

# ***Start of School Message!!***

**Dan Bird**

**District Website Address**      <http://burwellpublicschools.org>

The District Website is a tool we use to better communicate with all patrons in the community. Last year, we began posting our newsletter on the website in order to cut costs (if you would like a hardcopy sent to you please contact the school). Also, we began posting board agendas and board minutes on the district website (located under District Information tab).

## **Mass Communication Technology System-ADT**

Last school year we began using a mass communication system called ADT. Most families in the community participated and as the year went by, we began hearing positive comments on the merits of this program. Our goal is to better communicate with parents on issues that impact you and your family. Each family can sign up to three phone numbers (land line or cell phones), two email addresses and one pager number. The school can utilize technology and send out messages to families when information is needed. An example would be when school is called off for inclement weather. Other uses: postponements, schedule changes, key dates and times, transportation times. The system has multiple uses and will enable us to better communicate with you as we work through the school year. If you have questions please do not hesitate contacting the school. However, to work effectively we need up to date information, therefore, providing the information below is extremely important.

There is no specific cost to participate in the ADT mass communication technology system (the district pays \$2 per family). The goal of the system is to provide better communication between the school and home using a mass communication technology system. The system will be used to make announcements and to provide timely information as it pertains to school. Attached to this newsletter is a form which will be used to update your information.

## **School Attendance Does Matter!!**

The Nebraska Department of Education has recently released data on student assessment scores in relation to attendance. During the 2009-2010 school year, there were a total of 21,964 students who missed more than 20 days of school in the 249 school districts across the state.

\*11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students who missed MORE than 20 days, scored 72 on the Statewide Reading Assessment.

\*11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students who missed LESS than 20 days, scored 102 o the Statewide Reading Assessment.

\*In the area of math, Students who missed more than 20 days, scored 50 points lower on the NeSA Statewide Math Test.

The bottom line is there is a “direct correlation” between regular attendance at school and increased test scores. The more students are at school, the better they perform on all forms of assessment.

## **What is New At School---One to One Computer Initiative?**

It has been a mission of this district that all students, parents, alumni and patrons of the community feel welcome here at Burwell Public Schools. It is my belief, that we are a “community school” and that we welcome your involvement in establishing a learning climate where students will excel.

With the start of the new school year, it is important to update everyone on what is new at Burwell Public Schools. One of the most significant changes this year is the implementation of a “One to One” computer initiative with our junior and seniors. The Board of Education voted to enter a three-year lease and purchase 80 laptop computers. **Prior to receiving their computers, a required parent/student meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the high school commons.** Parents will be receiving a letter this week outlining the program.

To prepare for this program, we had to provide professional development to the teachers who will be asked to incorporate the new technology into their daily lessons. There are facets of the classroom that will not change, however, the availability of software and web access will allow teachers to enhance student learning. Starting this fall, Teachers who teach juniors and seniors have been asked to have one class prepared to incorporate the new technology. Last spring we took eight teachers to visit Broken Bow Public Schools and to see what this type of initiative looked like in action. As you can imagine the staff came away impressed with the potential.

Besides providing staff development for teachers, we also had ESU 10 technology staff come to Burwell Public Schools and assess our technology infrastructure. New wireless access points have been installed. We also have added software to provide a more secure learning environment.

The future for our students includes a world of technology. A person does not need to look very far to see how technology has revolutionized the global society. For our students to compete it will require that they not only have the academic skills but they also have to understand and use technology. The difficult task is that our students have grown up in the world of technology and they really know of no other world. Burwell’s One to One Initiative is designed to build off that learning curve and to more thoroughly prepare our students.

## **New Members of our Educational Team**

Michelle Archibeque has been hired as our 7-12 Library Media Specialist. She will also continue teaching the ALEKS math intervention program here at BHS.

Debi Dawe has been hired to teach 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English and FAME classes. FAME is our reading intervention program we use at the junior high grade level.

Precilla Stout has been hired to serve as a Library Aide at both the high school and elementary.

Lisa Petersen will start this fall working as an elementary classroom aide.

## **Power School/Power Grade**

Burwell Public Schools will once again be using the Power School, a computerized student information system, to track attendance, grades, medical information, lunch transactions and more. Power School offers a way for parents to communicate directly with the School and the individual teachers. It can also be customized to send grade and attendance email reports to parents.

All student information is confidentially kept at the central office in the Power School system. If students or parents notice a discrepancy, in name, address, or any other information they should contact the school office at 346-4150 so that information can be updated. Likewise, if parents or students have questions about Power School they should not hesitate to contact the school.

Each student/parent will receive an individualized code to access their Power School information.

## **Student Fee Waivers**

The District's general policy is to provide for free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution. The District also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction.

According to the Nebraska Unicameral, the District must provide fee waivers for items that go above beyond the normal educational setting. Students who wish to have a particular fee waived must sign a Student Fee Waiver Application for each student fee you are requesting to be waived. To qualify, a student must be eligible and fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch Application. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Goodman-elementary or Mr. Owen-junior-senior high.

## **Lunch/Breakfast Program-Prices will stay the same!!**

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Lunch Prices	\$2.10	\$10.50	\$42.00
Breakfast	\$1.40	\$7.00	\$28.00
2nds	.80 cents		
Extra Milk	.40 cents		
Adult Lunch	\$2.80		
Adult Breakfast	\$1.40		

## **Free and Reduced Lunch/Breakfast Program**

It is customary that we send a direct mailing home to each household outlining the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and the forms that are needed to be filled out to be eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Several parents have communicated that they appreciated getting the information prior to the start of school.

The Free and Reduced Lunch/Breakfast Program has a tremendous impact on our school---not only does it assist students/families in the lunch/breakfast program, but the Free and Reduced Program also has an impact on State Aid and Federal Title Dollars. Below are several key points about the Free and Reduced Lunch Program:

The Free and Reduced Program information is strictly confidential. When students go through the lunch/breakfast program there are no lists or procedures that single out students who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch/Breakfast.

Students who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches also qualify for Breakfast.

The Free and Reduced Lunch/Breakfast Program only covers the cost for the first meal. The Free and Reduced Program does not cover the cost when the students go back for extra helpings. The cost of 2nds is 75 cents.

The Free and Reduced Lunch/Breakfast Program is a federal program that is run through the state department of education. It is a program that you have paid for through your taxes and should be looked at as money, coming back to benefit your community.

The Free and Reduced Lunch/Breakfast Program is a service to our students and community and at the same time helps our school system financially. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to stop or call. **A Free and Reduced Application and current income guidelines are attached to this letter---fill out the application and then send it back to school or simply drop it off at school.**

**Reminder, even though you qualified for Free and Reduced Lunches last year, you need to re-apply this year.**

## **Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act**

The national push from the US Department of Agriculture breakfast and lunch programs is to continue to find ways to teach kids about the importance of eating healthy and to get enough exercise in their lives. In order for our breakfast/lunch programs to financially survive requires us to fully comply with all guidelines. The Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (2010) will require several changes in our breakfast and lunch programs in order to provide more healthy choices for kids. Below are some of the changes:

Provide more fruits and vegetables daily. Students will be asked to take at least ½ cup of fruit and vegetables daily.

Use more whole grains.

All five food components must be offered to all students (students must take at least three of the offerings).

Meat/meat alternate

Grains

Fruits (1/2 cup serving)

Vegetables (1/2 cup serving)

Low Fat or Fat-free milk

## **Students That Bring Sack Lunches**

Please do not bring items that require the use of the microwave or kitchen!!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers (list up to three numbers-land line or cell phone).

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Addresses (list up to two email addresses)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pager (list one pager)

\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Information can be changed during the school year by simply contacting any of the schools.**

# START OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

Mr. Goodman, Principal

**Special points of interest:**

\* **August 1 thru 13, 2012 New Student Registration (BES).**

\* **August 13 and 14, —Teacher In-Service Workdays.**

\* **August 14:**

**Open House 7:00-8:00  
Burwell Elementary**

• **Wednesday August 15th—School Starts at Elementary Schools 11:45 Dismissal - NO LUNCH!!**

• **Thursday, August 16th—First full day of school.**

• Sept. 3rd —Labor Day—No School.

• Sept. 14th —Picture Day All Schools

• Oct. 16th—End of First Term.

• Oct 19th—PT Conf/ No School- at Elementary Schools

• Oct. 26th- NO SCHOOL FALL BREAK ALL SCHOOLS

**WELCOME to 2012-13!**

Just a short note to welcome you to Burwell Public Schools and announce some upcoming dates.

**NEW STUDENTS**

We would like to welcome all new students and their families.

K –We welcome all 22 new kindergartners and the following students to the district this summer.

1-Hagen Hodges

Shayley Hunt

Chloe Smith

2-Chase Gorham

Jayna Moses

3-Bradyn Scott

Triston Moses

4-Quade Hunt

Zoe Gorham

Jadyn Scott

Braiden Moses

5- Colby Koenigsberg

6-Colby Mitchell

Emilee Taylor

Please introduce yourself and welcome them to our community when you have a chance.

**START & FINISH TIMES**

School start and finish times at the Elementary Schools for the 2012-13 School Year will remain the same as last year.

School will start at 8:15 everyday, dismissal will be at 3:15 everyday except Friday. Friday dismissal will be 2:45.

There will be days when

different schools have different start times, or possibly no school due to inclement weather. We will communicate these times to the public as early as possible. Please note NTV CHANNEL 13 and KNLV Radio 103.9 as your information source for these situations. We will also utilize the IRIS alert system to communicate in certain situations.

**IMMUNIZATIONS**

Remember that all new students and kindergarten students need to have updated immunization records.

**Business Transactions**

When purchasing milk tickets, paying for lunches or cracker money, all checks need to be made out to Burwell Public Schools. If you choose to include the name of the elementary in the memo, that would be very helpful.

## FORMS THAT REQUIRE PARENT SIGNATURE

There are a number of forms that require a parent signature at the elementary schools. These forms are important in liability issues and must be signed early in the school year.

At the elementary schools the forms include:

1. Student/Parent Handbook Receipt: Back of handbook given to students first day.
2. Medication release form: Back of student handbook this form needs to be filled out if your student takes medication, and you need the school to dispense the medication on an as needed basis.
3. Emergency Medical Treatment Forms form that allows the supervising teacher to decide on emergency treatment of a student in the event that the student is on a field trip and the parent can not be reached. The form must be notarized, and signed by a legal guardian of the child. The form will only have to be signed 1 time and will follow the student from year to year. There is a notary in both the elementary and high school offices.
4. Internet use form: Back of student handbook. This form must be filled out for students to use computers and access internet.

**SUPPLY LISTS**

**Please see supply lists for Burwell Elem.**

Also to be found on line on the Elementary School sight

**Mrs. Christen is sending Dist. #70**

# WELCOME BACK TO BURWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

## **Jr. Sr. High School Start of School Information**

Classes will begin at the Jr. Sr. High School on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. The first day of school will see shortened class periods with classes starting at 8:04 and school dismissing at 11:45. There will not be school lunch on the first day. On August 18<sup>th</sup>, the Jr. Sr. High students will have their first full day of school (8:04-3:21).

### **Jr. Sr. High School New Student / Seventh Grade Orientation**

New Student / Seventh grade orientation will take place on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> in the Commons at 10:00 a.m. If this time does not work for you please let Mrs. Senn or Mr. Owen know and we will work to arrange another time.

### **Student Schedules Grades 7 – 12**

Student registration took place last spring. If there is a desire to change a schedule or to register for the first time please contact Mrs. Senn, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, or 16<sup>th</sup>. All schedules will be final on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Jr. Sr. High School Day/Encore Period**

In the 2012-13 school year, the School day will begin at 8:04a.m with a bell ringing at 8:00a.m. to alert the students that it is time to go to class. It is imperative that our students get to school on time. Students who are habitually tardy will be required to make up time after school. Parents, please help in encouraging your children to get to school on time. The school day will end at 3:21p.m.

Burwell Jr. Sr. High School will continue to have an Encore Period that begins at 3:25. This is a 30 to 35 minute period at the end of the school day, where all teachers are available to give students extra help. No sport practices can take place during the Encore Period. If a student has a grade below a C or has an incomplete they are required to attend the Encore Period. Failure to report to a required Encore Period will be an automatic detention. It is important that we encourage **all** students to take advantage of the Encore Period.

### **Grades 7 -12 Forms that Require Parent/Guardian Signature**

There are a number of forms that require a parent/guardian signature. Many of these forms deal with liability issues and must be signed early in the school year. The forms include:

1. Student handbook receipt (Back of student handbook/given to students on the first day of school)
2. Permission to drive home over the lunch period (Back of student handbook)
3. Medication release form (Back of student handbook) **This form is only to be filled out and sent when medication is brought to school.**
4. Emergency Forms must be filled out and accompanied by a signature. (Back of student handbook)
5. Internet use agreement (Back of student handbook)

### **Jr. Sr. High School Parent Teacher Conferences**

The first semester Parent Teacher Conference will take place on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 7:30 in the High School Gym. Students will have a 1:00 dismissal that day.



## **Activity Tickets**

Activity Tickets are available to be purchased. Student Ticket price is \$15.00, Adult Ticket price is \$35.00, and Family Ticket price is \$85.00. Activity tickets will allow the ticket holder into all home activities except for Varsity Tournaments.

## **Golden Age Passes**

Golden Age passes are available for residence of the Burwell Public School district who are age 65 or older. Please stop by the High School office with proof of age and a Golden Age Pass will be issued to you. This pass will work the same as the Activity Ticket mentioned above. This is our way of saying thanks for your supporting our district.

## **School Insurance**

Optional Insurance is available through Student Assurance Services Incorporated. Your child will be given a packet on the first day of school or on the first day of fall practices so you can review this insurance. This insurance is not managed by the school, rather it is a service offered to parents who may want to supplement existing insurance or who may not have insurance. If you already have insurance, please contact your current agent before purchasing these policies so that you do not waste your premium dollars duplicating insurance coverage.

## **New Students**

New students need to check with the school in regard to permanent records. Parents need to request these records from the school their child last attended. This request usually requires that you fill out a form (Form can be picked up in the office). This should be done as soon as possible to make your child's transition a smooth one. Call the school if you have questions and we encourage all new students to come visit the school before school starts.

## **Student Immunization**

State law requires all students be fully immunized if they wish to attend school in the state of Nebraska. Students will not be allowed to be enrolled at Burwell Public Schools if they are not in compliance with this law. There are two exceptions to this law: 1) medical waiver signed by a physician, or 2) if a religious waiver is signed by the parent/guardian. The required immunizations have been increase so there is a chance that the school nurse will be contacting parents to notify them of any deficiencies.

## **Lifetouch Individual School Pictures**

School pictures will take place at both the Jr. Sr. High School and the Elementary School on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Reminders will be sent out at the date gets closer.

**Labor Day September 3<sup>th</sup>      No School**