



# HOLDREGE SCHOOLS

## Holdrege High School

PO Box 2002, Holdrege, Nebraska 68949

(308) 995-6558

Robert Drews, Principal

Scott Schoneman, Activities Director

February 1, 2010

Dear Students and Parents,

It could be argued that nothing will help our students meet future challenges more than learning the value of responsible and dependable attendance. Our policy connecting attendance to a sliding scale of credit has been in effect for a couple of years. Using this policy, students who exceeded the allowable number or absences are given opportunities to “make up” time to reclaim their full credit towards graduation. With persistence by the faculty and staff here at the high school, and with good communication between the schools and homes, we can continue to show the kids how good attendance habits can translate into good grades and successful futures. We again ask that parents/guardians do their part by communicating with the school as soon as possible when a student is ill or cannot be at school for other reasons. Prompt contact with the HS office can help us better track attendance so that we will have more accurate records to provide the students and their parents or guardians with feedback. Phone calls to the office are the traditional approach, but there are some parents who utilize e-mail as well. Either is fine as long as we maintain the communication.

As this message is focused on communication between households and the school, I would also like to remind everyone of the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences in our district. HHS will be holding our conferences from 4:00-8:00pm on Tuesday, February 16 and from 2:00-6:00pm on Thursday, February 18. Both days of conferences will be held in classrooms. In addition to the phone, e-mail and PT Conference contacts, we also encourage everyone to visit our web site ([www.thedusters.org](http://www.thedusters.org)) on a regular basis. Current student activities, achievements and information is available, as well as daily announcements and a copy of this newsletter. As an added element this year, we will be utilizing the Survey feature of Infinite Campus to gather 2<sup>nd</sup> semester data with our Patron Satisfaction Survey that had always been given once each year (in the fall). Parents who log into IC during this week will have a notice asking them to complete the form. We will also have computers available in the building for parents to log in at our facility. By doing this, we hope to be able to respond to concerns more effectively and once again, improve communication.

Cooperation between the household and the school has been shown to improve student achievement in a variety of areas. Hopefully, through more efficient and effective communication methods, we will be better able to serve the youth of our community.

Sincerely,

Robert Drews, Principal

Holdrege High School

### **IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES:**

- February 15-18 - 1:37 Dismissal Each Day
- February 16 - HS Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00pm (in classrooms)
- February 18 - HS Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:00-6:00pm (in classrooms)
- February 19 - NO SCHOOL

**POSSIBLE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM:** Several organizations are considering community needs and exploring the possibility of a Summer Lunch Program for children (approximate grades, K through 12) to be offered Monday-Friday at downtown Holdrege Churches (on a rotating basis) in June and July. Call Holdrege HS at 995-6558 if your children would benefit from participating in this program and have free noon lunches this summer.

**1<sup>st</sup> SEMESTER HONOR ROLL:** Students at Holdrege High School must have at least a 3.5 GPA to qualify for the Honor Roll. For the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester of the 2009-2010 school year, 116 HHS students were able to qualify. Congratulations to the following for making the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Honor Roll (Students in Bold print had all A's for the semester):



9<sup>th</sup> Grade

Rebekah Bauman, **Connor Bliss, Emily Buck**, Brenna Cole, **Ethan Corkery**, Tyler Daily, **Hunter Ellis, Kelly Freeburg**, Whitney Frost, Jacob Fuehrer, Nicole Gerdes, **Melissa Golus**, Zachary Gray, **Jordan Hoeft, Rachel Huston**, Mackenzie Jensen, **Megan Kreutzer**, Luis Martinez Renteria, Courtney Milius, Madeline Nelson, Maggie Nelson, Daniel Olson, **Austin Pistulka**, Lianna Prill, **Randi Putera, Justin Ropers**, Reyna Smith, Elizabeth Stewart, **Reinette Strydom**, Austin Swanson, **Bailey Williams**, Ian Winkelman,

10<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Nicholas Anderson**, Ashley Bachman, Rachel Berreckman, **Joseph Burr, Dillon Clayton, Trevan Dick**, Jeffery Ehresman, **Austin Envick, Jill Gabriel**, Jaci Gillespie, Rebecca Golus, **Seth Hald**, Shayne Heger, **Vanessa Jurado, Taylor Jurgens**, Miranda Karn, Chelsey Morten, **Ryan Putera**, Charlene Schrock, Brittany Smith, Quinton Stump, **Chelsie Sunblade**

11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Emily Amen, Justin Bell, Katelyn Buettner, Riley Damrow, **Daniel Ehrenberg**, Brianne Englund, Michael Epping, Courtney Fegter, Ashley Frost, Cheyenne Fulk, **Kayla Fulmer**, Trey Giesenhagen, **Amanda Gray, Michaela Gray**, Laura Gustafson, **Lauren Hoeft, Allison Hohman**, Joseph Isaacson, Hannah Jelden, Krystal Jones, **Kayla Karlson, Nathan Kreutzer, Kirsten Larson, Linnea Larson**, Michelle Lindstrom, **Courtney Martin**, Logan Reed, **Alex Schoneman**, Jordan Schulz, **Katherine Soreide**, Alexandra Stabenow

12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Rachel Beaudette**, Erick Beck, Andrew Bergman, Jared Buskirk, **Adam Christie, Emily Cox**, Schreese Dahlgren, **Shelby Dick, Britain Doolittle**, Sara Ehresman, Tanner Ellis, Alec Frisell, **Abby Fuehrer**, Andrew Gallington, Keegan Geisinger, Madison Guthrie, Amanda Hasty, Dillon Hill, Chance Hohensee, **Jonathan Larson**, Jared Long, Ethan Moore, Blanca Murillo, **Ian Opfer**, Lincoln Pearson, Jenae Sandell, **Breanne Schneider, Stephanie Smith**, Zachery Svoboda, Crystal Voshell

In addition to the Honor Roll, we also would like to recognize those students who had **Perfect Attendance and Excellent Attendance** last semester:

Perfect Attendance (no absences)

Nicholas Anderson, Joseph Burr, Jared Buskirk, Andrew Daily, Tyler Ehlers, Jonathan Englund, Michael Epping, Aaron Francis, Abby Fuehrer, Jacob Fuehrer, Nicole Gerdes, Seth Hald, Megan Kreutzer, Kirsten Larson, Linnea Larson, Ryan Putera, Charlene Schrock, Collin Sindt, Reinette Strydom, Aaron Wilder, Adam Zebert

Excellent Attendance (4 or less period absences – ½ day)

Michael Anderson, Brooke Andrijeski, Ryan Barlow, Justin Bell, Nicole Bliss, Jimmy Burken, Chandler Dahlgren, Tyler Daily, Katie Dick, Trevan Dick, Tyler Dossett, Daniel Ehrenberg, Brianne Englund, Brandon Hamilton, Amanda Hasty, Chance Hohensee, Joseph Isaacson, Hannah Jelden, Morgan Jones, Kayla Karlson, Nathan Kreutzer, Emilee Parr, Eric Pieper, Brock Rademaker, Brady Schneider, Alex Schoneman, Bailey Williams

Congratulations to all of these students on their outstanding performance during the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester of the 2009-2010 school year!

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on February 16 (4:00-8:00pm) and February 18 (2:00-6:00pm) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 09-10 school year. Due to a Sub-District basketball tournament being held at HHS, meetings with teachers will be held in classrooms. Please stop at the table in the Commons when you arrive at conferences, where you will receive a copy of your student's schedule. These conferences provide both you and your student's teachers an opportunity to discuss your student's progress and behavior in school. Because of the number of parents wishing to speak to each teacher, the conferences should be *limited to 5 minutes each*. If you need a longer conference, you may schedule those with each teacher individually. The following teachers will be available at Holdrege High School ONLY on Tuesday, February 16

Mr. Bricker	Mrs. Freburg	Mr. Shield
Mr. Butler	Mr. Kosmicki	Mr. Wiese
Mrs. Erickson	Mrs. Lum	Mr. Young

These teachers will be scheduled to be in other district buildings on their different days of the week. We look forward to seeing each of you at the conferences!

## Holdrege FFA Chapter Holds Annual Leadership Night and Excels at District Leadership Skills Events



The Third Annual FFA Leadership Night was held January 20<sup>th</sup> in the Holdrege High School Cafeteria. Thirty-four FFA members along with numerous parents and guests were present for the ceremonies and Soup Supper sponsored by the Holdrege FFA Alumni Members. FFA Members demonstrated their Leadership Skills Events from the Junior and Senior Parliamentary Procedure teams, FFA creed and public speakers. First year FFA members received their Greenhand Degrees while second year members received their Chapter Degrees. Those members receiving their FFA Greenhand Degrees were: Matt Becker, Brianna Bowers, Brittney Britthouer, Andrew Daily, Adam Daugherty, Stephen Denton, Liana Dobos, Whitney Frost, Nicole Gerdes, Melissa Golus, Zach Gray, Seth Hald, Brandon Hamilton, Alex Hamilton, Alex Hamling, Dylan Hushizer, Milli Jorges, Michael McIntire, Kacey McKown, Tracey Silva, David Wilder. Second year FFA members receiving their Chapter FFA Degrees were: Nicholas Anderson, Michaela Gray, Doug Smith, Mike Suhr

The FFA Chapter would like to say thanks to Brad Johnson and Sue Waller for donating the soup and to Kent and Tammi Sturgis for donating the meat for the sandwiches. Also, a special thanks to all other parents for helping out during the evening to make it successful.

Nineteen Holdrege FFA Members competed in Leadership Skills Events on January 27<sup>th</sup>, in Aurora at the Leadership Center. Overall the chapter had its best showing in several years by qualifying three contests for State FFA Convention. Participating in Senior Parliamentary Procedure was the team of Logan Reed, Lincoln Pearson, Jolee Sturgis, Andrew Bergman, Quin Becker, and Michaela Gray. They received a blue ribbon for their demonstration tying for second place overall. The Junior Parliamentary Procedure team took home a District Champion Plaque and qualified for State Competition in April. The Junior Parliamentary Procedure team consisted of Nicholas Anderson, Brianna Bowers, Melissa Golus, Seth Hald, Nicole Gerdes, Stephen Denton, and Doug Smith. Andrew Daily and Alex Hamling served as alternates to the team as assisted with other contest duties. Juniors Michaela Gray and Ashley Frost competed in the Job Interview contests and each brought home blue placings. Sophomore Nick Anderson brought home first place in Junior Public Speaking with his speech about genetically modified organisms. Creed Speakers Seth Hald and Zach Gray performed at a high level by with Seth qualifying for State Competition and Zach earning a red placing. A few upcoming events for the FFA Chapter will be the FFA Alumni Beef Feed on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the high school and National FFA Week activities in February.



**MASTER TEACHER AWARD:** The Master Teacher Award was established in 1977 by the Holdrege Board of Education to recognize outstanding teaching in the Holdrege Public Schools. The award is presented at the May meeting of the Board. The Board may choose to give no award, one award, or no more than two awards in any given year. The recipient shall be currently teaching in the Holdrege Public Schools and have a record of outstanding teaching based on the growth of his/her students in the classroom and of the teacher himself/herself in his/her professional field.

Nominations submitted on the appropriate form will be accepted from any patron of the District. Nominations must be submitted no later than March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Members of the Board of Education will review nominations and make the final selection.

A Master Teacher Award plaque will be presented to each winner, and a cumulative plaque is displayed in Central Office with the winners' names added as awarded.

**SPRING PRACTICE BEGINS IN MARCH:** Spring sports are just around the corner and the end of February signals the beginning of the practice season for those activities: Track, Boys Golf, Girls Tennis and Soccer may all begin formal practices on Monday, March 1. Many students have been conditioning during the winter and are eagerly anticipating the first meetings and workouts. Watch for information in the daily announcements on our website [www.thedusters.org](http://www.thedusters.org) as to when organizational meetings are scheduled.



### **FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE:**

This is a reminder to students and parents that we will be pre-registering for 2010-11 classes next month and that you should be discussing your possible class choices with each other. Students should be visiting with their teachers and asking their advice and stop in the Guidance Office for class recommendations.

**Seniors:** Keep an eye on the scholarship list. At this time it has over 100 possibilities. This is also the time to get your taxes in order and complete the FAFSA (the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid). This is the required form to file for eligibility for grants and government student loans. It should be submitted as soon as possible. If this is your families first experience with the FAFSA call me for further information.

**ACT PREPARATION AT HHS:** During the 1<sup>st</sup> semester this year, a group of Students from HHS were able to participate in a formal program aimed at improving student readiness for the ACT, which is offered at various times throughout the year. The program comes from John Baylor, who operates out of Lincoln, Nebraska. While students had been receiving assistance for preparation in the past, this program, delivered via the internet, created a more formal process for them. John Baylor ACT Prep has been operating in Nebraska and surrounding states for a number of years and was highly recommended by other schools in our own Central Conference. There are 14 sessions that run 45 minutes each and each session is offered two times (before and after school) for those students with busy schedules. The cost of the course is \$25. We will again offer the course to students who are preparing for the test.

## There are problems in the math department - Go figure!

The mathematicians at Holdrege High School continue to pursue their knowledge of mathematics as they improve their skills and acquire new ones. Algebra students are learning how to solve and graph linear equations. Algebra II students are learning to solve quadratic equations by completing the square and using the quadratic formula. Students of Geometry are learning how to solve triangles using trigonometry. Things are getting challenging in the Pre-Calc classes as they are wrestling with how to graph sine and cosine functions. In addition to learning the rules of differentiation in Calculus, the seniors in that class are also training to take the American Mathematics Competition which they will compete in the first part of February. Math can be tough, but these students are up for the challenge and doing a great job in their math classes. Here is this month's mind puzzle. Bring your work and answer to Mrs. Pearson for a prize. Stay warm.

**Charlie went to play golf with his wife's only brother's wife's only brother.  
Who was he?**

**Holdrege Earns Honorable Mention at We the People Championship:** On January 11, 2010, twenty four seniors from Holdrege High School competed at the We the People State Competition. The team received an Honorable Mention . Unit Six Team consisting of Jared Buskirk, Emily Cox, Britain Doolittle and Jonathan Larson won the Unit Championship.



Lincoln East won the competition. Taking second place in the competition was the Lincoln Southeast High School-Black team coached by teacher Dave Nebel. Taking honorable mention in the championship were teams from Holdrege, coached by teacher Chad Bailey; V.J. & Angela Skutt High School coached by David Jopp; Lincoln Southeast High School-Gold coached by teacher Noa Craft; Wilcox-Hildreth High School coached by Ken Meyers and Lincoln Southwest High School coached by teacher Ryan Salem. More than 150 students competed in the state championship.

We the People is a nationally acclaimed civics program supported by the U.S. Congress and administered by the Nebraska State Bar Foundation. Participants in the competition demonstrate “a simulated” congressional hearing in which students “testify” before a panel of volunteer judges. Volunteers included staff from each of the local congressional offices. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and have opportunities to evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

At the awards luncheon following the competition Chief Justice Michael G. Heavican, Nebraska Supreme Court, was interviewed by Omaha World Herald reporter Leslie Reed. She asked questions such as, “Was there anything like We the People when you were in high school?” Each team was presented with an award and special awards were given to teams scoring high in one of the six units on the Constitution.

**PROM AT HOLDREGE HIGH SCHOOL:** While prom is scheduled for March 27, 2010, we know many of the girls are starting to shop for prom dresses. Remember that Holdrege High School does have a dress code for prom. The dress code applies to all students and their guests attending this event. Holdrege High School students and administration developed this dress code. If you have questions about the dress code, please feel free to contact the high school office.

### *Prom Dress Code Reminder*

Prom is an important and integral part of the school experience at Holdrege High School and for the Holdrege community. Prom provides an opportunity for students and faculty members to interact at a formal social event. Preserving prom as a formal social event and positive learning experience for students is a priority for Holdrege High School.

Everyone attending prom, including guests, is expected to dress and behave appropriately for a formal evening social event. This would include the following guidelines:

- Young men are expected to wear formal evening attire that would include a tuxedo, suit with a tie, or sport coat and slacks with a tie.
- Young women are expected to wear formal evening attire that would include a formal evening gown or other similar dresses/outfits. Dresses may not expose a bare midriff or have a side slit higher than the tips of the wearer's fingers when the wearer's hands are at her sides. Two-piece dresses/outfits are allowed provided that they do not expose any midriff.
- Body piercings other than those in the ear are not allowed.
- Exposed tattoos are not allowed.
- Public displays of affection other than holding hands are not permitted.
- All other Holdrege High School behavior rules will apply for the entire evening.

Prom is intended to be a fun and positive learning experience for all students. The above guidelines will be enforced for the prom dinner and dance. Faculty members will make the final decision as to whether a student's dress and behavior are appropriate. Students and guests may be asked to leave prom if their dress or behavior does not meet the above guidelines.



**DO YOU NEED THE PRINTED NEWSLETTER SENT TO YOU?** As new technologies have become available, we are now able to post our newsletter on our website that is visited on a regular basis by many patrons of the district. While communication is a priority at HHS, we are also striving to find ways to become more efficient with the resources we have. One way we may be able to become more efficient is reducing our postage each month. By far, our largest monthly postage bill is the mailing of our newsletter. If you would be willing to help us with cost reductions and have a copy e-mailed to you, or simply access your newsletter on the school website in the Principal section, *please fill out the page at the end of this mailing and have your child bring it to the HS office.* We appreciate those who have already done so. Thanks for helping us find ways to use our resources wisely!

**Attention: Junior & Senior Parents**  
2010 Post Prom Party

Prom 2010 is fast approaching, Saturday, March 27. The Holdrege Post Prom Committee, a group of volunteer parents, will be hosting the Post Prom Party at the Phelps County Ag Center this year, after the formal prom activities. The goal of the Post Prom Committee is to provide after prom activities for Holdrege High School juniors and seniors and their dates, by providing a drug and alcohol free environment locally.

The students are not charged anything to attend the event, all funding is through fundraisers and donations. This is where we need your help. We are asking the junior and senior parents to make a donation to help support the Post Prom Activities.

The Holdrege Post Prom Committee has been providing food/refreshments, entertainment and prizes for Holdrege High School students since 1985. Door prizes are given throughout the night, to Holdrege junior and senior students only, if we get enough donations.

Please consider making a donation to help make Post Prom a success. Donations can be made in various ways. Monetary donations will pay for the use of the facility, refreshments, entertainment and prizes. (Please make checks payable to: **Holdrege Post Prom.**) Gift certificates and merchandise are also accepted and will be given away as prizes. If you prefer to donate merchandise please call Susan Fulk (991-4418) or Sue Wagner (991-7585) to make arrangements in getting the item.

Thank you for considering making a donation to **Holdrege Post Prom.** Your donation is greatly appreciated. And if you've already made a donation, Thanks!

Donations can be sent to one of the following committee members listed below.

Susan Fulk	Kent Sturgis	Sue Wagner	Brian Gray
P.O Box 26	121 S. Gustin	720 Morton	2406 S. Gustin
Atlanta, NE 68923	Holdrege, NE 68949	Holdrege, NE 68949	Holdrege, NE 68949

Please complete the form below and enclose it with your donation.

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Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE CONCERNING STAFF QUALIFICATIONS:** The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 gives parents the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Holdrege Public Schools will give parents the following information about their child's classroom teachers:

(1) Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.

(2) Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.

(3) The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

We will also, upon request, tell parents whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. The request for information should be made to the principal in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Holdrege Public Schools will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the Act.

The Holdrege Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities. The following person(s) has/have been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination:

Title: Mrs. Cinde Wendell, Superintendent of Schools  
Address: 505 14th Avenue, Holdrege, Nebraska 68949  
Phone #: 308.995.8663

If parents, employees and students do not feel that their complaints regarding Title IX, Title VI, Section 504 have met with resolution at the local level, they can appeal their grievances to the regional Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. All appeals should be directed to the following address:

Office for Civil Rights  
8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037  
Kansas City, MO 64114  
816-268-0550  
FAX: 816-823-1404; TDD: 800-437-0833