



Bluejay News

Seward High School
December 2020

Every student, every day, a success!

Mission Statement: The school district of Seward --where every student, every day is a success -- affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. In cooperation with family and community members, the district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially, and physically.

Important Date Change

This year the National Honor Society Induction will be Sunday, March 28th at 2:00pm in the SHS theater.

Senior Pictures for the Yearbook

Senior pictures need submitted by 12/22/20. If this time schedule does not work for you please contact Mrs. Limback. Email your picture to Mrs. Limback. Please email the picture as a jpeg. If you only have the picture in a physical form, give it to Mrs. Limback in an envelope. You can also drop your picture off in the office. Pictures will be returned with your graduation information. kelly.limback@sewardschools.org

Seniors/Senior Parents

The yearbook staff is selling parent ads. The parent ads are each a color, ¼ page ad. It is recommended that you use 2-3 photos only and your message. The ad costs \$25. Email Mrs. Limback your message and the pictures if you have them online. Email the pictures as a jpeg. If you only have the pictures in a physical copy, give them to Mrs. Limback in an envelope. You can also drop off the message and pictures in the office. The pictures, the message, and the payment are due Friday, February 18th, 2021. If this time schedule is a problem, please contact Mrs. Limback at the high school. The photos will be returned with your student's graduation information.

If you choose to recognize your child in this way, you will undoubtedly wish him or her to have a yearbook as well. Please check to make sure you have ordered your 2020-2021 yearbook. To order a yearbook, go to www.jostens.com. If you have any questions about purchasing a yearbook or a parent ad please contact Mrs. Limback at the high school.

Mrs. Limback: kelly.limback@sewardschools.org

Thank you, Seward High Yearbook Staff

Holiday Music Performances

This year the SHS music department is planning separate performance dates for instrumental and vocal ensembles. At this time, we are planning to have live, in person concerts, but that could change based on directed health measures that would be current at that time. The instrumental concert will be Monday, December 14, at 7pm and will feature two symphonic band groups, the SHS jazz band, SHS wind ensemble, and a performance by our color guard members. The vocal concert will be Monday, December 21, at 7pm and will include all vocal groups. Please be sure to watch for emails from Mrs. Kenney and Mr. Rickert as well as school announcements regarding attendance policies for these performances.



SHS One Act Competition

This year Seward High School is preparing one show for central conference and district competitions, "The Actors a comedy in one act" written by Alex Emerson Acuff and directed by Patrick Runyan. Over 35 students will participate as actors and crew. Bewildered Harbo doesn't know he is dead and it is up to William Shakespeare to shed some light on the poor man's fate. While Harbo is being judged by "the big guy" and awaiting his fate, he is "entertained" by a motley group of actors ranging from Charlie Chaplin and Edwin Booth to other actors and actresses who were great during their time on earth.

Our competition dates are November 24th (Conference) and December 1st (Districts).



www.sewardpublicschools.org

Organizing & Creating Quality Content fo Multiple Media Platforms

The new Multimedia class leads the charge in previewing games/activities with cool graphics. They also provide support for an army of volunteer students who do live updates from school events. These posts are routed to the appropriate platform (Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram) using a third-party interface called Class Intercom. This product allows administrators to approve the posts prior to publishing. These student leaders also create interactive social media features such as Who Knew? Wednesday and Throwback Thursday. The video production unit of this group has created player profile videos, a football video, a fall feature video, which was debuted at the October P.R.I.D.E. Recognition Rally, and several weekly news updates. These students also help in the live streaming of several activities using Striv. Students organize, promote, provide color commentary, and create commercials for these events. The innovative work these students are doing to increase student voice and raise digital citizenship awareness is outstanding. The Journalism students will continue to produce the yearbook, but they have joined forces with the Multimedia group to offer three levels of support to the entire multimedia group using both the Class Intercom and Striv tools. Please contact jeremy.fries@sewardschools.org or kelley.limback@sewardschools.org if you would like to purchase any of the three advertising packages.

Package Name	Details	Cost
Bronze	1/4 page yearbook ad	\$100
Silver	1/4 page yearbook ad Social Media ad (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) one time per month	\$300
Gold	1/4 page yearbook ad Social Media ad (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) one time per month 30 secnd commercial shown on Striv broadcast www.striv.tv/seward	\$500

Winter Sports Key Dates

In case you missed it: Winter Sports practice began on Monday, November 16. The winter sports parent meeting was held November 17th at 6:30 pm in the Little Theater at the High School.

Don't hide that
Bluejay Pride!

After School Study Group

Students have access to extra assistance study group on Monday-Thursday each week from 3:45-4:45 p.m. in the Seward High School library. Students have access to Seward High School staff members. Students needing computer access are also welcome to attend.



Senior Banner/Spirit Apparel

In the past, seniors have been able to independently order senior banners for specific sports for their personal use. This option is still available; additionally, the school has also established a new systematic opportunity that allows us to honor more students in more activities as well as save students money by incorporating all of their activities into one banner. Seniors wishing to have a banner displayed in the main lobby may visit: <https://shop.sports-express.biz/sewardschools/>.

Fans will also find Seward High spirit apparel at the same site.



NSAA Moratorium

There will be no sports practices or competitions December 23 through December 27 due to the mandatory five-day NSAA moratorium. Additional information regarding sports practices and competitions during the winter break will be communicated directly by the coach of each sport/team.

End of First Semester and Start of Second Semester

The last day of classes before winter vacation is Tuesday, December 22nd. Classes will dismiss early at 1:30. School resumes with the start of second semester Tuesday, January 5th. The staff at Seward High School wishes our families a happy holiday season!

Term 3 Schedule Changes

The third term of the 2020-2021 school year will begin Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Students and parents/guardians should be advised that schedule changes will only be made on a limited basis once the new term begins when there is a scheduling error or some other educationally significant variable making it necessary. Students will be given an opportunity prior to the start of term 3 to request schedule changes. The purpose of completing this process prior to the start of a new term is to prevent unnecessary interruptions to classroom instruction once a new term begins.

Winter Activities Policies

With the winter activities season on the horizon a list of reminders has been provided below in an effort to be proactive regarding the policies of Seward High School. Please contact the school if you have questions or a unique situation you would like to discuss related to the items below.

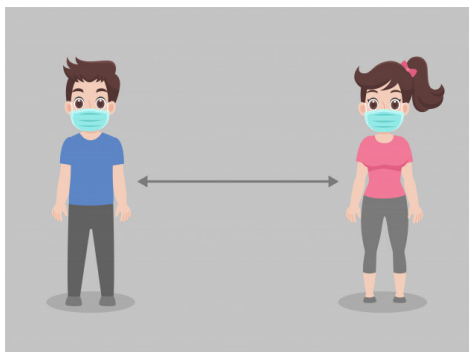


1. Students must be passing all of their classes to participate in an athletic contest or school activity event. Students who are not eligible may not ride the team/organization bus to away events.
2. Students must be in school all day in order to participate in an activity that afternoon or evening. This includes practices, games, and performances. Staying home in the morning to rest because they are not feeling well and returning to school late morning or early afternoon does not allow a student to participate that day.
3. Students who are slated to be absent for a school activity are encouraged to alert their teachers ahead of time and get work before they leave whenever possible.

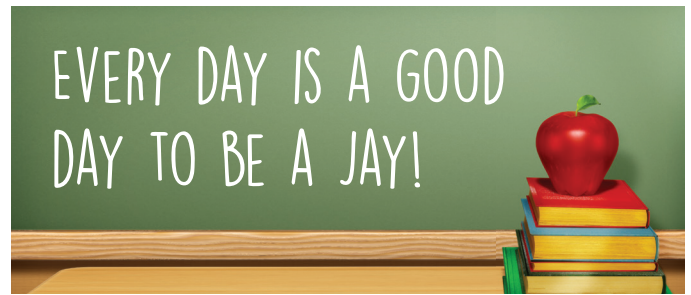
An effort should be made to make all non-essential appointments outside of the school day whenever possible (i.e. haircut, etc.). Students attending regular appointments for medical reasons, therapy, and other important/required reasons are encouraged to vary the time of these appointments whenever possible in order to reduce the academic impact a student experiences with any one class within their schedule.

Class of 2021 Commencement Ceremony

The 136th annual Seward High School commencement ceremony will be held Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. in the south gym at Seward High School. This information is being provided as early as possible for family planning purposes. Additional information regarding the ceremony will be provided in subsequent newsletters.



**Do your part to help
keep us all safe!**



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search: Seward Public Schools



follow us on **Twitter**

#sewardjays @SewardBlueJays

Tips for Parents

Encourage Respect: Teaching your teen to be respectful at home can make them more considerate and improve their relationships with friends, teachers, and bosses. Try these ways to promote respect.

Address the Behavior: When your adolescent sighs, stomps off, or talks back, it may seem easier to overlook it than to argue about it. But letting them get away with it won't help them-or you-in the long run. Take the time to discuss their behavior and to set consequences.

Offer Strategies: Talk about appropriate ways for them to handle situations where they tend to be disrespectful. For instance, if they often ask for your input and then roll their eyes at your suggestions, spell out what she could do instead (Say, Thanks, but I'm not sure that will work because...). Or agree on a look or gesture that quickly communicates to them, "Think of another way to respond!"

Respond Respectfully: Demonstrate respect with how you react to their behavior. If you're in public, you might pull them aside to keep the matter private. Let them know what they did was wrong. Then explain what will happen if their rudeness continues (your shopping trip will be over or you will not be playing your games anymore).



Making College Possible: Suggestions for Parents/Guardians

The following list of suggestions comes from the EducationQuest Foundation. These suggestions are research-based and consistent with the message being delivered by Seward High School staff on a daily basis. The goal of providing this information to parents/guardians is to help create a consistent message between home and school.

You can help young students make college possible by:

- helping them understand academic requirements for admission into a four-year college and encouraging them to take rigorous courses in high school. This will be especially important as we

register for the upcoming school year in January and February of term 3. Additional information regarding the upcoming registration process will be included in the January newsletter.

- encouraging them to get involved in extracurricular activities to gain leadership and teamwork skills, increase scholarship opportunities, and stay out of trouble.
- guiding them to helpful resources if they are struggling academically, socially, or emotionally. Please contact the staff at Seward High School if your student is struggling in any one of these areas. Our staff is driven to serve and we have a wide-array of resources and interventions both at the school and through school-community partnerships to help provide our students the support they need.
- helping them explore career options – and research colleges that fit their desired career choices.
- helping them understand ways to pay for college including financial aid. Seward High School will provide several opportunities throughout each school year to help support parents in obtaining this valuable knowledge.
- coordinating visits to area colleges and universities.

Student Personal Learning Plus

All SHS students have a tool that can keep them organized throughout their high school career: It's called their Personal Learning Plan or PLP. Within the PLP, students can map out their five-year plan, list their goals, keep track of their graduation checklist, record their volunteer hours, add information to their resume, and much more. Ask your child about their PLP. It is stored in their Google Drive as LastName.FirstName(Class of 20xx)PLP.

Name:

The Bluejay Personal Learning Plan will assist you in many ways:

- Discover your interests
- Record your test scores
- Define your goals
- Plan your path
- Track your progress

The Bluejay PLP | About You | Test Scores | Goals | Graduation Check | Five Year Plan | Resume Info

Seniors... A Guide for Your Journey to College from EducationQuest (Winter Suggestions)

- Watch for communication from the colleges you applied to via your online student portal, email or mail.
- Having completed the FAFSA, be prepared for verification. The college(s) may request documents to verify your FAFSA information.
- Watch for financial aid award notification from colleges which you listed on the FAFSA.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.

Exploring Careers (from EducationQuest)

Exploring careers before you select a college will help you find the school that best fits your career interests and goals. Follow these steps to get started:

1. Learn more about your interests and skills.

Complete at least two interest or skills assessments to learn about careers that might be a good match.

- Ask your school counselor about assessments at your school.
- Use free online tools including:
 - H3.ne.gov (high wage, high demand, high skill jobs)
 - MyNextMove.org

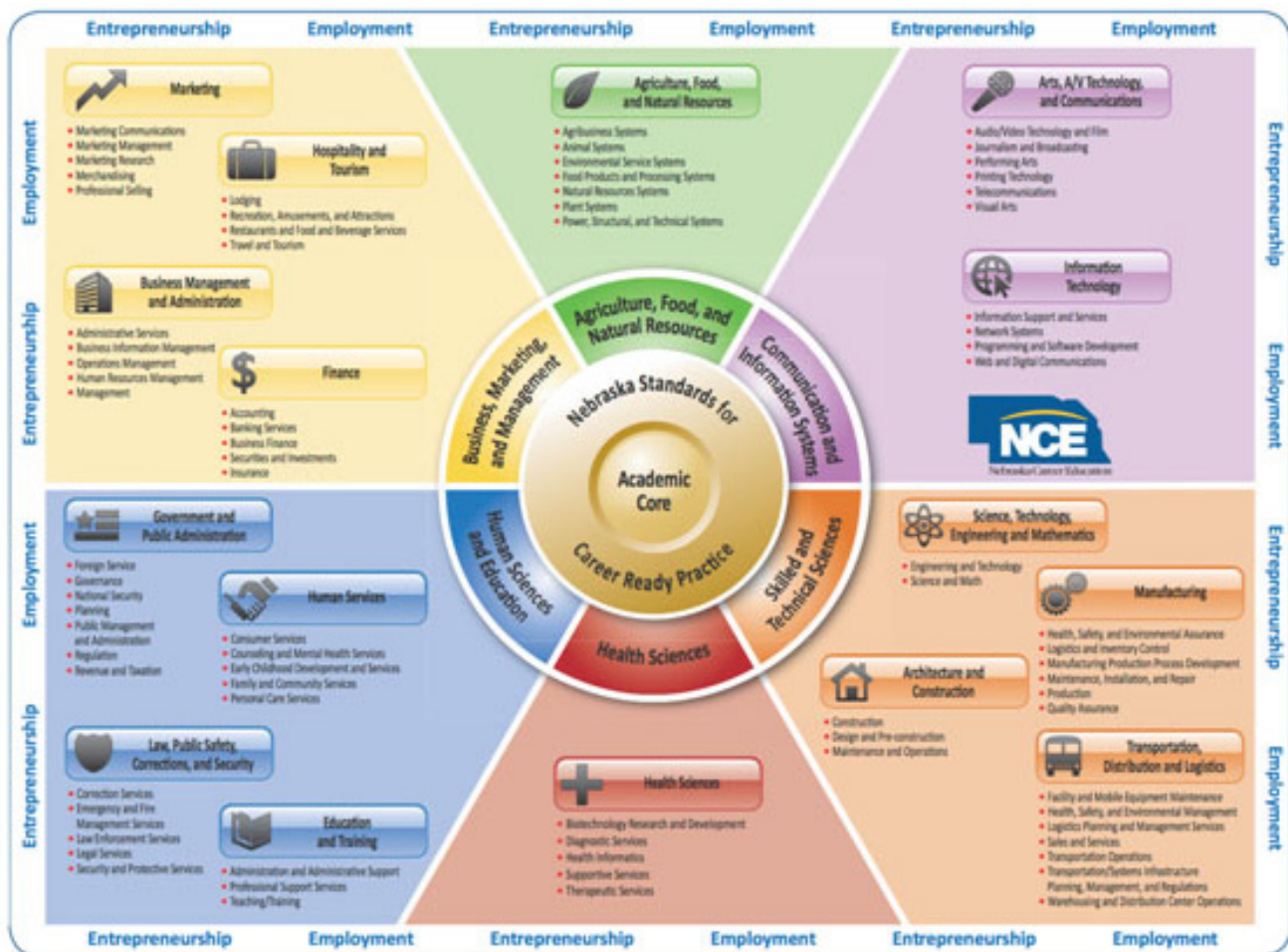
- NebraskaCareerConnections.org
- BigFuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers
- Use free assessment tools at EducationQuest:
 - Choices Interest Profiler
 - Career Cruising Profiler

2. Do some research. Research potential careers based on your assessment results.

- Review the career diagram below to learn more:
 - The six broad “career fields”
 - The 16 “career Clusters” that group careers with similar skills and themes
- Additional information can be found at <http://www.nebraskacareerconnections.org>.

3. Develop a career plan. Map out the education and training you’ll need for your future career.

- Use “Reality Check” at EducationQuest.org to determine if your potential career choices will provide the lifestyle you desire.
- Talk to your school counselor about college majors that will help you reach your career goal.
- Use College Profiles at EducationQuest.org to find schools that offer your potential major(s).
- Participate in activities that match your career interests such as school clubs, community service, job shadowing, internships, and part-time jobs.



Adapted from NASDCTEC/NCTEF Career Clusters: Pathways to College and Career Readiness. Developed by the Nebraska Department of Education 2012.

Activities

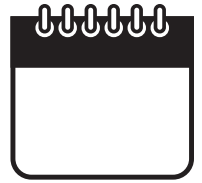
As we transition into the winter activity season, a reminder about the “alternate transportation” policy seems appropriate. Depending on the circumstances, one of two documents will need to be signed.

When students are involved in extracurricular activities they are strongly encouraged to ride on the school provided transportation. The bus ride home is a valuable part of the extracurricular experience, but, if a parent wishes to take their child home after a contest, they may do so. Each coach/sponsor has a check out sheet that allows only the parent/guardian to take their son/daughter home after an event.

In rare or unusual circumstances, alternate forms of transportation may be needed. For example, a student may be taking the ACT until 11:30 am and they are involved in an activity that departs at 10:30 am. If this is the case, a parent/guardian must come into the office at Seward High and sign a waiver at least 24 hours in advance. This release will allow the student to utilize alternate transportation.

Important Dates

- **November 24:** Conference One Act Competition
- **December 1:** District One Act Competition
- **December 14:** Instrumental Music Concert, 7 pm, SHS Theater
- **December 21:** Vocal Music Concert, 7 pm, SHS Theater
- **December 22:** Senior pictures for the yearbook are due
- **December 22:** End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester, Early Dismissal, 1:30 pm
- **December 23-27:** NSAA Moratorium, No activities/sports practices or competitions
- **January 1:** Start of 2nd Semester/3rd Quarter
- **February 18:** Parents ads for yearbook due
- **March 28:** National Honor Society Induction, 2 pm, SHS Theater
- **May 16:** 136th annual graduation commencement ceremony, 2 pm, SHS south gym



*Dates and times of activities are subject to change. For more information, see the activities calendar at :

<https://www.centralconference.org/public/genie/408/school/8/>

Seward High Counseling Center Communication

Phone: 402.643.2988

Email: A-K Kevin Fields kevin.fields@sewardschools.org
L-Z Noelle Baker noelle.baker@sewardschools.org

Website: <https://sewardhighcounseling.wordpress.com>

Instagram: [sewardhighcounseling](https://www.instagram.com/sewardhighcounseling)

Twitter: [SewardHighCounseling@SHCounselors](https://twitter.com/SewardHighCounseling@SHCounselors)

Facebook: Seward High School Counseling Center

eBackpack: Class of 2021, Class of 2022, Class of 2023, Class of 2024

Staying Connected with Seward High School:

Building/District Website: www.sewardpublicschools.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sewardpublicschools>

Twitter: [@SewardBlueJays](https://twitter.com/SewardBlueJays)

Activity Calendar: www.centralconference.org

Staff Email: firstname.lastname@sewardschools.org

