



Duke News

December 2024

Volume XXXIX Number 4

Brian Gralheer
Principal

Tyler Herman
Assistant Principal/Activities Director

From the Principal's Desk —

Semester Finals 12/17 - 12/20

August seems like just yesterday, but Semester Finals will be scheduled for 12/17 - 12/20. 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. Please see the schedule in detail on page 5 of this newsletter.

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.

Negative Lunch Balances

As we approach the end of the semester, we want to remind families to check their student's lunch account balance and ensure that any negative balances are paid in full. Maintaining current lunch accounts helps us continue providing quality services for all students. **Unpaid lunch balances will result in a hold on the posting of grades to transcripts until the balance is resolved. This could delay the process of your child receiving their high school diploma.**

To check your student's account or make a payment, please visit the parent portal (<https://tinyurl.com/yr88u8hv>) or contact the school office at 402-362-6655 for assistance.

GO DUKES!

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



Holiday Break
No School
December 23 through January 3
=====
First Day of 2 nd Semester
Monday, January 6, 2025

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 22nd through December 26th. 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
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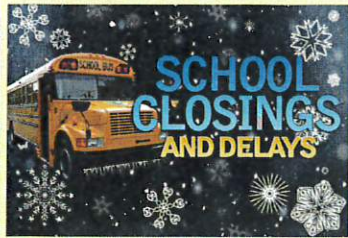


YHS Winter Ball

The Winter Ball will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025. 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!!**

A few words from the 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 on November 23rd. We greatly appreciate the help with gate and concessions from our Booster Members!!

MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

01/25/2025 Hoopla Boys Tourney - we need volunteers to man the gate and the concession stand at YHS. Please contact Nicky Eimermann at progressivechiropractic@yahoo.com or 402-363-1939 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
- Madrigal Dinner
- Christmas Choir Concert
- Holiday Soup Supper and Band Concert
- Band Duke Card



NMEA ALL-STATE CHORUS

Nell Chavanu, Alexis Davis, Madelynn Miller, and Jack Chavanu were selected to represent YHS at the 2024 NMEA All-State Honor Choir held last month. Congratulations to these students for this honor!

MEDIEVAL MADRIGAL MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

The Medieval Madrigal Murder Mystery Dinner, presented by the YHS Chamber Singers, is Saturday, December 7th and Sunday, December 8th at the First United Methodist Church. Doors open at 5:30 pm with dinner and music beginning at 6:00 pm. Reservations and ticket are available for purchase in the YHS front office. Tickets usually sell out so you'll want to reserve them asap! Cost of tickets are \$25 each.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT

The YHS Christmas Choir Concert will be Monday, December 16th at 7:00 pm in the YHS Theater.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SOUP SUPPER AND BAND CONCERT

The Annual Soup Supper will be Tuesday, December 10th in the YHS cafeteria from 5:00 pm to 6:45 pm. A free will donation will be taken with all proceeds going to the Band!

Following the soup supper, the Holiday Band Concert will held in the YHS Theater. The Middle School Concert will be at 6:00 pm and the High School Concert at 7:00 pm.

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!



Finals Week Schedule December 2024

Tuesday, December 17

8:00--9:30	Period 1
9:40--11:10	World Hist-Geo/U.S. History/ Poli Sci Block (<i>Poli Sci in Theater</i>)
11:10--12:00	Lunch
12:00--1:30	Period 4
1:40--3:10	Period 7

Wednesday, December 18

8:00--9:30	Period 3
9:40--11:10	Geometry Block
11:10--12:00	Lunch
12:00--1:30	Period 8
1:40--3:10	Biology (Maronde)/ Chemistry Block

Thursday, December 19

8:00--9:30	Period 2
9:40--11:10	Physical Science Block
11:10--12:00	Lunch
12:00--1:30	Period 5
1:40--3:10	Period 6

Friday, December 20

8:00--9:30	9 th PE/Health Block
9:40--12:00	Make-ups

**During finals week, all students have open campus for lunch and during their free periods UNLESS they have assignments on the ICU, have "incompletes" in the gradebook, or incomplete work on Edgenuity.

**Any student on the ICU (or with "incomplete" in the gradebook) will be expected to stay on campus throughout each day (during lunch, free periods, and make-up time) until all assignments are completed.

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 December 1, and it is required for ALL SENIORS to complete this year. Once you've completed it, here's what happens next:

Expect a FAFSA Submission Summary via an email link. This 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, it 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.

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 14, 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!

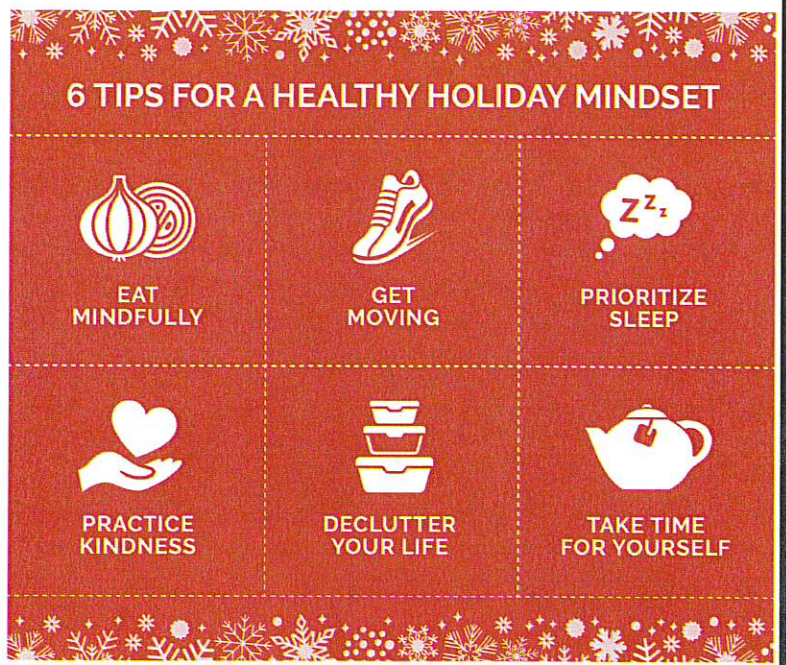
COOLIDGE SCHOLARSHIP FOR JUNIORS

Junior students who are American citizens and plan to enroll in college the fall of 2026 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. More information can be found at www.coolidgescholars.org for more information. Questions may be directed to 202-827-4291. The deadline is December 11, 2024.

A message from the school nurse.....

Vision, hearing and dental screenings will be conducted during second semester 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. 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. If you do not want your child to participate in these screenings, please notify the school office prior to January 10th, 2025.

Have a great December!



Influenza is a contagious disease of the respiratory tract (nose, throat, and lungs) that can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia and the worsening of other chronic health conditions. Flu symptoms may include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches. The best way to protect your family from new influenza strains is to get vaccinated each year and to practice frequent handwashing. Seek further guidance from your healthcare provider to ensure that the flu vaccine is right for you and your family members.

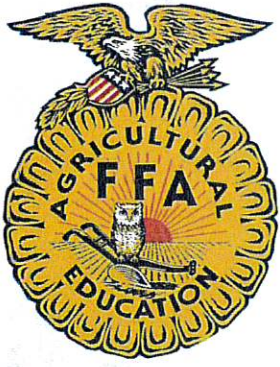
IS IT A COLD OR FLU?

Signs and Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

#FIGHT FLU

Tips to enjoy the month:

- ❖ Strive to maintain, not lose weight, during this time. Enjoy the spirit of the season and time with family and friends.
- ❖ Stay active in spite of holiday schedules. Walk the neighborhood to view the lights and decorations instead of driving, dance to the music, or move in place while watching your favorite movies of the season.
- ❖ Pack high protein and/or fiber snacks to curb hunger. Good choices include almonds, protein bars, string cheese, and beef jerky.
- ❖ Enjoy without overindulging. Start at the healthy end of the table and fill up on fresh veggies and fruits as you make your way to the pecan pie and sugar cookies



UPCOMING FFA EVENTS



DECEMBER:

12/05 : Chapter Meeting

12/06 : CVA Ag Awareness Day

12/11 : District Leadership Development Events

JANUARY:

01/22 : State Degree Applications Due

01/24 : State Degree Preview

01/29 : District Proficiency Evaluation

FEBRUARY:

02/05 : Blood Drive

02/12 : Watertown Welding Invitational

02/15-21 : National FFA Week

02/21 : Cattleman's Classic

02/25 : District Career Development Events



DECEMBER 7 & 8, 2024
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

*MEDIEVAL
MADRIGAL MURDER
MYSTERY DINNER*

PERFORMERS - YHS CHAMBER
SINGERS
CONDUCTED BY AMY FRASER

LOCATION - FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

STAGE EVENT BEGINS AT 6PM,
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM

TICKETS
ARE \$25
EACH,
DINNER IS
INCLUDED

TICKETS
CAN BE
RESERVED
AT
THEYORK
HIGH
SCHOOL
FRONT
OFFICE





JOIN US!

You're invited to our

BAND'S
ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
Soup Supper

December 2024 | **10** | 5-6:45pm

York High School: 1005 Duke Dr

In the lunch room

**Come enjoy live music performed
by students while you eat!**

Concert In Theater:

Middle School's-6pm & High School's- 7pm

**Free Will Donation
All proceeds go to the Band!**

Registration for Mini Cheer Clinic on December 14th, 2024 from 8-11am

Mini Cheerleader's name(s) _____

School and grade _____

T-shirt size: (XS-XL in youth and XS-3XL in Adult) _____

Any allergy/necessary medical information _____

Parent name _____

Guardian contact phone number _____

- \$40.00 paid to York Public School returned to Allison Ecklund at York Elementary School 1501 Washington St. York, NE 68467 or turned into your school office
- Registration due by Monday November 25th to guarantee a t-shirt



It's Cheer time!
Mini Cheer
Have Fun, Cheer Loud
Camp

Mini Cheer is a one day Cheer camp at York High School Gym for ages Kindergarten to 5th grade. \$40.00 includes: pom poms, hair bow and mini cheer camp shirt.

14th December, 2024
York High School Gym
8-11am performance at 11am for parents.


For More Information
Contact Cheer Coach
Allison Ecklund 402-730-8119





December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 Unified Bowling Districts (V) (Sun Valley Lanes, Lincoln) - 11:00 am	3 One-Act School Performance - 2:30 pm, Community Performance - 8:00 pm G/B BB-Home Jamboree vs Milford (V) G-6:00 / B-7:30 pm	4 Early Student Dismissal 2:03 pm	5 G/B WR @ Norris Tri w/ Seward (V) - 4:00 pm GBB-Home vs Platteview JV-4:30 / V-6:00 pm BBB-Home vs Platteview JV-4:30 (Aux) / V-7:30 pm	6 One-Act Districts @ York High School - 9:00 am GWR-Home Invite (V) - 3:00 pm GBB @ Adams Central JV-4:30 / V-6:00 pm BBB @ Adams Central JV-4:30 / V-7:30	7 BWR-Home Invite (JV, V) - 9:00 am 9 BBB, Res GBB-Home vs Adams Central (@YMS) G-9:00 / B-10:15 am Academic Decathlon Scrimmage @ YHS - 9:00 am Madrigal Dinner @ First United Methodist Church - 6:00 pm
8 Madrigal Dinner @ First United Methodist Church - 6:00 pm	9 State Unified Bowling @ Sun Valley Lanes, Lincoln - 8:00 am 9 BBB, Res GBB-Home vs Fillmore Central G-6:00 / B-7:30 pm Board of Education Meeting	10 Band Booster Soup Supper @ YHS Cafeteria 5:00 pm - 6:45 pm YMS/YHS Holiday Band Concert @ YHS Theater YMS-6:00 / YHS-7:00 pm	11 Early Student Dismissal 2:03 pm FFA District Leadership Development Events @ Concordia University	12 BOWL-Home vs North Bend Central - 1:00 pm GWR @ Aurora Invite - 3:00 pm GBB @ Waverly JV-4:30 / V-6:00 pm BBB @ Waverly JV-4:30 / V-7:30 pm	13 Class B State One-Act @ Johnny Carson Theater, Norfolk - TBD	14 Mini Cheer Clinic 8:30 am to 11:30 am G/B WR @ Clay Center, Kansas Invite (V) - 9:00 am BOWL @ Boone Central Invite (Kings Lane, Norfolk) - 9:00 am BWR @ Skutt Invite (JV) - 9:00 am 9 BBB, Res GBB-Home vs Columbus (Aux Gym) G-9:00 / B-10:15 am GBB-Home vs Lexington JV-1:30 / V-3:00 pm BBB-Home vs Lexington JV-1:30 (Aux) / V-4:30 pm
15 YHS Christmas Choir Concert @ YHS Theater - 7:00 pm	16 YHS Christmas Choir Concert @ YHS Theater - 7:00 pm	17 BBB-Home vs Hastings (Res) - 6:00 pm YHS Semester Exams	18 Early Student Dismissal 2:03 pm FFA District Leadership Development Events @ Concordia University	19 G/B WR @ Boone Central Tri w/ Fillmore Central (JV, V) - 4:30 pm 9 BBB, Res GBB-Home vs BDS (Aux) G-6:00 / B-7:30 pm	20 END OF 1ST SEMESTER Noon Dismissal (All Schools) GWR @ Wahoo Invite (V) - 1:00 pm BWR @ Ralston Invite (V) - 4:30 pm GBB-Home vs Aurora JV-4:30 / V-6:00 pm BBB-Home vs Aurora JV-4:30 (Aux) / V-7:30 pm	21 END OF 1ST SEMESTER Noon Dismissal (All Schools) GWR @ Wahoo Invite (V) - 1:00 pm BWR @ Ralston Invite (V) - 4:30 pm GBB-Home vs Aurora JV-4:30 / V-6:00 pm BBB-Home vs Aurora JV-4:30 (Aux) / V-7:30 pm
22 NSAA Moratorium	23 NO SCHOOL Board of Education Meeting	24 Christmas Exams	25 Christmas Day	26 New Year's Day	27 GWR @ Fillmore Central Invite (V) - 9:00 am BWR-Home Duke Duals Invite (V) - 9:00 am BOWL @ Elkhorn (Bowlero) - 1:00 pm	28 BWR @ Fillmore Central Invite (JV) - 9:00 am Speech Workday 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
29 G/B BB Holiday Tournament @ Amherst (V) - TBD	30 NO SCHOOL Board of Education Meeting	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2 New Year's Day	3 GWR @ Fillmore Central Invite (V) - 9:00 am BWR-Home Duke Duals Invite (V) - 9:00 am BOWL @ Elkhorn (Bowlero) - 1:00 pm	4 BWR @ Fillmore Central Invite (JV) - 9:00 am Speech Workday 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm