

KAU NEWS

PERRY-LECOMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2008

Dear Parents,



PowerSchool
Parent/Student

Want to stay in touch with what is going on at the High School on a daily basis? Please remember that you can access the PLHS daily announcements through Power School. To access Power School, go to the district website, (www.usd343.net) and click on the Power School – Parent/Student icon on the right side of the page. Use your parent user name and password to gain access. The announcements can be found under the “School Bulletin” icon. They are updated every morning, so it is a great way to keep up with what is going on in Kaw Country! If you have lost your user name or password, please contact the PLHS office for that information.



The KU Honors program was held on the 24th of September at the University of Kansas' Lied Center. The program honors the top ten percent of the senior class for their academic achievements. At this ceremony the top students from area high schools are awarded a collegiate dictionary, a CD of Webster's Collegiate Dictionary and a certificate for their outstanding academic success. It is a very impressive ceremony and we are honored to have our students taking part in the occasion. We would like to congratulate the students who have earned this year's award. The 2008 Perry-Lecompton High School Kansas Honor Scholars are Samantha Clement, Misty Goff, Sarah Hodges, Emily Heurter, Maggie Kuhlman, Andrea Phillips, Daffodil Reumund, Sandy Robbins and Chelsea Williams.



With Parent-Teacher conferences coming up on October 22nd and 23rd, we would like to encourage your attendance. In order to help the communication process between parents and teachers, here is a guideline of types of questions you may want to ask during your students conference. The follow excerpt was found on Family Education.com and they are described as “Five Must-Ask Questions”.

In order to help your child have a successful school year, you need to know what is expected of her, academically, from now until June. You can find out by asking some questions. Take this list with you to your next parent-teacher conference. And don't forget to take notes!

1. What skills and knowledge will my child be expected to master this year?

- What will my child learn this year in key subjects like math, science, history, and English?
- How do you inform students about the academic standards they're expected to meet? What kind of projects and assignments have you planned that will help my child meet higher academic standards?

2. How will my child be evaluated?

- What kind of information do you use to evaluate students? How do you know if they're academically ready to move on to the next grade?
- How are grades determined in your classroom?

3. What can I do to stay more involved in my child's academic progress?

- What can I do at home to complement what is happening in the classroom?
- How can I know on a daily basis what homework has been assigned?
- How can I support teachers' efforts in implementing higher academic standards?

4. How do you accommodate differences in learning?

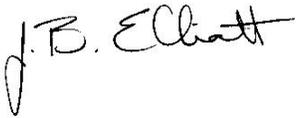
- What if my child is a slow learner and falls behind, or is a fast learner and is bored?
- Are summer school or other programs available for students who need more help?

5. How are older students prepared for further learning after high school?

- Are children encouraged to think about a wide variety of career interests?
- How can I find out about scholarships that are available?

As always, I look forward to hearing your comments and observations concerning education at PLHS. Feel free to contact me anytime! Email: jelliott@usd343.org or Phone: (785) 597-5124.

Educationally,



J.B. Elliott, Principal

From the OFFICE

THANKS FOR CALLING

A very large "thank you" is extended to all parents who call the office before 9:00 a.m. to let us know their son or daughter will be absent. Parents are reminded that an excuse for student absences, written or oral, from a parent or guardian must be provided within 48 hours of the absence if the absence is to be excused. Page 16 in the Student Parent Handbook provides more detailed information as to excused and unexcused absences. If you have specific questions regarding your student(s) absence, you may call the office any time between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and we will be happy to assist you.



REQUEST FOR HOMEWORK

HOMEWORK: On the second consecutive day of absence, a parent may call the high school office by 9:00 a.m. and request homework assignments for the absent days. Homework can be picked up at the office between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m.

Each teacher will establish homework and missing assignment rules and policies at the start of the school year. In all classes, students have a minimum of two school days for each day of excused absence to submit make-up assignments for full credit. In all classes students will be expected to complete and submit all homework regardless of "credit". Teachers will communicate with the office and parents as needed regarding students who habitually fail to complete and submit their homework. (Page 13, Student Handbook)



TELEPHONE POLICY

For students' convenience, a pay telephone is located in the commons area. Students may use the pay telephone before and after school and during morning break and lunch. Office phones are not for student use except in an emergency. Students may use office phones to call parents when sick or to notify parents that school activities have been canceled. When making a long distance call, students are expected to call collect, charge the call to their home phone number, or use a calling card. Some people are finding the pre-paid phone cards very convenient.

KANSAS HONORS PROGRAMS

Nine seniors were named Kansas Honor Scholars by the K.U. Alumni Association. These students were selected because they are currently in the top 10% of their senior class. They represented PLHS very well at this northeast Kansas event. Congratulations to: Samantha Clement, Misty Goff, Sarah Hodges, Emily Huerter, Maggie Kuhlman, Andrea Phillips, Daffodil Reumund, Sandy Robbins and Chelsea Williams. Congratulations!

Fall Musical Production - *Damn Yankees*

The PLHS Drama & Music Departments will be presenting their fall musical *Damn Yankees* on November 13th, 14th & 15th. The first performance on November 13th is limited to dinner theatre guests. The seats can be purchased for \$12.00 (Senior Citizens) \$17.00 (Adults, Students, Kids). Act fast! *Damn Yankees* promises to present one of the most dynamic male casts in years. Don't miss this opportunity to come see a great production. Your reservation can be "held" by calling the PLHS office at 597-5124; however reservations can only be secured by sending a check, cash or money order (made out to PLHS) to the high school office.

The remaining performances Nov. 14th & 15th will begin @ 7:00pm. Adults \$5.00; K-12 students \$4.00; Senior citizens Free. PLHS students ONLY can use their lime green student activity pass for ONE night admission. No other passes will be accepted.

DINNER THEATRE RESERVATIONS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN.....

Family and Community Leaders and the International Club are co-sponsoring this year's dinner theatre on Thursday, November 13. Paid reservations must be made for the dinner theater through the PLHS office. Tickets for the dinner and the show are \$12 for Senior Citizens and \$17 for adults and children. The dinner will be served at 5:30 prompt.

FROM THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER

October, 2008

Occasionally, we receive information about seminar or workshop opportunities for students. Organizations ask for nominations. Some of these experiences, while worthwhile, are quite expensive. It is our belief that workshops or academies that we will recommend to students need to be competitive in nature, have eligibility guidelines, offer scholarships or have minimal costs. We certainly feel that it is a family's prerogative to investigate these programs and see if the experience and cost is right for your student. The following are two programs which are approved by NASSP (National Assoc. Secondary School Principals)

People to People
National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine

(cost unavailable)
\$2465

www.peopletopeople.com
www.nylf.org

PLHS SCHOLARSHIPS

We are happy to report that we now have a link on the district website. Every scholarship opportunity that is mailed to us will be available as the year progresses, with deadlines updated as we receive new information.

SENIOR NEWSLETTERS will be available most months of the year. This is where I will print out the latest news from this office and information about what your student needs to be doing to be involved in the post-secondary vocational and academic world.

JUNIOR NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE PERIODICALLY. The first one is available now.

ACT Prep - We are planning to use our ACT OnlinePrep program to run our ACT prep class this fall. Students will be able to use a computer during seminar and work in an area with other students. In discussing the Onlineprep program from ACT with students, all of them have pronounced it a good program but say finding time to use it is difficult. Hopefully, dedicated seminar time will utilize this program more effectively. The onlineprep program has a diagnostic test to help determine areas students need to study first. It is helpful in pin-pointing and remediating student weaknesses in ACT subjects. They learn their strengths, too! All students were eligible to receive an ACT online code last year. **If your student had a code and lost it or needs a code, please have him or her come see me!** We are excited about our strong ACT scores and we know that test preparedness along with a strong curriculum make the difference in our student scores!

Some dates to keep in mind:

- Oct. 8 Deadline to sign-up for the PSAT (\$13.00 due on test day)
- Oct. 10 Deadline to sign-up for KATS tour (registration numbers due at KATS)
- Oct. 14 Deadline to sign-up for Oskaloosa College Fair SENIORS/Juniors
- Oct. 16 **Oskaloosa College Fair** 1:10-2:45 SENIORS/Juniors
We will take one bus for interested students.
- Oct. 15 **PSAT** **JUNIORS/SOPHOMORES** 8:15-11:30

Interested students must sign-up by October 8. This is the qualifying test for National Merit Scholar competition. It is a junior test but sophomores may take the test for practice. The cost of the exam is **\$13.00**, payable the day of the test, in cash, or by check to PLHS.

- Oct. 25 October ACT
- Oct. 30 **KATS Tour** **SOPHOMORES**, or interested 11-12 8:30-10:45

Students will be transported to Kaw Area Technical School for a tour of the facilities for areas in which they are interested.

- Nov. 7 Deadline to sign up for Dec. 13 **ACT**

Mark your calendars: Financial Aid Night Dec. 11 6:30 p.m.

Recommended Web Site for scholarship search: www.fastweb.com

<u>Colleges visiting PLHS</u>	Seniors and juniors	Scheduled to date	/ *already visited
K.U.*	Sept. 10	Seminar	
JCCC*	Sept. 11	Seminar	
Pittsburg State	Sept. 17	During lunch, in commons	

Highland Com Coll	Sept. 30	During lunch, in commons
K-State	Sept. 30	Seminar
Emporia State	Oct. 2	Seminar
College of St. Mary's	Oct. 8	During lunch, in commons
Baker	Oct. 30	Seminar

Other:

Marines * Sept. 9 During lunch, in commons

AFTER PROM COMMITTEE – Junior Class Parent News

On September 10 a Junior parent informational meeting was held in the PLHS library for all Junior parents. The purpose of this meeting was to explain the Junior class and Junior class parent responsibilities.

Primarily, the Junior class is responsible for hosting the Junior-Senior Prom. This particular event can cost into the thousands of dollars. The class and their class sponsors are in charge of funding and coordinating this event. Susie Whitaker, PLHS Librarian, is the new Junior class sponsor. She has already started the annual magazine sales and student concession workers and plans various other avenues to help fund the prom.

The PLHS Booster Club oversees the PLHS concession stands. Each event is assigned to individual organizations for fundraisers. The Junior class has been assigned a number of concessions during the year to raise monies to fund the Prom and their graduation expenses. Students are signed up to work shifts to pay their prom fees. It is MANDATORY to have an adult sponsor overseeing each concession shift. Beth Hupe and Carrie Volle are working closely with Mrs. Whitaker to ensure that each event is covered by Junior class parents. Please help your student out and sign up for one of these shifts if asked. All Junior parents should have received a letter from Mrs. Whitaker regarding working these shifts for prom. This letter was to be signed and returned to school. If you have NOT seen this letter, please ask your student about it.

Traditionally, the Junior class parents have sponsored the After Prom party. The After Prom party is a safe, alcohol and drug-free event that Juniors and Seniors may attend when prom is over. Juniors and Seniors do not have to attend prom to come to the After Prom party. The After Prom party is sponsored by local businesses, parent donations, concessions and other fundraisers that are put on throughout the year. The After Prom committee will also be assigned to a few of these events to help raise funds for the party. Your assistance is also needed to help oversee these shifts. Please look for future correspondence for times and dates to volunteer!

The After Prom committee is also in need of all Junior class parents to get involved in the planning and the execution of the After Prom party! We have several committees that have been formed just for this purpose: fundraising, decorations, food, games, and prizes. Your help is desperately needed as this party is a huge undertaking! Please volunteer to assist with any committee that you might be interested in! We currently DO NOT have a chairman for the fundraising committee. Let us know if you are interested in helping with this committee.

Feel free to contact After Prom Committee chairperson(s) Mary Hurd (785) 597-5124 or Lori Coyle (785) 597-5024 with any questions or concerns and plan to attend our next meeting: **Thursday, October 16, 6:30 in the PLHS Library.** Hope to see you there!

CLAIRE HINRICHSEN....A Graduate's Story

Perry Lecompton biology teacher Kelly Haggard visited with Claire Hinrichsen, a 2007 graduate of the high school. Claire returned to visit the new science facility at the school and to thank her teachers for their help in preparing her for success in her college career. Claire was awarded several local scholarships and also the Watkins Berger Scholarship at Kansas University.

The Watkins-Berger scholarship is the highest academic award that KU offers and is only extended to fifty female students in the state of Kansas. In order to be considered for this program, the candidates must have an ACT score of at least 31, and have a high school GPA of 3.5 or higher. The students must be active in extra curricular activities, community service and they must have demonstrated leadership ability. After the initial screening process, the candidates are interviewed by the Chancellor's Honor Scholarship committee. The scholarships fund tuition at the university.

Claire has begun her sophomore year of college and she maintains a 4.00 grade point average. In addition to her original scholarship award, KU has extended bonus incentives for showing personal and academic responsibility in her education. She is a pre-medicine student who is majoring in biology. Hinrichsen is an active member in the Kansas University honors program and serves as secretary of both the biology and chemistry clubs. She is a member of numerous other organizations at KU. In addition to her demanding college curriculum, she works at two part time jobs and volunteers at her church and at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. In her spare time, she continues her piano lessons!

When asked how she manages this busy schedule so successfully, Claire replied: "I enjoy the little things and I really appreciate the few moments that I have to myself. My mom always says to never give up and to always remember that not everyone is as fortunate as I am."

High school counselor Jana Snyder recalls Claire as an "enthusiastic, original and dedicated" student. She adds that "Claire spreads sunshine. She laughs easily and is solicitous of people's feelings." Kelly Haggard, teacher of biology and anatomy, says that Claire has "a smile for any and all...she has a selfless attitude of volunteering."

Claire is the daughter of Margie and Dan Hinrichsen of Lecompton.



TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION FUNDRAISING RESOURCES

TARGET MAKES SCHOOL FUNDRAISING EASY.

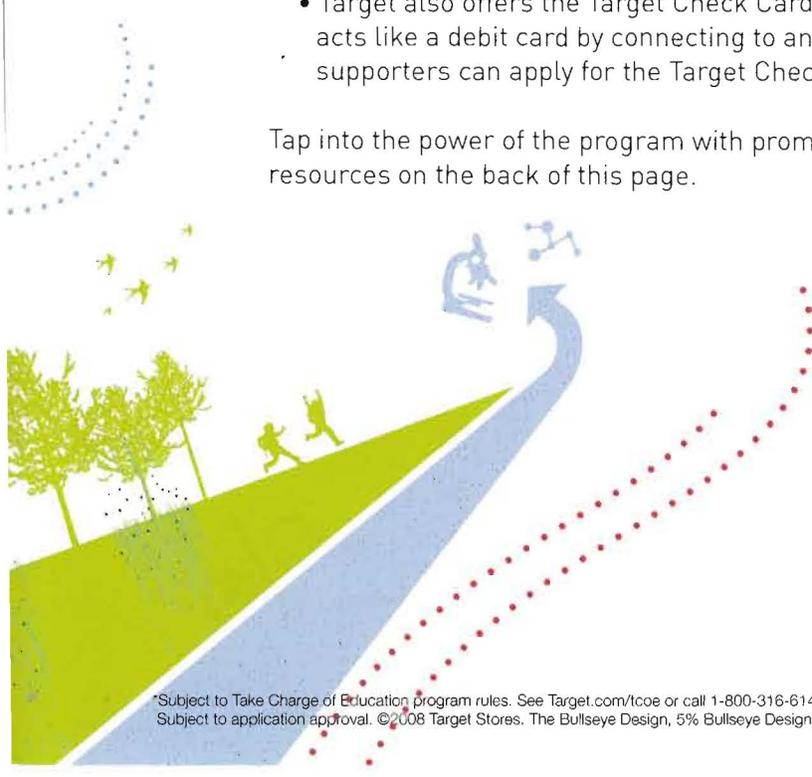
Thanks to parents, teachers and other supporters in your community, your school is already benefiting from Take Charge of Education, one of the easiest ways to raise funds for anything your school needs.

Here's how the program works: When school supporters enroll and use their REDcardSM Target donates up to 1%* of every purchase made with their REDcard to your school. As more people join the program, the funds really add up—there's no limit to the amount you can receive.

For community members to participate in Take Charge of Education, all they need is a REDcard and to designate your school online at Target.com/tcoe, or by calling 1-800-316-6142.

- To get the REDcard credit account (Target[®] Visa[®] Credit Card or Target Credit CardSM), school supporters can apply in stores or online at Target.com/apply.
- Target also offers the Target Check Card, which is our newest product, and acts like a debit card by connecting to an existing checking account. School supporters can apply for the Target Check Card in stores.

Tap into the power of the program with promotional ideas and easy-to-use resources on the back of this page.



TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION[®]

Reward your school.



The REDcardSM



TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION FUNDRAISING RESOURCES

ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO ENROLL

Let your community know how easy it is for REDcard holders to help your school. Ask parents, teachers and other school supporters to visit Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate your school, and then to use their Target® Visa® Credit Card or Target Credit CardSM whenever they shop at Target, or their Target® Visa® Credit Card everywhere else Visa credit cards are accepted. Target now offers the Target Check Card, which also offers the benefits of Take Charge of Education. If they don't have a REDcard already, have school supporters apply in person at any Target store or visit Target.com/apply.

ALERT THE MEDIA

Fill out the media alert included in this kit and distribute it to local TV stations, newspapers and other media to spread the word about your award and how your community can participate.

THANK YOUR SUPPORTERS

Participating parents, grandparents and other loyal advocates are your biggest allies in fundraising. By thanking them for their support and letting them know what the funds were used for, you encourage them to stay active and to get others involved.

USE OUR ONLINE TOOLS

At Target.com/tcoe, you'll find everything you need to promote your fundraising program at events, in the media and on your school's website. Click "Get the Tools" [see the website image below] to download talking points, web banners, clip art and other easy ways to generate interest.

While online, you can track your school's progress. Simply enter your school's name and state to see:

- Your school's last payout from the program
- The amount your school has received from Target to date (since 1997)
- Your school's progress toward the next payout, updated daily
- How many people have enrolled in the program and designated your school



Click on "Get the Tools" to get started.

Target gives 5% of its
income to communities –
over \$3 million every week.



Target.com/community