

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2016
NEWSLETTER

Making A Difference-One Student At A Time!!

Dan Bird, Superintendent

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).

New Members of our Educational Team

Hiring highly qualified educators to work with our students is one of the most important parts of my job. This past spring we hired four new staff members. Darrin Max has been hired to serve as the district's elementary principal. Mr. Max has been serving as Principal at Anselma-Merna since 2007. Mr. Max and his wife Sharon (Maurice) are both graduates of Burwell.

Lexi Malm will start her teaching career here in Burwell. Lexi is from Marquette, NE and she graduated from Central City Public School. She attended college at Wayne State where she earned a BS Degree in both Graphic Design and Art Education. Besides starting her teaching career here in Burwell, she is planning to get married in August to Gabriel Rohde.

Paige Brewster has been hired to teach English 7 and she will oversee the FAME reading program for junior high students. Paige is an alumni of Burwell Public Schools and is a 2012 graduate of Wayne State College. Paige is married to Brock Brewster and they reside in Burwell.

Becky Mroczek will be meeting a lot of elementary students and parents this fall, because she will be working as the new elementary secretary at Burwell Elementary. Becky is a graduate of Alma Public School and she graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2005. Since 2013, Ms. Mroczek has been working at Community Memorial Health Center.

Please join me in welcoming these new staff members to the Burwell Community!!

Electronic Door/Buzzer System-Reminder

We have been using the buzzer door system at Burwell Elementary and Burwell Jr-Sr High School for the past two years. When you visit school, you will need to be buzzed-in, by the office staff, before entering the school. The buzzer-intercom system is tied to our computer network system. There will also be a security camera at each of the main entrances. Besides the new security door system, we have added five additional security cameras at the high school. The goal of the new security system is simply to make the facilities more secure.

Also, tied to our new electronic door/buzzer system is the installation of a phone system/paging system that will connect all of the classrooms. The new phone system will allow more direct communication between the office and the classrooms. One new feature is "voice mail" that will allow parents/students to leave messages for the teachers they wish to contact. Improving the quality of communication is a high priority and we believe the new phone system/paging system will help us achieve this goal.

One to One Computer Initiative

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.

In 2015, the board of education voted to expand our One to One Computer Initiative by providing all students in grades 7-12 a Chromebook.

To prepare for the One to One Initiative, the school researched this initiative by visiting schools who had implemented this type of program and were provided consultation by the Educational Service Unit in Kearney. We also provided a series of professional development activities that were designed to prepare teachers to incorporate more technology into their classrooms.

In order for your son or daughter to receive their Chromebook, a required parent/student meeting will take place on the following dates:

Students in grades 9-12: Wednesday, August 17th at 7 pm in the Commons

Students in grades 7-8: Thursday, August 18th at 7 pm in the Commons

If you cannot attend this meeting then another time will need to be arranged to go over the details of the program.

Items that will be discussed at the meeting:

- 1)The User Agreement that both the parents and students will be asked to sign.
- 2)Each student will be charged a \$25 lease fee. A student fee waiver can be filled out if needed. The \$25 lease fee will be used to help with additional costs associated with the program.
- 3)If a Chromebook does not work, the students will be instructed to contact the BHS technology department. The technology staff will do their best to fix normal wear and tear issues but if the Chromebook is physically damaged, the student will be responsible.
- 4)Insurance on Chromebooks. The students are responsible for the Chromebooks. Coverage for the Chromebooks can be covered through a parent's home owner plan or a "inland marine coverage" could be added. Contacting your insurance agent would be recommended.
- 5)A video will be shown outlining how the Chromebooks are designed to work.

Other Key Dates

<i>Labor Day September 5th</i>	<i>No School</i>
<i>Homecoming Activities September 9th</i>	<i>1:00 Dismissal</i>
<i>Teacher In-Service September 14th</i>	<i>10:00 Start</i>
<i>Teacher In-Service October 12th</i>	<i>10:00 Start</i>
<i>Fall Break October 28th</i>	<i>No School</i>

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.

Jr. Sr. High School Start of School Information

Classes will begin at the Jr. Sr. High School on Wednesday, August 17th. 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 18th, 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 16th in the Commons at 10:00 a.m. If this time does not work for you please let Ms. Tetschner 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 Ms. Tetschner. All schedules will be final on Thursday, August 18th.

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.

Jr. Sr. High School Day/Encore Period

The School day will begin at 8:04 a.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 3:21 p.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.

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.

Jr. Sr. High School Parent Teacher Conferences

The first semester Parent Teacher Conference will take place on Tuesday, September 13th from 3:00 to 7:30 in the High School Gym. Students will have a 1:00 dismissal that day.

Studio B Individual School Pictures

School pictures will take place at the Jr. Sr. High School on Wednesday, September 14th. Reminders will be sent out as the date gets closer.

Breakfast/Lunch Start of School Information

WE WANT ALL OUR STUDENTS PARTICIAPTING IN OUR BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAMS—IT TRULY DOES HELP OUR SCHOOL!!

Lunch/Breakfast Program Prices

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Lunch Prices	\$2.45	\$12.25	\$49
Breakfast	\$1.65	\$8.25	\$33.00
2nds	\$1.05		
Extra Milk	.50 cents		
Adult Lunch	\$3.15		
Adult Breakfast	\$1.65		

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 \$1.05 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.**

NEW THIS YEAR-You are encouraged to complete an online Free and Reduced Application instead of a paper application. Visit our website at www.burwellpublicschools.org If you have questions, please call..

Reminder, even though you qualified for Free and Reduced Lunches last year, you need to reapply 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) required several changes in our breakfast and lunch programs in order to provide more healthy choices for kids. The Burwell Public School Breakfast/Lunch Programs have been certified through the State Nutrition Services. Below are some of the changes that have taken place over the last two years:

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

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. Max-elementary or Mr. Owen-junior-senior high.

Counselor's Corner by Miss Tetschner

Welcome to a new school year! Students considering making changes to their 2016-2017 schedule should come in and see me before school starts. I will be in my office Monday, August 8th – Friday August 12th, and Monday, August 15th & 16th. If you are a new student to BHS, please stop in before school starts to register for classes and complete all necessary paperwork, take a tour, and ask questions.

Junior High School: I look forward to seeing all incoming 7th grade students at 7th Grade Orientation on Tuesday, August 16th at 10:00 AM in the high school commons room. Student will be paired up with a BHS National Honor Society student, take a tour, ask questions, and students can also bring stuff to put in their locker.

Many junior high students have a difficult time adjusting to the academic responsibilities and the new atmosphere of the high school building. There are several dependable students that have volunteered to tutor and offer suggestions on how to better adjust to the expectations of junior high school. If you think your son/daughter could benefit from a one-on-one session, please contact me.

High School: Many seniors and some juniors have started looking at colleges and setting up college visits. I encourage parents to attend these college visits with your son/daughter. This gives parents the opportunity to ask questions and seek out information as well. After all, if you are contributing to your son/daughter's attendance to an institution parents should be actively involved. Student's should plan a head and take advantage of days we don't have school to schedule a college visit.

It's not too early to start gathering information and applying for colleges. Several two-year schools already have a waiting list for specified programs for next fall, so start the application process today and get your name on the waiting list. If you are considering a four year school it is important to apply early the fall of your senior year. All colleges stress the importance of applying early for admission and scholarship opportunities.

You can get information about colleges online and most colleges prefer (or require) you to apply online as well. A good resource is www.educationquest.org to help you get started planning for college. Also, juniors and seniors will get a booklet with college's contact information this fall.

College Reps: All students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to meet with the college representatives that visit BHS to gather information and ask questions. This is a great opportunity to get a first impression of a college and make a personal connection. Colleges are in the process of calling to schedule appointments. Please keep posted on the college reps visiting by reading the daily announcements and looking at posters in the hallway. All reps will visit during Encore time in the high school library. Take advantage of the college reps that come to visit.

College Fairs: All students 9-12 are encouraged to attend a Nebraska College Fair. This is a one stop shop to gather a lot of information from a variety of colleges at one time.

Norfolk Area College Fair

September 18, 2016

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Northeast Community College

Lincoln Area College Fair

October 9, 2016

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Southeast Community College – Lincoln

Grand Island Area College Fair

September 25, 2016

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Pinnacle Bank Expo Center

Omaha Area College Fair

October 16, 2016

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Sapp Fieldhouse – UNO

Tri-State Area College Fair

October 2, 2016

12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Marina Center – South Sioux City

College reps from across the state, region and nation will be available to answer your questions and provide materials about their school.

Follow these tips to make the most of the College Fair.

1. Visit NebraskaCollegeFairs.org to register for a barcode. Take the barcode to the fair so college reps can scan it so you won't need to complete student information cards.
2. Arrive early so you can visit all the colleges that interest you.
3. Stop by the EducationQuest booth to get free college planning materials and for a bag to collect college view books.
4. Come prepared with questions for the college reps:
 - What are admission requirements and deadlines?
 - Does the school offer academic programs that meet my interests?
 - What is the cost of tuition and fees — and room and board?
 - How do I apply for college-based scholarships?
 - How many students attend the school?
 - What are the housing options?
5. Attend a financial aid program offered during the College Fair.

Important Dates:

August 5 – deadline to register for the September 10th ACT Test

August 26 – PSAT Test money due for Juniors taking the test

September 1 – ASVAB Test for Juniors

September 10 – ACT Test

September 13 – Senior Parent meeting at 6:00pm in high school library

September 16 – deadline to register for October 22 ACT Test

To Do List:

Visit your school counselor – ask questions.

Study hard – academics come first.

Get involved – school & community.

Attend College Fairs.

Look for scholarships.