

Jim Knott
High School Principal

Board Report
October 13, 2025

As we move towards mid-October, several important things are happening or are coming up at Douglas County West High School. High school parent-teacher conferences were held on October 8th and 9th. For the second year, the Wednesday conferences were from 3:45-7:45 while the Thursday conferences were from 12:30-7:45. We added an electronic/virtual conference option for parents from 12:30-3:30 on Thursday. In past years, this was our slowest time segment for parent attendance so we wanted to try the virtual option to possibly better serve parents who couldn't make conferences in-person. Teachers held traditional, in-person parent-teacher conferences in their rooms from 3:45-7:45 on Wednesday and 3:30-7:45 Thursday.

On Wednesday, October 22nd, we will hold our fall standardized testing day where all juniors take the Practice ACT in preparation for the real ACT in April. All other grade levels will be attending class as normal on the 22nd. Unlike past years, we will only test 9th and 10th graders in the spring using the PreACT. After juniors take the Practice ACT and we receive the results, the teaching staff will analyze the results in order to provide extra practice in low performance areas. Like the nationally recognized ACT, the Practice ACT provides tests in the areas of math, science, reading, and writing. Juniors will finish testing around noon on October 22.

On Thursday, October 9, we held our second Faculty Senate meeting. This representative group is made up of one teacher from each subject area, high school administration, and the high school counselor. Members each serve two-year terms. Current members are Brad Henderson (social studies), Taylor Hyatt (science), Cyndi Thomas (PE, health, chorus, band), Heather Cox (math), Lisa Leonard (art, industrial tech, business, STEM), Jared Wiemer (language arts, world languages), Garrett Hoffman (special education), Katie Richards (counselor), Shawna Youngmans and Jim Knott (administration). The mission of the Faculty Senate is to discuss and work on topics to improve the high school building culture and overall opportunities for students. The group has come up with two goals so far for the school year. Each goal fits in our District CIP (Continuous Improvement Plan) for 2025/26.

2025/26 High School CIP Goals (From the HS Faculty Senate)

- **DISTRICT GOAL AREA – BUILD CULTURE & COHESION**
 - Create a school-wide competition in order to improve student attendance, decrease tardiness, and have fun.
- **DISTRICT GOAL AREA – EXPANDED STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING EXPERIENCES**
 - 56% of our Juniors will be proficient on the ACT ELA in the Spring of 2026
 - 61% in 2027, 66% in 2028, 71% in 2029, 76% in 2030.