

Seward High School



Chad Denker, Principal
Steve Borer, Asst Principal/AD
Carmen Johnson, Admin Asst

Dave Greathouse, Counselor
Carla Schwahn, Counselor
Julie Moody, Admin Asst

Monday, July 27, 2009

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

Let me be the first person to welcome you to Seward High School. I hope you had a relaxing summer and a chance to spend time with family and friends. The new school year is fast approaching so I decided to send a letter with important information that will be helpful to you as August approaches.

Seward High School will be hosting a Freshmen/New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 13th at 7:00 pm in the Theater. Parents and students are encouraged to attend if possible. At the orientation, students will have an opportunity to meet some of the school personnel and receive information about various aspects of the school including class schedules, the automated lunch program, activity tickets, and school organizations. Students are encouraged to avoid the rush and put money into their lunch accounts and pay for activity tickets before school starts. Office staff will be available to assist you on the night of Freshmen/New Student Orientation.

Students may visit with the counselors starting Monday, August 10th. David Greathouse is the counselor for students whose last name starts with A-L and Carla Schwahn is the counselor for students whose last name starts with M-Z. Students must meet with their counselor in order to change their schedule and all changes must have the approval of the counselor and/or principal. **Students will have until Tuesday, August 18th to make any necessary schedule changes.**

The only significant change in the class schedule this year is an adjustment to 5th period. Classes will be offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week and students will have access on Tuesday and Thursday each week. There may be some weeks when those days are adjusted due to an assembly, state testing, or other conflicts. Seniors are still required to take a 5th period class unless they have work experience arranged during that time. We have included the form for your convenience.

The school board approved our recommendation to eliminate the student fee for students who take chemistry. Therefore, anyone taking chemistry will not be assessed the \$10 class fee.

Note To Parents: Several times during the school year, students are given standardized tests. Examples may include the California Achievement Test, Terra Nova, PLAN, National Math Exam, JUMP, etc. If you have a concern or questions about your child taking a standardized test, please contact your child's counselor.

On the First Day of School, Monday, August 17th, first period starts at 8:10am and classes dismiss at 1:30pm for the day. However, lunch will be served. Tuesday, August 18th will be a full day of school (8:10am-3:32pm). Students will be given an information packet that includes health insurance forms, school lunch information, a student/parent handbook receipt, assignment book, and other school related information. **The student/parent handbook will be available on the school website or you can request a hard copy in the office.** Some of the more frequently used policies are also printed in the front of the assignment books. **The Student/Parent Handbook Receipt must be signed by the student and the parent/guardian and returned to the high school office by Wednesday, August 19th.**

The first day of sports practice is Monday, August 10th for football and softball and Monday, August 17th for volleyball, cross country, and girls golf. Students must have a physical prior to participation – practice or competition. All participants are required to purchase an activity ticket for \$20 and pay a participation fee of \$20. The participation fee covers all of the student's activities for the year. The total cost is \$40. **Athletic physicals will be available at the high school on Thursday, August 6th at 5pm for a cost of \$25.** Thanks to Seward Memorial Healthcare for making this evening possible.

Adult activity tickets are \$40 this year. Student activity tickets are \$20. The nightly ticket price for a varsity contest is \$5 for an adult and \$4 for a student so the activity ticket is a great investment if you plan to attend events on a regular basis. We encourage you to get your tickets early and take advantage of the savings.

In terms of new staff, we have very few changes at the high school. **Linda Luebbe will be our part-time nurse at the high school.** She will be here for most of first period before she leaves for the middle school each day. **Julie Moody will be our new bookkeeper in the office.** She will replace Pat Hakel who retired at the end of last school year.

To find out more information about our school district, including lunch menus and activity calendars, access the school website at www.sewardpublicschools.org. To monitor your student's progress, access the Power School student/parent information system. You can obtain a password by contacting Craig Williams, Dave Greathouse, or Carla Schwahn at the high school.

Last, but not least, it is important to notify the high school office at 643-2988 of any demographic information changes (mailing address, home phone, work phone numbers, emergency contact person, etc.) as soon as possible. Having the correct information on file will ensure that you receive future school mailings containing pertinent information. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at the high school office. I look forward to meeting and working with you this school year.

Professionally,

Chad Denker, Principal
Go Bluejays!

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