

Jim Knott
High School Principal

Board Report
October 9, 2024

As we move towards mid-October, several important things are happening or are coming up at Douglas County West High School. High school parent-teacher conferences will be held on October 9th and 10th. Our attendance over the last several years has been around 100 parents/guardians over the two-day period. For the second year, the Wednesday conferences will be from 3:45-7:45 while the Thursday conferences will be held from 12:30-8:00. Core subject area teachers will be located in the library while elective teachers will be in the commons and cafeteria.

On Wednesday, October 23rd, we will hold our fall standardized testing day for high school students. Seniors will have the day off or will be on college visits while all 9th, 10th, and 11th graders will take the Pre-ACT. We started using this testing format three years ago with the idea of giving students more ACT practice before taking the actual ACT in the spring of their junior year. After taking the PreACT, the teaching staff will analyze the results in order to provide extra practice in low performance areas. Like the nationally recognized ACT, the Pre-ACT provides tests in the areas of math, science, reading, and writing. However, the Pre-ACT tests are shorter in length and the results are only given to the students, parents, and staff members of DC West High School.

On Tuesday, October 8, we held our second Faculty Senate meeting. This representative group is made up of one teacher from each subject area, high school administration, and the high school counselor. Members each serve two-year terms. Current members are Kim Remmick (social studies), Taylor Hyatt (science), Cyndi Thomas (PE, health, chorus, band), Heather Cox (math), Lisa Leonard (art, industrial tech, business, STEM), Jared Wiemer (language arts, world languages), Randy Donner (special education), Sandi Kerkhoff (library, ELL, technology), Katie Richards (counselor), and Jim Knott (administration). The mission of the Faculty Senate is to discuss and work on topics to improve the high school building culture and overall opportunities for students. The first topic the group will tackle this school year is student tardiness. An incentive program is being created to reward students with the fewest number of tardies. Some other topics we are working on are listed below.

- A continuation of "You Matter Mondays," started last year, where teachers can wear specially designed DC West T-shirts with Jeans on Mondays.
- Review and update of Student-of-the-Month, Teacher-of-the-month, and Fantastic Falcons reward programs.