

OCTOBER
2009
MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #404

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| October | 1 | JV/Varsity Girls Golf, Alleman, Moline, Geneseo, at Geneseo, 4:00 p.m.
Varsity HS Boys Golf, Monmouth-Roseville, Here, 4:00 p.m.
Market Day pick up at Apollo, 5:45-6:15 |
| | 2 | Varsity HS Football, North Fulton, There, 7:00 p.m.
Sophomore Class ring orders may be placed with Jostens during lunch hours |
| | 3 | 9 th HS Football, West Central, Here, 10:00 a.m.
Varsity HS Cross Country, Farmington, There, 10:00 a.m.
IMEA Auditions (grades 7-12 selected students) at Geneseo (bus will depart HS at 8:00 a.m.) |
| | 5 | F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, Stark County, Here, 5:00 p.m.
Fresh/Soph HS Football, North Fulton, Here, 6:00 p.m.
JV/Varsity Girls Golf, Rockridge, Here, 4:00 p.m.
Varsity HS Cross Country, Elmwood, There, 4:30 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Monmouth/Roseville, Here, 5:30 p.m. |
| | 6 | Varsity Boys Golf, IHSA Regional, TBA, 9:00 a.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, United, at Monmouth, 5:30 p.m. |
| | 7 | Varsity Girls Golf, IHSA Regional, Here, 8:00 a.m.
JH Football, Orion, There, 5:00 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Sherrard, There, 5:30 p.m.
F/FS/V HS Girls Volleyball, Princeville, There, 5:00 p.m. |
| | 8 | Early Dismissals (starting at 11:30) Teacher's Inservice
Homecoming Parade at 6:00 p.m. |
| | 9 | Varsity HS Football, United, Here (Homecoming), 7:00 p.m. |
| | 10 | 9 th HS Football, Farmington, There, 10:00 a.m.
Homecoming Dance in HS gym, 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. |
| | 12 | NO SCHOOL – COLUMBUS DAY
AAA Pest Control to spray school buildings early in morning
Fresh/Soph HS Football, United, There, 6:00 p.m.
Varsity HS Girls Golf, IHSA Sectional, TBA, 9:00 a.m. |
| | 13 | F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, Annawan, Here, 6:00 p.m.
Varsity HS Boys Golf, IHSA Sectional, TBA, 9:00 a.m.
JH Football, Knoxville, There, 5:30 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Orion, There, 5:00 p.m.
HS Senior picture retakes (Seniors only) |
| | 14 | JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, West Prairie, There, 6:00 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Knoxville, There, 5:30 p.m.
School Board Meeting, District Office, 7:00 p.m.
Jostens meeting with Seniors (graduation cap, gown, announcement products) |
| | 15 | F/JV/HS Girls Volleyball, Ridgewood, Here, 5:00 p.m.
Athletic Booster Meeting at high school, 7:00 p.m. |
| | 16 | Varsity HS Football, West Central, at Biggsville, 7:00 p.m. |
| | 17 | 9 th Grade Girls Volleyball, Rockridge, Here, TBA
Varsity HS Girls Volleyball, Sherrard, There, TBA
9 th Grade HS Football, Monmouth-Roseville, There, 10:00 a.m.
Varsity HS Cross Country, Peoria Heights, Here, 1:00 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, PLC Tournament, at Sherrard, TBA |
| | 19 | Early Dismissals (starting at 11:30 a.m.), Teacher's Inservice
F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, United, There, 5:00 p.m.
Fresh-Soph HS Football, West Central, Here, 6:00 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, PLC Tournament, at Sherrard, TBA |
| | 20 | Early Learning Screening, (ages 4 months to 32 months), Mercer County Health Dept. (See Lifetime Impressions calendar in bulletin for more information.)
PTO Meeting at Apollo, 6:30 p.m. |
| | 21 | JH Girls Volleyball, PLC Tournament, at Sherrard, TBA
Seniors to place orders with Jostens for graduation products (during lunch hours)
Picture retakes for 9 th , 10 th , & 11 th graders |
| | 23 | JV/V HS Football, Stark County, Here, 5:30 p.m. |
| | 24 | Varsity HS Cross Country, IHSA Regional, Here, TBA |
| | 26 | Market Day pick up at Apollo, 5:45 – 6:15 p.m. |

	28	School Board Meeting, District Office, 7:00 p.m. Music Theory Concert, 7:00 p.m. in HS Auditorium
	29	NO Student Attendance, Parent/Teacher Conferences in all school buildings, Noon to 7:30 p.m.
	30	No Student Attendance, Parent/Teacher Conferences in all school buildings, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
November	31	Varsity HS Cross Country, IHSA Sectional, Here, TBA
	2	LTC Choral Festival (HS Concert Choir), at Stark County HS, (Concert at 6:30 p.m.)
	5	High School Musical
	6	High School Musical
	7	Varsity HS Cross Country, IHSA State, There, TBA IMEA Elementary & Jazz Festival at Dunlap, all day

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 mid October. 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.

MAGAZINE SALES

Mercer County High School will be starting the magazine sale/renewal on September 9th. This is the primary fundraiser for the yearbook, prom, and all classes. All magazine orders/renewals are through QSP. Orders are guaranteed 100% by the company. Please help Mercer County High School students with your orders. You can go to QSP .com and enter the school code #425001297 to place an order year round. If you have any questions, contact Mercer County High School at 582-2223.

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!

8th GRADE WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

Attention eighth graders who are interested in going on the summer Washington D.C. trip! There is an informational meeting at Mercer County Junior High at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 1st in the cafeteria. Packets will be handed out. Educational Tours coordinator Mike Orr will give a talk and answer questions. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend.

MERCER CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

The Mercer Carnegie Library will host a Halloween party Saturday, October 31st from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. A costume contest will be held at Noon with \$25 Walmart gift cards as prizes for best costumes in different age categories. Refreshments will be served. A raffle for the Purple Hat Pumpkin Tower (a 38" lighted Halloween decoration) will also be held at Noon. Raffle chances are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and may be purchased at the library any time before the raffle is held.

The Mercer Carnegie Library is located at 200 N. College Avenue in Aledo. The phone number is 582-2032, email: mercercarnegie@mchsi.com, or visit the website at <http://mercercarnegielibrary.home.mchsi.com> for more information.

NO SMOKING POLICY

The Illinois State Legislature adopted legislation prohibiting smoking on all school campuses. Under this law, no smoking or use of tobacco products is allowed anywhere on school property. This applies to outside activities as well as those inside school buildings. The public's cooperation is requested in observing this legislation.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT STATEMENT

Mercer County School District #404 strives to provide its employees and students an educational and employment environment free of unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of communications constituting sexual harassment as defined and other wise prohibited by state and federal law. Students, employees, or other individuals who feel aggrieved because of sexual harassment may initiate a complaint or grievance and submit such to the building principal or superintendent. In all cases, the administrative representative to whom the complaint has been referred shall provide the superintendent a complete written report. This report must be submitted within ten days of the date the complaint was first filed with the administrative representative. Such report will be kept on file in the superintendent's office and reviewed by Illinois State Board of Education's administrative review team personnel.

PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW

By providing this newsletter and in accordance with the ESEA Section 1111(h)(6) Parents Right-To-Know, Mercer County School District #404 is notifying parents of New Boston and Apollo Elementary School students (Title 1 school recipients) that you have the right and may request information regarding the professional qualification of your child's classroom teacher. This information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teachers includes, at a minimum, the following:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and if so, their qualifications.

If at any time your child has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher not highly qualified, the school will notify you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Supt. Alan Boucher at 582-2238.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

All school's annual parent-teacher conferences will be held Thursday and Friday, October 29th and 30th. The conferences on October 29th will be from Noon to 7:30 p.m. while the conferences on October 30th will be from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The staff and administration encourage all parents to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers and discuss any concerns. The phone numbers for the schools are as follows: Apollo (582-5350); New Boston (587-8141); Intermediate (582-2441); Junior High (584-4174); and High School (582-2223).

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!

ANNUAL NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION & CIVIL RIGHTS GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Mercer County School District will not be discriminate and will provide equal educational opportunities for all students including vocational education students without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex ethnicity, language barrier, religious beliefs, physical and mental handicap or disability, or economic and social conditions, or actual or potential marital or parental status.

Uniform Grievance Procedure

Students, parents, guardians, employees, or community members should notify any administrators if they believe that the school board, its employees, or agents have violated their right guaranteed by the State or Federal Constitution, State or Federal statute, or board policy, or have a complaint regarding:

1. Title 2 of the American with Disabilities Act;
2. Title 9 of the Education Amendments of 1972;
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;
4. Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.
5. Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.D. 2000d et seq.
6. Equal Employment Opportunities Act (title 7 of the civil Rights Act) 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.
7. Sexual harassment (Illinois Human Rights Act, Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title 9 of the Education Amendments of 1972);
8. The misuse of funds received for services to improve educational opportunities for educationally disadvantaged or deprived children;
9. Provision of services to homeless students.

The administrators will attempt to resolve complaints without resorting to this grievance procedure and if a complaint is filed to address the complaint promptly and equitably. The right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint filed hereunder shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies and use of this grievance procedure does not extend any filing deadline related to the pursuit of other remedies.

1. Filing a Complaint

A person (hereinafter Complainant) who wishes to avail him/herself of this grievance procedure may do so by filing a complaint with any district administrator. The Complainant shall not be required to file a complaint with a particular administrator and may request an administrator of the same sex. The administrator may request the Complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint or require a meeting with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student. The administrator shall assist the Complainant as needed.

2. Investigation

The administrator will investigate the complaint or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation on his/her behalf. If the Complainant is a student, the administrator will notify his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) that they may attend any investigation meetings in which their child is involved. The complaint and identity of the Complainant will not be disclosed except 1) as required by law or this policy, or (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the Complainant. Within 10 school days of the date the complaint was filed, the administrator shall file a written report of his/her findings with the Superintendent. The administrator may request an extension of time. If a complaint of sexual harassment contains allegations involving the Superintendent, the written report shall be filed with the school board which will make a decision in accordance with Section 3 of this notification. The Superintendent will keep the board informed of all complaints.

3. Decision and Appeal

Within 5 school days after receiving the administrator's report, the Superintendent shall mail his/her written decision to the Complainant by U.S. mail, first class, as well as the administrator. Within 5 school days after receiving the superintendent's decision, the administrator may appeal the decision to the school board by making a written request to the administrator. The administrator shall promptly forward all materials relative to the complaint and appeal to the board. Within 10 school days, the board shall affirm, reverse, or amend the superintendent's decision or direct the superintendent to gather additional information for the board. Within 5 school days of the board's decision, the superintendent shall inform the administrator of the board action. The Complainant may appeal the board's decision to the Regional Superintendent pursuant to Section 3-10 of The School Code and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent pursuant to Section 2-3.8 of The School Code. This grievance procedure shall not be construed to create an independent right to a school board hearing. The failure to strictly follow the timelines in this grievance procedure shall not prejudice any party.

The names of the administrators who may handle complaints are the following principals: Bill Fleurette, Apollo Elementary School, 801 SW 9th St., Aledo, IL 61231 (582-5350); Nancy Robinson, New Boston Elementary School, 301 Jefferson St., New Boston, IL 61272 (587-8141); Doug Nelson, Intermediate School, 1002 SW 6th St., Aledo, IL 61231 (582-2441); Rob Reed, Junior High School, 203 N. Washington St., Joy, IL 61260 (584-4174); and Kathy Albert, High School, 1500 S. College Ave., Aledo, IL 61231 (582-2223).

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS' INFORMATION

OCTOBER 2009

High School Counselors: Ms. Hennenfent & Mrs. Jones

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 5-16	Small group college information sessions for seniors
October 6	HOBYS Leadership Seminar applications available in Counselor's office
October 7	Deadline for PSAT registration (Cost \$13.50, sign-up in the counselor's office)
October 8	Early Dismissals for School Improvement (11:30 a.m.)
October 12	No School (Columbus Day, Jr. & Sr. arrange college visits)
October 14	Senior appointments for college applications (Sign-up by Oct. 9 th , in counselor's office)
October 17	PSAT Testing for interested 9 th -11 th graders (8:00 a.m. – noon, MCHS room 108)
October 19	Early Dismissals for School Improvement (11:30 a.m.)
October 20	Jr./Sr. & Parents Fall Financial Aid Meeting (6:30 p.m., high school auditorium)
October 24	ACT National Test Date
October 29	Parent/Teacher Conference (12:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.)
October 30	Parent/Teacher Conference (8:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)
November 6	Registration Deadline for the December 12 th , ACT National Test Date
November 19	Jr./Sr. & Parents FAFSA Program (6:30 p.m., H.S. room 108 & 110)

PSAT FOR FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS Sat., October 17, 2009 (8:00 - noon)

Juniors wanting to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship must register to take the PSAT. Juniors also take the PSAT as a practice test for the ACT/SAT. Students must register in the counselor's office by 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 7, 2009. A registration fee of \$13.50 is due at the time of registration. Students may pay in cash or check. Please make your check payable to Mercer County High School. Freshmen and sophomores may also take the PSAT to improve their test taking skills. The registration process is the same for freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Students will need two number two pencils, a calculator and a book to read.

POST-SECONDARY PLANS FOR SENIORS

1. During the week of **Oct. 5th-16th**, seniors will be assigned to a small group information session. Post-secondary school information along with a copy of their transcript will be distributed so they will have the information for the application process and for college visits.
2. On Wednesday, **Oct. 14th**, an Illinois Student Assistance Commission representative will meet with students by appointment to help students complete college applications. Seniors should be working on college applications and are encouraged to submit post-secondary school applications to the school of their choice by mid October.
3. A Fall Financial Aid Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, **October 20th**. Juniors/seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend. During this program Melissa Flower (Illinois Student Assistance Commission representative) will discuss the financial aid process. She will cover state & federal programs, scholarships, important dates, and changes in the loan process.
4. FAFSA Program for Juniors/Seniors & Their Parents, at 6:30 p.m., Thurs., **November 19th**. A local college financial aid director will provide an update on the new FAFSA application. This program will allow parents & students time to collect necessary information prior to completing the FAFSA application in February.

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S INFORMATION (CONTINUED)
OCTOBER 2009

POST-SECONDARY VISITS

Seniors may use two school attendance days and juniors one school attendance day to visit post-secondary schools. Students must turn-in a Post-Secondary School Planning Day Form to the high school office at least one day prior to the visit for the absence to be excused. Forms may be picked-up in the counselor's office. Keep in mind that most post-secondary schools have special fall preview days on Saturdays and encourage parents/students to make private appointments if they cannot attend a preview day. Several colleges are currently offering scholarships to students who attend the preview days. Scholarship eligibility is often based on a qualifying essay or a drawing.

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

College representatives meet with interested students September through December. Times and dates are announced on the daily announcements and in the monthly bulletin. Student's should get a pass from the counselor's office at least one day prior to the visit and make arrangements with their classroom instructor.

From	Date	Time
Knox College	Oct. 2	2:37
South Eastern Community College	Oct. 14	1:26
Augustana College	Oct. 19	9:38
St. Ambrose University	Oct. 19	12:37
Western Illinois University	Oct. 21	9:38
Northern Illinois University	Oct. 27	11:13
University of Illinois Springfield	Oct. 28	8:49
University of Wisconsin Platteville	Oct. 28	1:26

Tutoring

Tutoring is available Monday-Friday from 3:00-3:45 p.m., in room 211. Students needing additional help are welcome to attend. If you have any questions please call the high school at 582-2223.