

# Advanced Placement test grant expires

## District plans to aid students with AP exam fees

BY REECE BURNS  
The Booster Redux

With the seven advanced placement (AP) courses offered by the high school, many students who take the classes will consider taking the AP exams at the end of the year. Several factors can come into play when a student is deciding whether or not they will be taking their AP test such as, grades, teacher recommendation, confidence in the material, and also money.

Junior Ashley Hall is one of those students. "If the school paid for the test, then the deciding factor [to take the test] would depend on how prepared I am," Hall said. "I would have to take two tests, money is really tight so I'd have to get it fully paid for in order to take it."

AP exams cost \$81.00 each. The school had a grant that paid for the sessions but the grant expired this year. According to Assistant Principal Rhonda White, students may not have to pay the entire exam fee themselves after all.

"The district is currently seeking outside sources of funding to help at least offset some of the portion of the exam fees for the student," White said.

Superintendent Destry Brown wants as many AP students to take the exams as possible.

"The district has decided to pay for a portion of the fee of the AP tests," Brown said. "The more kids to take these tests the better; I want our kids to do well."

The district is planning on covering anywhere between 50 to 75 percent of the fees. The final number will be based on the individual student and his or her family's financial status.

White also notes that because of the grant the district received the last two years the number of students taking AP courses and taking the exams increased from 15 students taking 17 exams in 2009 to 68 students taking 102 exams in 2012.

The increase in numbers over the last four

years resulted in the school being named on the College Board's AP Honor Roll; one of only five schools in Kansas to be named and one of only 539 schools in the entire nation to be named.

Senior AP Calculus student Evan Owen feels that the price of the exams seem steep for his minimum-wage pay.

"If you figure in my pay, that's a little over 11 hours that I'd have to work just to pay for that test," said Owen. "They say AP Calculus is one of the hardest tests they have but if it weren't for the price I'd still try it."

Junior AP History student Jeff Dunford feels that the fee is still worth the possibility of getting college credit.

"I would pay the \$81.00 if I took the time and dedicated myself to ensure that I do well," Dunford said. "I think with the college credit on the line, students would take a better approach than they would on any other test."

### DID YOU KNOW

#### ALL-COUNTY BASKETBALL SELECTIONS

This year's all county selections included six seniors, they all qualified for either first, second, or third team all SEK. Lizzy Willis first team all SEK unanimous, Tanner Ellis, Stefon Rich, and Alaura Short second team all SEK, FeDor Lomax third team all SEK. As well as qualifying for all county, Short and Willis were selected for the annual All-Star game at Colgan, along with Ellis and Lomax. Lomax was also selected for the Fort Scott All-Star game. Selected for the Neosho County All-Star game were Ellis and Rich.

#### PROM INFO

The prom theme this year will be "A Midsummer Night's Dream". It will be held Saturday, April 6 at Memorial Auditorium. Promenade will start at 6 p.m. and last until 6:30 p.m. Parents and visitors are welcome inside Memorial Auditorium to take pictures between 6:30 and 6:45. Dinner will be served immediately after. Concluding the evening will be the dance from 8 to 11.

#### PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

The Friends of PHS Performing Arts Sponsored Scholarship application deadline will be April 1. Applications must be typed and include one attached letter of recommendation or reference. See counselors for more information.

#### DECA

DECA recently competed March 3 through the 5 in Overland Park. Loren Kutz and Josh Allmon placed 4th in Learn and Earn, along with individual placer Isis Ruiz. Ruiz received a 2nd place medal for a roll play and placed 6th overall.

#### HOSA

HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) members competed in the Kansas HOSA State competition Monday and Tuesday in Hutchinson, Kansas. Four students received medals individually and in group events; Lizzy Willis 1st in Nursing Assisting, Joban Mendpara 1st in Medical Spelling, Reece Burns 2nd in Medical Photography, Caden Yantis 3rd in Extemporaneous Writing, and Caden Yantis, Joban Mendpara and Reece Burns 2nd in Creative Problem Solving.

#### GAME RESCHEDULES

The JV girls softball game and JV boys baseball game that was to be held on Monday, March 25 is now rescheduled for Friday, March 3 at 4:30 in Chanute. The softball tournament that was scheduled for Tuesday, March 26 will be postponed to Friday, April 5 at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. in Fort Scott. The JV tennis game that was to be played Tuesday, March 26 will be postponed for April 16, 2013 at 3:00 in Fort Scott.

# Damaging effects of deadly habits: alcohol and pills

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affect the user depending on the variation. However, they all share one commonality — they can lead to addiction.

Usually, teenagers do not start off with the intent of becoming an addict and are not often aware of the precise moment they start to develop their addiction. Common warning signs include unusual fatigue, personality or mood changes, depression, general withdrawal, frequent truancy and discipline problems.

Youth who drink before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21, according to a study by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

"Every year, there have been situations and students that I have dealt with that have had a drug or alcohol problem," school psychologist Beth Stockard said. "It depends on which year it is how many we're talking; some years, it might just be one, and then other years, it might be up to as many as ten students."

PHS administration has utilized various strategies to discourage drug or alcohol usage through structures including random drug testing, having guest speakers and requiring students involved in extracurricular activities to sign behavior contracts. The contract requires students involved in sports, clubs and

organizations to refrain from drinking and drug use for the school year. If a student were to test positive for drug use, it would result in disciplinary actions.

"I do think that we try to be aware and we try to promote safety," Stockard said. "I also think teachers have really good relationships with students where they have those types of conversations and are open to talking about the dangers of those types of things as a high school student. We also try to bring in speakers that can relate to students and we have an S.R.O. in the building and then we have the county attorney come in and talk about some of the legal repercussions of using drugs and alcohol as a minor."

A survey compiled on greenwichtime.com found that 75% of 12 to 17-year-olds say they are encouraged to party with marijuana or alcohol when they see images of their peers doing so. 45% of those individuals have seen online photos of their classmates drinking, doing drugs or passing out.

According to helpguide.org, the steps to self-help include committing to stop the addiction, setting goals and preparing for change, getting sober safely, find new meaning in life, planning for and learning to handle cravings, getting support and utilizing treatment centers.

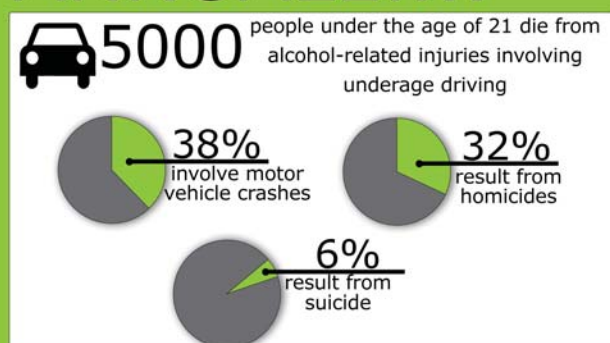
\*name has been changed to protect the privacy of the student.

### THE DARK SIDE OF TEEN DRINKING

## PICK YOUR POISON

Teen drinking has become prevalent

### ANNUALLY...



### UNDER AGE DRINKING...

- Plays a significant role in sexual behavior including unwanted, unintended, and unprotected sexual activity
- Can lead to unplanned pregnancy and contracting sexually transmitted diseases
- Is associated with academic failure
- Is associated with illicit drug/tobacco use

## Eighth graders ease into high school

### PCMS students attend enrollment information night

BY ALLI BADEN

The Booster Redux

Enrollment is a time to pick new classes for the upcoming school year. And for the 8th graders, it is a new experience. On Wednesday, March 27, 8th graders came to enroll for their freshmen year.

Enrolling for freshman year is a little different than enrolling for any other year. Instead of enrolling during school, parents, as well as students, come during the evening to discuss enrollment. They first met in the auditorium for an introduction to the basics of high school.

"We go over all the requirements for graduation, regents requirements,

expectations of Pittsburg High School and how it's different from the middle school," counselor Jessica Stegman said.

After the introduction, parents and students then filed into the commons area to start filling out their enrollment sheets. Stegman believes that this year, picking electives has become a lot easier for 8th grade students. In February, they came here to tour the school and to meet all the elective teachers.

"We had a lot of positive response from students and parents about the visit," Stegman said. "I think it opened the doors to them knowing what's at PHS and what we have to offer to them."

# Crusin' for a bruising': Joe White's story

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may be. Just because that's who you were then, that doesn't have to be who you are now or tomorrow."

Before White gave his presentation at the high school, FCCLA members heard his story at the district club meeting in November. Senior FCCLA member Morgan Ebbs was inspired by what she heard and was the one who took the initiative to bring White to the school.

"When we saw [White] at districts, a lot of people were really receptive to his message and really enjoyed the presentation," Ebbs said. "So I thought it would be a good thing for our school because we had the Rachel's Challenge and other things like that, so I thought it would be good to continue on the trend of [hearing a] positive message."

Ebbs said listening to White's message has helped her make better decisions herself and has inspired her to encourage others to make good choices as well.

"I feel it is important for us to learn about

**"Joe tells people you can start all over again," Eli said. "I don't care what you did last weekend, what you planned on doing tonight, whatever it may be. Just because that's who you were then, that doesn't have to be who you are now or tomorrow."**

-ABBIE ELI

[White's story] because, but when you [drink alcohol] in excess or do it in a dangerous situation that is when it becomes a problem," Ebbs said. "It is just being in control of what

you are doing and not putting yourself in a position where you could end up like Joe or other people."

Many students say they have benefited from hearing White's story and said it helped change the choices they make for the better.

"I have personally changed because I have done things before and it was not fun at all," senior Dakota Taylor said. "Of course I didn't crash or anything and didn't get hurt, but I was lucky to hear his message and it changed me."

White says he hopes students will continue to spread his story and that it will keep on saving lives.

"You only have one life to live," Eli said. "Joe is fortunately here because he has had a second chance at life. This is his purpose, this is his passion, and hopefully you will spread his story."