

KAW NEWS

PERRY-LECOMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

MARCH 2010

LETTER TO THE PUBLIC

School Reach

All schools in USD #343 have been using the School Reach notification system. With Spring Sports around the corner and the possibility of cancelations due to weather, we will again utilize this communication device numerous times in the up and coming months. Please notify the school if you have changed your phone number(s) since the start of school.

We have one critical area to address to help this system work efficiently. Parents, please check your voice mail prior to calling the school to see what the call was about. The messages sent out contain vital information that will explain the situation. As you can imagine, if everyone calls the office at one time for this reason, the communication lines become overloaded and calls cannot be made or received. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

State Assessments

Kansas State Assessments have started! As I am sure you are aware, these assessments are extremely important in evaluating not only the knowledge and performance of your student, but also the performance of the High School as well. You have probably heard of the term "A.Y.P.", (Adequate Yearly Progress) by now. It is figured by adding the percentages of students that score in the top three categories of the State Assessments. These categories are: **Academic Warning, Approaches Standard, Meets Standard, Exceeds Standard, and Exemplary**. This year, the State of Kansas expects that 85.0% of our students will score in the top three categories for the Reading assessments and 75.5% will score in the top three categories for the Math assessments.

These assessments are commonly used to compare schools against one another. Therefore, we want our students to perform at a high level. We are confident they will, as we have made State Assessments a high priority at PLHS. During last year's State Assessments, PLHS scored the "Kansas Standard of Excellence" in both Math and Reading. We hope that you remind your student of the importance of the Kansas Assessments and see to it that your student is well nourished and well rested the evenings prior to taking the State Assessments.

The PLHS State Assessment schedule is as follows:

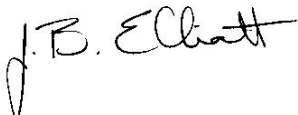
Reading – February 22nd through February 26th for Sophomores during English II class.

Math – March 1st through March 5th for Sophomores in Geometry and Algebra IB, for Freshman in Advanced Geometry.

Science – April 6th through April 9th for all Juniors

We appreciate your cooperation and support during our assessment schedule.

Sincerely,



J.B. Elliott, Principal

SPRING BREAK - MARCH 15-19
No School for Students on Friday, March 12 !!!



From the OFFICE

GRADE CARDS - END OF NINE WEEKS

Classes for the third nine weeks will conclude on Thursday, March 11. Grade cards will be distributed to students during SEMINAR on Wednesday, March 22. Students are expected to take their grade cards home and share them with their parents.

UPDATING STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please remember to inform the school of any information that may have changed since the beginning of the year. (i.e. address, phone numbers, emergency contact info) The office needs to have accurate information on file for numerous reasons such as an emergency with your child and sending out school correspondence such as grade cards. You may notify the school by phone, a note sent with a student, or e-mail to dwoodson@usd343.org. Thank you for your cooperation!

COMMUNITY RECYCLING BINS AT PLHS.....

A reminder that Deffenbaugh Recycling has large, yellow recycling bins at each of the Perry-Lecompton district schools for the community to recycle newsprint, magazines, slickies, and shredded paper (even in a plastic bag). The bins are NOT for cardboard, phone books, or any non-paper material. It is a real hazard for students to remove those items. Deffenbaugh does pay a tonnage fee to each school for the material collected, so let's all do the community some good and recycle regularly!

FROM THE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE.....

March 2010

SCHOLARSHIPS!!!!!! Seniors are busy applying for the scholarships that are available from local organizations or families. **LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE!!!! STUDENTS SHOULD FIRST CHECK OUT THE INFORMATION SHEET, WHICH IS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PAGE AND PROCEED TO FILL OUT APPLICATIONS ONLINE FOR WHICH THEY QUALIFY.** If students meet the necessary criteria they can apply for these scholarships: The PLHS Alumni Scholarship, The First State Bank and Trust Scholarship, The Hamm Foundation Scholarship, The Jennifer Then Memorial Scholarship, The Manderson Memorial Scholarship, The Thomas D. and Leone M. Hotchkiss Memorial Scholarship, the USD 343 Classified Employee's Scholarship, the USD 343 Endowment Fund Scholarship, the Rural Township Auxiliary scholarship, the USD 343 Vocational/Technical Scholarship, the Lonnie Hunter Memorial Scholarship, Blue Krew Scholarship, and the Lisa Worthington Scholarship. PLHS student council sponsors the PLHS Leadership Scholarship. To our community, on behalf of our seniors and our school, please accept our gratitude for these scholarship opportunities.

Other scholarships are available on our scholarship "button" as well, and I encourage students and parents to check the senior newsletters on the PLHS website. **All information is available ONLINE!**

ACT PRACTICE SESSIONS! Students have definitely recognized the significance of taking ACT practice tests where they can experience the direction and time constraints for each test. I have been very pleased with the maturity and responsibility of those students who have committed to taking the practice tests! The next practice session begins March 1 and continues each Monday after that, excluding spring break!

ACT ONLINE PREP Current juniors, sophomores and freshmen can greatly benefit from ACT test preparation! PLHS is pleased to announce that we still have our site license with ACT which allows us to have an ACT Online Prep code and password for all of our students. Students can use this code to access the official online ACT prep program at school and at home for one year!! While few freshmen and sophomores generally take the ACT, they will be able to receive a code

Students who plan to enroll next year at **WASHBURN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY** – need to turn in an application form with enrollment materials and they need to have a Work Keys test score on file to make sure they meet minimum entrance requirements. PLHS gives the Work Keys tests to all freshmen as part of graduation requirements. We have added a test session here in early spring for anyone who needs to re-test to meet minimum WU Tech requirements. WU Tech applications are due as soon as possible. If your student is interested but did not turn in an application, please have them contact me as soon as possible.

Attending WU Tech while in high school is a great deal! Students can leave PLHS with a diploma and a vocational certificate making them immediately hireable! Additionally, WIT hours will transfer to any community college in Kansas or Washburn, based on the school's discretion, and contribute toward an associate degree in that area. If a student completes WU Tech training in high school, where the training is paid for, this essentially amounts to free college hours.

Enrollment for 2010-2011 will begin at the end of February. All PLHS students will receive enrollment information. All students must select classes to total 7 each semester and three alternate choices. Math teachers need to approve math choices by signing each enrollment form. In addition to the enrollment form, PLHS requires that a 4-year plan be submitted. The 4-year plan is an excellent way for students to plan to complete their educational goals and students carefully rely on this plan. We require that a Qualified Admission Information form is on file. **Parent signatures are required for all forms to be valid.**

Students will input course selections in early March. PowerSchool allows students to input their own enrollment requests.

We will have **8th Grade Enrollment Night** here at PLHS after spring break, on March 24, at 7:00 p.m. It is very important that parents and students attend.

Twenty-one of our current seniors are completing the most stringent **Kansas Scholars' Curriculum**. They will receive certificates at senior assembly. If tests scores and grades are strong they could possibly be named Kansas Scholars. We should know who is designated in April. At the least, to earn a Kansas Scholar Curriculum Completer certificate is a tribute to the motivation and commitment of these students. We are proud of their achievements!

The deadline for the April 10 **ACT** is March 5. The June 12 test deadline is May 7. Quite a few juniors have expressed interest in the April or June tests. The June test is relatively late for our students but still a popular date. I have been recommending the earlier tests in February and April for juniors.

If your student will be taking the ACT please encourage him/her to prepare for the exam by taking our practice test sessions and using the Online prep. Working diligently to prepare for this important exam can improve scores.

PERRY PRIDE.....UPCOMING EVENTS !!



We have a "Come and Meet" Perry Pride Fish Fry on March 11th at 6pm at the American Legion. This will be an opportunity for the community to come and meet some of the people who are trying to make a difference in our community. There will be fish, hot dogs and fries courtesy of the Legion and Perry Pride. This is a free will donation fundraiser, but the MAIN point is to attract new members and educate what Perry Pride's vision is.

The second coming soon event is the Perry Pride Community Dinner on April 17 again at the Legion. This is the same day as prom, we know, but we're hoping to get a band and maybe have a sort of "Family Fun Night". Still talking about details of that one, but the date is set. Probably starting around 6pm.

Thanks for all of your support and help!

PERRY PRIDE COMMITTEE – Leadership Training Session 4/5/10

Hello!

The Perry Pride Committee and the KANSAS PRIDE ORGANIZATION is sponsoring a community leader training session for those in Northeast Kansas who want to make their community a better place to live.

Everyone who wants to make Perry a better community is being invited to attend a Leadership Training Session being held for Kansas PRIDE communities. Jeanne Stinson, Kansas Department of Commerce, will be presenting a 3 hour training to community leaders on "Communicating Your Success". Supper will be served.

This training is scheduled for Monday, April 5th at 6:00pm at the Perry American Legion. If you would like to come, there is no cost, but please RSVP to Adrienne Meyer (785-554-9882 or adrienne@VisitTopeka.com)

I do hope that you are able to attend and find out how we can make Perry, Lecompton and all of Jefferson County a better place to live, work and grow as a community.

Thank you!

Adrienne Meyer
785-554-9882
Perry Pride