



April-May 2009 Newsletter

Dear Parents:

We are in the final home stretch of the 2008-2009 school year and are busy planning for all of the changes for next year. Please continue to work as our partners by keeping your students engaged with learning until the end of the year. The last full day for student attendance will be Friday, May 29, 2009. Teachers will have a School Improvement Day on Monday, June 1. Students will return for one hour on Tuesday, June 2.

We are busy preparing for next year. If you have information that would help us to place your child on a team to make him/her more successful, please communicate this in writing to me by May 1, 2009. We will only consider requests that provide an educational basis for team placements next year. We will be unable to honor other requests due to the number of students at KJHS.

Mail-in registration packets will be coming home with your students the week of May 11. We encourage you to participate in this process, so you will not have to participate in walk-in registration on Tuesday, August 11, 2009. Mail-in registration will be accepted until Friday, July 31, 2009.

Please help to keep our KJHS students safe by following the 20 mph speed limit when students are being dropped off and picked up. Please do not double park while dropping off or picking up students along Kingsley Street. I encourage you to ride around the block if you are unable to find a parking spot the first time. I encourage you to use the north parking lot for drop off and pick up as much as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lynette Mehall, Principal

Walk-In Registration

Walk-in registration will take place on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Applications for free and reduced lunches and/or books will be processed at this time. If you are not available to register on this day, registration will take place in the main office

from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., August 12-14.

First Half Day of School

The first attendance day (half day) for students will be Wednesday, August 19, 2009. Students will be dismissed at 11:35 a.m.

School Locks for the Hallway and PE lockers

We require that all students purchase Master Locks from the school for both hallway and PE lockers. All new students will be required to purchase the school locks. These locks are more durable (students have been able to open other locks with force), and the company provides administrators and custodial staff with keys to open the locks if necessary. We now have two locks available with the same combination to be used on both the hallway locker and the PE locker. Some students may need an additional lock for technology class and orchestra music lockers. Scholarship money will be available for those who are unable to afford to purchase these locks.

Yearbook Distribution

Yearbooks will be distributed on Friday, May 29, 2009. Students who have not paid overdue library

fines or who have lost and not paid for textbooks will receive their yearbooks in the main office once this money has been collected.

Awards Night

The KJHS Awards night will be held on Monday, May 18. Students receiving awards will be personally invited through a letter that will be sent in the mail. The sixth grade program will be at 6:00 p.m., the seventh grade program will be at 7:00 p.m., and the eighth grade program will be at 8:00 p.m. One change to this year's program is that we will no longer be participating in the Presidential Physical Fitness Program. PE teachers will be recognizing students from their programs in the same way that team teachers do. Pictures will be taken by Interstate Studios. These may be picked up in the main office over the summer. Cookies will be served in the lobby afterwards. Teachers will select students to honor in each subject area and awards will be given for straight A's.

8th Grade Dance

The annual 8th grade dance for KJHS 8th grade students will be held on Friday, May 1, 2009, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for KJHS 8th grade students in the cafeteria. This

dance will provide students a chance to dress up (if they would like to do so) and celebrate their upcoming promotion to high school. Only KJHS students may attend this activity. The school dress code will be followed with the exception that girls may wear dresses with spaghetti straps. No strapless dresses will be permitted. Students will be able to dance, have pictures taken, and be provided with beverages. No concessions will be available at this event. Tickets may be purchased at lunch the week before for \$3.00 each. PTO sponsors this dance and will be asking for additional chaperones. **Students must be in attendance the entire school day on May 1 to be eligible to attend the dance.**

Clothing Cautions

We want to maintain a quality educational environment for learning. Students need to dress accordingly. Shirts, blouses, and tops must be long enough to cover the midsection in front and back even when the student is in a sitting position. Clothing with open backs, tank tops with large armholes, tops with low and/or scoop and loose necklines, or tops with straps less than two inches wide are not allowed to be worn at school. Students who wear this

clothing will be required to put on a shirt provided by the office. Shorts, dresses, and skirts must be no shorter than the student's fingertips when arms are extended at the side minus one inch. Pants must also be worn at the waist and may not sag. Students may still wear the spirit flannel pants, but pajama pants will not be permitted. Please help us by monitoring the clothing your child wears to school each day.

Transportation Reimbursement

Please remember that parents or legal guardians who provide transportation for their children to and from school during the 2008-2009 school year because free transportation is not available for their children may be eligible to receive money from the State of Illinois to help offset some of the cost. I will complete this request online here at school. Please contact me if your child is eligible (child is under the age of 21, pupil is a full-time student, pupil lives 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles or more from school, & bus transportation is not available). This claim must be filed by June 30, 2009.

6th Grade Parent Orientation

The 6th Grade Parent Orientation will be held on Monday, April 27,

2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the KJHS cafeteria for current fifth grade parents. The administrative team will speak, parents will have the opportunity to take an informal tour of the building, and teachers will be available to talk to parents. KJHS t-shirts, gym bags, and locks will be available to purchase.

News from the Counseling Office

To get information about grades and homework, please contact the teachers directly through email or phone. The main office number is 452-4461. Thank you.

Registration-8th to high school has been completed. You may view your child's classes through Skyward at a later date. Actual schedules will give at registration in August.

High Schools ---Change in visit for all incoming Freshman Both high schools will be doing some activities at the beginning of the school year for incoming freshmen in place of a visit in the spring. This new procedure will apply to all three junior highs.

Career Cruising 7th We will be doing Career Cruising with the 7th graders in May. This is a web-based interest inventory that will show possible future career choices. The high schools will continue the process and use the program during the high school years.

Visits to the Grade Schools

Mrs. Shipman and Mr. Penhollow will be going with Dr. Mehall to visit with the incoming 6th graders the first two weeks after spring break. The incoming 6th graders will visit us in May.

Mrs. Linda Shipman-(A-K, ESL)
888-6914

Mr. Tim Penhollow (L-Z, DEAP)
888-6911

Mrs. Lori Schroeder
888-6910

Nurse's Office - Health

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Due to a change in Unit 5 board policy, all incoming Pre-K/ECE, Kindergarten, 6TH & 9th grade students must present a current (up to date) immunization record and a physical examination (completed within 1 year prior to August 19, 2009) at registration for the 2009-2010 school year.

Students who do not submit the necessary forms before school starts will not be allowed to attend class. Appointment cards will NOT be accepted. **Parents with children entering 6th grade at KJHS, & any other above mentioned grade, should be prepared** by speaking with their doctor & scheduling an appointment as soon as possible.

If you need assistance, you may call the McLean County Health Department at 309-888-5450. For more information regarding the new policy requirements, please call the KJHS School Nurse Kelly Cole at 888-6908. Thanks!

PTO needs YOU!!

Remaining PTO Meetings for 2009
- Please join us!

April 14, May 12, June 2
6:30 pm Spending Committee -
7:00 PTO meeting In the IMC

Open PTO Board positions for 2010-11 school year:

Vice President: Presides over PTO meetings when the President is not available. Heads up the nominating committee for open Board positions each year.

Hospitality: Seeking an additional Board member to assist with planning/providing monthly Staff luncheons (there is a committee). Provides snacks for open houses/events as appropriate.

Communications/Directory:

Compiles school directory at start of school year with information provided from Skyward. Writes notices for the newsletter (like this one) to communicate PTO information.

Interested or know someone you can nominate? Please contact PTO Vice President Diana Holderby at holderby1314@msn.com, or (309) 862-1769.

Current PTO projects:

- Putting up "street signs" in all the hallways to help with directions, and comfort level of new students, parents, visitors, etc.
- Arranging for murals to be painted on the walls in Neumann Gym.

We would love to hear your ideas!! Please contact any member of the PTO Board with your comments or questions.

IMC NEWS

Thank you to all the parents and students that came out to support the bookfair at Barnes and Noble. The money raised will help us buy books until next year's money is available.

Be watching the mail as we will be sending letters home to students with books and fines still out from last semester. This is a good time to start asking students if they know where their textbooks are as the end of the year will be upon us before we know it.

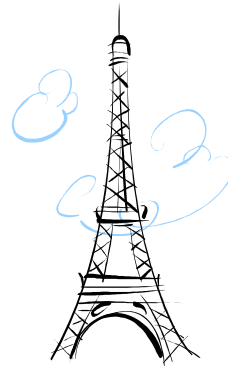
Mark your calendars for the Scholastic Book Fair, April 27 - May 1 with evening hours on Tuesday. Money raised from this book fair will help cover the books for the Caudill Program as well as any new titles on the book fair.

Mrs. Hennenfent

Environment Club News

Just a reminder that the KJHS Environment Club will be collecting aluminum tabs, dead batteries and Nestle plastic bottle labels year-round. These items not only assist us to SAVE THE EARTH, but earn money for *St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital* and FREE athletic equipment. We are also, sponsoring a "HAT DAY" on Earth

Day, Wednesday, April 22. A \$1.00 donation will enable students to wear an appropriate hat or baseball cap to school all day. The monies will be used to plant a flower garden in front of the school. PLEASE NOTE: The Environment Club will begin meeting EVERY TUESDAY after school from 3:45pm - 4:45pm until the end of the school year.



7th grade French

We are now immersed in our study of French grammar. We have been conjugating lots of verbs and are studying how to form questions and answer them. We will learn the verb to do/to make and all of its uses. When we finish Leçon 8 we will have a unit test and a speaking test. We will also be discussing different culture topics such as T.V., the Internet and the educational system in France. Since we have longer class periods next year (47 minutes instead of 30), we may be doing some type of a culture project at the end of this year.

8th grade French

We ended the 3rd quarter with some fun activities such as a fashion show and shopping using an on-line French catalogue to practice our clothing vocabulary. We are now in Leçon 18 and are currently working on more verb conjugations and adjective agreement as well as learning how to make comparisons using adjectives. After completing Leçons 19 and 20 in which we will study even more verbs and how to give commands, we will finish the year by doing a fun study of Paris. The students will learn how to use the métro and they will research some famous monuments. Paris is a beautiful city, and, hopefully, many of these French students will one day have the opportunity to visit the City of Lights.



German Classes

In our unit on home and family, seventh grade students have learned how to describe their rooms and their family members.

They designed some very creative drawings to illustrate their ideal rooms and their family trees. In the 4th quarter, we will be learning about the school system in German-speaking countries. We will discuss school subjects, schedules, preferences and prices.

Eighth grade students are learning the vocabulary for food and grocery shopping. They are using the metric system to express weight and measurement. They are learning how to make formal and informal commands and they are studying the past tense of familiar verbs.

Frau Henry
Frau Ludena

German Club

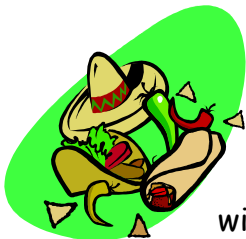
German Club will meet from 3:45-5:15 p.m. in room 166 on Wednesday, April 8.

Our last meeting of the year will be from 3:45-5:00 p.m. in room 166 on Thursday, May 14.

Goethe Institute Award of Excellence Winner

Every year German students at KJHS participate in the Goethe Institute's Award of Excellence contest. This year, over 38,000

students at 379 schools in the United States and Canada took part. KJHS has been selected as one of seven grand prize-winning schools to receive an all-expense paid 3-week Study-Trip to Germany in summer 2009. Congratulations to Nick Broadbear, the winner of the KJHS award!



7th grade

Spanish: These

next two months we will be finishing Unidad

2. In the current lesson (U2e2) we are learning to talk about school schedules, ask and tell time, ask questions, say where we are going, and request food. In the last etapa (U2e3) we will learn to discuss our plans and talk about places and people we know. Students will learn to conjugate present tense verbs that end in -er and -ir as well as some irregular verbs before the year ends.

8th grade Spanish:

We are wrapping up Unidad 4 Etapa 1 with an introduction to the preterit tense of verbs that end in -ar. In the next lesson (U4e2) we will learn to talk about shopping, making purchases, and giving gifts. Students will also learn how to bargain in Spanish! This lesson will culminate with a district exam. In

the final lesson (U4e3) we will learn vocabulary and grammar that is related to dining in a restaurant including the following ordering food, requesting the check, and describing how the food tastes. Before the year ends, the students will have been introduced to all regular preterit tense endings as well as a few irregular preterit verbs. Your child should be ready for your next vacation to a Spanish-speaking country after this unit is finished!

Greetings from Team 6-1!

Students are currently beginning new units this quarter. In science, students are learning about Energy and Electricity. Students will observe an Energy Bike Presentation from the Ecology Action Center by Mrs. Belz. Across the hall, students are taken back to Ancient Rome while studying in social studies. They will be participating in a hands-on experience with a Roman Roads activity. Stay tuned for details from Mrs. Dabler. Next door, students are practicing the use of equations, proportions, and percentages in Mr. Hadden's math class, while in language arts classes, students are preparing for end of the quarter presentations for Wii™



Read. In the meantime, we are discussing strategies we use while we read, such as sensory images and self-questioning text. During homerooms, students are working on a variety of texts and vocabulary lessons. Please check with your child's homeroom teacher regarding any Daily Language grades under language arts in Skyward.

Not only are students actively engaged in the curriculum, they have also been analyzing data regarding study skills and behavior. Ask your child about red slips and the data we have discussed!

As always, assignments and team announcements are updated on our team website. Please feel free to contact us at any time regarding any questions you may have as we assist your child in reaching his or her fullest potential!

Team 6-3 Orange Crush

After an extensive study of chemistry in science, we are now focusing on motion, forces, and forces in fluids. Motion will involve speed, velocity, and acceleration. Forces will involve friction, gravity, and Newton's three laws. Pressure, floating and sinking, Pascal's Principle, Bernoulli's Principle will be the focus for

forces in fluids. Culminating activities may include making a balloon car, marble park ride, or an egg car competition. We are definitely going to be busy.

Math studies for our team will include integers and algebra. Students will be working with positive and negative integers. Equations and variables will be a large part of algebra.

The next adventures for social studies will include Ancient Rome and the Medieval period. Building Roman roads and learning about what it would have been like to live during these times will be just some of the lessons.



The Habaneros

"Can't Get Any Hotter" is getting closer to closing out a successful year. We made it though ISATs and are looking forward to a fun and exciting 4th quarter.

In language arts, the 8th graders will be finishing up the final quarter of the INDY 500 with movie books. They will be reading

the Flowers for Algernon and writing poetry as well. The 7th graders are finishing up the final laps of the Brickyard 400 with science fiction, fantasy, or a movie book. Book talks are going to be the "talk" of the quarter and then they will be finishing out the year by reading The Watson's go to Birmingham and "Brian's Story".

In social studies, the 8th grade will be covering the 1950's, 60's, 70's, 80's, and 90's. There is a lot of exciting history that has happened in the last 50 years! The 7th grade students will be learning about the causes and events during the Civil War, and the aftermath of the war that almost tore our country to pieces! Lots of interesting facts, events, and people to discover!!

In math, 7th grade will be working on patterns and sequences. Pre-Algebra will be dealing with special triangles. Yikes! Algebra is working on inverse operations and practice more rational expressions and functions! Looks like we are in for some fun and challenging math skills for the fourth quarter! Mrs. Ernat would like to thank everyone for giving their best during I.S.A.T. week!

In science, the 8th grade will discuss natural disasters.

Astronomy is the next unit along with the 2-liter bottle rocket project. The 8th graders can really shoot for the stars and sail away on the boats they build at the end of the year. The 7th grade will finish their study of taxonomy and dissection, EEWW!!!! Next they will do an amazing project on animals/biomes. The 7th graders will also have great discussions on ecology issues and how they affect them. There is quite a bit of exciting, rocket launching and riveting things to learn in science for the remainder of the year!

In PE we are still having those fun fitness days! As the weather gets warmer we will be doing many great fitness activities outside in the sunshine.

In Beginning ESL, the students are exploring a unit about conflict and cooperation. They are learning about different cultural problems and how people help to solve them. In Advanced ESL, students are finishing the book called, *The Circuit*. *The Circuit* explores the issues of illegal immigration, relationships, and poverty. They will end the unit with "The Librito" project. Both classes will end the year by learning parts of speech and discover all those fun and exciting grammar rules. Students

are continuing to read for ESL Top Readers.



On a special note the team is taking a field trip to the Lincoln Presidential Museum and the Illinois State Museum on Thursday, May 14th. We would love to have chaperones attend this trip to Springfield. Just email Mrs. Ritchason - ritchasj@unit5.org if you would like to chaperone! Chaperones for the field trip will be on a first come first serve basis so please contact Mrs. Ritchason by Friday, May 1st. The 8th graders on the team will be going to Six Flags on Wednesday, May 27th. The 8th graders will need 250 Cav Cash and to comply with the behavior contract in order to attend. If you are interested in chaperoning for the 8th grade trip please email Mrs. Ernat - ernatr@unit5.org.

Band

The KJHS 7th and 8th grade bands will participate in the IESA Organizations Contest on Saturday, May 2 at Chiddix Jr. High. Performance times are unavailable at this time but will be communicated as soon as we receive them; we expect to play early. This is a required performance for all students, and we will wear concert black and

white. Parents and family are encouraged to come and support the bands; there will be a small admission fee for audience members. Please contact Mr. Reese or Mrs. Meadows if you have any questions.

Spring Band Concert

The KJHS Spring Band Concert will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Normal Community High School auditorium. We are excited to be able to play in a beautiful setting with great acoustics. The concert will feature the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands, and all are invited to attend. There is no admission fee. Students should plan to arrive at NCHS at 6:30 and should wear dressy clothes (does not have to be black and white, but no shorts, capris, jeans, t-shirts, flip flops, or tennis shoes, please). Band awards will be presented during the concert. Please contact Mr. Reese or Mrs. Meadows if you have any questions.

Upcoming events @ KJHS

April 17

6th & 7th grade Activity Night - 4:15 thru 6:30

April 21

Track Pictures - 3:45 - 4:30

April 27 - May 1

Book Fair in IMC - 8:00 - 4:00

April 27

6th Grade Parent Orientation - 7:00

April 28

5th & 6th grade Band Festival

April 28

Spring Pictures

April 30

Fuel Up to Play in Neuman Gym

May 1

8th Grade Dance - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

May 5

Unit Band Rehearsal

May 7

Fairview Music Concert - 6:00 p.m.

May 12

PTO in IMC - 6:30 - Spending Mtg.

7:00 - Regular Mtg.

May 14

6th Grade Field Trip to Medieval Times

May 15

Breakfast of Champions (Café) 7:30

May 18

Awards Night 6 p.m. - 6th grade
 7 p.m. - 7th grade
 8 p.m. - 8th grade

May 19

KJHS Orchestra & Choir - 7 p.m.

May 21

Bands Concert @ NCHS - 7 p.m.

May 25

Memorial Day

May 27

8th Grade Six Flags Trip

June 1

Institute Day

June 2

Last hour of school for the year - 8:35 a.m. - approx. 9:35

PTO - 6:30 - Spending mtg.

7:00 - Regular mtg.

June 8 - 12

Summer Music Program