



HOLDREGE SCHOOLS
Holdrege High School

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(308) 995-6558
Robert Drews, Principal
Scott Schoneman, Activities Director

November 1, 2011

Dear Students and Parents,

I'd like to reprint some comments that I put in last year's November edition. I feel they are still relevant as we consider what the future of our schools should be.

Is there a "bottom line" when it comes to public education? That is the essence of arguments that have evolved over the last 25-30 years in our country. Right now, we exist in a world of "test and prove" that is connected to funding and resources. But is that what we truly want from our system? There is a significant portion of our society that would like to measure public schools by efficiency. I would agree that being efficient is important, but it seems that the process of helping young people develop into productive citizens has been reduced to attaching a number on a test to some fiscal resources. Although test scores do give us valuable information, we need to be careful that this focus does not engulf our schools and brush aside those other things that help us create a nation of independent and creative thinkers, which is the driving force behind our democracy.

We strive to produce independent students with the flexibility to survive in an ever-changing world. That means judging schools and programs by more than just a simple test score. The current methods of ranking schools/districts does very little to help individuals find success. Instead of finding ways to shame schools and create artificial crisis, we need to rally around public education to adjust in areas that don't serve our students well and refine those elements that have helped produce a system that truly tries to help each student grow into a responsible citizen.

Resources for our schools will become a significant topic in the next legislative session here in Nebraska. Can we keep offering the variety of programs that we now have? Will we be able to adapt to the quickly-changing needs our students bring in the door each day? Federal and state requirements may tie our hands in some cases. My hope as an educator, and as a parent, is that we can continue to provide quality, well-rounded educational opportunities for all the young people in our state and in our nation. Basing decisions on a "bottom line" of immediate financial impact may make some people feel "efficient," but the true price paid may be far more costly than we can imagine.

Robert Drews, Principal
Holdrege High School

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES:

- Nov. 7 - 7-12 Choir Concert 7:30pm @ The Tassel
- Nov. 8 - Financial Aid Night 7:00pm @ HHS Media Center
- Nov. 11 - Veterans' Day Program, 1:00pm @ The Tassel
- Nov. 16 - ASVAB (Juniors)
- Nov. 22 - 1:37 Dismissal
- Nov. 23-25 - NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 29 - One Act Play Public Performance 7:30pm @ The Tassel



VETERANS DAY PROGRAM: Holdrege High School is planning to honor veterans with a Veterans Day Program on Thursday, November 11. The program is tentatively set to start at 1:00pm in The Tassel, and will include music by the HHS and HMS bands and the HHS Choir.

PICTURES NEEDED FROM SENIORS: Seniors will need to turn in two pictures (either digital or print) to Mr. Buck, yearbook adviser, by Dec. 1. One photo will be for the yearbook, while the other will be used for the special Graduation section in a May edition of the Holdrege Daily Citizen. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Buck.



RINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sophomores and Seniors will have the opportunity to view Class Ring options and Senior Announcement options on Thursday, November 3 in the HHS cafeteria during 6th period. A representative from Jostens will return to take orders for both and answer questions on Thursday, November 10, from 2:00-4:00pm in the HS Commons. Here are a couple of reminders from Jostens:



- Students need a \$60.00 deposit to order Senior Products & \$50.00 deposit for Ring Orders
- If a student is absent on ordering day, please have them leave their order with the HS Office or with Mrs. Olson (Sr. Sponsor)

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE:

SENIORS: If you're signing up for the next ACT on December 10th the regular registration deadline is November 4th. The fees are \$34 for the regular test and \$49.50 for the additional writing section. The registration form is now on line at www.actstudent.org. Pay with a credit or debit card.



We will host FINANCIAL AID NIGHT on Tuesday, November 8th at 7:00 in the HHS Media Center. EducationQuest Foundation will broadcast the live feed courtesy of UN-K. This is a very important meeting, particularly for parents who are sending children off to college for the first time. The FAFSA will be explained and many questions will be answered.

Another important activity for seniors to remember is the Phelps County Community Foundation information session. Vicki Klein of the Foundation will come to school and explain the process of applying for scholarships and aid to college. Mrs. Kline will visit students in the classroom.

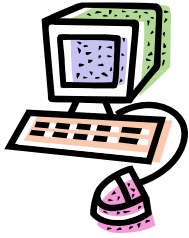
JUNIORS: The annual Junior Career Tour of Becton-Dickinson, Allmand Brothers and Phelps Memorial Health Center will be held on December 8th. This day consists of all the 11th graders visiting these three major employers. HHS will bus the students to the three sites for 90 minute tours at each locality. These businesses will provide lunch at the high school.

The ASVAB, the military aptitude test will be administered to the juniors on November 16th. This will take place in the Tassel from 8:00 until 11:30.

SOPHOMORES: Your PLAN test scores will back by the end of the month. This is a test designed to let you get familiar with the ACT and the results are valuable to the school.

FRESHMEN: I want to congratulate you on a smooth transition to the high school. Keep it up!

SURVEYS via E-MAIL: In keeping with our quest to improve communication with patrons, we have begun to use our digital communications abilities to complete our annual Parent/Guardian Survey. All those with current e-mail contacts on file at HHS will receive a link to the survey with a request to complete it. Please follow the directions and help us gather data to better respond to our patrons.



YEARBOOK SALES: HHS students will have the opportunity to buy a yearbook on November 3 in their English classes. Students will fill out a simple form and be sent reminders for payment. Students may make two payments of \$22.50 (one by Friday, Dec. 2 and one by Friday, Jan. 20) or make a full payment of \$45 by January 20. Checks can be made out to Holdrege Schools. Contact Mr. Buck via e-mail (jbuck@esu11.org) or phone (995-6558) if you have any questions.



SENIOR PARENTS: Senior Recognition Ads sales flyers for the yearbook were sent in the mail on October 17. If you did not receive a flyer in the mail, please contact Mr. Buck via e-mail (jbuck@esu11.org) or phone (995-6558) as soon as possible. The deadline for turning in your senior recognition ad is Friday, November 18.

Duster FFA Members Qualify for State Land Judging: Twenty-four members of the Holdrege



FFA competed in the Southwest Area Land Judging contest on October 5, 2011. The contest was hosted by the Lower Republican Natural Resources District in Alma with 240 contestants evaluating four sites for top soil thickness, slope, topsoil and subsoil textures. After determining these factors each participant determined a land capability class and checked off recommended practices for each site based on cropland or rangeland qualities. The top placers from the Holdrege FFA were senior Nick Anderson placing 1st with senior Seth Hald placing 4th overall receiving a purple ribbons. Receiving blue ribbons were senior; Stephen Denton, junior Austin

Marquardt, freshman; Kaitlin Taylor, and sophomore; Brenden Kreutzer. Earning red ribbons were: freshmen Trevor Smith, Joseph Anderson, Gabbie Schrock, and Jessica Reed and sophomore Nolan Breece. Finishing with white ribbons were sophomores Braden Badertscher, Skylar Peterson Ethan Johnson and Jamie Bialas along with junior Marcus Van Eperen. In order to receive a ribbon a student must be in the top 60% of the contestants. In the team portion of the contest the top four schools qualified for the State Land Judging contest that will be held in Wahoo, NE on November 2nd. Qualifying for State competition this year were teams from Franklin, Holdrege, Arapahoe, and Alma. Holdrege Team 1 won the overall team competition over Arapahoe. Members of the Holdrege Team 1 that qualified for State competition were Nick Anderson, Seth Hald, Jamie Bialas, and Brenden Kreutzer. The winning school received a new JMC Soil Probe from the State Natural Resources Conservation Service. Other teams from Holdrege receiving ribbons were Holdrege Team 2, comprised of Stephen Denton, Joseph Anderson, Ethan Johnson, and Braden Badertscher who earned a blue ribbon. Earning a blue team placing was Holdrege Team 3 consisting of Lezlee Sasse, Austin Marquardt, Marcus Van Eperen, and Gabbie Schrock. Team 4 from Holdrege earned a white ribbon and was represented by freshmen Kaitlin Taylor, Janessa Maurer, Jessica Reed, and Luke Wilke.

The next FFA event will be National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana October 19-23rd. Also, FFA Fruit Sales will run October 14- November 5th.



SCHOOL DISMISSED FOR THANKSGIVING: School will be dismissed at 1:37pm on Tuesday, November 22 to begin the Thanksgiving Break. School will not be in session on Wednesday, November 23 through Friday, November 25. Classes will resume at the usual time on Monday, November 28.

2011 HOLDREGE FFA FRUIT SALES: The Holdrege High School FFA Chapter is currently holding its annual fruit sales fundraiser October 13th through November 4th. Holdrege FFA Chapter members will be traveling around Holdrege and neighboring communities to collect orders. FFA members will distribute products December 7th through the 10th. No orders will be taken after November 4th at 4:00p.m.



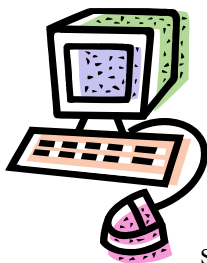
All of last year's items and packages will be available for 2011. Full and half cases of grapefruit, oranges, and pears are available along with red and golden delicious apples may be purchased in full and half cases. Also available are seven types of mixed boxes of apples oranges, grapefruit, pears, and pineapples. Three meat and cheese gift packages are for sale this year including summer sausage and various flavors of cheese. The Patriot, Classic, and Duster Snacker meat & cheese packs make great Christmas gifts for family, employees, and customers. We will also be adding Poinsettias grown in our new greenhouse this year. Varieties available are Prestige Red, Advent Red, Enduring White, Marco Polo Pink, and Marble Star.

Funds from the sales are used for expenses such as leadership conferences, field trips, state & national conventions, and chapter activities throughout the year.

The Holdrege FFA has developed an online ordering process this year; any orders placed through the school website or with Mr. Moore and should be picked up at the Holdrege High School Ag Shop December 7th through December 9th from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

A full order sheet and brochure is available through the website link that can be downloaded and used to order from. Customers may browse the Holdrege Schools website at www.thedusters.org and send their order to jeffmoor@esu11.org. Online orders must be paid for when the items are picked up at Holdrege High School Ag Shop December 8-10th.

HHS DIGITAL NEWSLETTER – In our continued search to communicate more effectively and more efficiently with our patrons and students, the HHS Newsletter will be going FULLY DIGITAL beginning with the January 2012 edition. The listing of those who have agreed to receive the newsletter by e-mail has grown such that we have now reached the tipping point for the reduced “bulk rate” with our hard copy newsletters each month. We have e-mail addresses for almost every household in our system, and will soon have individual student e-mail addresses that can be accessed as well. If you desire to have a printed copy of the newsletter sent to your home, we can still accommodate you. Simply stop in the HS office and fill out a form indicating that you are not able to receive a digital copy, and we'll send one to you each month. This change should help us save resources to be better used for educating our students. Thanks for your support.



From the Holdrege Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Below are the selection procedures for the Holdrege High School chapter of the National Honor Society. It must be noted that nationally only about 10% of students qualify for membership. There are no quotas for membership in the National Honor Society, but it is not uncommon for less than half the students with the required GPA to be invited for membership. The selection procedures are dictated by the National Charter and the High School faculty has very little to say about how the procedure works.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SELECTION PROCEDURE

It first must be noted that selection into the National Honor Society is a privilege, not a right. It is a misconception that students are inducted into the National Honor Society solely because of grades. Scholarship is just one of the four criteria that a student must excel in. The students must also **excel** in Service, Leadership, and Character as perceived by the high school faculty. Students who are average or weak in any of the four criteria may not be invited for membership.

While there are no set minimum or maximum number selected every year, it is not uncommon that less than half of the students with a GPA of 3.50 or greater are inducted as members. Again, students must excel in all four areas of the National Honor Society, Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

The Holdrege Chapter of the National Honor Society selection Procedure:

1. At the end of the first quarter juniors and seniors with a GPA of 3.50 or greater will be identified.
2. A letter will be sent to these students asking them to fill out a Student Activity Information form.
3. Only students returning the Student Activity Information form by the date listed on the form will be considered for membership.
4. The faculty will then rate the students who returned the Student Activity Information form in the areas of Service, Leadership, and Character. The students have already met the minimum requirement for Scholarship in order to receive the Student Activity Information form. These ratings will be based on the content of the Student Activity Information form and on the faculty's acquaintance with the student.
5. A council made up of five faculty and non-voting NHS advisors will determine which students will be admitted into the Holdrege Chapter of the National Honor Society. The Principal appoints the faculty council and the NHS advisors.

The criteria for selection into the Holdrege Chapter of the National Honor Society include but is not limited to the following:

SCHOLARSHIP * Must have at least a 3.50 GPA.

SERVICE

- a. Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.

- b. Participates in some outside activity: Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; church groups; volunteer services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged; family duties.
- c. Volunteers, dependable, and well-organized, gladly available and willing to sacrifice to offer assistance.
- d. Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities.
- e. Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school.
- f. Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and interscholastic competition.
- g. Does committee and staff work without complaint?
- h. Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

LEADERSHIP

- a. Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions.
- b. Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities.
- c. Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals.
- d. Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
- e. Is able to delegate responsibilities.
- f. Exemplifies positive attitudes.
- g. Inspires positive behavior in others.
- h. Demonstrates academic initiative.
- i. Successfully holds offices or positions of responsibility, conducting business effectively and efficiently, and without prodding, demonstrate reliability and dependability.
- j. Is a forerunner in the classroom, at work, and in school or community activities?
- k. Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted.

CHARACTER

- a. Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously.
- b. Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability).
- c. Upholds principles of morality and ethics.
- d. Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- e. Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability.
- f. Shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others.
- g. Observes instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both inside and outside the classroom.
- h. Has powers of concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies.
- i. Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others.
- j. Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment.

PROM AT HOLDREGE HIGH SCHOOL: While prom is schedule for March 24, 2012, 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.

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

REQUEST
to
RECEIVE an ELECTRONIC COPY
of the
MONTHLY HS NEWSLETTER

I am willing to help the school district with resources and would like to use an electronic copy of the monthly newsletter instead of receiving a hard copy through the US Postal System. Please use the following information to change your mailing list:

Please PRINT the following information:

Parent Name	Student(s) Name
Mailing Address	City, State Zip Code

Please CHECK one of the following:

- I would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail at the following address: _____
(e-mail address)

- I am willing to access the monthly newsletter on the school website in the HS Principal section and there is no need to e-mail or send a hard copy to my home.

Signature	Date
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Please return to the Holdrege High School Office.