

NOVEMBER

2009

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #404

November	2	LTC Choral Festival (HS Concert Choir), at Stark County HS, (Concert at 6:30 p.m.) Picture Retake Day at the Intermediate School
	5	High School Musical "The Sound of Music", HS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
	6	High School Musical "The Sound of Music", HS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
	7	Varsity HS Cross Country, IHSA State, There, TBA IMEA Elementary & Jazz Festival at Dunlap, all day
	9	JH Boys Basketball, Alwood, There, 5:30 p.m. AAA Pest Control to spray buildings early prior to students' arrivals.
	10	Half-Day Inservice, Early Dismissals starting at 11:30
	11	NO SCHOOL – VETERANS DAY JH Band to march in Veteran's Day Parade JH Boys Basketball, LaHarpe, Here, 6:00 p.m.
	12	Board of Education Meeting, District Office, 7:00 p.m.
	14	IMEA District 2 Festival – Augustana College
	16	Varsity HS Girls Basketball, Cranberry Tournament, at ROWVA, 6:00 p.m.
	17	JH Boys Basketball, Abingdon, There, 5:30 p.m. PTO Meeting, Apollo, 6:30 pm. Varsity HS Girls Basketball, Cranberry Tournament, at ROWVA, 7:30 p.m.
	18	Varsity HS Girls Basketball, Cranberry Tournament, at ROWVA, 6:00 p.m.
	19	JH Boys Basketball, ROWVA, There, 5:30 p.m. 9 th Girls Basketball, Macomb, Here, 6:00 p.m.
	23	JH Boys Basketball, Rockridge, Here, 6:00 p.m.
	25	Early Dismissals for Thanksgiving Vacation – Starting at 2:00 p.m. Possible Board of Education Meeting, District Office, 7:00 p.m.
	26	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING DAY Athletic Booster Meeting, HS, 7:00 p.m. (probably will be rescheduled)
	27	NO SCHOOL – VACATION
	30	JH Boys Basketball, Monmouth-Roseville, There, 6:00 p.m. V/FS HS Girls Basketball, Fulton, There, 6:00 p.m. JH Wrestling Practice Starts
December	1	V/JV HS Wrestling, Havana/IVC, Here, 6:00 p.m.
	2	JH Boys Basketball, Sherrard, There, 5:30 p.m. V/FS HS Girls Basketball, Cambridge, Here, 6:00 p.m.
	3	Varsity HS Wrestling, Sherrard, Here, 6:00 p.m.
	5	JH Boys Basketball, Wethersfield, There, TBA Fresh/Soph Girls Basketball, Illini West, Here, 1:00 p.m. Varsity HS Girls Basketball, Illini West, Here, 5:00 p.m. Varsity HS Wrestling, QUAD, at Riverdale, 10:00 a.m. F/S HS Boys Basketball, Illini West, Here, 3:00 p.m. Varsity HS Boys Basketball, Illini West, Here, 7:00 p.m.
	6	JH Holiday Concert
	7	JH Boys Basketball, Orion, Here, 5:00 p.m. V/FS HS Girls Basketball, Sherrard, There, 6:00 p.m.
	8	JH Wrestling, Macomb, There, 6:00 p.m. V/FS HS Wrestling, Macomb, There, 6:00 p.m. V/FS HS Boys Basketball, Monmouth-Roseville, There, 6:00 p.m.
	9	V/FS HS Girls Basketball, Galva, Here, 6:00 p.m.
	10	Apollo Holiday Program and Bake Sale, 7:00 p.m. (Grades 3 & 4) JH Boys Basketball, Wethersfield, Here, 5:30 p.m. V/FS HS Girls Basketball, West Prairie, Here, 6:00 p.m. 9 th Boys Basketball, Galva, There, 6:00 p.m.

LINCOLN TRAIL CONFERENCE CHORAL FESTIVAL

The Mercer County High School Concert Choir will be traveling to Stark County High School on Monday, November 2nd, to participate in the LTC Choral Festival. The festival chorus will be under the direction of Toni Redlingshafer and accompanied by Anita M. Heard. Following the afternoon rehearsal there will be a public concert at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. There is no admission charge. We hope to see you there!

WEBSITE AND STUDENT/PARENT PORTAL UPDATE

Mercer County School District has implemented a new student management system this year with many new features. Among them are a new lunch program as well as a student and parent portal. The program shows both parents and students secure web-based access to grades and homework assignments as well as the ability to put money on student's lunch account via the web. We will be rolling out these new features in the near future. Parents will receive a letter with their login information as well as information and dates on trainings for parents regarding how to access this information and use the website to keep them informed.

MERCER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Honor your favorite student, graduate, teacher, or alumni with a donation to the Mercer County High School library. The high school library now has a wish list on www.amazon.com of books for the collection requested by staff and students. Books purchased from this wish list are delivered directly to the school and books will be labeled with a bookplate to indicate the person or event the book is donated in honor of. This is perfect for birthdays, graduations, reunions, or "just because". To view the wish list, go to www.amazon.com and type in the wish list name "Mercer County High School" in the "new wish list" box. You can also contact Brooke Fleurette at 582-2223 or brfleurette@mercerschools.org. Support the students of Mercer County with the gift of books!

"THE SOUND OF MUSIC"

This fall the hills will be alive with "The Sound of Music" at Mercer County High School. Please come and enjoy this musical classic on Thursday, November 5th or Friday, November 6th. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults and can be purchased from any cast member or at the door. Performances on both nights will start at 7:00 p.m. The kids have been working hard to make this one of the best musicals yet. Make one or your favorite things the Mercer County Fall Musical and come to "The Sound of Music" on November 5th and 6th.

"The Sound of Music" is a Rodgers and Hammerstein production. Music and lyrics are written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein. The book is by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse. This is certainly a classic musical that everyone should see once in their life. Please put the performance dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

IMEA DISTRICT 2 MUSIC FESTIVALS

The Mercer County Music Department is proud to announce Intermediate and Senior High students participating in this year's Illinois Music Educator Association's District Festivals.

The IMEA District 2 Elementary Music & Jazz Festival will be held at Dunlap High School on Saturday, November 7th. Selected to sing in the 200-voice Choir are the following 5th grade students: Ethan Adolpson, Jonathon Arendt, Jacob Jenkins, Alexandra Johnson, Matt McEwen, Breanna McCullough, Taylor Newswander, Madison Prater, Jarret Russell, and Heather Jo Whan. The following 6th Grade Chorus students have also been selected: Taylor Carey, Breanna Elliott, Katie Hanson, Hannah Harrison, Kate Hermanson, Andrew Hudson, Mickie Jackson, Morgan Joy, Savannah Martin, Brianna Nelson, Megan Nelson, Eathen Noe, Julia Pickel, Brinae Ritter, Carli Skiles, Paige Skinner, Emily Struble, Sydnie Thomas, Britany Tromblee, and Nicole Wadden. Susan Kenney will be the guest conductor of the Choir. A public concert will be presented at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Gym. Admission will be charged at the door. The bus will depart MC Jr. High in Joy at 6:45 a.m. and MC Intermediate School in Aledo at 7:00 a.m. The bus will return to MCIS at approximately 6:15 p.m. and MCJH at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Selected to play in the IMEA District 2 Jazz Festival is Senior Ian Muske, baritone saxophone. Mr. Dan Dietrich will be the guest conductor of the Jazz Band B. A public concert will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the Dunlap High School auditorium. Admission is \$2 for students and \$3 for adults.

The IMEA District 2 Music Festival will be Saturday, November 14th at Augustana College. Auditions were held in October to qualify for participation in the Festival. MCHS Choral students selected to sing in the IMEA District 2 Senior Chorus are Emily Heard, soprano 1, Devin Johnson, tenor 1, Jeffry Rumburg, tenor 1, and Sam Whan, tenor 1. The Senior Chorus will be under the direction of Scott Ferguson, Illinois Wesleyan College. The public concert will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Carver Physical Education Center. Admission will be charged. The bus will leave MCHS at 7:45 a.m. and return approximately 8:15 p.m. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PARTICIPATING STUDENTS!

GOLDEN EAGLE SPIRIT SHOP

The Golden Eagle Spirit Shop is open for the 2009/10 sports season. The sale dates will be every home game and also on Holly Days. If you have any questions, contact Angie Aukes at her home phone (582-4367). Playoff shirts will be available so give her a call for details. She will also be at MJH Engineering in downtown Aledo during Holly Days. Thank you for your continued support.

PEST MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATION

This notification is to inform parents/guardians that if for some unforeseen reason, AAA Pest Control needs to perform their monthly maintenance other than the scheduled second Monday of the month, parents should come to the district office, 1002 SW 6th Street, to sign a paper. The sign-in sheet will request that a letter be sent to the parents/guardians if an off-schedule maintenance is to be performed which will indicate the date and time. This unscheduled event is when the office will initiate a letter from the sign-in sheet.

EMERGENCY WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

If school is to be cancelled or delayed because of weather conditions or other emergencies, the announcement will be made with the following new media:

Radio Stations

WRMJ 102.3

KUUL 101.3

WLLR 101 FM

WAAG 1400 AM

WPXR/WKBF 1270 AM

Television Stations

KWQC Channel 6

KLJB Channel 18

Note: Morning cancellations or delays will be called in about 6:00 a.m. Afternoon adjustments will be called in by 10:30 a.m. Immediate emergency situations will be phone in as soon as possible.

SCHOOL BUS CAUTION

As the buses are transporting our students from school, particular caution should be given. Buses need to make wide turns so we need to allow for this and give them room to do so. When buses are leaving or picking up students at the schools, cars should maintain their distance until the buses depart. The bus drivers are trying to do their job by getting the children to and from school in a safe manner. Buses normally run on a time schedule every day so if need be, parents that are dropping off or picking up students should get to the schools either before or after the bus drop off or pick up. Cooperation between all drivers will ensure safe transportation for our students.

REMINDER FOR ALEDO TRANSPORTATION SERVICE: JOHANNES BUS SERVICE PHONE NUMBER IS 582-2922.

November 2009

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS' INFORMATION

High School Counselors: Ms. Hennenfent & Mrs. Jones

Important Dates to Remember

October	29	Parent/Teacher Conferences	Noon – 7:30 p.m. (Call for an appointment at 582-2223)
October	29	Parent program on how to use PLAN test results for Juniors	(5:00, 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.)
October	30	Parent/Teacher Conferences	8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Call for an appointment at 582-2223)
October	30	Parent program on how to use PLAN test results for Juniors	(8:00, 9:00 or 11:00 a.m.)
November	3	Knox College Representative	6 th hour (12:37 p.m.)
November	19	Fall Financial Aid Meeting for Jrs./Srs. & Parents	(6:30 p.m.)
December	2	Kirkwood Community College	2 nd hour (8:49 a.m.)
February	16	Free Application for Federal Aid Workshop	(6:30 p.m.)

Attention Seniors

Any student requiring a particular ACT composite score for college scholarships may ask to take the test at the college of their choice. Since you would be asking for special testing other than the National testing dates, please note that scores are only good at that specific college or University.

1. Seniors should have submitted two or more college/university applications. If you have not heard from the schools within 3 weeks call admissions and ask about the status of your application.
2. Students going directly into the workforce after high school should have submitted 2 or more employment applications along with a resume to prospective employers. Follow-up with a phone call.
3. For graduating Seniors who want to work and receive advance training consider:

Apprenticeships: More information available in LRC or Counselor's Office

Military Service: http://www.go.com/WebDir/U_S_military?lk=noframes&svx=related

Attention Juniors

This year all Juniors attending a Public High School in Illinois will take the Prairie State Achievement Exam on April 28 & April 29 (testing 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)

This test will have two components:

1. The ACT - to meet college entrance requirements (Day one testing)
2. WORKKEYS - to determine workplace readiness skills (Day two testing)

Even though all juniors will be taking the ACT component of the Prairie State Test on April 28 and 29 (at no expense to the student), students may still take the ACT on one of the national test dates either before or after the April testing at Mercer County High School. Keep in mind there is no limit to the number of times students may take the ACT. The testing does get more difficult each time the test is taken. *To qualify as an Illinois State Scholar, students must take the test on April 28th or 29th or on one of the National Testing Dates but not later than the June 12, 2010. (Students interested in taking the ACT other than on the April 28th date may register online at www.ACT.org).*

Registration packets are available in the LRC or Counselor's Office. Please note testing dates and registration deadlines.

Basic fee is: \$32 No Writing and \$47 Plus Writing.

ACT Registration Deadlines Test Dates

ACT Registration

Deadlines Test Dates

November 6, 2009
January 5, 2010

December 12, 2009
February 6, 2010

March 5, 2010
May 7, 2010

April 10, 2010
June 12, 2010

SAT Program Test Calendar *Required for some colleges on East Coast (www.collegeboard.org)*

Registration Deadlines

October 30, 2009
December 15, 2009
February 4, 2010

Test Dates

December 5, 2009
January 23, 2010
March 13, 2010

Registration Deadlines

March 25, 2010
April 29, 2010

Test Dates

May 1, 2010
June 5, 2010

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS' INFORMATION

(Continued)

Attention Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors and Parents

Now is the time to be visiting colleges. Check the school calendar for days out of school and make arrangements to visit colleges. Keep in mind that most schools are open on Saturday so students may visit. Reminder: Juniors get one excused college day and seniors get two excused college days.

No school or In-service Days:

These are good days to Schedule College visits. (Between the junior and senior year, 18 schools may be visited using no school days, add the sophomore year and there are 27 college visit days.)

Parent/teacher Conferences	October 29 & 30, 2009	Lincoln's Birthday	February 12, 2010
School Improvement Day	November 10, 2009	Casimir Pulaski Day	March 1, 2010
Veteran's Day	November 11, 2009	Teacher's Institute	March 26, 2010
Martin Luther King's Birthday	January 18, 2010	Spring Break	April 1-5, 2010
School Improvement Day	January 22, 2010		
School Improvement Day	February 11, 2010		

College Open House Dates

Juniors should visit 3 or 4 colleges before the end of the school year. A 3:00 or 4:00 appointment could be arranged for schools nearby. Seniors should be visiting to finalize their college selection by mid December.)

Use the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's Website at www.collegezone.com to Obtain Information on the Following Topics: *(Click on anyone of these sites to obtain additional information in each of these areas.)*

**How to apply
for Financial
Aid, Financial
Aid Sources,**

**Illinois Aid
Programs,
Higher-EdNet,
College Cost
and Savings
Calculator,
State and
Federal Aid
Estimator,**

**Loan
Repayment
Calculator,
Illinois
Colleges,
Planning for
Your Child's
Future,
Academic
Preparation,
College
Selection and
Admission,
Loan
Repayments,
and Other
Sites. (Click
on State and
Federal Aid
Estimator to
fill out an**

***estimate of
your Expected
Family
Contribution
and Federal
Pell Grant
award for the
2010 academic
year.)***

**Fall Financial Aid Meeting Will Introduce the
FAFSA Application & More**

**November 19, 2009 (6:30 p.m., Mercer County
High School Auditorium)**

The FAFSA (Free application for Federal Student Aid) form is required for all students attending a two/four year college or vocational/technical school. All Juniors/Seniors and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend an informative financial aid meeting at 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, November 19th. Jane Schreck is a financial aid director from Monmouth College and will share information on selecting a post-secondary school, types of financial aid, revised FAFSA form, and scholarships. A question and answer period will close the meeting.

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid
(FAFSA) Workshop**

**February 16, 2010 (6:30 p.m., Mercer County
High School Computer Lab)**

Reduce the frustration of filling out the FAFSA form for college by completing your 2009 taxes prior to February 16th. Then join Joanne Dye at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, February 16th. Joanne is a financial aid director at Black Hawk College and will help students and parents submit the FAFSA application on-line.

Call the high school (582-2223 ext. 3) to reserve a computer as space is limited. (Please bring the following items with you to complete the FAFSA on-line: Copy of parent's & student's tax return, W-2 forms, and social security numbers.)