

# Redfield Junior/High School

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## JUNIOR CONFERENCES

Junior Conferences will be held during third quarter, January 4<sup>th</sup>-March 4<sup>th</sup>.

All juniors must see me for their conference by Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, in order to have senior privileges right away next year. During these conferences I will do a credit check with the student, go over what courses they need to take for graduation and future study. We will discuss their future plans for after high school, whether it be attending a technical school or university, going into the world of work, or going into the military. This is a great opportunity for me to sit down with each junior one on one and answer any questions they may have for future planning.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors need to be sure to check out the Scholarship list I have posted under the "Guidance" tab on the Redfield School District Homepage. Second semester the scholarships will definitely pick up, with February, March and April being the BIG months for a lot of scholarship deadlines. I will email the seniors weekly reminding them of what scholarships are due that week and the following week; this information will also be posted in the announcements.

Please contact me if there are ever any questions regarding an application posted on the site.

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## Upcoming Events

### January 4

Junior Conferences Begin

### January 8

Registration deadline for February ACT

ASVAB Exam for ALL Juniors

### January 20

8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to tour Northern State University & Presentation College

### February 2

NCRC for Second Semester Employability Juniors

### February 3

NCRC for ALL Seniors

### February 6

National ACT Exam Date

### February 15

Financial Aid Night @ 7pm in Room 214

### March 4

Registration deadline for April ACT

***\*\*Juniors looking to attend a 4 year college should plan to take the ACT on this date\*\****

Junior Conference Deadline

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## Important Announcement

[To replace a photo with your own, just right-click it and then choose Change Picture.]

## **FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION**

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, Seniors and their parents may begin filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA is the only way an eligible student is able to receive federal financial aid. Please be aware of scammers; you will never have to pay to file the FAFSA.

- To file the FAFSA visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The FAFSA form will ask for your 2015 tax information, however you can fill out the FAFSA without having filed your taxes for 2015, you will just have to go in and put the updated information in once your taxes are filed. We encourage you to file the FAFSA as soon as possible, as many colleges have priority deadlines as early as March 1<sup>st</sup>. In order for your student to get the best financial aid package possible, you will want to make sure the FAFSA is filed by the college's priority deadline.
- Helpful Info:
  - Students will want to be sure to put the college(s) they have applied to on their FAFSA form so they will receive an award letter from those schools. Sometimes financial aid plays a factor in deciding where a student will attend, so that is why you want to make sure all of your schools you applied to are on your FAFSA.
- **Redfield High School will host a Financial Aid Night on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm in room 214.** We will have a guest speaker coming in to discuss the components of the FAFSA, the changes that are coming in regards to the FAFSA, and answer any questions you may have regarding the process. I strongly encourage ALL seniors and their parents to attend.



### **Congratulations!**

**These Seniors have "Signed the Wall" and committed to college! 😊**

**Damon Becker:** South Dakota State University – Animal Science

**Baylee Blake:** South Dakota State University – Agronomy

**Kris Blume:** Lake Area Technical Institute - Agriculture

**Shalyn Carr:** Lake Area Technical Institute – Human Services Technician

**Kate Gillette:** South Dakota State University

**Emily Harr:** Augustana University

**Dalton Jessen:** Mitchell Technical Institute - HVAC

**Collin Klebsch:** Lake Area Technical Institute - Agriculture

**Brooklyn Rohlf:** South Dakota State University

**Chantel Wobbema:** Front Range Community College - Nursing

**Brady Zens:** Minnesota West Technical & Community College – Agriculture

## **SDMyLife PARENT PORTAL**

Students across South Dakota have access to the SDMyLife Portfolio tool. The SDMyLife Portfolio is designed to help students bring together their academic achievements, extracurricular experiences, and career and education exploration activities. This enables the student, parents or guardians, teachers, and counselors to work together to develop a course of study that meets the student's needs and goals.

***The SDMyLife Portfolio Tool allows students to:***



- Record their career, education, and life goals
- Bookmark careers and schools that are of interest to them and include their thoughts about each
- Explore South Dakota's 16 Career Clusters and track the clusters that interest them
- Store their results from standardized tests and assessments, including the Career Matchmaker interest inventory and the Ability Profiler
- Keep track of their career and educational exploration activities
- Record their extracurricular activities, hobbies, and interests
- Document their community services and work experience
- Develop their Personal Learning Plan, including their four-year My Secondary Education Plan
- List awards, certificates, and recognitions they have received
- Upload related files, such as essays, scanned artwork, and letters of reference
- Create personalized, professional-looking resumes

***The Parent/Guardian Portfolio Tool allows you to:***

- View the work your child has entered in his or her SDMyLife Portfolio
- Learn more about the careers and schools that are of interest to your child
- Record your thoughts and comments about your child's success plan

If you would like to access your SDMyLife Parent Access Code to be able to log in and see what your student has entered in to SDMyLife, please email me at [Shannon.Knuppe@k12.sd.us](mailto:Shannon.Knuppe@k12.sd.us) and I will get that out to you.

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PERSONAL LEARNING PLANS**

All of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be completing their Personal Learning Plans on their SDMyLife accounts during third quarter. The Personal Learning Plan is the student's 4 year plan for completing high school courses and graduation requirements. We will refer back to this plan each year during course registration time.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE LEARNING STYLES**

All of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade student completed a Learning Styles Inventory on SDMyLife. This was a series of questions to help them find out how they learn and retain information. Their results not only told them what type of learner they are, visual, auditory, tactile, or a combination, it also gave each student tips on how to improve their study habits to better suit their learning style.

## **10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ABILITY PROFILER**

All 10<sup>th</sup> grade students completed the Ability Profiler on SDMyLife. This was a series of six small assessments that measured the student's abilities in areas that, regardless of what career field they may be looking at, there needs to be some sort of skill set in these areas. From the student's results, they are able to see where their abilities line up compared to others who took the Ability Profiler, but most important, where their abilities lie in regards to people who work in the career of their interest. This is great information for students to have as they head into their Employability class next year, where they will do some job shadowing. Students can see where their strengths and weaknesses may lie in regards to the ability level needed for that particular career.

***\*\*Again, if you would like access to see what your student has put in their SDMyLife account, please email me for your Parent Access Code.\*\****



Above is a picture of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class at Mitchell Technical Institute. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, we were fortunate to be able to take the whole class for a tour of the campus and the programs MTI has to offer. It was a great experience and exposure for our students.



Above is a picture of some of our Freshman class at Augustana University. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, we took the Freshman to tour Southeast Technical Institute and Augustana University in Sioux Falls. It was again, another great experience for our kids.

## **GREAT LAKES COMES TO REDFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**

Jennie Thompson with Great Lakes Higher Education will be coming to present to the Freshman class on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The title of her presentation was "Dreaming Big – How College Can Shape Your Future."

"Any education beyond high school, whether it's a program certificate, Associate's Degree, or Bachelor's Degree, can improve a student's life: from job prospects to earning potential. The key to getting students to go to college is planting the seed early. This workshop helped students see the need and understand the benefits of college, as well as how to overcome the barriers to getting there." (Information taken from College Access Advising 2015-2016 Program Guide)



Jennie will also be our presenter for our Financial Aid Night on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. All seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend.

Jennie will return to present to our Seniors, Sophomores and Juniors in April.

## **ASVAB EXAM**

All Juniors will take the ASVAB exam on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities. This assessment not only helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military, but it will also do the same for non-military careers. We will bring in a guest speaker at a later date to do an ASVAB interp with the Juniors, where they will go over their scores and get them connected with the online career search tool that they will now all have an account with. This assessment is administered annually to more than one million military applicants, high school, and post-secondary students.



This exam can also give students an idea on how they may perform on the ACT exam. Their ASVAB AFQT score will give them a prediction range for an ACT composite score.

## **NCRC Exam**

The Juniors who are in Employability second semester will take the National Career Readiness Certificate on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, and all the Seniors will take the exam on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The first semester Employability Juniors took the exam in October.



The ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (ACT NCRC) is an assessment-based credential powered by ACT WorkKeys®. Issued at four levels, the ACT NCRC measures and certifies the essential work skills needed for success in jobs across industries and occupations.

The ACT NCRC is widely used by employers, educators, workforce developers, and others with a stake in the success of the economy. More than 2.8 million ACT NCRCs have been issued nationwide since the credential was introduced in 2006.

The ACT NCRC is based on ACT WorkKeys research-based work skills assessments. To earn an ACT NCRC, an examinee must successfully complete three ACT WorkKeys assessments: Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information. These assessments measure a range of essential work skills, including the ability to:

- Perform basic mathematic operations relevant to the workplace
- Read and understand documents commonly found in the workplace
- Find information presented in common workplace graphics
- Set up and solve complex work-related math problems
- Determine the relevance of written information to work-related tasks
- Apply information derived from graphics to work-related problems

### **Four levels of proficiency**

The ACT NCRC is awarded at four levels, based on the scores achieved on the component assessments.

- Platinum: Scores of Level 6 or higher on all three exams
- Gold: Scores of Level 5 or higher on all three exams
- Silver: Scores of Level 4 or higher on all three exams
- Bronze: Scores of Level 3 or higher on all three exams

Information taken from <https://www.act.org/certificate/>



# Pay Attention to Attendance: Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### **Make school attendance a priority**

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

## Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

## Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.

Information taken from [http://www.attendanceworks.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/AW\\_HS-flyer\\_3-15-12.pdf](http://www.attendanceworks.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/AW_HS-flyer_3-15-12.pdf)

