DHS PARENT NEWSLETTER

August - October 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents, students, and staff members,

The month of August signifies the start of a new school year and all the excitement of reconnecting with classmates and teachers. I too am excited about the upcoming school year and wish all of you well as you begin the 2011/12 school year. Getting your child off to a good start is extremely important to the faculty and staff of Dixon High School, so here are a few tips to get students back into the swing of school. First, get plenty of rest. Speaking from personal experience, my sons like to stay up later during the summer months. As parents, we need to reestablish a bed time so that our kids are rested and ready to learn each day. Second, it is important to eat breakfast every day. If a student is running late, we serve breakfast at school. Finally, communicate with your teachers. Students and parents alike need to be aware of their progress in all their classes so that no surprises occur. I encourage all parents and students to make contact with teachers, counselors, and administrators when questions arise in order to make the transition back to school a smooth one.

To aid this transition for new students, freshmen, and their parents, Dixon High School will again offer an orientation program on Tuesday, August 23rd at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium. Students and their parents will hear a presentation from current students and staff members on how to be successful in school along with other activities. The program concludes with lunch in the cafeteria.

DHS welcomes Lee Eastman/business teacher, Jason Mead/math teacher and boy's basketball coach, Luke Ravin/English & girl's basketball coach, and Dave Smith P.E. teacher and football coach.

I am excited about the upcoming school year and am looking forward to seeing the students again. It is imperative that the lines of communication remain open so that this school year is a positive one for all involved. The staff at Dixon High School is dedicated to providing our students with the best education possible. Working together, we can achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Grady

Dates to Remember

8.5 Registration---8:00am-3:00pm—Cafeteria
8.8 Registration—11:00-6:00—Cafeteria

8.8 Mandatory Fall Sports Meeting for Football and Golf 6:30 Lancaster Gym

8.9 Mandatory Fall Sports Meeting for Dance, Cheerleading, Soccer, Cross Country, Girls Tennis, and Volleyball 6:30 Lancaster Gym

8.19 Meet the Dukes/Duchesses-5:00 pm

8.20-25 Marching Band Camp

8.23 Freshman/New Student Orientation 9:00 – 12:00 p.m.

8.24 First Day of School

9.1 DHS Back to School Night for Parents-6:30 p.m.

9.5 Labor Day—No School

9.19 Institute Day – 11:00 am dismissal

10.6 Yearbook picture retakes in DHS Library
10.6 Parent Teacher Conferences 4-7:30 pm

10.7 Institute Day – No School
10.7 Homecoming

10.8 Homecoming Dance

10.10 Columbus Day – No School

10.11 Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8:15 pm

10.21 End of First Quarter

REGISTRATION

DHS Cafeteria

Friday, August 5 8:00-3:00 pm
Monday, August 8 11:00-6:00 pm

One of the first steps in getting off to a good start for the year is for parents to register their child. This can be accomplished online, by mail, or by attending registration at DHS.

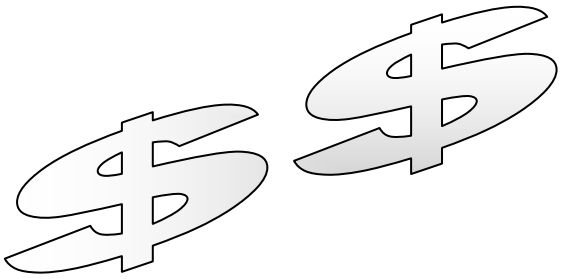
Health forms may be returned at this time or to the DHS office. The building will also be open for students to check their lockers and classroom locations.

If you know any high school students **new** to the community, encourage them to report on one of the registration dates.

2011-2012 FEES

Book Rental	$110.00
Drivers Ed	$100.00
Activity Ticket	$30.00
Yearbook	$50.00
Sports	$125.00
Band	$50.00
Choir	$50.00
Lab Fees	$12.00

CASH, CHECKS, DEBIT CARDS AND CREDIT CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AS FORMS OF PAYMENT



YEARBOOK PICTURES

Pictures **for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be taken August 25th during PE CLASS.**
Picture packages range in price from $9.00 thru $42.00.
Payment is required at time of portrait.
(Info will be available at registration on pricing.)
Retakes for all students will be October 6th in the DHS library.

***Seniors,* must have their yearbook pictures taken by Photographic Arts. .**

Call 1-800-501-2787.

Back to School Night

Thursday, September 1st
6:30 p.m.

Follow your student's schedule.
Meet his or her teachers.
Show that you are an involved parent.

Freshmen & Transfer Student Orientation

Tuesday, August 23rd
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Starts in DHS Auditorium
FREE LUNCH

http://www.dixonschools.org/monthlycalendar.pdf

The monthly district calendar is now available online. Check out what is happening District wide with one glance.

CHANGES IN MANDATORY MEETING FOR FALL ATHLETES & PARENTS

MONDAY, AUGUST 8TH
(Football, Golf)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9TH
(Dance,
Cheerleading, Cross Country, Soccer, Girls Tennis, Volleyball)

6:30 P.M. LANCASTER GYM

Dixon High School policy requires that parents and students participating in fall sports attend a meeting on August 8th or August 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. The meeting will be short so that athletes and parents can then proceed to separate meetings with the head coaches of each. Each sports coach will only attend designated night, but if you are unable to attend on your designated night, please attend the other night.

Meetings for athletes in winter and spring sports will be announced later.

Those unable to attend must contact the athletic office at 815/284-2237 to make other arrangements.

GRADES

Athletes who attended DHS last semester are reminded that in order to participate in a fall sport they must have passed 5 classes last semester.

Students also need to be aware that district policy allows only those students enrolled in at least 5 classes to participate.

FALL SPORTS BEGIN

In order to begin practicing, students must have current sport **physical** by August 10th, proof of insurance, signed parent permission, and all sports fees paid. Practices begin as follows:

Football	August 10
Golf	August 10
Volley Ball	August 10
Soccer	August 10
Cross Country	August 10
Tennis	August 10

Specific times will be available at registration or by calling the Athletic Office at 815/284-2237.

FOOTBALL SIGN UP

Friday, August 5th 8:00-3:00 pm and Thursday, Monday, August 8th 11:00-6:00 pm in cafeteria

FRESHMEN PHYSICALS ARE DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

State law requires all freshmen to have a physical and certain immunizations or the student must be excluded from school. If you haven't already done so, please make an appointment now so that your child's education is not interrupted.

Remember that sports physicals will not be recognized for freshman physicals. Freshmen physicals, however, will satisfy both requirements.

If you have questions, someone from the Health Services Office will be at registration. Completed physical forms may also be returned at that time.

MEDICATION POLICY FOR 2011-2012

In order to be compliant with the Illinois State Board of Education requirements we will now require a **Physicians order and Parental consent** for your child to receive Tylenol, Ibuprofen or any other over the counter medication. There are new consent forms available on the website under Nursing or you can pick one up at registration on August 5th or 8th.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A parent or guardian is expected to notify the school by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the absence. The school has an answering machine for receiving calls before or after office hours at 815/284-7723. If a student has not been called off, the parent or guardian will be contacted by telephone that day, if possible. NOTES FROM PARENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

Students who are late or are absent from classes miss valuable educational opportunities. Classroom teachers will use their own policies for absences and/or tardies, which may include awarding points for attendance and punctuality as part of the nine-week grade. Students who are chronically tardy or absent will be referred to an administrator for further intervention.

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P.E. UNIFORMS

P.E. uniforms are no longer being sold at school. Gray t-shirts and purple shorts are to be worn in P.E. class. If you have your old uniform they can be worn.

DHS Booster Club

Booster members meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm in the DHS library.

Alert Now

Our phone system will be used to notify parents or guardians of school closings and any unexcused absences during the school day.
If a student is marked absent in any class during the day, an informative call will be made home by the automated system.

DRESS CODE CHANGE

In an effort to respond to concern among staff, parents, and student's inappropriate attire such as backless, tube, any tops that do not cover the midsection or **do not have straps that are at least 1 inch wide** and any visible underwear will not be allowed. Please see the student handbook for a detailed dress code.

CELL PHONES

A students' cell phone will be taken if seen or heard during the hours of 7:00-2:15pm. Parents, please call the OFFICE if you need to speak to your child or give them a message.

BELL SCHEDULE

FIRST DAY of School

Wednesday, August 24th

Early Bird	7:00 to 7:44
1st Period	7:50 to 8:36
2nd Period	8:41 to 9:27
3rd Period	9:32 to 10:18
4th Period	10:23 to 11:09
5th A lunch	11:09 to 11:39
A class	11:44 to 12:30
B class	11:14 to 12:00
B lunch	12:00 to 12:30
6th Period	12:35 to 1:24 (first 3 min. for
7th Period	1:29 to 2:15 announcements)

WHITESIDE STUDENTS The first day of WACC attendance will be Wednesday, August 17th. Please meet in the gym lobby at 7:15 am for a brief meeting.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

It is the policy of Dixon High School to share directory information with law enforcement, social service, and military agencies. Parents must notify the Main Office by September 12th if they do not want this information shared with these agencies.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

In the interest of student safety, parents and visitors must report to the Main Office and obtain a visitors' pass to be worn while in the building.

Only the main entrance will be open during school hours.

ACT Test Dates * denotes test offered at DHS

*10/22/11
*12/10/11
*06/09/12

Juniors and Seniors please note test dates. Online registration can be completed @ www.act.org

PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

This is to notify parents that all pesticide applications are done on the third Thursday of every month. Forms are available online if you need to notify the office of any issues your student make have. Please direct questions to:

Dave Blackburn at 815.284.7722.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB) NOTICE

Schools, when asked, are to inform parents of the teaching credentials of their children's teachers and certification of their children's teaching assistants. If you wish to know the college degree and teaching credentials of your child's teacher or the certification of your child's teaching assistant, please call the district office, and we will be happy to provide you with that information.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS: $5.00 AUTO REGISTRATION FEE

Any student driving to school must register their car and receive a sticker from the office. Only those students whose cars are registered will be eligible to park in the student parking lot or in front of the school.

It is the students' responsibility to get to class on time and park legally. Students may park near the river by the band shell in the marked parking spaces as designated by the Dixon Park District, the Armory or on city streets near the school.

It is important that our students park legally so that visitors can come and go easily and buses can load and unload safely.

Students who drive to school must register their vehicles and obtain a **$5.00** parking sticker by the end of the first week of school. Those who fail to do so and/or park illegally will be subject to citations, detentions and/or fines.

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)
This is to notify all parents, teachers and employee organizations of the availability of the management plan which indicates where asbestos containing materials were found, what conditions they are in, and what plans are underway for repair, renovation, or removal of such materials. Please contact Mr. David Blackburn at 1335 Franklin Grove Road, Dixon, Illinois 61021 or 815.284.7722 if you should have any questions.