

# THE WEST FARGO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

[www.west-fargo.k12.nd.us/community](http://www.west-fargo.k12.nd.us/community)

## The Principal's Perspective

I wrote in the November newsletter about the new things we have been trying out to make CHS a better school. I'm pleased to write in this issue that our new policies and procedures for attendance and academic progress seem to be working well.

Students have completed 16% more courses in the first semester this year than they completed by Feb. 23 last year. Teachers are working with students daily to set deadlines and monitor their progress, and we have attractive incentives for students that maintain a good learning pace.



Attendance has improved, also. Compared to last year, our attendance rate was 5% to 19% higher for Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec. this school year.

Student-Led Conferences in November went over very well with the students who participated and their parents. Teachers are looking forward to even more student-led conferences in February.

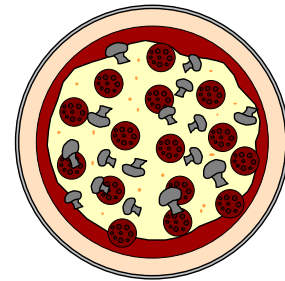
The teachers have reported that their new courses are going well,

too. Each teacher redesigned two semester courses to implement Assessment for Learning. This is a teaching strategy that uses frequent, non-graded assessment of a student's work. The assessment is closely aligned to the standards for the course. The type and amount of learning activities can vary among students, depending on the students' needs and learning styles. Fill-in-the-blank worksheets and answer-hunting have been replaced by thinking, research, and discussion with the teacher. The final grade for the course is a measure of achievement only. Factors such as work habits and learning skills are not part of the letter grade, but are reported separately on the grade report.

We are looking forward to an even better second semester as our new procedures become more routine for everyone.

## Graduates to date

Keighla Fiebiger  
Heather Freadrich  
Mandy Tennancour  
Kory Johnson  
Susan Johnson



## Student Council

Student Council has just finished the sales drive for Pizza Corner pizzas. We should be able to deliver them by the end of January. The profits will be used for our scholarship for a graduating CHS senior and to partially fund any purchases or activities for CHS students. Thank you to everyone that purchased pizzas from the student body!

The CHS ski trip is scheduled for Feb. 4. It is an all day event at Bears Den Lodge in Fort Ransom. Parents are welcome to come along and join in the fun. We'll have our cameras ready! Students need to have a signed permission slip, money for lunch, and warm clothes. Students who sold at least 20 pizzas get to go free.

**Current Student Council officers**

Pres: **Jeremy Mogard**  
 Vice Pres: **Zack Thompson**  
 Secretary: **Jon Effinger**  
 Treas: **Cody Kubischta**  
 Photographer: **Ben Huether**  
 Sgt. At Arms: **Tina Campbell**

**Activities**

Community High School had a Thanksgiving dinner November 24<sup>th</sup>. The students put together a meal for about 70 people. We just want to give thanks to the parents



that came to the dinner as well as the parents and staff who contributed to the cooking and supplies for the meal. The Student Council also took the whole morning away from their school work to help set up the meal in the multi-purpose room. The dinner was great, and was a variety of food in the meal. There was everything from mashed potatoes to turkey to green beans and other traditional food.

As you can see the help of the students and community has a great effect on the events here at West Fargo Community High. We couldn't ask for a better community and for that we are very thankful.

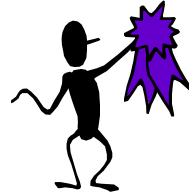
**Jon Effinger**

**Student of the Month**



November  
**Zack Thompson**

December  
**Aaron Wentz**



**Academic Achievement Cards**

Each quarter students have the opportunity to earn an Academic Achievement Card for completing three or more courses with at least a B average

(3.0 GPA). Silver cards are given to students earning a grade point average of 3.0 to 3.49 during the quarter, and gold cards are given to students with GPA's of 3.5 to 4.0. These cards give the student substantial discounts from local stores and businesses.

Cards were awarded to:



**Silver Card**

*Christina Campbell*  
*Jeremy Mogard*  
*Alison Zinck*  
*Adam Harris*

**Classroom News**

**Math News**

Wow! We have arrived at the halfway point of the school year. In the second quarter, nine students have completed a class in math. These students are:  
**Christina Campbell, Ben**

**Huether, Sean Murray, Christy Lorz, Mindy Nicklaus, Cody Waliser, Aaron Wentz, Josh Oltman, and Brandon Nitzkorski.**

Many students have been trying an alternative learning method to complete their class. Some have chosen to shorten their lessons by half. If they receive an 80% on the shortened lesson, they do not have to do any additional work. **Brandon Nitzkorski** is using this alternative learning method and has been successful with it. He explains, "I have to make sure that my answers are correct before I hand my lesson in."

~Mrs. Ristvedt

**Science Tidbits:**

We've had lots of students finishing in great time, including **Ashley H., Brandon N., Cody K., Kory J., AJ, Kole M. and Kari S.** There are also a few that are completing courses during the first week of the spring semester.

There have been good results in Biology with some new internet activities like "VCell" and "Planet OIT" in Earth Science. I hope to see more students involved in these "games" and hope to add more in the future.

Kudos go out to all the students in science who requested volunteer activities in the future. Hopefully these ideas will be brought to life!  
 Thanks, Miss Lisa

- Miss Foulkes

**Social Studies**

**Matt Zick** finished Law and Justice by doing a ride-along with a deputy from the Cass County Sheriff's Department. Matt said, "Steve is a very nice deputy and I enjoyed riding with him. He has a great sense of humor with the people he pulls over. I would go on another ride-along with him or another cop in a heartbeat. If you knew what they do when not busy, you would laugh until you fell over. I had a great time, even



though it was a very lame night.”

We have group discussions every Thursday in class, and one day I asked students to write about the misperceptions people sometimes have about Community High. I also asked them to write about what CHS is really like.

Here are some of their responses:

- It's a hard-working place. Teachers try to meet everyone's needs. **Stephen Dean**
- The thing I got from people before I got here was that this school was for the drop-outs and the slackers. In reality, it's not. While I have been here I have met really nice people...and (found) that this school was about work while it was also sometimes fun. **Joshua Oltman**
- Less structure = less stress. **Ryan Dohman**
- Students at Community do their work – we are not allowed to slack off! I've accomplished more here in the past one and a half years than I've accomplished since elementary school. **Cheryl Weber**
- When I came here someone asked, “What did you do wrong that you had to go to CHS?” They think that this school is for kids who have messed up. In reality, we are not as bad as people think we are, and we do as much work as any other school. **Mindy Nicklaus**

**Mrs. Geffre**

### **Volunteer Service**

**Kari Schuchard** finished one-half credit of Volunteer Service and said, “I chose to do my Volunteer Service at the Lighthouse, because Mrs. Reich had helped me out a lot while I was at the West Fargo High School, and I wanted to do something nice for her in return.”

When asked what she liked most about Volunteer Service, Kari replied, “I liked the fact that I was helping others get closer to their goals. There was one student in particular that I had helped out almost every day, and she was getting everything done and was willing to work. It is a great feeling when you know you've done something good.”

### **Counselor's Corner**

#### **RY**

We recently completed the first semester of Reconnecting Youth with four finishers: **Ashley Hagensen, Matt Crist, Zack Thompson, and Jeremy Mogard**. Prior to completing RY, the four members returned to Mrs. Bents' third grade class at L.E. Berger to help the students learn about Christmases from around the world.

The RY students spent two days baking goodies to take to the third graders. The third grade students taught the RY students about the Christmas traditions from different countries and the RY students in turn, shared the details of how they made the treats from these countries. All students had a great time eating the goodies and completed the day by making hand-made Christmas ornaments. Reconnecting Youth students also worked on the development of a new line of CHS apparel. The designs are near completion and a finished product will be ready for purchase soon! Keep an eye out for these very creative items, you won't want to miss them!!

A new class of RY will begin January 20<sup>th</sup>, and we will again be spending time at L.E. Berger along with participating in various



volunteer activities.

### **ACT Testing**

The ACT Exam can predict how well a student will do in college. The ACT Exam measures skills in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. These areas are tested because they include the major areas of instruction in most high schools and college programs. It is recommended that students take the ACT at the end of their junior year or at the beginning of their senior year.

The next ACT Exam is offered **Saturday, April 9, 2005** at West Fargo High School. Students planning to test need to stop by the counseling office to pick up an ACT packet. This packet must be completed approximately one month before the test.



### **Financial Aid**

If your student is thinking about or planning to attend college next fall, they should stop by the counseling office to pick up a FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This form will help determine what financial aid will be available to your student entering college. You may also apply on line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

### **Cruisin' Careers With Your Teen**

The West Fargo High School Career Center will host *Cruisin' Careers With Your Teen*, an open house for parents and students during

teacher/parent conferences in February. Career Center staff will be available in the library to provide access to career planning resources and assistance to explore careers, post secondary schools, scholarships, or other career-related information of interest to you, via computer software, Internet sites, and various print materials.

### Parent's Page

#### Free Preschool Screening

Do you have concerns about your 3 or 4 year old child's speech, language, learning, motor, or social/emotional development? Call 356-2003 for information on free screenings offered by the West Fargo School District's early childhood professionals. Screenings include the areas of vision, hearing, speech/language, gross and fine motor, pre-academic and social/emotional development. They can answer your questions and provide free early intervention services for your child if needed.

#### Dates to remember

- February 14**  
*Early dismissal day*
- February 15**  
*Parent-teacher conference; 5:00 - 8:45 p.m.*
- February 17**  
*Parent-teacher conference; 5:00 - 8:45 p.m.*
- February 18**  
*No school*
- February 21**  
*President's Day Break; no school*
- March 14**  
*Extended early dismissal day; school dismisses at 1:50 pm*
- March 25**  
*Spring break; no school*
- March 28**  
*Spring break; no school*

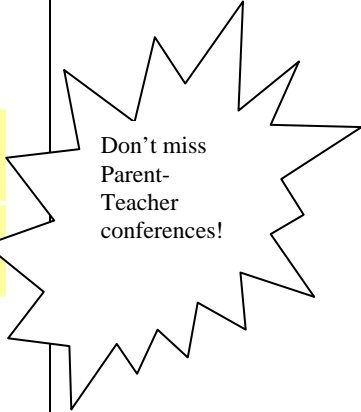
**May 26**  
*Last day of school and CHS Graduation*

*The CHS and Adult Education graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 26 at 7:30 pm in the theater of West Fargo High School*

Christy helps Kindergarteners put the finishing touches on their gingerbread houses.



Time to feed the English teacher!



Some people will do anything to get out of class!

