

THORNAPPLE KELLOGG HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER SPECIAL EDITION

8th Grade Orientation

EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS' AND PARENTS' ORIENTATION NIGHT

Monday, March 21, 2011
7:00 - 8:45 p.m.

The staff of Thornapple Kellogg High School will be presenting "*EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS' AND PARENTS' ORIENTATION NIGHT*" for all interested parents and eighth grade students. This orientation will be on *Monday, March 21, 2011*, beginning in the high school auditorium at 7:00 p.m. The main objective of this "special initiation" is to assist students and parents with the transition from the middle school to the high school. The agenda of the evening will offer the opportunity to meet the principal and staff members, to obtain pertinent information concerning the curriculum, to ask questions, to tour designated areas of the high school, and to assist students with the registering of next year's classes at the middle school on March 24.

The scheduled itinerary will include the following:

- 7:00 - 7:05 p.m. Welcome of eighth grade students and their parents by Mr. Koski, *Principal*
7:05 - 7:15 p.m. Mr. Balding, *Athletic Director/Assistant Principal*
7:15 - 7:20 p.m. Curriculum guide/graduation requirements/online scheduling, Mr. Guikema and Mrs. Iveson, *Counselors*
7:20 - 7:25 p.m. *Trimester Schedule*, Mr. Rickert
7:25 - 7:30 p.m. *Science*, Mrs. Replogle
7:30 - 7:35 p.m. *Math*, Mrs. von der Hoff
7:35 - 7:40 p.m. *English*, Mrs. Rickert
7:40 - 7:45 p.m. *Social Studies*, Mr. McCrumb
7:45 p.m. Parents and students will be divided into four groups and then will rotate in order to hear four twelve-minute presentations from the other high school departments.

AUDITORIUM

- Physical Education/Health . . . **Mrs. Fischer**
Question and answer period . . . **Mr. Koski, High School Counselors, Peer Listeners**

LIBRARY

- World Language . . . **Mr. Szczepanek**
Technology . . . **Mr. Meyers**

CAFETERIA

- Computer Science . . . **Mrs. von der Hoff**
Business Education and Technology . . . **Mr. Verlinde**

CHOIR ROOM

- Art . . . **Mrs. Maring**
Music . . . **Mr. Rickert**

A *Special Education* representative will be in the library.

ART

The *Thornapple Kellogg Art Department* provides students with a variety of art experiences to enhance their education. Each art course provides young artists the opportunity to explore art history and appreciation while creating individual works of art. General Art provides the basis for designing and communicating in the language of art. After completing General Art, students may choose from a variety of courses such as: Drawing and Painting, Drawing and Printmaking, Fiber Arts, Sculpture, Ceramics, Photography and Design, Graphic Design, Advanced Painting, and Advanced Art and Portfolio. The annual *Curriculum Guide* provides more detailed information on class offerings.

BUSINESS EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

All freshmen are required to take the Career Exploration and Computing Skills class. In this class students will learn the skills and behaviors that are necessary to live, plan, and work successfully in today's society. Students will have an opportunity to explore their career interests and research careers. Students will also learn and practice employability skills including goal setting, writing, listening, teamwork, problem solving and interpreting data. In addition, students will update their computing skills by learning and utilizing practical word processing and spreadsheet application concepts. This course satisfies the online learning component graduation requirement.

The Business Education and Technology program begins for freshmen with numerous business and computer classes to choose from. The computer courses include Computing Skills for the 21st Century, Computers for Business I and II, Business Office Skills I and II, Desktop Publishing, Graphic Design, Website Design, and Multi-Media. Business courses for freshmen include Accounting I and Marketing.

It is strongly recommended that seniors take *Personal Finance*.

Students will have the opportunity to earn Davenport University and Grand Rapids Community College credit for some of these courses.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science is an excellent elective for ninth grade students with good math skills who are interested in careers in science, computers, math, engineering or architecture. It is the study of computers and computing with an emphasis on algorithms and data structures and their applications. Students will begin applying these techniques by using the Visual Basic programming language for the first trimester and then Lego Mindstorm Robots during the second trimester. Students can possibly earn Davenport University credit and Grand Rapids Community College credit for the first trimester. Students who wish to continue their studies will be encouraged to take Advanced Placement Computer

Science where they will have the option of taking the AP Computer Science test to earn college credit at many colleges and universities.

ENGLISH

The *Thornapple Kellogg English Department* offers a number of classes for students to improve their skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, communicating and researching. Students will be able to enhance their literary awareness by reading some of the world's greatest literature and prepare for written and oral communication in college or in the work place. Course offerings include: English 9, Honors English 9, English 10, Honors English 10, English 11, College English, Novels and Writing for Seniors, Advanced Placement Literature and Advanced Placement Language and Composition. Electives offered include: Journalism-Newspaper I and II, Theater Arts I and II, Speech Communications I and II, Shakespeare, Creative Writing and Reading Lab. Four years of English are required for graduation from TKHS.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Two world languages, Spanish and French, are offered at Thornapple Kellogg High School. Students may enroll in either language in ninth grade. Two years of a language are highly recommended for students who are considering attending college. A student may take four years of Spanish and/or four years of French.

MATHEMATICS

The following mathematics courses will be available for incoming freshmen. Students who are in 8th *Grade Algebra* will take Algebra I next year. Geometry will be offered for those students who are doing well in *High School Algebra* as 8th grade students. Freshman students wishing to enroll in Honors Biology are strongly recommended to take Geometry concurrently. The *Mathematics Department* would like to welcome all incoming freshmen and wish them the best of luck.

MUSIC

The TKHS music program consists of five performing groups, three bands and two choirs. Approximately one-third of the student body participates in at least one performing ensemble with 160 in the bands and 110 in the choirs.

Band students at TKHS are divided into two groups: *Concert Band* and *Symphonic Band*. The Concert Band is open to any student who has completed a junior high instrumental program; all incoming freshmen are placed in Concert Band. The Symphonic Band is open to 10th - 12th grade students by audition. Instrumental students may also audition for jazz band. During the football season, the Concert and Symphonic Bands combine to form the Trojan Marching Band. The band has

performed in Toronto, Walt Disney World, Virginia Beach, WMU, VanderCook College, and BGSU.

Choir students are divided into two groups: *Concert Choir* and *Honors Choir*. Concert Choir is open to 9th - 12th grade students. The Honors Choir is open to 9th - 12th grade students, although it is rare that 9th grade students are accepted into Honors Choir. *Students may not enroll in either choir without an audition and/or permission from the instructor.* The TK choirs perform three concerts per year in addition to their performances for community groups.

The TK Jazz Band and Honors Choir have become very popular performance organizations and are continually sought after to perform at various events in and out of the community.

In addition to the performance classes, TK students may also choose to broaden their musical horizons through Music Appreciation (an exploration of music history) or AP Music Theory (an exploration of the construction of music). Any 10th - 12th grade student may sign up for Music Appreciation. Students who intend to sign up for Music Theory must first either take a placement test or receive permission from the instructor.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

The ninth grade Physical Education/Health class is designed to give each student a personal awareness of the value of developing and maintaining a level of physical fitness that will allow him/her to live a healthy, active life. This personal fitness level is reinforced through a variety of physical activities, involving both team and individual sports and fitness activities. In addition, students will spend two days a week in a classroom for Health. Units that will be covered include decision making and problem solving, nutrition, physical fitness, body systems, anti-tobacco, anti-alcohol and reproductive health over a two trimester period.

SCIENCE

The *Science Department* at Thornapple Kellogg High School has two different course offerings for freshmen. Most freshmen will take Science 9. This course introduces students to both Chemistry and Physics. It is a college preparatory class, and course themes directly correlate with the high school MME.

A limited number of freshmen are accelerated into the Honors Biology class. These students are selected based on teacher recommendation and standardized science test scores. These students generally have a strong interest in science and will be encouraged to take advanced placement science classes later in their high school career. Freshman students taking Honors Biology are strongly recommended to also be enrolled in Geometry.

After the freshman year, the *Science Department* offers a wide variety of courses for all students in the life sciences, chemistry, and physics.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The *Thornapple Kellogg High School Social Studies Department* is involved in teaching about our nation and the world from various historical, geographical, economical, sociological, psychological, legal, and political viewpoints.

All freshmen will be required to take *World Historical Geography*, and all sophomores will be required to take *U.S. History/Geography*. *Economics* is required for juniors. *Government* is required for seniors. The *Social Studies Department* is looking forward to meeting with eighth grade students and their parents to answer any questions concerning our school and/or the department.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The *Technology Department* is made up of four areas: Principles of Technology, Drafting, Woods, and Digital Media Production. Each of these areas has a class available at the freshman level and advanced classes for 10th - 12th grade students.

Technology Education provides hands-on experience from concept to final product. Technology Education will broaden students' opportunities by enriching problem solving, creative thinking and decision-making skills, and will provide a head start for those considering higher education in the technical professions.

The *Technology Department* is looking forward to preparing the students in the 21st century.

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FREE CLASS RING

A drawing will be held during the opening meeting for a free class ring for any eighth grade student who is represented by a parent or guardian at the *Eighth Grade Students' and Parents' Orientation Night, Monday, March 21, 2011*. The Jostens Ring Company representative, Mark Bussell, has been gracious enough to provide a ninety dollar certificate which will pay for the base cost of a ninth grade class ring. Mr. Koski and the TK staff hope to see you at the meeting.