

January—My Christmas Wish List

With Christmas rapidly approaching, it is only natural to make up a Christmas wish list. My wife tells me I've spent too much money on my own hobbies (hunting, golf, etc.) this year so I won't be getting much from Santa. However, that won't stop me from wishing for a few other treats. I know that most of the following wishes are beyond my control and so I probably shouldn't stress over them, however, if you're going to dream, you might as well dream big!

My 2010 Wish List:

- Motivation and good health for students to come to school every day. Unfortunately, some of our students repeatedly find themselves in danger of failing classes due to an abundance of absences. I know that the flu season has hit hard this past semester, but that only means its that much more important to be here every possible day that you are not sick! Good attendance habits in high school will lead to good attendance in college and at a job someday.
- The NSAA to allow us to play some non-district football teams that are relatively close to Howells. If Coach Speirs has his way we'll be playing Hay Springs or Mullen or some other school in western Neb., but I'd much rather play someone in the general vicinity. We were very fortunate to have all conference teams in our football district. (Our FB district for the next two years can be found on the NSAA website: www.nsaahome.org)
- The federal government and the Nebraska Department of Education to quit handing down unfunded and seemingly impossible-to-meet mandates. At the federal level, educational laws are being created by people with little or no educational background, and they want schools to do more without any more funding. At the state level, they are pushing toward statewide tests in all the core curricular areas. And about the time that is fully implemented they will change to a nationwide test in all the core curricular areas.
- The state legislature to stay out of the NSAA's hair. For some reason there are state senators that think they know more about school activities than the Nebraska State Activities Association. While we all complain about the NSAA a little, it is a regulatory institution that is set up and run by the schools and people associated with high schools across the state. Let's leave the politicians out of it.
- Continued good sportsmanship from our students and fans! We've received a number of compliments on our sportsmanship and hospitality during the fall sports seasons. Let's keep it up during the winter and spring!
- Continued improvement and support for our fine arts programs. The drama team and music programs are low in numbers but these students put in a lot of time and work just like our student-athletes. It was great to see large crowds at the play performance in November and the recent Christmas concert. The speech team is already preparing for the season that gets started in January.
- People in these three communities; Clarkson, Howells, and Dodge, to put aside emotions and look at what is best for the future of the young students in this area. That might be a tall order but when you're putting together a wish list for Santa Claus, you might as well dream big!

I hope everyone has a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!