

# CHARITON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Volume 10, Issue 4

November 2007

## Superintendent's Message

By Paula Wright

Greetings:

The first quarter of the 2007-2008 school year has been exciting and eventful. I am proud of the teachers, students, parents, and community members for working together to make Chariton Schools a great place to learn.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on October 29 and November 1. Conferences are an important opportunity for parents and teachers to clarify expectations and 'get on the same page' for the rest of the semester and school year. You may think that by the end of the first nine weeks, it's too late to make a difference. Your child's education is a team effort and after your child, you are the most important member of the team. Don't let your child's educational team down! Your child still has the second nine weeks to improve their performance in the classroom. At Chariton Middle School conferences are student-led and this is a great opportunity for you to listen as your child shares about his/her experiences. **Classes will be dismissed two hours early on Monday, October 29, and Thursday, November 1, so teachers can prepare for the conferences. There will be no school on Friday, November 2. Parent-teacher conferences both days will be held from 3:30 to 7:30 PM.** Please call your child's attendance center to schedule a conference time. Our goal is 100% participation!

A community group called "Rebuild the Future" has been working on presenting a bond issue to the public for a vote on December 4, 2007. The referendum includes a new addition and renovation project at the current high school facility. The \$9.7 million bond issue would include the following building improvements:

- A 12,000 square foot addition will be constructed to the south of the high school
- Music program spaces will be increased
- Additional academic classrooms will be added
- The kitchen and cafeteria spaces will be upgraded and enlarged
- Two elevators will be installed
- A new computer lab will be added
- Interior walls will be moved between existing classrooms to increase classroom space
- Science labs will be updated and improved
- Counseling and administrative spaces will be expanded and improved
- New energy efficient windows and frames will be installed in the 1923 building
- A new heating, ventilation and temperature control system will be installed
- The electrical system will be upgraded and improved
- An internal communications system will be installed
- Student safety and security issues will be addressed
- A new classroom lighting system will be installed

Members of the "Rebuild the Future" committee would be available to speak to individuals or groups regarding the project. Please feel free to contact either Jim Moore or Vern Vogel, committee co-chairs, or my office at (641) 774-5967. Please exercise your right to vote on December 4.

The month of November seems to slip by with all of our activities and before you know it the Thanksgiving holiday will be upon us. The district will be dismissing school 2 hours early on Wednesday, November 21 and school will not be in session on Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23. Enjoy your Thanksgiving break!

On Friday, students are involved in Sustained Silent Reading (SSR). They choose reading material they love to read and spend time reading for pleasure. It is one of our favorite times of our reading experience.

Yours in education,  
Marcia Fenton

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

Students in 7th grade math are sharpening their thinking skills by completing daily mental math problems at the beginning of class. They recently have used all of the math operations to solve problems dealing with decimal numbers. The next chapter will cover data and statistics. Please have your child bring a carton of Play-doh to use in an activity that compares the steps used in the writing process to the steps used in solving story problems in math. We will use the Play-doh during the last week of October. Thank You. Dawn Beaty

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

In language arts classes, seventh graders have been working on spelling Review Words. These are words that seventh graders have learned in the past but tend to misspell on written work. When the eight Review Words lists are completed, we will move on to the words in our text-based spelling program. Students receive a spelling list and assignment each Monday, and they are tested on the words each Friday.

On Mondays students copy a conjugation chart to study and learn an irregular verb. We work on past and past participle tenses. So far we have covered five verbs which are frequently used incorrectly by seventh graders. Parents are encouraged to ask their students about the weekly verb. Conjugation tests are on Thursdays.

Students have been listening to and reading free verse and comparing free verse and form poetry. We have discussed literal and figurative language and students will soon be exploring metaphors, similes, and personification. The culmination of this unit will be composition of free verse which will be published in a class book.

### NEWS FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:

Eighth grade students have been looking to their futures in the month of October by studying vocations of interest to them, as well as interacting with community professionals. They have explored their job aptitude and interests, selected and researched a chosen career, and created a power point presentation of information detailing their findings. Speakers came to CMS on October 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss a variety of local occupations.

### BAND NOTES:

Congratulations to Rachele Ruepke, Rachel Longley, Kelli Lahart and Raven Terrell for being accepted in to the South Central Iowa Bandmasters Association Honor Band. They will be presenting a concert in Pella on November 6th with 300 other band students from central and southern Iowa.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YEAR BOOK INFORMATION

The Middle School has 2006-2007 yearbooks for sale at twenty dollars. If you haven't purchased one yet, please contact Mr. Ortiz or the Middle School office and pick up your copy.

Students will be filling out order forms for the 2007-2008 yearbook soon. Students will fill out the order, and then the guardians/parents will be contacted by Jostens for payment. No money will need to be sent to the school. It is important that students who want a year book fill out the order form. If parents misplace the order form, they can get on online at Jostens.com and go to yearbook and follow the prompts. We have eliminated a lot of problems with this system and it is very easy for parents to send payment to Jostens.



In honor of  
Veteran's Day  
Van Allen Fifth Grade Classes  
present  
Blue and Red and White  
Songs of our country and of our flag!

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Tuesday, November 13, 2007  
7:00 pm  
Johnson Foundation Auditorium

# CHARITON HIGH SCHOOL

501 N GRAND  
CHARITON, IA 50049  
PH. 641-774-5066

KEVIN SENEY  
H.S. PRINCIPAL

MARK OLMSTEAD  
ASS'T PRINCIPAL  
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

SUE CURNUTTE  
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

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## WHAT CAN I (the parent) DO?

Let's make a few things clear first: Parents want what's best for their kids. They want them to have access to the best education, to be active in their school, to go to a good college or find a satisfying career. Moreover, parents want their kids to be able to accomplish more than they did. I don't think anyone can argue against these statements. Recently, we've had some concerns with the growing number of low grades at the high school level. Understandably so. We, as a school, are concerned as well. Our job, our motto, our creed is spelled out in our mission statement as a district which is, "To Prepare Productive, Life-Long Learners By Providing Challenging And Relevant Learning Opportunities In A Safe Learning Environment". Without lowering our expectations, we are providing just that – challenging and relevant learning opportunities. When we began to look at the reasons for the number of low grades at the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Midterm, we found the following numbers to explain why students were not earning passing grades:

Poor Quality of Work: 6%  
Poor Test/Quiz Scores: 12%  
Specific Skill Deficits: 2%  
Poor Attendance: 33%  
Missing Assignments: 38%  
Disruptive/Inattentive Behavior: 9%

Our Building Leadership Team has discussed some options to help resolve the issue. We've talked about an after school tutoring program, structured study halls, etc. to help students get back on track academically. However, by addressing the academic needs in programs such as these, we'd be targeting about 20% of the students that are currently earning failing grades in their classes. The other 80% of our students are earning sub-standard grades due to behavioral issues. After having many conversations with parents regarding their students' grades, the one question that we hear more and more is, "What can I do?". In response, let us offer these suggestions if you are a parent who is vexed by your student's grades:

- 1) *Insist on daily attendance:* When students miss school, they miss lectures, notes class discussions, assignments, quizzes, and tests. It doesn't matter how conscientious students are about making up their work, they can never make up all of what they miss even when they're absent for only a day or two.
- 2) *See all midterm reports and report cards:* In addition to report cards, which are given out at midterm and at the end of each quarter and semester, your student's grades are online at the Chariton Community School District Webpage, under JMC High School. If you need a password, please call the CHS Office and we'll get that information to you to keep yourself current on your student's grades.
- 3) *Deal effectively with homework:* If your student is not doing their homework, first, talk to your child to make sure that the homework isn't too difficult or that there isn't some other problem with the class. You and your student can come up with a plan in which the completion of the homework is the student's responsibility, however, the onus of the plan has to be put on the student. Communicating with your student's teacher is an excellent idea to ensure that their work is getting done with quality and in a timely manner.

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**CHARGER COUNTRY – SUCCESSFUL LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS**

# November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2-Hr Early Dismissal Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30—7:30 pm	2 No School	3
4	5 Quarter Final Round FB Playoffs—TBA Girls Basketball Practice Begins	6 Quarter Final Round FB Playoffs—TBA	7 Girls State VB Tournament TBA	8 Girls State VB Tournament TBA	9 Semi-Final Round FB Playoffs TBA Girls State VB Tournament TBA HS Musical 7:30 pm Johnson Auditorium	10 Semi-Final Round FB Playoffs TBA Girls State VB Tournament TBA HS Musical 7:30 pm Johnson Auditorium
11 HS Musical 2 pm Johnson Auditorium	12 Semi-Final Round FB Playoffs TBA Boys Winter Sports Practices Begin School Board Meeting 6:30	13 Lady Charger Jamboree 6:15 5th Grade Music Program 7pm Picture Retakes	14 Financial Aid Night Johnson Auditorium 7pm	15 6-8 Grade Band Concert 7 pm Johnson Auditorium All-State Music Festival	16 All-State Music Festival FB Playoffs - Finals TBA	17 2nd Annual Chariton Quiz Bowl 9:00 am All-State Music Festival FB Playoffs - Finals TBA
18	19 7th GBB w/ Knoxville 4:15	20 8th GBB w/ Centerville 4:15 7th GBB @ Centerville 4:15 (2:45) Var BBB @ Carlisle 6:15 (4:15)	21 2-Hr Early Dismissal	22 No School Thanksgiving/Fall Break	23 No School Thanksgiving/Fall Break	24
25	26 8th GBB w/ Knoxville 4:15	27 7th BBB @ Knoxville 4:15 (3:10) G/B Var BB @ Truro 6:15 (4:30) 7/8th Wrestling @ Pella 4:15 (2:50)	28	29 8th GBB w/ Clarke 4:15 (3:10) 8th BBB @ Clarke 4:15 (3:10) G/B BB @ Pleasantville 6:15 (4:45) 7/8th Wrestling @ Winterset 4:15 (2:15)	30 JV Wrestling @ BGM (Brooklyn) 6:00 (2:30)	

# YEARBOOK

## CHARITON HIGH SCHOOL CHARGER YEARBOOK

501 North Grand  
Chariton, Iowa 50049  
641-774-5066 ext 237  
basingere@aea15.k12.ia.us

### It's amazing how quickly they grow up...

The Charger Yearbook staff at Chariton High School is now accepting orders for personal ads in the 2008 yearbook, so it's time to choose photos and start working on your message of congratulations, pride and love.

### Sharing your pride is easy:

1. Decide which size ad and which design you want.
2. Collect the photos you want to use and compose the message to fit the ad space.
3. Read all instructions for ad submission.
4. Complete the Ad Order Form; send it in with payment, photos and your message.
5. If you would like help designing your ad, choosing copy or photos, our staff will be available from 4-8 pm Monday, March 17th through Thursday, March 20th in room 223 of the high school to provide any assistance you might need.

The deadline for receipt of completed ad materials is May 2, 2008, but the Charger Yearbook staff cannot guarantee that space will be available until that date. Ads will be accepted in the order in which they are received. Ad materials received after the pages are filled or after the due date will be returned immediately.

The yearbook staff is pleased to offer you this opportunity to honor your student and to support the 2008 Charger yearbook.

See page 8

# November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
LUNCH MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE		All lunches served with 1/2 pint of milk.		<u>French Toast</u> Cold Cut Sandwich Chips Carrot Sticks Orange	2 NO SCHOOL	3
4	5 <u>Cereal</u> Chicken Nugget Seasoned Rice California Vegetable Peaches	6 <u>Egg &amp; Biscuit</u> Chili & Crackers Cheese Stick Mixed Fruit Cinnamon Roll	7 <u>Breakfast Bar</u> Rib Sandwich Potato Wedges Peas Pears	8 <u>Pancake</u> Sloppy Joe French Fries Pineapple	9 <u>Cereal</u> Pizza Garden Salad Peaches	10
11	12 <u>Cereal</u> Hamburger Pickle Slices French Fries Mixed Fruit	13 <u>Biscuit &amp; Gravy</u> Chicken Noodle Soup Cheese Sandwich Carrot Stick Pears	14 <u>French Toast</u> Lasagna Green Beans Garlic Bread Mandarin Oranges	15 <u>Egg &amp; Biscuit</u> BBQ Pork Sandwich Potato Wedges Peas Pineapple	16 <u>Cereal</u> Taco Salad Boat Salad Dressing Mexican Rice Peaches	17
18	19 <u>Cereal</u> Chili & Crackers P. B. Sandwich Peas Cake	20 <u>Waffle</u> Hot Dog Corn Peaches Pudding	21 <u>Cereal</u> Turkey Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Bread & Butter	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24
25	26 <u>Cereal</u> Corn Dog French Fries Corn Peas	27 <u>Sausage &amp; Biscuit</u> Spaghetti Wheat Breadstick Green Beans Mixed Fruit	28 <u>Cereal</u> Chicken Sandwich Tater Tots Corn Mixed Fruit	29 <u>Egg &amp; Cheese Biscuit</u> BBQ Drumsticks Mashed Potatoes Gravy Bread & Butter Peaches	30 <u>French Toast</u> Cold Cut Sandwich Sun Chips Carrot Sticks & Ranch Dip Applesauce	

2007

Breakfast is served at each building. Milk & fruit or juice is served with breakfast. M.S. & H.S. also have a salad bar daily.