been postponed on January 29.

**Senior Night will be held on Monday, February 22.** This will be in conjunction with the re-scheduled basketball games with Marion.

Spring sports season is around the corner. Remember, if your student has not participated in an athletic activity prior to spring season they must have a physical on file with the office prior to spring practice. Forms are available in the high school office.