

NEWSBREAK

Pettis Co. R-V Newsletter

August 2015

Superintendent's Message

I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2015-2016 school year! It has been several months since I accepted the Board's offer to succeed Mrs. Norfleet as the district's next superintendent. During this time, I have quickly learned that Mrs. Norfleet was a fantastic leader who gave her heart to the district. Her passion and commitment is something I hope to bring to work each and every day. We are truly blessed to be able to keep her on staff part-time as she supports our Special Education department as the Process Coordinator.

As you can imagine, I have been busy learning so much about our school district and what it means to be a Mustang. I have learned that there is a great deal of love and passion for the Northwest schools. This proud and supportive community is something that my family and I are excited to be a part of. I have 4 eager children (maybe not as eager as mom) that are ready for school to begin (Braden 13, Tanner 11, Brianna 10, Maxwell 8). Even little Hudson (4) is excited about entering kindergarten in a year.

I believe that the most important aspect of my job is building relationships with staff, students, parents, and community members. I recognize that I have been blessed with a wonderful opportunity to serve in this position and I look forward to collaborating with each of you as we continue to provide the best educational opportunities for our students.

The staff at Northwest have been working tremendously hard to ensure that we are ready to kick off another great school year. I am so proud of all their work and I feel a great deal of excitement for our first day of school on August 26th. There is nothing quite like seeing all the students walking through the hallways, especially those new kindergartners.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Back to School event on Tuesday, August 25th from 6:00-7:00 pm!

Let's have an amazing year and GO MUSTANGS!!!

Sincerely,

Cody Hirschi, Superintendent



Educating
the mind
without
educating the
heart is no
education
at all.
—Aristotle

NWHS Principal's Message

The increase in traffic around Sedalia tells me that the Missouri State Fair has started, which means another school year is almost upon us. I was once told that a new school year is an opportunity. It is a time of fresh beginnings and clean slates. A new school year is not only a time of new beginnings for students, but for parents, teachers, and the many other individuals that has a hand in a student's education. I am thoroughly excited for a new school year. There has been many important changes in staff and policy which I am sure will result in a better experience for not only students, but for parents/guardians as well.

As you know, communication is a vital part of your student's success here at Northwest High School. It takes parents, students, and teachers working together to ensure a suitable learning environment for all students. We will continue to send home progress reports every 2 weeks. **The first progress report will be sent home Friday, September 11th** and one will follow every other Friday until the end of the school year. Just like last year, the reports will need to be signed by the parent/guardian and returned. Failure to do so will result in detention for the student and communication with the parent/guardian. As always, I strongly encourage you to reach out to teachers or myself when you see issues.

As I mentioned, there will be some changes this year that we are excited about. First, all students will be issued a daily planner. This planner will need to be carried by the student **at all times**. It is an excellent way for students to help organize their many activities and responsibilities. It is also another way that we would like to communicate with parents. It is our hope that the planner will be a way for the parent/guardian to see homework responsibilities along with other important information. **Losing a planner will result in a \$6.50 replacement fee.**

Some other changes include:

A new attendance policy which states a student shall be allowed no more than eight (8) absences. There are no more excused vs. unexcused absences. An absence is an absence. On the ninth (9) absence, in any one class, the student will not earn credit for that class unless time is made up. Students will have the opportunity to work with the administration to make up any missed time over the 8 allowed absences prior to the end of the semester through Saturday school sessions. When a student will be absent, it is still the parent's responsibility to contact the office. Exceptional and extenuating circumstances will be considered.

A new eligibility policy which states that **Athletes and students representing the school in the community in ALL activities must be good students.** High school athletes and participants (grades 9-12) must have successfully completed courses earning a minimum of **3.0 credits and maintain a (C+) average (2.3 on 4.0 scale)** in the preceding semester and must be enrolled in courses earning minimum of 3.0 credits in the current semester. Athletes and participants in grades 7-8 must be enrolled in a normal course load, **maintain a (C+) average (2.3 on 4.0 scale)**, and have been promoted at the end of the previous year. **If credits are maintained students may re-instate eligibility by meeting the C+ average at mid-term.**

Every change was done with the best interest of students in mind and the goal to provide students with the best learning environment possible. As always, my door is open for any conversation you would like to have. I value the opportunity to work with your children and yourself in order to prepare all students for success.

We hope to see everyone at Orientation which will be Tuesday, August 25 from 6pm to 7pm where students will be able to pick up their schedules and all teachers will be available to visit with students and parents.

Go Mustangs!!

David Dawson

Upcoming District Events and Important Items

*Open House:

August 25th from 6:00-7:00pm
at NWHS/NWES

*First Day of School:

August 26th
NWHS 8:12-3:17
NWES 8:10-2:55

*Buses

Applebus Company will be providing contracted bus services for our district again this year. Bus routes and pick-up times will run approx. the same as last year. Please allow a little extra time for the first few days until schedules are finalized. Bus drivers will contact new students prior to the first day of school letting them know their time for pick up.

*100th Year Celebration

We will be having our 100th Anniversary. Please mark your calendars to come and celebrate with alumni on Saturday, Oct. 3rd.

*Free/Reduced Lunch

On the first day of school all students will bring home an application to qualify for **free and reduced meals**. I encourage everyone to complete this form and return it to school. Your participation in this program is a great benefit to the district. Thanks in advance for taking the time to complete this process.

New NW Faculty

Lily Beam– ELL

Perry Beam– English

Tiffany Dugan– Voc Ag

Jo Ellen Black– Principal

Meghan Tichenor– P.E.

Adam Lambdin– 6th
Grade

Rhonda Kusgen– HS
Special Education

“Tell me
and I forget.
Teach me
and I remember.
Involve me
and I learn.”
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

NWES Principal’s Message

Dear Northwest Elementary Friends and Families,

The day we’ve been waiting for is almost here. . .the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year and our opportunity to work together through a home-school-community partnership to provide a Quality Education for EVERY Student at Northwest Elementary. *I want you to know I feel so very blessed to have been selected to serve this community as your new elementary principal. Although this role is a new one for me, I do bring with me 19+ years of experience in curriculum design, teacher mentoring, and educational leadership along with my many varied classroom experiences as a 2nd grade teacher. But most of all, I bring a passion for people and helping both kids and adults to be the best they can be. Perfection will never be the goal, but excellence- when expected, encouraged, and modeled- is attainable and a goal worthy of the effort it will take to make it happen.*

Along with the teachers and staff, I want to create a learning environment where our students feel safe and significant. I want them to know that every adult they come in contact with at NWES is here to help them as they work to become lifelong learners. And, I promise you, I will NEVER forget my time spent in the classroom- both as a student and as a teacher. It’s the place I learned so much about myself- things like *I’m not perfect and neither was anyone else. It’s okay to make mistakes- that’s when the learning takes place. And, I also learned that it’s important to have fun while learning and have fun while teaching. Those lessons will never be lost just because I am transitioning into the position of principal. I will hold on to them even tighter because they will guide me as I lead our school to be the best it can be. Yes the learning is important and highly valued, but the people (kids, families, teachers, staff, administration, and our community) they are priceless!*

So, I invite you and your family to join me as we set out on our journey towards *Northwest Elementary School Destination: Excellence. I encourage the students to come prepared and ready to enjoy this trip! Make sure they buckle up though - sometimes the ride may seem rough and bumpy- sometimes it may seem to drag on while other times it may seem like we are surpassing the speed limit (if that’s the case - I will need a ticket).*

The calendar says it’s almost time for our trip to begin. . .so get the backpacks packed and remember this. . .no one gets left behind!

I look forward to meeting you very soon!

Mrs. Black (Miss Jo)

Attention Parents of 8th Graders!

The Missouri State Health Department requires all students entering the 8th grade to show proof of having a tdap vaccine before the start of school. If proof is not received on or before our first day, which is August 26 2015, your child will be excluded from school until proof is received. If your child previously received the vaccine and proof has already been submitted to the school, please disregard this message.

If you have any questions regarding this requirement, please contact Chris Smith at 660-568-3315.

Substitute Bus Drivers Needed

We are looking for substitute bus drivers to fill in as needed. This is a great opportunity to make a little extra money and to spend some time with some wonderful kids. If interested, please contact the Apple Bus Manager Jay Uchtmann at 816-618-3310

Parent Portal

A letter letting parents know how to access their child's academic progress via the internet will be sent home in first day packets. Log on and passwords will be sent home to all families new to the District within the first week of school.

PTO News

The Pettis County R-V PTO is looking for you! We would love to have you as a member. Last year we donated money to both buildings to help purchase Smartboards, helped buy t-shirts for the elementary math and spelling bee, served staff supper during parent/teacher conferences, helped with the 6th grade Medieval Feast, and served the staff lunch during one of the teacher appreciation days. This year our meeting dates

- September 21 @ High School
- November 16 @ Elementary
- January 11 @ High School
- March 14 @ High School

Please join us on September 21st for Meet the Staff night. Membership dues are only \$5.00 and help support our projects.

*We also have scholarship money available to a qualified senior whose parents are members of PTO.



PETTIS COUNTY R-V SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOME OF THE MUSTANGS

