

## High School Principal's Report January 11, 2012

### DHS Enrollment by Month:

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Freshmen		64	66	66	65	66				
Sophomores		79	79	77	77	77				
Juniors		75	75	74	74	73				
Seniors		67	67	67	67	67				
Total		285	287	284	283	283				

### DHS Student Attendance by Month

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
month	95.67	94.81	95.12	94.10	95.07					
year to date	95.67	95.08	95.15	94.74	94.87					

- On January 13, Mr. Cunningham and I will attend the area MSHSAA meetings for administrators and athletic directors in Republic. The meetings are held to inform administrators of any possible changes and to solicit their opinions on controversial issues.
- From Mrs. Hayes: The Spanish classes went to the elementary classes and several offices to "Christmas Carol" in Spanish. Some of the advanced classes added some songs from Peru and Spain to their repertoire this year. The students had a good time watching the younger students try to guess which songs they were singing. After caroling, they went back to class to try some "café de Costa Rica."
- NHS will be holding a blood drive in the DHS gymnasium on January 11.
- Mrs. Price-Allison has been selected to serve on a mathematics curriculum developmental team for DESE. The group was set up by Cindy Bryant, mathematics Director for the Office of College and Career Readiness. The group had its first meeting on December 21 and will meet more this semester. DESE paid for all of the costs associated with the project, from mileage, lodging, and meals, and even paid for the substitute teachers we will use when she is gone.
- From Mr. Ruffing:  
**ACT Activities**  
 The ACT is the most widely used college admissions exam in the Midwest. The ACT is used to determine if a student has met admissions, as well as, scholarship standards. With so much resting on this single exam, students are encouraged to become familiar with the ACT.

The best preparation for the ACT is to enroll in a program of study that aligns with the test content. This would include: Algebra; Geometry; Algebra II; Physical Science; Chemistry; Biology; Composition; and Literature.

The next best thing a student can do is practice. Since the ACT is a timed test, students can improve their performance by becoming familiar with the test construction and learning strategies that enhance their test taking abilities.

Diamond High School has scheduled a series of events to support student efforts with the ACT.

1) Students are encouraged to take the ACT at least once prior to their senior year. Studies show that 40% of students taking the ACT a second time improve their score.

2) Attend an ACT preparation workshop. Diamond High School faculty members host a **Super Saturday** ACT Prep workshop twice a year. Our next Super Saturday is tentatively scheduled for **February 25**. These four hour workshops focus on content review and specific strategies for each of the four test areas. Students will be asked to pay a \$5.00 registration fee. Our second workshop, facilitated by **ZAPS**, is scheduled for **March 10**. This six hour workshop is conducted by ZAPS Learning Company out of Iowa City, Iowa. This organization has been conducting ACT prep workshops for 30 years. There is a \$75 registration fee to attend. This fee pays for 6 hours of training, 24 practice tests, and an ZAPS-ACT study guide.

3) Participate in our **MOCK ACT**. This year we are working with Revolution Prep to provide students with a simulation of the ACT. The Mock ACT is scheduled for **Friday, February 3**. This is a fundraising activity sponsored by the Drama department. The \$11.00 registration fee is returned to the district. This experience allows students to experience the full battery of tests including the essay; practice time management; receive a score report that identifies strengths and weaknesses; and participate in a 30 minute phone consultation with a test prep specialist.

These activities are open to all students 9-12. We will be encouraging all Junior's to consider testing in either April or June. Sophomores should give serious consideration since a number of enrichment programs use ACT results to determine eligibility.

- **Financial Aid Workshops Scheduled**

Parents and students are invited to attend one of two workshops designed to make the FAFSA application easier and more accurate.

The first workshop will be hosted by MSSU on Sunday, February 12. This event is one of several FAFSA Frenzy workshops being hosted by colleges across the

country. The MSSU event will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Financial aid advisors from MSSU will be on hand to help parents and students complete their FAFSA on-line.

A second workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 6 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Diamond High School. The workshop will be conducted in the computer lab adjacent to the high school Library. A team of representatives from the Education Opportunity Center will be on hand to help parents file their FAFSA applications on-line. The Educational Opportunity Center (EOC), hosted by Crowder College provides free postsecondary educational assistance to adult residents of Barry, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, and Newton counties in southwest Missouri. The objectives of EOC are to counsel participants on financial aid options, assist in the application process, and increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education.

These two events are designed for adults, or parents who will have a student enrolled in college anytime during the 2012-13 school year (current or past graduates). These are hands on workshops.

- Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

Students from Diamond are served by the Upward Bound program based out of Crowder College. The program just completed this year's application and enrollment process. Students participating in Upward Bound include:  
Current: Amberlee Acosta, Ashleigh Long, Heritage Throop-Williams, Laken Rawlins, and Shayla Jones.

New: Shea Dalton, Logan Johns, Mikka Jones, Hailey Spencer, Lucy Wright, and alternates Lacy Graves and Brittany Loudermilk.

As usual, many great things are going on in the high school as the faculty and staff continue to do a great job. Please let me know if I can help you with anything, or if you just want some information about DHS.

Sincerely,

Brian Lee