

Conner's Corner 8-27-07

I need to dedicate this issue to multiple topics. The beginning of school is always an extremely hectic time, and I would like to communicate several very important pieces of information.

First, I would like to remind all parents and students that we are issuing each student their 2007-2008 agenda book on the first day of school. Each student receives an agenda book free of charge, and all students are required to carry their agenda books with him or her during the school day. Students may purchase a replacement agenda book for a charge of five dollars. Agenda books are a very important resource for students and parents. They contain: the code of conduct, policies, and procedures we use to govern student life at AWHs, a comprehensive schedule of events for the numerous activities we offer, and hall pass pages for the students to use throughout the school year. Agenda books are also an educational tool. Teachers refer to these books to help students stay organized with assignments, due dates, test dates, and other important reminders. As parents, I encourage you to read through your child's agenda book. I think you will discover a wealth of information located inside. I would also encourage parents to check their student's agenda books to make sure their child is staying on top of their academic responsibilities.

Second, I would like to spend a little time discussing transportation on campus. As you know, the entire campus will now be on the same daily schedule. This means that traffic will be slightly more congested than we are used to in the past. I would like to encourage all of our parents who drop their children off at school, as well as our student drivers to come a couple of minutes early to avoid some of the congestion that we expect. Once everyone becomes more familiar with the new system, I believe much of this congestion will subside. We allow students to enter the building as early as 7:00 am, so make sure you give yourself plenty of time. There will be a time during the morning and afternoon when the driveway between the high school and junior high school will be closed to all traffic. That particular drive will be closed from 7:35 AM to 7:45 AM and from 2:45 PM to 2:52 PM. I would encourage our student drivers to enter the student parking lots by way of the north drive of the high school.

One other significant change will be the staging area for our buses. Our buses will now be staging behind the junior high school. Our high school students will need walk to from that area to the high school once released in the morning and from the high school to behind the junior high to catch their bus in the afternoon. During inclement weather, students may use the junior high as a cut-through. However, I would recommend that our high school students be prepared to walk just a little further than they are used to walking to get into the building in the morning or to catch their bus in the afternoon. Students will be released from their busses at 7:35 AM and will have twenty minutes to make their way into the high school to prepare for their classes beginning at 7:55. In the afternoon, they will have ten minutes to catch their bus following dismissal at 2:45. Busses will depart the campus at 2:57 PM. Students, parents, and community members should be advised that traffic on Finzel road will be stopped in order for all of our buses to exit the campus both following drop-off in the morning and to begin their runs in the afternoon.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our students, parents, faculty, and staff for a wonderful start to the school year. We have had an amazing week, and it is due to the combined efforts of all the parties mentioned above. Our enrollment is up approximately 90 students at the high school this year. We gained about 50 for freshmen than we had graduating seniors last year, and we have welcomed about 40 new students into our building. Those numbers may fluctuate during the year as students come and go, but they certainly reinforce the trend that we are a high growth school district. As always, please feel free to call me at 419-877-0466 if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. You may also email me at awhs_jc@nwoca.org.