

Clare Public Schools News Release

November 14, 2008

School Messenger System

The “**School Messenger**” automated call out system is now in place. The first test run, call out, was made a couple of weeks ago alerting parents of the system’s installation and its uses. A second call went out on Tuesday, November 11th reminding parents of the school district’s “*Parent/Teacher*” conferences. Please call the school district’s central office at 386-9945 if you have not received the messages. Please make sure that the building where your child(ren) attend school have correct and update phone number information.

School Safety

The high school’s surveillance cameras have now been installed and are operational. The school district’s administration will have the ability to record the activities occurring in the high school entry/lobby area, office area, and north/south hallway. An exterior camera was also installed to observe the south side high school entrance and immediate student parking area.

Strategic Plan Update

The school district currently has four goal areas out of the nine goals established through the school district’s strategic planning process that are still in the developmental stages. Those goal areas include;

1. Acceptance of Students-

The “*Acceptance of Students*” task force is and has been discussing the topics of a “*Teen Summit*” and the implementation of the “*Natural Helpers Program*” at the high school level. They have also been discussing the topic of “*bullying*”.

2. Business & Community Collaboration-

The “*Business & Community Collaboration*” task force has instituted a “*job shadowing*” program at the eighth grade level.

3. Student Achievement-

A task force committee has been initiated to discuss, to brainstorm, identify plans, programs, and/or strategies to prevent Clare Public Schools from falling behind, from failing, from possibly “*dropping out*”.

4. Home & School Relations-

The Clare Education Boosters were an outgrowth of the “*Home & School Relations*” task force. The Boosters continue to meet monthly to discuss and identify plans and programs to assist our district in meeting the unique and diverse academic needs of our students and their families.

CHS Veteran's Day Program

Many of our area veterans were once again honored at Clare High School on Tuesday, November 11th, through the second annual "*Veteran's Day Program.*" The program was instituted last year by Mr. Turner, our Clare High School Principal. Our area veterans were recognized and honored for their very special past and current contributions to our country. Music, video presentations, touching testimonials, and speeches made the program a huge success.

Clare Education Boosters

The Clare Education Boosters meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in Mr. Jason Koch's middle school classroom. Membership is open to those interested in supporting the school district's K-12 students and academic programs.

Board Policy 9300

School Board Policy 9300 dictates that smoking and/or the use of tobacco products is prohibited by any person in district buildings or on school district property at "all" times.

Athletics

Once again our high school fall athletic teams and coaches had a very successful season. The varsity football team captured the Jack Pine Conference and qualified for the playoffs. The varsity girl's volleyball team tied for second in the Jack Pine Conference and both our boy's and girl's cross country teams captured the Jack Pine Championship, with our girls also taking 12th in the state.

School Calendar of Events

- *Thanksgiving Break: November 27 & 28*
- *CHS Drama Production, "Radio Daze", Saturday, December 13th, 7:00 p.m. & Sunday, December 14th, at 2:00 p.m., in the CMS auditorium*
- *Christmas Break, December 22nd through January 2nd, 2009*
- *CHS art club hosts their annual art gallery on 11/30, 12/6 and 12/7 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm in the old Clare Sentinel building.*

Concluding Comments

For the past three decades, a great debate has swirled around everything that matters in our public schools—from what to teach and how to teach it, to how to measure/test whether students are learning what we want them to learn. Few other nations in the industrialized world have experienced anything comparable to our struggle over what constitutes good educational policy and in few other places has public education been under such fierce attack. Public education has been a lightning rod for those who worry about America's economic future, for those who are convinced America is in moral decline, and for those who see a growing number of people disengaging from American civic life.

Through these three decades of turmoil, 9 out of 10 parents have chosen to continue to send their children to the public school and this includes the vast majority of well-to-do parents that could afford to send their children to private schools.

Public schools, such as our school district, have improved and will continue to improve and retool to address the ever changing needs of our children. Our schools today are far more rigorous than they were in the 1970's and 80's. Academically much more is demanded of our students. Every student graduating from a Michigan High School will be required to accumulate the following credits to earn and receive their diploma.

(4) credits of math (*including Algebra II & Geometry*)

(4) credits of Language Arts

(3) credits of Science (*including biology, and chemistry or physics*)

(3) credits in the Social Sciences

(1) credit in Physical Education and Health

(1) credit in Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts

****All high school students must also participate in an on-line course or learning experience**

****Effective with the graduating class of 2016, (2) credits of a foreign/world language will also be required**

