
Wakefield School News

Volume 15 Issue 3

November 2008

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT

Board of Education plans meeting to discuss district facility priorities

November 2 ~ Educational Service Unit #1 ~ 2:00 p.m.

The Wakefield Board of Education will hold a public meeting on Sunday, November 2. It will be held at ESU#1 at 2:00pm. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the community of the facility priorities and to update people on the progress of the track and field project. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested. The agenda will be as follows:

- Facility needs of the Wakefield Community School District
 - Board of Education Facility Priorities
 - Track and Field Project
 - Timeline
 - Costs
 - Question/Answer



Tune to radio or television for latest school postponements, cancellations



Soon the weather will turn cold and the question will arise regarding school postponement or cancellation due to inclement weather. My decision focuses on whether or not students can safely be transported to school. If we have school and a parent believes that it is unsafe to travel, that

parent is free to (and encouraged to) make their own decision.

The information will be provided to media. It is not always accurate due to

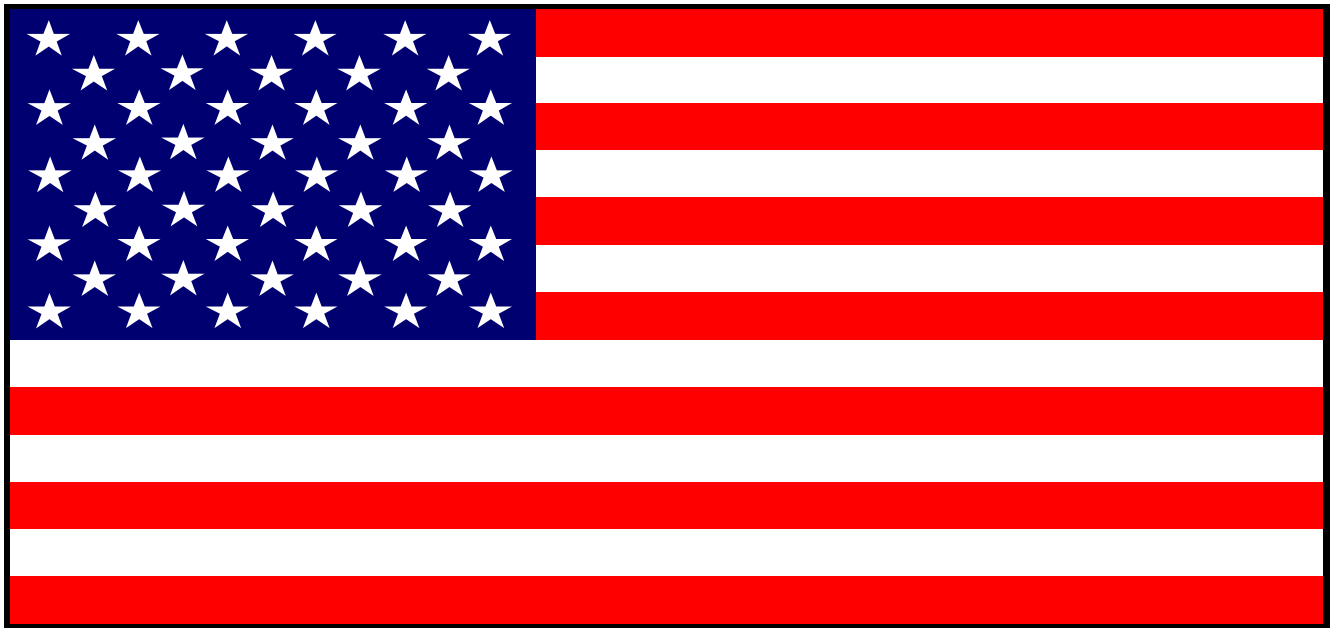
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technical difficulties, or sometimes the stations are overloaded also, so utilize more than a single source of information:

- ❖ TV: KTIV (Channel 4) has its own system and it seems to be the most reliable. I contact all Sioux City TV stations and a “central clearing site,” but there are often problems—proceed with caution.
- ❖ Radio: KNEN, KEXL, & KUSO (US92) all in Norfolk. KTCH in Wayne.

❖ INTERNET: Read the banner on the school website at <http://www.wakefieldschools.org>.

- SnowCap:
<http://snocaponline.net/main.php> - register to have automatic alerts sent to your mobile phone or email.
- Click on the “Alert 4 School Announcements” at the KTIV website <http://www.ktiv.com>



Veteran's Day Program
Tuesday, Nov. 11 – 9:00 a.m.
Wakefield School Gymnasium

School enrollment figures important in planning for future district needs

The last Friday in September is the official date upon which school district enrollment is collected for the state of Nebraska. Grades 11-12 at Wakefield Schools have the largest enrollment in the district, followed by the current kindergarten and first grade classes.



Wakefield operates a pre-school program for three and four year old students. The pre-school was funded through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Education for three years (2005-2008). Although grant funding is no longer available, our district receives state aid for the four year olds enrolled in the district’s pre-school program. There are thirteen (4 yr. old) pre-school students in the program for 2008-09. The four year olds are also counted for state enrollment, which means the official PK-12 enrollment for 2008-09 is 422. The three year old students in the pre-school program “do not count” for state enrollment or funding, but are still subject to NDE early childhood program guidelines.

I anticipate that our enrollment will continue to decrease for the next two years before it stabilizes at approximately 380-400 students (K-12). In the foreseeable future, we have potential kindergarten class enrollments of 30 students or more. This information is very important in planning for future district needs and has implications for facilities, programs and personnel.

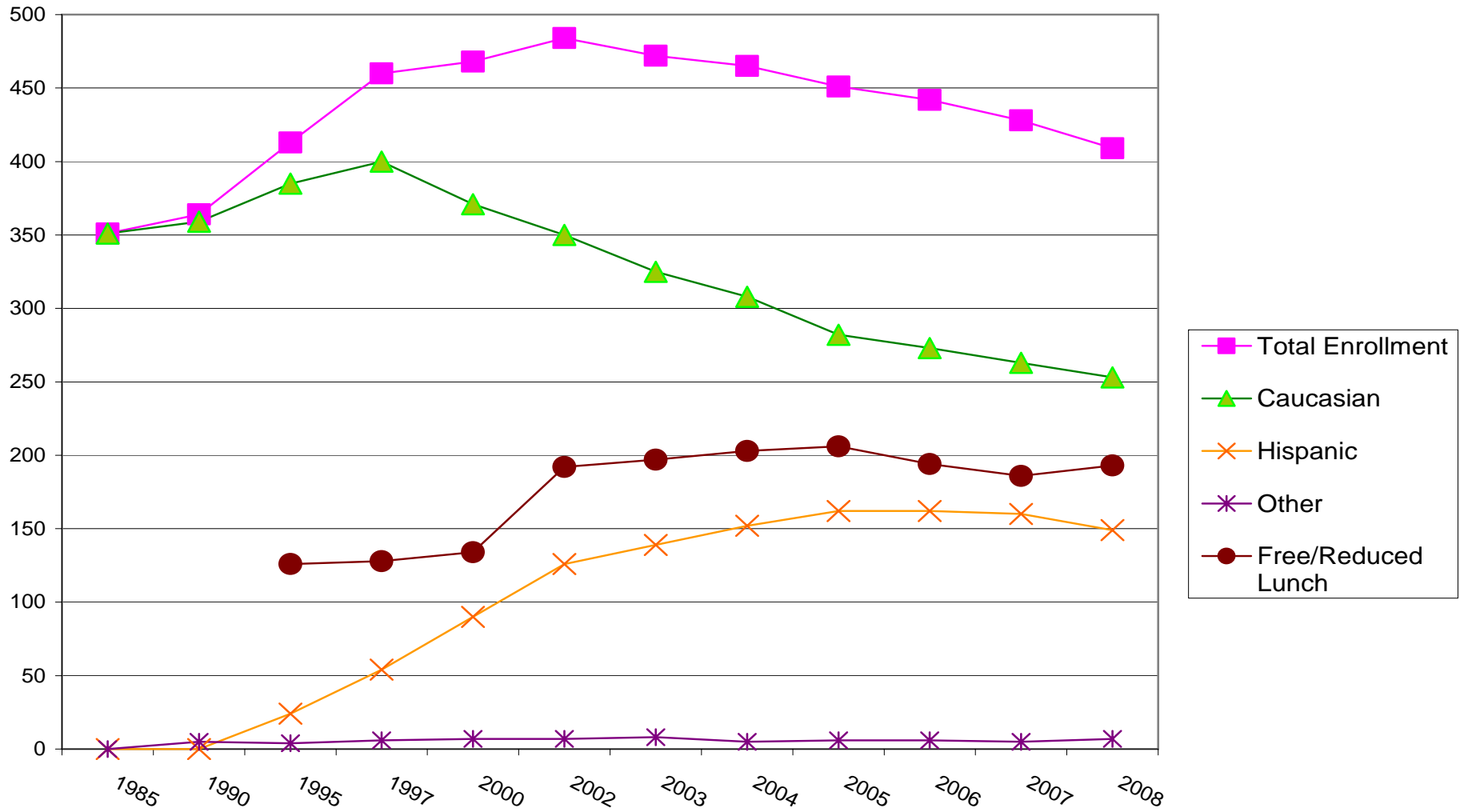
The charts below summarize district enrollment.

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total Elementary	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total Secondary	K-12 Total
2008-09	36	34	25	25	29	23	34	206	30	29	30	28	40	46	203	409

School Year	Total Enrollment
1985	351
1990	364
1995	413
1997	460
2000	468
2002	484
2003	472
2004	465
2005	451
2006	442
2007	428
2008	409



Student Enrollment



Dr. Bill Heimann, Superintendent

Principal's Notes

Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

Extra-curricular activities helpful in teaching valuable life lessons

As the fall sports seasons are coming to a close, and the winter sports seasons are right around the corner, I am reminded of benefits of student involvement in extra-curricular activities. I have always felt that students' involvement in sports and activities teaches valuable lessons about real life. In school activities, students learn the importance of teamwork, respect for authority figures, respect for teammates, and how the extra effort can pay dividends in the future. Coaches (not just sports coaches, but also speech, drama, FBLA, FCCLA, etc) not only teach specific "on-the-field" skills, but coaches also teach discipline and how to be prepared. Coaches always have and

always will have a dramatic and positive effect on the lives of the kids they coach.

However, perhaps the most important lesson to be learned during high school comes from PARENTS. Parents can be supportive and listen to their kids without necessarily reliving every moment of the activity...unless the KID brings it up! It is wonderful for parents to expect their children to do their best but their "best" can't be measured with statistics or wins and losses.

It is often difficult to resist talking about school activities, but sometimes it is best for parents to step back, and allow their children to take the lead.

A few reminders of upcoming events:

- **Sub-district Volleyball @ Wayne, November 3 and 4.
- **Veteran's Day Program at 9:00 a.m. on November 11, in the main gym.
- **2-hour late-start on November 17.
- **2nd quarter progress reports will be sent home (with the students) during the week of November 24.
- **No School November 27 and 28, for Thanksgiving Break.





From the Principal's Pen

Craig Patzel, K-6 Principal

Read Something!

Reading helps lay the foundation for success in school and later in life. Being able to read proficiently increases learning opportunities in all subject areas and greatly increases our ability to communicate thoughts and ideas. Reading is a skill, and just like other skills, it gets better with practice. Kids who spend as little as 30 minutes a day reading are more likely to become good readers. Too often we think of reading as a chore or worse yet, homework. Reading should be fun! Most people, kids included, would enjoy reading more if they could find something that interests them.



The key is to find something you enjoy. It does not have to be a book, pick up a magazine, newspaper, or a nonfiction book. These other avenues can capture the attention of people who do not enjoy reading fiction. Try to set aside some time each evening or several during the week and read with your kids. It does not have to be intense, 10-15 minutes. If you struggle getting your kids to read on their own, read to them. This is probably the most important thing you can do to encourage your children to read.

Give family reading a try, it is a wonderful way to spend quality time together!

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body

~ Joseph Addison ~

Important Dates

Tuesday, November 11 – Veteran's Day Program @ 9am

Monday, November 17 – 2-hour Late Start – Teacher In-service

Thursday, November 27 & Friday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Vacation



From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,
K-12 Guidance Counselor

Seniors...it's time to start the admissions process!

College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will start hitting this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track:

Contact your top college choices NOW and ask about deadlines and the process for applying for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid. Also, ask about application fees. This information may also be available in the [College Profiles](#) section at www.educationquest.org.

Apply to your top 3-4 colleges before the deadline. Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT/SAT score. They may also request a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay and an interview.

Update your Activities Resume. Because extracurricular activities are an important part of the admissions application, keep them up-to-date by using the *Activities Resume* at www.educationquest.org. In many cases, you can simply print your resume and include it with the application.

Contact your admissions representative periodically to stay informed about deadlines and campus activities.

Juniors...start researching colleges

If you can narrow your choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

Review College Profiles at www.educationquest.org for information about Midwest colleges. If you're interested in going to an out-of-state school, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program at <http://msep.mhec.org>.

Visit an EducationQuest location in Lincoln, Kearney or Omaha and use our free college search resources.

Meet with college representatives who visit our school.

Once you've narrowed your choices, **schedule campus visits**. Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while college classes are still in session.

Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn college funding options

To learn about financial aid and other college funding options, attend our upcoming **Financial Aid Program** with your parents. EducationQuest will be hosted by the Allen school and through our Distance Learning we will also be able to participate in the discussion. Please plan on attending this very important meeting on November 10 at 6 PM in the Distance Ed. Room.