
Wakefield School News

Volume 14 Issue 3

November 2007

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

STUDENT NUMBERS

Veteran's Day Program
Thursday, Nov. 8 – 9:00 a.m.

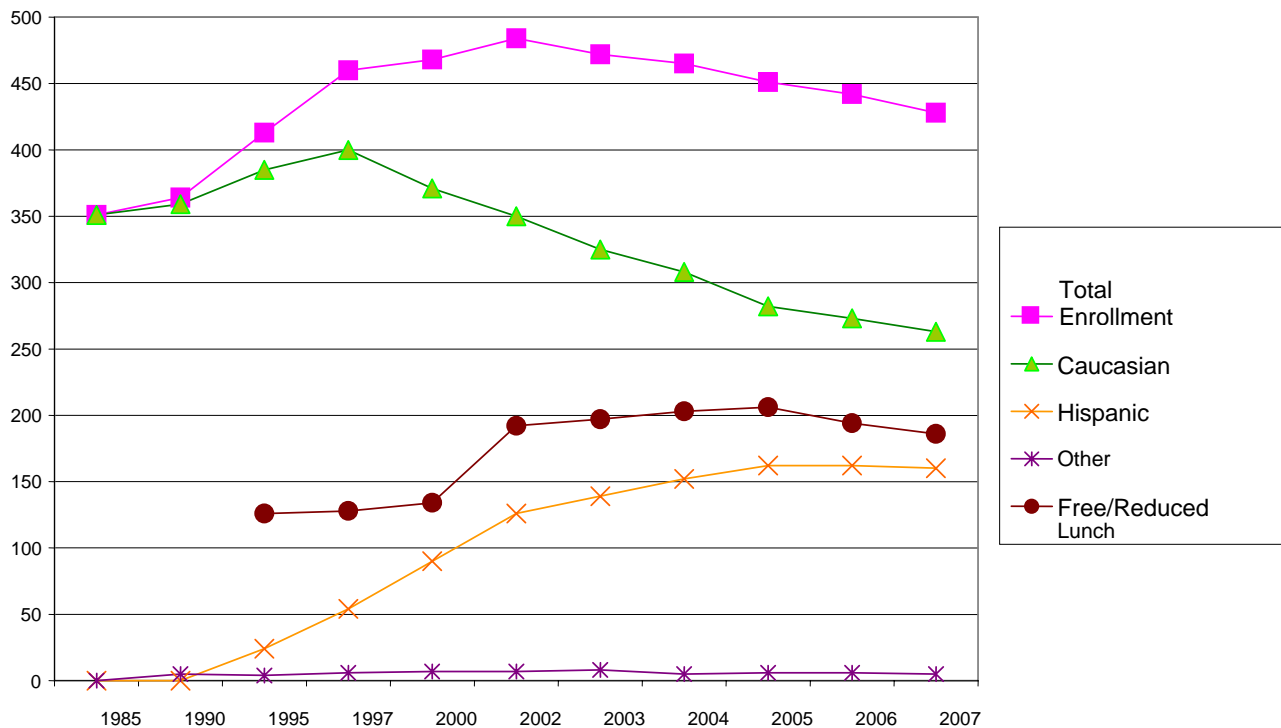


Enrollment figures used to predict future district needs

Each fall, all school districts are required to report the number of students enrolled in school. The enrollment in kindergarten to grade 6 is an average of 30 students. The average is 36 students in grades 7-12.

Grade	Male	Female	TOTAL
Kindergarten	18	17	35
1 st	17	12	29
2 nd	13	14	27
3 rd	12	19	31
4 th	11	15	26
5 th	19	15	34
6 th	17	13	30
Total	107	105	212
7 th	15	14	29
8 th	16	15	31
9 th	20	13	33
10 th	24	15	39
11 th	26	17	43
12 th	20	21	41
Total	121	95	216
K-12 total	228	200	428

As you can see, the number of students has gradually been decreasing over the past few years. This information is important when predicting the needs of the district in the future.



Tune to radio, television when winter weather is threatening



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 technical difficulties, or sometimes the stations are overloaded, 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. KZ100—Columbus and KTCH—in Wayne are all on my contact list.
- ❖ **INTERNET:** Check the school website (read the banner) or the following web sites—<http://www.horizons-software.com/iccap/> follow the prompts and <http://www.ktiv.com> (click on the “Alert 4 School Announcements”).

GFT INFORMED!

Sign up to receive alert announcements sent directly to your cell phone or email any time your school uses SNOWCAP information dispatch services.



You will always be the first to know and you don't even have to turn on the television or radio! Information about your school and your school activities delivered immediately to you, wherever you are.



Signing up is easy. Just look for the cell phone and laptop on our home page, enter your school name and complete your contact information.

Even if you signed up last year, you will need to do so again this year to ensure we have your current contact information.

www.snowcaponline.net



Principal's Notes

Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

Extra-curricular activities teach important 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 the 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.

I was involved in several extra-curricular activities during my high school career at O'Neill St. Mary's, each of which taught me different things in different ways. I learned the importance of teamwork, respect for authority figures, respect for teammates, and

how the extra effort can pay dividends in the future. My athletic coaches taught me the sports skills, my speech and one-act coaches taught me on-stage skills, and both types of activities taught me 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 I learned during high school came from my parents. My parents ALWAYS modeled good SPORTSMANSHIP. I can still remember that when I would come home after every game (we lost more games than we won!) my mother would say “good game”...no matter how I played or what the result was on the scoreboard. I NEVER heard my parents’ voices during a game, unless it was to say something positive to the TEAM. They never kept track of my individual statistics, and we never had discussions about playing-time, wins and losses, coaches, my teammates, or even my own performance. If I wanted to talk about the game, they simply listened.

In fact, I can still remember that after the football game in which I scored the only touchdown of my career, my dad’s only comment was that after I scored, I should have handed the ball to the referee instead of tossing it on the ground. I knew even at the time, that the fact that I scored a touchdown did not make a difference to my parents. They were excited and happy for me, but they never made it seem like they felt any different about me because of my statistics.

Our children look up to adults as role models whether we realize it or not. Modeling positive behavior both in the stands and at home goes a long way to helping your children learn the right way to conduct themselves. Plus, if they know that you are interested in listening and talking about how to handle success and challenges, these life lessons will be learned and remembered. My parents’ strategy is not the only one to use, but by my parents not over-emphasizing winning or individualism, I have a greater appreciation for the lessons of teamwork and work ethic.

To me, “success” comes from displaying a good work ethic, good character, and positive sportsmanship

Don’t forget...

- *Veteran’s Day program will take place Thursday, Nov. 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the school’s main gym. (Community Club meeting at school following the program)*
- *We have 2-hour late starts on Nov. 5 and Nov. 26*
- *We have a 12:00 dismissal on Nov. 21 for Thanksgiving break.*

From the Principal's Pen

Craig Patzel, K-6 Principal

Students take part in leadership conference

On October 10th, six members of the Wakefield Elementary Student Council attended a Leadership Conference at Wayne State College. Participants were involved in several activities throughout the day, including service learning projects, which involved packaging items for troops and tying blankets for the homeless as well as servicemen and women. The students also learned about seven character values (Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage) from an Army Medic that served in Iraq. The Wakefield students that attended were Joshua Dolph, Nadia DeLaO, Samantha Bierbower, Levi Nelson, Alex Conley, and Ryan Bodlak.

Homework tip...

Homework can cause a little or a lot of conflict for a family. It can be difficult for parents to get their children to complete homework in a timely manner. Try this simple strategy. Too often, kids focus on the entire assignment and feel overwhelmed. Break up the assignment into smaller, more manageable chunks. To begin, set a timer for a reasonable amount of time, let's say 6-8 minutes and ask the child to put forth their best effort. When the timer goes off, allow the child to take a break and do something else for a while. Then, repeat the process later. Continue this until the assignment is completed and extend the time of each session weekly. Over time, the child will be able to focus and put forth their best effort for a longer period of time.

~Be the leader you'd want for your child~





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 12 at 6 PM in the Distance Ed. Room.

The most important factor in college planning –UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF.

Important considerations:

1. Recognize your strengths and weaknesses
2. Analyze your interests
3. Identify your values
4. Learn about your alternatives
5. Consider all colleges of interest
6. Take responsibility for your future

*Happy
Thanksgiving
from the
Wakefield
faculty and
staff*

