

MARCH 2010

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #404

MARCH

- 1 NO SCHOOL – CASIMIR PULASKI DAY
7th & 8th Girls Basketball, Monmouth-Roseville, Here, 5:30 p.m.
- 2 Varsity HS Boys Basketball, IHSA Sectional, TBA, TBA
ISAT Tests given (March 2-12)
- 3 7th & 8th Girls Basketball, Sherrard, Here, 5:30 p.m.
JH Wrestling, IESA Sectional, TBA, TBA
ISAT's given at Intermediate School (March 3-9)
Regional Spelling Bee, Centennial Hall, Augustana College, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 7th & 8th Girls Basketball, TBA, TBA, 10:00 a.m.
IHSA Solo/Ensemble Contest, UTHS
- 8 7th & 8th Girls Basketball, Orion, There, 5:30 p.m.
AAA Pest Control to spray buildings early prior to students' arrivals.
- 9 Varsity HS Boys Basketball, IHSA Supersectional, TBA, TBA
- 10 7th & 8th Girls Basketball, Knoxville, There, 5:30 p.m.
Preschool screening (3 to 5 yr. olds) for future New Boston students, First Baptist Church in Joy (See more information in bulletin.) (March 10th & 11th)
Board of Education Meeting, at District Office (1002 SW 6th St.), 6:30 p.m.
- 11 FFA Banquet
Kindergarten Roundup at Apollo, 6:30 in gym
- 12 Varsity HS Boys Basketball, IHSA State Finals, TBA, TBA
7th & 8th Girls Basketball, PLC Tournament, TBA, TBA
JH Wrestling, IESA Finals, TBA, TBA
High School Play, "Arsenic & Old Lace", 7:00 p.m., HS auditorium, (March 12th & 13th)
- 13 ROWVA Jazz Festival – Jazz Band performs at 3:00 p.m.
- 15 High School Blood Drive
Lincoln Trail Band Festival (select HS students), at Augustana College, Concert at 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Varsity Boys & Girls HS Track, Olympic Indoor Invitational, There, 4:30 p.m.
PTO Meeting at Apollo, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Variety Show Auditions – 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Bear Country Wrestling Tournament
- 22 HS F/S Baseball, Kewanee, Here, 4:30 p.m.
HS Varsity Baseball, Kewanee, There, 4:30 p.m.
- 23 JV HS Girls Softball, Kewanee, There, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity HS Girls Softball, Kewanee, Here, 4:30 p.m.
F/S HS Baseball, United, There, 4:30 p.m.
Lincoln Trail Conference Art Festival at Monmouth College
- 24 V/JV HS Girls Softball, Illini West, There, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity HS Baseball, Sherrard, Here, 4:30 p.m.
Scholastic Book Fair at the Intermediate School, March 24-30 (See article in bulletin for more information.)
Board of Education Meeting, at District Office, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 FS HS Baseball, Illini West, There, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity HS Baseball, Illini West, Here, 4:30 p.m.
Athletic Booster Meeting, at HS, 7:00 p.m.
Variety Show Dress Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Teacher's Institute – NO SCHOOL
- 27 V/JV HS Girls Softball, Riverdale, Here, 11:00 a.m.
Variety Show at HS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m., \$3 per person or \$10 per family
- 29 V/JV HS Girls Softball, Avon-Bushnell PC, Here, 4:30 p.m.
FS HS Baseball, Sherrard, Here, 4:30 p.m.
JV/V HS Track, Bushnell-PC, There, 4:00 p.m.
- 30 V/FS HS Softball, Knoxville, There, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity HS Track, Boys & Girls, Sherrard (quadrangular), There, 4:00 p.m.
- 31 V/JV HS Girls Softball, Macomb, Here, 4:30 p.m.
FS HS Baseball, Rock Island, Here, 4:30 p.m.
Early Dismissals for Spring Break, starting at 1:55 p.m.

APRIL

- 1 JV HS Girls Softball, Galva, There, 4:30 p.m.
NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK
- 2 Varsity HS Track, Boys & Girls, BPCA, There, 4:00 p.m.
NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK
- 5 NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK
V/JV HS Girls Softball, Sherrard, There, 4:30 p.m.
V/JV HS Baseball, Macomb, There, 4:30 p.m.
- 6 School Resumes
V/JV HS Girls Softball, Alwood/Cambridge, Here, 4:30 p.m.
V/JV HS Baseball, Alwood/Cambridge, Here, 4:30 p.m.
JV HS Boys Track, Sherrard FS Invitational, There, 4:30 p.m.

NOTICE TO PARENTS OF PRE-K TO 2ND GRADE STUDENTS

Preserving the safety of students is the top priority of the school district. As a strategy to ensure the safe transportation of students, the district implemented a policy to not drop off Pre-K through second grade students when no one is home to receive the child. When a bus driver suspects no one is home, he/she will honk the horn in an attempt to get a response from someone who might be in the house. If there is no response, the driver will contact the bus facility so a phone call can be made to the home. If no contact can be made with someone in the home, the driver will keep the child on the bus, finish the bus route, and take the child to the bus facility where other arrangements will be made for the child's safe passage to the home. The phone numbers for the bus facility are 309-584-4173 and 309-584-4630.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP AT APOLLO

Parents are cordially invited to attend the annual kindergarten roundup in the Apollo gym on March 11th at 6:30 p.m. Children should be five years old on or before September 1, 2010 to enter kindergarten. Ms. Gray, Mrs. Sharp, & Mrs. Brown will briefly explain the kindergarten program. Please be thinking of questions that you may have concerning next school year as there will be a question and answer time. Parents and their prospective student(s) will be asked to visit one of the kindergarten classrooms in August before the beginning of school. If you have not registered your child(ren) for kindergarten, please do so on March 11th. Due to the large attendance, the teachers ask that parents only attend the roundup. If this is a problem, please let the school know and arrangements will be made for someone to watch the children at school. Ms. Gray, Mrs. Sharp, and Mrs. Brown hope you can attend the meeting at 6:30 p.m. on March 11th at Apollo.

PEP BAND PERFORMS AT CLASS 1A & 2A GIRLS STATE FINALS

The Mercer County Pep Band was selected from many schools to perform at the IHSA Class 1A and 2A Girls Basketball State Finals on Saturday, February 27th. The Pep Band is very excited and honored to be able to play for this event. Students performed during the 3rd place and the championship games for both 1A and 2A girls basketball.

LINCOLN TRAIL CONFERENCE BAND FESTIVAL

The Mercer High School Concert Band will be attending the 2010 Lincoln Trail Conference Band festival on Monday, March 15th. This year's festival will be held at Augustana College.

Selected students from the Lincoln Trail schools will be placed into a mass band. Students will rehearse during the afternoon with a guest director and then perform a concert that evening at 6:30 p.m. Schools will be wearing uniforms so students will need to bring a white dress shirt, black shoes, and black socks.

This is a great opportunity for all to hear our great Lincoln Trail Conference students play their best material. Please consider attending the concert to show your support for the Mercer County High School Band program.

VARIETY SHOW 2010

Variety Show 2010 will take place on Saturday, March 27th, 7:00 p.m. in the Mercer County High School auditorium. Sponsored by the music boosters and produced by the students, this show is for sure to be a highlight of the school year. Acts will include: singing, dancing, comedy, rock bands, and much more. Admission is \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Please plan on attending and supporting our music programs.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Mercer County Intermediate School is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair March 24-30. The fair is open during our regular school hours, 7:45 a.m. -3:30 p.m. You may also visit us during the following additional hours: Thursday, March 25th, 5:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 27th, 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Your child will be bringing home more information about the fair in the next few weeks. Please be sure to visit. The more you buy to enjoy, the more our school library benefits!

MARCH 2010

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS' UPDATE

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1	No School (Pulaski Day) Jr. & Sr. make college visits/work on scholarships
March 15	Seniors encouraged to complete FAFSA form on-line before March 15 th (www.fafsa.ed.gov)
March 26	No School, Teacher's Institute Jr. & Sr. make college visits/work on scholarships
April 1	Spring Break (April 1- 5)
April 28	Prairie State Achievement Exam for all juniors (Day 1-ACT, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)
April 29	Prairie State Achievement Exam for all juniors (Day 2-PSAE, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)
May 12	Awards Program at MCHS (6:30 p.m.)

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP DUE DATES

Scholarship Information may be accessed online at the website listed or picked up in the counselor's office.

Frank E. Smith Family Memorial Scholarship	Feb. 28, 2010
AMVETS of Illinois	March 1, 2010
KOHL'S (www.kohlkids.com)	March 1, 2010
National Defense & Transportation	March 1, 2010
Township Officials of Illinois	March 1, 2010
SAMMY (www.bodybymilk.com)	March 5, 2010
Zonta Club (www.zonta.org)	March 19, 2010
Women for Women	March 31, 2010
Illinois Odd Fellows- and Rebekahs www.ioof-il.org	March. 1, 2010
Marine Corps Scholarship (Parent is a current or former Marine) www.mcsf.org	March 1, 2010
PEO Chapter H (available in the counselor's office)	March 31, 2010
PEO Chapter AG (available in the counselor's office)	March 31, 2010
Donald Kiser Memorial Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	April 1, 2010
Order of the Eastern Star	April 1, 2010
Mercer County Retired Teachers Association (available in the counselor's office)	April 1, 2010
Rock Island Optometric Center	April 1, 2010
Unity Health Employee Dependent	April 1, 2010
Unity Health Auxiliary Volunteer Family Member	April 1, 2010
Unity Health Scholarship	April 1, 2010
Blazer/Stone Memorial	April 5, 2010
Connie Sue Smith Memorial	April 5, 2010
Republican Central Committee of Henderson	April 9, 2010
Ameren Illinois Minority	April 9, 2010
Illinois Sheriff's Association (www.ilsheriff.org)	April 12, 2010
Kiwanis	April 13, 2010
Republican Women Club Henderson County	April 14, 2010
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)	April 23, 2010
Aledo Lodge No. 252	April 9, 2010
Mercer County Education Association Scholarship	April 9, 2010
DARE	April 15, 2010
Cherly Long "The Helping Hand" Scholarship	May 1, 2010
Chris Long Memorial Scholarship	May 1, 2010
Black Hawk College Foundation Scholarship	May 15, 2010
ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers http://sections.asce.org/quadcite/events.htm	May 15, 2010
Mellinger Foundation Scholarship (www.mellinger.org) (All seniors should apply.)	May 1, 2010

For Additional Scholarship Information and Searches, Visit The Following Web sites:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. College Zone www.collegezone.com | 4. Sallie Mae - www.salliemae.com |
| 2. Fastweb-financial aid - www.fastweb.com | 5. Financial Aid - www.finaid.org |
| 3. Scholarship Aid - www.scholaraid.com | 6. Plato - www.plato.org |

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS' INFORMATION (Continued)

Use The Web To Develop Post-Secondary Plans (Good Info. For Juniors/Seniors & Their Parents)

All juniors and their parents are encouraged to spend time accessing post-secondary information on the web.

1. The College Zone at www.collegezone.com is a site developed by the State of Illinois. (Excellent resource)
 - a. Researching Colleges/Careers
 - b. Searching for Scholarships
 - c. Determining the families expected dollar contribution for post-secondary plans
(Use the State & Federal Aid Estimator at http://www.illinoismentor.org/FinAid/wizard/nonlogon/Financial_Aid_Calculator1.asp)
2. College Board at www.collegeboard.com and ACT at www.act.org are additional resources for students and parents.
3. Become familiar with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students/parents are encouraged to complete the FAFSA online by March of their senior year. (Students & Parents should request a PIN number at www.fafsa.ed.gov to submit the FAFSA online.)

POST-SECONDARY VISITS

The first Friday in April is the last day for post-secondary visits. Keep in mind that parents must accompany students on the post-secondary visits for the day to be an excused absence.

- 1 day allowed junior year (cannot be carried over to senior year.)
- 2 days allowed senior year

Schedule additional visits on Teacher's Institute days (March 26th) and Saturdays. (April 1-5, NO SCHOOL, Spring Break)

PRAIRIE STATE ACHIEVEMENT EXAMINATION (PSAE)

All Mercer County High School juniors will take the Prairie State Achievement Exam at Mercer County High School on the mornings of April 28 & 29, 2010. On day one, students will take the ACT test. Day two of the PSAE incorporates two WorkKey's assessments, which are reading for information and applied mathematics along with an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) developed component consisting of science.

All juniors will register in early April for the Prairie State Achievement Exam, at that time junior will be asked to list the names of four post-secondary schools that need to receive their test results. Families are encouraged to research post-secondary schools prior to early April so the appropriate school codes are recorded on the preregistration form so the schools being considered receive test scores. The state of Illinois will pay to have four schools receive each students test scores. Post-secondary schools require these test scores as part of the application process for admission. If students need additional schools to receive test scores the cost will range from \$9.00 to \$30.00 for each school that needs a score report. Students wanting to send additional schools test codes may do so by going to www.act.org and click "send your scores".

ACT PREP

Juniors are encouraged to prepare for the ACT by using one of the following suggestions:

1. **Contact the local library or MCHS library for ACT study materials.**
2. **Buy an ACT Study Guide from a bookstore.**
3. **Contact High School Librarian for ACT computerized program.**
(May be checked out or used at school.)
4. **Request High School Librarian to order ACT study materials.**
5. **Take an ACT prep class.**
6. **Study on-line at www.act.org**
7. **Private ACT Study Sessions at Project Excel** (Cost Varies - about \$20 per hour)
Contact Marguerite Kruse at Project Excel, located in Sherrard (phone 593-9100)
Marguerite Kruse offers private and small group ACT prep sessions.
8. **Sylvan Learning Center** (Cost about \$600 for 24 hours)
Contact 563-359-1001 for more information

NATIONAL ACT TEST

Students are encouraged to review ACT study materials and to take the ACT more than once during their junior/senior year. ACT registration packets are available in the counselor's office or register on-line at www.act.org. Students wanting to qualify, as an Illinois State Scholar must have their highest ACT score recorded no later than June 12, 2010 test date.

**Fees: ACT Only (NO writing) \$32.00, ACT Plus Writing \$47.00, Late Registration Fee Add \$21.00,
Standby Testing Add \$41.00, Test Date Change \$20.00, Test Center Change \$20.00.**

NATIONAL ACT DATES:

Registration Deadline	Test Date
March 5, 2010	April 10, 2010
May 7, 2010	June 12, 2010
Not available at this time	September 11, 2010
Not available at this time	October 23, 2010
Not available at this time	December 11, 2010

All ACT test dates have a standby option for students who did not register by the due date. Fee: \$87.00 plus writing.