

MILESTONES

FRESHMAN-SOPHOMORE-JUNIORS YEARBOOK PICTURES

The yearbook picture will be that same as the ID photo. Students should dress accordingly. Retake day will be the last week in September.

FRESHMAN YEAR FRESHMAN MENTORING PROGRAM

The Freshmen Mentoring Program seeks to ease the transition between junior high and high school. Junior and Senior students mentor freshmen on topics such as student involvement in activities and athletics, study skills, conflict resolution, communication, and cultural diversity. Teams of three mentors meet with groups of approximately 24 freshmen during 22 minutes of the lunch hour twice weekly. Counselors, deans, and social workers also meet with freshmen during FMP time to discuss services, course selection choices, and answer student questions. FMP is not optional, and freshmen attendance is taken. Prior to exams, mentors meet with freshmen once during the week; the second day of FMP is a quiet study hall.

SOPHOMORE YEAR CLASS RINGS

NCHS has chosen Jostens Class Rings as its chosen supplier. A Jostens representative works with students regarding the purchase of class rings. The Class Ring and Stone display is in the Trophy Case in the school foyer. **It is always best to choose the stone color from the Stone display – not the book.**

Sophomores order class rings in late August.

- Students order rings during lunch hours in the cafeteria. There is also a family night when parents are encouraged to attend.
- Delivery is at the school six to seven weeks later.

Jostens offers four basic ring designs. Many free options are available for personalizing the ring. **Rings cost between \$170.00 and \$450.00.**

Jostens offers several payment plans.

- Pay in full with a check, money order, or any major credit card.
- Make a deposit on the ring, and then pay the balance when you receive it. A \$50.00 deposit is required when ordering the ring.
- Pay in installments with an easy interest-free plan.

Jostens provides:

- **automatic ring insurance with the purchase of all high school rings ordered after July 1, 1997.** If a loss or theft occurs and is reported to Jostens within four years of purchase of the ring, Jostens will provide a one-time replacement ring of same or similar design and comparable value. A deductible applies to the transaction.
- a credit on the purchase of your college ring if you turn in your Jostens high school ring. You will receive a turn-in credit for your gold high school ring based on prevailing gold prices at the time of turn-in. Exchange of your ring at no charge if your year of graduation changes or if you change schools before your graduation date. The ring is of similar design, if possible, and comparable value.

TESTING

PLAN TEST	This is a practice for the ACT test taken by all Freshman in April. Career and academic interest information is provided as well.
PRACTICE ACT	This test, an alternative form of the ACT, is taken in April by all Sophomores.
PSAT/NMSQT qualifying	This is a practice SAT test taken by Juniors in October. It is also a test for National Merit Scholarships. Top Sophomores can take this test in October, usually on a Saturday.

JUNIOR YEAR

PRAIRIE STATE ACHIEVEMENT EXAMINATION

This is a state mandated test which is used as District 203's report card to the State Board of Education. Incorporated in this test is an ACT test which scores can be used on college applications. However, the NCAA does not accept this ACT score on their applications unless taken on a Saturday at a national test center.

ACT	The ACT is taken by every Junior in April of their Junior year and is designed to measure academic potential for college bound students. It is common to take this test more than once. It can be taken in September, October, February, April or June. Some colleges require the optional writing test. For a list of those colleges go to www.act.org .
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SENIOR YEAR

SAT/SATI	This test is needed to apply to most selective colleges and universities, usually taken by students planning on attending a college on the East Coast. This test includes a mandatory writing test. In the Midwest only Northwestern and the University of Chicago require the SAT.
SAT II	This is a subject area test and is only required by Colleges that require the SAT I to be taken. Usually taken Senior year.
AP	Advanced Placement tests are coordinated through SPS (Student Personnel Services) and are taken the same year the student took the AP Class.

OPEN LUNCH POLICY

The School Board has approved seniors to be off campus during their lunch period. Seniors will be required to turn in a parent permission form to their dean.

TEACHER REFERENCES FOR COLLEGE

Selective, private colleges may require one to three teacher references to be submitted along with applications in Sept./Oct. of senior year. Teacher references may also be needed when applying for scholarships in Jan/Feb. of senior year. A senior/parent night is held in September to cover the total application process in detail. Parents of college-bound students are strongly urged to attend.

- Request teacher references at least four weeks before application is due.

SENIOR PHOTOS

Senior photos are taken by Root Studios, an HR Imaging Partners, Inc. Company. Photos must be taken by October 1st to be included in the yearbook. Root Studios sends out appointment times to juniors in May. **Seniors are responsible for calling Root Studios at 416-0552 to make an appointment for a sitting.**

SENIOR CLASS PARTY

The Senior Class Party is an all night party given by the senior parents to the senior class. Planning begins the year before the party. All parents are encouraged to participate in the planning, decorations and/or working the night of the party. Information is mailed to each student in the fall before the party. As the party date draws closer, subsequent mailings will include pertinent details such as payment information, the need for a baby picture and a current picture of your student to name a few.

GRADUATION

Complete graduation information is mailed home to all seniors and their parents in late April. Contents of the packet include a Jostens order form and a Commencement form.

Seniors receive an order form from which they can choose many graduation momentos. The majority of NCHS seniors choose an announcement package, and the Cap, Gown & Tassel unit. **Together these items cost between \$95.00 and \$150.00. Cap, gown and tassel only are about \$50.**

Cap, Gown and Graduation ticket delivery occurs during lunch hours in mid April.

- Student must have picture ID, and signed Commencement form must be on file.
- Each student **receives six (6) tickets**. Unused tickets are rarely turned in. If a family needs more than six, it is suggested that requests for extra tickets are made to friends and classmates who may not use all their tickets. The driveway overlooking the football field is open to all family members/friends who do not have tickets. You may bring lawn chairs to sit on.

Several senior activities occur during April, May:

- Excellence in Education Banquet – students with a GPA of 4.25 or better
- Dress-up Theme Days
- Senior Breakfast
- Senior Athletic Banquet
- Commemorative Service
- Academic Awards
- Senior Class Beach Party

Commencement takes place in late May.

- It is **held outdoors** in Memorial Stadium
- **It is not mandatory to participate in Commencement.** Intent to participate is indicated on the Commencement form. All seniors who intend to participate in the Graduation ceremony must be present at Graduation practice. **Any senior not attending practice will not be permitted to attend Commencement.**
- **Diplomas will not be issued to seniors with an outstanding fine/obligation.**