

# Upward Bound

# HELLO October 2023

## AHS & CHS HOMECOMING



Above: Shanna Gunwall and classmate dress up as BBQ Dads

Below: AHS Seniors win the Hallway Decorating Contest with their "Out of this World" theme



Above: CiCi Hudson is crowned AHS Homecoming Queen; Kaiya Hudson is Sophomore Attendant



Above: Makiah Craig dances with friends at the CHS HoCo Dance

Below: Nico Olvera participates in HoCo Mini Olympics at AHS



Above: Tatiana Abdelgabar and friends dress for PJ Day during HoCo Week at CHS

# Academic Advisor Update

## Kevin Coy Jr.—Alliance H.S.

Alliance High Homecoming 2023 was out of this world - literally. HoCoTheme was “Out of this World” and students were excited to express their school spirit all week! Monday’s theme was Wear Your PJs, Tuesday - Neon Day, Wednesday - Space Cowboy or Space Creature, Thursday - Space Jam (Jersey Day), and Friday - Spirit Day! CiCi Hudson was Alliance High’s Homecoming Queen, along with Kaiya Hudson being named Sophomore Attendant. Great job you two!

Alliance High is taking action on the rising number of absenteeism that is taking place within the school. According to a Panhandle Post article, “Alliance City Council declared September School Attendance Month and encourages all citizens to encourage students to attend school regularly. The proclamation defines chronic absence as missing 10% of the academic year. This has more than doubled since the start of the pandemic, from 8 million to an estimated 16 million students nationwide. Absenteeism is especially high among students and families that were most adversely impacted by the pandemic.” The administration of Alliance High will average the total number of absences by grade and the grade with the least amount of absences will be rewarded a Pizza Party in October.

Moving forward, please be on the lookout for announcements and other communications via Remind - Canvas assignments, quarterly meeting assignments, etc. Lastly - Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> is the end of the first academic quarter. Make sure you are communicating with your teachers and ensure you are finishing strong! We highly encourage you to ask for help from teachers and sign into PhotoStudy!

## Kevin Coy Jr.—Chadron H.S.

Chadron High’s “Space” theme garnished a ton of attention and school spirit from students and even staff! It was great to see everyone participate. I think what stood out the most was Shanna G. dressed as a grill dad lol. She won in my book! CHS theme days consisted of Monday - PJs, Tuesday - USA Day, Wednesday - Barbie vs. Ken, Thursday - Soccer Mom vs. Grill Dad, and Friday - Spirit Day. To top off a great week, CHS won their Varsity Football game beating Gering 28-20.

One Acts season is back and once again UB students make up almost ten percent of all positions - Cast and Crew combined! This year’s Title for One Act is “Harold P. Truthington Presents the Absolutely True Story of Robin Hood AKA Rob Hat Guy.” Best of luck to those students as they perform this upcoming season. Other activities and clubs like FBLA & FFA have also picked up with meetings and different events. I love seeing our UB students get active and join other clubs and activities within the school. Keep up the great work!

Seniors, please start looking and applying for local, institutional (college of your choice), and National Scholarships! Mrs. Watson does a great job of getting those scholarships out, and I hope you are applying #freemoney.



## Brad Gaston—Crawford

October, what a great month with beautiful changing weather and leaves. Lots of activities going on this month!

Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> is all afternoon activities at Hay Springs—Jr High football and volleyball starting at 2 p.m. as well as varsity volleyball and varsity football at 7 p.m.. What a fun filled day of athletics!

Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> student athletes will see the same setup against Minatare, at Crawford. Jr High football and volleyball to JV volleyball and varsity volleyball and varsity football. What a great day to be a Ram!

Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> JV football against Hay Springs and a JV volleyball quad at Alliance.

Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> Varsity volleyball hosts a triangular at Crawford.

Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> JV volleyball, followed by varsity volleyball and football, will be played at Banner County.

Happy Halloween!  
Everyone be safe!

# **FAFSA Changes Are Coming: What You Need To Know**

Each year, millions of students fill out the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) to get help to pay for college. This help comes from federal and institutional aid, such as grants, scholarships and loans. For the 2024-25 award year, the FAFSA is getting a facelift that includes a redesign and fewer questions. Plus, formulas determining aid eligibility have been modified with the goal of expanding financial assistance for low-income families. These are six changes to be aware of:

**1. The FAFSA Application Opens Later**—The FAFSA for the 2024-25 school year is projected to be available in December 2023, a few months later than usual. This date change is temporary as the Department of Education intends to move the FAFSA opening date back to Oct. 1, 2024 for the 2025-26 academic year.

**2. New Methodology Calculates Aid**—A major change is that FAFSA's new Student Aid Index (SAI) replaces the expected family contribution (EFC) metric to calculate aid eligibility. The calculation for the SAI considers the income and assets of the student and others financially contributing to their household, like parents and spouses. Below are some key ways the SAI differs from the EFC:

- **Fewer questions asked to determine financial standing.**
- **You can have a minimum SAI of -\$1,500.**
- **Families don't get a break for having multiple students in college.**
- **Students must report the income of the parent who provides the most support.**
- **Some income isn't considered in aid calculation.**



**3. Students May Automatically Qualify for the Maximum Pell Grant** -Pell Grant eligibility is tied to how household income and family size compares to poverty guidelines. Pell Grants are a type of aid that doesn't have to be repaid; grants are awarded to students with an "exceptional" financial need.

Independent and dependent students below the poverty threshold may automatically qualify for the maximum Pell Grant. For example, students in single-parent households may be eligible for the maximum Pell Grant if their adjusted gross income (AGI) is less than or equal to 225% of the poverty guideline for their family size. Students from a two-parent home (and independent students without dependents) may qualify for the maximum grant amount if their AGI is less than 175% of the poverty line.

**4. Everyone Needs an FSA ID To Complete the FAFSA Application**—For the 2024-25 school year, anyone required to fill out part of a student's FAFSA—including a spouse, parent or step-parent—must create their own FSA ID and password.

The FSA ID provides a digital signature on your application for security reasons. Application contributors can set up an FSA ID on the StudentAid.gov website by providing their birth date, Social Security number and full name.

**5. Consent Is Required for Tax Data Transfers**—You can digitally transfer much of the information required for the FAFSA from the IRS, but the transfer requires consent from each application contributor. So, if a spouse or parent needs to fill out part of your FAFSA, they must agree to provide their tax details.

Application contributors should get a FAFSA notification requesting their consent. If they don't agree to have the IRS information transferred, students can still apply for aid, but may not qualify without consent.

**6. Students Can List Up to 20 Schools on the Digital Application**—Students can now list up to 20 schools on the online FAFSA application. This allows you to put many different school options on your list. However, if you fill out the PDF version of the FAFSA, you're limited to 10 schools.

# October Birthdays

10/12—Payton Swanson

10/16—Payton Horan

10/23—Aaron Walden

10/28—Makiah Craig

10/29—Wade Riggs

## Upcoming Events:

Oct. 11th—AHS Lunch Meeting

Oct. 12th—CHS Lunch Meeting

Oct. 17th—19th—College Visits to UNL and Northeast

Nov. 3rd-7th—2023 Essay Contest Winners Trip to Santa Fe, NM

Date TBD—Next QM

## TIP OF THE HAT

**Holliann M.**— accepted into UNL, UNK, UNO, NCTA and CSC

**Addie D.**— FFA District Runner Up; Set Crew & Hair/Makeup for One Acts

**Diane D.**— Top 20 batting average

**CiCi H.**—Crowned AHS Homecoming Queen

**Kaiya H.**—Sophomore Attendant of AHS Homecoming Royalty

**Mina S.**— Leader in Alliance band for the percussion line

**Aiden V., Lyla C.A., Tatiana A., & Alex W.H.**— Landed the role of “Merrie Men” for the CHS One Acts

**Karsen S.**— Landed the role of “Professor Ditzchenstein” for the CHS One Acts

**Shanna G.**—Landed the role of “Mary” for the CHS One Acts

**Hayden B.**— Landed the role of “Tree 2” for the CHS One Acts

**Hina H.**— Tech Crew for CHS One Acts

**Will S.**— Participating in CrHS One Acts

**Tianna C.**—Putting in the hard work for the CrHS Volleyball Team

**Wyatt B., Fayt A., & Brynley E.**—Starting the semester off with straight A’s

**Haley H.**—Completing her weekly check-in every week!



## Wyatt Brady – October Student of the Month



Wyatt Brady is a senior at Crawford High School. He has been a member of the Upward Bound program since his freshman year.

Along with his participation in Upward Bound, Wyatt participates in many sports including Wrestling. He is a successful in both athletics and academics, demonstrating what a strong student athlete looks like.

Wyatt has a great outlook on life and is always willing to help others.

After high school Wyatt is thinking about attending Southeast Community College or Midplains Community College. He plans to study HVAC and receive his Associate’s degree.

Wyatt said his favorite part of the Upward Bound program is “hanging out with Heather on the trips.”

