

August/September 2007

www.lyonsdecaturschool.org

Notes From The Administration:

Welcome back to school! We are excited to begin the 2007-08 school year with many new teachers and several updates to the building. The summer custodians and painters, along with contractors have completed the following projects: New carpet in four rooms; new paint in many classrooms, gym, locker rooms, and football bleachers; two roof replacements including all repairs needed due to the parapet wall collapse on the 1907 building; new sidewalk on the east side of the 1930 building; and removal of the rental house to install a fenced in playground east of the Ag building.

This will be the first year of a grant funded preschool for the district. District students ages 3-4 can choose to attend with transportation being provided from the Decatur center. Call the Superintendent's office at 687-2363 if you would like to enroll your child in the preschool program.

The District will also offer "part-time" kindergarten for students who turn age 5 prior to October 15th and whose parents do not plan to enroll them in our regular full-time Kindergarten class. Part-time Kindergarten class will be held all day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with transportation offered the same as to the K-12 students.

Part-time Kindergarten students will be enrolled within the full-time kindergarten class with Mrs. Beacom as the teacher. The focus for part-time kindergarten students will be social and emotional development. Part-time kindergarten students will be enrolled in the full-time kindergarten class the following year.

More details of these new programs are described in this newsletter.

Our first day of school is Wednesday, August 22, 2007 with dismissal at 2:00 p.m. that day.

Our staff at Northeast is committed to help each student in our district reach their highest potential by encouraging them to excel in their abilities and talents to their fullest extent possible. Please join us in our excitement. Come and see our students perform at school functions, activities, athletic events and see what wonderful youth we have in our school system.

New Staff:

Northeast Schools would like to welcome new members to our staff: Melissa Brokaw – Resource, Joni Hegge – Resource and Referral Manager, Gary Loftis – Technology Coordinator and Dual Credit Physics, Katie Mace – English, Dan Maresh – Art, Tina Ronnfeldt – Preschool, LeeAnn Smith – Physical Education and Health.

New Students:

If you have any new students please come and register them for school the week of 8/13 to 8/17. If you have new neighbors with children, let them know that they should come and register. The office and teachers appreciate knowing the number of students before school actually starts as it helps a great deal with preparation .

Athletics

On August 6-10, the Northeast staff will be conducting a voluntary conditioning camp to help any student interested in improving their physical fitness and assist athletes in rounding out their summer programs to be ready for the start or fall camp. The camp will run from 7:00 – 8:00 A.M. focusing on the condition of the participants.

The official start of the 2007 athletic season will be August 13, 2007. For the first week (8/13-17), we will run a two-a-day schedule with the first session from 7:00-9:30 a.m. and the second session from 5:00-7:30 p.m. The schedule for August 20-21 is 6:30-8:15 a.m. and 4:00-6:30 p.m. as the coaches will be attending staff in-service days. On Wednesday, August 22nd (first day of school), we will practice from 2:15-5:00

P.M. A reminder that all physicals must be completed and turned in prior to participation in a school athletic activity.

There will be a parent meeting for all parents of fall athletes on August 13, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the gym. This will be following our first day of practice and will allow for a time to share information, philosophy and perspectives on the season. Another important aspect of the meeting will be an opportunity for the athletic staff to answer any questions that parents may have. The first general meeting will address school and athletic rules and then we will break down into specific fall sport sessions. We look forward to seeing all parents of fall athletes the evening of August 13th.

Football equipment checkout will be held the week of August 6-11 following conditioning camp for those who have not yet checked out their equipment.

Safety Precautions:

During the school hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 P.M., outside entrance to the school buildings will be limited to two unlocked doors as follows: west main lobby and north doors to breeze way. All doors will be operational for emergency exiting in all buildings. The purpose of this procedure is to increase security measures for the Northeast School System. Your cooperation will be appreciated. All visitors to the school are required to sign in and sign out in the Superintendent's office.

School Newsletter:

A bi-monthly school newsletter will be sent to all box holders, at both Decatur and Lyons Post Offices, and to parents with other community addresses.

Regular School Day Schedule:

Doors will be open at 8:05 a.m. with high school starting at 8:15 and elementary at 8:20. Elementary will dismiss at 3:30 and secondary at 3:43.

The sources we will use to notify people of any changes in our school time schedule will be.

1. KFAB Radio – 1110 AM – Omaha
2. AM84 Radio – West Point
3. Sioux City TV Station
4. WOW Radio – 590 AM 94.1 FM

5. WOW – TV – Daybreak Newscast
6. KPTM – Fox 42

First Day of School:

The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 22nd, with elementary students reporting to their classrooms and secondary students reporting to the new gym at 8:15 a.m. Breakfast and hot lunch will be served and school will dismiss at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, August 23rd will be a full day of school. Listen to the radio for any early dismissals due to heat.

Breakfast & Hot Lunch Program:

An excellent breakfast & hot lunch program will be provided. Menus will be published weekly in the Lyons-Mirror Sun and on our school website www.lyonsdecatur.org.

Breakfast is served from 7:45-8:10 a.m. The prices for breakfast are; \$1.00 for students and \$1.60 for adults. Lunch prices are; Grades K-3 \$1.70; Grades 4-6 \$1.80, Grades 7-12 \$1.95, and adults \$2.65. Only the adult prices increased this year. An afternoon milk is available to grades K-6 and the cost is .35 cents. **Meals and milk tickets may be purchased at the Superintendent's office as early as August 13, 2007 to help alleviate the back to school rush.**

A Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application is enclosed with this mailing.

Transportation:

A bus will be utilized to transport students to and from Decatur. It will leave Decatur at 7:35 a.m. sharp. Two buses are provided; Bus #2 will be for K-6 grade students and Bus #5 will be for secondary students. New this year will be a van to transport preschool students from the Decatur center. Preschool students are required to ride in a booster seat in the van. This van will transport students to the afternoon preschool session that runs from Noon to 3:30 P.M. This van will leave Decatur at 11:35 A.M. and will return at approximately 3:55 P.M..

Parents driving their K-12 students to Decatur in the morning should drop their children off at the north set of doors. Students may use the entry way by the gym to get out of inclement weather.

Parents driving their children to Lyons in the morning should use Lincoln Street (the street between the school and the Ag building). This

will be used as a **ONE WAY** east drop off lane. Drivers should enter Lincoln Street from 5th Street and exit on 6th Street. This street will also be available after school to pick up students using the same format, going east from 5th Street to 6th on Lincoln Street. We plan to set up a fenced in playground on the site of the school rental house. Watch for children in the new cross walk on Lincoln Street during drop off and pickup.

Mileage:

Parents should fill in the number of miles they live from the center in their ward, on the emergency form sent home with their children the first day of school. East ward to the Decatur Center and West Ward to the Lyons Center. These forms are to be returned within a week. Nebraska School Law: 79-611 states mileage will be paid for students in grades K-12. Mileage is not paid for preschool students.

Activity Tickets:

All students may purchase an activity ticket for the 2007-2008 school year. This ticket purchase assists the school activity programs to meet financial obligations such as supplies, uniforms, and equipment demands. A student ticket will be \$30.00, an adult ticket \$50.00, and a Family Student Pass (three or more students) is \$70.00. Senior Citizen Pass for those 65 or older are free, these may be obtained at the Superintendent's Office. This year the school will keep a master list of activity tickets purchased and will not issue individual tickets. Deadline for purchase of activity tickets is prior to the first school activity.

The admission for J.V./J.H. volleyball, football and basketball for adults/students is \$1.00 per game. Regular high school game admission is \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students K-12.

Elementary students attending games must have parent/adult supervision.

School Pictures:

Student pictures will be taken on Tuesday, August 28th starting at 8:45 a.m. in the gym.. Pre-School pictures will be taken at 11:00 a.m. Flyers will be sent home with students the first day of school. Students must have the money with them when pictures are taken, pictures are guaranteed.

School Insurance:

Student Assurance Services, Inc. will provide insurance for Northeast students. Separate packages are offered for students involved in activities. The school serves as a means of distribution of the student insurance. All claims are to be worked through Student Assurance Services, Inc. The insurance information will be sent home with the students the first day of school..

Partners In Education (P.I.E.):

This active organization is part of parental/community involvement in elementary education. The group sponsors several elementary activities throughout the year. Watch for more information about their meetings to be involved in the school. They are always looking for new members.

Save Those Labels:

We will continue to collect the Big G Box Tops for Education Program. Most General Mills and Betty Crocker products have the labels to save. These will be turned into the company for CASH for P.I.E. Look for more information throughout the year.

Physical Examination:

This is to inform you of Nebraska State Legislation (LB 59) requiring all kindergarten, 7th grade and new students from out-of-state must have a physical examination and provide a signed health exam form. Also, State Legislation requires all kindergarten students to also have eye exam. Parents not wishing to have their children take a physical exam, may write a statement to that effect and present it to the school office in lieu of a physical examination. Cost of the exam must be paid by the parent(s) or guardian of each child.

Students in grades 8-12 must have a sports physical if they plan to participate in extra-curricular athletic activities.

News from the Guidance Office:

Welcome back to a new school year full of opportunities for all of our students. Your Northeast Guidance Office is ready to help our students and their parents, navigate the world of school and beyond. Please call us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

ACT: The first ACT test of the year is scheduled for October 27th. All students wishing to take this test must have their registration materials in the mail no later than September 21st. As always, the Guidance Office has a supply of registration materials and study aids, and the Guidance Office will review, if requested, the registration materials prior to mailing in order to avoid any mistakes. The Guidance Office also has ACT preparation books and software available for student use.

ACT Testing Center: That's right! Lyons-Decatur Northeast High School is an official ACT Testing Center for the October and April tests. Our students will be able to test here, if they choose, by simply entering our test center code (209730) on their registration form.

College Visits: Seniors and Juniors planning to continue their education beyond high school should be thinking about arranging a college campus visit. Campus visits are an important part of selecting a college, and parents are encouraged to accompany their son or daughter whenever possible. Campus visits are arranged through the Guidance Office.

College Fairs: On the subject of visiting colleges, a very good source of information on various colleges is attending a college fair. Under one roof are representatives of many local, state, and national colleges and trade schools. It is a fine opportunity for parents and/or students to obtain information and compare various schools. Workshops are given on financial aid and financing a higher education. The best part? It's all free! Two of this year's fairs will be held in Norfolk on September 9th and in South Sioux City on October 7th. Contact the Guidance Office for more information.

Senior Information Mailboxes: Each Senior has a box, located in the Guidance Office. Information pertaining to scholarships, career interests, and college planning is being placed in the individual boxes on a regular basis for the students. Seniors are encouraged to check their box on a weekly basis.

Scholarship Information: As scholarship information arrives, it is posted on the Guidance Office bulletin board. Seniors need to be proactive in searching for financial aid.

Financial Aid Night:

Mark your calendars for this year's Financial Aid Night, presented by the Education Quest Foundation, on November 29th at 6 PM.

Non-Discrimination Policy:

Lyons-Decatur Northeast School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender disability, marital status or age in admission or access to, treatment of employment in its program's activities. If you feel you have been discriminated against or have inquires regarding grievance activities, or compliance with Title VI, Title IX, or section 504, contact Fred Hansen, Superintendent, 400 South 5th, P. O. Box 526, Lyons, NE 68038. Phone 402-687-2363.

Right of Privacy Notification:

Northeast Public Schools plan to continue the policy of routinely releasing to news media and extra curricular activity programs information regarding students attending school. This information may include the student's name, age, height, weight, honors, parents' name and other pertinent data. Parents not wanting to have such information released involving their children should notify the Superintendent's Office, PO Box 526, Lyons, NE 68038 within 10 days after publication of this newsletter. If such a decision is not received, it will be considered that consent is given concerning release of such information.

Child Find/Special Services:

The Lyons-Decatur Northeast School requests your help in locating handicapped children. The Federal Handicapped Children's Act (PL 94-142) guarantees a free appropriate educational program for all children between the ages of 0 and 21 years of age. If you have a child, or know of any young person with special needs between 0-21 years of age who is not enrolled in an appropriate education program, please call 402-687-2363 or write to: Fred Hansen, Lyons-Decatur Northeast School, P O Box 526, Lyons, NE 68038.

Asbestos Inspection:

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA) was enacted by Congress to identify and develop solutions for any problems that schools may have with asbestos. Lyons-Decatur Northeast has had their facilities inspected by a certified asbestos inspector, as required by AHERA. The inspector located, sampled, and rated the condition and hazard potential of all materials suspected of containing asbestos. Lyons-Decatur Northeast School does

not contain asbestos materials which are reported to be damaged or significantly damaged. Under the law, we must still maintain an asbestos management plan for the school and assign a designated asbestos coordinator to ensure that no asbestos is introduced into the school. The plan is available for inspection in the school during regular school hours. Any inquiries may be directed to Fred Hansen, Superintendent and designated asbestos coordinator, at (402) 687-2363.

Notes from the Nurse:

The school will not employ a regularly scheduled nurse this year but will contract a nurse to do the required duties as needed. This will put more responsibility on the office staff to handle the daily duties. We ask that you closely follow the information provided in this letter to help us better handle your child's health needs.

Weigh the Risks of Backpacks: Your child may be stylin' this year with a snazzy new backpack, but have you tried to lift that thing? Textbooks, notebooks, and school supplies really add up. Throw in sports equipment or a musical instrument, and you've got a real backbreaker.

If your kids are carrying too much weight on their backs and shoulders, they may stretch or stain their muscles, cause direct injury to the spine, and, frankly, get really pooped.

Kids shouldn't carry more than 10 to 15 percent of their weight over their shoulders and on their backs. Decrease their risk of injury with these tips from Dr. Hank Bernstein of Boston's Children's Hospital:

1. Help your child sort through everything before packing up and see what can be left home that day. Place heaviest items in first; the closer they are to a child's back, the less strain they'll put on the muscles.
2. Buy an appropriate-size back pack, one that ends just a few inches above the waist. Use a backpack that has soft, padded shoulder straps to maximize comfort.
3. Look for a pack with compartments that help distribute the weight. .
4. Even though it's hipper to carry a pack over one shoulder, encourage your kids

- to carry theirs over both shoulders. This will better distribute the weight.
5. Make sure your kids bend their knees when they first lift their packs, to avoid further strain on their back muscles.

LYONS-DECATUR NORTHEAST SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Lyons-Decatur Northeast School is to provide a balanced education for all students, so that they can acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of a caring, competent and responsible citizenry.

