



Crete Public Schools

October 2011

School Communication

School is definitely in full swing. The district will have a record number of students during the 2011-12 school year, up approximately 44 children from last year. This will be the third consecutive year of record number kindergarteners as 147 young ones entered in the fall. Parent/Teacher conferences are also a sure indication that school is deep into the instructional season.

It may sound cliché to state the importance of communication between school and home; however, truer words have not been spoken. Parent/Teacher conferences are a scheduled time to meet face-to-face with school personnel and only formally take place twice each year within a building. Parents are always encouraged to make individual arrangements for contacts with teachers or administrators.

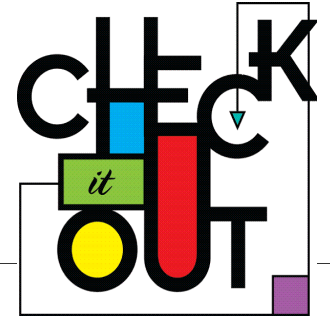
The world today provides many additional avenues for communication between home and school. Social media isn't just for chit-chat between friends. Crete Public Schools has a facebook page, a website: criteschools.org, and an electronic student data management system, **Infinite Campus**, which is accessible by password to parents. Many teachers also create websites to assist with communication to students and parents. The sites will contain homework assignments and assistance.

Technology is an integral part of every student's life as well as the day-to-day happenings within a school system. Each student in grades 5-12 has a gmail account through the district's domain name. Students can only communicate with other accounts within the Crete School community. One major advantage with Google student accounts is the ability to save and store data. Students shouldn't need a flash drive or have to worry about a homework assignment not being accessed on a school or home computer.

Although there are a multitude of communication systems available to all of us, let's not forget about a simple personal visit or even a phone call. I truly believe there is no substitute for the effectiveness and efficiency of a simple conversation with all parties present in a room together. The school district exists to educate our youth and that goal is best accomplished as a partner with parents. Thank you for your support.

Kyle McGowan
Superintendent
402-826-5855 or
Toll Free 877-826-1011
kylem@criteschools.org

The Mission of the Crete Public Schools is to develop respectful and productive citizens. Learners will demonstrate academic and communicative skills necessary to navigate new challenges while providing support for their families and communities.



**Check Out
Our Website...**

www.criteschools.com

We hope to keep you up-to-date on school events and student achievements. Visit our web page each week at criteschools.com for activities, lunch menu, board meetings, weekly bulletins, staff directories, and a variety of other school information.

If you are interested in obtaining an access code to enter the Infinite Campus parent portal, please contact any of our offices to sign up.



Find us on Facebook





Elementary Parent Advisory Meeting

The first Parent Advisory meeting will be held in the Elementary Media Center on **Monday, October 3** at 7:00 p.m. Many parents volunteered for this organization and those selected have been notified. We want to thank all of those who volunteered for this group. Even though you might not have been selected, you can always come and be a welcomed part of the group. Dates throughout the year for the advisory council are:

October 3, 2011 February 6, 2012
November 7, 2011 March 5, 2012

Standardized Achievement Tests

On **Tuesday, October 4th**, all students in grades third and fourth will begin to take a standardized achievement test. This year the students will be completing the Stanford Achievement test. All testing should be completed on October 6th.

You can help your child by:

- making sure they get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast
- have a couple of #2 pencils for taking the test
- encouraging them to do their best.



If your child is sick please keep them home. We will try to make up tests. If you have an appointment scheduled, that can be rescheduled please do so. It is very important for your child to be in school.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to call your child's classroom teacher or Ms. Deibert, testing coordinator.



Community Homecoming Pep Rally - October 12
7:00 p.m. at Tuxedo Park
Come and support the Cardinals!



Picture Retakes

Students who did not have their picture taken during the regular picture day will have retakes on: **October 6**

Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences

Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on **Monday, October 10**, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. and on **Thursday, October 13**, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:30 p.m. **School will be dismissed early on Thursday, October 13 at 1:15 p.m.** This is an important time for you to meet with your child(ren)'s teacher and ask any questions that you might have.



NO SCHOOL **for elementary students** **OCTOBER 14**

The **Elementary School** will not have classes on Friday, October 14. The Middle School and High School will have classes for their students on this day.

NO SCHOOL **for ALL students** **OCTOBER 31**





NOTICE TO PARENT OF RIGHTS AFFORDED BY SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to qualifying students with disabilities. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning the decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions.

You have the right to:



1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to every student.
6. Have evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
7. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if the setting is a program not operated by the district) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation and placement.
10. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. (You and your child may take part in the hearing. Hearing requests are to be made to the Department of Student Services).
11. File a local grievance.

Driver EDUCATION OFFERED AT CRETE

Southeast Community College will offer Driver Education at Crete High School September 13 to October 13. Classroom lecture will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for five weeks. The two-hour drive lab meets once a week for six weeks. The student may choose any day, Monday through Thursday with a starting time of 4:00 p.m. or at 6:15 p.m., Monday, Wednesday or Saturday starting at 8:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 1:00 p.m. or 3:15 p.m.

Pre-registration forms are available in the Crete High School office. The form and registration fee of \$225 must be turned in to Southeast Community College. The class textbooks may be purchased directly from the Crete High School office for \$26.50. Students must have a school or learner's permit by the first day of class. Students who attend ALL classroom instruction and meet the minimum requirements for written and drive tests will receive documentation to satisfy insurance requirements and/or the provisional operator's permit. If you have any questions regarding Driver Education, please call Sandy Vyhnaek at Crete High School, 826-5811 or 877-826-1019.



We are a  SCHOOL where  **Staff and Students EXCEL, Parents and Community CARE.**

Band Instruments Needed

Many students are wanting to learn to play an instrument and participate in band, therefore, Crete Public Schools is in need of good used band instruments. If you have an instrument that you would like to **donate**, please contact one of the instrumental music teachers listed below. You will receive a tax deductible receipt for your donation.



Middle School - Jennene Anderson - 826-5844 or 826-7745

High School - Eric Fahrlander - 826-5811 or 826-7757



Get the Most From Parent-Teacher Meetings

Parent-teacher conferences are great opportunities to learn about and improve your child's education. These tips will help:

- **Start by saying** something positive about the teacher. For example, mention what you like about her classroom.
- **Discuss your child's** strengths and weaknesses. What are her special talents? With which subjects does she struggle most?
- **Talk about any major** changes in your child's life, such as a divorce or a new sibling.
- **Find out how** students are evaluated. What factors will affect your child's final grade?
- **Review what your** child is learning. Ask about what will be covered the rest of the year.



- **Ask how you can help.** What things can you do at home?
- **Clarify anything** about which you're unsure. One way to do this is to repeat what the teacher says in your own words.
 - **Keep an open mind.** If the teacher says something unexpected, think before responding. Try to understand her point of view.
 - **Follow up.** Check back with the teacher about topics you discussed. If your child was going to work on certain skills, see how she's doing.

Source: "Parent-Teacher Conferences: How Can I Get the Most Out of Them?" Home and School Institute.

SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS...

Crete Foodmart have agreed to give Post Prom \$1,000 for \$100,000 in grocery receipts turned in by April 20, 2012.



Receipts can be dropped off at Edward Jones (by Dollar General) or Davidson Insurance during regular business hours from now until the end of April. Or, you may give them to any Post Prom committee members or drop them off at the high school office.

Thanks for your help!

Post Prom Committee

MUSIC PROGRAMS



The Fall Vocal Concert will be held on Sunday, October 16, at 2 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The fifth grade students will be displaying their talents on Monday, October 24, at their annual music program. The program will be held in the high school auditorium and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Come and join us in the fun!

Cardinal Zone



Cardinal Zone is new and improved this year. It is now a club-based before and after school program for middle school students with more variety and opportunities for students to try new things. Cardinal Zone provides a safe environment to improve student learning performance, improve student social and behavioral skills, and to increase family and community engagement in supporting students' education.

The before school session runs Monday-Friday from 7-8:00 a.m. and allows students to come into the library and computer labs. There is no fee for this time and new options are also being developed. No need to wait outside or in the entry anymore—just enroll and sign in.

The after school session runs M-F from 3:25-6:00 p.m. Students may be picked up after homework time, club or at the end of the program. Every middle school student is welcome to attend but will need to fill out an enrollment form and if they are planning to attend clubs will need to pay a \$20 supply fee. Any questions or concerns regarding the program, please contact Danielle Suhr at 826-9836 or danielle.suhr@creteschools.org.



School Breakfast Program



Want to help your kids succeed academically? Send them to the School Breakfast Program. Research shows that “children who attend school hungry often have diminished attention spans and are unable to perform tasks as well as their nourished peers. In these cases, the full value of the education provided is lost.” On the other hand, school breakfast participation has been shown to improve standardized test scores, make kids more alert in class, and improve classroom behavior. Make sure your kids start the school day with a delicious, nutritious meal—you’ll see the results in their report cards!



School Breakfast Information

Serving Time: 7:40 a.m. Prices: Elementary \$1.20 MS/HS \$1.40 *Reduced: \$.30 *Free (*If qualified)

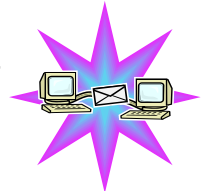


Ask your child what fresh fruits and vegetables were served this month at the elementary.



Lunch Account Balances

Would you prefer to be notified by email when your child’s lunch balance is low? If you are interested in receiving an email about your lunch account, please email your address to sherryr@creteschools.org. Call Sherry at 826-7886 if you have any questions.



Free and Reduced school meals applications are available in all the school offices and on our website

Reminders.....

LUNCH ACCOUNTS

Please make sure your children have money in their lunch account. Cash or checks may be taken to any of our school offices. It will save time if larger amounts of cash are deposited. We are offering

BONUS DOLLARS for these amounts:

You Deposit - Bonus Dollars

\$40	\$1.00
\$78	\$2.00
\$116	\$4.00

SNACK MILK—Kindergarten and first grade students will receive snack milk daily. This is not included in the free/reduced program. Snack milk will be .25 a day.

BUS ACCOUNTS

If you are paying for monthly busing, your next payment is due before October 15.



If payment is not received by the 15th of the month, students will need to present bus tokens to ride the bus to and from school. (2 tokens per child, per day)

Tokens can be purchased in any school office. \$1.00 per token

ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent from school, please notify the appropriate school office before 9:00 a.m.

Elementary :	826-5822
Toll Free:	877-826-1017
Middle School:	826-5844
Toll Free:	877-826-1018
High School:	826-5811
Toll Free:	877-826-1019