

Golden Eagle News

Sept. 2009

A Monthly Publication of Ferndale High School



What's Up?

Read on for . . .

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A Note from the Principal:

Welcome. We are off to another wonderful start this year, building on our successes. For example, based on last spring's testing, we have tremendous WASL score gains in science, with a 20% increase in students meeting standard over the last three years. In addition, our reading and math scores are above the state average. Our students will continue to take a state assessment for graduation. This spring the HSPE will replace the WASL. We will have more information on this change in tests as soon as information is released from OSPI.

Ensuring your students success is a shared goal. To help support it, be sure that your student has a specific time and location to do homework each day. If they do not have homework, encourage them to read for a half-hour instead. Talk with your student about their daily progress in each class and check on IMS for missing assignments. Finally, we encourage you to be an active participant in the school community by volunteering, attending Open House and conferences, and by joining Parent Advisory.

With the challenges of high standards and state requirements, FHS has in place many supports to help ensure student success. These include free after-school tutoring in the Library, HSPE enrichment classes in math, Graduation Coaches, and technology to track and analyze student achievement. Together, we will continue to build a strong future for our students.

Dawn Mark

Mark Your Calendar!

September 17	Picture Day
September 18	LID Day, No School
October 5	Parent Advisory, 7:00-8:00 pm, room 503
October 5 & 6	Talent Revue Auditions
October 8	Open House
October 3-10	Homecoming Week
October 15	Picture Retakes
October 27-30	Parent Conferences



Increase in Fees

Due to the rising cost of absolutely everything we will be raising all Art and Ceramics fees to \$15.00 per class. This will help defer the cost of materials and ensure that your student will have the supplies needed to complete course work in the Studio Art classes. Thanks so much for getting fees paid as early as possible. Lab fees do not cover all the materials we use but they do help cover some costs.

PSAT/National Merit Scholarship

Qualifying Test

- Who:** Juniors and Sophomores who are interested in attending college/university after high school
- Where:** Ferndale High School
- When:** 8:00-11:30 a.m., Saturday, October 17, 2009
- Why:**
- 1) Low-cost practice for the SAT
 - 2) Eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship Program (Juniors only)
 - 3) Score Review Service
 - 4) Receive college admissions information
 - 5) Compare academic skills with others going to college
 - 6) Help prepare a learning/college prep plan
- Cost:** \$30.00 at the time of registration, which will be before and after school and during both lunches on October 5th-9th. AND DURING BOTH LUNCHES OCTOBER 5th-9th.
- Other:** No late registrations or standbys will be accepted
Make checks payable to Ferndale High School
Testing will be done in classrooms
Contact Mrs. Davis in the Counseling Office for details (383-9252)

College Test Dates

Seniors planning on attending a four year university or college must take a college assessment test. Please refer to the dates below and register. You can pick up a registration packet in the counseling office or register on line at collegeboard.com or actstudent.org.

SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
*OCT 10, 2009	SEP 09, 2009	SEP 23, 2009
NOV 07, 2009	OCT 01, 2009	OCT 15, 2009
DEC 05, 2009	OCT 30, 2009	NOV 12, 2009
JAN 23, 2010	DEC 25, 2010	DEC 30, 2009
MAR 13, 2010	FEB 04, 2010	FEB 18, 2010
*MAY 01, 2010	MAR 25, 2010	APR 08, 2010
JUN 05, 2010	APR 29, 2010	MAY 13, 2010

FEE: \$45.00 LATE FEE: add \$23.00 to test fee

ACT (American College Test)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
SEP 12, 2009	AUG 07, 2009	AUG 21, 2009
OCT 24, 2009	SEP 18, 2009	OCT 02, 2009
DEC 12, 2009	NOV 06, 2009	NOV 20, 2009
FEB 06, 2010	JAN 05, 2010	JAN 15, 2010
APR 10, 2010	MAR 05, 2010	MAR 19, 2010
*JUN 12, 2010	MAY 07, 2010	MAY 21, 2010

FEE: No writing \$32.00 Plus Writing \$47.00 LATE FEE: add \$21.00 to test fee.

*TEST TO BE GIVEN AT FERNDALE HIGH SCHOOL

*HIGH SCHOOL CODE FOR BOTH EXAMS IS 480-400

If you have any questions, call the counseling office at 383-9252

Attendance Standards and Guidelines

School Board Policy and Washington State Law concerning pupil attendance state that "pupils shall be punctual and regular in attendance". The regularity of attendance is a major contributing factor in being successful in class. Regular school attendance sets the groundwork for success in future employment, for one's personal life, and develops positive social skills.

1. Terms

Truancy or unexcused absences is defined as failing to provide an approved communication in the form of a note or phone call to the attendance office within 48 hours of the student's returning from an absence. The student may be suspended on the third offense.

Tardiness is defined as not being in the classroom when the bell rings.

2. Loss of credit

In order to fulfill the credit requirements for a class, a student must be in attendance eighty (80) days of the ninety (90) day semester with the exception of school sponsored activities (interscholastic athletics, field trips, etc.) and suspension days. Students who have accumulated more than ten (10) absences may not receive credit for the class unless they have proven that there have been extenuating circumstances, which have caused their absences. Students who receive no credit for lack of attendance may remain in the class on an academic contract.

Bullying Legislation

The 2002 Legislature passed and the governor signed a bill requiring school districts to adopt policy by August 1, 2003, prohibiting harassment, intimidation and bullying between students. Legislation states harassment, intimidation or bullying means any intentional written, verbal or physical act, including, but not limited to, one shown to be motivated by any characteristic in RCW 9A.36.080 (3), or other distinguishing characteristics, when the intentional written, verbal or physical act: a) physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or b) has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; or c) is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or d) has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The statutory reference noted above is to the criminal malicious harassment statute. The characteristics identified in RCW 9A.36.080 (3) are race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability. Other distinguishing characteristics can include, but are not limited to: physical appearance, clothing, socioeconomic status, gender identity and marital status.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying can take many forms including: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendoes, demeaning comments, drawings, cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats or other written, oral or physical actions.

Finally, the new law prohibits retaliation against those reporting bullying and false reporting of bullying incidents. Students, volunteers and staff are encouraged to report incidents of bullying.

In July 2002, Ferndale schools' board of directors adopted policy and procedures implementing the new law. The policy covers all bullying, regardless of motivation and regardless of whether or not the bullied student even has the characteristic for which he or she is being bullied.

The district is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, volunteers and patrons, free from harassment, intimidation or bullying.

Tobacco Products Illegal Anywhere Anytime

Effective June 11, 1998, state law made it illegal for students or any person under 18 years of age to possess tobacco products anywhere anytime. If students possess tobacco at school or school activities, the police will be notified. The penalty for a person under 18 to possess tobacco products is (1) \$50.00 fine; or (2) up to 4 hours community service; or (3) participation in smoking cessation program or all three.

The Ferndale School District complies with all state and federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extra curricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and grievance procedures may be directed to the school district Title IX RCW 28A.640 Officer, Mr. Elvis Dellinger, Assistant Superintendent, P. O. Box 698, Ferndale, WA 98248 (360) 383-9206 and or Section 504 ADA Coordinator, Dr. Michael Berres, Director of Special Services, P. O. Box 698, Ferndale, WA 98248 (360) 383-9212.

Dangerous Weapons Policy Notice

Ferndale School District Board Policy 4315 includes the following information: It is a violation of district policy and state law for any person to carry (be in possession of) a firearm or dangerous weapon on school premises, school-provided transportation or other facilities being used for school activities.

Students who violate this policy are subject to district discipline policies and procedures, including the due process provisions regarding notification of parents. Students in violation of this policy are subject to a minimum one calendar year expulsion, with a possible case-by-case modification by the Superintendent.

School officials shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency or juvenile authorities with the names of any violators.

Please continue to the next page for more important information.

Food Allergies

August 20, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian;

Recently our state enacted legislation to address the increasing number of students with severe food allergies that require measures to be taken to ensure a greater degree of safety while they are at school. In response to these new legislative requirements, the Ferndale School District is changing some procedures regarding food distribution at school. The changes will significantly reduce the distribution of food from staff to students and the sharing of food between students.

The largest change in procedure will be that staff will no longer distribute food to students during the school day except as follows. At the elementary level, we are attempting to eliminate times when the eating of snacks might put a student in a vulnerable situation. Elementary staff must obtain principal approval prior to distribution of food to students and food must also meet all of the following standards:

- Be in accordance with Individual Health Care/504/IEP/behavioral/or other health related plans
- Be educationally significant
- Be packaged commercially with listed ingredients
- Must fall within district's nutrition policy

Middle and High School staff may distribute food to students if it meets all four of the above standards. It is understood that these procedures will be enforced in the school building to the extent possible during the instructional day, but there may be situations (e.g., community rental of facilities, athletic events, bus travel) that are beyond full control by the district.

These guidelines will also impact food that students wish to share with their class. We request that celebrations only include food that meet the criteria mentioned above and has principal approval prior to distribution. Following these nutritional guidelines will help teach our children the importance of making healthy food choices for life-long good health, and have the added bonus of improving safety for those in our community with life threatening health conditions.

Again, we understand the dilemma of changing practices that we've personally participated in as students and practiced as parents/educators, but this is a necessary change. Those of us who have worked on this issue for the last two years understand that this may upset some staff and/or families by going against long-standing school practices of special snack events (e.g., birthday cupcakes from home). This is a change that we must make to more effectively protect our students with serious food allergies. Thank you for your cooperation and support in this endeavor. Please call me at 383-9221 or your school nurse once the school year begins if you have concerns or thoughts on this change.

Sincerely,

Michael Berres, Ph.D
Director, Special Services

HPV Information

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The following information is being provided to you at the direction of the Washington State Legislature to help reduce cervical cancer rates in Washington by protecting girls from HPV.

What is Human Papillomavirus (HPV)?

HPV is a very common virus that is spread through genital contact. At least 50 percent of sexually active people will get HPV at some time in their lives. There are many types of HPV. Some types can cause cervical cancer or genital warts. Both women and men can get HPV and easily spread it to others without knowing they have it.

What are the symptoms of HPV?

Most people with HPV have no signs or symptoms. Some people know they have HPV because they have a symptom like genital warts. Women may find out they have HPV through cervical cancer screening (Pap tests) and HPV testing. Health care providers do not usually test for HPV unless abnormal cervical cell changes are detected by a Pap test.

How can HPV infection be prevented?

The best way to prevent HPV infection is to abstain from all sexual activity. People with only one lifetime partner can get HPV if their partner had previous sexual partners. It is uncertain how well condoms protect against HPV infection. However, condom users do have lower cervical cancer rates. The HPV vaccine is a very effective way to prevent four types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer and genital warts.

What is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine, Gardasil, ® protects against four types of HPV which cause 70 percent of cervical cancers and 90 percent of genital warts. The vaccine does not protect against all types of HPV or other sexually transmitted infections. The vaccine also does not protect against any type of HPV that someone already has. Current studies show that HPV vaccine protection lasts up to 5 years. Research will continue to determine the length of the HPV vaccine's protection.

Who should get the vaccine and when should they get it?

The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends the HPV vaccine for all girls age 11-12 years. The vaccine can also be given to females as young as nine and up to 26 years, if their doctor recommends it. HPV vaccine is given as a series of three shots over a six month period. The vaccine is not currently recommended for boys or men. The HPV vaccine is a preventive vaccine and will offer the best protection if given before sexual activity starts. HPV vaccine is not required for school entry in Washington.

Are Pap tests still recommended for females that get the HPV vaccine?

Yes. The HPV vaccine does not protect against all of the types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer, so females will still need Pap tests.

Where can I find the HPV vaccine?

Ask your doctor, nurse, or local health clinic to find out whether your daughter needs the HPV vaccine and where you can get it. Most providers in Washington will have state-supplied HPV vaccine and there will be no cost to parents (of girls under 19 years) for the vaccine. Providers may charge an office visit and/or administration fee. The HPV vaccine is available to providers at no cost through Washington State's Universal Childhood Vaccine Program.

For more information on HPV, the Vaccine, and Cervical Cancer:

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention www.cdc.gov/std/hpv

Washington State Department of Health www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/documents/hpvvaccinefactsheet.pdf

American Social Health Association www.ashastd.org

American Cancer Society www.cancer.org

Information on Meningococcal Disease

September 2009

Dear Parent:

As of July 2005 schools in Washington are required to provide information on meningococcal disease to parents or guardians of all students entering grades 6-12.

Meningococcal disease is a serious infection of the brain (meningitis) and blood caused by a bacteria. Fortunately, this life-threatening infection is rare -- only about 75 people are infected each year in Washington. Adolescents and young adults are most likely to get meningococcal disease, especially those living in group settings such as college dorms.

The Department of Health wants you to be aware of meningococcal disease and how you can protect your child against it. A vaccine is available that can prevent up to 65 percent of meningococcal disease among adolescents and young adults. The vaccine is recommended for all children 11-12 years. It is also recommended for unvaccinated teens age 15 years and college freshmen who will be living in a dorm. The meningococcal vaccine is not required for school or college attendance.

Here are some other ways to prevent the spread of meningococcal disease:

- Practice good hygiene (regular hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, etc.)
- Do not share items that may spread meningococcal disease and other bacteria and viruses, such as eating utensils, glasses, cups, water bottles, drinks, lip gloss or toothbrushes.

We encourage you to learn more about meningococcal disease and how to prevent it. More information on meningococcal disease is available on the following web sites:

- **Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program**
Meningococcal information: www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/meningococcal.htm
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
Meningococcal vaccine information: www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vis/vis-mening.pdf
Disease Information: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm
Fact sheets: www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/mening/mening_fs.pdf
- **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Vaccine Education Center**
Meningococcal Questions & Answers: www.chop.edu/vaccine/images/vec_mening_tear.pdf
- **National Meningitis Association**
Parent & Teacher Awareness Program: www.nmaus.org/programs/pta/index.htm

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Berres
Director of Special Services

Notification Regarding Parents' Right of Access to Student Records

September 2009

Dear Parents and Students:

Each year parents and students must be reminded of the Student Records Policy of the Ferndale School District. Parents of students or 18-year-old students have the right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access.

If the parents or adult students believe something in the records is inaccurate or misleading, they may request in writing that it be corrected or they may have comments added to the record. If the principal and the parent or adult student cannot agree, the latter may contact the superintendent for a hearing.

Record information will not be released to most persons or agencies without the written consent of parents. Nonetheless, it is the policy of this District to forward school records, without parent consent, to schools in another district to which a student transfers. This is to facilitate the prompt placement of the student in the new school. Similarly, without parent consent, the District forwards transcripts or other information, requested by high school students, to colleges and other educational institutions to which the student is applying.

Also, federal law permits a school district to identify certain information as "directory information" which may be publicly released without the permission of the parents. Ferndale School District identifies this information as the following: student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, grade, school of attendance, most recent school attended, major field of study, record of participation in officially recognized activities (sports and school events) - weight, height and team number.

Release of information is for school-related purposes. Information and photographs are sometimes released in district, school and community newspapers or on broadcast media when students receive awards or participate in school activities. If you do not want this information released, please notify the school principal in writing within fourteen (14) calendar days. If we do not receive your notice by that date, we will assume that you have no objection to the release of this information.

Ferndale School District makes an effort to protect each student's privacy. Please contact your school if you have further questions on this matter. Complaints may be filed with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Linda Quinn
Superintendent

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