

Welcome to school year 2008-2009! We're off to a great start: Total enrollment of 510 students and they are calm, respectful and kind! All have offered to help new students, welcomed and introduced themselves to Dr. Diaz, Assistant Principal, and they just continue to impress us with their kindness. Thank you to all parents who have guided and expected the very best from their children. It certainly shows at Naples High School...

I would like to personally thank the parents and students for attending Partnership Day on 22 August. In addition, thank you Capt. Rebase, NSA Commander, for speaking and participating. Thank you to the Red Cross, PTSA, Boy Scouts, Club Beyond, Youth Services, Navy Overseas Spouses Club, and Friends of Animals who attended and supported this special day.

As promised during the opening remarks on 22 August, the first edition of "Wildcat News" contains school contact numbers, teachers' names and the school "email stem" addresses when and if you need to contact your child's teachers. This first edition also includes information and directions for accessing Gradespeed, your personal access to your child's attendance and grades per class period 24 hours a day, seven days a week! This is a powerful tool that offers parents the opportunity to "stay on top" of school attendance and grades. You no longer will have to ask "how was your day, do you have any homework, or how are your grades. You will have an academic and attendance progress report 24/7! Attendance and tardiness has a direct impact on academic success. Please track the attendance patterns throughout the day. If you leave for work before your child leaves for school, please track the morning tardies. Six students were late this morning because they overslept and we are sure the parents are unaware of this.

What's new and what's continuing:

- **Gradespeed:** The faculty and staff are training on the system, Friday, 29 August from 1130 to 1500. Students will be released at 1130 and buses are running. Please excuse the early release, but we felt it necessary to begin Gradespeed as soon as possible. Please look for the start date electronic announcement to be sent home next week. With any new system there will be some "growing pains" as we learn to use the system effectively. For example, the grades you see will not be real time. A test that is given on Monday will not be graded and recorded on Gradespeed the same day. One teacher may input grades more often than another just by the type course it is. You will eventually have everything, but please keep in mind it is not real time.
- **Dress Code:** Common sense and respect for the instructional environment is key; Shorts/skirts fingertip length, no spaghetti straps, bare mid-drifts are unacceptable. You might be surprised but students act "the part" both positively and negatively influenced by how they are dressed, groomed, etc.
- **IPODs:** allowed on buses, but must be out of sight and turned off during the school day to include lunch. Teachers have found these to be a major contributor to disrupting the learning process.

- **Cell phones:** Cell phones are to be out of sight and turned off during the school day. The phone in the office is available to the students during the school day. Please do not text or call your child's cell phone during the school day as this interrupts instruction for your child as well as others. We are happy to pass messages to your child at anytime.
- **PDA: Public Display of Affection** inside and outside the school building: Hand holding only.
- **Attendance reporting:** For the safety and welfare of your child, please call the school, 629 4061 or 0811 081 4061 before 10:00 am on the day of the absence. Whether they walk to school or take the bus, the school and home must communicate if the child is absent.
- **Tardiness:** If your child is going to be late, please write a note explaining the tardiness. Many students walk into school late, six this morning, stating they overslept. Promptness and student need for responsible behavior is key so please assist the school with monitoring Gradespeed patterns of attendance and informing the school of absences or tardiness.
- **Student sign out:** Again, for safety and accountability, parents are expected to physically sign out and sign them in students at the front office. A telephone call to the school requesting sign outs/ins is not a safe alternative. It is not safe as anyone could call in and request release.

We are fortunate to have such well-mannered and successful students at Naples High School and it is all about parental support and the positive school/home partnership.

Please visits often and most importantly do not hesitate to call, visit or email suggestions as we value your input. With your help we will continue to do the very best for our students. Thank you again for supporting our Partnership Day.

Sandra Daniels  
Principal