

The mission of Elkhart Central High School is to teach all students to think critically, to adapt to change and to work cooperatively as responsible citizens.

### *Happy Thanksgiving*

#### Event Calendar

**November 10**  
**Athletic Banquet #2**  
**Cafeteria**

**November 12, 2008**  
**Early Release**  
**1:15p.m.**

**November 14, 2008**  
**End of Trimester**  
**10:00a.m. Dismissal**

**November 18, 2008**  
**Senior Class Meeting**

**November 27-28, 2008**  
**Thanksgiving Break**  
**No School**

**December 2, 2008**  
**Marching Band Banquet**  
**6:30p.m. in cafeteria**

**December 3, 2008**  
**Holiday Concert**  
**7:00 in auditorium**

**December 4, 2008**  
**Parent/Teacher Conf.**  
**3:30 – 7:00p.m.**

**December 6, 2008**  
**Winter Dance**  
**8:00p.m. in cafeteria**

**December 9, 2008**  
**Early Release**  
**1:15p.m.**

**Dec. 22-Jan. 2, 2008**  
**Winter Recess**

### **Consequences of Fighting**

The number one job of schools is to educate the community's young people. Providing a safe environment in which to learn and grow is critical to this task. Students have a right to feel safe at school.

To accomplish the goal of providing students with a better sense of security throughout the school building, Central High School is changing the way it responds to fighting in school. If a student is arrested for fighting at school, he or she will now be sent to the Elkhart County Juvenile Detention facility where he/she will stay until a court appearance in front of Juvenile Magistrate Deborah Domine.

Domine and the court will determine how long the offender will remain in juvenile detention and where the student will now be educated. The student may be ordered to attend an alternative school setting or could be re-enrolled in his/her home high school if he/she and his/her family agree to treatment measures such as anger management and parenting classes.

If the student fails to honor any contract of behavior he/she makes with the court, he/she could be returned to juvenile detention and/or ordered to an alternative educational facility.

Fighting in school has become more than just a school issue.

It is now being treated as a community issue. Schools, law enforcement, and the courts are working together to put an end to any form of violence in schools. Students who are arrested for fighting will now face more severe consequences.

### **Plan for Next Year**

Central is moving back to a semester plan for the following reasons:

1. Testing moves to the spring.
2. Budget considerations (funding is through the state and is not based on property tax).
3. Increased ability to schedule classes without conflicts.

This move will take effect next fall. The schedule will look like a seven period day with class length from 50 to 60 minutes. We are looking at Wednesday scheduling periods 1 through 4 with each period lasting 90 minutes. Thursday would be periods 5 through 7 with 90 minute classes and a 90 minute activity period. Each teacher will see students four times per week. The regular class periods 1 through 7 will meet Monday, Tuesday and Friday. On Wednesday and Thursday students will have half of their classes each day.

### **Anti Bullying Speaker**

**John Halligan**, who lost his 13 yr. old son Ryan to suicide in 2003, will talk to ECS  
(over)

middle school students Nov. 18 & 19 on the emotional and physical consequences of bullying. Mr. Halligan will also speak to parents and other Elkhart County students at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18 at Central High School. His presentation is titled, "Bullying, Cyber Bullying and Youth Depression." Halligan's evening presentation in Elkhart will cover all the lessons his family learned too late regarding how to deal with bullying, cyber bullying, and teen depression. Parents will be empowered with strategies to take preventative actions with their own children. Ryan Halligan was a middle school student in Essex Junction, Vermont. While Ryan's parents knew he was being bullied at school, and had taken steps to deal with it, they learned after his death just how pervasive the bullying had been. Since his son's death John Halligan has been outspoken about the need for more education and prevention of bullying, cyber bullying, and teen suicide. You can learn more about Ryan at [www.RyanPatrickHalligan.org](http://www.RyanPatrickHalligan.org) Please consider attending the Presentation on November 18, 2008.

### **Counselors Corner**

In autumn we expect the leaves to fall and the temperatures to fall... but please don't let your student's grades fall! If you are online and would like your child's PIN number to check grades on STI please call the guidance office at 295-4704.

### **Senior Spotlight:**

Now is the time for college applications to be received. Thanksgiving is a good deadline for most colleges. Even if you are taking the SAT in November @ Memorial or December @ Penn you can apply now. The ACT will

be given at Concord in December. Transcripts can be requested online at [www.blueblazers.org](http://www.blueblazers.org) or [www.docufide.com](http://www.docufide.com). The senior meeting will be November 18<sup>th</sup> during activity period and after lunch.

### **Junior Juggling:**

Junior considers your options for next year: AP classes, Elkhart Area Career Center, Internship, early graduation, etc. It is also time to visit colleges. Plan on taking the SAT or ACT in the spring. Visit [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org) for college, career, and financial aid ideas.

### **Sophomores;**

Push to keep your grades up and visit [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org) to take a career interest inventory. Make sure you are taking the challenging classes for your best preparation Please plan to visit the Elkhart Area Career Center Open House on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30 p.m.

### **Freshmen:**

You will meet with your counselors on November 25<sup>th</sup> in advance of scheduling your tenth grade classes. Each freshman will meet with their counselor to make their class selections in December. Be thinking about the classes you want to take to build your skills for your future career. Visit [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org) to take a learning style assessment and explore career ideas.

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Please plan on attending Parent/Teacher conferences on December 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a good time to meet with your student's teachers and find out how your student is doing in his/her classes. If you have any concerns, this would be a good time to discuss

them. Conferences are from 3:30p.m.-7:00p.m.

### **MRSA in Athletics**

Transmission of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) among sports participants is a concern. Possible risk factors for infection include close physical contact, skin damage, and sharing of equipment or clothing. The risk for transmission of MRSA is much greater among sports participants than among students in a classroom. The following guidelines for preventing MRSA in the sport setting are listed:

- 1) Cover all wounds. If wound can not be covered the athlete will be excluded from participation until the lesion is healed or can be covered.
- 2) Encourage good hygiene. Shower and wash with soap after all practices and competitions.
- 3) Discourage sharing of towels and personal items, such as clothing or equipment.
- 4) Shared equipment will be cleaned routinely such as mats.
- 5) Athletes are to report skin lesion to coaches and encourage coaches to assess athletes regularly for skin infections.