

## PARENT CONNECTION

October 2009

**Upcoming Events:****October**

- October 7th—Homeroom Schedule
- October 8th—Persona Picture Retakes
- October 12th—Columbus Day—No School
- October 17th—IMEA Auditions
- October 17th—Hoe-Down Dance 7-10 p.m.
- October 21st—H1N1 Vaccination
- October 21st—Senior Class Meeting at 8:00 a.m. in Auditorium
- October 21st—Universal Screener (9th, 10th & 11th grades)
- October 21st—Early Out—11:30 a.m.
- October 22nd—Freshman B.L.I.N.D. retreat (details will be sent home)
- October 30-31st—Fall Play 7:30 p.m.
- November 1st—Fall Play 2 p.m.

**Looking ahead to November:**

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held November 4th and November 12th from 4:00—7:30 p.m. We will begin scheduling for Parent/Teacher conferences on Monday, October 19th.

## Homerooms at Sterling High School

“Response to Intervention” (RTI) is designed to assist and challenge students both inside and outside of the classroom. RTI provides a framework for helping students and teachers achieve more in the academic domain while teaching them skills for success outside of the classroom.

Sterling High's School Improvement Committee and Response to Intervention Team, made up of teachers and administrators, researched social emotional learning programs and recommended that SHS implement the Lions Quest curriculum for the 2009-1010 school year. SHS teachers were trained this August by professional educators from Lions Quest on the program and every student in

the High School has begun work with this research based curriculum that addresses areas such as responsibility, character, citizenship, and service. This year the focus is personal management and responsibility.

Students meet once a month in small groups of twelve to fifteen with a Lions Quest trained staff member during a time designated as homeroom. Each month a different aspect of personal management and responsibility is addressed. During September the topic was setting and reaching personal goals; the focus shifts to time management in November; and in December, students will explore how to resist negative peer pressure. These lessons are designed to create an

outlet for students to share frustrations, write about personal road-blocks or successes, share positive aspects of their lives, and work cooperatively with adults in the high school and community. Each of the Lions Quest lessons are matched with at least two of the 40 Developmental Assets. Additionally, students and staff will work together to identify topics not currently being addressed in the curriculum and suggest remedies.

SHS Administrators will evaluate the program through a survey administered to students in October and again in May. The survey is research based and analyzed professionally in order to help SHS determine future focus of the program.

## EdLine To Take Grades Live for Parents

EdLine is a web application which allows Sterling High School's grading program, GradeQuick, to be viewed from off campus locations using the Internet. EdLine will allow parents and guardians to view gradebooks for their child by logging into the application using a user name and password, which will be provided by the school. Once parents or guardians are logged into the application they will be able to see the classes their children are enrolled in, the current grade, assignments completed or incomplete, and the child's score on each assignment.

Sterling High School is currently testing this application with the goal of going “live” to parents and guardians at Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 4th and 12th. Additional information will come in the following weeks concerning login and password confirmations, web addresses for access, and where parents can find technical assistance.

EdLine will provide an additional outlet for parents to become involved in the academic growth of their child. Sterling High School is committed to a partnership with parents and guardians to provide support in the educational experience of all students.



**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

**Freshman Class Experiences BMX Thrills**

On September 23rd, the Sterling High School class of 2013 experienced their first whole class incentive. The Freshman Academy, since its inception, has had a end of year class field trip as an incentive for students who meet academic achievement standards, have great attendance, and displayed appropriate behavior.

This year Mrs. Connie Doty and Mrs. Jenn Drew decided to move to quarterly incentives in addition to the end of the year field trip. These quarterly incentives may include, but are not limited to trips, a movie day, an ice cream day, and special assemblies.



Sterling High School Principal risks it all for the class of 2013.

The first quarterly incentive, the BMX Show, was for the whole freshman class regardless of academics, attendance and/or behavior. This was done so all students could experience the reward and know what they were working for on a quarterly basis.

The BMX was filled with high flying action and a continuous message from the performers that students should get involved in something they love. The performers stressed the importance of education and involvement in school. By taking care of their education responsibilities and putting their energy into something they love to do, they will be successful in life.

**SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

Sterling High School September students of the month are Nathan Reed and Ember Schuldt.

Besides being an outstanding student both in and out of the classroom, Nathan is a four year member of the Sterling High School golf team, Supreme Commander of the Science Club, a member of National Honor Society, and

a Dale Carnegie Graduate. He plans on attending college at either Illinois State University, Bradley University, or Eastern Illinois University to major in education.

Ember is at home both in the classroom and on the links. She is a four year varsity golfer for Sterling High School. Ember was named the US Bank Scholar of the Week. Ember has also been involved in

Pep Band and Marching band during all four years of high school. Next year Ember will attend the University of Illinois and play golf for the Fighting Illini.

**SHS Presents  
"Leading Ladies"**

Set in the 1950s, two English Shakespearean actors, Jack and Leo, find their careers in a rut. They are currently performing "Scenes from Shakespeare" on the Moose Lodge circuit in the Amish country of Pennsylvania. However, when they hear that an old lady in York, PA, is about to die and leave her fortune to her two long lost English nephews, they resolve to pass themselves off as her beloved relatives and get the cash. Hilarity ensues when it turns out the relatives are actually nieces and not nephews. Things get even more complicated when Leo falls madly in love with the old lady's vivacious niece, Meg, who's engaged to the local minister.

**SHS Policy Reminders**

**Student IDs**

Each student will receive a picture ID card. For the safety and security of the students of Sterling High school, it is required that each student wear his/her ID at all times.

If the ID card is lost, it is the student's responsibility to purchase a new ID at the Main Office. This must be done before or after school only. Cost for a new ID is \$2.00.

**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.

# “STUDENT-ATHLETES”



Nathan Delany,  
Activities Director

Have you ever watched a press conference after a professional athletic event? Do you ever wonder what type of education each person has after he or she speaks? Or how he or she presents themselves or act?

At Sterling High School, we encourage our students to participate in a wide range of activities and take pride in our students' abilities to perform on the athletic/activities stage. We are proud of their ability to interact with the media and the public. We also take pride in their ability to perform in the classroom and our ability as a district to improve our standardized test scores, by which we are measured.

In order to improve scores and stay compliant with Illinois State Board of Education guidelines, SPS and SHS now have a new Board Policy (Policy 7.245) requiring all Student-Athletes to obtain a minimum semester Grade Point Average (GPA) of 1.5 and pass four classes (IHSA Guidelines) to be eligible for the following semester. Please note, this is not a cumulative GPA, it is semester only.

You have just received mid-term grades for your son or daughter. If your son or daughter is under the required academic standards (1.5 and pass four classes) please make sure to implore your son or daughter to study, talk with his counselor, seek academic assistance, and continue to improve upon his or her current GPA.

## Upcoming Events

Oct 10th	NCIC Girls Varsity Tennis Tournament	Sauk Valley CC
Oct 10th	60th Annual Cross Country Invitational	Hoover Park
Oct 12th	IHSA 2A Boys Golf Sectional	Emerald Hill
Oct 17th	NCIC Cross Country Meet	Hoover Park
Oct 20th & 24th	IHSA 2A Boys Soccer Regional	Roscoe Eades
Oct 23rd	Football v. LaSalle-Peru (Senior Night)	Roscoe Eades
Nov 7th	IHSA 3A Girls Volleyball Super-Sectional	Musgrove FH



### Need a Cake?

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.

### 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. [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net)

### 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.



The Sterling Girls Cross Country Team has experienced success this season by running with a "pack" mentality.

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.