

THE KELLER CONNECTION

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A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the warmer weather this week! Spring semester is well under way and the year is flying by! And while this time of year is a very exciting time with lots of campus activities, it can also be stressful with college and career decisions for our Seniors, registration decisions for next year for our underclassmen, along with preparing for EOC and AP tests. Our counseling team is here to help and support in any way that we can, so please don't hesitate to reach out if your student needs anything! This Thursday evening, Officer Ulrich will be sharing important information related to drug trends in the DFW area. Please make plans to join us in the KHS Commons at 6:30PM.

Campus life is busy not just for our students, but our staff as well. In addition to engaging our students in the classroom, many of our teachers sponsor various groups that compete in the spring. Our UIL Academic team and One Act play students are preparing for district competitions with our Academic Decathlon team taking 3rd at the Regional meet and are now headed to the state competition. This coming weekend our art students will share their work at the district VASE competition. Our Career and Technology groups are all in competition season with DECA and BPA both having students that have advanced to State competitions that will take place in the coming months. TAFE, FCCLA and HOSA all have students that are competing at various levels with the goal of advancing to national competitions. These organizations are all led by teachers and help students build real world knowledge and skills.

On the athletic side of things, we had 14 student athletes sign this morning to continue their career at the college level bring our total signees for the year up to 40. We are certainly proud of these students! As far as sport go, track season is underway along with golf and tennis. Softball and baseball are in pre-season with district play beginning next month. Our soccer teams have begun district play and both boys and girls basketball teams will wrap up their district season in the coming weeks and both are set to move on into the playoffs. Our swim team is currently in Midland competing at the Regional meet. Our Wrestling team competed this past weekend at the district meet with 8 students advancing to the Regional tournament. The Indianettes are working hard and are headed to their national competition in March. And Keller Theater just wrapped up a busy weekend filled with their performance of "The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon." It was a fun show and the kids did an amazing job! I am so grateful for the opportunities that our students have to engage in the classroom and in other areas that they are passionate about. It is through these opportunities that their school experience becomes more than learning curriculum.

If you have been around campus in recent months, you have noticed our new indoor facility beginning to take shape. We are excited for this new facility to be completed in late summer as it will add much needed practice space for our fine arts and athletic groups.

This week is Counselor appreciation week! If you have a moment, please reach out and thank them for all they do to support the KHS students and staff!

You are a vital piece to your students' success and ours, so thank you for your continued partnership and support!

Take care and Go Keller!

Lisa Simmons

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 9 - Evening w/ Officer Ulrich Sharing Drug Trends

Feb. 6-10 - Counselor Appreciation Week

Feb. 17 & 20 - Student Holidays

Feb. 24 - Parent Coffee Chat

Mar. 1 - SAT for 11th (see pg 2 for details)

Mar. 13-17 - Spring Break

Apr. 7 & 10 - Student Holidays

Apr. 19 - English I & II End of Course Exams

Apr. 26 - Biology & US History End of Course Exams

May 2 - Algebra 1 End of Course Exam

May 29 - Class of 2023 Graduation @ 8AM

An Evening with Officer Ulrich, Keller PD, & Keller High Admin

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
6:30PM
KELLER HIGH COMMONS

Officer Ulrich will share important information related to drug trends in the DFW area.



Testing Information

March 1st

School Day SAT for Juniors
Optional TSI Testing for 9th & 10th Grades
Late Arrival for all non-testers
More details will be shared
via email this week.

State End of Course Exams (EOC)

English I & II - April 19th
Biology & US History - April 26th
Algebra I - May 2nd

AP Testing

May 1 - 12

COUNSELING UPDATE

KHS Families:

Registration is well underway and students are picking classes for next year. KHS Counseling sent an email on January 24th at 4pm with helpful information to support you in coming alongside your student to be a part of their course selection for next year.

As an overview:

Juniors: We have met with all juniors at this point and worked on both their final year courses for KHS and helped the students continue their planning for life after high school. These conversations and classroom lessons for juniors included tools related to college searches, financial aid/scholarships, and what it means to College, Career, and/or Military Ready

Sophomores: We had intended to start meeting with all of our sophomores this past week, but mother nature decided we needed to pause for a moment. We will continue with this process beginning this week and meet with all sophomores over a two week period.

Freshmen: Last, but not least we will meet with our freshmen students for two weeks after we finish sophomores.

This registration process will have the KHS counselors working directly with our students to support their course selection for the full month of February and right up until Spring Break. One important note for students and families to keep in mind is that we build our classes and hire our staffing based on student course requests. In an effort to offer exactly what students ask for and to be excellent financial stewards for KISD, we set deadlines for changes and must stick with those in order to "save a seat" for all student requests. Changes after deadlines cannot be honored and maintain the quality learning environment that our community appreciates about Keller High School.

Students and families will have the opportunity to review all requests through Aeries during specific windows and request changes at that time. An email with directions will come out from KHS Counseling when these windows open. This process has been outlined in the aforementioned email sent to all students and parents on January 24th.

Finally, this week is National School Counselor Appreciation Week. We would like to express how thankful we are to be able to serve you and your students. If you find a moment or way to thank your KHS counselor this week, I know it would mean a lot to each of them.

Wes Upton
Lead Counselor



College & Career Center Update

Dear Families,

Paying for college is a big issue that is top of mind for our students and families, and here are a few ideas to consider that we hope will be helpful.

First, we recommend that all of our college-bound seniors complete the FAFSA. Beginning with the Class of 2022, a new law has been in place that requires all seniors to either complete the FAFSA or have their parents formally opt them out. Both this year and last, the vast majority of our college-bound seniors have chosen to complete the FAFSA to maximize opportunities for financial aid including scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans (if needed), and completing the FAFSA (during the senior year) is one important step to take to get the most money for college. **Second**, one of the most important factors in getting the best value possible for college is college choice. It is important for students/families to research the net cost of colleges with websites such as [College Scorecard](#) and [College Navigator](#) and to utilize the Net Price Calculators that are on college websites. Different colleges have a wide variety of costs, and some tend to provide more scholarships and/or grants than others. Keeping an open mind and applying to different types of colleges (including public, in-state colleges) is one way to potentially make college more affordable. **Third**, now is a great time to begin to research the types of third-party scholarships that are available with special attention on local scholarships. While most third-party scholarships are for seniors, it can still make sense to start building lists of scholarships that students can apply for during senior year, and some students may want to familiarize themselves with the types of scholarships that are available. We maintain two lists of scholarships for KHS students: on the [KHS scholarship website](#) and this [scholarship Google Document](#). Finally, thank you for the privilege of getting to work with your KHS Students!

KHS College & Career Counseling