



KNOX COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

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REDSKIN PARENT NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016

The 2016-2017 school year is off to an exciting start. We have a wonderful school that has seen success in a number of areas and we look forward to a year of exciting and enriching experiences for our students. The month of September is loaded with many important activities and events. We feel that it is important to keep the line of communication open between the teachers of Knox High School and the parents of the students that attend.

KHS staff is committed to excellence and we know, as a team with our parents, we can create an environment that allows many opportunities for our students to excel. I wish to thank you and our staff for making such an important positive difference in the lives of so many of the district's students. This newsletter will contain information on how you as parents may contact any of your student's teachers. Also, please feel free to contact me at your convenience if you have any questions or concerns.

Dr. Elizabeth Ratliff, Principal

Parent –Teacher Relationships

The Knox High School Faculty will attempt to keep parents informed of the positive things that the students are doing at Knox High School, as well as any academic concerns or behavior problems that might arise. We always encourage active parent participation and we try to make it as convenient as possible for parents to contact faculty members. Parents are also eligible to receive weekly emails regarding their student's grades. To create your PowerSchool Parent Account, go to the PowerSchool Parent Portal Setup Instructions listed on the Knox High School Web page. To get your access codes to our online grade system, please contact the guidance office at 772-1675 or Student Services at 772-1677.

You may contact any faculty member by telephone at 772-1670 or by the internet; call 772-1675 for a direct line to the counselor's office. The website for Knox High School is <http://hs.knox.k12.in.us>. In addition to emailing a teacher, you may also visit the website to review homework assignments or find information related to upcoming projects or tests.

Student Assistance

Free tutoring is available from all teachers every morning between **7:30-8:00**. If your student needs help with homework or has to make up work, it is important that they use this dedicated time to work with the teacher. Student Resource Time (SRT) has been added to our schedule allowing four days for students to receive additional help during the school day from teachers. There is also free tutoring Monday through Thursday from 3:00 – 4:00 in the afternoon and every morning from 7:00 – 7:30 in B122. Please don't forget to use the PowerSchool parent portal to keep up to date on student progress.

ECA Summer Results

If your son or daughter took the ECA in summer school, the results are being sent home with this newsletter. Only the parent can ask for the ECA test to be rescored. You must request rescoring online by September 22, 2016. The instructions are on the attached letter and your username and password are on the back of the ECA score report. If you need help with this, please contact the guidance office at 772-1675.

ISTEP Spring Scores and Rescores

ISTEP Spring scores are on line. A claim code was emailed to you. If you do not have an email it was mailed to your home. If you need help seeing your student's ISTEP scores please contact the guidance office 772-1675. You have until September 16th to request a rescore. We can help you with that in guidance at 772-1675.

School Communication

The High School will continue our use of technology for parent information and communication. Please don't forget to update the school with your email if you would like to receive electronic updates. Parent email accounts will not be utilized for any purpose other than parent-school communication.

Please take the time to check out our websites:

- Knox High School Website: **hs.knox.k12.in.us (General HS Information)**
- Parent Powerschool Portal: **ps.knox.k12.in.us/public/ (Student Grades & Attendance)**
- Knox High School Facebook: Simply search for Knox Community High School or **<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Knox-Community-High-School/1374309829475225?fref=ts>**

Book Rental

Book rental for the 2016-2017 school year was mailed home August 20th. Remember to register on the Knox website: **www.knox.k12.in.us** to use the E-funds options of payment. Cash, check, money order or payment plans are always available. If you have questions, call Mrs. Tow at 772-1678. Those students on free and reduced will receive their statements when we get more information from the state. Free and reduced applications must be turned in by October 31st.

SAT and ACT

The SAT will be given at Knox High School on Saturday, October 1st, 2016. The late registration deadline for this test date is September 20th. The SAT is for students who are considering attending a four-year college. The SAT is also given in December and March at Knox High School. It is given at other times at different locations. To sign up, visit the College Board website, www.collegeboard.com. Please check with your student's coaches and directors for activities that conflict with a particular test date before signing up for the test. The ACT is also given throughout the year. The ACT website to register is www.actstudent.org. The ACT is given at Knox High School in April. Most colleges will accept either the SAT or the ACT. Please check with the college or college website of the colleges that the student is interested in. When registering for a test, you can have a limited number of scores sent directly to colleges at no extra cost. Some colleges will only accept scores directly from the testing company and not from the high school. Be sure to put KHS code 151870 on the application so your scores will come to KHS and be recorded on your high school transcript.

College Applications and FAFSA

Colleges are taking applications now for the 2017-18 school year. Seniors should look at colleges' website and check deadlines. Some colleges have November 1, 2016 as priority deadline for applications and scholarship.

The FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) form can be filled out online starting October 1, 2016. This is a big change from previous years. Some colleges require it to be completed by December 15 or earlier for scholarships. Please check college websites.

Knox High School will have its first informational FAFSA meeting Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 6:00 pm CDST in the high school cafeteria. Come learn about completing the FAFSA and filing options.

Students Should Always Remember Breakfast

Benefits of Eating Breakfast: According to WebMd, Wayne Campbell, PhD, a researcher at Purdue University states that "Protein blunts your hunger the most, and is the most satiating". Reduce your kids' hunger with powerful protein. Children who eat breakfast also behave better in school. Those who eat a school breakfast tend to have fewer absences and incidents of tardiness than those who do not. Eating breakfast as a child increases likelihood of developing healthier habits later in life.

Life Skills Color Run

The Life Skills class is sponsoring a color run on Saturday, October 8th. Check in time is 7am. Early registration, until September 23rd, is \$35. Late registration is \$40.00. Participants will receive a color packet, race bib, and a color run T-shirt.

Homecoming

Knox High will have homecoming activities the week of September 19th. The Ironman competition will be held on Monday, September 19th at 7pm in the high school. Powderpuff will be played on Community Field on Wednesday, September 21st at 6:30pm. Admission for these is \$3. Lip Sync Battle will be Thursday, September 22nd during SRT. Admission will be \$1. Homecoming Parade and Pep Session will be Friday, September 23rd, starting from downtown at 1:10. Knox will host Culver for the football game on Friday, game time is 6:30. Crowning of the homecoming queen will be at halftime. There will be a dance after the football game, admission is \$5.

Upcoming Events

- College Go! Week is September 26-30, 2016. Students can search for colleges at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?s=IN&l=3+5&ct=1> **Seniors** will be asked to examine colleges and start completing applications. Many Indiana colleges are having free applications during this week or the month of September or when applying on online. Check out the College Go website: <http://www.in.gov/collegegoweek/index.htm> **Juniors** will be asked to set up a college visit for some time later in the year. Sophomores and juniors will get information on the PSAT they will be taking November 2nd, 2016. The State of Indiana uses this test for career and college readiness assessment. All grades will update their graduation plan. On Wednesday, September 28th, career and college representatives will be at Knox High School 10:50 and 1:00 in the cafeteria.
- The Redskin Brigade will participate in the following contests this fall: September 10 @ Goshen, September 17 @ Concord, September 24 @ Penn, and October 10 @ regionals at Chesterton. The times will be announced later.
- Picture retakes are scheduled for Wednesday, September 28th.
- FAFSA for college financial aid opens up Oct. 1st.
- The SAT's will be given at Knox on Saturday, October 1st, 2016
- A choir concert is Tuesday, October 4th in the high school auditorium at 7:00.
- The end of the 1st nine-week grading period is October 7, 2016.
- Filing the FAFSA meeting Oct. 12, 6:00 pm at the high school cafeteria.
- Senior night for fall sports will be October 14, 2016, the night of the Caston football game.
- Check out the Indiana College Costs Estimator at www.indianacollegecosts.org. This website has valuable information on calculating Expected Family Contribution (EFC), college profiles with costs, and much more for parents and all students.
- Learn More Indiana website: <http://www.in.gov/learnmoreindiana/> is a free website on preparing, planning and going to college for all students and parents.
- 21st Century students and families check out the 21st Century Scholars website: <http://www.in.gov/ssaci/2554.htm>

You, the parent, make the critical difference between Knox High School being a good school and Knox High School being a great school. It seems to me that a simple thank you is never enough for all the energy you have put forth for our students and school community; however, I offer heartfelt thanks from all of us at Knox High School. School staff look forward to visiting with you at the many events being held at the school.