

Inside this issue:

- 1 Facts, Figures & Thoughts
Updated calendar
- 2 Music Info
FBLA
Thanks for Your Support
Community Presentation
Thank You
- 3 Birthday Calendars
Powerlunch
- 4 Box Tops
Benefit Dinner
Congrats!

Updated events:

December	
1	Soup Supper for Mr. Glenn
3	DOSADA Ice Skating in Lincoln
13	7-12 Winter Concert
22	End of First Semester; Early dismissal- 11:00/11:15
23	Start of Winter break through January 5
January	
4	Teacher in-service
5	First day of 2 nd Semester
11	FFA Leadership
16	Pioneer Instrumental Music
24	Senior Parent's Night
28	MUDECAS Speech
30	Student Council Workshop
February	
1	State FFA Degree
6	FBLA Week
9	PTC 4:00-8:00
11	DOSADA Dance
17	No School, Teacher In-service
20	No school
22	Pioneer Speech
All dates and times subject to change	

G r i f f i n s

Striving for Successful 21st Century Learners

Facts, Figures, and Thoughts

Equalizing Election Wards

According to the 2010 census, the population of the Diller-Odell District is now 1,547. This is a decrease of approximately 9% since the district was formed in 2000. This change in population causes us to realign our board member election wards and affects persons in Section 33 of Glenwood Township (Lanham) in Gage County. This section will move to Ward 1 (west). This does not change the voting location, but the candidates on the ballot. The boundary between Ward 1 and Ward 2 is now a straight vertical line splitting Elm and Glenwood Townships equally.

District Data

District evaluation has grown from \$184,495,269 in 2007 to \$373,827,254 in 2011. A large portion of this change is the increase in agriculture land value, which many of you realize first hand. What you may not know is the addition of centrally accessed pipeline property in the amount of \$93,194,129 during this time span. 26.8% of our total district evaluation comes from pipeline infrastructure within our district boundary.

Our mil levy for the 2007-08 school year was 1.223983 as the district collected \$2,337,001 from local property taxes. Currently our mil levy is 0.780305 and we collect \$2,936,788 in local property taxes. State equalization aid has dropped from \$203,021 in 2007 to \$0 since 2010; in state aid terms we are a non-equalized school district.

Student enrollment five years ago was 237. Currently we have 267 students, 25 students in preschool, 126 students in the elementary, and 116 students in the secondary. Obviously the creation of the preschool accounts for most of the increase, but we have remained near 270 for three years now, reversing the trend from 2002-2008.

For more current District information I encourage you to visit <http://www.education.ne.gov/> and navigate to the State of the Schools Report section. Prior years' data is also available from this website.

Emergency Notifications

The school will continue to use Channel 10, Channel 8, and Channel 4 as well as radio stations KWBE, KUTT, and KNDY for school closing information. In addition we will use an information system from AlertNow. This system can place a phone call, email, and/or text message to parents and employees with notifications of school and event changes between 5:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M. We will be testing the system soon in preparation for the upcoming winter season. Correct notification depends on current parent/staff phone numbers and email addresses in PowerSchool. Please inform the office of any directory information changes and we would appreciate constructive feedback as we grow the use of the system.

Music Info

The Junior High and High School Holiday program is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13th. Start time is 7:00 p.m. Students are to be here by 6:40. They are to wear their best clothes except for high school band, which will be in uniform.

Don't forget the band students will be selling Deli items in January!!!!

Birthday Calendars

Birthday calendars will be on sale the middle of December. Since there are color pictures, the price will be \$3.00.

Please ask a second grader for a calendar. You may also get calendars at the State Bank of Odell in Diller or Odell, the Diller Telephone Office, the Odell Market, C & C Market, either school office or from Mrs. Hemphill.



FBLA

The Diller-Odell FBLA will hold their annual Christmas party on Tuesday, November 29th, at 6:15 p.m. at the home of Kyle Stohs. All FBLA members are invited to attend the dinner and bring a covered dish.

February 6-10, 2012 is FBLA week. Members will participate in numerous activities throughout the week including Dress For Success and Secret Valentine.

Faculty and Staff are invited to attend the annual St. Patty's Day Breakfast on March 16, at 7:30 a.m. in the school library. FBLA prepares and serves breakfast as an appreciation to all staff members for all they do.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The book fair was held in the elementary library the week of November 14 - 18. It coincided with the elementary music program. Many parents and grandparents took the opportunity to come in and look around after the program. It was crowded at times but it was a great chance to see and purchase some books from the great assortment that were on display at the fair.

Thank you for your support of the book fair and once again making it a huge success. When families participate in their kids' "reading lives," kids' reading skills improve.

Through your generosity our school libraries will benefit with many new books including this year's Golden Sower nominees. Some of the proceeds will go towards technology and teaching materials. THANKS AGAIN

Community Presentation: Bullying and Cyber bullying: A Legal Perspective

Mrs. Karen Haase from Harding and Schulz legal firm will be speaking at the high school on Monday, November 28th at 7 p.m. Karen will address a great deal of legal issues involving bullying, cyber bullying, and the misuse of social media. Karen is a wonderful speaker. Karen represents our school in legal matters. I hope the gym is packed. She is direct and frank. Her speech will not disappoint you. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Karen will address a number of things on what not to do. However, there is another area that should be addressed which is what everyone **should** be doing. In society today, it appears there is a general sense of indifference, inaction or apathy which is accepted. I am not just talking about school issues such as being apathetic toward getting good grades, staying off the down-list, working for a position on a team, or refusing to lose. I am talking about being indifferent to doing the right thing when someone needs you to help them. What used to be what one would call normal behavior has almost become replaced by the acceptance of inaction.

I think we are truly fortunate that we live where we do. For the most part, people here stand up for what is right and pass that on to their children. My parents expected me to stick up for those that needed it. I expect the same from my own kids and all the kids that go to our school. I believe that is how you put an end to such things as bullying and similar inappropriate treatment. There needs to be more than consequences at a school or home for inappropriate behaviors to truly end. Inappropriate behaviors need

National Merit Scholarship

The National Merit Scholarship Program each year identifies 50,000 academically talented high school students, but only 16,000 of them are selected and named as semifinalists, Cassandra Lottman, senior at Diller Odell High School, has received the honor of being named a National Merit Semifinalist. National Merit is based on a student's performance on the Preliminary SAT. The semifinalists will be narrowed down to 8,400 finalists in late January 2012 and will be announced in March 2012. We would like to congratulate Cassandra on this accomplishment and wish her luck in the Finalist phase of the NMSP.

Sales:

The Freshmen Class is selling Griffin Gear until December 2. Great T-shirts, shorts, polos, stadium chairs and more!! Sales will run until December 2nd - orders will arrive in time for Christmas!! Please contact a Freshman or Mrs. Becker

Cont'd from page 2

to not be tolerated as acceptable behavior in the school and community that surround us. In my experience, bullies can change their ways, as they usually are not confident individuals and want to be accepted themselves. Some people will always say mean spirited, nasty things about others. At times people look at me in my position as a Principal, as I am to stop such behavior. I wish I could. I can educate, apply consequences, but I really can't force someone to stop their behavior. In extreme cases, when behaviors cannot be changed, we remove the person with the behavior from the school for a period of time.

These issues are evident throughout every level of our society. For example, people over time have said things about the President of the United States that are not factual, however misstatements continue. They get repeated and repeated and repeated. It doesn't matter if the President is Barak Obama, George Bush, Bill Clinton, etc.

Another example is in the ESPN documentary "Catching Hell". It is fine for kids to watch, but kids probably need to be at least 8 years old to get much out of it, although Carly seems to like it. It is most notably about the famous Steve Bartman incident at the 2003 Chicago Cubs playoff game and a bit about the famous Bill Buckner incident in the 1986 Red Sox World Series game. It is an example of how people can behave and treat others and how poor behavior can dangerously multiply. The results of these behaviors have deeply affected Steve and Bill's life as well as two major cities.

Always stand up for yourself and the correct principles you have been taught as kids, even if that means standing alone. The group is not always right. It takes confidence and strength to stand alone, but it gets easier as you grow. Eventually, I hope you have no problem with it. Pick up a

book about a great leader and read about decisions they had to make and what people thought of them at the time. May I suggest Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, John F. Kennedy, Margaret Thatcher or Martin Luther King Jr. They all would be great choices. Sometimes we assume everyone always admired and loved these people that have gone down in history as great leaders. They had very hard decisions to make and were not popular in all circles.

I realize kids don't think far ahead, but a good way to explain the future to kids and the importance to treat everyone with respect is as follows: The smallest, quietest, meekest, slowest, non-starting, non-ever-getting off the bench person you knew in school, may some day be your doctor, EMT member, lawyer, accountant, contractor, internet provider, mechanic, County Sheriff, banker, etc.

We are too good and too close here to be indifferent. We should all expect the best of ourselves and our kids and not settle for anything less when it comes to their behavior towards others.

Again, I welcome you and your family to attend Karen's presentation, as the more we expose our kids to the right thing to do, the better off we will all be. Go Griff's~~Mr. Meyerle

Powerlunch



As you have by now noticed, the school has been using PowerLunch. The only major change in this system is the students are back to their separate accounts, not family accounts. Therefore, when sending lunch money, please indicate if it is for the individual student or to be divided among students in your family.

Box Tops

Please remember to save your Campbell's labels (all participating brands), Box Tops for Education, and Land O' Lakes milk lids! We order items with the Campbell's labels such as playground balls, bases, and indoor games. With the box tops and milk lids we receive money and put it toward things needed in the school. We purchased headphones for our laptops and some math manipulatives so far this year. You can drop off your labels, box tops, and milk lids at either school or give them to an elementary student that you know. The Odell Market also has a collection spot. Thanks to everyone who collects labels, box tops, and milk lids!

Junior Parents

Thank You to all of the Junior Class parents who helped work on the haunted house!
Mrs. Klecan



Benefit Dinner
for Mr. Stirling Glenn who is battling Melanoma and Leukemia.
Serving chili, chicken noodle soup, dessert, crackers, cheese, and drinks.
Free will donation. Start serving 5:00. December 1, 2011 at the Diller-Odell vs. Pawnee City basketball game in Odell.

All State Elementary Chorus

Melina Kostal and Stephanie Rosales are participating in the All State Elementary Chorus which is performing for the Music Teachers at their convention, under direction of John Jacobson, former vocal clinician at our school.

Students of the Month

September-Melina Kostal and Kolin Scheele
October-Korey Theye and Kaitlyn McCown

Pioneer Conference Football Honors

Ethen Hroch-1st Team Defense, 2nd Team Return Specialist, HM Offense
Kolin Scheele-2nd Team Defense
Ely Hroch- Honorable Mention Defense

All-District Football Honors

Ethen Hroch-2nd Team Defense, Honorable Mention Offense
Kolin Scheele-2nd Team Defense
Ely Hroch-2nd Team Defense

Pioneer Conference Volleyball Honors

Sarah Schmidt-3rd Team
Andrea Zarybnicky- Honorable Mention

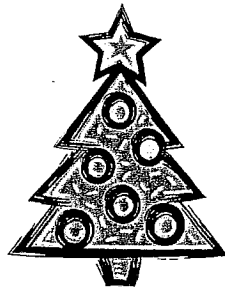
Pioneer Conference Honor Band Congrats to the following students who were selected to be participants in the annual Pioneer Conference Honor Band. They will travel to Wymore on January 16th and will have a concert at 7:00 p.m.

Seniors

Cassey Lottman
Falisatey Novotny
Conner Pahl
Stacy Grabowski
Zach Hajek

Juniors

Kelsey Hajek
Samantha Hajek
Kerstin McIntyre
Taylor Rupprecht
Mandi Schramm
Jordie Theye
Andrea Zarybnicky
Jacob Ficke
Andrew Henrichs
Kaitlyn McCown
Nathan Liscom
Tucker Goldsberry
Caleb Billesbach
Kyle Stohs



In preparation for the State Tests, 3rd graders must know many genres, and poetry is one of them. They had fun being the authors of their autobiographical poems. At this time of year, we are reminded of the many blessings we are thankful for...one of which is our children! Thanks for sharing your children with us.

Mrs. Hennerberg

Jadyn

Colorful, fun, sparkly, helpful
Daughter of Jamie and Sheri
Lover of brothers, stuffed animals, parents
Who feels listening to my parents is important
Who fears death
Who would like to see Katie Perry
Resident of Diller, Nebraska
Schultis

Turner

Silly, Smart, Fast, Happy
Son of Julie and Tom
Lover of breakfast quesadillas, basketball, football
Who feels happy to have Jesus in my life
Who fears mean dogs
Resident of DeWitt, Nebraska
Faxon

Autumn

Nice, Weird, Silly, Funny
Daughter of Amy and David Schramm
Lover of drawing, reading, biking
Who feels love in God
Who fears brown recluse spiders
Who would like to see Selena Gomez, Hanna Montana, Black-Eyed Peas
Resident of Odell, Nebraska
Schramm

Korey

Cool, nice, awesome, sweet
Son of Daylon and Kay
Lover of basketball, messing around, hunting
Who feels Nebraska football is awesome
Who fears being home alone
Who would like to see the president, Abe, Suh
Resident of Odell, Nebraska
Theye

Brianna

Loving, funny, active
Daughter of Brian and Kendra
Lover of swimming, addition, science
Who believes in God
Who fears wolves
Who would like to see Trevar, Aunt Jeana and Uncle Paul
Resident of Diller, Nebraska
Weers

Addison

Athletic, Creative, Spunky, Loving
Daughter of Kristen and Jarrod
Lover of playing volleyball, acting, playing basketball
Who believes that if you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all
Who fears of creaks in the house
Who would like to see Selena Gomez, Hawaii, Lady Gaga
Resident of Harbine, Nebraska
Heidemann

Jacob

Athletic, tall, skinny, smart
Son of John and Gayle
Lover of fishing, riding a bike, football
Who believes in Santa
Who fears ghosts
Who would like to see a lion, snake, shark
Resident of Odell, Nebraska
Meyer

Austin

Smart, Friendly, Athletic, Hard Worker
Son of Pat and Kardica
Lover of football, driving tractors, Nebraska football
Who believes in God
Who fears dieing
Who would like to see Toby Keith
Resident of Odell, Nebraska
Jurgens

Jaxon

Funny, playful, helpful, nice
Son of Amy and Jon
Lover of playing wii, laser tag and youtube
Who believes in God and Santa
Who fears death
Who would like to see Turner, Korey, Jacob
Resident of Odell, Nebraska
Morgan

Tori




Loving, Athletic, Silly, Skinny
Daughter of Jacki and Travis
Lover of sports, running, singing
Who feels dying is scary
Who fears snakes
Who would like to see Hawaii, Michigan, Hollywood
Resident of Odell, Nebraska
Smith

Dallea Jo

Nice, Caring, Responsible, Trustworthy
Daughter of David and Bobbi
Lover of math, science and library
Who believes in Santa Claus
Who fears snakes
Who would like to see Colorado, Nebraska City, Canada
Resident of Odell, Nebraska
Wheley



December

2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 BB vs. Pawnee City-4:30 (G JV; G & B V); Soup Supper for Mr. Glenn	2 BB @ HTRS-4:00 (G & B JV; G & B V)	3 JH B BB vs. FCSH & Lewiston-9:00; DOSADA ice skating; Wrestling @ Friend-10:00
4	5 9-10 BB vs. Thayer Central- 6:00 (G & B)	6 BB vs. Dorchester-6:15 (G & B V)	7 JH B BB @ Freeman-12:30	8	9 BB @ Sterling- 4:00 (G & B JV; G & B V)	10 Wrestling @ Osceola Invite- 9:00
11	12 JH B BB @ Lewiston Tourney	13 7-12 Winter Concert	14	15	16 BB @ Lewiston- 4:00 (G & B JV; G & B V)	17 Wrestling @ Logan View-9:30
18	19	20 BB @ Meridian- 4:00 (G & B JV; G & B V)	21	22 End of First Semester; Early dismissal- 11:00/11:15	23 No-School; Winter break	24 
25 	26 No-School; Winter break	27 No-School; Winter break	28 No-School; Winter break	29 No-School; Winter break; BB @ Johnson-Brock- 1:30 (G & B JV; G & B V)	30 No-School; Winter break	31
			Dates and times subject to change			


January

2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 No-School; Winter break	3 No-School; Winter break; BB vs. Exeter- Milligan-6:15 (G & B V)	4 No-School; Winter break; In- service	5 First day of second semester	6 BB vs. FCSH-4:30 (B JV; G & B V); Soup supper	7 Wrestling @ Malcom Invite- 9:30
8	9 MUDECAS BB	10 MUDECAS BB	11 FFA Leadership 	12 MUDECAS BB	13 MUDECAS BB; Wrestling @ Superior Invite- 4:00	14 MUDECAS BB
15	16 Pioneer Instrumental Music @ Wymore, concert @ 7:00	17 BB @ Southern- 4:00 (G & B JV; G & B V)	18	19 BB vs. Lawrence- Nelson-5:45 (B V & G V); Wrestling @ Tri County-7:00	20 Wrestling @ Thayer Central Invite-4:30	21 9-10 BB Tourney @ Pawnee City
22	23	24 FBLA Officer meeting; BB vs. Tri County-4:00 (G & B JV; G & B V)-Senior Parent's Night	25 JH G BB vs. Sterling- 1:00	26 Wrestling @ Freeman Invite- 3:00	27 BB @ Freeman- 4:00 (G & B JV; G & B V); Wrestling @ Fairbury Invite- 3:00	28 MUDECAS Speech
29	30 Student Council Winter Workshop; Pioneer BB Tourney	31 Pioneer BB Tourney				
			Dates and times subject to change			



February

2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 State FFA Degree Review; JH G BB vs. Lewiston-12:30	2 Pioneer BB Tourney	3 Pioneer BB Tourney	4 Pioneer BB Tourney; Wrestling @ HTRS Invite-9:30
5	6 FBLA Week; 9-10 BB vs. Southern-6:30 (G & B); JH G BB @ Lewiston Tourney	7 FBLA Week; BB @ College View (B IV; G & B V)	8 FBLA Week	9 FBLA Week; PTC 4:00-8:00; DOSADA Sweetheart Dance	10 FBLA Week; BB vs. Friend-4:00 (B & G IV; B & G V); Post Prom Supper; Wrestling Districts	11 9-10 BB Tourney @ BDS; Wrestling Districts; DOSADA Sweetheart Dance
12	13 Jefferson County Spelling Bee; Girls BB Sub-Districts	14 Girls BB Sub-Districts	15 JH G BB @ Freeman-12:30	16 Girls BB Sub-Districts; State Wrestling	17 No School-In-service; BB vs. Parkview Christian-6:15 (B IV & V); State Wrestling	18 JH G BB @ FCSH Tourney; State Wrestling
19	20 No school; Boys BB Sub-Districts	21 Boys BB Sub-Districts	22 Pioneer Speech	23 Boys BB Sub-Districts; JH G BB vs. Johnson-Brock-4:00	24	25
26	27	28 FBLA Officer meeting	29			
			Dates and times subject to change			




March

2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 District Ag Skills Contest; HS Music Concert	7 Quarter 3 reports; DOSADA Lock-In	8 No School	9 No School	10
11 Daylight Savings Time begins	12 Art Club St. Patrick's Day Party	13 Pioneer Quiz Bowl	14	15 6 th Grade Dessert Theatre	16 FBLA St. Patrick's Day Breakfast; 8 th grade dance	17 
18	19 JH Pioneer Quiz Bowl; Reading Classics	20 MUDECAS Music	21 MUDECAS Quiz Bowl	22 Pioneer Indoor @ Doane-8:30	23 No School-In-Service; Class D All-State Music	24 Class D All-State Music 
25	26	27 Turkey Creek Relays @ Friend-10:00	28 State FFA Convention; FBLA Officer applications out	29 State FFA Convention	30 State FFA Convention	31
			Dates and times subject to change			


April

2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 FBLA Applications due/officer meeting; JH Track @ Thayer	4 Mustang Invite @ Friend-10:00	5 Early Dismissal- 11:00/11:15	6 No School	7
8 	9 No School	10 Lewiston Invite @ Auburn-9:30	11	12 FBLA Officer election; JH Track @ Pawnee City Invite	13 Sophomore Class Play 	14 MUDECAS Track @ Tecumseh-8:30
15	16 MUDECAS JH Quiz Bowl	17 Friend Invite- 10:00	18	19 District Music	20 District Music	21 JH MUDECAS Track @ Pawnee City; Prom
22	23	24 FBLA Cookout	25 JH Track Lewiston Invite @ Pawnee City	26 K-6 Spring Concert	27	28 Pioneer Conference Track-8:30
29	30 FFA Banquet					
			Dates and times subject to change			

May

2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Freeman Invite @ Doane-9:00	2	3 DOSADA Senior Breakfast	4 Awards Night/8 th Grade Promotion	5 JH Pioneer Track
6	7	8 HS Fine Arts Show/Spring Concert	9 Track Districts	10 FBLA New officers meeting; Last day for Seniors	11 Elementary Field Day	12 Graduation-2:00 
13	14 Elementary Awards-2:30	15	16	17 Early dismissal- 11:00/11:15; End of semester	18 Teacher workday; State Track	19 State Track
20	21 Teacher workday	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
			Dates and times subject to change			

Scholarships....Money!!!

Source: EducationQuest.org

Start applying for scholarships your junior year and continue throughout your senior year and while you're in college. Sources for scholarships, include your guidance office, the college you plan to attend, EducationQuest.org (ScholarshipQuest) and national search sites.

Here are some national sites to consider:

- Fastaid
- Scholarship Monkey
- ScholarshipExperts.com
- Student Aid on the Web
- School Soup
- Scholarships.com
- CollegeBoard

Scholarship tips

- Contact colleges that interest you and ask how to apply for their college-specific scholarships.
- Check with your school's guidance office weekly for new scholarships.
- ACT/SAT scores, earn the best possible scores by taking it the spring of your junior year, as well as in the fall your senior year.
- Organize scholarships in deadline order and schedule time to work on them. Use a calendar to organize. Focus on local and college specific scholarships, you have a better chance at being awarded those than national scholarships.
- Create a resume including employment, academic achievements, athletic achievements, community involvement and volunteer hours; the sooner you begin the easier it is to remember. Don't forget to update monthly!
- When requesting letters of recommendation, give the person a specific deadline and a list of your accomplishments and activities. Two to three week notice is typical and should be accompanied with resume and description of what the scholarship is looking for.
- WHO to ask for a letter of recommendation? Use quality references, individuals who know you well and can be specific in identifying your skills to which the scholarship is looking for. Ex – Leadership scholarship, possibly a coach or classroom teacher in which you have demonstrated strong leadership characteristics.
- After writing an essay, ask an adult plus your English/Business teacher to review the document for spelling, grammar and sentence structure. Be sure to taylor the essay to the scholarship. Attention should be given to grammar, spelling and neatness.
- Understand that incomplete or late applications will be disqualified.
- **Don't ever pay for scholarship services!** Many free sites are available such as those listed on this page. If they want money, it could be a scam.

Financial Aid Process

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the application for federal, state and college-based financial aid. Follow these steps to apply.

1. **Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN)** at pin.ed.gov. The PIN is your signature for the electronic FAFSA. Keep the PIN for future years. This process can be done IMMEDIATELY!!

2. **Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov.** The colleges you list on the form will receive the results. Apply before your college's priority date to get the best financial aid package. Complete the FAFSA every year you're in college.

NOTE: Many scholarships are due from March 1st – 15th, that require FAFSA information, so completion of FAFSA prior to the end of February is key. Using your PIN to electronically sign it speeds up the process from typically two to three weeks via mail to 24-36 hours electronically.

3. **Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) after the FAFSA is submitted.** This acknowledges that your form was processed, and can be used to make corrections to your FAFSA. You'll need your PIN to make online corrections.
4. **Expect a financial aid award notification** from the college detailing the assistance they're offering. It may include a combination of grants, work-study, loans and scholarships. Sign and return the notification by the deadline.
5. **Apply for student loans, if necessary.** The college will provide all necessary forms. Allow several weeks for processing time.

College Funding Estimator

The *College Funding Estimator* estimates the results of your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Financial Aid). The FAFSA is the application for federal, state and college-based financial aid. You'll complete and submit the FAFSA after January 1 of your senior year of high school – and every year that you're in college.

The *College Funding Estimator* (website EducationQuest.org) asks the same questions, and uses the same calculation, as the FAFSA. The results will help you plan financially for college, understand the financial aid process, and determine if you qualify to apply for "need-based" scholarships. This tool is helpful for parents with sophomores, juniors and seniors as they prepare for college expenses.

Gather these items to complete the College Funding Estimator:
Include parent information unless you are an independent student:

- Most current federal tax return and W-2s
- Birth dates
- Dates parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
- Value of checking/savings accounts and investments
- Value of business or investment farm
- Child support paid or received
- Workers compensation benefits
- Other untaxed income such as housing/food/living allowance for clergy
- Veteran's noneducation benefits

BECOME A FAN @ Facebook

Diller-Odell Counseling Center

Great information, news and links to scholarships, etc.

Diller Odell Counseling Center

Upcoming Events:

December 8th – ASVAB Testing – all Juniors (8:15-11:45 a.m.)

ASVAB – Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery – there is no obligation to any branch of the military when taking this test. Each student who takes the test will receive an individual report to assist them in career decision making and planning. See Mrs. Becker if you have any questions.

http://www.testprepreview.com/asvab_practice.htm

December 15th – ASVAB interpretation – 7th hour

January – Seniors should have applied to all interested schools!!

January 6th – Elks Vocational Scholarship due

January 10th – Elks Exalted Ruler Scholarship due

January 27th – Elks Legacy Award due

- All Elks Scholarships will be turned into the office, they all must be mailed together.

March 2nd – State American Legion Scholarships due

March 15th – Several local Agricultural Scholarships are due to Gage County Extension Office

March 30th – US Bank Scholarship due

REMINDERS:

- More Scholarships will arrive from December to January
- REMIND your SENIOR to become a Facebook fan or access their gaggle account

Students – Attending SCC:

The COMPASS or ASSET test for SCC, to determine academic readiness for math and English courses - all campuses:

- quickly evaluate incoming students' skill levels in Reading, Writing Skills, Writing Essay, Math, and English as a Second Language
- place students in appropriate courses
- connect them to the resources they need to achieve academic success
- Contact Mrs. Becker if you would like a practice booklet and to visit about testing times.
- Websites – <http://www.act.org/asset/pdf/StudentGuide.pdf>,
http://www.testprepreview.com/compass_practice.htm

Protecting Yourself from Scholarship Scams

Source:<http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/protecting.phtml>

Rules of Thumb

1. If you must pay money to get money, it might be a scam.
2. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
3. Spend the time, not the money.
4. Never invest more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships.
5. Nobody can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship.
6. Legitimate scholarship foundations do not charge application fees.
7. If you're suspicious of an offer, it's usually with good reason.

Warning Signs of a Scholarship Scam

Certain telltale signs can help you identify possible scholarship scams. Note that the following signs do not automatically indicate fraud or deception; however, any organization that exhibits several of these signs should be treated with caution.

Application fees. Be wary of any "scholarship" which requests an application fee, even an innocuously low one like \$2 or \$3. Most scams have application fees of \$10 to \$25, but some have had fees as low as \$2 and as high as \$5,000. Don't believe claims that the fee is necessary to cover administrative expenses or to ensure that only serious candidates apply, or that applicants who do not receive any money "may" be entitled to a refund. Even if the outfit gives out a token scholarship, the odds of your winning it are less than your chances of winning the lottery. Legitimate scholarship sponsors do not require an application fee.

Loan fees. If you have to pay a fee in advance of obtaining an educational loan, be careful. It might be called an "application fee", "processing fee", "origination fee", "guarantee fee", "default fee" or

"insurance fee", but if it must be paid in advance, it's probably a scam. Legitimate educational loans deduct the origination and default fees from the disbursement check. They never require an up-front fee when you submit the application.

Other fees. If you must pay to get information about an award, apply for the award or receive the award, be suspicious. Never spend more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships and loans.

Guaranteed winnings. No legitimate scholarship sponsor will guarantee you'll win an award.

Everybody is eligible. All scholarship sponsors are looking for candidates who best match certain criteria.

The unclaimed aid myth. You may be told that millions or billions of dollars of scholarships go unused each year because students don't know where to apply. This simply isn't true. Most financial aid programs are highly competitive..

We apply on your behalf. To win a scholarship, you must submit your own applications, write your own essays and solicit your own letters of recommendation. There's no way to avoid this work.

No telephone number. Most legitimate scholarship programs include a telephone number for inquiries with their application materials.

Notification by phone. If you have won a scholarship, you will receive written notification by mail, not by phone.

Diller-Odell Schools

PO Box 188

Odell, NE 68415

Non-Profit

PRSRTSTD

Postage Paid

Odell, NE 68415

Permit #2

ECRWWS

Postal Customer

Odell, NE 68415