
CENTRAL HEIGHTS NEWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 288



521 Ellis Road
Richmond, KS 66080
<http://www.usd288.org>

November 2009

Superintendent.....	785.869.3455	785.869.3809	Middle School
High School.....	785.869.3555	785.869.3355	Elementary School

Important Information Inside

Veteran's Day Below Another High School Play..... pg 4
Reece Responds to Critics pg 2 School Cancellation Info pg 8
Military Address Book pg 3 Team Building..... pg 11

The Central Heights school board selected Richmond resident, Kevin Tooley to fill the at-large position recently vacated by the resignation of Tony Johnson. Kevin Tooley was selected by the school board at the October meeting. Tooley recently retired from 16 years of service as teacher and coach at Central Heights and noted that he was excited at the possibilities of serving CHS in this new position.

Veterans Day Celebration

Central Heights invites area veterans and their families to join with students and staff celebrating Veteran's Day on November 11. CHS will provide you and your family with breakfast starting at 8:15 a.m. and a special program beginning at 9:30 a.m. Veterans, please join with us, your Central Heights family, as we continue this moving commemorative tradition.

Contact Scott Lane at
785-869-3555 ext. 410
or via email at slane@usd288.org
with any questions.

Pictures: 1) Principal Tom Horstick opens a previous Veterans Day Celebration.
2) Veterans salute fallen comrades. 3) Two of many participants father-in-law Don Davis and son-in-law Ed Ouellette are honored at last years annual celebration.



Superintendent Jim Reece Responds to Newspaper Articles

Some sources credit Mark Twain with the well known quote of “It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.” In addition, some people stretch your words to make it a better story. At a recent school board meeting, I discussed the budget challenges that face Central Heights Schools. Some people added a little extra zip to the story regarding our district’s financial challenges.

Central Heights has a number of positive attributes.

Central Heights is doing a great job of educating students. Teachers and support staff are committed to help students develop academically, physically, and emotionally. While neighboring districts have been placed on improvement, the Central Heights district consistently earns standard of excellence on state assessments. The target goes up every year. More districts will struggle with meeting the annual goals of No Child Left Behind. However, Central Heights has met the goals each year and hope to do it again this year.

Our district has quality facilities. The new elementary wing and the athletic facility on the south side of Ellis Road are outstanding. In addition, the district is keeping up on maintenance issue. The high school and middle school is showing some age as all 40-year old buildings do, but the district is slowly renovating the facility. Doors and heating and cooling systems have been

replaced. Marker boards replace chalkboards.

Teachers and office personnel have implemented a great deal of technology in recent years. It has been fun to see how teachers and administrators have implemented the use of laptop carts, interactive distance learning, and interactive whiteboards. And we are committed to make future investments to prepare our students for an increasingly technological world.

Central Heights is financially sound. This district is not facing any more of a budget challenge than any most public schools in the state. We are undergoing enrollment decline similar to approximately two thirds of the state’s districts. The economic downturn has challenged all districts, not just Central Heights. The state has reduced school funding several times in the last couple of years. We receive less per child today than we received several years ago.

The district has quality leadership. The school board has made considerable progress towards previously established district goals. The Board of Education recently established an updated set of district goals. Administrators, teachers, and support staff will work towards accomplishing those goals.

Central Heights will continue to serve the patrons of this community for years to come.

Central Heights Statistics

Enrollment as of September 21, 2009 Student Head Count Day

Student population is the basis for district funding for the school year.

Grade	Headcount
K	29
1	37
2	37
3	40
4	37
5	37
6	55
7	54
8	35
9	45
10	49
11	36
12	46
Special Ed 3 & 4 Year Old	6
4 Year Old Preschool	9
Total	552

Five Year Enrollment History By Headcount, Not Full Time Equivalent

School Year	Headcount
2005-06	619
2006-07	594
2007-08	592
2008-09	570
2009-10	552

CHS Grads in Service to America

CHS would like to create a published list of those graduates, former students, district patrons who are currently serving our county.

Submit any names and current address information to macarey@usd288.org or contact the high school office at 785-869-3555.

The following three CHS graduates may be contacted at the address below.

SPC Christopher Gordon
SPC Tony Wilson
SPC Nate Schultz

B 2/130 FA
Unit 31530, MFO 53
APO, AE 09833

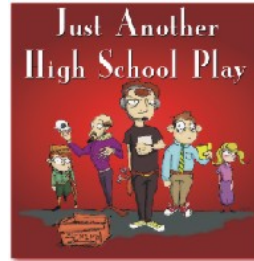
Internet Information Services from Central Heights

Central Heights utilizes PowerSchool as its student management system. PowerSchool can be a very helpful tool. Parents and students can monitor classroom grades. The system can also send emails summarizing your student's grades to you. In addition, the student meal account balance is available.

If you are interested in finding out how to use PowerSchool, contact Bob Stegner at (785) 869-3455, ext. 202. Mr. Stegner can also be reached at rstegner@usd288.org.

Is It Really Just Another High School Play?

What would happen if we produced a high school play and no one showed up to rehearsals? The Central Heights community will find out the answer to that question on November 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. in the CH Little Theater. The comedy Just Another High School Play presents a fast-paced group of actors trying to keep an audience entertained for the length of a play. Difficulties arise since none of the actors memorized their lines, and they did not come to their rehearsals. The Stage Manager and the Assistant Director, played by Amber Weiderholt and Dakota Yohe, try to keep the show moving despite the fact that the show's director is missing on opening night.



cal plays presented in formats from mime to puppet show. This show has something for everyone.

The supporting cast for the show includes Braden McWilliams, Dana Schulz, Jon Carlson, Alex Kimball, JD Johnson, Bobby Louden, Katelyn Meldahl, Cody Sluder, Alicia Croci, Gage Holler, Brett Robertson, Jake Green, Renee Gragg, Keith Shrimpton, Jennifer Hamblin, Brytani Lyda, Samantha Lambert, Liz Louden, Jessie Wilks, Josie Fermyn, Christina Mayhew, Malissa Carey, Nastasja Carlson, Ariel Lambert, Trieleshia Burns, Bethany Dewald, Marissa Lowery, and Taylor Feuerborn.

The result is a frantic race through a warped lesson in the history of theater, an outrageous look at actors preparing backstage, and wild glimpses of classi-

Students are currently in rehearsal every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Mrs. Hampton, the play's director, just hopes the cast shows up, and they all hope that you show up to see the play.

Central Heights middle school students experience a variety of learning activities during elective classes.



Mrs. Lowry's middle school students enjoy a cup of hot chocolate made in the old-fashioned way.



Service Day a Success Again

The Second Annual Community Service Day was October 7. CHHS students were involved in your community. Students completed projects in Lane, Princeton, Rantoul, Richmond and some places in-between. For more information, check out the pictures posted on the school web page at <http://www.usd288.org> and follow the links on the front page. Thanks to the student council members and Brenda Wadkins, organization sponsor, for their efforts on behalf of the communities that comprise our school district

District Office: Food Service

The Central Heights Food Service department is a member of Chapter 23 DFM (District Food Management). We were pleased to host the fall chapter meeting on October 8. Twice a year, Central Heights, West Franklin, Osawatomie, and Paola Food Service departments get together for training. This year, Cindy Johnson, food service director of Eudora School District, was our speaker. She spoke to us on the "Power of Teamwork." The presentation was very informative and we all benefited greatly.

Also in the month of October, National School Lunch Week was recognized by the Central Heights Food Service. The team introduced a new item, Teriyaki Beef. We also served individual pizzas for lunch. The pizzas were a big hit with the students. All CHS elementary students received a pencil, complements of the food service.

With the holidays quickly approaching, we are preparing for our annual Senior Citizen Holiday Meal. The meal will be Thursday, December 3. Specific information will soon be available.

Let me remind you that you may still apply for free/reduced meals at any time. Several families in our school district have benefited from this program. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Please contact me, Dawn Burns, at 785-869-3455, ext 207.

On behalf of my entire Food Service Staff, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. We are thankful to work in a school district with great kids and a fantastic staff. Hope your holiday is a good one

Dawn Burns, Food Service Director
dburns@usd28.org
785-869-3455

**SUMMARY: WHAT RESEARCH
SAYS ABOUT SUCCESSFUL
PARENTING**

Children are more likely to grow up to be happy and productive if they grow up in homes where:

- They learn to feel good about trying hard and doing their best;
- They learn that **THEY** make their own lives better or worse by the decisions they make;
- They learn to solve problems by coming up with many possible plans and choosing the best one;
- They spend a lot of time with adults doing things that both adults and kids enjoy;
- They are praised for what they do rather than for what they are;
- And where adults set and enforce clear, consistent rules and consequences.

Researchers have found that this type of parenting, which combines warmth and involvement with clear, consistent limits, leads to the best outcomes for children.

You will find a good summary of this research on parenting styles at <http://www.ericdigests.org/1999-4/parenting.htm>

© 2004 Stan Davis, author of *Schools Where Everyone Belongs*, <http://www.stopbullyingnow.com>

reprinted with permission

Counselor Corner

Scholarships

Scholarship bulletins will be posted on the school's website. Paper copies will be distributed to juniors and seniors. Also, a listing of a number of scholarships that have been offered in past years is posted on the website. Students are encouraged apply for a scholarship

To search for potential scholarships: simply google "scholarship search engines" on the computer, you'll get a number of possibilities. Remember, scholarships aren't just for seniors in high school. A number of scholarships and contests for scholarship monies are available for freshmen through senior.

Want to potentially receive a \$10,000 scholarship to attend Pittsburg State?

Through a National Science Foundation Grant the Pittsburg State University Department of Engineering Technology has more than \$500,000 available for scholarships. The grant was written to target two potential groups of students: academically talented students from low-income families and under-represented groups (women and minorities).

Scholarship applicants will be required to major in one of the five Engineering Technology areas: Electronics, Manufacturing , Mechanical, Plastics, Construction

For more information on available scholarships contact:

Randy Winzer, 620-235-4370 or rwinzer@pittstate.edu or www.pittstate.edu/nsf-stem

Counselor Corner Continued

Future ACT Test Dates

The ACT (American College Testing) is a college admissions test used by most colleges in the United States for admission and placement. Although junior colleges do not require the ACT, most junior colleges will use ACT scores on Compass test scores for placement in classes. The Compass test is given at the junior colleges at no cost. The December test date is the latest test for seniors who want to submit ACT scores to most 4-year colleges for scholarship consideration (check with the school). Spring test dates are particularly useful for juniors. Juniors would have an opportunity to re-take another national test date to improve their scores if they wish.

Future ACT test dates are given in the table below. Please note that the June ACT will be given at Central Heights

Save the Dates: (more information in upcoming newsletters)

Parent Financial Aid Meeting at CHHS, 7 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

College Goal Sunday at area colleges on February 21, 2010

Looking for Student Volunteers:

Pottawatomie Ruritans are looking for volunteers to work with elementary students at craft tables and with games at their Christmas Party on Sunday, December 6. The party begins at 4 p.m. and ends about 9 p.m. Student volunteers should contact Sandra Best at 785-869-3394, preferably prior to December 1.

Scholarships and More at the USD 288 Website

Scholarships, college/school visits and other information for students and parents are available at the www.usd288.org website. Click on "High School" and "Counselor's office."

Did you know that not all scholarships are for seniors? Several scholarships and essay or poster competitions are available to middle school and all levels of high school students and will be included in monthly scholarship bulletins posted on the school's website.

2009-2010 ACT Assessment Tests Schedule

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Dec. 12, '09	Nov. 6, '09	Nov. 20, '09
Feb. 6, '10	Jan. 5, '10	Jan. 15, '10
Apr. 10, '10	Mar. 5, '10	Mar. 19, '10
Jun. 12, '10	May 7, '10	May 21, '10

Central Heights is now on Twitter at
<http://twitter.com/USD288>

School Cancellation Information

The potential for inclement weather is just around the corner. School may be cancelled in time for it to be shown on the 10:00 p.m. news. School can also be cancelled the morning of the decision. Weather conditions might allow for school to take place as scheduled but evening activities may be postponed. On very rare occasions, school busses might run as normal in the morning but students are released early because of worsening weather. Parents might want to put some thought to what you will do with your children if school is cancelled. Please share those plans with your children. If there is a change in plans, please contact your student's school.

The district notifies Kansas City television stations and KOFO radio (am 1220). Parents can learn about the status of school or activities through Twitter. Contact Bob Stegner if you want to be added. His email address is rstegner@usd288.org. He can also be reached at 785-869-3455, ext. 202.

There is no magic formula for determining if school will be canceled. It is impossible to please everyone.

Rumors seem to be more frequent with the approach of inclement weather. The school will often receive calls from people who say they heard from source or another that Central Heights was going to release students early. Many times those rumors are inaccurate. Feel free to contact the school at 785-869-3455 if you have questions regarding the early release of students.

Board Activities

Board Members and Superintendent Attend KASB Regional Meeting

Two school board members and one administrator from USD 288 Central Heights attended the Kansas Association of School Boards' Fall Regional meeting held at Lyndon High School on Tuesday, October 20. Participants from USD 288 included Board Chair Ron Sluder and member Angie Wiederholt with Superintendent Jim Reece.

The KASB Fall Regional Meetings are designed for the exchange of ideas and information between school boards, superintendents, and KASB staff. At-

tendees listened to several presentations on a variety of topics.

The meeting also included a presentation on the unprecedented cuts in state funding last year.

The host district also provided mini-clinics on the topics of at-risk programs, national conferences, and advocacy. Dinner entertainment was provided by members of the LHS band. The KASB Fall Regional Meetings are held each fall at 19 state-wide locations.



The Kinyon Korner

Sponsoring Key Club A Central Heights Service

Coat Drive!

Donate Warm Clothes to the less fortunate

by Cortney Kinyon

We have started to feel the cooler temperatures of fall this week. While the refreshing cool weather excites those of us who long for steaming cups of hot cocoa, large pots of soup, and warming up under piles of warm blankets, many people dread the cooler weather because they cannot afford coats, gloves, hats, or other warm items such as blankets for themselves or their children. This year, CHHS Key Club is collecting warm coats and blankets for Hope House in Ottawa. Hope House provides assistance to local families.

Please send donations to school by November 6, 2009. Please only send blankets and coats. Please do not forget the babies and children. Small coats are

English 11: The Crucible

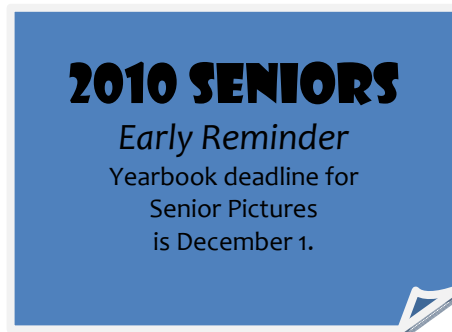
by Cortney Kinyon

This semester, the English 11 students will travel back in time to 1692 to Salem, Massachusetts. While there, they will experience the hysteria that surrounded this small, Puritan town when the accusations of witchcraft filled the air.

The students will have study guides and journals to complete for each act. After those assignments, there will be a quiz. Each quiz builds on the earlier events in the story. At the end of the play, students will write a 2 page literary analysis over some aspect of the story. They will also have a final exam over the story.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any questions.

Cortney Kinyon
ckinyon@usd288.org
785-869-3555 ext. 413



Tasting Literature

Lane Cake!

by Cortney Kinyon

On October 6, students in English 10 were able to taste literature. I stayed up late on the previous night baking three Lane Cakes from scratch. When the students walked into class, they were interested in why three cakes were sitting in the front of the room staring at them. Most of them hoped they would be able to sample some of these tasty treats; their patience was rewarded with big slices of a triple-layered Lane Cake.

In To Kill A Mockingbird, Miss Maudie, the best baker in Maycomb County, brings Aunt Alexandra a Lane Cake in celebration of her return. I had read and reread the book many times never knowing what a Lane Cake was. One day when flipping through Paula Deen's Holiday Desserts I found a recipe for this decadent cake. Having an enlarged sweet tooth, I had to try making it. It was AMAZING!

A Lane Cake is an almond-flavored cake with pecan and coconut filling much like German Chocolate cake frosting all covered in a marshmallow-like frosting. The recipe is Alabama's most famous treat and is named after its creator. The cake is pure bliss, except for your pancreas! If you are interested in the recipe, please contact Mrs. Kinyon at CHHS for it! I would be glad to share!

To Kill a Mockingbird LIVE!

by Cortney Kinyon

On October 14, CHHS English 10 students along with students from the surrounding schools had the opportunity to watch literature come alive before their eyes. Our students were invited to Ottawa's historic courthouse to watch ACT Ottawa's theatrical performance of Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, To Kill a Mockingbird. Ottawa's beautiful courtroom added historical emphasis to a truly powerful case.

Before watching the play, students read the majority of To Kill a Mockingbird with Mrs. Kinyon. However, they were unable to finish the book before the debut of the play. Most of the students tried to finish the book. The ones who were unable to finish the book were shocked at the ending. Most of them could not hide their disappointment in the ending and their disdain for what the characters did. They also expressed their gratitude for being able to go see the play.

Upon return to school, each class discussed how the play differed from the book. As we discussed the students learned why some of their favorite sections of the book were either eliminated or altered. Much to my pleasure, they all still love the book.

Patriot's Bank is sponsoring the Central Heights athletic calendars for this 2009-2010 school year. Patrons can find the schedules at their local Patriot's Bank or at the school.

CHHS Student Council Corner

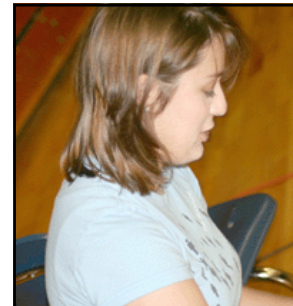
The Central Heights Student council hosted a Team Building Day recently for each of the high school classes. Each grade level joined together for approximately 90 minutes in the gym. Central Heights graduate Whitney Kimball provided leadership and training for the student council members as they worked their classmates through different exercises and problems designed to promote team work and problem solving techniques.

The students held debriefing sessions following each exercise to discuss lessons learned and how they, as classmates, could improve their ability to work together to “get things done.”

One student commented, “I thought this would be silly but I really learned a lot about getting along.” Another said, “I wish we had done something like this last year.” One Junior class student said, “This will help our class as we get ready for Prom this year.”

For more information, contact:

Malissa Carey
Student Council President
or
Brenda Wadkins, Sponsor
785-869-3555 ext. 401



Central Heights News

**USD 288
3521 Ellis Rd.
Richmond, KS 66080**

**Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
2.7 Paid
Richmond, Ks 66080**

**Postal Patron
Local**