



Garden City High School



December, 2009—
January, 2010

The Stampede

Information from Mr. Mireles, Principal

We are quickly approaching the end of the first semester of school. During the next few weeks, several of our Seniors will present their Buff Projects. We are very pleased at the variety of projects the students complete.

We are modifying the way students have the ability to finish classes for credit recovery. For the first semester classes, any student who has a 50-59% average in a class is able to participate in "First Semester School" the first nine school days of second semester. During First Semester School, students

will meet after school for two hours per day to complete work missed so their grade can be raised to a D. This will be the only opportunity for a student to have credit recovery for the first semester classes



without retaking the class. For further information, contact your son/daughter's counselor.

Our students who have a

second opportunity to pass the state Reading or Math assessments will take place in December. Students have been working during Opportunity Period on specific skills to help them with the assessments. We anticipate several of our students passing these assessments this fall so they do not have to wait until spring testing. Your support and encouragement is very much appreciated.

Several of our activities and athletics will be even busier in the next few weeks. We hope you enjoy watching our students participate.

Prom, 2010

Prom will be Saturday March 27th, 2010. The theme is "A Night of Pure Imagination". Parent volunteers are needed to help decorate and to provide food and drinks for the workers.

Decorating will start Monday March 22nd until Thursday, March 25th from 3:20 until 10pm. Friday night March 26th will be a late night of decorating...we stay until it's done.

Non-discrimination Notice

Garden City Public Schools is committed to providing equal educational opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, or disability in its educational programs, services, activities, employment policies, and admission of students.

College Information

North Central Tech will be here during OP on December 8th.

US Army will be here during OP on December 9th.

Financial Aid meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on January 11th in the Cafeteria.

Key Club

Garden City High School Key Club has begun to raise funds for Partnership in Community Service. This program, through The Garden City Company, matches 5 to 1 the money raised by Key Club. This money is then disbursed into the community and school to different charities and mini-grants.

Key Club is having its 2nd annual garage sale Nov. 20th and 21st at the Co-op building on Fulton. We are accepting donations. If you email ahead, we will pick up your items. Contact Mr. Russo or Mr. Hudson at Mrusso@gckschools or Thudson@gckschools.com

Student Council News

Each year Student Council Sponsors an angel tree at GCHS. Our goal this year is to provide gifts for 300 children. If you would like to participate by buying an angel tree gift, please email asilva@gckschools.com or call 620-290-5086 and we will get an angel to you.

The Spring Homecoming Dance will take place Saturday, February 13th from 8-11:30pm. This will be a Sadie Hawkins Sweetheart Dance. The cost will be \$5. The Student Council has

decided that this will be a formal/ semi formal dance so that prom dresses can be used more than once. Boys can wear dress clothes.

On Wednesday, January 13th at 6:30 pm, we will have a "Dress Swap". If you have any prom dresses sitting in your closet collecting dust, please donate them! We will gladly pick up dresses that are being donated. If you have a prom dress you want to sell, we will have a section of dresses being sold as well.



What is a Career Academy?

Career academies are small, personalized learning communities within a high school. A career academy involves teachers from different subjects working together as a team to integrate academic and technical curriculum with career information. Career academies differ from traditional academic and vocational education because they prepare high school students for both college and careers.

Studies have found that students in career academies perform better in high school and are more likely to continue into post secondary education, compared to similar students in the same schools. After assessing the most extensive, longitudinal study yet on academies by MDRC, William Rasberry, of the Washington Post, succinctly wrote, "The magic, apparently, is in the combination of linking academics to job prospects and the intensive involvement of

adults." Several leading organizations of career academies have agreed on a common standard for academies, and use the following parameters when describing a career academy: * a small learning community, comprised of a group of students within the larger high



school, who take classes together for at least two years, and are taught by a team of teachers from different disciplines; * a college preparatory curriculum with a career theme, enabling students to see relationships among academic

subjects, and their application to a broad field of work; and * partnerships with employers, the community, and local colleges, bring resources from outside the high school to improve student motivation and achievement.

How will a student select an academy for next year?

Students have been working with counselors in October and November to learn about their own interests and skills, as well as the sixteen Career Clusters. They will continue this process during enrollment in February and base their Academy choice on this information.

Informational parent meetings

Look for more information about to parent informational meetings this Spring.

Vocal Music "Notes"

We are glad to have the fall concert behind us and hope that everyone enjoyed the progress our choirs have made since school started!

Thirty-nine choir members tried out for District/State choir on Saturday, Nov. 7, and selected members will perform in the District band/choir/orchestra concert on Saturday, December 5. After all the districts have had their concerts, an announcement will be made about the students who scored high enough to make state. State band/choir/orchestra is in conjunction with our Kansas Music Teachers Conference on Feb. 25-27.

Our Christmas concert will be

Tuesday, Dec. 15, and you can participate! All GCHS choirs are preparing the "Hallelujah" Chorus from Handel's Messiah, and you are invited to join us! There will be 3 rehearsals, all held in the HS Choir room.

- Monday, Nov. 30 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 1 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 8 7:30 pm

You may come to any or all rehearsals. If you have the Schirmer edition, please bring it; if not, music will be provided. Part-predominant rehearsal CDs will be available.

Modern Show Choir is once again offering two jr. show choir clinics for

grades 1-4 and grades 5-6. Rehearsals will be Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10:00-12:00, with a review on Monday, Dec. 14 from 4:15-5:15. Information will be available through their school music teacher, or by emailing jvanderhoff@gckschools.com.

The big event of January is the arrival of "Three Men and a Melody", an internationally-ranked barbershop-doo-wop quartet. They are unbelievably accomplished and entertaining in all styles from classical, traditional barbershop and contemporary; we are very fortunate that they are able to come work with our kids and perform for you on **Monday, January 18**. More details to come!!

Orchestra News

Orchestra Students qualifying for District Orchestra will participate in an all day clinic in Dodge City on Saturday, December 5th. They will perform in a concert that afternoon in the DCHS Auditorium. District Band and Choir participants will also be performing on the same concert.

The Christmas concert will be Monday, December 14th, at 7:30 p.m.

in Clifford Hope Auditorium. A variety of seasonal music will be performed.

Many of the students who qualify for District Orchestra will travel to Salina on Saturday, January 9th, to have a live audition for the State Orchestra. Students will be notified later that week who has made the State Orchestra. Students chosen for this group will rehearse during the Kansas Music Educator's Conference on

February 25-27 and will give a concert in Century II on Saturday, February 27.



News from the GCHS Bands

Saturday, December 5, is District Band in Dodge City. Students making District Band will work with the clinician, Dr. Frank Tracz, Director of Bands from Kansas State University, during the day and perform a concert in the afternoon.

GCHS Bands will present their Winter Concert on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in CHA. The concert is free and open to the public. This will be the debut performance of the Wind Ensemble. The Symphonic and

Concert Bands will be combined for this performance.

January is a busy month for the bands. We have several basketball games and honor band functions. January 9, 2010, is State Band auditions held in Salina. Students making the Midwest Honor Band will travel to Kansas City from January 15-17, 2010, to have clinics and perform with students from eight other Midwestern states. Freshman band students have the opportunity to

make the John Philip Sousa Band, in Lawrence, KS on January 22 and 23, 2010. This is considered State Band for freshman. On January 25, 2010, the GCHS Jazz Bands will present a winter concert in CHA. Again, the concert is free and open to the public. It will be at 7:00 p.m. in CHA.

We are very proud of the Marching Stampede's rating at WAC in October, 2009. The students worked very hard for this rating and were very deserving.

College-bound Juniors

If you are a college-bound Junior, remember that the College Board recommends students take the ACT during their second semester of their junior year.

If students have questions about which college entrance exam should be taken, they may talk to their counselor or contact the college(s) in which they are interested.

If you haven't visited the ACT website in a while, you should check it out! The website has special areas for student, parents and educators.

GCHS has a link on our website to ACT. It provides access to the following, and more.

- Online registration for the ACT Assessment
- Online request for Additional Score Reports
- A complete ACT Assessment test with detailed explanations of answers
- Test taking strategies and other test-preparation ideas
- A federal financial aid calculator that estimates a family's contribution to costs at more than 3,000 colleges
- Other great college and career planning information

Sign up at collegeboard.com it has all the best information to help you plan for college and it's *free*

December events:

Comunities That Care Survey to all 10th & 12th graders - Dec. 2

Buff Project Day – Dec. 11

Finals – Dec. 17 – 18

January events:

Compass Test information to Juniors in courtyard during OP Jan. 25

Pre-enrollment activities for 2010-2011 will begin

Financial Aid Meeting – Jan 11

Financial Aid Meeting

Garden City High School will be hosting a Financial Aid Meeting, Monday, January 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. A financial aid representative will explain the financial aid application procedure to parents and senior students and answer questions. If you have any questions or for more information please call the Garden City High School counselors' office at 805-8039 and visit with Anita Funk.

Reminder to all GCHS Students

No schedule changes will be done once second semester begins.

The Perils of "Senioritis"

As seniors complete their final year of high school, one comment sometimes heard is: "I have worked so hard. Do I really have to take such a tough schedule this year?"

Each student will have a different approach to his or her course load. While there is room for electives, a senior schedule should reveal a student who remains excited about academic challenge. The bottom line: Students should take the most rigorous set of classes in which they feel comfortable and confident about being successful. Here are four tips for warding off "senioritis:"

1. **Make the grades.** There is no stronger message to send colleges than good grades during senior year. Students should aim to maintain or improve their performance compared to junior year. Strong grades in a challenging senior schedule can often compensate for weaker marks earned previously.
2. **Remain involved without getting overwhelmed.** As we all know, students are dedicated to much more than classes. Senior year provides a whole new level of learning how to balance academic demands with the commitments that clubs require. Trying new activities and further developing current interest not only prepares students for a college schedule, but gives them an important stress-relieving outlet. However, involvement at the expense of one's grades is never a worthwhile trade-off.
3. **Stay focused.** Even after being admitted to college, seniors need to maintain their grades. Students who commit to Early Action or Early Decision programs are expected to continue their academic progress. Colleges wish to see solid final transcripts. It gives no college pleasure to send a warning letter or, the worst-case scenario, to rescind admission to students who let their grades slide at the end of senior year.
4. **Enjoy the experience.** Students who can resist "senioritis" will be able to balance the academic, extracurricular, and social aspects of senior year. Universities look forward to welcoming that kind of well-rounded energy into the freshman class each fall.

Make the Most of a Campus Visit

You can gain valuable information about colleges and universities in which you're interested through brochures, web sites, college guides, and recommendations. But how do you know if a college is a good fit for you? The best way to find out is to tour the campus, attend classes, and meet members of the campus community.

The key to a successful campus visit is planning ahead. Contact the admissions office to ask about special visit days, office hours, and available activities. Do not make nonrefundable travel arrangements until you confirm with the admissions office that the campus is open for visitors. When you visit, be sure to attend information sessions and tours sponsored by the admissions office, but don't miss an opportunity to just hang out and soak up the atmosphere. Keep an open mind - a visit may confirm what you already know about a school, or it can open your eyes to new opportunities. Take notes and bring your camera, so you can remember all you see and hear.

If you have time, ask the admissions office to schedule a meeting with a professor in a subject area that interests you; most professors welcome visitors. Check out the surroundings. Visit the classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and studios. Find a spot to study or relax. Can you imagine yourself there? Be sure to tour the residence halls. Find out what's available, including fitness centers laundry facilities, study rooms, music practice rooms, and shops or stores. Have a meal on campus. Ask yourself if you would be comfortable living on this campus.

Go to the student activities office to see what clubs and organizations are active. Ask a current student what he or she does at night and on the weekends. Explore community service activities. If you're interested in sports, find out what varsity, intramural, and club sports the college offers. Schedule an appointment with a coach if you have questions about a particular sport.

If you're unable to make a campus visit, call the admissions office and ask if a university representative will be visiting your high school, attending a college fair, or holding an informational meeting in your area. You may also wish to request a copy of the university's DVD.

News From The Counselors' Office

Seniors:

Contact Geri Cabbage, Registrar, for transcripts.

Take a copy of your college acceptance letter to Jacque Hill in the Career Center so your name can appear on the "College Bound Buffaloes" board in the Commons Area.

SAT Test Dates for 2009~2010

The SAT test will be administered at GCCC

Test Dates

December 5, 2009
January 23, 2010

Registration Deadline

registration deadline October 30
registration deadline December 15

ACT Test Dates for 2009~2010

The ACT test will be administered at GCCC

Test Dates

December 12, 2009

Registration Deadline

registration deadline is November 6, 2009

ACT registration packets are available in the Counselors' Office

Students can also register online at www.actstudent.org

Unified School District No.
457

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THE BUFFALO STAMPEDE
