

THE HUSKY PAWPRINT



AURORA HIGH SCHOOL

September 2008

From the desk of the Principal...

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome back to students, parents, and staff. As we begin the 2008-09 school year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the incoming freshman class and all new and returning students to Aurora High School.

We have two new staff members joining the AHS team this fall. Mr. Rick Titus will be teaching in the math department and Mr. Steve Jacobsen will be serving as part-time guidance counselor. We are very excited to have each of these individuals on our staff.

In addition to the excitement of starting a new school year, the 08-09 school year brings added excitement as we can FINALLY occupy a building that is free of the construction mess. We are thrilled with the way the new and renovated classrooms turned out. Thank you to those of you who visited us during open house. The outstanding turnout was greatly appreciated.

Several new programs that will be implemented this year include modified block scheduling. I am pleased to announce after getting classes balanced and schedule changes made, students and staff are adjusting very well. Second, juniors and seniors will have an opportunity to take part in the John Baylor ACT Prep program. The program will be offered to senior and junior students starting this month. More information on JB Test Prep program can be found on page 5 in this newsletter. Last, the district is implementing a new student management program called Infinite Campus. The program is a web based program that will allow parents access to gradebook and attendance/tardy information for their student(s) through the parent portal. More information on the parent portal will be provided in the very near future.

Last, as my daughter officially becomes a high school student, I am reminded of how fast our children/students grow up. Enjoy them. Be there for them. Take an active role in their education. Encourage your son/daughter to get involved in a school organization, fine arts, or athletics. Students get only one shot at high school. Encourage them to make the most of it!

Have a great school year!

Doug Kittle, Principal

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Doug Kittle
Principal

Brandy Trofholz
Assistant Principal

Tim Huls
Activities Director

Dr. Larry Ramaekers
Superintendent

Board of Education
Clint Paisley, President
Pat Shaw, Vice-President
Sue Mitchell, Secretary
Kirk Penner, Treasurer
Jay Oswald
Stephanie Penner



"Home of the Huskies"

Aurora High School

Assistant Principal's Office...

Welcome Back! What an exciting time for our Aurora High School students as they begin the year with an entirely new looking schedule ahead of them. We are very excited to be in a block schedule this year. Listed below, you will find the attendance policy from our Student Handbook. Please pay special attention to the piece labeled "NOTE ADDITION" as it pertains to absences allowed for students in the new schedule & has been recently added to our allowed absences policy.

ALLOWED ABSENCES (Page 7)

Students are allowed eight (8) absences per class during the semester. Absences are not classified as excused or unexcused, but are classified as exempt or non-exempt.

When nine (9) absences have been recorded for a class or classes during the semester, the student will no longer receive semester credit for the class/classes missed. Students who exceed this limit may petition the Attendance Committee to request an exemption from loss of credit for the semester. A form to request a Committee hearing will be provided to the parents/guardian of the students who exceed the limit of eight. Included in the information sent to the parents/guardian of the student will be a description and a timeline for the hearing process along with the procedure for appeal of the Attendance Committee decision.

When a student has lost credit for a class, he/she may be placed in an alternate setting to begin credit recovery classes.

If family circumstances dictate that a student miss school and this is known in advance, a request for an exemption may be made to the Attendance Committee (or someone designated to make the decision) in advance of the absence.

Absences for participation in school-sponsored organizations or school activities will not be counted.

Seniors will be allowed three (3) college/career visits as exempt absences. Juniors will be allowed one college visit as an exempt absence. All college/career visits must be arranged one day in advance and verified through the Assistant Principal's office.

****NOTE ADDITION: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!***

Students will be allowed eight (8) absences per SKINNY (47 MINUTE) class period. When nine (9) absences have been recorded for a skinny class period, the student will no longer receive credit for the class/classes missed.

Students will be allowed four (4) absences per BLOCK (85 MINUTE) class period. When five (5) absences have been recorded for a block class period, the student will no longer receive credit for the class/classes missed.

Miss Brandy Trofholz
Assistant High School Principal / K-12 Curriculum Coordinator



Beyond the Classroom

tim huls, activities director

Welcome to a new school year. I'm sure many of you have seen and heard the sounds of the new activities season. This is a time of year that you can't help to get excited about the upcoming seasons. Our student athletes greatly appreciate your support. The following story is taken from the book "Wooden." I thought it would be fitting for this time of year. Enjoy.

The Real Coaches and Teachers

A father and a mother must be there to set an example for their children, strong and positive models of what to be and how to behave when the youngsters grow up.

Being a role model is the most powerful form of educating. Youngsters need good models more than they need critics. It is one of a parent's greatest responsibilities and opportunities.

Too often we neglect it because we get so caught up in making a living that we forget to make a life.

As parents, we have a very important role. The Aurora Activities Program promotes Citizenship, Sportsmanship, and Self-Discipline. In order for these values to be obtained, our student/athletes have to see them being practiced on and off the playing arena. Our role as parents is to practice and encourage these values off the playing field. Your support in this very important endeavor is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to another year of Husky Activities!

See you in the stands!

Go Big Red!

TimHuls – Activities Director



Guidance News . . .

Maggie Rasmussen, Counselor

Welcome back! Each school year marks a milestone for your students as they progress through the grades. With that comes an increased need for resources to be prepared for the next stage in their lives. The guidance office is open to students and families to help with this area. I urge you to refer to the monthly newsletters so you are aware of important dates and events.

Career and College Day 2008 – 11th and 12th grade students

Mark your calendars for the Aurora High School Career and College Day that will be held Monday, September 22. Students will be attending a variety of career activities throughout the morning, followed by an opportunity to visit with approximately 60 different career representatives from the area. **Parents are invited to join the event from 11:15-12:15 in the middle school gymnasium for the Career Fair.**

The afternoon activities focus on preparation for college. Seniors will attend sessions, provided by Education Quest foundation (www.educationquest.org), on financial aid and juniors will participate in a college panel. The College Fair will be in the middle school gymnasium from **1:45-3:15**. We are expecting approximately 60 different representatives from four-year colleges and universities, community colleges and tech schools, and the military. The representatives are prepared to answer questions regarding academic programs, financial aid and scholarship information, and extracurricular opportunities on the college level. **Parents are invited to join this event.**

Please note that this will be the **only event of this nature offered at our school this year**. This provides a valuable opportunity to gather resources about careers and schools of interest and to visit with specialists.

College Entrance Testing

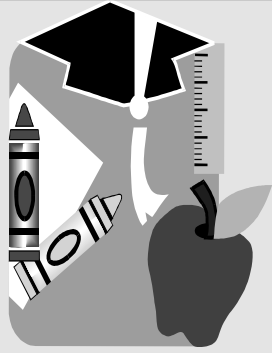
Seniors considering attending a four-year college or university will need to take a college entrance exam. Most institutions and scholarships will take test scores through the December test date. Please mark your calendars and be certain to follow registration deadlines as outlined below:

ACT Registration Deadline (Oct. Test)	Friday, September 19
ACT Test	Saturday, October 25
ACT Registration Deadline (Dec. Test)	Friday, November 7
ACT Test	Saturday, December 13

*Note: You may also register online at www.actstudent.org

SAT Registration Deadline (Oct. Test)	Monday, September 9
SAT Test	Saturday, October 4
SAT Registration Deadline (Nov. Test)	Friday, September 26





Back to School

SEASON ATHLETIC TICKETS

Student activity passes took on a new look and price last year. Entire YEAR passes replaced season passes. This will be continued this year.

Students in grades (6-12) receive a plastic student ID card. If they purchase a \$10 activity pass, a sticker will be attached to the ID card. Students **MUST** present their activity card with the sticker attached to be admitted to athletic contests free. Students who **FORGET** their pass, or do not have an activity pass, will be required to pay the \$3 student rate.

A year Parent/Adult Activity Pass has replaced the seasonal pass. The cost is \$50 per person.

Elementary (grades K-5) Passes may be purchased for \$10 in the high school office. Pre-school children are admitted free.

All passes may be purchased in the high school office.

Aurora Student and Adult passes are **not** good for out-of-town games or tournaments.

Individual game tickets may be purchased at the gate. Student tickets are \$3.00 and adult tickets are \$4.00.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION:

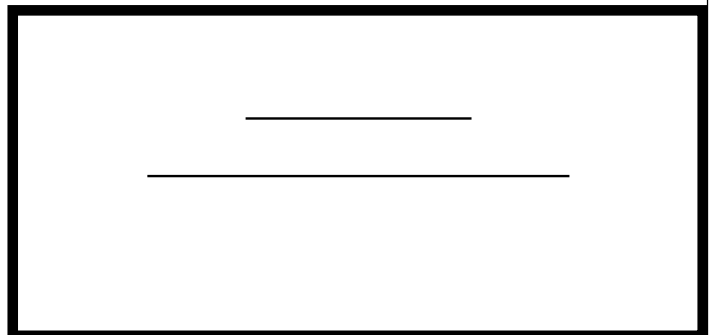
School District 4R, Aurora, Nebraska, does not discriminate in employment practices or educational opportunities on the basis of sex, age, race, national origin, religion, or handicap. Questions or grievances may be directed to Dr. Larry Ramaekers, Superintendent of Schools, 300 L Street, Aurora, NE 68818, 402-694-6923.



Husky Gear is on sale at Schneider's Hardware through the end of the school year and at the Aurora Mall for a limited time. You may also view the items on the web site: www.aurora.esu9.org/huskygear. If you have any questions regarding the Husky Gear, please call Diane Danhauer (694-3660) or Lila Wolff (694-3313).

School Activity Wall Calendars
Contact high school or middle school
band members to get yours.
Only \$5.00

Please notify the school office
with address changes.
694-6968 or 694-6966



"TEACHER'S" EDITION

$$X \times Y = Z$$



AHS New Staff

Homecoming Week
September 22 - 27, 2008

Monday through Thursday:
Don't miss all the athletic events.

See the school calendar.

Friday Activities:

**All students Grades 9-12
dismiss at 1:48 for parade.**

Parade begins at 2:00

Rally will follow at the Bandstand

7:00 Football vs Seward High

Saturday Activities:

**G Golf at Holdrege
Aurora VB Invite
Cross Country at Minden**

Homecoming Dance-Saturday 9:00

Rick Titus is the new high school math instructor. The Titus family moved to Aurora from Imperial, NE. Mr. Titus graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and has taught in Chase County High School, Filley, and McPherson County school. He and his wife Jill are parents to Alicia, Danielle, and Jaime. Mr. Titus enjoys golf, logic puzzles, spending time with his girls, and coaching most sports.

Steve Jacobson is not new to Aurora High School, but he is a new staff member in the guidance office. Mr. Jacobsen has been a substitute teacher, farmer, construction worker, teacher, counselor, and coach. He has a Masters degree in education. His previous school experiences include Dodge Public, Marquette, and High Plains schools. The family includes his wife Sherry and children, Tonja, Dara and Scott, Brad and Staci, Kendra and Pat, and 14 grandchildren. Hobbies include watching high school sports, golf, Nebraska baseball, reading the newspaper, and being a grandpa!

Tim Klipp is a student teacher in Instrumental Music with Dan Sodomka. Tim's degree will be in Music Education from Nebraska Wesleyan University. He graduated from Hampton High School. His hobbies include singing, camping with his family, and going to the movies which he does at least once a week.

**Welcome to
Aurora High School!
Have a great year!**



Automated Parent Messaging System

The Aurora Public Schools has adopted a new message delivery system to keep parents, staff and students informed of important school information such as school closings, early dismissals and event reminders. When you sign up, you determine which type of messages you want to receive and how you want to receive them. The **“Husky School Beacon”** system will send instant text messages to your cell phone, home phone or e-mail based on your selection, or, if you chose, the message can be sent to all three.

This service will assist the Aurora Schools to send information to parents and patrons in a more timely fashion. **Information on how to sign up for the “Husky School Beacon”** can be found on the school district’s web site: www.aurora.esu9.org.

To register: click on the school beacon icon and follow the prompts. **It is only necessary to sign up once regardless of how many children you have attending the Aurora Public Schools.** If you would like to subscribe to this service but do not have an email account, please contact the school office of the building that your student attends.

**College and Career Day
Monday, September 22**



FBLA Watkins Sales

Aurora FBLA members will be selling
plans from September
available for purchase in the ten sites
household cleaners and deal books
plans in and for our purchase FBLA
articles our sub

**Join
the
Aurora
Husky
Booster
Club!**

**Contact: Lisa Sullivan or
Tara Berthelsen (694-5993).**

**You should have received a
membership form
in a recent mailing.**

News from ASCEND

*Barb Bonifas,
ASCEND Director*



Welcome to ASCEND 2008-09!!

The ASCEND program has had a great start to the school year. We are currently serving eleven students. The students this year are very motivated to complete their coursework. The students at this time are seeking employment or volunteer opportunities to meet some of their elective requirements.

This year one day a week the students will be participating in a book club. The students will be spending 20 minutes reading a selected book and then will spend 10 minutes discussing what they have read. Hopefully the students will learn that reading can be fun, and interesting!

One addition to our schedule this year is our credit recovery program. Students who attend the high school and have failed several required classes are coming here to work on those classes for one block every other day. It is our hope that by the end of the semester, the students will have completed the class and earned the credit needed. The students are working on a variety of different subjects with the guidance of the ASCEND staff. Currently eight students are involved in this program.

Mrs. Barb Bonifas
ASCEND Coordinator



**AURORA HIGH SCHOOL
300 L Street
Aurora, NE 68818**

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**The Newsletter is available on the
school web site at www.aurora.esu9.org.
Click on high school newsletter.
If you received a copy but would prefer to read
the news on the web site,
please call 694-6968 to have your name removed
from the mailing list.**