

The Charger Review

Home of the Chargers

November 2009-Vol. 1 No. 4

600 Miller St., Carthage, IL 62321 • 217-357-2136

Welcome Back to School!

By Brad Gooding, Building Principal

I would like to welcome all students, teachers and staff back to school. The year is off to a great start! I want to compliment all the students, teachers and staff on the many good things that are going on in our classrooms. Please do what you can to encourage and support our students and staff as we progress through this school year.

Perfect Attendance Winners: This year at Illini West we are honoring those students that have perfect attendance on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis. On a weekly basis, students that have perfect attendance are eligible to have their name drawn for a discount card at Dairy Queen and a parking spot in the circle drive or a 1st in lunch line pass for one week. Weekly winners of the discount cards at DQ have been: Jessica Siverly, Austin Curfman, Travis Wilson, Kayla Thomas and Nancy Dixon. On a monthly basis students that have perfect attendance are eligible to have their name drawn for a free automobile detailing or oil change at Carson Motors. The monthly winner was Spencer Kirkenslager. At the end of the year any student with perfect attendance will be eligible for \$175. That is one dollar for each day of student attendance.

Mid-term grades were sent home on September 18. Hopefully everyone is happy with his or her academic progress thus far. 1st Quarter will end October 16 so everyone needs to keep up the good work. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held October 22 and 23.

The Illini West staff spent the afternoon of September 18 studying curriculum. This was the first of monthly scheduled SIP days. Teachers took time to examine state standards and assessment frameworks and where the Illini West curriculum is in regard to those. Teachers were also given strategies they could easily implement in their classrooms to help all students with content reading and comprehension.

7 Reasons to Leave the Party was presented by Judge Patricia Walton here at Illini West. She spoke to parents and other interested community members on the evening of September 29. She then was back to present to the students the next day. Her message centered around the legal ramifications for students if they do not stay drug and alcohol free.

Congratulations to the following for receiving a "Positive Office Referral" to the office: Lucas Turner, Tim Yex, Joey Snider, Raina Little, Kiefer Rea, Jay Williams, Lauren Pollock, Tiffany Blair, Jesse Holtsclaw, Tarik Cole, Sadie Cassiday, Holly McDowell, Stephanie Wetterling, Brandon Stambaugh, Chavana Todd, Zach Todd, Zack Burling, Sara Frakes, Rob Hutson, Jamal Finley, Brett Appel, Frances Tate, Lindsay Beach, Rachel Bavery, Craig Corzatt, Jon Tobias, John Brewer, Natalie Northup, Nick Pullins, Tiffany Sturek and Cody Burr. These students were caught by a teacher or staff member being positive. They were rewarded in a variety of ways. Keep up the good work!

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on October 22 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Conferences will then be on October 23 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come out and take advantage of the time to sit and talk with the teachers about the academic performance of their student.

Illini West High School will be holding a Veterans' Day program on November 10 beginning at 10:30 a.m. This program will take place in the gymnasium. Any and all Veterans or current military personnel and their families are invited to attend.

Agriculture Mechanics Class Picnic Tables

Mr. Roth's Ag Mech students are building picnic tables which may be purchased. The tables, made of treated lumber, are 80 inches long and as shown in the picture, are built to hold several people! The table was on display at the senior night football game and many good comments were received. As an option, you can have an umbrella hole drilled into the top when you order your table. It takes about three days to construct one, so the wait is short. If you are interested in buying a picnic table built by the students (cost is \$100), contact Mr. Roth at the high school.



PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee for 2009-2010 has been formed and has met twice, with additional meetings scheduled. Discussion topics will include curriculum, Title I, School Improvement Plan and technology. After the first of the year the committee will begin work on the Student Handbook for the coming school year. If you have questions or concerns you would like to see addressed, feel free to contact one of the committee members. Members include: Student Representative: Shanna Smith; Parents: Toni Carlisle, Lori Carson, Molly McDowell, Amy Ryner, Lisa Thompson and Pam Campbell; School Staff: Joey Dion, Brad Gooding, Linda Hartweg, Mike Mauzy, Ann Menschel, Rhonda Miller, M. J. Palmer, Pat Raftis, Shari Shupe, Theresa Twaddle; Board Member: Robert Clifton.

2008-2009 Yearbooks & DVDs Have Arrived!

If you ordered a Yearbook or DVD, please stop by the high school office to pick it up. If you did not order but would like to purchase one, the cost is \$37.00. You may stop at the High School to make your purchase.

FFA OFF TO BUSY START

Section Vo-Ag Fair

On July 17th the Section Vo-Ag Fair was held at the Hancock County Fair Grounds in Augusta, Illinois. The Vo-Ag fair is a fair strictly for FFA members. It is a way to show other FFA members what you have done previously. Exhibits included everything from swine to tomatoes. Those who attended were Mason Beals, poultry; Chris Beaver, chickens (his chicken was selected as Grand Champion exhibit in the poultry division); Dayna Bundy, horses; Jordan Cadwell, dogs; Chris Corzatt, swine; Sara Frakes, vegetables (she was awarded Champion garden exhibit); Kayden Guymon, beef; Travis Hobby and Jesse Holtsclaw, poultry, swine, and beef; Chris Holtsclaw, poultry, swine, beef, and goats; Jessica Horton, swine and beef; Matt Irish, Dallas Neff and Rod Rodeffer, poultry; and Sara Ziegler, garden items. Illini West's winning totaled \$2,713.20. Congratulations to all those who participated!

FFA Members attend Farm Progress show

On September 4th the Illini West FFA and Industrial Tech students attend the Farm Progress show. The Farm Progress Show focuses on modernization in Agriculture. At the show the students learned about new farm equipment available, as well as different opportunities that the agriculture industry has to offer. The Farm Progress Show is the largest outdoor farm show in the United States.

Freshmen FFA Members attend Greenhand Conference

On September 15th the Illini West Freshman FFA members attended the Greenhand Conference at Macomb High School. This conference was goal oriented and introduced young FFA members to the endless opportunities available in FFA. Those who were in attendance were Sam McDowell, Taylor Hardy, and Jalen Tallman. In addition, four Illini West FFA members were at the conference to sign foundation letters requesting continued support of the FFA Foundation from previous donors. If you have supported the Foundation in the past, you should be receiving a letter within the next few weeks. Our chapter goal is to be recognized as a \$3000 chapter and as a "Fair Share" chapter and earn free registration for the FFA Leadership Camp.

John Wood Livestock Judging Contest

On Friday, September 25th the Illini West Livestock Judging team competed at the annual John Wood Contest. Chris Holtsclaw placed 8th overall. The team placed fourth overall. Kayden Guymon, Grant Clark, Dallas Neff, Jesse Holtsclaw, Rod Rodeffer, and Rob Hutson all attended.

Chapter Horse Judging team does well at the Section and State contests.

On September 12th the Illini West Horse Judging team competed in the Section Horse Judging contest. A special congratulations goes to Dana Bundy, who placed first overall. The team received 3rd place overall. The following week they competed at the State Horse Judging contest. Dana Bundy once again did very well as she placed 6th overall in the state. The team placed 6th overall. Other team members included Kelly Johnson (11th overall) and Taylor Hardy (12th overall).

How to Keep Safe in a Sexting, Texting, Internet World Thursday, November 12 from 6-9 PM



This is a must see program for parents and caretakers.... "Learning to Keep your Kids Safe On-Line and on their Cell Phones". The program will be held at U of I Extension- Hancock County Building in Carthage on November 12, 2009, from 6:00 pm-9:00 pm. This is for adults only.

Presented by Detective Richard Wistocki from the Naperville Police Department. Detective Wistocki has been working in the Internet Crimes Unit for the past 12 years, is a member of the Attorney General's Child Exploitation Task Force and the United States Secret Service Task Force on Internet Crimes.

This is a program sponsored by Families Coalition and Hancock County Teen Court. Families Coalition consists of Hancock County Health Department, Memorial Hospital, Mental Health Centers of Western Illinois, West Central Illinois RSVP, and University of Illinois Extension, 4-H Youth development.

PBIS OFF AND RUNNING AT IWHS

After a year of training and planning, PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) has been officially "kicked off" at Illini West High School.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive systems approach for creating and maintaining safe and effective learning environments in schools, and ensuring that all students have the social/emotional skills needed to ensure their success at school and beyond. The focus is to have our school develop structures for teaching expected behaviors and social skills, creating student behavioral and academic support systems, and applying data-based decision-making to discipline, academics and social/emotional learning at the school level. The Illinois PBIS Network promotes family and community involvement at all levels of implementation. Federal educational requirements contained in the NCLB Act, and IDEA 2004, are embedded in the PBIS process. PBIS integrates state school improvement initiatives including Systems of Support, Standards Aligned Curriculum, and Response to Intervention (RtI) to assist our school in meeting Illinois' educational goals and mandates.

Goals for PBIS include:

1. Increase consistent use of positive teaching and enforcement strategies among all school staff at school-wide, classroom and individual student levels.
2. Reduce use of reactive discipline measures in schools for all students.
3. Increase data-based decision-making about behavior and academics instruction and reinforcement across all school settings.
4. Implement effective comprehensive supports/services/interventions for students with the most intensive behavioral/emotional needs through wraparound plans that address home, school, and community.

PBIS Universal team members are:

Rhonda Miller – Special Education Coordinator
Peggy Latherow – Family and Consumer Science
Debbie Murphy – Math
Theresa Twaddle – Business/Technology
Shari Shupe – Reading Specialist

Should you have any questions regarding PBIS at Illini West High School or would like to have PBIS information presented and shared at a business or community organization, please contact Rhonda Miller at the high school.

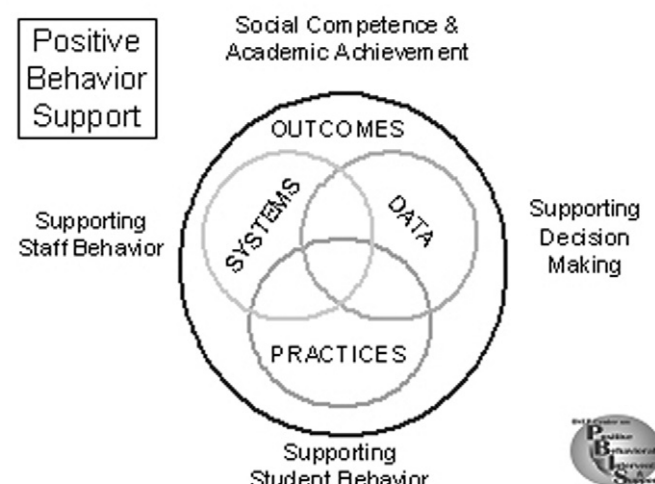
There are 4 elements to PBIS – Outcomes, practices, data, and systems.

Outcomes include academic and behavior targets that are endorsed and emphasized by students, families, and educators.

Practices include curriculum, instruction, interventions and strategies that are evidence-based.

Data is the information that is used to identify status, need for change, and effects of interventions.

Systems are the supports that are needed to enable the accurate and durable implementation PBIS.



FBLA-SIMPLY THE BEST

By Lauren McGaughey FBLA Secretary

"Simply the Best" is the theme for the National FBLA organization this year. Our chapter's FBLA has got the edge and has had a busy start for this school year. We began the year with recruitment. Our chapter enrollment is over 60 members thus far.

The election of officers set the tone for the chapter this year. This year's officer team is Co-Presidents, Cody Dunn, Natalie Northup, and Bryan Fox; Vice President, Beth Cokel; Secretary, Lauren McGaughey; Treasurer, Schizaan von Molendorf; and the State Vice President of Western Area is Lauren McGaughey.

As part of our recruiting efforts, we again participated in the St. Louis Cardinal FBLA business day event. Thirty members of our organization went to the ball park on September 20 and experienced first-hand the business activities at the ball park while watching the Cubs beat the Cardinals.

Six members of our FBLA chapter will participate in the Duel on the Hill competition sponsored by Culver-Stockton College on October 22. This event provides students an opportunity to solve a situation using teamwork, research, and presentation skills, while competing against other school teams. The members on this team are Lauren McGaughey, Cody Dunn, Natalie Northup, Schizaan von Molendorf, Trisha Merry, and Alison Bavery. A special appreciation goes to Mr. Charlie Baer, who spent an afternoon with us to develop a plan of action for the case study.

We are also planning our FBLA week which will be held the last week of October. The week provides us with an opportunity to share the FBLA organization with other students who are not active in the organization. We will again be organizing the Job Shadow day. If a student is interested in job shadowing, please contact Mrs. Twaddle for permission slip and release form.

FBLA Calendar

FBLA Week – October 26-29, 2009

Job Skills Fair – December 2009

Western Area Conference – January 14, 2009 (registration is due December 10, 2009)

Pre-testing for State Conference – February 27, 2010

State Conference – March 26-27, 2010 (registration is due February 1, 2010)

John Wood Community College Business Contest -- TBD

National FBLA Conference, Nashville, TN – June 2010

READING PROGRAM PROVIDED USING TITLE I FUNDS

Title I is a federally funded program for economically disadvantaged students. This year IWHS qualified as a target assisted program rather than a school-wide program. (A free/reduced lunch application level above 40% is required to be a school-wide program.) Providing a program using Title I funds will also allow us to meet Response to Intervention (RtI) requirements. The three levels of RtI are: 1) All students – who receive diagnostic testing three times during the school year; 2) more intensive instruction for particular students based on the diagnostic testing in addition to instruction in the general curriculum and; 3) based on further assessment and lack of progress, eligibility for special educational services would be considered. Additional testing and more intensive interventions which target specific skill deficits would be implemented. The Title I funds this year are being used to provide a reading teacher (Mrs. Shari Shupe) and program for students at IWHS. Reading continues to be an area of concern in both mandated testing, as well as student achievement as a whole.

Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors have been assessed using a diagnostic tool called AimsWeb. Based on that data, further assessment will be made of select students using the Read 180 assessment tools. A comparison of the two assessment procedures will be used to confirm whether there is a consistent level of achievement that is below the expectations for that particular grade level. Parents of those students who need reading assistance will be contacted by Mrs. Shupe, who will explain what the program will involve.

A computer lab has been purchased for the reading program and is up and running. Mrs. Shupe has identified 15 Freshmen for whom she is recommending the Read 180 program, along with several students in the Sophomore and Junior classes. Read 180 shows students their current abilities, along with where they need to be. It increases difficulty of reading assignments incrementally as the student progresses. Reports will be generated for parents and students showing progress, and certificates of achievement are awarded.

For the balance of this year, most identified students will need to exchange their study hall for the reading program. Next year identified students will use one of their electives for the reading program. The class will generate a grade, and the student will receive credit for the course. Classes will consist of periods of instruction to the class as a whole, as well as extensive time for individual reading and assessment. There will be no homework in this class. If you have questions about this program, please contact Mrs. Shupe through the high school office.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT

Congratulations to Sarah Ziegler and Beth Cokel on being chosen as part of the Illinois Music Educators Association District 4 Festival. Sarah and Beth auditioned at Porta High School on Monday, October 12th and were selected to represent Illini West at the festival. Sarah will be singing in the district choir, and Beth will be playing clarinet in the district band. The festival will be held on November 7 at Western Illinois University. The concert will be at 4:30 p.m. and the public is invited to attend.

The Illini West Marching Chargers competed at Western Illinois University on Saturday, October 10 in the WIU Marching Band Classic. They received 5th place out of 7 bands in their class. After being treated to a sub sandwich and chips by the music boosters, they then traveled to Kahoka for the Clark County Field Show. They received 2nd place out of 8 bands.

The Marching Chargers also competed on Saturday, October 17 at the Quincy October Parade and Field Show Competition. The Marching Band had an exceptional day as they received 2 "Golds" -- 1st in the Novice Class; 2nd in Mid Size Schools. The IWHS Flags received "Outstanding Auxillary" of all the bands.

The band has been performing their BATMAN show at home football games, and are looking forward to putting it back on our home field for any home playoff games. Drum majors for this year's band are: Hannah Dorothy, Cassie Jones, and Beth Cokel. Flag captains are: Bethany Willey, Kelly Ard, and Mallory Brooks. Flag sponsor is Mrs. Carol Brooks. Drumline captain is Tanisha Wisslead. Linda Hartweg is the Band Director.

International Club

The 2009-2010 Illini West International Club has over 60 members. Officers for the year are: Brokk Doyle, President; Hannah Dorothy, Vice-President; Natalie Northup, Secretary; Maria Gambrell and Bethany Willey Co-Treasurers. On October 16th the club will be celebrating Octoberfest with Katie Gambrell speaking about her year as an exchange student in Austria. For a cost of \$3.00 students and staff may enjoy a brat lunch. On November 29th the club will be traveling to St. Louis to see a Flamenco dance performance and a visit to the St. Louis Museum.



VISIT US ON THE WEB!

www.illiniwest.org

ILLINI WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF 2008-2009

High School Office Staff:

Brad Gooding, Principal
Joey Dion, Assistant Principal/
Transportation Director/Athletic Director
Rhonda Miller, Administrator Assistant for
Special Services
Ruth Lohrenz, School Psychologist
Dawn Hellyer, Principal's Secretary
Amy Rampley, Office Clerk
Deb Wilson, Transportation/Athletics Secretary
Ann Logan, Guidance Counselor
Joe Dion, Guidance Counselor
Tammey Gilbert, Social Worker

High School Teaching Staff:

Breanna Anderson, Special Education
Tammy Belshaw, Math
Vicki Black, Special Education
Carol Brooks, Physical Education
Kristen Cook, Science
Sam DeCounter, Agriculture & Social Studies
Alan Draper, English
Jason Finch, Special Education
Connie Flesner, Science
Linda Hartweg, Band & Chorus
Rose Hausch, Spanish
Greg Hoener, Social Studies
Suzy Holtsclaw, Business
John Hughs, Physical Education
Zak Huston, Drivers Education
Kim Johnson, French & Spanish
Zach Keene, Health & Physical Education
Tim Lafferty, Physical Education
Peggy Latherow, Family & Consumer Science
Marcia McGaughey, Spanish & ESL
Samantha McGaughey, Math
Sandra Morrison, Math
Deb Murphy, Math
Kelly Nagel, Art
Harold Northup, Industrial Arts
M. J. Palmer, Science
Kevin Peel, English
Pat Raftis, Social Studies
LaRae Roth, English
Melvin Roth, Agriculture & Industrial Arts
Shari Shupe, Reading
Judy Stevenson, Art
Melissa Sturlic, English
Theresa Twaddle, Business
Ruth Vacek, Special Education

Para-Professionals:

Denise Brown
Jim Clayton, Study Hall Supervisor
Patricia Krow
Kara Pettit

Custodial Staff:

Robby Robinson, Maintenance Director
Robert McVeigh
Mike Russell
Carol Walker

District Office Staff:

Mike Mauzy, Superintendent
Vicky Van Trump, Bookkeeper
Ann Menschel, Administrative Assistant
Kim Deitrich, Treasurer

Board of Education:

Tracey Anders, President
Tom Holtsclaw, Vice President
Janet Vass, Secretary
Mark Burling
Robert Clifton
Jerry Green
R. D. Trout

CHARGER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Each month a male and female student will be chosen as Student of the Month. Nominations will be made by the Faculty of IWHS based on the following criteria: attitude, academic standing, work ethic, leadership, character, effort and extra-curricular involvement. From these nominations the two students will be chosen.

Illini West High School is proud to announce that Shanna Smith was selected as the female Charger of the Month for September. Shanna is the senior daughter of Gary and Nancy Smith of Carthage. At Illini West, Shanna is a member of the Scholastic Bowl, Jazz Band, Student Council, SADD, FBLA, The Stampede, International Club, Art Club and Drama Club. The past two years Shanna has also been the student representative to the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee at Illini West. While at IWHS, she has been 1 of 3 FBLA Historians, Co-Secretary for the Art Club, Co-Treasurer for the Drama Club and Scholastic Bowl captain. In her free time she enjoys being a part of the Ambassador Girl Scouts and has received the Girl Scout Silver Award. Shanna's future plans include attending a four-year college and pursuing a degree in history or art.

Illini West High School is proud to announce that Sam Newberry was selected as the male Charger of the Month for September. Sam is the sophomore son of Andrew and Joyce Newberry of Dallas City and Pat and Maggie Bolen of Carthage. At Illini West, Sam is a member of the Scholastic Bowl, Band, FBLA and Drama Club. As a freshman, he was all-conference in Scholastic Bowl and was a member of the all-tournament team at the Macomb Rotary Club Scholastic Bowl Tournament. Sam attends the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Carthage and is a member of the youth group. In his free time he enjoys playing the guitar and listening to music. Sam's future plans include going to a prestigious college and studying to be either a medical researcher or a college professor.

The Illini West staff is proud of Shanna and Sam and enjoys working with them. Congratulations!

STUDY TIPS

By Jim Clayton

According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary the word *study* is of Latin descent. It originally meant to devote oneself to. The more modern definition means a state of contemplation or the acquisition of knowledge through the mental faculties.

As a teen I always found it difficult to devote time to *study*. There were too many distractions, and I always wanted to do something else, such as play sports, go to a dance or party or simply not study. The phone or the doorbell would invariably ring with an offer to do something -- anything but study.

I eventually realized that studying was essential if I wanted to get out of high school, let alone go to college, which I did. For the last two school years, I have been study hall supervisor at Illini West and have had many students ask me for tips on how to study. These questions frequently occur near test times, especially finals. So I have begun giving tips, unsolicited at times, when I see kids struggling.

These are a few of the basics that I have shared with the students. They are the same techniques that got me through high school and especially helped me in college.

BE IN CLASS. In my opinion the number one best study tool is to be in class. To hear what the teachers are saying and pick up on what they are emphasizing is critical to getting good grades. The second part of being in class is to take good notes -- every day. Always make an effort to take notes, even when it seems difficult to get the gist of what is being said. Taking notes will not always be possible as there are class projects and other activities that are not conducive to note taking. But as a general rule there are opportunities to write something down nearly every day. And, when I got home and had to spend time at the kitchen table doing homework, I rewrote my notes.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK. This is another very important and also very basic study behavior. Don't wait until everything else is done or try to get it all done the next day in study hall. Get home, do your homework and get it out of the way. That also includes reading assignments. Get homework done early, and you will have time for the other things you want to do later.

REWRITE AND REREAD. And finally, as it came time for tests, I would rewrite all of my notes, rereading all of the text I could to prepare for the exam. This became very critical in college, and would have been just as helpful in high school, but I started using this study method too late in my high school career for its to benefit me as much as it could have.

I never could refer to myself as a Latin person who was devoted to study. I may not have even been totally dedicated to gaining knowledge in high school, but these skills that I learned helped me immensely in my educational process.

ATTENTION SENIOR PARENTS:

Yearbook is offering "Baby Ads" to be included in the 2009-2010 Yearbook. The ads will be 2 x 3 and cost \$15. Please send your check payable to Illini West Yearbook, along with the photo and caption (example: Jane Doe, You make us so proud! Keep up the good work. Love Mom & Dad) to Suzy Holtsclaw at Illini West High School. Ads are needed as soon as possible.

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E-mail addresses:

last name, followed by first name @illiniwest.org (i.e. mauzy.mike@illiniwest.org)
All addresses are listed on website