

Deerfield High/Middle School New Newsletter

Excellence and Equity in Education



Happy Holidays!

It is especially important at this time of year to take some time to appreciate everything that we have! Many of our gifts of greatest importance do not have a price tag. Our friendships, family, and health provide us with the strength to meet the challenges/rewards of each and every day.

I speak for our staff in saying that we feel very fortunate to work for this district. We have the greatest profession and get to work for a GREAT school! Enjoy the holiday season and have a happy new year. Brad Johnsrud

Mutual Respect

We have previously spoken about the issue of bullying/harassment. The Deerfield School is committed to making sure that we take all of the steps necessary to make this a safe and secure environment. While we need to make sure all are aware of the possible consequences for making poor choices, we also want to continue our efforts with teaching about and serving as role models for mutual respect. Our TREE organization has led a couple of activities that are designed to encourage students to get to know others not typically in their comfort zone. We have had announcements and quotes on the value of recognizing all people.

Staff and parents serve as excellent role models for our youth. Judging by the outstanding qualities displayed by many of our students, we have lots of people working toward the goal of mutual respect!

Final Exam Schedule

All **9-12 classes** will be involved with a final exam schedule for January 20th and 21st. This schedule has come about due to the interest expressed by staff and students. The twenty-first had been a planned 11:08 dismissal so the only calendar adjustment is on the twentieth. You can see the times below that are set aside for a culminating assessment for each class.

Staff will be providing direction to students on the form of assessment that they will be using for each class. Parents are encouraged to review this information with their student and assist them in their preparation. Our staff will be evaluating the schedule and testing procedures as we move ahead.

First Semester High School Exams

Thursday, January 20

- Music/Resource - 7:50 - 8:20
- Block 1 - 8:25 - 9:40
- Break - 9:40 - 9:50
- Block 2 - 9:53-11:08
- Student dismissal at 11:08

Friday, January 21 - End of the 2nd Quarter

- Music/Resource - 7:50 - 8:20
- Block 4 - 8:25 - 9:40
- Break - 9:40-9:50
- Block 5 - 9:53 - 11:08
- Student dismissal at 11:08

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Our middle school students will have their regular schedule on January 20th and be dismissed at 3:00. Any high school student who does not have transportation or would like to stay at school to study may do so and we will have an area designated for them. ALL students will be dismissed at 11:08 on January 21st. Please contact Mr. Johnsrud if you have any questions.

Attendance Notes:

Please refer to our student handbook for specifics but I would like to remind parents/students about our rules for dealing with tardies, absences, and possible truancy. It is very important for student success to be in regular attendance. You will be contacted if your student's attendance becomes an issue. If they have an appointment, please insure that they bring a note back from the doctor so that it is an exempted absence.

MS/HS IMC News:

Recently, the IMC held a Holiday Raffle for students in grades 7-12. Any student who had all overdue materials returned and fines paid was able to put their name on a raffle ticket for a chance to win a \$10.00 Best Buy gift card. The following students were our lucky winners: Dane Stuessi, Tia Roberts, Laura Schmitt, Tyrone Cox, Peter Roberts, Kaleb Mancheski, Pat Tolmie, Ben Wojcik, and Kayla Gosdeck. Please remind your children to return/renew their IMC materials on time to avoid overdue fines. Happy Holidays!

Parents,

The District Communications Committee would like to put together a Parent Survival Guide for both the Middle School and the High School. In it would be explanations of expectations and happenings that take place throughout a student's career in that building.

We would love your input. For those of you who have already had a son or daughter pass through the MS or the HS, what do you wish you had known ahead of time. For example,

there are certain state and college entrance exams that take place, and you are informed a couple of weeks in advance, but you might like to have a sort of mental calendar over the years so that you are not taken by surprise, or miss something that your child forgets to mention. What are a student's responsibilities and expenses for graduation? When do class rings get ordered? What is the post-prom party? We can generate a list at school, but we are pretty sure that you, as parents, might have additional items to include in that survival guide. Please send your MS ideas to Jacque Wichlacz, wichlaczj@deerfield.k12.wi.us, and HS ideas to Brad Johnsrud, johnsrudb@deerfield.k12.wi.us. Together, we should be able to create a guide that parents will find useful for both information and planning.

Wisconsin Covenant Information

Are you familiar with the Wisconsin Covenant Pledge? The current senior class is the first class to receive the Wisconsin Covenant Grant if they have fulfilled their pledge obligations. Seniors who signed the pledge in 8th grade will need to complete the senior verification process. The Wisconsin Covenant has sent information to seniors who have signed the pledge with details on the senior verification process. More information about the Wisconsin Covenant Grant, pledge details, etc. may be found at: www.wisconsin covenant.wi.gov.

ACT at Deerfield High School

Junior parents, is your child registered to take the ACT in spring? The spring is an excellent time for current Juniors to take the ACT. Deerfield High School will be offering the test on the following dates:

February 12 (registration deadline is Jan.7)

April 9 (registration deadline is March 4)

June 11 (registration deadline is May 6)

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*The ACT test is used for 4 year college admissions and scholarship reasons.

Students may register on-line at www.actstudent.org. **The Deerfield High School code is: 500-495.**

*Practice materials are available in the Guidance Office, HS IMC, as well as online at www.KnowHow2GOWisconsin.org

Junior Conferences in February/March

Junior Conferences will cover a range of topics including the student transcript, college applications, ACT prep, and discussion of post-high school plans. These meetings typically include the student, parent(s)/guardian(s), and Mr. Landis, the school counselor. This is a great opportunity to have a meaningful discussion with your child about post-high school plans. Though this is not a mandatory conference, it is highly encouraged. There will be a mailing to junior households in January that will include more details on scheduling this conference.

FAFSA Reminder!

Remember that the FAFSA will be available starting on January 1st, 2011. If you have a senior planning to attend college in the Fall of 2011, this is a necessary step to be eligible for certain grants, low interest loans, etc. If you were not able to attend the Financial Aid Night that was held at Deerfield High School on December 1, please contact the Guidance Office and we would be happy to send you a helpful packet of information.

Wisconsin College Goal Sunday

Would you like help with the FAFSA? Wisconsin College Goal Sunday is an annual event held at locations throughout the state on **February 19 & 20, 2011**. Closest event locations to Deerfield are Edgewood College, Madison College, and DeForest High School. Financial Aid experts are on hand to assist in completing the FAFSA on the same day! More information, including what tax documents and

ID to bring along, may be found at: www.wicollegegoalsunday.org

Scholarship Information

Parent(s)/Guardian(s), please encourage your child to look through the scholarship opportunities available in the High School IMC. Scholarships are continually updated as new ones become available. Seniors that know which college/university they will be attending should also check that specific school for available scholarship opportunities.

***Please note this does not include local scholarships - local scholarships will be mailed out to seniors in late March/early April.**

Financial Aid & Scholarship Links

www.fafsa.ed.gov – FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

www.fastweb.com – Scholarship Search

www.students.gov – US Government resource site (career, college, military, financial aid, etc)

www.heab.state.wi.us – The Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) is the state agency responsible for the management and oversight of the state's student financial aid system for Wisconsin residents attending institutions of higher education.

www.studentaid.ed.gov – Federal Student Aid Center

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov – Federal student aid projector tool

www.finaid.org – Financial aid information

www.guaranteed-scholarships.com – Merit and other aid listed by college 12.17.2010

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English Department

Due to a successful grant application through the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, the Deerfield High School English department enjoyed the privilege of hosting a professional actor from the American Player's Theater, David Daniels, for the second consecutive year.

Daniels spent the second week of December visiting Deerfield HS English classes throughout the day, leading students in a workshop titled, "The Potency of Poetry." The workshop, which was project-based, began with Daniels challenging students to think more deeply about poetry. "Poetry is not just words on a page," he exclaimed. Daniels encouraged creative expression and feeling, ultimately engaging students with the joy and power of language. After much thought and a good deal of laughter, the workshop concluded with each student choosing a poem and then reading it, *presenting* it aloud to the class.

The experience was fresh, exciting, and at times, frightening for students as it stretched them to push the boundaries of both their perception of and confidence with poetry. For educators, it was fantastic to see students shine. Students met challenges and grew in their appreciation and knowledge of poetry.

Like last year, the workshop again proved a wonderful opportunity for students to learn with such a charismatic, enthusiastic, and intelligent professional who in fact makes a living bringing language to life.

Make a Run for the Deerfield Border!

On Friday, January 7th, the Deerfield Junior Class will be having a Taco Bar Dinner before the Girls Basketball game. For \$5.00 guests can enjoy 2 tacos, chips and salsa, a beverage, and dessert. Dinner will start 5:30pm and be served through half-time of the Varsity game. All proceeds will go toward the Junior Class Prom which will be held at Badger Farms.

All parents of a Junior are being asked to help contribute either: taco meat, toppings, chips, salsa, drinks, or dessert. We are also in need of WORKERS. Please contact Molly Poirier at poirierm@deerfield.k12.wi.us or 764-5431 if

you are able to bring in one of these items or help work. In order for this year's prom to be a success we need your help.

Mark Your Calendars for the Live Strong and Moonlight Walk Event

On Thursday, February 17th, the Active Schools Grant in partnership with the Deerfield Health and Wellness Committee will be sponsoring a Live Strong and Moonlight Walk event. Deerfield students, staff, and community members are invited to meet at the high school anytime between 5:00 and 6:45pm, before the Boys Basketball game, and participate in a 1 or 2 mile walk throughout the town of Deerfield. Residents in town are being asked to light luminaries to guide our way. Like our PINKOUT event last, yellow t-shirts will be sold ahead of time in support of Cancer Research and \$5.00 from every t-shirt will go toward the LIVE STRONG Foundation. Please contact Beka Johnson or Pam Klein with questions.