



Howard High School of Technology
Principal's Newsletter

Evelyn A. Edney, Principal
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Home of the Wildcats

September 2009

Dear Parents, Family, and Friends,

Welcome to a new school year! We welcome our Class of 2013 new Wildcat parents. We look forward to your support more than ever this year as we move into year #2 with reading as our Instructional Focus. In year #1, the teachers were exposed to "Before – During – and – After" reading strategies. In year #2, students and staff will be concentrating on the types of reading and writing used in each discipline. We believe this will help our students be more successful.

In addition to instructionally, we will need your help financially as well. We have two school-wide fundraisers. The first is a special offer to join BJ's for \$35.00 (which also allows for three extra months and a second free membership card for a household member). Howard will receive \$5. per membership. (This also counts on renewals!) This offer is good until October 2.

The second fundraiser is Yankee Candle, a trusted name! Howard will make 40% of all profits. The sale runs from September 18 thru October 2. Please help us raise money for our School's Wildcat Fund, which benefits needy families.

Sincerely,

Evelyn A. Edney
Principal

**Read More, Learn More,
Be More, Earn More**

Parent Notification

Release of Student Information

Requests for student directory information - which is limited to a student's name, home address, and telephone number - are routinely received by our school from colleges, military recruiters, financial aid programs, and similar organizations. On occasion, and at the expressed approval of the principal, we do make this information available. Parents who do not wish to have their son/daughter's name included on student directory listings must notify Howard High School of Technology in writing. Please send your notification to:

Mrs. L. Vazquez
Howard High School of Technology
401 East 12th Street
Wilmington, DE 19801 or
email: lvazque@nccvt.k12.de.us.
Deadline is: September 30, 2009

Reminder – Extra Help Available

Extra-Help is offered on **Tuesdays** after school. Bus transportation is provided at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Thursday Academy is offered for students that need help with their school work or access to a computer. Bus transportation is provided at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Books

- Students & Teachers will be using Premier Agenda Books this year. Through this program, we hope to teach students organizational skills for life. In order for the program to be successful, we need your support. Research shows that parents influence child's academic achievement probably more than anything else. By engaging yourself in your child's education, you are increasing their chances for success. Please help us by
1. Periodically checking your child's assignments—That the students are writing in the agenda books and they are completing assignments.
 2. Encouraging your child to refrain from procrastinating once an assignment is written in the planner.
 3. Encouraging your child to check off a task when she/he has completed it.
 4. Planning and scheduling household responsibilities as well as school.
 5. Checking the hall passport section for abuse of privilege.
 6. Speaking to teachers about assignments.

Alert NOW

The Alert NOW system for informing parents of pertinent information will be used again this year. This was a very wonderful tool last year when our electricity was out in the building, and the students had to be dismissed early. This system allows us to send information home via telephone to all 1,000 family members (staff & students) in a manner of minutes. We will continue to send home the information this way. We will alert you to not only emergencies, but also about reminders about PTSA meetings and other school events. It is important that you realize that those of you who have a "block" on your phone to systems such as Alert NOW will not be receiving these messages. Please direct any phone number/address changes to Mrs. Damiani or Mrs. Byrd (Español) in the Guidance Office at 571-5421.

New Castle County Vo-Tech School District

2009 H1N1 (swine) Flu – Be Prepared, Not Scared

Cold and flu season is fast approaching. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) state that the number of H1N1 (swine) flu cases could increase once schools are in session. The CDC is providing guidance for schools and the general public to help reduce the spread of flu among students and staff during this school year. The NCC Vo-Tech School District will continue to provide updated flu information and resources to parents, students, and employees as suggested. For general information on H1N1, visit the following websites: www.flu.gov; www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu; www.kidshealth.org. You can also check the school district website www.nccvotech.com and select Current Students, then click the flu icon on the bottom left side.



Howard High School of Technology ...Where learning extends beyond the classroom setting!



No Child Left Behind Act

As part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, all schools receiving Title I federal funds are required to notify parents of their right to request information on the professional qualifications of their child's teachers. Specifically, the law states that you have the right to ask:

- * whether the Delaware Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grade levels and subject matter he or she teaches;
- * whether the Delaware Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances;
- * the teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and, if so, the subject of the degrees; and
- * whether teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to parents' children, and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you have a specific question regarding a teacher's qualifications, visit the Delaware Department of Education's website, the Delaware Educator Data System (DEEDS) at deeds.doe.state.de.us. In the first sentence of the page, click on the blue word "here" to find out how to locate an educator's qualifications. Or, contact the New Castle County Vo-Tech School District Personnel Office at 995-8000.

Wellness Center Update

The Wellness Center continues to provide FREE services to any student whose parent has signed our registration form. Students can receive sports physicals and basic medical care from our licensed medical providers without you having to get off work. We also provide sports nutrition and weight loss from our Registered Dietitian and counseling from our Licensed Clinical Social Worker. If you would like to check to see if your student is a member or ask us to schedule your student please call 576-8080. Students can schedule their own appointments by stopping by or calling.

The Wellness Center provides several educational opportunities available for all students throughout the year. Our lunch and learns include an educational presentation along with a FREE lunch to a limited number of students usually once a month. All that the student needs to do to attend a lunch and learn is to sign up. We also set up educational tables in the cafeteria about once a month to address a variety of topics related to health, safety, nutrition, and emotional health.

If any parent is interested in being part of our Advisory Council please call Leighanne Hollans at 576-8080. Our Advisory Council will meet 2-3 times a year, in the afternoon. The only responsibility you will have is to show up and give us any suggestions you may have.

Staffing

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new staff members:

Sherry Geesaman
English

Petra Palmer
English

Celeste Bafundo
Science

Dawnn Dickerson
CNAP

Richard Berger
Science

Laura Norwood
Math

Kimberley Williams
Math

Donna Hopkins
Medical Assisting

Schoolwide Yankee Candle Fundraiser Campaign

Howard's schoolwide Yankee Candle Fundraiser runs September 18 through October 5. Our school will receive 40% profit. Payment is to be collected at the time of order. All checks should be made payable to Howard High School of Technology. If you did not receive a packet of information from your child please feel free to contact the school at 571-5400. Help us support your child's education.



2009-2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

September 4 (Friday)
September 7 (Monday)

No School
Labor Day/No School

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

November 11 (Wednesday)
23 (Monday)
24 (Tuesday)
25-27 (Wednesday-Friday)

Veterans Day
Professional Development
Leave Day/No School
Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

December 21-31 (Monday-Thursday)

Winter Vacation

JANUARY

January 1 (Friday)
4 (Monday)
15 (Friday)
18 (Monday)

New Year's Holiday
School Reopens
Professional Development
Martin Luther King Day

FEBRUARY

February 15 (Monday)

President's Day/No School

MARCH

APRIL

April 2-9 (Friday-Friday)
12 (Monday)

Spring Vacation
School Reopens

MAY

May 31 (Monday)

Memorial Day/No School

JUNE

June 8 (Tuesday)
9 (Wednesday)
10,11,12 (Thursday, Friday, Monday)

Last Pupil Day
Last Teacher Day
Leave Days/No School

EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Dismissal at 12:50 p.m.

October 7, 2009
December 9, 2009
February 3, 2010
March 3, 2010
May 5, 2010



Wildcat Pride

Marking Period Dates

1st Marking Period Ends - October 23
2nd Marking Period Ends - January 14
3rd Marking Period Ends - March 26
4th Marking Period Ends - June 8

HALF DAYS

First Semester Exams
January 13-14

Second Semester Exams
June 3-4

Make-up Exam Date
June 7

Last Student Day
June 8

Department and Cluster Chairs

The Academic Department and Career and Technical Cluster Chairs were named:

English

Mrs. Nicole LaMonaca

Math

Ms. Leah Anderson

Social Studies

Mr. Daniel Ritter

Science

Dr. Ralph May

Health/Phys. Ed/Drivers Ed.

Mr. David Dunbar

Human Services/Technical

Mrs. Christine Shaub

Construction/Mechanical

Mr. Dean Dickerson

Health/Business

Mrs. Jan Dill

Pupil Services

Ms. Jane Lauginger

