

CRESCENT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

January
2011
Newsletter

Greetings:

How fast a school year goes by! The beginning of the second semester, January 31st, marks the half-way point in the school year. Our High School students are starting new courses, while the Junior High students only see a change in their elective courses.

In the next few weeks the registration process will begin. As we start our student registration and timetabling process we are already planning for next year. It is important that Senior High students carefully review their course selections for the upcoming year to ensure that they register in the courses required for both high school graduation and their future career plans. Junior High students will focus on planning for success in their transition from junior to senior high school.

This time of year provides the best opportunity for students to enroll in their preferred courses. **Counselors will be meeting with students** in the coming

weeks to help with this process. Students will be sent home with registration packages which include forms to fill in and require parent signatures. We encourage parents to become involved in the process of planning for your students' academic success and their futures. If you have any questions, please contact the counseling office for assistance.

Students and parents need to understand that in order to register at CHHS, there must be a completed **registration form with parent signatures** as well as a copy of a **birth certificate** for each student. **Students cannot be placed in classes** until this information has been returned to the school. Please keep an eye out for the registration packages that will be sent home with the students.

Why we have Junior High Days

Crescent Heights High School is unique because we serve both Junior and Senior High students. This creates a small problem in that Alberta Education requires less class time for Junior High students than for Senior High students, but each school day starts and ends at the same time for both groups. Junior High students present different issues and require very different approaches than Senior High students so during the school year, we have five school days a year when there is no school for Junior High students. During this time, Junior High teachers meet to plan and collaborate for student success. The next Junior High Day are March 18th and April 15th.

Common Planning Time

As you know, the whole District is changing to a common planning time for teachers next year. Starting in September, one whole Friday each month will be set aside for teachers to collaborate with other teachers across the District. This means that our early **Wednesday afternoon dismissal-time at CHHS will no longer take place** in the next school year. Also, from now on we will only have one District Professional Development day as opposed to the three we have now. We will post a calendar later this spring with the dates of the common planning days so that parents can plan ahead.

New Timetable

The new common planning time affects on our whole timetable. Our school has been working hard to develop a new schedule for students *next year*. We have decided to change to a model where our grade 7 and 8 students will be taught by a smaller number of teachers who will teach only Junior High core subjects. This group of teachers will focus on a safe and caring, middle school concept of delivery. Grade 9 to 12 students will be scheduled by semester and will make up our Senior High School. Both our Junior High and our Senior High will continue to have common start times and end times each day. Besides creating a middle school approach, we also hope to be able to offer a greater range of course selections in each of the class periods during the day for all students. We will share the new schedule in later additions of the school newsletter. We are still working on exact start and end times for the school day as this is affected by the district common planning days as well.



Rick Lane