



August/September
2009



Welcome to Northwest!

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Gregg Shultz
Principal

Carla Krogman
Associate Principal

Welcome to all parents and students to the 2009-10 school year at Northwest Junior High School. The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time, but it can be especially so for the 50% of our students who are new to Northwest. Unlike elementary or even high school, the junior high experience only lasts for two years. For this reason, we like to get students fully engaged in academics and school activities as soon as possible. This newsletter will help you get the year off on a positive note.

One new aspect to NW this year is the Viking Service Program. This program is designed to encourage and reward students to take volunteer and leadership positions in the school community. VSP will be unveiled to students the first week of school and it will involve recording the hours that students volunteer to work for the school. Throughout the school year, students who have demonstrated service will be entered into drawings for certificates to local business and at the end of the year, all students participating in this program will be recognized for their level of service. We hope this will be a fun way to engage students in needed service activities.

One other significant change for 2009-10, is the school bell schedule. As many of you know,

ICCS board voted to **extend the junior high school day to 3:30**. To comply with this directive, we have added minutes to each class period, lunch, and moved Channel One to the end of the school day.

We begin the year with 625 students, 41 full-time and 8 part-time teachers. The school will continue to be organized into 4 teams, each consisting of approximately 150 students. Assignments to teams are done randomly, and all students work with a common core group of teachers who share a common planning time. In 7th grade, the core group of team teachers consists of a social studies teacher, a science teacher, a language arts teacher, a literacy teacher, a special education teacher and a counselor. In 8th grade, the core teachers are science, social studies, language arts, special education, and a school counselor. In keeping with the school mascot, the Viking, the team names are adopted from figures in Norse mythology—Team Loki and Team Vor for 7th grade and Team Thor and Team Odin for 8th grade. Students receive their team assignments during registration, which is held on August 17th.

In addition, students are assigned to a counselor; Michelle Sadler works with students whose

last names begin with the letters A-Q, and John Cooper works with students whose last names begin with R-Z.

With very few exceptions, students are scheduled into the courses they requested. In a few cases, students may not have received elective courses that they requested because of scheduling conflicts.

Please find enclosed a copy of the parent handbook and sports information packet. Please take time to read the parent handbook and discuss key points with your son or daughter. It is particularly helpful for all families to look closely at the student dress code, as it is often a point of contention at the beginning of school. Any questions about school policies or procedures will be addressed at our parent orientation meeting on August 18th at 5:30 p.m.

I wish everyone a pleasant conclusion to the summer, and I thank all parents for the trust you have shown in allowing your child to attend Northwest. On behalf of the staff, we look forward to working with you this school year.

Gregg Shultz
Principal

Registration



On Monday, August 17th students report to the multi-purpose room to pay fees, have their picture taken, and pick up their schedules, assignment notebooks and locker assignments. There is also time to walk around the school and get used to the building at their own pace. Parents are welcome to accompany their child.

7th grade from 8:00 am—10:00 am
8th grade from 10:30 am—12:30 pm

Counselors will be available to discuss any schedule problems. Please come dressed appropriately for your yearbook picture and bring the enclosed enrollment card with emergency information and an appropriate check made out to Northwest Jr. High. Registration will not

be considered complete until the emergency information is submitted and fees are paid.

Fees

All students pay \$45.00, plus an additional \$15.00 if they are taking a world language. Optional P.S.T.O. dues are \$10.00 and Jr. High athletic passes are \$25.00. The fees are for instructional supplies used in the courses. Additional fees may be assessed for special optional projects, items or activities.

If you wish, or are uncertain of the amount needed feel free to send a signed check, made out to Northwest Jr. High, and our parent volunteers will fill in the amount. You must have a separate check for

pictures/yearbook, lunch account and fees.

Registration Volunteers Needed!

Due to the compacted time frame for registration, we are in need of about 20 parents to assist at registration on August 17th. Parents assisting at registration will be asked to come to NW on Friday, August 14 for a brief training and to register their own students. Please call the school at 688-1060 if you would like to serve in this capacity.

Our Northwest students and teachers would like to thank all the parents who are a large part of the Northwest family. Keep our Northwest pride! Help out where needed. Let our Northwest family be known as "the best!"

Important Dates



7th grade Orientation

We are also pleased to offer an orientation session for all 7th grade students on Tuesday, August 18th from 1:30-3:00 pm. At this session, we hope to help ease the transition between 6th and 7th grade by offering students another chance to find their classes, open their lockers and receive some good information for success in junior high.

Parent Orientation Night

Orientation night for parents of all new students is on Tuesday, August 18th at 5:30 pm.

Directory Information

The Parent, Student, Teacher Organization (PSTO) will again produce a student directory. If you **do not** wish to have this information made available, you must make your objection known in writing to the principal, by **Friday, September 18th**.

Math Testing

Advanced placement testing will be given on Friday, August 14 at 1:00 pm. for students who believe they have mastered the curriculum for the course for which they are currently registered. A high standard on the placement test must be met in order to skip a math class. It is recommended that students consult with their previous math teacher to see if it is reasonable to consider advancing and to discuss the pros and cons of doing so. Please contact your son's or daughter's current math teacher if you have questions about the testing.



Pictures

If you wish to buy pictures and a yearbook, bring the picture package envelope previously mailed to you with a check for the correct amount made out to **Halvorsen Photography**. All students must have their picture taken whether or not they choose to buy a picture package as the pictures are used in the yearbook and on the student ID cards.

Back-To-School Night

Back-To-School-Night is Wednesday, September 2nd from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Parents and guardians attend classes, meet teachers, and receive information about their child's courses. Please mark your calendar now so you can join us!

Things You Should Know

Backpacks

Students may use backpacks to transport items to and from school, but all bags and backpacks must be stored and kept in the student's locker. No bags or backpacks will be allowed in the classrooms or lunchrooms. Female students will be allowed to carry small purses, no larger than approximately 6 inches square, to carry personal care items.

Cell Phones

The use of cell phones, pagers, beepers, and other similar communication devices is **prohibited** during the school day.

Items in use during this time will be **confiscated**.

CD players, MP3's, Electronic games

Students are requested to refrain from bringing electronic devices to school. Use of these items is prohibited during class time. Please leave these items at home as they are targets for theft or breakage.

Tobacco/Drugs/Alcohol

The use or possession of tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol is not permitted in the school building, on school grounds, school buses, or at any school sponsored activity. Any student who uses tobacco, drugs, or alcohol, or gives the impression of using the

mentioned items, or has them in his/her possession, will be subject to school disciplinary actions.

School Supplies

We suggest that you wait to purchase school supplies until after individual teachers have informed students about specific school materials needs. Students should bring a pencil and notebook paper to school on the first day. A general material list is included in this mailing for your information in the event that you want to make some preliminary purchases.

Dress

The major responsibility for appropriate dress and grooming rests with the students and their parents. An individual's appearance and dress can greatly influence that individual's self-image and behavior as well as that of others. Students are expected to dress and groom themselves in a way that is not offensive or distracting to students and/or faculty.

Students are expected to dress appropriately for school and all related activities (including parties, sports events, music events, etc.) A student's attire may not unreasonably infringe on the rights of other students to benefit from a productive educational environment, or adversely impact the health, safety, welfare, or property rights of others.

We recognize that attire acceptable outside the school setting may not be considered appropriate in schools. Students may not wear or display at school or school activities attire which is deemed disruptive of the school environment or unreasonably infringes on others' rights to health, safety, welfare or property. If clothing is deemed disruptive or unreasonably infringes on others' rights, the offending student will be required to correct the situation. Depending on the situation, the student may also suffer consequences.

The following list includes examples of clothing which is considered disruptive or clothing which unreasonably infringes on others' rights to health, safety, welfare or property, and is NOT ALLOWED:

*Masks, hoods, hats or sunglasses

Northwest students may not wear hats in the building unless medical or religious reasons exist which have been approved by administrators prior to wearing the hat. Disruptions to the learning environment caused by students behaviors related to hats warrants this position (stealing hats, throwing hats in the hallways and classes, knocking hats off, etc.)

*Bare midriffs, chests, or torsos

*Back-less or strapless attire

*Thin T-shirts worn over colored undergarments

*Pants, slacks, or shorts worn below the hips

*Clothing or accessories that

-promote the use of alcohol or drugs

-include profane or offensive language or pictures, or

-include sexually inappropriate or racially biased material or references

When a commercial line of apparel is judged to have such a high proportion of unacceptable imprints that a case by case review of each item would disrupt the orderly activity of the school, then a complete ban of the line of apparel will be made.

*Students ARE REQUIRED to wear shoes or sandals at all times during school.

If there are medical or religious reasons to make an exception to these rules, the parents must request an exception. Such an exception must be approved by the administrators before the student can wear attire which is an exception to these rules. Heelis (tennis shoes with wheels) are **not** permitted.

Attendance Procedures

Mandates outlined by the No Child Left Behind legislation has prompted a few changes to the way we handle student absences in the Iowa City School District. Under this new legislation, schools are now required to demonstrate a 95% attendance rate. In order to help parents better support this goal, the following procedures will be used when considering whether an absence is excused or unexcused:

Acceptable Excuses for Absences and Tardies As Indicated By the Iowa City Community School District

The school attendance officer is empowered to approve an excuse to any student for the following reasons:

Evidence that the student is not in proper physical or mental condition to attend school or an educational program.

The district may request the parent or guardian to obtain a written statement from a physician or licensed practitioner as proof of the physical or mental condition of the student. Such excuse shall be made in writing, shall state the period of time for which it is valid, and shall not exceed 30 days.

Medical, dental, chiropractic, optometric or other valid professional appointments. Parents or guardians are requested to make their appointments during non-school hours.

A death in the immediate family or funerals for close relatives.

Religious holidays.

Family trips that can be taken only during the normal school term. The intent of this statement is to provide opportunity for students to accompany their parent(s)/guardian on a vacation, which cannot be scheduled when school is not in session. A parent/guardian shall be required to notify the school attendance officer prior to leaving on vacation of the pending absence for the purpose of reviewing the student's attendance record and overall performance record. Student vacations or trips without parent/guardian accompaniment are not excused absences.

A court appearance or other legal procedure which requires the attendance of the student.

A quarantine as imposed by a public health officer.

Attendance at special events of educational value as approved by the school attendance officer.

Approved school activities during class time.

Special circumstances that show good cause which the school attendance officer approves in advance.

Bussing and Traffic

In order to protect our students and to alleviate the traffic problems caused by "pick-ups" and "drop-offs," a special lane is in place in the South parking area. ONLY buses will be using the lane immediately in front of the school building. All other traffic should use the additional lane. Please observe the BUS ONLY rule for the safety of our children.

To minimize traffic in the main South lots, it is recommended that you pick-up your child in the North parking lot after school if you are doing so during the rush period from 3:30-3:55 p.m.





PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are required to wear special clothing for physical education classes. We feel that the following requirements allow for greatest ease of movement, and for safety (no buckles, belt loops, etc. to catch or snag on equipment) and are designed specifically for PE class. We ask that students not wear their regular school clothing to PE due to the extra wear and tear on the clothing as well as for personal hygiene reasons. Students are encouraged to write their name on all pieces of clothing for easy identification.

The following clothing is required for PE class:

1. A regular T-SHIRT, long or short sleeved. Regular T-shirts do not have buttons, zippers, etc., and are not turtle necks.
2. Regular GYM SHORTS with an elastic or drawstring waist. No zippers, belts, belt loops, or buttons, etc. Spandex may be worn under the gym shorts.
3. SOCKS
4. TENNIS SHOES with shoe laces or velcro closers. No other type will be permitted for activity on the gym floor. Shoes should be the type of tennis shoe that will be comfortable when running.
5. Sweat pants and sweat shirts are recommended for cooler outdoor weather.
6. Swimming suits (one piece suits for girls).
7. Students must provide their own PE towel. Towels are needed when students swim and when activities require showering after participation.

T-SHIRT MUST HAVE THE OWNER'S LAST NAME DISPLAYED PERMANENTLY ON THE BACK WHERE IT MAY BE EASILY READ. ONE INCH LETTERS WORK WELL. MASKING TAPE IS NOT CONSIDERED PERMANENT.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE STUDENT'S NAME BE PLACED ON ALL CLOTHING ARTICLES.

CLEAN "LOANER" CLOTHING MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM THE PE STAFF FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE THE PROPER CLOTHING OR WHO FORGET THEIR PE CLOTHES. WE ALSO HAVE A VERY LIMITED SUPPLY OF TENNIS SHOES AVAILABLE.



TI-30XIIS CALCULATORS

The math department is strongly recommending that this year's students purchase Texas Instruments TI-30XIIS calculators. These particular calculators were chosen for a variety of reasons. These calculators allow fraction computations, integer division, have a limited selection of keys, and will match the overhead calculators teachers use during their instructional presentations. The teachers have found it difficult for students to learn when their calculators do not match the demonstration model and do not perform the same functions.

Lunch Accounts



Junior high students have the same school dining number they had in elementary school. All balances from last year carry over to the 2009-10 school year. If your student is new to the district, a unique five (5) digit identification number will be assigned in August. This number is entered when making either deposits or purchases. Students must memorize their number to help lunch service move more quickly. ID numbers should not be shared with anyone in the event another student uses the number and makes purchases on the account. Students have the same meal ID number as long as they are enrolled in our district. All students, regardless of payment status, can deposit money in their account for purchasing meals, milk only, and a la carte items (a la carte available at City, West, North Central, Northwest, and South East). Students qualifying for free meals need money in their accounts to buy milk or any a la carte item, there is no charging for students in grades 7 - 12. **Since no charging is allowed for secondary students, students must have money in their accounts to make a purchase.** We encourage families to use either a check or money order made out to: *Northwest Jr. High* when making deposits. **Change is not given back when deposits or purchases are made so send only the amount of money you want deposited into the account.** Transactions are made by verifying the student name appearing on the screen for that account number so there is never any identification of students by paying status.

There is a web site, <http://fs-pos.iccsd.k12.ia.us> where families can check account balances, look at purchase history, and sign up for email notifications regarding a student's account. **Our district does not have family accounts; each account is separate. Therefore, when logging into this site, you need an ID and password for each of your students.** If you are not already using this site, you can contact Jackie Andresen at andresen.jackie@iccsd.k12.ia.us who will give you the information you need. There is also a link to the site, under the *school meals and nutrition* heading, on the district's home page at www.iccsd.k12.ia.us. The food service office can also be contacted with questions at 688-1254. Once your user name and password are entered, the name of the child linked to this user name and password will appear under the tab "your reports". You will need a user name and password for each child. At this time, account deposits cannot be made on line.

If your family is new to the district and you are interested in receiving free or reduced price meals, you should complete an Iowa Eligibility Application when registering your children for school. Children are charged full price for school meals until an application is received and processed. Families who received benefits from the Iowa City Community School District during 2008-09 need to complete an application for the 2009-10 school year by Thursday, October 1.

Healthcare

It is the policy of the Board of Education of the Iowa City Community School System that whenever a student should have a prescription medication administered by personnel at school, written authorization and instruction must be provided by a parent or legal guardian. Only medication prescribed by a physician will be administered. The following information is to be clearly labeled on the bottle by the pharmacy.

1. Name of medicine
2. Dosage
3. Student's name
4. Physician's name

For long term medicine, do not send more than one month's supply. The school principal will authorize a staff member to administer the medication. If your doctor requests aspirin or other non-prescription medications to be given during school, please have your physician write the name of the drug, and dosage required for all non-prescription medications given at school.

Parent requests for non-prescription medications to be given at school cannot be accepted unless accompanied by a doctor's written order. This procedure will safeguard your child against over-medication and possible unforeseen reactions.

Your cooperation with this procedure is appreciated.



Northwest On-Line

Web based services are an increasing part of the NW school experience. All general school information can be found on the school's website, <http://www.iccsd.k12.ia.us/schools/nw/>. This site includes the general school calendar, sports schedules, school announcements and links to Connected, the on-line student database for both students and parents.

This year NWJH students and parents will access student database information using Connected. Connected is a powerful communication tool which gives parents and students access to attendance, student schedules, grades and class assignments. Connected allows teachers to have an on-line space for placing classroom documents, such as course outlines and study sheets so students can access these materials from the web. Connection keys for Connected will be available to parents by Back-to-School-night on Wednesday, September 2nd.

For those without internet connections at home or work, you may access the school web page and Connected via the internet at your public library or any site with a public use computer with internet access.

Language Minority Junior High School Student Registration Information

What: English testing and registration for **NEW** junior high students who speak a language other than English.

When: Wednesday, August 12th @ 9:00 a.m.

Where: Northwest Junior High School, Temporary (trailer) in north parking lot behind the main school building

What to Bring:

- Your child (parents must remain at the Center during this process.)
- Proof of birth (for student)
- Immunization records

Any educational history documents available

How long: 2 to 3 hours

Schedule:

- First:** Students will take the English Assessment.
- Next:** Students will take a math placement test.
- Last:** Students will meet with a counselor to choose their classes.

Please be on time; part of the English test will be given in a group.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you.

Note: After August 12th, it will be necessary to call 688-1320 to schedule an individual time, or ask the counselor at the school to schedule a time for you.



ICCSA Equity Statement

It is the policy of the Iowa City Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, disability, or socioeconomic status in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices.

If you believe you have (or your child has) been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact the Equity Director, [Ross Wilburn](#), at 509 S. Dubuque Street, 319-688-1000.

