

This is a carry-in contest. Please attach the contest number assigned to you on the upper right-hand corner of the entry. Do not put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA Executive Director. All work must be that of the contestant.

OVERVIEW

Description

You are a staff member of Ad Astra High School's newspaper, *The Star*. Your editor has asked you to create an infographic based on the story provided.

School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School	Location: Aspera, Kansas	Mascot: Box Turtles
Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12)	School Colors: Green & Gold	
Name of Yearbook: Honeybee	Name of Newspaper: The Star	

DIRECTIONS

Assignment

Using the information provided in the story (which you will find on page 2 of this entry), design an infographic that is 5 inches wide by any depth. Entries should be computer-generated and may incorporate clip art or other graphics to enhance the design. The graphic may be submitted in color or black and white, and should be printed on 8.5 x 11-inch paper.

ARTICLE**Faculty notes dramatic increase in student absences; swine flu suspected**

Ad Astra High School teachers and attendance office staff have noted a dramatic increase in absences due to illness over the past several days. Meanwhile, the Aspera Unified School District health office, taking instructions from the Free County Department of Public Health, has intensified disease prevention and control measures at schools.

"We had 100 excused absences yesterday [Tuesday]," said Bea Present, who is currently substituting as attendance director. This represents a 300 percent increase from last week's averages, according to Present.

Of those 100 excused absences, parents cited 75 as being illness-related, Present said. Usually, there are only about total 25 excused absences, and only some of these are illness-related, according to Present.

The absences broke down like this: 33 freshmen (of 230 enrolled), 25 sophomores (of 215), 18 juniors (of 210) and 24 seniors (of 195).

English teacher Austen Jaynes says that the increase in absences is high enough that it has had a noticeable adverse effect on student learning.

"The absences have been a problem because there's lots of emailing about how to keep up with the work," Jaynes said. "If I create a document on the computer, I can send them the link, but if I have multiple documents, it's a much bigger hassle."

When the number of students absent from Jaynes' class struck him as unusual, he decided to count them.

"I had 20 absences in total, but I'm a TA [teacher advisor], so I only teach four classes," Jaynes said. "I teach all honors classes so having 20 kids out is highly unusual."

Meanwhile, the District Health Office is carefully adhering to disease control guidelines.

"If we have more than 20 percent of students absent in one grade, we are required to report it to the county [Department of Public Health]," district nurse Clara Burton said.

According to Burton, the district does not need to issue a notice to the parents of all students who the district believes were directly exposed to swine flu.

Burton urged students to stay home if they were sick, but acknowledged that this was difficult for high school students.

"We are asking parents to have responsibility for keeping their kids home if they are sick," Burton said. "Of course, students are very concerned about falling behind."