

West Point Public Schools

January
2017

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From the Superintendent's Desk

By Mr. McAllister

I hope you are all having a great Christmas break. A reminder that if you are not getting our school messenger notification calls with school announcements or you change your phone numbers, please call the school and provide us with your updated numbers.

As we enter the New Year, I want to encourage each of you to visit your child's classroom or at the very minimum track their grades through our Infinite Campus website. If you do not have your log in information, please call the school and we can help you.

I am reminded with the second semester our state tests are right around the corner. I want to be clear that a one day test does not reveal every aspect of our school. In fact, I believe that work ethic and integrity are just as important, if not more important, as academic aptitude. Our goal is to not only develop the academic aspect but come along side our parents to inspire our students work ethic and integrity.

I was so encouraged with our third grade teachers and parents. In December, they were all making multiplication cards for our students. When we work together, the results will be astounding. Thank you parents for your commitment to not only your children but other students as well.

Final Note: As basketball games and wrestling matches continue, please be reminded that elementary students are to watch the games and not run the hallways. Your supervision of your children is greatly appreciated. Hope you all have a Happy New Year.

Special Points of

Interest:

Calendars

Guidance News

West Point-Beemer PK-4 Elementary Schools

To all: Cub Cadet Students, Parents, and Community members

Reminder to community/parents:

Administrators are on the local radio show at 7:30 a.m. to visit or provide school announcements on Wednesday mornings. Tune in to the local radio station.

Parent Night participation continues to be encouraged and we wish all to attend. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE ATTENDED!! Each grade level will continue to design, notify you and conduct our open house nights for you to visit the grade level classrooms of your student. These opportunities to interact with your teachers allow you to learn and experience strategies to assist your student(s) with their academic skills at home. You can also call or come up to get the passwords, etc., to access our West Point-Beemer page online. We list announcements, tests, days out, events, etc., as announcements on that site.

Interested Kids Connect Volunteers:

Mrs. Torres is looking for two volunteers in the West Point area to help out at her after school program.

If you know of anyone or can refer me to anyone please let me know.

The program runs from 3:30pm – 5:00pm Middle school or High school aged works as well.

Contact: Christine Torres

Cuming County Services Coordinator The Bridge (Formerly The Crisis Center)

141 S. Union

Fremont, NE 68025

402.721.4340 Fremont

402.372.2204 WP Office

www.bridgefromviolence.com

www.facebook.com/crisiscenterfremontne

www.knowanddowhatsright.com

December break begins with a noon dismissal scheduled on Thursday, December 22, 2016. We test prior to break so do not miss school prior to the scheduled day of dismissal please. Testing is scheduled for our NWEA MAPS Reading, Language, Math and Science plus in Saxon Math, Wonders reading program along with Dibels Benchmark assessments. Wednesday, **January 4** at 8:00, we will start our 2017 school year!! Have a great break!

(Staff in-in-service is on Tuesday, the 3rd of January 2017)

Doug Moran – PK-4 Elementary Principal

West Point-Beemer Middle School

New Year's Resolutions

As we jump into 2017, many of us have come up with a New Year's resolution. These usually revolve around improving ourselves in some form or fashion. These might include the goal of losing 20 pounds or maybe to be give up a bad habit. In any case, the New Year signifies to many a chance at a new beginning. Here at school we are also looking to create some resolutions. I have highlighted two resolutions I think everyone needs to have in regards to education.

The first resolution that every student should have is to increase their attendance. It is evident that poor attendance causes several issues for students. When a student is absent it creates issues that are detrimental to the learning of the student. First of all, the student misses out on personal instruction. This instruction is crucial, especially when new material is being covered. It is difficult to comprehend new material when you are unable to ask the teacher personally. Secondly, being absent puts the student behind in day to day work. As the old saying goes "the show must go on" is true in education. The curriculum of a school has a design to move daily. When a student is gone the curriculum does not stop for them. Getting caught up is something that many kids struggle with once they fall behind. Lastly, poor attendance has some ugly predictions which can stay with a student for a long time. One of these predictions that come from poor attendance is the drop-out concept. A 2004 article written by Jennifer Railsback states that if a student has an attendance problem they are 66% more likely to drop-out of school. In this same article it is stated that students with attendance issues are 52% more likely to be detained by law-enforcement by the age of 25. I think we can all agree that these outcomes are not what we want to see for any of our students.

The second resolution I believe all students should work towards is to accept responsibility. Every day we all have multiple responsibilities. It is extremely important we accept these responsibilities. Just like any job or chore, issues arise in education when a particular responsibility is not accepted. In education there are three entities involved- parents, students, and school personnel. All three have different but important responsibilities. I would argue that the primary responsibility falls on the student. A student is ultimately responsible for their successes and their failures. The sooner they realize this, the better off they will be. As for the parents, their job is to support and guide the student at home. A lot of the student's attitude and feelings about school comes from the parent. If the parent builds up the school to their children, the school is viewed as a positive place. If the parent tears down the school to their children, students will view the school as a negative place. Parents obviously have an enormous influence over their children. The third member of this responsibility team is school personnel. It is the responsibility of the school personnel to give each student the opportunity to learn. School personnel spend countless hours trying to create these opportunities. Schools are far from perfect but it is something we work on every day. If any of these three entities do not accept their responsibility, it often rolls back onto the other two parties to make up for it causing additional stress or frustration. If we all can become more active in our responsibilities, we can help our students gain academic success.

I sincerely hope that together we can make our students' academic dreams become a reality. Let's make 2017 the best year yet.

Happy New Year!

Mr. Hoffer

West Point-Beemer High School

HELP ME!!!!

Ron Clark claps his hands together and yells out a crisp, “Help me!!” to his classroom. He immediately launches himself on top of a student’s desk and breaks out into a quick chant that the class repeats. After bounding from desktop to desktop he hops to the front of the room and smashes a red button on the wall initiating what I can only describe as a NASA launch sequence, complete with sirens, lights, and smoke. Not your typical 5th grade math class.

This past month, along with several high school teachers, I had the privilege of attending a two day training at the Ron Clark Academy. During this training, we had the opportunity to watch two national teachers of the year work with their staff to educate the one hundred and twenty middle school students enrolled in their school. Each day was filled with observations of live teaching followed by sessions where we could question these teachers and learn more about the why of what they do.

One major observation I had is that they infuse teaching into everything they do and all of these unique strategies, no matter how crazy they may seem, have a specific purpose. As I was going from class to class a few days after we had returned, I had several students ask, “Mr. Weddle what kind of training did our teachers go to because they are acting a little....weird.” I even had a few students ask if they could go along if we go again.

I would have to say that as I observe classrooms, I do see a new sense of energy and excitement. For some, I am sure that these changes may be a little uncomfortable as it places them out of their box. So if you hear about an Alcatraz theme in Mrs. Mahannah’s room or hear “My teacher wants me to stand and address the class when I answer questions,” they are absolutely correct. Typically you go to a conference hoping to pull one or two positive ideas. From this conference you have to be a little careful of not implementing all the ideas you have at once....great problem to have!

My thanks go out to our board of education and Mr. McAllister for making this possible for our staff.

Cadet Pride!!

D.J. Weddle, Principal

WPBHS

West Point-Beemer Jr.-Sr. High School

ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT -----

1200 E. Washington: West Point, NE 68788: 402-372-5546

Jeff Konkoleski – Activities Director



Let me be the first to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

As we usher in a New Year, I always find myself making those New Year's resolutions in hopes of becoming a better person. Like millions others I do a great job the first couple weeks, but as February rolls around I find myself falling back to my old ways. Not this year however.....I'm going to make a resolution that I will not give up on my resolutions! Check back in February to see how I'm doing!

As we enter into the heart of the winter activity season, I want to remind everyone about our sportsmanship guidelines. West Point Public Schools, in partnership with the NSAA, promote good sportsmanship from students, athletes, coaches, and spectators. We request cooperation from all fans/spectators to support the officials, coaches, and visiting players in a positive manner. We want to make sure our student-athletes are provided a positive experience in regards to their extra-curricular activities. Sure we all sometimes get caught up in the game and don't agree with all the calls from the officials, but we must make sure we keep in mind what matters the most and that is what's best for the kids.

Promoting sportsmanship is a continual process that requires a whole school/community effort. West Point-Beemer continues to set goals to decrease the number of unsportsmanlike incidents and sportsmanship is a key part of our activity program!!

We welcome all to come support the Cadets!!

Jeff Konkoleski

Activities Director

January 2017 news for Special Olympics:

We are practicing for upcoming bowling, floor hockey, swimming and basketball competitions in January and February. Swimming practice is on Tuesday evenings in Fremont with bowling right after school on Wednesday followed by floor hockey and basketball practice from 6:00-8:30. Our first competition for 2017 is on Saturday January 14 with our Regional singles bowling tournament in Omaha. The national bowling tournament and the floor hockey competition in Omaha is in February.



Special Olympics

West Point Public Schools

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West Point, NE 68788

Beemer Elementary

Phone: 528-3232

West Point Elementary

Phone: 372-5507

Fax: 372-5318

High School

Phone: 372-5546

Fax: 372-2252



We're on the Web:
wpcadets.org

West Point Public Schools

Mission Statement:

West Point Public Schools where learning is the point!.

