



# FAIRBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



AUGUST 2007

SUPERINTENDENT - FRED HELMINK  
JR./SR HIGH PRINCIPAL - JEFF VETTER  
JEFFERSON INTERMEDIATE PRINCIPAL-  
ANNETTE WEISE

ASST. PRINCIPAL/ACTIVITIES DIR -  
KEVIN SIMMERMAN  
CENTRAL ELMENTARY PRINCIPAL  
JEREMY CHRISTIANSEN



## CALENDAR EVENTS

- AUGUST 9  
6:30 7TH GRADE  
ORIENTATION
- AUGUST 13  
5:30 SPIRIT NIGHT
- AUGUST 15  
FIRST DAY 7-12  
1:00 DISMISSAL  
6:30-8:00  
ELEMENTARY  
BACK TO SCHOOL  
NIGHT
- AUGUST 16  
FIRST DAY K-6
- AUGUST 28  
SCHOOL PICTURES
- SEPTEMBER 3  
LABOR DAY

## *Thoughts of a Superintendent* **From the Desk of Fred Helmink**

The 2007-2008 school year is about to begin. We are certainly looking forward to welcoming children back to school and sharing the many enhancements we have made in our educational programs and buildings. I know that many of you will be attending Back-to-School Spirit Night and the staff and I appreciate the many parents who will join us to meet their child's teacher and learn about what your child will be doing this year.

We want to make certain that every student is able to achieve his or her fullest potential. Numerous things need to be in place to help us do that. With the many state and federal mandates, we are in an era of increased accountability. With this comes increased responsibility for everyone who works with children. I am confident that we have once again hired an outstanding group of teachers and paraprofessionals who are dedicated to doing what it takes to help children succeed. But I also believe that the education of the children in District 8 is a shared responsibility. We need the assistance of each and every one of the parents or guardians of our young people. Their involvement is one of the most important factors in a child's success in school.

Throughout the year you will be hearing messages from the teachers and administrators about not only our responsibilities, but also your responsibilities as a parent. While you have expectations of what the educational program will provide, we also have expectations about what will happen during the balance of your child's day.

**Attendance:** We expect your children will attend school on a daily basis. It is vital that children are in school and on time so that we can deliver the highest quality educational experiences. Please assist us by reviewing the school calendar and making sure that your child is in attendance on all scheduled school days.

**Respect:** We expect that your children will respect the rules of the school, their teachers, and the rights of other students. Children cannot learn in an atmosphere that accepts bullying, harassment and intimidation; it will not be tolerated. We will also affirm with all our staff members the expectation that they will model respectful behavior toward our students as well.

**Responsibility:** Your children spend every day in classrooms with highly qualified teachers. We have focused our attention on the best practices in teaching and integration of technology to enhance student learning. We expect that your children will approach learning with a positive attitude and that they will, with your support, complete their assignments on time and to the best of their ability. We are ready to provide the support they need to make this happen.

**Support:** As we work collaboratively to assure that each child in District 8 receives the best education possible, we need your cooperation. If you have a question or concern, please call or e-mail your child's teacher. If you need additional assistance, please let the principal know. Education is a joint venture. We must all work together and support each other to enable students to thrive and achieve at their highest levels.

As superintendent, I need and value your input. I promise you that my guiding principle – my compass – my true north – will be increasing student achievement. Every decision I make will be based, first and foremost, on what is best for the students of Fairbury Public Schools. I look forward to working with you as we begin and to celebrating our successes during and at the conclusion of the 2007-2008 school year. Please join with me in our mission of "Educating Tomorrow's Leaders... Today!"

### TRANSPORTATION

Seven regular routes will operate daily. Information regarding route schedules will be sent to all parents who have children riding the buses. Parents of bus students are requested to call 729-2705 if they do not receive a letter from The First Student Transportation Company by August 14<sup>th</sup>. For your convenience, there is an answering service for after-hours calls. First Student would like to invite any parent that would like a copy of the bus rules for activity and field trips to stop by the First Student Office at 1126 24<sup>th</sup> Street and pick up a copy. Routes for grades 7-12 will start August 15<sup>th</sup>, K-6 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and Preschool students on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There will no longer be a cross town bus route because of budgets cuts. Other arrangements will be made for students with special needs. For students having sports practice, please advise First Student for the first two days if you will be riding the bus.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

*VICKIE BANAHAN—PRESIDENT  
GARY MUELL—VICE PRESIDENT  
WADE VERNON—SECRETARY  
JIM MASCHMANN  
CHRIS RUZICKA  
RICHARD ZIMMERMAN*

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS & OFFICES

#### Administration Office & CHANCE Alternative Program

Fred Helmink - Superintendent, 703 K Street, 729-6104  
fhelmink@fairburyjeffs.org

#### LIFE Development Learning Program

1010 K Street, 729-5605

#### Jr./Sr. High School

Jeff Vetter, Principal, 1501 9th Street, 729-6116  
jvetter@fairburyjeffs.org  
Kevin Simmerman, Assistant Principal/Activities Director  
ksimmerman@fairburyjeffs.org  
Coaches' Office - '47 Bldg - 729 K Street - 729-3997

#### Jefferson Intermediate

Annette Weise, Elementary Principal, Curriculum & Assessment Director, 924 K Street, 729-5041, aweise@fairburyjeffs.org

#### Central Elementary

Jeremy Christiansen, Elementary Principal, Student Director & Step Ahead Preschool, 808 F Street, 729-2418, jerchris@fairburyjeffs.org

Bus Garage - 1126 24th Street, 729-2705

Maintenance Department - 8th & K Street - 729-3156

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The elementary school supply lists for students entering Kindergarten through Grade 6 have been made available to local retail stores and businesses. Please contact the customer service desk for more information. Supply lists are also accessible on the school district website – [www.fairburyjeffs.org](http://www.fairburyjeffs.org)

### **NEW STAFF MEMBER (BAH) BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**

We would like to welcome twenty new staff members to the Fairbury School system this year.

**Certified Staff:** Janet Ahl, Physical Education teacher at Central; Sheri Christiansen, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Jefferson; Mandy Freitag, Spanish teacher at the Jr/Sr High; Brenda Glunz, School Psychologist/Counselor at Central; Rebecca Hamata, Science teacher at the Jr/Sr High; Dana Jensen, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Jefferson; Christy Lucking, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Central; Jennifer Owen, Hearing Impaired Educator; Marni Parrack, Special Education teacher at Jefferson; Danielle Schmidt, Special Education teacher at CHANCE; Todd Westover, Social Studies teacher the Jr/Sr High; and Adam Zrust, Vocal music teacher at Jefferson and Jr/Sr High.

**Classified Staff:** Jan Beu, Paraeducator at CHANCE; Amy Bray, Food service at Jr/Sr High; Yvonne Campbell Media Paraeducator at Jefferson; Megan Haake, Secretary at Jr/Sr High; Andrea Klaus, Paraeducator at Central; Tammy Klaumann, Paraeducator at Central; Mary Ann Johnson, Paraeducator at Central; and Michelle Patton, Paraeducator at LIFE.

In an attempt to recognize and honor our new staff members, the Chamber of Commerce and the Fairbury Education Foundation will be co-hosting a BAH (Business After Hours) on Friday, August 10, in the downstairs dining room at Trailblazers. School personnel, community members and business people are encouraged to attend for free soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres. The BAH will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be an excellent opportunity to meet the new staff and socialize with other professionals. Formal introductions of all new staff members will be at 5:45. Anyone interested is also invited to stay for a meal and additional social time following the BAH. I hope to see many of you at this event.

### **WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**

Welcome to a new and exciting school year!

We trust you and your family had an event-filled summer break and are getting ready for the new school year to get started. All of the teachers and staff members are busy preparing to welcome elementary students on the first day of school, Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Please note that this first day is a full day with Central Elementary students dismissed at 3:15 p.m. and Jefferson Intermediate students dismissed at 3:25 p.m.

Students and family members are invited to attend our elementary schools' annual **WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT** on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> anytime between 6:30 – 8:00 P.M. This is the *best* opportunity before school begins for you and your family to visit your new classroom and to meet your new teacher. For families' convenience, cafeteria staff will be available to process meal account deposits during this year's event. Representatives from the Fairbury PTA will also be available to share planned programs and activities, volunteer opportunities, and membership details. Thanks to the generous support and donations from our many community business partners, *Schroeder's Family Foods*, *Smitty's Bakery*, *McDonald's* and *Walmart*, students and families may also enjoy freshly baked cookies and a refreshing juice drink during this year's **WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**.

We encourage students and their families to join us for introductions, cookies, and excitement as we celebrate the start of another spectacular school year!

## **The “Silver Bullet” Solution**

**By Jeff Vetter, Fairbury Jr-Sr High School Principal**

One of the greatest frustrations for educators is the constant search for the next “silver bullet” that is supposed to solve all the educational problems that exist. It seems that every couple of years there is a “new” program or model that is supposed to be “the solution” to any educational woes, real or perceived. This constant shifting from one program to the next often results in the age old refrain of “this too shall pass.”

I am not suggesting that change, or trying a new approach is not appropriate. We should always be looking for ways to improve our educational methods. What I am saying is that there already exist fundamental approaches that have proven very effective over time. Most high achieving schools do not possess some secret strategy that no one else knows about – they simply do the fundamentals very well over time. According to Dr. Doug Reeves, a nationally respected educational analyst who bases his research on findings from hundreds of thousands of students, the number one critical factor affecting student success is homework completion. The second factor leading to improved student achievement is non-fiction writing. I think you would agree that both of these strategies are fairly fundamental.

One of my first acts as principal two years ago was to create a program at Fairbury Jr/Sr High School called “ZAP” which stands for Zeros Aren’t Permitted. This is an after school program for junior high students that focuses on homework completion every Tuesday and Thursday. Its purpose is not punitive, but pro-active, to promote student completion of assigned homework. For parents who want to help their students experience academic success, I strongly encourage you to focus your efforts on homework completion. Visit with your student’s teachers and find out what they are working on. One of the benefits of the block schedule is that students often have some time at the end of class to work on the next day’s assignment. I believe this to be a real plus for students, having the opportunity to start their homework assignment with the teacher present in the event they need assistance. Unless your student is an honor roll student, don’t readily accept the “I don’t have any homework” statement. Be involved in your students’ academic success, set high expectations and make sure they get their homework done!

## **SCHOOL PICTURES 2007-2008**

**School pictures will be taken Tuesday, August 28, 2007**

Jack Martin of Martin Photography will be taking our students’ pictures this school year. Please look for the flyer with picture information being sent home with your child(ren). School picture orders are now required to be pre-paid and students’ families will be asked to send the money for their pictures by picture day, Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. All picture packages will be delivered to school and then sent home with individual students.

*There is no obligation to purchase school pictures. All students will be photographed for inclusion in the annual yearbook.*

District families having preschool-age children at home may also take advantage of this photo opportunity from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. or from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at Central Elementary School.

## ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

We would like to welcome everyone back to Fairbury Jr/Sr high school for the 2007-2008 school year. Fairbury Jr/Sr high school has a great reputation of placing competitive teams on the fields, courses, and courts and we have high hopes for the 2007-2008 teams as they face challenging schedules not only within the Central Conference but our out of conference schedule as well.

The following is a list of important dates for the high school fall sports teams:

**VOLLEYBALL:** Conditioning dates of Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m., Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. & August 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:30 p.m. **Practice** will begin on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 a.m..

**SOFTBALL: Practice** will begin on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 a.m. at the softball fields.

**CROSS COUNTRY: Practice** will begin at 7:00 a.m. on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> at the high school.

**GIRLS GOLF: Practice** will begin on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Fairbury Country Club.

**FOOTBALL: Practice** will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 noon on Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> at the High School practice field.

**ANYBODY WHO PLANS ON PARTICIPATING IN SPORTS MUST HAVE A COMPLETED PHYSICAL FORM AND CONSENT FORM SIGNED AND IN THE COACHES HANDS PRIOR TO ANY PRACTICING.**

We would also like to remind you about the **SEASON PASSES** for the 2007-2008 school year. The prices are going to remain the same as in the past with a \$105 Family Pass (covers children who are attending college at the undergraduate level); \$45 Single Pass; and a \$30 Student Pass. Season passes provide entry to all regular season athletic contests at all levels with the exception of Central Conference and NSAA Sponsored District/State tournaments. Passes may be purchased at the "Back to School Spirit Night" (Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>), at the gate during the pre-season "Soap Scrimmages", at the first few home contests, and at the high school office.

We would like to invite all parents, patrons, and fans to come and meet the coaches at the **Second Annual "Back to School Spirit Night"** set to begin at 5:30 p.m. at the high school. We are planning to grill hamburgers and hot dogs (chips and drink), unfortunately, there will be a cost involved with the food. Beginning at 7:00 p.m. there will be a presentation from former University of Nebraska football player Aaron Davis. Please see his biography in this issue of the newsletter. At 8:30 p.m. each fall sport will hold their individual sport parent meeting in individual rooms at the high school.



**2nd Annual  
 “Back to School Spirit Night”  
 Fairbury Jr/Sr High School  
 Monday, August 13, 2007  
 EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**

**Aaron Davis** is known as “The Enthusiator” because of his contagious enthusiasm to equip others to perform like champions. His powerful and high-energy presentations are interactive, fresh and yet simple so that anyone can use his tips & techniques to attain greater success professionally and personally!

Aaron’s past experience as a National Champion Football player with the University of Nebraska has equipped him with first hand knowledge of how to achieve incredible results!

Thousands of individuals from coast to coast have been motivated and more importantly inspired to take action as a result of Aaron’s insights and strategies



**5:30 P.M. - Doors open for grilled hamburgers/hotdogs, chips and a drink for \$3.00**

**7:00 P.M.- Aaron Davis Presentation**

**8:30 P.M. - Mandatory Individual Coach/Parent Meeting**

**Be A “Jeff Booster”**

All parents and community members will have an opportunity to join together as Jeff Pride Booster Members in the coming months. An organizational meeting for this club will be held during the first few weeks of school and representatives from each sport will be selected to serve as a board of directors. Don’t miss this opportunity to become an active member of a growing organization intended to benefit our student athletes. Please look for more information at the “Back to School Spirit Night” on August 13<sup>th</sup>

**ELEMENTARY SCHEDULE**

- 8:05 – 8:20 a.m.....BreakfastServed
- 8:20 a.m.....Entry Bell
- 8:30 a.m.....Tardy Bell
- 3:15 p.m.....School Dimissal(Central)
- 3:25 p.m.....School Dimissal(Jefferson)

Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. We ask that students arrive at school no earlier than 8:05 a.m., when the breakfast bell rings. **Please note that there is no adult** supervision provided before 8:05 a.m. The entry bell allowing students into classrooms rings at 8:20 a.m. If your child walks to school or gets a ride (other than on a bus), please set up a schedule which will enable him/her to arrive no earlier than 8:20 a.m., unless he/she plans to eat a school breakfast. School will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. each day at Central Elementary and at 3:25 p.m. at Jefferson Intermediate, unless otherwise noted on the school calendar.

## CAFETERIA SERVICE

Cafeteria service will be available beginning August 15<sup>th</sup> for High School students and August 16<sup>th</sup> for the Elementary students. Space is available for students wishing to bring sack lunches. Milk may be purchased for 35 cents.

Breakfast prices are as follows:

K-6 Breakfast—\$1.20	Meal tickets (20 meals) \$24.00
7-12 Breakfast—\$1.30	Meal tickets (20 meals) \$26.00

Breakfast will start on Aug. 15th and will be served at 8:05

Lunch prices are as follows:

Grades K-6—\$1.85	Meal tickets (20 meals) \$37.00
Grades 7-12—\$2.15	Meal tickets (20 meals) \$43.00
Adults—\$2.60	Meal tickets (20 meals) \$52.00

Anyone wishing to purchase lunch tickets for any school can purchase them at the Jr./Sr. High School on August 9th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and at Central & Jefferson August 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and you can always buy them the first day of school.

## REGISTRATION AND STUDENT RECORDS

Nebraska statutes require each school district to keep a continuous census of pupils. Each parent or guardian of an elementary student is asked to complete the Student Information Form annually. Families are also required to provide the following information:

- (1) report cards and all pertinent records from previous schools
- (2) the child's official birth certificate for new students
- (3) updated immunization records, and
- (4) record of physical, dental and vision examinations (required for

Kindergarteners and students new to the Fairbury Public Schools transferring from out-of-state).

Please contact the school nurse or school principal for information about free immunization clinic dates, times, and locations, as well as information regarding free or reduced-cost vision evaluations for low-income families who qualify.

FAIRBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
703 K ST  
FAIRBURY NE 68352

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