



DUKE NEWS

December 2023

Volume XXXVIII Number 4

Brian Gralheer
Principal

Tyler Herman
Assistant Principal/Activities Director

From the Principal's Desk —

Semester Finals 12/19 - 12/22

August seems like just yesterday, but Semester Finals will be scheduled for 12/19 - 12/22. Throughout these days, students in 9-12 will have "open campus" privileges for lunch. As done in the past, some finals are scheduled in blocks. For example, all geometry finals will be taken in the Geometry Block rather than the normal class period assigned. Furthermore, your student would NOT be required to attend the scheduled period (1st - 8th) for Geometry and would be granted open campus.

NOTE: Students with failing classes, on ICU, or "incompletes" in the gradebook will NOT have open campus and must stay on campus during lunch and open periods.

Snow Day Communication

With December now here, this is a reminder that we will be utilizing the emergency messenger on Infinite Campus. You will receive a text message with any weather delays or cancellations. You are able to view/edit your contact information in the parent portal, or please call the YHS Office. We will also utilize radio, TV, and social media to communicate these decisions.

New Spanish Teacher 2nd Semester

YHS is excited to announce a new Spanish teacher for the Spring Semester. Elizabeth Burgos is a December graduate at UNK and is a second-generation Spanish teacher. We are excited to have her a part of the YHS team!

GO DUKES!

Brian Gralheer
High School Principal
brian.gralheer@yorkdukes.org



Holiday Break

No School

December 23 through January 3

=====

First Day of 2nd Semester

Thursday, January 4, 2024

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR'S OFFICE -----

Holiday Moratorium

Every year, there's a moratorium for ALL activities over Christmas break. This gives our students an opportunity to spend time with family and friends and take a break from the busy school schedule. This year, the moratorium is December 23rd through December 27th. There will be no practice or games and students may NOT use the school facilities.

Activities Calendar

We have a great activities calendar on our school website that we update throughout the year with any changes to the schedule. This calendar gives you the option of selecting certain activities (i.e = 9th Grade Girls Basketball), certain days, or the entire schedule. This is a great resource for those wanting to learn more about our activities schedule.

You can find the activities calendar and schedules on the school district's website (yorkpublic.org). Click on "Links" in the upper right hand corner of the screen. Use the pull down menu to click on "rSchoolToday." You may also download the "rSchoolToday" app on your phone.

While on the activities calendar page, you have the option to sign up for email notifications of any schedule changes such as postponements and cancellations. All you need to do is click on the "Notify Me" text and sign up for the notifications.

Go Dukes!!

Tyler Herman
Assistant Principal/Activities Director
tyler.herman@yorkdukes.org
Twitter: @YorkDukesAD



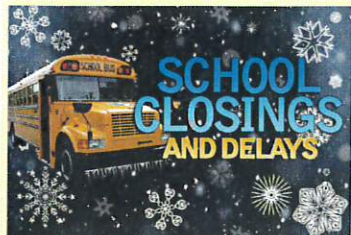
YHS Winter Ball

The Winter Ball will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2024.

The dance will be from 8:30 to 11:00 pm in the indoor tennis courts. The cost is \$5 per person. All high school students are invited! If you plan to bring an out-of-town date, you will need to pick up a sign-up form in the main office. Dates must be at least in high school, and no older than 20.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of York Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of gender, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age, or national origin in its educational programs, administration, policies, employment, or other district programs.



WEATHER RELATED EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING PROCEDURES

In case of a weather emergency, we will follow the same procedure that has been in practice in the past years. That procedure is as follows:

1. Radio Station KOOL(103.5 FM 1370 AM), and KTMX-FM (104.9) will again serve as our primary source for dispensing "school closing information". They are 24 hour stations.
2. If severe weather necessitates an early dismissal, a school cancellation, or information concerning school buses, it will be broadcast on KOOL and KTMX.
3. Bus drivers are instructed to use good judgment in determining whether a road is passable. The Transportation Department will notify parents where children can be loaded if a specific road cannot be traveled. Buses will travel the regular routes and maintain a time schedule consistent with the conditions of the road.
4. "Emergency Messages" will be sent to our student's parents and guardians who have an email or cell phone number listed in Infinite Campus, and the YPS Staff. Information will be posted on our website at www.yorkpublic.org, on our Facebook page at York Public Schools and on Twitter at @MitchBartYPS (#yorkdukes). **Parents and Guardians - please be sure to provide the school secretaries with your current email address and cell phone number in order to be notified!!**

York Athletic Booster Club

From the York Athletic Booster Club...

Good Luck to our York athletes as Bowling, Boys Wrestling, Girls Wrestling, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball and Dukettes get underway!

For the latest updated schedules for our York Dukes, visit -

<https://yorkpublic.org> < Links < "rschooltoday" which will lead you to all the sports listed in the Central Conference calendar.

Also follow us on Facebook at -- York High School Booster Club! We post forms and lots of good info and pictures there!

Thanks to the volunteers that helped run the Hoopla Girls Tourney November 18th. We greatly appreciate the help with gate and concessions from our Booster Members!!

MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

01/20/2024 Hoopla Boys Tourney - we need volunteers to man the gate and the concession stand at YHS. Please contact Nicky Eimermann (progressivechiropractic@yahoo.com) if you can help us out.

GO Dukes!!



SPEECH: It's not too late to get involved!

Speech competition is an NSAA sanctioned activity that promotes public speaking. Becky Stahr, Avie Veldkamp, Rachel Fox, and Kaitlyn Dallmann will be coaching the team this year. According to www.clark.edu, competitive speech has the following benefits:

- * Speech team sharpens your ability to research and analyze problems, think and listen critically, express your thoughts clearly and fluently and better understand public affairs.
- * It increases your confidence and poise and provides constant intellectual stimulation.
- * Many executives, lawyers, teachers, public relations officers, radio and television personalities, and prominent public figures testify to the benefits of their speech team participation. Many of them found life-long friends through their involvement. They also gained valuable skills for use in their careers.

SPEECH TEAM—Frequently Asked Questions

What is Speech?

- An extra-curricular activity
- It promotes a student's ability to present in front of a group.

What are the categories in which to compete? (You may compete in 2 events.)

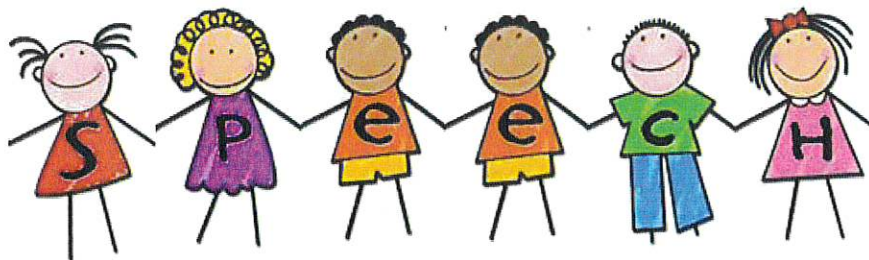
- Poetry: (6-8 min./use a script/one or several poems)
- Persuasive: (10 min./may use a script/problem → solution)
- Entertainment: (8 min./no script/entertaining/organization)
- Extemporaneous: (5-7 min./prepare in 1hr./use note card)
- Informative: (8 min./note card/organization/sources/visuals)
- Drama: (3-5 people/15 min./script/gestures/no acting)
- Duet: (2 people/12 min./no script/props of table & chairs)
- Serious Prose: (8-10 min./piece of lit./memorize & gestures)
- Humorous Prose: (8-10 min./piece of lit./memorize & gestures)

When will we practice?

- Practices are every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 pm in the library. **Group meetings will happen during lunch.** These will mainly occur a day or two before a contest.
- Work days
- Before school
- After school
- Lunch
- Evenings (One evening will be a mock contest with other teachers as the judges.)

When are the competitions?

- Speech meets are typically held on Saturdays. They are listed on the York High School calendar.
- We compete at Invitationals, Conference, Districts, and State.



YORK HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS!

Special Points of Interest:

- *NMEA All-State Chorus*
- *Christmas Festival of Choirs*
- *Holiday Band Concert and Soup Supper*
- *Band Duke Card*
- *Band Booster Notes*



NMEA ALL-STATE CHORUS

Nell Chavanu, Boe Fraser, and Ethan Montgomery were selected for the 2023 NMEA All-State Chorus. The performance was November 18th. Congratulations to these students for this honor!

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS

Please join us for an evening of holiday music and cocoa! The YHS Fine Arts Boosters is sponsoring the Christmas Festival of Choirs on Monday, December 11th beginning at 7:00 pm.

The evening will start with Carols and Cocoa in the Theater commons. The Concert will immediately follow in the Theater. Everyone is welcome to come!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAND CONCERT AND SOUP SUPPER

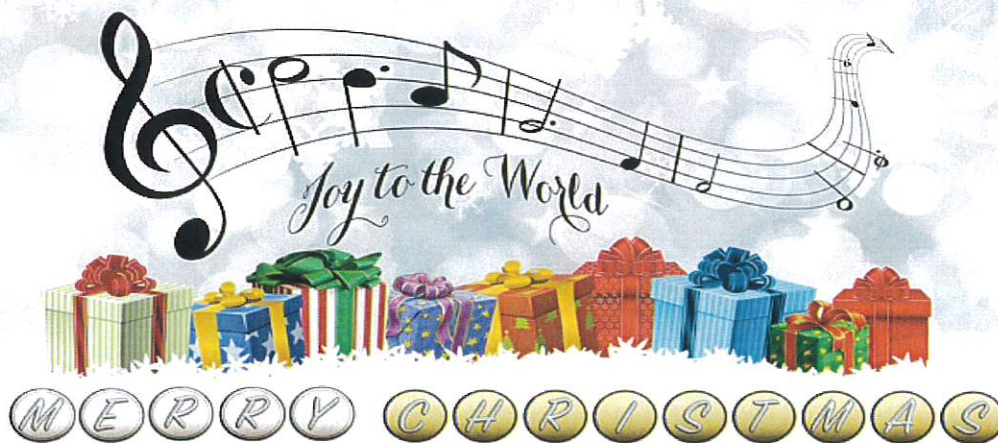
The Holiday Band Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00 pm at the YHS Theater. This will also be with the annual Soup Supper, which will start at 5:00 pm in the YHS cafeteria. The Soup Supper is \$5 per person and includes a cup of soup, drink, and dessert. Come out and enjoy some delicious soup and support the wonderful holiday band music from our High School Jazz Band and Concert Band!

BAND DUKE CARD

There are still some Duke Cards available for sale for \$20. Please contact the YHS Office if you wish to purchase a card!

BAND BOOSTER NOTES

Reminder that the annual Band Booster Soup Supper Fundraiser is Tuesday, December 5th. Parents and guardians, please refer to the Sign Up Genius if you would like to help out. If there are spots available, please consider volunteering! Thank you!



CHRISTMAS BREAK

Christmas Vacation will begin
Monday, December 25th.

School will resume on Thursday,
January 4th.

POST-PROM

The Post-Prom Committee
needs your help!

Please call Kelly Hornbacher at 402-631-8209
if you would be able to help with
this year's Post-Prom.

COUNSELING NEWS

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH / FINANCIAL AID

Check the EducationQuest Foundation website at www.EducationQuest.org for scholarships for which you may qualify and for help with financial aid. If you are filling out the FAFSA for the first time, you can make an appointment with them to have them help you fill out your forms. Make your appointment early because they do fill up. They have offices in Kearney (1-800-666-3721), Lincoln (1-800-303-3745) or Omaha (1-888-357-6300). *We are so fortunate to have an EducationQuest expert, Jasmine, who comes to York for appointments here at YHS for college planning, FAFSA completion/submission, scholarship information, etc. Contact Mrs. Stuhr if you would like to schedule an appointment with her in our office. This service is FREE of charge!*

Keep in mind that students and parents will each need to create a username and password at <https://fsaid.ed.gov> that will serve as your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID for the FAFSA, IRS Data Retrieval, and to apply for student loans. (Students should not use their school email address.) You will each need an email address to create an FSA ID. Let us know if you need assistance. Creating your FSA ID should be done at least THREE DAYS BEFORE you plan to complete the FAFSA.

Federal money (PELL grants, etc.) is first come, first served so it's important to get your FAFSA done as soon as possible.

Students are encouraged to check with their churches, parents' place of employment and other outside outlets for scholarships. Also remember to check the school website which is continually updated with scholarships not offered through the local scholarship process. To find this list, go to www.yorkpublic.org, then click on Schools, High School, then Counseling. The updated local scholarship list will not be available until mid January.

Southeast Community College (SCC) scholarship application opens December 1 for seniors planning to attend there next fall. Other college scholarships are open so check out their websites or communicate with admissions or financial aid staff to learn more.

NOW is a great time for seniors to ask teachers, work supervisors or other adults for a recommendation letter for their scholarship application process. Most local scholarships request two recommendation letters (one from school and one from a community member) but it can be a good plan to have three on file. Signed recommendation letters should be turned in to Mrs. Stuhr in the counseling office.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER YOU FILE YOUR FAFSA

The FAFSA will open later in December, with planned changes to make it more user-friendly. Once you've completed it, here's what happens next:

Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) via an email link. The SAR tells you that your FAFSA was processed and lets you know if you need to take further action. If you do not receive an email, the SAR can be accessed when logging back in to the FAFSA website. The report will give you your Student Aid Index (SAI), which used to be referred to as the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to help determine how much college financial aid for which you'll qualify.



Watch for verification requests. The college(s) you listed on your FAFSA might request verification of your FAFSA information. If so, send the required documents to the colleges' financial aid office. ***The college will not process your financial aid until they receive the documents.***

Watch for financial aid award notifications. The colleges you listed on your FAFSA – and were accepted to – will send you financial aid award notifications detailing the types and amounts of aid they're offering based on your financial need.

HORATIO ALGER SCHOLARSHIP

The Horatio Alger Scholarship has made some changes. Seniors may apply for the Horatio Alger "Targeted" Scholarship. You must be a senior who has overcome an adversity, must be involved in school and community activities, have a GPA of 2.0 or better and demonstrate financial need (\$55,000 or less AGI) to attend college. Ten percent of the scholarships awarded will be to TeamMate mentees. Apply online at www.horatioalger.org

Junior students may apply for the National Horatio Alger Scholarship. The application for these scholarships opens December 1 and is due March 15.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY REMINDER

If you have decided you would like to participate in Division I or Division II athletics in college, you must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse to be certified for play. Requirements and registration guidelines are on their website at www.eligibilitycenter.org. The colleges that offer Division I or II sports are: Chadron State College, Creighton University, Wayne State College and the University of Nebraska-Kearney, Lincoln and Omaha. **NOTE:** The Eligibility Center requires that your ACT score be sent directly from ACT, so if you are planning to take the test on December 12, be sure to request that your score be sent to the Eligibility Center by contacting ACT at 319-337-1270 or go to your ACT website account and add the code 9999 to your list of college choices. There is no charge to do this by the specified date. After this date, there is a fee for this service.

NAIA ELIGIBILITY

If you plan to attend a smaller school that is a member of the NAIA and you would like to play a sport, you will also need to register with the NAIA Eligibility Center. Visit their website at www.playnaia.org to review their requirements and register.

COLLEGE CAMPUS VISITS

Just a reminder that seniors have two exempt absence days to use for college visits. These are really important! We encourage students to use these days to step foot on campuses and get a true feeling of life there. If you need assistance setting up these visits, please call Mrs. Stuhr. She'll be glad to make this happen! Most colleges have an online registration form to set up these visits.

SCHOLARSHIPS FROM COLLEGES

Seniors: Please report ALL scholarship offers to Mrs. Stuhr as soon as possible. Scholarships you do not plan to accept or to schools you don't plan to attend STILL need to be reported for data collection. This is part of the Honors Night recognition. Thanks!

COOLIDGE SCHOLARSHIP FOR JUNIORS

Junior students who are American citizens and plan to enroll in college the fall of 2025 are eligible to apply for the Coolidge Scholarship. Academic excellence is the primary criterion. Secondary criteria include an interest in public policy and an appreciation of the values President Coolidge championed. Essays are required. The deadline is January 18, 2024. Go to www.coolidgescholars.org for more information. Questions may be directed to 202-827-4291.

A message from the school nurse.....

Vision, hearing and dental screenings will be conducted during the 3rd quarter for 7th and 10th grade students. If a student does not meet the screening guidelines set forth by the state, a letter recommending further evaluation will be sent to the parent/guardian. Normal hearing and vision are vital for learning. Good dental health improves overall health, decreases the risk of chronic disease, prevents plaque and tooth decay and is necessary for healthy adult teeth. If you have concerns regarding your child's hearing, vision, or dental health, please follow up with your healthcare provider, eye doctor, or dentist, even if you do not receive a letter of referral.



WINTER CONCERT - & - SOUP SUPPER

December 5, 2023

\$5 Soup supper begins @5-6:45

YMS Band 6:00 & YHS Band 7:00

High School Cafeteria

1005 Duke Drive, York NE

**Our Live Band Entertainment
is back!! Come enjoy some
amazing music while you
enjoy our delicious soup!**

Fill the Bell!

Bring your loose
change or bills to help
support our band
students!



For More
Information
go to:



YHS Fine Arts Department Presents

Christmas Festival Of Choirs

DECEMBER 11, 2023

Carols and Cocoa
@7:00
(in YHS Theater
commons Area)

Concert
Immediately
Following
in YHS Theater

FREE WILL DONATION

*COME & ENJOY SOME
HOLIDAY MUSIC AND COCOA!!*

SPONSORED BY:
FINE ARTS
BOOSTERS

UPCOMING FFA EVENTS

DEC
4
Blood Drive
@ York High

DEC
10
1 PM - 5 PM
Heart of
Holidays

DEC
10
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
LDE
mock contest
@ High School

DEC
11
WEEK OF DEC 11
Holiday Sales
Delivery!

DEC
13
District LDE
contest


DEC
**UNDECIDED
DATE | WATCH
CLASSROOM!**
FFA Christmas
party!!!

York High School FFA
JOIN CLASSROOM!

Code: qp7hdhl

December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 GWR-York Invite (V) - 3:00 pm One-Act Districts @ Milford, York Performs at 11:30 am	2 BWR-York Invite (JV/V) - 9:00 am 9 BBB @ Adams Central - 10:00 am GBB @ Platteview JV 1:00 / V 2:30 pm BBB @ Platteview JV 1:00 / V 4:00 pm
3	4 State Unified Bowling @ Sun Valley Lanes, Lincoln - TBD BBB @ GINW (Res) - 6:00 pm 9 BBB @ Fillmore Central - 6:30 pm	5 Band Booster Soup Supper @ YHS Cafeteria 5:00 to 6:45 pm YMS/YHS Holiday Band Concert @ YHS Theater - 7:00 pm 9 BBB @ Columbus - 6:30 pm	6 Early Student Dismissal 2:03 pm	7 BOWL-Home vs North Bend Central - 1:00 pm GBB-Home vs Waverly JV 4:30 / V 6:00 pm BBB-Home vs Waverly JV 4:30 (Aux Gym) / V 7:30 pm	8 State One-Act @ Johnny Carson Theater, Norfolk B-4 Performs at 2:15 pm	9 Academic Decathlon Scrimmage - TBD BOWL @ Boone Central Invite (V) (Kings Lane, Norfolk) - 9:00 am G/B WR @ Clay Center, Kansas Invite - 9:00 am GBB @ Lexington JV 1:30 / V 3:15 pm BBB @ Lexington JV 1:30 / V 5:00 pm
10	11 YHS Christmas Festival of Choirs, Carols and Cocoa in Theater Commons, 7:00 pm, Concert following in Theater Board of Education - 5:30 pm	12 GBB @ Elkhorn JV 4:30 / V 6:00 pm BBB @ Elkhorn JV 4:30 / V 7:15 pm BBB @ Hastings (Res) - 6:00 pm	13 Early Student Dismissal 2:03 pm District FFA Leadership Development Events @ Holthus Convention Center	14 BOWL-Home vs Elkhorn, Elkhorn North - 10:00 am BWR @ Aurora Invite (JV) - 2:00 pm GWR @ Fillmore Central Tri w/ Boone Central (V) - 5:00 pm BWR @ Fillmore Central Tri w/ Boone Central (JV/V) - 5:00 pm 9 G/B BB @ BDS G - 6:00 / B - 7:30 pm	15 GWR @ Wahoo Invite (V) - 2:00 pm BWR @ Ralston Invite (V) - 4:30 pm GBB @ Aurora JV 4:30 / V 6:00 pm BBB @ Aurora JV 4:30 / V 7:30 pm	16 Mini Dukettes in Main Gym 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
17	18 BOWL-Home vs Waverly - 1:00 pm 9 BBB @ Cross County - 6:00 pm BBB @ Waverly (Res) - 6:30 pm	19 GBB-Home vs Adams Central JV 4:00 / V 5:30 pm BBB-Home vs Adams Central JV 4:00 (Aux Gym)/ V 7:00 pm Semester Exams	20	21	22 End of 2 nd Quarter (Noon Dismissal)	23 NSAA Moratorium
24 NSAA Moratorium Christmas Eve	25 NO SCHOOL Winter Vacation NSAA Moratorium Christmas	26	27	28	29 G/B BB @ Kearney Catholic Holiday Tourney (V) G 1:30 / B 3:15 pm	30 G/B BB @ Kearney Catholic Holiday Tourney (V) - TBD GWR @ Fillmore Central Invite (V) - 9:00 am BWR @ Fillmore Central Invite (JV) - 9:00 am Speech Workday 1:00 to 6:00 pm
31 New Year's Eve						