

## PARENT CONNECTION

December 2009

**Upcoming Events:****December**

- **December 3rd—  
Vision and Hearing  
Screening**
- **December 9th—  
Madrigal Dessert  
Night 6:30 p.m.**
- **December 10th-  
Christmas Apparel  
Sale 5:30—7:30 p.m.**
- **December 10-11th  
Madrigal Dinner 6:30  
p.m.**
- **December 15th-SHS  
Music Department  
Holiday Concert 7:30  
p.m.**
- **December 16-17th-  
Finals**
- **December 18th-  
Make-Up Day for  
Finals**
- **Dec. 21-Jan. 3rd  
Winter Break- No  
School**

## Parental Involvement at SHS

We are nearing the end of the 1st semester at Sterling High School. Finals are just around the corner. Every year Sterling High School has parent-teacher during the 1st quarter and the 3rd quarter. Attendance at these conference has been low over the last five years. This year attendance dropped to just 22% of our students represented by a parent or guardian at conferences.

According to decades of research by the Parent Teacher Association, when “parents are involved students have: higher grades, test scores and graduation rates; better school attendance; increased motivation and better self esteem; and lower rates of suspension.”

In an attempt to increase parental involvement at Sterling High School, we

have begun the use of a web application called Edline. Edline provides parents with 24 hour a day access to teacher's grade books. This will let parents view students grades and missing assignments through a password protected website.

Teachers are required to update their grade books by the end of the day on Wednesday. Many teachers go above and beyond this requirement, updating their grade books as they receive grades for students. While some parents picked up their passwords and usernames at parent-teacher conferences, the rest were mailed to homes before Thanksgiving. If you have not received this mailing or have questions about Edline, please contact the SHS main office at (815) 625-66800.



**SHS Music Department  
Holiday Concert  
Tuesday, December 15th  
7:30 p.m.  
Centennial Auditorium**

### Health Fair to take place at SHS

The Physical Education Department, in conjunction with local area agencies, will be having a Fitness and Health Seminar during their classes on January 4th and 5th. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a Blood Pressure Screening and a variety of sessions including information such as fitness, nutrition, alcohol education, stress management, and other topics.

Sterling High School counselors will also be providing information on coping skills during this fair.

### Book Ideas for Holiday Gifts

Books always make good gifts for the holidays; once read, they can be passed along and enjoyed by other family members. Title descriptions for the books nominated for the **2010 Abraham Lincoln, Illinois Teen Choice Book Award**, can be accessed from the SHS library website. More ideas can be found under “Book Reviews” on the library site; all seventy-five 2010 Lincoln Semifinalists for the award are listed. Get descriptions of the fiction titles with the Novelist readers advisory link (User ID: Sterlinghs/ Password: library).

The SHS library website ([http://www.sterlingpublicschools.org/shs/library/lib\\_home.htm](http://www.sterlingpublicschools.org/shs/library/lib_home.htm)) has links for “Teen Book Review” sites, as well as information on the H1N1 virus, and links to all of our school and community resources.



## Sterling High School's Mission Statement

Sterling Schools, in partnership with parents and community, will create a caring environment in which all students learn. This partnership shall empower all students to become responsible learners and decision-makers as they prepare for the future.

### Sterling High School

1608 4th Avenue

Sterling, IL 61081

Phone: 815-625-6800

Attendance Phone:

815-622-4181

Fax: 815-622-4157

Website:

[www.sterlingpublicschools.org/shs](http://www.sterlingpublicschools.org/shs)

### Administration

Jason Austin, Principal

Lori Adell, Secretary

Jessica Bicknell, Associate Principal

Joyce Howze, Secretary

Nathan DeLany, Activities Director

Elaine Forward, Secretary

### Deans

Janet Barnhart, Dean of Instruction

Vicki Dunphy, Dean of Students

Mary Rhodes, Secretary

Greg King, Dean of Attendance

Andi Sumerfelt, Secretary

### Counselors

Darci Francis, Counselor

Kaileen Gaumer, Counselor

Cami Hartman, Counselor

Travis Myers, Counselor

Kris Hippen, Secretary/Registrar

### Parent Coordinator

Janet Freed

## Finals Schedule

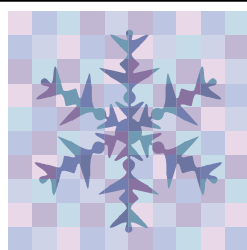
### Wednesday, December 16th

1st period	8:00—9:20 a.m.		
3rd period	9:30—10:50 a.m.		
5th period—A Lunch	10:55—11:25 a.m.	Class	10:55-12:15 p.m.
	Class	11:30—12:50 p.m.	B Lunch 12:20—12:50 p.m.
7th period	1:00-2:20 p.m.		

### Thursday, December 17th

2nd period	8:00—9:20 a.m.		
6th period	9:30—10:50 a.m.		
4th period—A Lunch	10:55—11:25 a.m.	Class	10:55-12:15 p.m.
	Class	11:30—12:50 p.m.	B Lunch 12:20-12:50 p.m.
Make Up Exams	1:00-2:20 p.m.		

**Friday, December 18th - Make Up Exams**



## WINTER BREAK

Sterling Public Schools will not be in school  
December 21—January 3rd  
School Resumes January 4, 2010

## NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Sterling High School November students of the month are Sam Twining and Amelia Beveroth.

Sam is an extremely well-rounded student. He has been involved in cross country, tennis, band, choir, madrigals, and drama while a student at Sterling High School. He has also achieved the rank Eagle Scout with his local Boy Scout Chapter. Sam will attend Sauk

Valley Community College next year before transferring to a four-year university to pursue a major in theater.

Amelia has also been extremely involved while at SHS. She been a member of National Honor Society, English club, science club, euchre club, and is the key club secretary. Amelia has also been in marching band and pep band. She is a junior Rotarian and a Dale

Carnegie graduate.

Next year Amelia plans to continue her active involvement in school at a college or university.

## "D" Days at SHS

Sterling High School is continuing this year with detention days or "D" Days. This was developed through Sterling High School's Safety and Discipline Committee.

With the use of "D" Days Sterling High School has eliminated In-School Suspensions. This as also helped to reduce the amount of instructional time students miss because of disciplinary infractions.

"D" Days at SHS take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. All students meet in Mrs. Doty's 1st floor science room.

## SHS Policy Reminders

### Back Packs and Hats

Sterling High School students and parents are reminded that backpacks and coats are to remain in the locker during school hours.

Students are not to wear head coverings during school hours. This policy applies to both male and female students. Knitted hats being worn by female students are covered in this policy.

### DRESS CODE

We believe the appearance of students is primarily the responsibility of the parent. However, when a student's appearance is felt to be detrimental to the educational process or presents a health or safety issue, the student will be asked to make appropriate changes.

In general, school attire will cover the individual from the top of the shoulders to the mid-thigh area. Students are also required to wear some type of footwear. For a complete list of the dress code guidelines for Sterling High School, please refer to page 60 of the Sterling High School Student-Parent Handbook.

# "TIS THE SEASON"



Nathan Delany,  
Activities Director  
ndelany@sterlingschools.org

The Winter Activities Season is off and running. Early November practices lead to the first games of the 2009-2010 Season. Sauk Valley Thanksgiving Classic is going on this week and last, the auditions for the Musical have been held, the Speech Competition Team has been selected, and the buzzers in the Scholastic Bowl Rooms are being put to the test, literally.

It is what happens at SHS around Thanksgiving and the start of Holiday Season. Our students have many opportunities over the Holiday Season to travel and compete against new opponents, kick back and relax, hang out with friends, and spend time with family. This is a very active time and a very important time for all involved at SHS and we/they greatly appreciate your support and cooperation.

Our students do great things everyday in the classroom, stage, choir/band rooms, and athletic facilities. When you have time take a day/night and go to an event that is new to you and your family, its amazing what are students are capable when given the opportunity. Plus it will open a door to different opportunity for your students. The hardest step is the first one, but the first one is the most important.

The Activities Office wish Happy Holidays to you and your family. Stay Warm and Healthy.

Remember, it is a Great Day to be a Golden Warrior.



## SHS Holiday Apparel Sale

The Athletic Booster Club will host the annual holiday apparel sale:

Thursday, December 10th

5-7 p.m.

SHS Commons



*Surprise your family with Warrior Wear! Support your favorite team and purchase apparel and gifts. Complete your shopping list and shop at the SHS Commons*

### Need a Cake for the Holidays?

If you are in need of a cake for any special event, please stop by Folsom's Bakery in Rock Falls to purchase a cake. Let them know you would like to register for Sterling's Athletic Booster Fundraiser and they will donate a portion of the proceeds back to the Athletic Booster Club. The bigger the cake the bigger the proceed donated back.

Follow all SHS Athletics at [www.sterlingpride.com](http://www.sterlingpride.com)

### Shop at Kroger and Support Your Golden Warriors

Kroger makes a donation equaling 3% of all money added to the rewards card!!!  
Contact any booster club member or email [shsboosters@comcast.net](mailto:shsboosters@comcast.net) with your contact info and they will get a card to you. Remember to reload your card! We earned \$6000 in first 11 months of the program.

### Upcoming Events

December 12, 2009	Carson DeJarnatt Wrestling Tournament
December 18, 19, 22, 2009	Sterling Girls Shootout
January 9, 2010	Roscoe Eades Award Presentation

### Event Changes and Cancellations

If an event gets cancelled or changed, there are a few places you should be able to find the information without picking up the phone and calling anyone.

1. SHS Call Out (Parents)
2. WSDR
3. [www.sterlingpride.com](http://www.sterlingpride.com)
4. Your students
5. [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net)



Please encourage your students to become involved in fine arts, activities, and/or athletics. The rewards and life lessons are great and their academic performance will improve.