A Back to School Message
By Superintendent Joe Peitzmeier

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of you back to another school year. I am very excited to be working with you to provide a 21st Century Quality Education for the students of Oakland-Craig Public Schools. Governor Heineman, in a recent address to school administrators from all across the state, stated that "a successful education for students depends on a partnership between education and the community. If this happens, students win." The future of Oakland-Craig Public Schools depends on this community-school relationship. Working together, we can make this happen.

This is going to be a great year. I look forward to working with staff, school board, and the community in providing a quality education for our students. Finally, I want to thank everyone for helping RJ, Diane, and I feel so welcome to the community.

Joe Peitzmeier
Superintendent

WELCOME TO THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL TERM
By Rusty Droescher, Junior-Senior High School Principal

I am very excited to write my first welcome back letter as 7-12 principal of Oakland-Craig Schools. Most of you have known me for a fair amount of time, as this will be my 20th year at O-C. Over those years it has been my pleasure to be heavily involved with the math department as well as the extra-curricular areas more recently as activities director. I am very excited to become more involved with the over all curriculum of Oakland-Craig Schools. With assessments and "No child left behind" regulations, the importance of curricular accountability has become paramount in a school's presentation to its community and the surrounding area in general. We can proudly say that Oakland-Craig Public Schools is a great school district. I consider it my most important charge to keep it that way.

I am looking forward to being a member of a dynamic administrative team with Mr. Peitzmeier, Mr. Holys, and Mr. Nelson. We all subscribe to an open door policy, in that we strive to be highly approachable and proficient in communication. I am also looking forward to nurturing new relationships with our staff as their leader. The challenge of transitioning from a colleague to leader/colleague is very much an appealing one for me. Finally, I am looking forward to benefiting from the guidance and (life) support at times that I will be getting from Candace Johnson and Marilee Groth in our main office and guidance office.

My first message for students and parents is to direct your attention to what I consider your best source of information, the student handbook. This invaluable booklet, which will be one of the first items your child will bring home, is highly informative in terms of attendance, grading, disciplinary issues, controlled substance violations, cell phones, computer use, eligibility, and any new federal legislation that affects our students. By referring to this booklet, many questions can be answered. However, don't hesitate to call me for clarification purposes if needed.

My second message is to make every effort to use the communication hierarchy sometimes known as the chain of command. This simply means that if an issue or concern takes place in the classroom the communication must start with the teacher. Likewise if an issue or concern evolves from an extra-curricular activity the communication must start with the coach or sponsor. Inevitably some concerns or issues may need to be dealt with higher up the chain of command, but if the chain of command is followed, the quality of communication and level of resolution is greatly enhanced.

My final message to our students (for now) is to work and study hard in the classroom and get involved in activities. Studies have shown that students involved in activities at school have a greater sense of belonging in the school. With the greater sense of belonging often times comes better grades and an overall better high school experience. I ask the parents to please do their part and join us in encouraging your students to become involved.

We'll see you on the 21st of August. Let's make the 2008-2009 school year a great one.

Dear parents, patrons, and students,

I am again very excited about the upcoming school year! I am looking forward to continuing the tradition of excellence put forth by our teachers and staff. I expect a school year filled with excitement, learning, and growth and I'm getting eager as the summer comes to an end and another adventurous school year begins.

The Oakland-Craig Public Schools has a very dedicated staff that is always positive and willing to do what it takes to meet the needs of all of our students. The communities of Oakland and Craig are very supportive and I am honored to work with all of you to provide our kids with the best opportunities to strive to be successful.

There are a few things to get ready for the first days of school. Please review the supply list for your child's grade level – these are included with this newsletter. Have your child reading for pleasure at least 30 minutes a day to keep that love for literature. Start easing into a routine of getting up in the morning and preparing for the day and getting to bed earlier. These ideas can make that transition back to school much better for everyone.

Preschool update!

The preschool will be located at 400 North Brewster Avenue in the Elementary building.

The anticipated start date for the new Oakland-Craig Preschool is August 25' 2008. Parents/guardians will be required to complete an orientation with the Family Service Worker and Teacher prior to August 25th. During orientation, you will complete paperwork and learn specific classroom information. Please bring your child along with you to orientation. While you are working with the FSW, the Teacher will complete an educational assessment with your child. The Family Service Worker will be contacting you to set up a time and date to meet.

Oakland-Craig Preschool will be offering two class times. The morning class will be attending from 8:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m Monday through Thursday. The afternoon class will be attending from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m Monday through Thursday. Each child will be participating in the school lunch program. The Teacher and paraprofessionals will eat a family style meal along with the children. The lunch will be prepared by the school and each family is responsible for paying for their child's meal. The cost of the meal will be given to you at orientation. If you feel you would qualify for free or reduced prices, please contact the school to fill out the required paperwork.

Transportation for preschool is the responsibility of the parents/guardians. Therefore, carpool scheduling must be done among parents.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of us by e-mail or phone. You can contact Marlene Grenier at 1-800-445-2310, Ext. 209 or marlene2@gpcom.net. You can contact Mr. Holys at 685-5631 or jpholys@esu2.org. You may also bring your questions or concerns to the preschool orientation.

Please feel free to stop in anytime to see us or give a call if you have any questions or wish to discuss any concerns and/or strengths of our school. We are always exploring ways to improve student achievement and continue our excellent academic success.

Educationally yours,

Principal JP Holys

7TH GRADE ORIENTATION
NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION
RETURNING JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH STUDENT SCHEDULE CHANGES

There are several informative meetings coming up soon that may be of interest to you:

INCOMING 7TH GRADE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS

An orientation meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the old gym to inform you of policies, rules and updates which will concern the new 7th grade class. The normal 7th grader is pretty nervous on the first day of school, and there are many changes that they will be faced with during this first year of junior high, so this meeting will be held to hopefully alleviate some of those fears. We urge at least one of the parents to join us at this meeting.

FALL REGISTRATION FOR RETURNING SECONDARY STUDENTS

Students will be expected to come up to the Guidance Office to check your individual schedule. Do not wait until the first day of school. Please follow the schedule below:

Seniors – Thursday, August 14	9:00 – 12:00
Juniors – Thursday, August 14	1:00 - 3:00
Sophomores – Friday, August 15	9:00 – 12:00
Freshmen – Friday, August 15	1:00 – 3:00

7th & 8th graders will get their schedules on the first day of school.

FALL REGISTRATION FOR NEW SECONDARY STUDENTS

Registration for any new junior or senior high students will be held on Wednesday, August 13th from 9:00 –12:00 in the Counselor's office, which is located on the 3rd floor of the high school building. If you know of any new families in our district who have students in grades 7-12, please let them know of this date. The first day is pretty hectic in itself, so pre-registering will certainly be appreciated and will help August 21st go much smoother. This also gives us more time to get the new students' records from their former school.

All schedule changes must be completed by Monday, August 25, 2008.

COMPUTER LUNCH PROGRAM

Oakland-Craig Schools' lunch computer program has been used for a couple of years now with excellent results. Paper lunch tickets are no longer issued. Instead, the students, kindergarten through seniors, punch in their own PIN number into the computer when they are in the lunch line.

The hot lunch and/or breakfast program will be on a pre-pay basis. The parent will need to send money in advance for the child / children's account i.e. $25, $50, $100. This will be deposited to your FAMILY'S account, not individual student accounts. As the students use the program, the cost of the meals will be deducted from the balance of your account automatically. A reminder will be sent home when your account is getting low.

Charging of lunches is strongly discouraged. We encourage you to keep a positive balance in your family's account.

Kindergarten through 4th grade morning milk break – this is the only time a student will receive a milk ticket. Teachers will be keeping their elementary student's milk tickets. Money will need to be marked separately for this milk program. Otherwise the money will be deposited into your family's lunch account. Students in grades 5 through 12 buying an extra milk will enter that information into the computer.

Breakfast and Lunch prices are as follows:

ELEMENTARY (K-6)	Breakfast	Lunch	Milk (extra)
	$1.75	$2.25	$ .35
SECONDARY (7-12)	Breakfast	Lunch	Milk (extra)
	$1.75	$2.50	$ .35
REDUCED PRICE	Breakfast	Lunch	Milk (extra)
	$ .30	$ .40	$ .35
ADULT	Breakfast	Lunch	Milk (extra)
	$2.00	$3.25	$ .35

SENIORS & YOUR PARENTS – SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW!!!

Because we have several requirements for senior pictures, we are enclosing these requirements so you can be prepared. We also need to meet a couple of deadlines with these pictures, and unfortunately, we've had trouble in the past couple of years meeting these necessary dates:

For your convenience, all photos will be turned into the school office. The deadline for pictures is January 7, 2009. Our yearbook deadline requires us to have this early deadline date.

FOR THE SCHOOL OFFICE

* One color senior photo for the composite – **must be head and shoulders only and must be wallet size. No 4 x 6 pictures will be accepted.**
* One black & white or color senior photo for the Oakland Independent

FOR THE YEARBOOK

* One color or black & white senior photo – must be head and shoulders
*One baby photo – this photo will be mailed to the publisher and cannot be returned until the fall of 2009 and will be returned with their yearbook if purchased.
*A parent quote and a student quote are due by December 3, 2008. The parent quote is a tribute to your senior student and the student quote is a quote that might be a famous quote that fits your personality or represents your attitude. Quotes must be in good taste. Yearbook staff reserves the right to approve or disapprove quotes that they deem inappropriate.

FOR THE SLIDE SHOW

* One color senior photo – any good pose and any size will be accepted.
* One baby photo
* One "growing up" photo – preferably between the ages of 4 – 9
* Optional – the slide show appreciates any photos of groups of students – in or out of school and at any age.
*All photos for the slide show will be returned before the end of the year.

JANUARY 7, 2009 is the deadline for these pictures.

If your pictures aren't turned in by this date, your picture will have to be omitted or a snapshot will have to be used.

Thanks so much for your cooperation!!!

CALL US !!!!!! .....

We would like to issue this reminder for all our parents --- please be sure to call the school with your student's absence the morning he/she is absent. We have staff by the phone as early as 7:15 – 7:30 to take your phone calls, so despite the reason of the absence, CALL US !!! If your student is absent and we haven't heard from you, we will attempt to phone you around 9:00 or so. Let's work together to keep our kids safe and sound!!

For all secondary students, we must have a written note from the parents when your student misses school, regardless of the reason, and regardless if you called in to notify us of your student's absence.

Along with the school year comes the possibility of school being dismissed early, started late, or closed for the day. Any school announcements can be heard on KWPN (AM84 or KWPN 107.9) or KFAB (1110 on the AM dial) or TV channels 3, 6 or 7 in Omaha. The school phone is usually so busy in making arrangements for school activities, so we ask that you please do NOT call the school to verify this information.

ACCIDENT AND/OR EMERGENCY INFORMATION

If you have any changes in your contact information for your junior and senior high school students, please call the school office at 685-5661 to update your information. Any new phone numbers, cell phone numbers, e-mail addresses emergency contacts should be updated. If you don't remember who you have listed for your students, please call us and we'll check the information for you and update it at the same time.

It is very important that we are able to reach someone in case of an emergency. Please help us to have current information for these contacts.

Thanks for your help.

GOLDEN AGE ACTIVITY PASSES

As has been done in the past few years, the Board of Education has made available to our Senior Citizens who are 65 years of age or older and a member of the Oakland-Craig School District, a complimentary pass to Oakland-Craig Schools sports events. These passes are good for any and all home games, with the exception of any tournaments. These passes are our "Thank You" gift for the many years of support and encouragement our Senior citizens have given Oakland-Craig. Call either Marilee at 685-5661 or Holly at 685-5631 to pick up your Golden Age Pass.

A reminder to those who already have a pass – these passes do not expire. You do not need a new ticket every year – please don't throw it away with the rest of your season tickets. Keep last year's ticket and use it during the **2008-2009** school year to support your Oakland-Craig Knights!!

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION –and – LABELS FOR EDUCATION –and – SOUP LABELS – and – UPC CODE LABELS FOR OUR FAMILY PRODUCTS

Our Junior-Senior High Special Education Department collects these Boxtops for Education, Campbell's Labels for Education, Campbell Soup Labels and the UPC code labels off Our Family brand products. The students have been enjoying the computer software we've "earned" with these labels, and also the rebate money we receive from General Mills and Nash Finch. Please help us by saving and turning in these four different labels. A container is located in the front area of Nelson's Food Pride in Oakland – please drop your labels in these containers, or send them to the school office.

Campbell's Labels for Education products include: all Campbell's Soup, including microwaveable soups, Campbell's dry soup mixes, tomato juice cans, Franco American Spaghettios, Pace salsa, Pepperidge Farms breads and crackers, Prego sauces, Swanson's broths, and V8 juices and Splash.

When turning in UPC code labels for Our Family products, the students need only the UPC code and not the entire label off the product.

TICKETS – TICKETS – TICKETS – TICKETS

We hope most of you will soon be asking the question "Where can we purchase our season tickets to support our Knights?" We implemented a new ticket policy a couple of years ago that was quite successful – you need only purchase ONE ticket instead of each and every sport having their own ticket. The cost of these tickets are listed below:

FAMILY TICKET $120.00
(not including college students)
SINGLE ADULT TICKET $60.00
STUDENT ACTIVITY TICKET $30.00

These tickets will admit you to ALL home sporting events with the exception of any and all conference or district tournaments during the fall and winter seasons: football, volleyball, wrestling, girls and boys basketball and track. This is a tremendous savings over paying single admission price to the games.

We have 23 home varsity contests this year – 4 football – 5 volleyball – 2 wrestling - 10 basketball – 2 track. If you multiply that by $4, you will see that it would cost 1 adult $92 (or a student $70) to attend all the events. Now multiply that by your family members – quite a savings to purchase a ticket!

Tickets may be purchased through one of the school offices. No tickets will be sold through student athletes.

Please note the East Husker Conference admission prices are listed below:
Adults - $4.00 Students - $3.00

ASTHMA LETTER TO PARENTS

A new state regulation became effective on October 1, 2003. This regulation requires that our school be prepared to implement an emergency treatment plan, called a protocol, anytime a student or staff member experiences a **life threatening** asthma attack or systemic allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

The protocol requires that 911 is called first. After that call is made, an EpiPen injection will be given and then albuterol is provided through a nebulizer. An EpiPen is a small pre-filled, automatic injection device that resembles a highlighter. It is used to deliver epinephrine. Epinephrine is a medication that is used to bring quick relief by improving breathing and lung function. Albuterol is another medication that is used to bring breathing relief (commonly found in metered-dose inhalers). The nebulizer is a machine that mixes the albuterol with air to provide a fine mist (aerosol) for breathing in through a mask or mouthpiece.

The protocol steps are designed to provide quick, effective care in order to prevent death from occurring due to a severe asthma attack or anaphylaxis. Staff members have been trained to recognize signs and symptoms of a life-threatening "breathing" emergency and to properly administer the medications. The protocol is a standing medical order that has been signed by Dr. Tracie Martin and Peter Thiele, P.A

If you know that your student has asthma or a known allergy, it is ***critically important*** that you communicate this information to our school staff. You may contact the school office. For each student with a known allergic condition or asthma, you must provide the school with (1) written medical documentation, (2) instructions, and (3) medications as directed by a physician. In the event that your student experiences a life threatening asthma attack or systemic allergic reaction, we will defer to the specific documents and medication that you have provided. If you do not have medical documentation and instructions on file with the school for your student, we will defer to the regulatory protocol described above. If, for whatever reason, you do not want your student to receive the life-saving emergency treatment under the protocol, you must file your written objection with the school.

The school's EpiPen and Albuterol do not replace a child's own prescribed medications for asthma/allergy control and management. Parents are expected to ensure their children continue to carry MDI's, EpiPen, etc. and to have an Asthma/Allergy Action Plan or emergency medical plan on file with the school.

If you have questions or concerns about the protocol or your student's health issues, please contact the school office.

MEDICATION DISTRIBUTION

More and more state regulations are being required by the public schools these days regarding the dispensing of medications to students and how we meet other health needs of our students.

State law will not permit us as a public school to dispense Tylenol, Advil or any other medication without written permission from the parent. The over-the-counter medication must be sent from home (school will not supply it) and it must be in the original bottle, have the student's name written on the bottle, and we must have the permission slip on file before we can dispense any medication. These notes and the medication will be kept in the locked medicine cabinet in the school office.

When the school office dispenses any medication, a log is kept in the office showing the date, name of student, type and amount of medication and the time the dose was given.

The next issue with medication is with PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION. This must be in the original bottle from the pharmacy, and we must have a written doctor note on file listing the name of student, type of medication and the dosing schedule. The log is also kept for this type of medication.

Please complete the *MEDICATION PERMISSION SLIP* shown below and return it to school. Several families already have sent Tylenol or Advil or other medications to school – we will keep that in the medicine cabinet, but now we must have the written permission form on file also.

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MEDICATION PERMISSION SLIP

I give my son/daughter _____ permission to take

Tylenol_____
Advil _____

Other medication (name)_____

I have sent this medication from home and understand that it will be kept in the locked school medicine cabinet.

_____ _____
Date Parent Signature

STATE LAWS REQUIRE US TO SEND YOU THIS INFORMATION EVERY AUGUST THROUGH OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER --

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABILITY

Federal regulations require all schools to inventory asbestos containing materials and develop management plans to identify and control asbestos containing materials in their buildings.

The presence of asbestos in a building does not mean that the health of building occupants is necessarily endangered. As long as asbestos containing material remains in good condition and is not disturbed, exposure is unlikely.

The plan is available for review in the school administrative office during normal business hours.

At least once each six months, periodic surveillance is being conducted on all asbestos containing material and suspect material assumed to contain asbestos.

A reinspection is being conducted every three years in all schools that have asbestos containing material.

From time to time operations and maintenance activities may be conducted to maintain all material in good condition.

For more information, please contact either Merle Hultman or Scott Krutilek at 685-5661.

CHILD FIND

The Oakland-Craig Schools requests your help in locating handicapped children. The schools implement the Federal Handicapped Children's Act (PL-94-142) which guarantees a free appropriate educational program for all children between the ages of 0 and 21 years of age. If you have a student or know of any young person with special needs between 0 – 21 years of age who is not enrolled in an appropriate education program, please call 685-5631 or write to:

Mr.J. P. Holys - Elementary Principal
Oakland-Craig Public Schools - 400 N Brewster Oakland NE 68045

PHYSICAL FORMS

Nebraska State Law states that all out-of-state transfer students, kindergartners, seventh grade students and all athletic participants must have a physical within the last six months before starting school or practice. If you have not contacted your own doctor within that time frame, you need to do so. The cost is the individual family's responsibility.

All 7th graders and all 7-12 students who will be participating in sports are required to have a physical. Those physical forms must be on file in the school office before you can participate in the sport. If your doctor's office gave the physical form to you, you must return it to the school office.

QUALIFIED TEACHERS

One requirement of No Child Left Behind is the selection of highly qualified teachers for the Title I Reading / Math Program. Should any patron request proof of a teacher's qualifications, he / she may contact Elementary Principal J. P. Holys at 685-5631 or Debbie Krutilek, Superintendent's Secretary at 685-5661.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES REQUIRED

State of Nebraska Statute, Section 43-2007 states:

Upon enrollment of a student for the first time in a public school district or private school system, the school of enrollment shall notify in writing the person enrolling the student that within thirty days he or she must provide either (a) a certified copy of the student's birth certificate or (b) other reliable proof of the student's identity and age accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

TITLE I NOTICE

The Oakland-Craig Elementary School has been informed by the Nebraska State Department of Education that we are eligible to be a School-Wide Title I. If it is decided that it is in the best interest of the Oakland-Craig students and the Oakland-Craig District, the Oakland-Craig Elementary School staff and interested parents will be asked to develop a plan outlining the changes to the current School-wide Title I program. This program would then be submitted to the State Department of Education for approval so that the Oakland-Craig Elementary School could become a School-wide project next year. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Elementary Principal J P Holys at 685-5631.