

DECEMBER/JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER

### **Calendar Notes**

December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	1:00 Dismissal
December 23-January 5	No School – Winter Break
January 4	Teacher In-Service
January 5	Teacher Work Day
January 6	School Resumes – Full day
January 8	Burwell Inv. Wrestling Tournament - 1:00 dismissal

### **Winter Break**

Burwell Public Schools will be closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup> for Winter Break. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> with the students beginning their new second semester schedules at the Jr. Sr. High School. Schedule changes must be made by the end of the day January 6<sup>th</sup>. Schedules changes are made by setting up a meeting with Mrs. Tetschner.

### **Nebraska School Activities Association - Five Day Moratorium**

In compliance with the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) regulation concerning the five day activity moratorium, all Burwell Public School facilities will be closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup> through December 27<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday through Sunday) for all student and adult activities. This includes the weight room, gyms, etc...

### **Contacting Students during Class**

Visitors are asked to report to the office any time that they enter our school. As part the district safety plan, parents/visitors are to report to the office and then school personnel will go to the classroom and bring the student to the office if necessary. The staff has been instructed not to allow anyone except school personnel to visit with their students during class.

December 2015 & January 2016 Newsletter

**Counselor's Corner** by Miss Tetschner

The first semester is going quickly, however, many of the high school students have been very productive with great questions about future classes, college planning, and scholarship information. I look forward to being in the junior high and high school classrooms with a variety of mini-lessons for students to help make a better connection to what they are doing in their everyday class work and how that will effect their future.

**Junior High School:** 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.

**7-11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** I have meet with each grade, 7-11, to discuss their academic career, academic planning, transcripts, test scores, academic/activities resume, etc... and how that all works together and a holistic picture of them as an academic student. I strongly believe the more informed students are in regards to their academic status, what colleges and scholarship committees look for, and employers consider, the more students comprehend the importance of a quality education and the seriousness of their studies.

Second semester I will meet with students to do more career exploration, what high school classes students should take to prepare for that career, academic resume building including getting involved through school and community activities, as well as seeking ways to volunteer.

**College Reps:** Any student 9-12 can stop by to visit with College Reps that come visit our school and students can gather information. Please keep posted on college visitors in the daily bulletin, emails, and posters in the hallways. Take the opportunity to meet with these college reps, ask questions, and gather information. All college reps are scheduled during Encore time in the library.

**Juniors:** Now is the time to start attending college "Junior Days." These are college visits especially for high school juniors. If you have a college of interest, I highly recommend going to visit, researching their admission requirements, financial aid information, and in some cases applying. A campus visit is a great way to get a good feel for the college and the atmosphere, and ask yourself "is this college a good fit for me and my interests?"

It is easy to explore colleges online and gather information – just do it! Also take advantage of the days we don't have school to schedule a college visit. Don't wait until your senior year to start the pursuit of a college career. It is important that you take time to look at your options because if you wait your options may not be available.

Juniors who are looking at a 4-year college are encouraged to take the ACT Test at least once their junior year. The ACT Test score is used for college admission and scholarship purposes. Most colleges only take the ACT Test through December of their senior year, so taking the ACT Test early their junior year is important. For more information go to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or stop by my office. Juniors are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the ACT Academy and learning tips and tools about taking the ACT Test through John Baylor.

Juniors who are looking at a 2-year college are encouraged to take the COMPASS test at least once their junior year. This test is used for academic placement their freshman year of college, scholarship dollars, and admission to certain programs. To take the COMPASS at CCC in Ord contact Crystal Ramm [crystalramm@cccneb.edu](mailto:crystalramm@cccneb.edu) or call 308-728-3299.

Also juniors who plan to attend a 2-year school should apply NOW as programs tend to fill up fast. It is better to be on a waiting list now, than to have to wait a semester or year after you graduate from high school to get in. Stop by my office and I can help you.

**Seniors:** Seniors have been asking excellent questions about colleges, careers, scholarships, etc... Encourage your son/daughter to take advantage of early deadlines as there are several benefits to applying early especially financial benefits and scholarships.

Apply for admissions. Seniors, it is important to apply early for college admissions. If you are interested in a two-year program apply ASAP as some programs fill up fast. Please apply to your top college choices by the end of December. Once you apply the college will send you an acceptance letter and other information about scholarships, etc... but you must apply to get the process started.

Go Visit!!! Seniors, if you haven't been on a college visit to your top college choices, go!!! It is important that you get on campus to get a feel for the college and its atmosphere, as well as ask questions.

Keep updating your Academic/Activities Resume with the most current information. Remember to give this to those people you ask for letters of recommendation so they can be specific about your character and capability. You can also use your Academic/Activities Resume for scholarships.

**It is FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) time!!!** Get your taxes done early. Many seniors have missed out on opportunities because they have to wait to complete their income tax information – don't let this be you!!! Make appointments with your accountant early so your senior doesn't miss out on vital financial opportunities.

Burwell will host a Financial Aid Presentation on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. All juniors, seniors, and parents are strongly encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend, contact EducationQuest for this free service available all year round (1-800-666-3721) or [www.educationquest.com](http://www.educationquest.com).

- .As college bound seniors, you will soon complete and submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.
- Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in financial aid, work study, and student loans.
- Use the College Funding Estimator on the EducationQuest website along with your income tax information to better understand how the FAFSA works for you.
- Filing your FAFSA online is quick and easy. Students and parents should sign up NOW to get your PIN number (this is your electronic signature) [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).

**Scholarships are hot, hot, hot!!!** This is the time of year when scholarships are posted and deadlines are due. Many college scholarships have deadlines in January and early February but there are also several that have deadlines in February and March. Be sure to check with the college you apply to as to their scholarship process and scholarship deadlines.

This is also the time of year that many local scholarships are posted. Check your email daily as I have been emailing you scholarship information as soon as it comes across my desk. However, not all scholarships come across my desk, so sign up with [www.ScholarshipQuest.org](http://www.ScholarshipQuest.org) and check your account regularly. Also check with organizations or businesses that you or your parents are associated with as they may have scholarship opportunities as well.

There are several scholarships out there but you must apply. The people that receive scholarships are the ones that do the work (some are online), write the essay, get letters of recommendation, and put a little time and effort in to completing the needed information. You can't be awarded anything if you don't try.

**Important Dates:**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** – ACT Test

**January 6<sup>th</sup>** – Last day to change 2<sup>nd</sup> semester schedule

**January 8<sup>th</sup>** – ACT deadline to register for February 7<sup>th</sup> test

**Junior and Seniors To Do List:**

- Go on College Visits
- Get involved in school and community activities
- Register for ACT Tests
- Look for scholarships
- Apply to colleges
- Stay informed:
- Read the daily bulletin
- Email – check your emails daily

PARENTS – of juniors and seniors who would like instant messages of important information that comes through my office, please share your email address with me. Simply send me an email: [julie.tetschner@burwellpublicschools.com](mailto:julie.tetschner@burwellpublicschools.com)