

May 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

Ninth Grade Academy News



Important Dates:

July 31 – Fresh Start
August 8 – First day of school

NGA Teachers:

Brett Chatham
Civics

**Stacy Colwell &
Amy Williams**
Biology/Earth Systems

Carol Knight
Math I

Cathy Magrin
English

**Some ninth grade classes will be taught by teachers outside of the academy or with the help of co-teachers*

Materials List:

(4) 2+ inch 3-ring binders
(4 packs) notebook dividers
(2) spiral notebooks
Pencils
Pens (blue, black and red)
Scientific Calculator
4x6 index cards

*all paper should be college ruled

Welcome to the Ninth Grade Academy

We are excited to welcome the class of 2013 into the inaugural year of Union County's Ninth Grade Academy. We are confident that August 8 will mark not only the beginning of a new academic year, but also the beginning of a fresh start. Starting high school is an opportunity to "wipe the slate clean" and begin the new chapter of your life with the tools and confidence needed for success.

As of your first day in high school, your grades will count towards your final GPA and the HOPE scholarship! Everything

that you do builds a foundation for what is to follow. A strong foundation in the Ninth Grade year will translate to success throughout high school and beyond. We are committed to helping you obtain the tools needed to build this foundation, and have, therefore, created this Ninth Grade Academy.

The curriculum may not be easy, and the subject matter may not always be the most interesting, but every student can succeed if he works hard, asks questions, and shows up ready to learn.

What is a Ninth Grade Academy?

Ninth Grade can be a difficult transition for many students. Many statistics show that ninth grade is a pivotal year in setting learning habits and determining high school success and drop-out rates. To help ninth graders succeed, schools across the nation are developing ninth grade success academies.

Ninth grade academies involve a core group of teachers who work together in order to foster tools for success in students. Common research-based strategies will be used and developed in each NGA classroom to help students develop *their own* learning and study habits. High expectations will be placed upon each student by each of the NGA teachers in order to foster the skills that will be required for success in tenth grade through twelfth grade and beyond.

Each of the NGA teachers specifically chose to be a part of the Ninth Grade Academy and is dedicated to our freshmen students. These teachers will share common planning time to discuss strategies for success, and any problems that arise. NGA teachers will also enforce a common system of expectations; students will be expected to come to class prepared, be ready to learn, and not inhibit the learning of others at any time.

Uchs Ninth Grade Academy

Administration

Ed Rohrbaugh
Principal

Angie Burns
Assistant Principal

Jennifer Ludlum
Vocational Director

Gina Donahue
Counselor

Meredith Jorgenson
Graduation Coach

We're coming to the Web!

Look for us soon at:
www.ucschools.org/uc_high

Then click on the Ninth Grade Academy Page

High School F.A.Q.

Many students and parents start the first day of school with no clue as to where to go and what to do. Hopefully, after reading this, you will have a better understanding:

Where do I drop off my student before and after school?

Drop off in the morning and pick up after school is at the front entrance of the building. This is accessed via Panther Circle – the road on which the back entrance to Wendy's is located.

Where do I drop off or pick up students during the school day?

If you need to pick up a student during the day or drop off a student after the school day has begun, you will need to go to the attendance office. This is located on the third floor in C wing. The easiest access to this office is the top parking lot off Panther Circle. Another easy access is the C wing door adjacent to the Gymnasium's main entrance.

How do tardies work?

Students are allowed four cumulative tardies. If a student is late to class, he/she will need to stop by Ms. Melinda Colwell's office on the third floor and receive a pass to class. Upon the fifth tardy, the student will be written up for ISS. **NOTE: These five tardies can come from a combination of any of your eight classes.*

At what point does my student lose credit for attendance?

Attendance is counted on a class-by-class basis. If students receive six unexcused absences in any class, they will lose credit in that class. If a student leaves during the day and has five unexcused absences in his morning classes, and six in his afternoon classes, he will keep credits for the morning classes and lose credit in the afternoon classes.

***** Other rules and procedures can be found in the Student Handbook.**

Fresh Start

On July 31 you will have an unprecedented opportunity at Union County High School. All first-time ninth graders are invited to attend an orientation session. This will be your first opportunity to get your schedule, map out your classes, get to know the building, and meet your teachers ... all without the distraction of the upper classmen!

We will also have some fun activities designed to help you to better know the building and how things work in high school. Those who attend will have a say in some of the things we will be doing throughout the year, and participate in developing our class motto.

Don't miss out on this opportunity!

Date: July 31

Time: 8:30 – 1:00pm

Place: We will meet in the High School Cafeteria

NGA Disciplinary Policy

NGA Teachers have adopted a common disciplinary policy for ninth graders. This policy will be common to all NGA classes and strictly enforced. The following is a rundown of the steps in dealing with disciplinary problems.

Step 1: Students will receive a warning and the infraction will be documented.

Step 2: Students will receive silent lunch and complete a behavior contract. The infraction will also be documented.

Step 3: The infraction will be documented and the student will be sent to the administration for disciplinary action (ISS/OSS). A student/teacher conference will be held during 4th block with NGA teachers.

Step 4: Student will be sent to administration and a parent conference will be held.