

October/November 2007

www.lyonsdecatursschool.org

Notes From the Administration:

School Schedule Changes:

Communication sources Northeast will use when there is a change in the school schedule are as follows:

1. KFAB Radio – 1110 AM Omaha
2. WOW Radio – 59 AM, 94.1 FM Omaha
(announces school closings alphabetically)
3. AM 84 Radio – West Point
4. Sioux City TV Station
(<http://closings.siouxland.com>)
5. WOW – TV 6 Daybreak Newscast
6. KETV – 7

Please listen to these stations and announcements. **Do not call the school or administrators' home as these phone lines are needed to contact stations and staff.** Decisions on not having school are generally made before 7:00 A.M.

Dress Warm:

As the weather turns cold, elementary students are encouraged to bring hats, gloves and boots to school as we will be going outside for recess whenever possible.

School Visitations:

Parents and Patrons are reminded of the handbook procedures on visiting classrooms. All visitors are asked to stop at the office to register and to contact the teacher ahead of time about the visitation. Thank you for your cooperation.

Absence Reminder:

If your student is ill or will be absent from school for any reason, the school requests that you phone the principal's office before 8:30 a.m. that day to let the secretary know your son/daughter is absent or will be absent. When your student returns to school, please send a written excuse or doctor's excuse with the student.

Parent's Night:

Parent's Night for the H.S. **Volleyball** athletes is scheduled for October 9th, at approximately 7:00 p.m. Parents will be asked to gather in the lobby and walk out to the gym when their daughter is introduced, will meet their daughter and remain standing on the gym floor until all athletes are introduced.

Football athletes and managers will have their parent's night program at the beginning of the football game with Stanton on October 5th, at approximately 6:25 p.m. Senior parents will be asked to meet at the gate by the concession stand and walk out to the field when their son is introduced and remain on the field until all athletes are introduced.

Completion of Fall Sports Season:

A special thank-you is extended to all the students, faculty, parents, and community volunteers who worked in the concession stand, sold tickets at games worked on the football chain-gang, worked in the announcer's stand and other support roles and to the excellent fan support and sportsmanship displayed by students and the community this season.

Notes From The Nurse:

On October 9th & 10th, Elkhorn Valley Health will be at school to help with the annual health screenings. The school performs the following annual health screenings on all students: height, weight, blood pressure, oral and vision screenings. Scoliosis and audio screenings are only done on select classes. Volunteers are needed to assist with this project. One does not have to work in the medical field to help. There are jobs available for everyone! If you are interested in volunteering, please call the principal's office at 687-2349.

Medications:

Nebraska State Laws requires that **any medications** brought to the school by students to be kept in a secured area. Students, by law, are not allowed to keep any medication in their possession. All medicines are to be brought to

the principal's office for storage and will be administered from there. Over the counter medicine (such as Advil, Tylenol, Sudafed, etc.) are to be brought to school in their original container with the student's name on it and the number of pills that need to be given. Prescription medications are to be brought in a labeled container from your pharmacist. They will give you an extra bottle just for that, if you ask. Medicines not brought in their proper container will be kept in the principal's office but not dispensed to the student and sent home at the end of the school day. Medicines will not be given unless they are in their proper container. A form is available at the principal's office for Authorization for Administration of Medicine at School. This gives the school information on the type of medicine, dosage, and possible side effects. This would be for prescribed medications and includes a section for students who can keep an inhaler with them. If you wish to keep Advil, Tylenol, or any other OTC medication at school for the occasional headache or aches and pains, that is permissible as long as the above guidelines are followed.

Student Progress Forms (Down-Slip Report):

Parents are reminded that on the following dates school information will be mailed to your residence to inform you if your son or daughter is having difficulties or failing in a specific class. Parents who wish to have additional reporting please contact the guidance office regarding your concerns. Approximate mailing dates will be September 26, November 20, February 4, and April 16. All remaining mailings will only be sent for students who are receiving a D+, D, D- or F as their assessment.

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Parents are encouraged to attend the annual Parent-Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, October 24th from 3:00-8:30 p.m. and Thursday, October 25th from 3:00-8:30 p.m. Secondary parents can pick up first quarter report cards at the door of the new gym. Elementary conferences will be held in the class rooms and the teachers will hand out first quarter report cards. Notes will be sent home with elementary students so that conferences can be scheduled ahead of time. School will dismiss at 2:00 on Wednesday and Thursday. We request that all 7-12 conferences with instructors be limited to 12 minutes each. If additional time is needed, please arrange with the instructor a private conference at a later date. The purpose of this

request is to permit all parents to have some time to visit with all instructors. All patrons are asked to complete a school improvement survey on the lobby floor, for the state project. There will be no school on October 26th.

Prepare For Your Parent – Teacher Conferences: Some parents say that their parent-teacher conference is one of the most valuable things they attend all year. Here are five things that will help you get ready for your parent-teacher conference:

1. Talk to your child. Ask him to tell you what he thinks are his worst/best subjects – and why. Ask him if he has any questions he'd like you to ask.
2. Write down your questions. Ask things such as:
Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Has my child missed classes? Does my child participate in class discussions and activities? How well does my child get along with others?
3. Think of things the teacher needs to know. You know your child better than anyone else.
4. Arrive on time. Teachers usually have many Conferences scheduled during a single day. Arriving on time will allow you to take full advantage of the time the teacher has available.
5. Create an action plan. Ask the teacher what you can do at home to reinforce what's happening at school. Try to get at least one or two specific suggestions.

This information will give you some new insights into your child's progress in school. As you discuss them with the teacher, you may learn things about your child that you would not have learned in any other way

The Veteran's Day Program is scheduled for November 12th at 2:30 PM.

District Financial Information:

School Budget Information: For the 2007-2008 school year, the Northeast School District budgeted to spend a total 3,910,305 for the

support of our educational programs through the General Fund. The expenditures were planned for the following areas:

Instruction: Instructional salaries and benefits, fixed payroll costs, supplies, books, computer hardware and software, etc. – 2,207,230

Support Services: Pupil, Staff, Administration, and Business: Library (salaries and benefits, books, supplies, etc.); Guidance (salaries and benefits, testing, supplies, etc.); Administration (salaries and benefits, supplies, etc.); Business (salaries and benefits, postage, printing, telephones, etc.): - 809,318

Operation and Maintenance of Plant: Heat, electricity, building repair, care of grounds, custodial salaries and benefits, Insurance, etc. – 398,741

Pupil Transportation: Bus driver salaries and benefits, gas, oil, tires, repairs, parent mileage reimbursement, etc. – 173,509

Community Services/State Categorical Programs: Expenditures related to state education funds – 62,769

Debt Services: Long Term Loans 17,000

Federal Programs: Title I and Title II, Migrant Education, Drug Free Schools, etc. – 241,738.

Total General Fund Expenditures Planned for 2007-2008 – 3,910,305

Necessary Cash Reserve: In addition to the planned expenditures of 3,910,305 the district also maintains a Cash Reserve of 284,000. The Cash Reserve is a budgetary tool that governmental agencies use to assure a continual cash flow because of the cyclical nature of our receipts. Because taxes, a primary source of funding, are received in several major spurts during the year, we need to have funds in reserve so we can pay our monthly bills when the tax draw from the County Treasurer is low. Our Cash Reserve, which is around 6.8% of our budget, is significantly lower than 45% of the

budget that is allowable under state statutes. Necessary Cash Reserve 284,000.

Total General Fund Expenditure Requirements for 2006-2007 – 4,194,305

General Fund Funding Sources: The budgeted sources of income to support the General Fund's educational expenses are as follows

Estimated net cash balance 1,049,992

Other Local and County Sources: Local license fees and fines, interest, county fines, beginning balance, etc. – 175,500

State Sources: State Aid, special education reimbursement, state apportionment, etc. – 623,313

Federal Sources: Federal support for local educational programs – Title I and Title II, Migrant Education, Drug Free Schools, etc. – 266,500

Non-Revenue Sources: Sale of excess property, insurance adjustments, dissolved district, etc. – 0

Total Available Resources Before Property Tax – 2,115,305

Total General fund Revenue Planned for 2007-2008 4,194,305

Property Taxes: Excluding County Treasurer's Fee and Delinquent Tax Allowance – 2,079,000

County Treasurer's Fee and Delinquent Tax Allowance – 20,790. Total Tax Recap 2,099,790

The district also maintains other separate funds to support the educational mission of the school. These funds are as follows.

Depreciation Reserve Fund: The district maintains a Depreciation Reserve Fund. This fund anticipated the planned replacements of buses, vans, computers, etc. Transfer monies used.

Employee Benefit Fund: Fund to support unemployment payments. Transfer monies used.

Special Building Fund: This fund provides for necessary building additions and improvements. Typical expenditures include improvements to the roofs and exteriors of the buildings, modification and improvements to the interior of the building and the like. Not taxed 2007-2008.

School Lunch Fund: This fund is maintained to operate the school lunch program. Transactions in this fund account for the sale of meals, purchases of food supplies, replacement of equipment and receipts from federal and state sources. No Tax. Self-Supporting.

School Activities Fund: This fund is maintained to support the many activities of our students. No Tax. Self-Supporting.

Tax Summary: Northeast tax requirement, 2,099,790 divided by total valuation 187,436,691 times 100 equals a tax of \$1.120266 per \$100 valuation. Thus, the total 2007-2008 Northeast school budget will require a tax request of \$1.120266 for general fund.

The \$1.120266 tax is a decrease of 0.008573 cents. This means on a house valued at \$25,000, the decrease will be \$2.14 a year. On a \$50,000 home, the tax decrease would be \$4.29 a year.

Annual School Summary: The purpose of the annual school summary is to provide information to the community about the conditions and progress being made at Lyons-Decatur Northeast Schools.

Demographics: Northeast School District is comprised of 143.0 square miles with Burt County having 115.7 square miles. Cuming 3.2 and Thurston 24.1. The valuation for the school district is 187,436,691.

ENROLLMENT ELEMENTARY

PK	27
K	13
1	13
2	18
3	18
4	24
5	11
6	18
CONTRACTED OUT	<u>1</u>
	143

ENROLLMENT SECONDARY

7	17
8	27
9	19
10	34
11	23
12	28
CONTRACTED OUT	<u>1</u>
	149

ENROLLMENT GRAND TOTAL 292

<u>EMPLOYEES</u>	<u>FULL TIME</u>	<u>PART TIME</u>
Teachers	28	03
Administrators	02	00
Secretaries	04	00
Custodians	02	03
Nurse	00	01
Bus Drivers	02	00
Cooks	03	00
Para Professionals	07	01
	<u>48</u>	<u>8</u>

Notice to Parents & Patrons:

Lyons-Decatur Northeast School will charge a \$15.00 fee for all returned checks. If this occurs 3 times all transactions with the school will be on a cash only basis.

STATE TESTING REQUIREMENTS:

Northeast Schools, as well as all schools in Nebraska, will continue with state testing as required by LB 812. This year we will continue the reading, writing, and math testing in grades 4th, 8th and 11th.

These assessments match the State Standards, L.E.A.R.N.S., and include all grade levels. Students will be given these assessments throughout the year, with the goal of having all the students master these standards.

State Writing Average for Northeast:

Nebraska Statewide Writing Assessment
February 2007

Percentage of Students Assessed

	Northeast	State
4 th	92	98
8 th	100	98
11 th	96	97

Percentage of Students Proficient

	Northeast	State
4 th	67	86
8 th	80	90
11 th	96	91

High Ability Learners:

In compliance with Rule 3 from the Nebraska Department of Education, you have the opportunity to nominate your child for identification as a learner with high ability. The State of Nebraska and Lyons-Decatur Northeast Schools defines a learner with high ability as “A student who gives evidence of high performance capability in such areas as intellectual, creative, or artistic capacity or in specific academic fields and who requires services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to develop those capabilities fully.” (as defined in Nebraska Revised Statute).

You can begin the process by completing a nomination form that will be combined with teacher input and test scores to make a final determination if your child is considered a high ability learner. In addition, if you believe your child demonstrates high ability in the creative/artistic area, you and your child need to be prepared to share examples of his/her performance in these areas prior to determination of identification. At this time the school district does not provide a specialized program to serve these students. Furthermore, according to Rule 3, only identification of students is mandated and no program is necessary. Learning activities in their classrooms will provide your child opportunities to excel and show their full potential. Currently the school district, is offering distance learning curriculum resources with other schools in Northeast Nebraska and the Educational Service Unit #2 at Fremont, to serve high ability and the general student population at Northeast.

News from the Guidance Office:

ACT: The first ACT test of the year is scheduled for October 27th. The Guidance Office has ACT preparation books and software available for student use.

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.

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

ACT: The ACT exam is the primary college entrance exam administered to high school students in the central United States. This voluntary test is usually taken in October and April by most college bound juniors and seniors. This exam is used by colleges, universities, and scholarship committees as a measure of the students’ reasoning skills, academic preparation, and as a predictor of success as a college freshman.

ACT officials released Northeast's scores of the class of 2007 on August 5, 2007. Northeast seniors received an average composite ACT score of 22.2.

2007 Nebraska State average 21.9

2007 National ACT average 21.1

These results demonstrate that our students continue to perform well on the ACT college entrance exams. This test is one measure of whether students have the reasoning and academic preparation to succeed at college. Research has shown that students who take rigorous college prep course work -4 years of English, 4 years of Math, 4 years of science, and 3-4 years of social studies, perform well on the ACT test and in college.

Specific Curriculum Areas

English	21.6	Math	22.4
Reading	22.8	Science	22.9

Lyons-Decatur Northeast Public Schools

The Legislature has passed a concealed handgun law. We want to remind and assure staff, students, parents and visitors to our schools that weapons are **not** permitted to be brought to or possessed in our school buildings, school grounds, or school activities.

The concealed weapons law will allow adults to get a permit to carry a concealed handgun. Permit holders will be allowed to carry a concealed handgun in many places, but **NOT** at our school. Anyone who carries a handgun or weapon at our school is in violation of Board policies and is also committing a crime which will be reported to law enforcement.

We have copied below the section of the new law:

Laws 2006, LB 454, Section 15

A permit holder may carry a concealed handgun anywhere in Nebraska, except any: Police, sheriff, or Nebraska State Patrol station or office; detention facility, prison, or jail; courtroom or building which contains a courtroom; polling place during a bona fide election; **meeting of the governing body of a county, public school district, municipality, or other political subdivision; meeting of the Legislature or a committee of the Legislature; financial institution; professional, semi-professional, or collegiate athletic event; school, school grounds, school-owned vehicle, or school-sponsored activity or athletic event;** place of worship; emergency room or trauma center; political rally or fundraiser; establishment having a license issued under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act that derives over one-half of its total income from the sale of alcoholic liquor; **place where the possession or carrying of a firearm is prohibited by state or federal law; a place or premises where the person, persons, entity, or entities in control of the property or employer in control of the property has prohibited permit holders from carrying concealed handguns into or onto the place or premises; or into or onto any other place or premises where handguns are prohibited by law or rule or regulation.**

Parents/Guardians: Please use caution when dropping off and picking up your children to and from school. We ask that you watch out for other children who may be in the street crossing. Proceed slowly and with caution after dropping students when you leave the school – especially on Lincoln Street.

School Website:

Please visit the school website for more detailed curriculum, lunches, school news, pictures, and student accomplishments. The school website is www.lyonsdecaturschool.org.

The district would like to thank the Alumni Association for their contribution toward the purchase of the TV mounted on the wall in the lobby. Check out the TV next time you visit!