



Trojan Nation

September 2014

Letter from Administration

Welcome to this edition of Trojan Nation! And, welcome to autumn! Congratulations to the nearly 300 students who earned High Honors (3.5 GPA or Higher) for Spring 2014 at our recent Honor Roll Assembly. These students represent current sophomores, juniors, and seniors and are a very nice percentage of the overall student body in those grade levels. The next Honor Roll Assembly will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. That assembly will include current freshmen.

Though it's a very busy time of year, we do wish to thank all those who attended Open House. We want to invite all parents and guardians to attend the upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences on October 22 (evening), and October 23 (all day). As always, we invite all parents and guardians to communicate with teachers, administrators, staff members at any time. Speaking about the end of October, please note that our home football game versus Washburn Rural High School has been re-scheduled for Friday, October 24, at **Washburn University's** football stadium. Kick-off is at the regularly scheduled 7:00 p.m. For those with sophomore students, there will be a Class Ring Assembly on October 1, to learn how to create and order a Class Ring. Information packets will be made available to all students in the Main Office. Ordering will begin on October 8 at lunch and after school.

Those of you who attended this year's SRO performance witnessed a tremendous show full of unique and extraordinary performances! From magic, to singing, to dancing, to trick yo-yos, to piano playing, to rapping, to bagpiping, to clever introductions by the SRO Staff, to more, the show was very entertaining and another testament to extremely talented students we have at THS!

Our students are not only talented, but they continue to demonstrate on a daily basis the GOLD Standards that we have set for them. From being prompt to class, to being great citizens, to making it a priority to be in class, our students have helped create a terrific learning environment that is sure to pay dividends individually and collectively. Thank you, parents/guardians, for your support!

Finally, we encourage everyone to continue to visit our Topeka High website: <http://ths.topekapublicschools.net>

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Newsletter designed and compiled
by Danielle Cottrell (Junior).

Important News

Many colleges and universities send representatives to THS to meet with students.

Juniors and seniors should come to the Counseling Center to sign up to see college representatives.

TPS will host a **College and Career Fair on October 8**. Students must have a signed permission form before being excused to attend. The fair begins at 1 p.m. at the Kansas Expocentre. Transportation is NOT provided. Permission forms may be picked up in the Counseling Center.

Seniors and Parents! Mark your calendar now to attend **Financial Aid Night on October 9 at 7 p.m.** in the THS cafeteria. A Washburn University financial aid representative will explain how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is an important step for all students who plan to attend college.

School Picture Retakes October 8 - This day is for students who had their photo taken but are not happy with it or students who did not have their photo taken in August.

All seniors should have their photos taken. If a senior's picture was not taken in August, they need to have their photo taken on this date.

It does not cost to have your photo taken.

Senior Information

Senior Salute Ad Prices Increase October 1 - The cost for senior salute ads will increase on October 1. The final deadline to purchase a salute ad is **DECEMBER 5**. Send in your form (found at the link below) and payment today to lock - in pricing. Then send in your personal message and photos by DECEMBER 5. The Sunflower yearbook graphic artists will design the ads.

The prices for ads will increase again in November, and finally in December.

More information can be found at goo.gl/wAvGTl

Yearbook Information

Yearbook Prices Increase October 1 - The cost of the Sunflower yearbook will increase from \$55 to \$60 on October 1. There will be only a limited number of extra ordered, and these books will be sold on a first-come basis. The deadline to purchase a Sunflower yearbook is January 23, 2015.

Books can either be ordered in room 101 at Topeka High or online at www.yearbookordercenter.com (enter code #2835).

Sunflower Yearbook is looking for business sponsors - The Sunflower yearbook is currently offering a special for business sponsors. Those businesses who sign a contract to support the yearbook before October 1 will save \$5 off advertising. The yearbook is a self-sufficient business. Business support allows the Sunflower to produce an award winning yearbook. Become a part of the winning tradition and advertise with us.

More information on purchasing a business ad in the yearbook can be found at goo.gl/ljnzS1

Parent/Teacher Conferences

We hope you attend Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be Wednesday, October 22, from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. and on Thursday, October 23, from 8:00 - 11:00 am; 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.; and 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Parents may drop in any time during the scheduled times for Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Colleges Visiting THS

Highland Community College – October 1 at 8:10 a.m.

Kansas State University – October 8 at 2:10 p.m.

Pittsburg State University – October 9 at 8:10 a.m.

Allen County Community College – October 15 at 2:10 p.m.

Newman University – October 29 at 8:10 a.m.

Cloud County – October 29 at 2:10 p.m.

Wichita State University – October 29 at 2:10 p.m.

Ft. Hays State University – November 5 at 8:10 a.m.

Emporia State University – November 6 at 8:10 a.m.

Washburn University – November 20 at 8:10 a.m.

Flint Hills Technical College – November 20 at 2:10 p.m.

Washburn University – December 17 at 2:10 p.m.



Sign up in the Counseling Center, Room 132

GOLD Standards

Students have continued to learn about GOLD standard behavior in specific parts of the building by focusing on

L - Live Responsibly and **D** - Dedication for the past two weeks. The following students received a Golden Ticket for their demonstration of those two standards and were picked from our weekly drawings.

September 8th - Jose Cuenca, Dominic Ramos, Christopher Musterman, Tavarous Givens, Duane Emanuel, Mara Bloomquist, Stephaun Carter, Micki Mellott, C.D. Stubbs, Shania Peck

September 15 - Keith Forshee, Noah Penrod, Brody Cunningham, Kylee Folsom, Alma Mena, Alicea Thompson, Elijah Keith, Dante Gillenwater, Kenyan Rew, Juan Martinez

Congratulations to those students and we look forward to rewarding many more!

The GOLD club will be having its first meeting during Trojan time on October 1st. Members will be discussing ideas for more rewards for students as well as developing some video vignettes to be used for teaching the GOLD standards in the future.

Parents, if you have any ideas or would like to donate items for rewards, contact Maria Denney at 235-7185.

Library News

We are just delighted that so many students enjoy the opportunity to spend their early morning with us. It's great that they have a place to work and socialize (using their indoor voices).

As we look ahead to October, our schedule includes a few days of being closed for testing and the annual meeting of the Friends of the Topeka High Library. Many "Class of" reunions will tour the facility and the yearly THS Hall of Fame inductions will occur.

October will also be time for Parent-Teacher conferences. The library staff will be available to help you if you are uncomfortable with your PowerSchool maneuvering. Feel free to take advantage of the opportunity to return your student's overdue books. As was stated in the past, no fees are assessed if the book is returned.

THS's Web Site: ths.topekapublicschools.net

Department News

Science Department

Our goal across the science department is to increase each student's understanding of the world around him or her and give each student opportunities to see the "wonders" of nature. That's why our department mission is to "Prepare all students for life with science."

Science is **LIFE**.

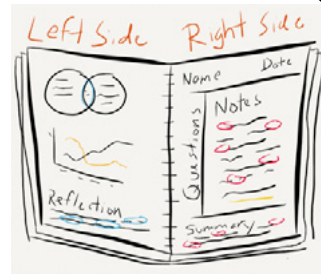
L - Live (Do)

I - Inquire (Ask why)

F - Find (Discover)

E - Engage (Learn)

To help students organize and understand the connection of science to their everyday lives, many teachers are requiring students to keep a "science notebook." Some teachers who have had AVID training refer to the "interactive notebook" because students build their scientific understanding within the covers of the notebook - where they interact with the world around them and record their experiences in the notebook. Ask your student whether they are keeping a science notebook. If they are, take a look at it. Ask them questions about the work and ideas that you see in the notebook.



Math Department

With the Scantron testing almost completed, the mathematics department is now collaborating together to ensure consistency within each of the classes that are taught by the different teachers. Teachers are working together to provide meaningful activities to promote learning.

Students are reminded to take advantage of the after school tutoring that is available **EVERY day** in room 335 until 5:30. If a student is struggling, one to one support is available.

THS Debate Team

The Topeka High School Debate team competed at Washburn Rural on the 19th and 20th of September. We did well netting a 19-21 record as a squad. With four teams having a winning record!

Congratulations to the following teams:

Diamond Lewis (Jr) and Issach Johnson (So) for earning a 4-1 record in the Novice division, placing 4th.

Hunter Church (So) and Brandon Peterson (Jr) for earning a 4-2 record in the Open division and missing the quarterfinal round on speaker points.

The following teams also did well:

Toma Dimitriu and Satchel Pennington (So's) for ending their tournament with a 3-3 record in Open.

Megan Lacolla-Linquist and Colton Glasscock (Jr's) for bouncing back from a rough first day and ending their tournament 3-3 in the Varsity division.

Next weekend we will travel 12 teams to both Emporia and Olathe North!

The Topeka Public Schools, Unified School District No. 501 is committed to affirmative action and equal opportunity. No person shall, on the basis of age, race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, disability, national origin or ancestry be denied lawful access to any appropriate educational service, program or activity provided by the school district. The Title IX compliance coordinator is the executive director of administration. The Section 504 compliance coordinator is the general director of special services. For employment, the EEO/AA officer is the general director of human resources. All compliance coordinators may be contacted at 624 SW 24th Street, Topeka, KS 66611-1294, (785) 295-3000. The clerk of the Board of Education has been designated to receive and redirect or handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies, regulations and procedures. The clerk may be contacted by calling (785) 295-3045 or by writing to 624 SW 24th Street, Topeka, Kansas 66611-1294.

Computer Department

The **MultiMedia** classes have just finished creating their own Graduation Announcements in PhotoShop as their culminating project after learning a number of skills in this industry-standard piece of software. The experience of creating their own and actually printing it out has been more of a challenge than they thought it would be.

Here are some comments from students.

- ☛ "MultiMedia is one of my favorite classes. We learned some PhotoShop in it. We even learned how to make sticky notes!" Emma Hubka, Fr.
- ☛ "I was interested in a career in computers/design and this class has definitely encouraged and built on that interest. I go home and work with some of these programs just because this kind of "work" is really that fun and intriguing to me." Riley Pfannenstiel, Fr.
- ☛ "I really enjoy learning as well as having fun in MultiMedia! My favorite section was PhotoShop because now I know how they PhotoShop the models!" Jordan Proctor, Sr.



Justice West-Matthews, So.

Counseling Center News

Attention Parents of Juniors: The PSAT will be given at THS on Saturday October 18th. Students can register in the Counseling Center with a check (made out to Topeka High School) in the amount of \$18.00 or exact cash. Students must register ASAP because no additional tests can be ordered after Friday September 26th. Students will receive a bulletin of information and a practice test when they register. Students should take the PSAT for the practice and see how well they are prepared for college now and not for the National Merit Scholarships offered through PSAT as the scholarships are for the top 1% in the nation. This is practice for the ACT and SAT. You will get your test booklet back and the correct answers around Winter break. PSAT is open to 9th and 10th graders as well but not recommended as they may not have had the classes that cover information on the PSAT. Any questions you can contact Mr. Skaggs in the counseling center at 295-3166.

Division News

The division principals, division 1: Patterson & Reilly and division 2: Johnson & Mallon, met with all freshmen students on Thursday, September 17th to update them on progress for this year. The emphasis surrounded attendance, behavior, and credits (grades). As of the first monitoring session, progress reports, freshmen students are showing the following results:

Attendance

- ☛ No unexcused absences = 249 students
- ☛ 372 students were present 90% or more of the time

Behavior

- ☛ 95% of students have no office referrals
- ☛ 41 office referrals have been written
- ☛ Zero out-of-school suspensions

Credits (Grades)

- ☛ 65% are passing all core classes

Students are encouraged to attend tutoring after school on Monday through Friday, from 3:05 – 5:30 pm. Additionally, it is important to ask for missing work when absent. Please remind your freshman student to be mindful of the ABC's (attendance, behavior, and credits).