

# Crestwood High School

*Home of the Chargers!*

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## FROM THE DESK OF MRS. ELSWICK—HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

*Dear CHS Community,*

**The ParentConnect module** from our student management system, Zangle, is available to all high school families. This on-line connection allows you to access student grades and attendance 24 hours a day!

In order to access this information, you will need an Internet connection, a PIN number, and a password. Contact Lori Tata at 278-0900 for assistance.

Once you set up your account, you can also access the contact information we collected for your student(s) this year. Please take a moment to confirm the accuracy of the addresses, phone numbers, and emergency contacts we have on file for your family. And please contact the counseling office, at 278-0902, if you need to correct or update any of your contact information throughout the year.

Teachers maintain a digital grade book in Zangle so that you can monitor your student's progress in their class. This is a great communication tool. We

encourage every family to find a moment during the week to sit down together at the computer, log-on to your ParentConnect account, and talk about how your student is doing in each of his or her classes.

As you do so, please keep in mind that what you see in Zangle is only a snapshot of your student's current progress, and that, until the end of a marking period, the grade book is a dynamic document. If you have any questions about a specific grade or a missing assignment, please talk with your student and/or email the teacher with your question. Teacher names are generally hyperlinked in ParentConnect, making it easy for you to click on a teacher's name to send them an email.

A quick note about on-line, instant access: with advances in technology, it seems like we are capable of moving information back and forth more rapidly all the time, and with 24-hour access to your student's grade and attendance information, you have more up-to-date information than ever before.

Please keep in mind that teachers require a few days to grade assignments and provide meaningful, written commentary for your student. Even in our fast-paced, increasingly digital world, quality feedback still takes time.

**We are phasing out paper attendance notification.** Please use your records, ParentConnect (Zangle on-line gradebook and attendance) and TeleParent (our nightly automated calling service).

Before we know it, winter break will be here. Please remember as you make travel plans that we have a full day of school on the 18th of December and return on Monday January 4th.

On behalf of the entire Crestwood High School staff, I wish you and your family a happy new year of peace and happiness.



*Delores L. Elswick*

## MME - MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Michigan high schools are preparing to administer the statewide Michigan Merit Exam (MME) that will be given to all juniors on **March 9-11, 2010**. Students are required by the State of Michigan to participate in this test. The MME measures students' knowledge of reading, writing, mathematics, social studies and

science through a series of tests. The tests include the ACT, WorkKeys tests in reading and mathematics, and additional tests developed by the Michigan State Board of Education. The WorkKeys assessments will measure students' mathematics, locating information, and reading skills when applied to workplace situa-

tions. Students will have the option of sending their ACT scores, including the ACT Writing Test, to colleges as part of the application process.

Further information regarding the MME will be mailed to each student's home in February.

## “BUILDON” SPONSORS C. ABOJAMRA & L. MACHLEIT

“buildOn” is a global action/community service club that asks students to volunteer eight hours per month to help their community. Fund-raisers organized by buildOn are used to fund school construction in developing countries. Each year, two Crestwood buildOn students have the opportunity to travel to Nicaragua; Central America; or Mali, Africa to construct a school. Aside from building the

school, Crestwood students live with host families and learn the cultures of the country they are visiting.

During the school year, buildOn hosts two Regional Service Projects (RSP) for their six schools in the Detroit Metropolitan area. On Oct. 17, Crestwood buildOn members helped to feed 230 homeless people during the Spirit of Hope Soup Kitchen project and will soon volunteer at the

Gleaner’s Food Bank on Nov. 21.

At Crestwood High, buildOn works on projects such as courtyard beautification and holding global awareness discussions/presentations. We hope to expand our club and continue to allow our students the opportunity to help their Crestwood and global communities.

*It is our pleasure to inform you that Tyler Lynch will be attending the 2009-10 buildOn Trek for Knowledge to Nicaragua, Central America this spring!*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND



**Congratulations to the Crestwood Marching Band for being only one of three bands out of 12 to earn straight 1's at the "Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association" Marching Festival which was held Oct 12 at John Glenn High School. Way to go Marching Chargers!**

## ATTENTION CHS COMMUNITY

*For the safety and well being of Crestwood High School students and faculty please do not use the Crestwood High School south parking lot to drop off or pick up students.*

*The contract agreement between Crestwood School District and the Crestwood Federation of Teachers states in Article VIII*

### **Section F Parking:**

*"Off street paved parking facilities shall be provided, a portion of which shall be designated exclusively for faculty use."*

*Please honor this contract agreement.*

*Thank you.*

## CLASS OF 2010 TIN CAN RAFFLE

Friday, Feb 5th from 3 pm –8 pm

Saturday, February 6th from 9 am—2 pm

Crestwood High School Cafeteria



You can win some great prizes and support the Class of 2010 all-night party!

Donations needed, please contact Lynn Senia @ [lynnezs@msn.com](mailto:lynnezs@msn.com)

Or Kathy Gurtowsky @ [kgurtz59@wowway.com](mailto:kgurtz59@wowway.com)

## GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT—B. EBBITT, H. BRINJIKJI & J. KOHLER

The First Trimester is nearly complete and our Guidance Department has many accomplishments to mention.

Since the start of the school year, we have welcomed 120 new students to Crestwood High School. This entails Mrs. Sanney, our Guidance Office Secretary, meeting every new student and family and reviewing their immunization record and collecting many forms required by our school. Mrs. Sanney then directs the new student to the appropriate counselor, or to Mrs. ElHajj for ELL testing, or to Mrs. Lukaszek for Special Education advice. Mrs. Brinjikji, Mrs. Kohler, or Mr. Ebbitt will then meet with the new student and family and introduce them to Crest-



wood. The counselor will evaluate the current scholastic standing for the new student and advise about their progress toward graduation. As we do this we determine classes needed for graduation and set a schedule for the year. It is our goal to get each new student started as quickly as possible.

In addition, our counselors have assisted our Senior students in the submission of over 200 college applications, made over 1000 individual student contacts, and held 160 parent meetings since the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. We have also made 41 classroom presentations since September.

We are most proud of the On Site College Admission Day, held here at Crestwood on October 14. We had college admissions representatives here from Wayne State University, Eastern Michigan University, Madonna University, Central Michigan University, Schoolcraft College, Henry Ford Community College, and The University of Michigan-Dearborn. We also welcomed the University of Detroit-Mercy on November 5. They interviewed students individually and gave an immedi-

ate Yeah or Nay as to acceptance to their school.

We are proud to say that 190 students participated, submitting 224 applications. (Some students applied to more than one college.) 216 “admits” were granted, with 8 students placed on wait lists for further examination of their transcripts after the first trimester of this, their senior year. Over \$811,000 worth of scholarship monies were awarded to the students who were accepted.

We are very proud of our students and their success here at Crestwood. We congratulate them and all of their parents and families for the support and encouragement given to assist them as they reach for their dreams for the future! Go Chargers!!

**ATTENTION SENIOR PARENTS:** Financial Aid meeting for the parents of college bound kids will be held in the CHS Library on JANUARY 12 at 6PM. We will have a college financial aid representative here to review all financial aid issues, including the FAFSA form.

## TELEPARENT—J. SPECK

At the start of the 2009 - 2010 school year Crestwood School District implemented a program that would further assist both parent guardians and students. TeleParent is a new parent notification program that is now being used by Crestwood High School. There are numerous advantages to incorporating this educational program into our daily system.

TeleParent provides CHS with automated notification services specifically designed to increase school to parent guardian communication. The Smart Attendance Calling service is an auto-

mated system that seamlessly integrates with the school to send phone messages to parent guardians informing them of student tardiness and absence.

The TeleParent Survey Service uses automated telephone interviews to help gain feedback from parent guardians. The solution offers immediate results and analysis for review. TeleParent Survey Service integrates powerful survey technology with intuitive setup interfaces to generate powerful results. Crestwood High School also uses the Teleparent system to schedule and record important messages that need to

be sent out. The school is able to create messages to send parent guardians for increased communication between the school and home. TeleParent is just one more form of communication between a student’s school and parent guardians.



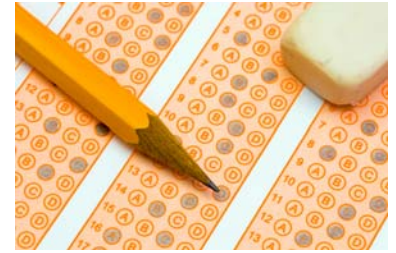
## THE MEAP AND PLAN TEST

Successful administration of the MEAP and PLAN tests took place at Crestwood High School on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The state Social Studies MEAP test was administered to all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. During the same time frame 10<sup>th</sup> grade CHS students took the ACT/PLAN test. Each test was administered for important educational benefits.

The 9<sup>th</sup> grade MEAP social studies assessment is administered in the fall of each school year. Fall testing allows assessment of the full previous year of instruction and measures student learning that was retained over the summer break. MEAP test scores also reflect

student social studies knowledge and skills acquired in all of the middle school grades. Once MEAP test results arrive at the high school they will be sent home for each testing student.

ACT has created the PLAN test for students, teachers and administration to assess student academic progress. The PLAN assists in enhancing school coursework and serves as a midpoint measure of 10<sup>th</sup> grade student progress. Through this testing process students are able to demonstrate their competencies in English, reading, math and science. After the PLAN test scores arrive at CHS testing students will have their results sent home.



*Mrs. Jan Speck  
Assistant Principal  
Test Coordinator*

## WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF MY CHILD TAKING AN AP COURSE?

The main advantage of taking an AP (Advance Placement) course is better preparation for college. It has been shown that students master in-depth content at the college level more easily after completing AP courses in high school. Students also acquire sophisticated academic skills and increased self-confidence in preparation for college. AP classes are more challenging and stimulating, but they take more time and require more work. AP classes require energetic, involved and motivated students.

Here at Crestwood 239 students are participating in one or more of the following AP courses - AP English, Calculus, Spanish, US History, Environmental Science, Chemistry and Biology. Contact your child's counselor to learn if this program is best for your child.

### Advance Placement 2010 Testing Dates

Wednesday	May 5—8 a.m.
Calculus	
Thursday	May 6—8 a.m.

### English Literature

Friday	May 7—8 a.m.
US History	

Monday	May 10—8 a.m.
Biology	

Tuesday	May 11—8 a.m.
Chemistry	

Wednesday	May 19—Noon
Environmental Science	

Thursday	May 20—Noon
Spanish	



*Even some of our teacher's participated in this event.*

## PAJAMA PANTS FUNDRAISER—J. KOHLER

On Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> our students came together as a community to support a family at Highview Elementary. Recently three young children lost both parents to cancer in the fall of this year. For a \$1.00 donation students could wear pajama pants and

have their hand stamped "Crestwood Cares." The intended goal was to raise \$1000.00 and Student Congress is pleased to report that they will be presenting a check for approximately \$3000.00 to the family.



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM REPORT—L. MACHLEIT

The School Improvement Team (SIT) at Crestwood High School (CHS) has been busy during the first trimester. We completed our school improvement plan, created a plan to help reduce suspensions, held an all-school write, added over four hundred e-mail addresses to our Listserv, improved the format of Open House, and are working on creating universal grading procedures for the high school.

By law, all schools in Michigan are required to have a school improvement plan. After revising our mission and vision statements last year, the high school was ready to move forward with choosing and implementing school improvement goals, which are part of the overall plan. After reviewing many data sources, the SIT chose to focus on writing, reducing suspensions, and critical thinking.

The SIT has already implemented two of the three goals. Teachers now have the ability to send disruptive students to the Student Responsibility Center (SRC) at any point during the school day. The SRC di-

rector contacts parents immediately and the student has to create a behavioral plan before being allowed to return to the regular classroom. The intention is to put an end to behavioral problems before they lead to a suspension.

The SIT has also spent a lot of time this year on the writing goal. The staff was introduced to Power Writing, a writing strategy that emphasizes organization and detail in the students writing, at the beginning of the school year. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, CHS held an all school write. Each student had to write a persuasive essay using the Power Writing strategy. The students walked away from this experience with the message that writing is important across the curriculum and the staff had a sample of student writing to assess weaknesses. There will be another all-school write in the spring and we hope to see improvement!

The SIT sent home a flyer in the summer mailing for parents to be added to the Listserv. Over 400 CHS families took advantage and are now part of this vital

communication system. There are directions on the website on how to sign-up if you haven't done so already. The SIT also made a few changes to Open House to make it more of an informational session as opposed to a Parent/Teacher Conference atmosphere. The new format was well received by parents, staff, and community members alike. A few small changes will make it even more enjoyable next year.

Among other things, the SIT is currently investigating the possibility of having a universal grading scale for CHS and accounting for plus and minus grades in grade point average calculations. The purpose of these changes is to create a grading system that is easily understandable across the curriculum, properly reflects student achievement, is equitable, and is in line with what other high schools and colleges currently use. Lastly, the SIT continues to work to make CHS a more enjoyable, productive, and successful school.

## ONE NIGHT—TWO GREAT EVENTS! - J. RAY

Clear your calendars on Wednesday, January 20th! This fun filled evening starts off with the opportunity to head over to Canfield Ice Arena to cheer for the Chargers at the Snowcoming Ice Hockey game. The Crestwood Chargers will be playing Lincoln Ypsilanti/Milan Unified at 8:00 P.M. In between the first and second period, we will be presenting the Snowcoming Court and crowning the 2010 King and Queen. Come spend the evening with the Chargers! We will see you at the Snowcoming Hockey Game.

On Friday, January 22nd, the Snowcoming Pep Assembly will be held at 1:00 P.M. This is a great way to renew your school spirit! Your student also has the opportunity to end this fun filled week by attending the Snowcoming Dance on Saturday, January 23rd from 7:00-10:00 P.M. Tickets will be on sale that week (Monday (1/18) - Thursday (1/21) in all three lunches and Thursday (1/21) after school until 3:30 P.M.) Tickets are \$20 and include a photo key chain. Only 700 tickets will be sold, be sure to pay all your school fines so you can buy your tickets early!

Absolutely NO tickets will be sold after 3:30 P.M. on Thursday, January 21st. If your student wishes to take a date to the dance that does not attend Crestwood, then they need to fill out a Guess Pass Application. Guest Pass Applications need to be filled out and faxed to the Crestwood High School main office no later than Tuesday, January 12th. Guest Pass Applications are ready to be picked up in the main office now.

## BUSINESS GRAPHIC AND WEB DESIGN—S. ELLIOT



In Business Graphics, we have had a busy trimester! The news of a terminally ill 5 year old boy, Noah Biorkman of South Lyon, motivated the Business Graphics students! His parents requested, through the media, making this early holiday special for him by sending cards.

Our CHS students responded by designing 58 personalized cards to send Noah! They did an outstanding job. To end the course, we had two class competitions and have two more to complete, on designing a yearbook advertisement, CHS logo, and ACT poster. The result will be out soon! In the

Business Web Design class, the students have been finalizing their knowledge of the Adobe Dreamweaver software and will be designing their own websites.

# CRESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 2009-10 UPDATED CALENDAR

September 8 .....	First Day of School for Students
September 14 .....	Open House
September 21 .....	No School for Students – Staff Professional Development
October 12 .....	Progress Reports
October 15 .....	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5 – 8 p.m.
October 22 .....	MEAP Social Studies (9 <sup>th</sup> ) The PLAN (10 <sup>th</sup> ) – Delayed Start for 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 grade
November 3 .....	No School for Students – Staff Professional Development
November 23 and 24 .....	First Term Exams – ½ Day Schedule
<b>November 25 .....</b>	<b>End of First Term- No Students</b>
November 26-27 .....	Thanksgiving Recess
November 30 .....	Beginning of Second Term
December 21 - January 1 .....	Winter Recess
January 4 .....	School Resumes
January 18 .....	Progress Reports
January 21 .....	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5 – 8 p.m.
February 15-16 .....	Mid-winter Recess
March 9 .....	MME/ACT Testing for Juniors – No school for 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> Graders
March 10 and 11 .....	MME/ACT Testing for Juniors – Delayed Start for 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> Graders
March 17 and 18 .....	Second Term Exams – ½ Day Schedule
<b>March 19 .....</b>	<b>End of Second Term – No Students</b>
March 22 .....	Beginning of Third Term
April 2 - 9 .....	Spring Recess
April 12 .....	School Resumes
April 26 .....	Progress Reports
April 29 .....	Parent-Teacher Conference – 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
May 4 .....	No School for Students – Staff Professional Development
May 27 and 28 .....	Senior Exams
May 28 .....	Senior Last Day
May 31 .....	Memorial Day - No School
June 2 .....	Honors Night
June 5 .....	Graduation
June 16 and 17 .....	Third Term Exams – ½ Day Schedule
June 18 .....	End of Third Term – No Students

## CRESTWOOD DRAMA PRESENTS



### "Thoroughly Modern Millie"

*Dates:*

*December 10 & 11, 2009 at 7 pm*

*December 12, 2009 at 1 pm & 7 pm*

*December 18 & 19, 2009 at 7 pm*

*Senior Citizen Performance—December 11, 2009 at 11 am (Free)*

*Ticket Prices: Advanced \$7.00, Door \$8.00  
for Crestwood District staff and students (with ID)*

*\$7.00 for Senior Citizens, all other \$10.00*



**Congratulations!** to Mr. Lamarand. He was elected to the position of Mayor of the City of Taylor. Several students from his government classes attended the swearing in ceremony on November 9, 2009. Mr. Lamarand will be on leave from his teaching position while he serves as mayor.