



# Northridge Newsletter

## Northridge High School

January 2012 Newsletter

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

This semester we're working hard to increase our parent attendance at Parent-Teacher Conferences. In order to do so, we've scheduled two conference days at two locations.

The first Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 until 8:00 p.m. at Northridge High School.

The second Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 until 8:00 p.m. at Billie Martinez Elementary School (341 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Greeley, Colorado 80631).

To help facilitate your meeting with teachers, here are some good questions to ask:

- How well does my child get along with others?
- What are my child's best and worst subjects?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- Has my child missed any classes other than ones I contacted the school about?
- Have you noticed any sudden changes in the way my child acts? For example, have you noticed any squinting, tiredness or moodiness that might be a sign of physical or other problems?
- What kinds of tests are being done? What do the tests tell about my child's progress?
- How does my child handle taking tests?

It's a good idea to ask your most important questions first, just in case time runs out before you and the teacher have a chance to discuss them all. Be sure to ask the teacher for specific suggestions on ways to help your child do better. This is the most important part of the meeting. It will become your action plan. If the teacher says something you don't quite understand, don't be shy about asking for an explanation. It's a good idea to end the conference by summing up decisions you've made together. If needed, ask to meet again.

### Honor Roll Assemblies

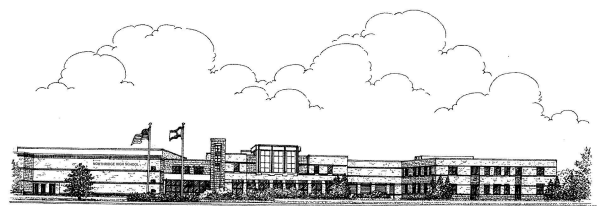
This semester we've made a change in how we'll recognize our students who have excelled academically in their classes by holding grade level Honor Roll Assemblies. These assemblies will be held in the Northridge Theater on the morning of Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and we strongly encourage parents to help us recognize our students.

During the Honor Roll Assemblies, we'll recognize students in three categories based on the student's fall semester grade point average (GPA):

Honors	3.0 – 3.49 GPA
High Honors	3.5 – 3.99 GPA
Highest Honors	4.0+ GPA

The grade level Assemblies will be held at:

Freshmen	8:20 a.m.
Sophomores	9:00 a.m.
Juniors	9:40 a.m.
Seniors	10:20 a.m.



### Northridge PTSO and Booster's Meeting

Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Northridge Library.

The Booster's Meeting will follow the PTSO meeting at 7:00 pm in the Northridge Library.

Both the PTSO and Booster's Meeting provide parents with an opportunity to ask questions, learn about school initiatives, and get involved in our great school. It is also a fantastic place to network with other Northridge parents.

If you have questions, please contact Office Manager Cindy York at 970-348-5202.

### **Northridge Norms**

At Northridge High School we have adopted ways to teach behavior, to set expectations and to acknowledge good behavior. In the fall we developed a set of expectations for the classrooms that will help our students be successful, as well as establish a safe and orderly environment. A sampling of these expectations for the classroom include:

- Keep electronic devices silenced and put away in classrooms
- Use appropriate language at all times
- Be on time and be prepared for all classes
- Show respect for self, property, others, and learning
- Maximize instructional time
- Keep food and drink out of the classroom
- Adhere to the Dress Code

Throughout the rest of the school year, teachers and administrators will acknowledge students for good behavior. The idea is to catch students being good. When a student is "caught" being respectful, responsible or demonstrating achievement they may receive a small token of appreciation.

### **Students of the Month**

This semester we will begin recognizing two outstanding students at Northridge each month for their academic success, their involvement in after school athletics or activities, and their contribution to the community. Each month the Greeley Tribune will highlight these outstanding students with their picture and information.



### **Student Parking**

During the spring semester, we typically see an increase in the number of students driving to school, especially as sophomores turn 16 and earn their driver's license. In order to provide a safe area for students to park, we ask for you to review the following information.

All students' vehicles that are parked in any of the lots must be registered with the main office, and a current parking permit must be clearly displayed.

The parking permit allows the holder to park one vehicle in a designated parking spot in a parking area between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on school days during the school year.

### **Parking Regulations**

- The speed limit in the lot is 5 MPH. Moving violations on school grounds may result in a citation from the Greeley Police Department, disciplinary action by the school, and /or revocation of the parking permit.
- Students caught driving without regard for the rules will lose their parking privileges. If a student loses their parking privileges they will not be refunded any monies.
- Students who continue to violate parking rules may have fines assessed, disciplinary action taken by the school, and/or have their vehicle booted or towed.
- The Northridge administration reserves the right to inspect any vehicle driven onto school grounds.
- Any student caught giving, selling, or lending their permit to another student will result in the loss of parking

privileges for all parties involved.

- Northridge High School and the Greeley School District assume no liability for fire, theft, damage to, loss of the vehicle, or any article left therein.
- Beware: The permit holder is parking at his/her own risk. Northridge High School cannot be responsible for any damage or theft to any vehicle parked on the school grounds.

### **College Financial Aid**

For 2009-2010, the average cost for one year at a public four-year college (tuition, fees, books, room and board, personal expenses, etc.) was approximately \$18,000. The average cost for one year at a private four-year college was over \$35,000.

As a rule, public colleges are larger and less expensive than private colleges. Students who attend a public college in a different state must usually pay the more expensive out-of-state tuition.

Financial aid is money that is given, earned, or lent to help students pay for their education. Financial aid often makes it possible for students to attend colleges that would otherwise be too expensive.

Four categories of financial aid are grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study. Grants and scholarships are considered “free money.” Loans and work-study are considered “self-help” programs.

- Grant – money given, usually because of financial need
- Scholarship – money awarded for exceptional academic achievement, outstanding talent, and/or financial need
- Loan – borrowed money that must be repaid
- Work-Study – money earned by working at a part-time job

Financial aid is most often awarded in the form of a “package.” Packages, consisting of grants, scholarships, loans, and/or work-study, are put together by the college’s financial aid office.

Except for merit-based scholarships, financial aid is generally awarded on the basis of financial need. Financial need is the difference between the cost of attending a college and the amount a family can afford. For example, if a family can afford \$4,000 and the cost of attending a college is \$15,000, the student has a financial need of \$11,000. The greater the difference, the greater the need, and the more aid the student is eligible to receive.

While the whole financial aid process can be very confusing, help is available. Our high school counselors can answer questions, and college financial aid offices have counselors available to assist students and parents. There’s also a great deal of information on the Internet.

Source: Preparing for College, Woodburn Press

