DHS PARENT NEWSLETTER

November-February 2011-2012

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Each year, new initiatives are introduced at Dixon High School in order to improve student achievement. Periodically, the staff examines these procedures to assess their effectiveness. This year, test retakes were implemented at Dixon High School to assist student learning. Our current practice allows students to retake tests one time. The idea behind this concept is to allow students additional time to learn concepts that they may not have initially understood. The staff and administration have had several lengthy discussions on this topic and are considering modifying this practice for second semester. When this decision is made, parents and students will be notified.

Another new initiative at Dixon High School was our athletic/activity study tables. The purpose of these study tables was to provide our students who are involved in extra-curricular activities with academic support immediately after school. Several concerns from students involved in fall activities were brought to my attention and addressed. I applaud our sponsors and coaches for their creativity in resolving these issues. We will continue to do our best to ensure that we provide our students with academic support at a time that makes sense. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding study table.

I would like to take this time to congratulate Amanda Kent for setting a school record for the most wins by a Dixon High School tennis player. Amanda and her doubles partner, Kayla Wilson, qualified for the state tennis meet this year, capping a trememdous season. The Dixon High School cross country also qualified a group of athletes for the state meet Simon Thorpe, and the entire girls'team of Brittany Schwarz, Haley Thorpe, Tiara Sondgeroth, Kate Johnson, Katie Pitman, Whitney Wildman, Brooke Bailey, and Shana Drengenberg will be competing on November 5th in Peoria. We wish them the best of luck. I would also like to thank the parents and athletes from the fall activities for their time and effort during their seasons and look forward to the upcoming winter activities. Finally, please consider attending our fall play, "Check, Please!" November 4, 5, and 6 and our Winter Band Concert to be held on December 11, 2011.

In closing, I would remind all students and parents that final exams will be given after winter break on January 12 and 13th, barring inclement weather. This change was made to keep students focused throughout the entire semester. It will provide students additional time to seek help for any concepts that they have not mastered during the semester. I wish all of you well as we approach the holidays.

Dr. Michael L. Grady, Dixon High School Principal

This newsletter is available online @
http://www.dixonschools.org

Dates to Remember

11.04/05 11.06	Fall Play – "Check Please" 7:00 pm Sunday 2:00 pm
11.11	Veteran's Day – No School
11.23-25	Thanksgiving Break – No School
12.11	Holiday Concert – 2:00 Band Bake Sale/Silent Auction 12-4:00 pm
12.20	Winter Semi-Formal Dance-DHS cafeteria 8-11:00pm
12.21-1.3 1.4	Winter Break – NO SCHOOL School Resumes
1.12	1st Semester Finals (Periods 1-4)
1.13	1st Semester Finals (Periods 5-7, EB)
1.13	End of First Semester
1.16	M.L. King's Birthday, No School
1.26	Student A.M. attendance release at 11:00 am
2.12	Mid Winter Concert 2:00 pm
2.17	Student A.M. attendance release at 11:00 am
2.20	President's Day, No School
2.21	Spring Sports meeting DHS gym 6:30 pm
2.27	National Honor Society Induction - Auditorium 6:00pm

Market Day Pick-ups 11.4/12/9/1.20/2.17
4:30 p.m.Cafeteria

Parent Advisory Dates 11.7/12.5/1.09/2.6 Library 6:30 pm

REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS

Report cards will only be issued at the end of each semester, in mid January and at the end of the school year. Progress reports will be given to students to bring home midway through each semester. Please use the Parent Portal to access your students' grades. The grades online are current. If you do not have access to the internet to use Parent Portal you may contact the school at 815.284.7723 and we will print current grades for you. All parents received a letter with your user name and password for use with Parent Portal. If you would like access to Parent Portal there is a help center at http://www.dixonschools.org

From The Athletic Office

IHSA and Dixon High School require that a student athlete pass 5 classes the previous semester (Fall 2011) and currently be enrolled in 5 credited classes in order to be considered eligible for competition. In addition to the academic requirements, a current physical examination, parent permission, and sport participation fee is required before beginning practice. If you have any questions please call the Athletic Department at 284-2237.

Spring Sport parent/athlete meeting is Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the

Parents check your child's ID. Make sure they have internet access approved. This is the only way your child can utilize the internet at school. Call the office if your child needs approval.

LOCKERS

All DHS students are assigned their own lockers**.** **Students should keep their lockers locked at all times.** This includes PE lockers too! If any student has trouble with their lockers they need to report it to the main office immediately.

IMEA

Congratulations to the following students who auditioned and were selected to this year's IMEA Festival to be held at DeKalb High School. Junior Mixed Choir-Zoey Meyers, Senior Choir-Michael Barth-Bass II, Travis Lang-Bass II and Michael Rivera Bass I. Senior Band-Austin Dillon-Trumpet, Ellie Drezen-Flute and Joey Hammitt-Clarinet.

From The Counseling Office

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Students who need to change their schedules for next semester should make an appointment with their school counselor as soon as possible. Schedules will not be changed to switch teachers or lunch hours. The last day to make changes will be Monday, Jan. 23rd.

FINANCIAL AID SEMINAR

Thursday, January 26, 2012
6:30 p.m.
Dixon High School Cafeteria

Deb Stiefel, Director of Financial Aid at SVCC will provide a general financial aid overview. In addition, methods of searching for private scholarships and Internet websites will be discussed.

All seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend. Parents of underclassmen are also welcome.

Parents applying for financial aid need to complete their tax returns as soon as possible after January 1st.

REGISTRATION FOR 2012-13

Registration for the 2012-2013 school years will begin in mid-February. Counselors will give students course listings needed for graduation and a copy of their most recent transcript. Juniors will meet for registration information in the auditorium on 01/27/12, sophomores on 2/03/12, and Freshman on 2/10/12. RMS 8th grade students will register in the DHS cafeteria February 15th and 16th. Students will be asked to bring this material home to review their course selections for the following year with their parents. Course descriptions and the course selection worksheet will be accessible on-line at the DHS Counseling website. A verification of student course selections will be sent home for parent approval.

DHS COUNSELING WEB SITE

Go to
www.dixonschools.org
for links to the curriculum guide, four-year plan, course selection, registration information, financial aid, career planning, and other related topics.

THE ACT TEST

ALL JUNIORS will be taking a combination ACT/Prairie State Test (PSAE) on April 27th & 28th. Since almost all Midwest colleges require the ACT for admission, this is an opportunity to take it for free.
For questions please contact a counselor at 284-9511.

Prepare for the ACT by taking practice tests at **www.act.org**, and **www.number2.com** . See your counselor to access SVCC online math prep.

PLAN test scores & data were given to sophomores and juniors in November. Reviewing the PLAN Test can be a valuable resource to prepare for the ACT.

Bake Sale & Silent Auction
Sunday, December 11
DHS Cafeteria

The holiday bake sale and silent auction will be held on Sunday, December 11th, from noon until 4:00 p.m. The class officers are asking for baked goods donations. Proceeds from the bake sale will be used by class officers to fund activities at DHS and in the community of Dixon. The silent auction will have many baskets and gift certificates available. The proceeds from the silent auction will directly benefit a school improvement item at DHS. The more donations, the more we can give back to the school.

Please help bake goods for the bake sale. Donations cards were distributed to all students. The baked goods can be dropped off at the school to Mr. Boll on Friday, December 10th or brought to the cafeteria on Sunday, December 12th beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Come enjoy the holiday band concert at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11th, and then stop by the cafeteria to enjoy the bake sale and silent auction. Happy Holidays!

Winter Semi-Formal Dance

Tuesday, December 20th
DHS Cafeteria
8:00-11:00 p.m.

The class officers are hosting a semi-formal dance on Tuesday, December 20th, from 8:00-11:00 in the cafeteria. Last year was a huge success with over 300 people attending. Let's make this another great dance!

Holiday break is starting, what a great way to celebrate the season with your friends. Tickets will be $7 for a single ticket or $10 for a couple. Tickets will be sold in front of the main office and in the cafeteria beginning two weeks before the dance.

Dance is limited to DHS students only.

Remember not to go out and buy new clothes for the dance. Girls can wear a dress from a previous dance or borrow a dress from a friend. Guys can wear khakis or dress pants and a nice shirt. Come to the winter semi-formal on Tuesday, December 20th. It will be a great time!

(Students must be passing 5 classes by Thursday, December 1st 3 **weeks** prior to the dance.)

Prom 2012 Guidelines

This year the participants of the 2012 DHS prom will be subject to the same rules as last year. Specifically, full-time students must be passing five classes in order to attend prom; if a student is taking fewer than five, that student must be passing all of them by March 29, 2012 in order to attend. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Grady at 815.284.7723.

YEARBOOKS

Buy your 2012 yearbook today for $45. The price will go up to $50 on November 28th. Yearbooks may be purchased online at www.yearbooks.biz. Click on "Buy Your Book" and enter the DHS order number 8554. Yearbooks may also be purchased at school. See Mrs. Bally.

PARENT NEWSLETTER

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