

Omaha Christian Academy

News & Notes

From the Superintendent

November 20, 2009

PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS GIVE THEIR SCHOOLS HIGH MARKS

In a nationwide survey, students were asked to grade their schools and provide other information about their high school experience. The survey revealed that 44 percent of private school students thought their schools had earned an A. On a GPA scale of 4.0, private schools received an average score of 3.1 from their students. The report, titled *The State of Our Nation's Youth* was issued in August by the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. It explores a number of attitudes and perceptions of high school students. It found that teens in general are "overwhelmingly confident in themselves and their futures."

RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS OUTPERFORM PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON SAT

The class of 2008 students from religiously affiliated schools significantly outscored public school students on the SAT. The average critical-reading score for public school students was 497, whereas the score for students from religious schools was 532. The math scores for public school students averaged 510, and religious school students math scores averaged 531. The writing scores for public school students averaged 488, and for religious school students, the average was 529.

{Adapted from ACSI Legal Legislative Update}

No School

Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27

Thanksgiving Break



**"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever".**

Psalm 136:1

<i>School Calendar</i>	
Nov. 20	MS Ice Skating Party @ Tranquility Ice Rink - 2:00-4:00 pm
Nov. 20	One Act Play @ OCA Cafeteria - 7:00
Nov. 21	MS BBB Tournament @ Mead - 9:00 am
Nov. 23	NFC One Act Play @ Cedar Bluffs
Nov. 23	Pep Band Rehearsal in OCA's Music Room - 3:45-5:00 pm
Nov. 25	Harvest Party - 4th & 5th Grade - 2:00
Nov. 26-27	No School Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 30	Pep Band Rehearsal in OCA's Music Room - 3:45-5:00 pm
Dec. 1	District One Act Play @ Midland Lutheran College in Fremont - 7:45 am
Dec. 3	MS BBB @ Cedar Bluffs - 4:00 pm
Dec. 3	JV B/V G&B BB vs College View - 4:45/6:15/8:00 pm - Location TBA
Dec. 4	V G&B BB @ Bancroft-Rosalie - 6:15/8:00 pm
Dec. 7	Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
Dec. 8	Elementary Christmas Concert @ OCA - 6:30 pm
Dec. 10	Christmas Dinner for Faculty/Staff/Board @ 7:00 pm
Dec. 11	Spelling Bee - Grades 1-8
Dec. 11	V G&B BB vs Parkview Christian @ College of St. Marys - 6:15/8:00 pm
Dec. 12	MS BBB Tournament @ Scribner-Snyder - 9:00 am
Dec. 12	JV/V G&B BB vs Weeping Water @ Colleg of St. Marys - Times TBA
Dec. 14	MS/HS Christmas Concert @ OCA - 7:00 pm
Dec. 16-18	HS Final Exams
Dec. 18	JV G & V G&B BB vs Cedar Bluffs @ Grace U.

National Honor Society Food & Winter Coat & Outerwear Drive

The National Honor Society is holding a food, winter coat & outerwear drive. All items will go to the Open Door Mission.

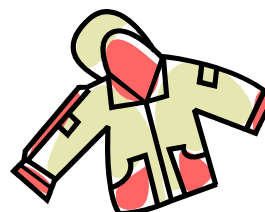
Preschool-5th grades bring goods to your own classroom.

6th-12th grades drop off goods in the cafeteria in the box labeled with your grade.

Collection Dates: Friday, November 20, Tuesday, November 24, Tuesday, December 1, and Friday, December 4.

Please make sure all food brought is non-perishable and all coats & outerwear are clean and in good condition. Outerwear can consist of items such as, hats, mittens, scarves and boots. Please **do not** bring other clothing.

The class who donates the most items in each level (elementary, middle school, high school) will receive a class party. However, remember that this is about giving to others, not receiving something in return.



Guidance Corner

- ⇒ Schering-Plough is offering the "Will To Win" Asthma Scholarship. In order to be eligible you must be a senior who is disciplined, determined and successful in managing your asthma. Ten \$5,000 scholarships are available. For more information and an application go to <http://www.schering-ploughwilltowin.com/about.asp>. All completed applications must be submitted by mail. The deadline is April 30.
- ⇒ The national educational sorority, Delta Theta Chi, is accepting applications for three scholarships, two in the amount of \$3,000 each and one in the amount of \$1,400, for students being accepted by Delta Theta Chi Sorority. Requirements call for a high scholastic average, evidence of financial need, and are currently enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college. Application forms are available in the guidance office. Deadline is Feb. 1.
- ⇒ The AXA Foundation is offering \$2,000 scholarships to students who have ambition and drive, determination to set and reach goals, respect for self, family and community, and the ability to succeed in college. For more information and to download an application go to their website, www.axa-achievement.com. Deadline is Feb. 15.
- ⇒ The American Legion Auxiliary has several scholarship opportunities available. Each one has a different website for more information and an application. Stop in the guidance office for more information.
- ⇒ The Assistance League of Omaha is offering an ACT Review Course at Westside High School. The review includes two, three-hour classes with an optional third class addressing ACT writing. The 1st session will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 6:30-9:30 pm. The 2nd session will be held on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 6:30-9:30 pm. The optional writing review will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 9, from 6:30-8:00 pm. There is a \$30 fee for two classes and \$40 for all three classes. Registration forms are available in the guidance office.

Calendar:

Nov. 20 - Late ACT Registration Deadline for Dec. 12 Test

Dec. 15 - SAT Registration Deadline for January 23 Test

Dec. 30 - Late SAT Registration Deadline for January 23 Test

CHECK THIS OUT!

Log on to Sycamore Education. On the home page you will find a link called "Maps to Athletic Events". On the right hand side of the page under the blue "Featured" banner click on "Links." Follow the link to Google Maps where you will find a map to the location of OCA athletic events. You can even personalize the directions from your location! [Please keep this link within the OCA family since it discloses the locations of many schools and could potentially be a security risk.]



PARENTS, WOULD YOU LIKE GREAT PHOTOS OF YOUR STUDENT?

Photographer Jeffrey Bebee, owner of Flatland Photography has a great website full of photos of OCA students at sporting events, music events and school activities. Go to www.flatlandphoto.com and order your prints today!

ATTENTION OCA PARENTS!

OCA participates in several different programs that give OCA either free merchandise or cash. Please recruit family, friends, and neighbors to also save for OCA.



- **Campbell's Labels for Education** - Please clip **Only the UPC Label** (1 point or 5 point UPC) from Campbell's products and collect caps of V8 juice products. You may visit the website at www.labelsforeducation.com for further details and a list of eligible products.
- **"Our Family" Labels for Learning** - Please clip only the **UPC** from "Our Family" products. Each UPC is worth 5 cents. These products can be purchased at Bag n' Save and No Frills Supermarkets. There is a special promotional running now through November 26. Labels for Learning is offering triple value for each UPC submitted, that's 15 cents instead of 5 cents. Please bring the UPC's to school as soon as possible.
- **Box Tops for Education** - Each box is worth 10 cents. Please clip closely around box top (it saves A LOT of time when bundling them for submission). Do Not submit any Betty Crocker coupons/points, we do not collect these. Box Tops also offers online shopping and a Visa charge card which generates a percentage back to OCA. For more information, visit Box Tops website at www.boxtops4education.com. Box Tops website also offers opportunities for bonus Box Tops, coupons, recipes, etc.
- **Target Visa Card** - Use your card and Target will give a percentage back to OCA.
- **Hy-Vee Cash for Students** - Began Monday, September 21, 2009 and ends Wednesday, December 31, 2009. Hy-Vee donates \$1.00 for every \$200 worth of receipts turned in.
- **Bag 'N Save School Rewards** - The past 3 years Bag 'N Save has offered \$1.00 for every \$150 worth of receipts. This program runs about mid-January to mid-April.
- **Inkjet/Laser/Fax Cartridges** - Recycle cartridges in the marked box.
- **Land O Lakes** - Collect bottle caps for a value of 5 cents each. Visit their website at www.savefiveforschools.com.

Place your UPC's/Box Tops/Receipts/Inkjets in the collection box outside the office in the marked box.

Thank you for your help supporting OCA and the time spent trimming Box Tops and UPC's. Please feel free to call Kathy Nilius at 492-8777 if you would like to help or have questions about these programs.

This is the last year Kathy Nilius has a student attending OCA. OCA needs a new volunteer to take over these programs. Please call the school office at 399-9565 if you would be willing to volunteer in this capacity.

OMAHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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Omaha, NE 68134

Phone: 402-399-9565
Fax: 402-399-0248

E-mail: ktulsie@ocamail.org

www.omahachristianacademy.org



Excellence in Christ-centered Education

REMINDER

A "Premiere Parking Spot" was auctioned off at the Fall Festival. This spot has been marked with a sign made by OCA's Art Department. Only the person designated on this sign should park in this spot. Thank you for your cooperation!



Cub Scout Corner

Pack Meetings:

Pack Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Next Pack Meeting is December 7.

Den Meetings:

All Den Meetings are 3:30-4:15 in Pre-school Classroom.

Tiger Cubs meet 2nd Monday of the month.
Bear & Webelos meet 2nd & 4th Mondays.

All Boy Scouts need to turn in their DUES (\$40 for the year) on Monday, November 23.

If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, Den/Pack Meetings will not be held.

School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
Nov 23	HOT— Chicken Nuggets COLD—Sunbutter & Jelly on Whole Wheat Bread	Potato Wedges Orange Wedges Dinner Roll White Cake with Tye
Nov 24	HOT— Beef Enchiladas COLD—Egg Salad Sandwich	Corn Berry Fruit Cocktail Cinnamon Crumb Cake
Nov 25	HOT— Pizza Hut Pizza COLD—Meat & Cheese Roll-up	Green Beans Fruit Medley Sugar Cookie
Nov 19	HAPPY THANKSGIVING NO SCHOOL	
Nov 20	NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK	

Students may choose yogurt & cheese stick as a main dish alternative.

Milk will be served with all meals.

Cost: \$2.60(Pre-K-5); \$2.75 (5-12); \$1.00 Extra Entrees

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

December 2009

Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn how to pay for college

EducationQuest is conducting statewide financial aid programs that explain the types of financial aid, how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), how colleges award financial aid, and the student loan process. The programs are free and open to the public. To find the program nearest you, visit EducationQuest.org/fap.asp.

Check out our financial aid videos!

Another way to learn about paying for college is by viewing the [Guide to College Funding video](#) at **EducationQuest.org**. The video features a family going through the financial aid process. To learn about completing the FAFSA, view [The FAFSA Made Easy](#).

How to estimate your FAFSA results

If you're a college-bound senior, you will soon complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in financial aid.

To estimate your FAFSA results now, use the [College Funding Estimator](#) at **EducationQuest.org**. The program will ask for 2009 income tax information. You may estimate your tax information to complete the Estimator but should use your completed 2009 tax returns when you submit the actual FAFSA.

Seniors...have you submitted your college applications?

If you haven't submitted your admission applications yet, it's time to get serious! Contact your top college choices to determine application deadlines and procedures. Ask if the admission application is also the application for college-based scholarships. If not, ask about the scholarship application process.

Learn money management skills and earn a chance to win a \$500 scholarship!

EducationQuest encourages you to visit [Financial Literacy Online](#) - a free online learning center that will teach you the basics of personal money management. EducationQuest is partnering with NSLP to administer monthly drawings in which Nebraska high school juniors and seniors who complete a *Financial Literacy Online* course can win one of 26 \$500 college scholarships!

To enter, you must successfully complete at least one course on *Financial Literacy Online* between November 1, 2009 and May 31, 2010. Students who complete more than one course will receive additional entries for each course successfully completed. Course topics include Budgeting, Contracts, Identity Theft and Financing Education.

Winners will be chosen monthly. An announcement will be delivered to the winners and to the high schools they attend.

There is no purchase necessary. Simply visit www.nslpflonline.org/nebraska, register and begin taking courses.

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

Don't pay for scholarship searches. Free scholarship search sites are available on the Internet including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#) which has over 2,000 state and local scholarships.

Visit your guidance counselor weekly for information about local scholarships.

Get organized. Place scholarship applications in deadline order and prioritize each award. Local awards and college-specific applications deserve top priority because you're more likely to earn them.

Continually update your activities, honors and volunteer or paid jobs using the [Activities Resume](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).

Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exam in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.

Use quality references such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them advance notice and a specific deadline.

Get an early start on essays. Describe your interests, hopes for the future, and leadership abilities.

Pay close attention to grammar, spelling and neatness. Ask at least two people to proofread your application.

December "To Do" List

Complete these tasks during December to stay on the right college planning track.

Seniors:

- Submit college applications.
- Estimate FAFSA results using the [College Funding Estimator](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).
- Attend the Financial Aid Program in your area.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.

Juniors

- Attend the Financial Aid Program in your area.
- Research college choices.
- Search for scholarships.
- Register by December 15 for the January 23 SAT.
- Register by January 5 for the February 6 ACT.

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Kearney

308-234-6310
800-666-3721

Lincoln

402-475-5222

800-303-3745

Omaha

402-391-4033

888-357-6300

EducationQuest.org

EducationQuest Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska.