

Holyoke students head back to school Tuesday, Aug. 18

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Summer always seems to go quickly, and students and parents are reminded the 2009-10 school year will be here soon.

Students are scheduled to start school Tuesday, Aug. 18. The annual Back-to-School night will be Monday, Aug. 17 from 5-6 p.m. giving students a chance to see their classrooms, lockers, classmates and teachers.

Elementary students are encouraged to get a jump start on preparing for the first day by taking their supplies to their classrooms on Back-to-School night. Parents and children will be able to meet teachers and the principal with class lists posted to notify students of their new teachers. Activity passes and school lunch tickets will also be available for purchase.

JR/SR high students will have the opportunity to pay fees, buy activity passes and meet their teachers in an effort to prepare them for the upcoming school year. Schedules and locker assignments were mailed to students and do not need to be picked up during the Back-to-School night.

Important dates noted

Several dates are important for parents and students to take note of for the Re-1J School District.

Inservices are planned for school staff on the first Friday of every month, and no school will be held on those days.

Additionally, several days are scheduled for vacations and are as follows: Sept. 7 for Labor Day, Sept. 28 for BOCES inservice, Oct. 23, Nov. 25-27 for Thanksgiving, Dec. 18 half day, Dec. 21-Jan. 4 for Christmas, Feb. 19, March 19 and April 1-5 for Easter.

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Other dates to remember include:

—Homecoming, Sept. 18.

—JR/SR high parent-teacher conferences, Oct. 19-20.

—Elementary parent-teacher conferences, Oct. 20 and 23.

—Graduation, May 16.

Detailed community calendars sponsored by the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce and area businesses are available and can be picked up at the school office or at several Chamber businesses. This is the 30th year for the calendar, symbolized by a new look—yellow calendar backs. The calendars are comprised of community, school and sporting events along with club and organization meetings and national holidays.

School cancellations and late starts

In the event of a snowstorm or other emergency, Holyoke School District may cancel school or dismiss students early. The Holyoke Information Center (854-2735) and the following television and radio stations will be notified of a school closing, early dismissal or late start: STAR 92.3 FM, KOGA, KNNG-FM, KOA, KATR, Fox 31-TV, KCNC-TV-4, KUSA-TV-9 and WB2-TV-2.

When school is cancelled or dismissed early because of inclement weather or other emergency, all school sponsored activities and programs for that date are automatically postponed.

Occasionally in case of inclement weather, a late start may be called. Buses will run two hours later than their usual pick-up time, and school will begin two hours later than normal. Students

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and parents will be notified of the late start in the same manner as a school cancellation or early dismissal.

Bus routes

Anyone with questions about a bus route, anyone having moved to a new home in the country or anyone new to Holyoke can contact Robert Jacobs, Director of Transportation, 854-3107, so the necessary route adjustments can be made.

School lunch and breakfast prices

School meal prices for the 2009-10 school year are as follows:

K-5 lunch, \$1.55; 6-12, \$1.75; adults, staff, parents and senior citizens, \$2.50; reduced lunch, \$.40; extra milk, \$.35; student breakfast, \$1.25, adult breakfast, \$1.50.

A computerized meal service system is in place, and students will be issued a card at the beginning of the school year to be used all year.

Parents are encouraged to pay for 20 meals on a monthly basis to keep their children's account in good standing. No charges are allowed for school lunches. A reminder note will be sent home to parents when students have seven meals left.

Free and reduced priced breakfasts and lunches are available for students who qualify. Applications and guidelines will be sent home to parents the first day of school or are available at both school building offices and the Administration Office. Federal rules require an application be completed each year to qualify.

Student fees

Student fees for the upcoming school year are as follows: student activity pass, \$30; HS yearbook, \$45; band instrument rental, \$20 per semester (plus \$50 deposit); Vo-Ag and shop fee, \$25 per semester; HS band/choir or flag team cleaning fee, \$15; HS P.E. class fee, \$10; Food and Nutrition class fee, \$15; HS math class fee, \$5; JR/SR High sports, \$35 per sport; JR/SR High fee for three or more sports per year, \$100; JR/SR High cheerleading, \$35; JH yearbook, \$20.

Activity passes

Activity passes are available for adults at \$50 each, for students at \$30 each and for families (up to five members of an immediate family) at \$150. A pass entitles one person admission to all junior and senior high school games with the exception of tournaments.

Athletic prices established for individual league events and away games are set by the Lower Platte Activities Association League and the North Central Conference as follows:

High school LPAA events: \$3 for K-12 and \$5 for adults.

High school NCC (football) events: \$4 for K-12 and \$6 for adults.

JV and JH events: \$2 for K-12 and \$3 for adults.

Senior lifetime passes

District residents, age 65 or over, may request a free pass good for all school district athletic events (except tournaments and play-offs). Passes are valid as long as pass holders are

residents in the district.

Kindergarten eligibility

Children age 5 before June 1, 2009 are eligible for kindergarten. Parents or guardians of kindergarten students must furnish a birth certificate and health record at the time of registration. The mandatory entrance age for first grade is 6 by June 1, 2009.

Facility use

Facility and equipment use requests may be made through the principal's office at the respective school building. The new gym at HHS is available for activities only when a specific facility use is approved by the Board of Education by vote at a regular meeting.

District website

The district has a website detailing information about staff, programs, events, classes, rules and regulations, board policies and board meeting minutes. The site address is www.holyoke.schoolfusion.us.

There is a link on the home page that parents can use to access their children's grades and view teachers' lesson plans. Parents that do not yet have the necessary password can request one from the HHS office.

Alternative High School

The district is proud to offer an alternative high school to assist students who have dropped out of school or whom it is felt will benefit in a setting with less structure and more flexible hours. If

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this may be of interest, please contact the high school office.

Random Drug Testing Program

The Random Drug Testing Program encompasses all students in grades 7-12 participating in any athletic or extra-curricular activity, or for those students who wish to participate voluntarily in the program. No student will be able to participate without consent in writing by the students and parents. A complete copy of the policy is included in the Activity/Athletic Handbook and on the school district's website.