

# KERNEL BULLETIN

Mitchell High School • 920 N. Capital • Mitchell, SD 57301 • (605) 995-3034 • mitchell.k12.sd.us

## ACT Advice: *When and how students should take the test*

Most people take the ACT at the end of their junior year or the beginning of their senior year. MHS counselors recommend taking it at beginning of the junior year for a number of reasons.

Taking the ACT test your junior year will give you time to retake it if necessary. Most students want a composite score of 24, opening the door to scholarships.

You will have covered most of the material on the ACT your junior year, and it will be fresh in your mind to take it in the spring and summer.

You are likely to forget some material during the summer before your senior year and have less time to take retakes, so take it your junior year.

Taking the test your junior year will make it possible to get into popular colleges and apply for the early scholarships. Most colleges send out scholarships after you apply to the college in December.

Ultimately, when you choose to take the test depends on only one thing: YOU!

To register for the ACT, you must first obtain an ACT registration packet. Your high school guidance counselor will have these packets available for you. If you can't get the packet through your high school, you can register for the test by visiting ACT's website ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org)). Our school code is 420-890. You will need the code number when registering.

## Mitchell Community Scholarship Reminder

This reminder is for all seniors and parents of seniors. The Mitchell Community Scholarship is FREE money to every graduating senior from Mitchell High School.

There is no minimum GPA, class rank, anything. The only requirement is to fill out the application at <http://www.mitchell.k12.sd.us/mhs/scholarships/Mitchell-Comm-Scholar0506.dot>.

Have your application turned in to Mrs. Fowkes no later than March 1 and you will receive your scholarship! Questions? Please see Mrs. Thiesse, Mrs. Mills, or Mrs. Fowkes for assistance.

## DATES TO REMEMBER...

Jan. 4  
School resumes

Jan. 8  
PLAN Test for all 10th graders

Jan. 18  
No School - Teachers' Professional Development Day

Feb. 2  
Financial Aid Night, 7 p.m. at MTI South

Feb. 6  
ACT at MHS

Feb. 8  
MHS PT Conferences, 3:30-9 p.m.

Feb. 12-15  
No School - President's Day Feb. 15

Feb. 12  
ASVAB Testing

March 3 & 4  
Blood drive

March 18-22  
No School - Spring Break

March 30 & 31; April 1  
Dakota STEP Test for all juniors

April 2-5  
No School - Easter Break

April 7 & 8  
NCA Peer Review Visit

April 10  
ACT at MHS

April 15  
National Honor Society at 6 p.m. (MHS)

April 17  
Prom

April 20  
Rotary Banquet

April 29  
District Employee Recognition

May 16  
Senior Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.  
Baccalaureate at 7:30 p.m. (DWU)

May 19  
End of Semester (weather permitting)

May 23.....Graduation!

# **ASVAB test available in February**

Juniors and seniors may sign up for the ASVAB test in the counselors' office. The test will be Feb. 12 at 12:30 p.m. at the National Guard Armory. Students can use the ASVAB to enlist in the Military after graduation and scores are good for two years. However, no one is under any obligation to the Military as a result of taking the ASVAB. Many students take the ASVAB for career exploration and have no interest in military occupations. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program includes eight individual tests covering verbal and math skills, mechanical knowledge, electronics, and several other areas. It also produces three Career Exploration Scores for Verbal Skills, Math Skills, and Science and Technical Skills. These three scores serve as one of several pieces of information about your child that can aid in the exploration of a wide variety of career options. The ASVAB is offered at no cost and no obligation to high school students.

## **School Board Meetings at 5 p.m.**

Jan. 11 & 25  
Feb. 8 & 22  
March 8 & 22  
April 12 & 26  
May 10 & 24

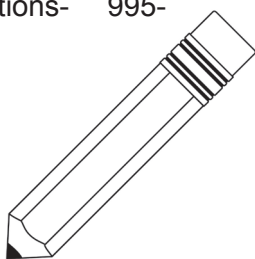
### **Registration begins soon for 2010-11 school year**

A school-wide registration presentation has been set for Feb. 4, 2010 during SRB. Students will learn about new classes and hear pertinent information about graduation requirements and post-high school readiness.

Parents can confer with teachers during conferences. Students will need to get signature approvals from Math and English teachers plus parent signatures. If students wish to have an Open Hour they will need to sign up for one each semester.

Online registration will occur on Feb. 10 during SRB. Classes may be selected for students who do not register on that date unless prior arrangements have been made.

Please contact the Counseling Office if you have any questions- 995-3076.



## **MHS under NCA Review**

Dear Parents:

The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), a non-governmental voluntary organization that focuses on high standards, emphasizes preparing each and every learner for success. To earn and maintain accreditation schools must:

*Adhere to standards for quality schools.*

*Engage in ongoing self-assessment and continuous improvement.*

*Document results.*

*Host a review team every five years and act upon their recommendations.*

*Submit a progress report two years following the review.*

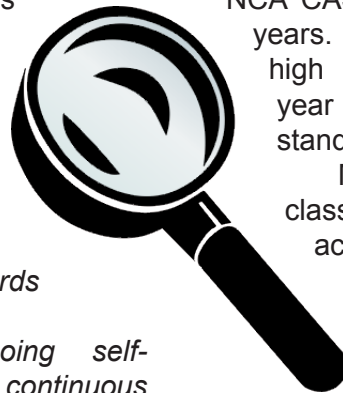
Mitchell Senior High,

accredited with the North Central Association on Accreditation and School Improvement in 1906, holds the distinct honor of meeting the high standards established by the

NCA CASI for 103 continuous years. This spring the senior high will conduct the five year review of the various standards for accreditation.

Mitchell Senior High's classification as an accredited school with the NCA CASI, along with the identification as a DISTINGUISHED school through NCLB, reflects a dedicated staff and involved students, parents, and community.

If you have any questions about NCA CASI please feel free to contact Yvonne Palli or Craig Mock.



## **Nominate MHS Teacher of Year**

The Teacher of the Year (TOY) award is given each year to recognize the contributions of teachers. Teachers include Music, Art, PE, Special Education, Counselors and all other regular education teachers.

The SD Division of Education sponsors the program. The committee would appreciate your input. Contact Yvonne Palli, MHS Principal, by Feb. 1 if you would like to nominate a teacher.

## After Prom Party helpers needed

Planning is well underway for the 2010 After Prom Party! Any parents interested in volunteering their time and talents to help plan this worthwhile event should contact Sheila Bruscher at 996-0349 or Lisa Neugebauer at 996-2754.

Year-end donations to this safe and fun alternative held after the prom dance for our juniors and senior students will be "JOYFULLY" accepted.....HO, HO, HO and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## PLAN Exam will be administered Jan. 8

The PLAN examination will be administered to all 10th grade students on **Friday, Jan. 8, 2010**.

This free exam provides great information and exposure for our MHS students on upcoming post secondary plans and tests.

On the morning of Jan. 8, students will be bussed by the school to Mitchell Technical Institute's south campus. Our kids will spend the morning engaged in this extremely important activity. **EVEN IF** your son or daughter does not plan on pursuing an education beyond high school, the PLAN exam provides information and assistance on how to get where they are going after graduation- including career opportunities, academic areas of strengths and weaknesses, etc.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Erin Fowkes!

## National Honor Society applications due in March

The NHS process will begin soon. Applications will be due March 2 by 4 p.m. to the MHS Office. The induction and dinner will be April 15, at 6 p.m.

# Financial Aid Night to be held Feb. 2 at MTI

Needing help financially for college or technical education, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is your starting point for applying to most student financial assistance programs, including federal, state, and campus-based aid.

Beginning in January, high school students going to school the following fall can submit their FAFSA for grants and low-cost loans. The US Dept. of Education, Federal Student Aid provides over \$80 billion annually in financial assistance for college applications have the best chance of getting the most money for college or technical schools.

If you are dreading completing the FAFSA, Mitchell High School is sponsoring a FAFSA night with Grant Uecker Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. at MTI south campus(out toward the sale barn).

### What to do for FAFSA

Get a social security number (SSN) which you need to submit the FAFS. To apply for SSN visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

Request a PIN so you can submit your FAFSA and make corrections, to apply go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).

Make a note of state and college deadlines and requirements because deadlines tend to be earlier than federal deadline

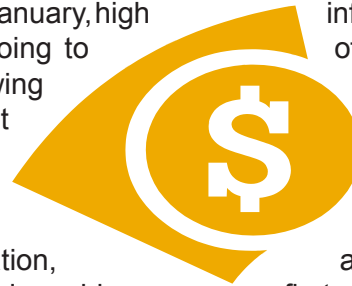
Obtain the FAFSA on the web worksheet so you can use this as a tool to gather information to complete the official FAFSA, go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Complete the FAFSA on the internet as soon as possible because funding is awarded on first-come, first-served basis, go to [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov)

Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) summarizes the data you reported on your FAFSA if completed, an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is printed in the upper right-hand corner.

Determine if you need to verify your FAFSA information because if you see an asterisk after your EFC number you will need to submit tax returns and other documentations. This happens randomly for those who apply.

Compare award letter that you are eligible for aid at schools which you are accepted carefully compare amounts and types of aid awarded.



## Girls-Only Welding to be offered

MHS will be offering a Welding class next year for "Girls Only". This is an attempt to offer courses in the non-traditional setting.

Research shows that many females shy away from taking technical classes in high school because they are not

comfortable working next to their male counterparts. Many schools in the nation have tried this approach and it has been successful.

The goal at MHS will be to have more girls will go on to take upper level Welding classes as well as other non-traditional classes at MHS.