



*****HAPPY NEW YEAR*** Information for January and February, 2016 ***HAPPY NEW YEAR*****

Be sure and check out our daily announcements on the High School page located on the District website and all the GREAT coverage found on the 2170 Facebook page and Staples World!
Mr. "S" (Mike Schmidt, Principal)

End of 1st Semester: Thursday, January 21st: How are your students' grades? You can access them via Skyward. You can sign up for emailed notifications regarding your student's grades, class-by-class! If you're unable to do so, please let us know, we'll send them home in the mail. The teachers are all available via email or phone. Don't hesitate to contact them.

- We've got Academic Boosters open to ALL students, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:20-5:15 in the Library. This is open to ANY student in need of assistance, or a quiet place to study and do schoolwork.
 - The late-bus shuttle is available for those needing to return to Motley.

"College and Career Readiness Education" is underway at SMHS and CHS!

- In a continued effort to prepare our students, we've dedicated time during the day/week over homeroom to explore, learn and plan about "life after high school". Students are developing "Personal Learning Plans" through the MN Career Information System (MCIS). Mr. Erickson, Ms. Olsen, Ms. Noll and Ms. Rach (Rural MNCep) are guiding 9-12 students through some relevant explorations and discussions! Our students have truly thrived in the opportunities. Their inquiries and pursuits are fantastic! Be sure and ask your student about it.

Scholarship Information:

- Go to the High School page on the website and look for the "Dollars for Scholars" link. In addition, other outside organizations are eager to award our seniors scholarship money for college. Emails will be sent out as that information is available. Applications are available in the front office. It's never too soon to begin your FAFSA forms and request of recommendation letters.

High School orientations ALREADY?

Why would we be holding high school orientations in February? The real question should be "why doesn't every school?!"

While it's hard for students and parents to wrap their thoughts around the next grade level in the dreary month of February, we have seen firsthand how the spring sunshine brings packed activity schedules and the hectic last minute pace of May. The earlier scheduling of orientations has the added benefit for high school staff to be able to create better student schedules and make plans for the next school year.

Current 10th graders and their parents are invited to attend a special re-orientation on February 1st from 3:45-7:45pm. The re-orientation will provide families with the important information needed for the last two years of high school and planning for life beyond high school. Topics will include requirements for application to a post-secondary education option (2 and 4 year colleges, universities, etc.), class opportunities at our high school for juniors and seniors (advanced classes, career and technical education, College in Schools (CIS), PSEO options, etc.), and options for electives and extra-curricular activities. There will be several information sessions held in the cafeteria throughout the evening. Please plan on attending one.

Incoming 9th graders and their parents are invited to attend a special open house on February 22nd from 3:45-7:45pm. Students and parents will be able to tour the high school, meet teachers and administrative staff, sign up for classes in the fall, and learn more about their upcoming high school adventure. There will be several information sessions held in the cafeteria throughout the evening. Please plan on attending one.

The high school years go by so quick. And yet they are some of the most important time for students as they prepare for adulthood. We are looking forward to seeing our incoming 9th graders and our current 10th graders at an upcoming orientation soon!

Student Fees: Students in some of our CTE courses, Fine Arts and Art classes, along with Athletics are expected to pay their course/activity fees. Failure to do so, per District Policy, will result in forfeited opportunities. Please pay your fees in person at the High School Office, or via RevTrak on the District Website. If your student is in these courses or programs and fees have yet to be paid, a "bill" will be arriving in the mail as a reminder.

Upcoming Events: (Basketball, Knowledge Bowl, Speech and Wrestling can be found on www.msconference.org)

- January 8th: Early Out Day
- January 16th: Don Dravis Wrestling Invitational
- January 21st: End of 1st Semester
- January 22nd: NO SCHOOL, Teacher In-Service
- January 24th: Honor Society Banquet/Recognitions
- January 25th: HS Band Concert
- January 26th: CHS Project Showcase Evening
- January 30th: Her Voice, Her Song
- February 1st: 10th Grade Re-Orientation Night 3:45-7:45
- February 1st-5th: SNOW DAZE (More information to come! Coronation the 5th, 7:00pm Dance to follow).
- February 5th: Early Out Day
- February 8th: HS Orchestra Concert
- February 12th-15th: No School
- February 22nd: Incoming 9th Grade Open House & Registration 3:45-7:45
- February 24th: Special Olympics Basketball (Regional Event)
- February 25th-27th: State Wrestling
- February 29th: 6-12 Orchestra Concert

As we venture further into the year, below are some reminders regarding Attendance, taken directly from the high school handbooks: (*Great attendance...is a great habit-Mr. "S"*)

FIVE DAY MAXIMUM ABSENCE RULE:

If a student is absent from a class more than five (5) times per semester it is considered to be excessive. School related activities, medically verified absences and prior approved absences will not count as part of the five (5).

- *Parents will receive notification by mail or phone call after three (3) unexcused absences from a class per semester.*
- *At five (5) unexcused absences from a class the student and parent will meet with administration/social worker to discuss attendance concerns. At this time a truancy notification plan will be written and signed. The student/family will be referred to Todd Counties "Community Concerned for Youth Program" for assistance.*
- *If the plan is not adhered to the administration will request the County Attorney to file a truancy petition with the juvenile court, pursuant to Minnesota statutes.*
- *If a student exceeds the five day unexcused absence limit in a class the letter grade will be reduced by one full grade.*
- *Staples-Motley High School feels good attendance is a part of being in "Good Standing" as a MSHSL participant. Failure to attend courses will result in a loss of eligibility to be determined by Activities Director and/or principal.*

The following types of excused absences will not count towards the five day absence limit if there is appropriate documentation confirming the dental, legal and other professional appointments attended. A signed slip from the dental, legal or other professional person is required no later than two (2) days after the last absence to be coded as such.

1. *Doctor excused. A physician's statement may be required after three consecutive days of illness.*
2. *Family leave (emergency, funerals, illness of other family members) excused at administration discretion.*
3. *Religious observances.*
4. *School sponsored activities.*
5. *College visits two (2) days per year.*
6. *Family Vacation – five (5) days per school year (Prior administrative approval is required before departure and the student(s) must be in good academic and attendance standing).*

If you have any questions on the information, don't hesitate to call for clarifications.

****Please be sure we have accurate contact information on file for you and your student(s). Especially emails and phone numbers.****

High School Phone Number: 218-894-2431

Our **VISION:** *The learner is the focus of all meaningful life-long learning.*
Therefore, the **MISSION** of the Staples Motley Independent School District #2170 is to be committed to promoting positive self-esteem, academic and life preparation skills for all.



"IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE A CARDINAL!"