

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN AMERICAN TEEN

**7:00 – 7:30 A.M.** Wake up. Get ready for school, eat a quick breakfast of cereal (or yogurt, toast, fruit, or a granola bar).

**8:00/8:15** – Leave for school, which starts at 8:30. Most students either walk, are driven by their parents, or drive themselves to school if they're 16 and have a car.

**8:30 – 9:20** History

**9:30 – 10:20** English

**10:30 – 11:20** Science

**11:30 – 12:20** Elective\*

**12:30 – 1:20** Lunch

**1:30 – 2:20** Spanish

**2:30 – 3:20** Math

**3:30 – 5:30** Sports practice (OR **3:30 – 8:30** Work, most likely not everyday).

**6:00** Dinner

**7:00 – 11:00** Hang out, do homework before heading to bed.

### **Elective Classes**

Journalism (Newspaper/Yearbook (*anuario*)/Radio/Photography)

Pottery (*alfarería*), Drawing, Sculpting, Painting

Drafting (architecture)

Automechanics

Woodworking

Metalworking

Sewing (*costura*)

Weights (*pesas*)

Team Sports

Home Economics or Culinary Arts

Psychology

Computer Technology

Child Development (*desarrollo del bebé*)

Business/Marketing

Interior Design (*diseño de interiores*)

(Teacher's Aid)

**-AP Classes**

### **Extra-Curricular Activities:**

#### **Academic**

Speech/Debate

National Honor Society

DECA\*\*

Science Club

Language Club

#### **Campus-Related**

Marching Band

Student Government

Newspaper/Yearbook

Cheerleading/Drill Team/Flags

Choir/Swing Choir

Theater/Drama

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)  
Language Club (French, Spanish or German)  
Chess Club  
Key Club (community service)  
Homecoming/Prom committee: a group of students who volunteer to prepare all the arrangements for the prom and the homecoming dance.

### **Athletics**

#### **Fall**

Football (American, not soccer 😊 )  
Volleyball  
Cross-Country  
Boys Tennis

#### **Winter**

Basketball (girls & boys)  
Wrestling  
Swimming/Diving  
Bowling

#### **Spring**

Track  
Soccer  
Girls Tennis

### **Non-School Activities**

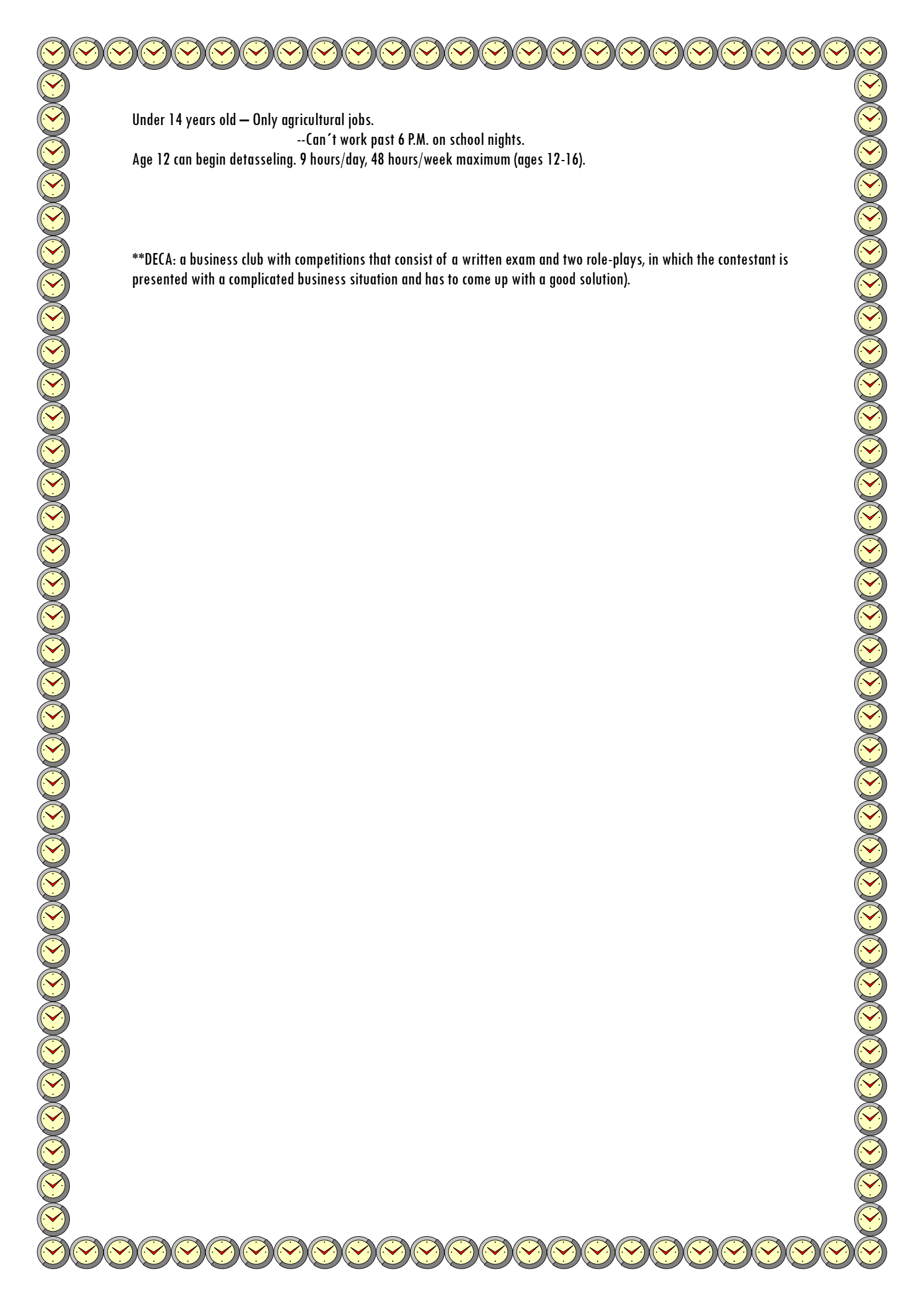
Music Lessons (guitar, violin, piano, drums, etc.)  
Big Brothers/Big Sisters  
Church Youth Group  
Hockey  
Gymnastics  
Equestrian/Rodeo  
Trap-Shooting: shooting at clay pigeons sprung from a trap into the air away from the shooter  
Friday Night Football Games  
Pep Rallies  
Homecoming/Prom  
Summer Jobs  
Chores at Home  
Summer Baseball/Softball/Co-ed Softball  
Cruising: you drive back and forth the main street.  
Bonfires

### **Age Privileges**

16: Can get a driver's license. Driver's Education.  
18: A "legal adult." Can vote, join the military, driver's license without limitations, purchase/use tobacco, rent an apartment, work without weekly hour limitations.

### **Working Limitations**

Minimum Wage in Nebraska: \$7.25/hour  
Under 16 years old — Must obtain a special permit from school to get a job.  
--Can't work past 10 P.M. on school nights.  
-- Can't start work before 6 A.M.  
-- Maximum 8 hours/day, 48 hours/ week.

A decorative border consisting of a continuous line of small, stylized clock faces. Each clock face is circular with a grey outer ring, a yellow inner circle, and a red checkmark in the center. The border follows the perimeter of the page, with the corners rounded.

Under 14 years old – Only agricultural jobs.

--Can't work past 6 P.M. on school nights.

Age 12 can begin detasseling. 9 hours/day, 48 hours/week maximum (ages 12-16).

**\*\*DECA:** a business club with competitions that consist of a written exam and two role-plays, in which the contestant is presented with a complicated business situation and has to come up with a good solution).

## EXPLANATIONS

- **Highschooler(s):** a student attending a school consisting grades 9 or 10 through 12.
- **Semester:** Most schools organise their school year by semesters (which usually last 4 months). There are two semesters in the school year. The **fall** semester is from mid-August / early September - December / January. The **spring** semester goes from January - end of May / mid-June
- **Electives:** Elective coursework is included in the curriculum to provide students with an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills related to the professional position they hope to work in, but may not receive through the Core coursework. For example, a student who is interested in working in the early childhood education would benefit from taking courses in early language and math learning.  
Electives would be classes offered, but not required in order to complete the amount of credits needed to graduate. A good example would be French or Spanish, Drama, Agriculture, Business, Team Sports etc. If for example the number of credits needed to graduate in a state is 21, you would earn 16 or 17 through your required courses and would have to earn the rest in electives.
- **Sewing:** to join or decorate (pieces of fabric, etc) by means of a thread repeatedly passed through with a needle or similar implement.
- **Child development:** In high schools across the USA, junior and senior girls/boys are given the responsibility of taking care of a fake baby for a week or sometimes longer. It's known as the *Reborn Baby Project* and usually is an elective in most high schools called Child Development. This project could deter teens from becoming sexually active or at least introduce them to the difficult and time-consuming task of taking care of a baby because this computerized doll cries when diapers need to be changed or when it want to be fed or rocked to sleep.
- **Pottery:** the craft or business of making pots, vases, vessels, etc, from earthenware and dried and baked in a kiln (a furnace or oven for burning, baking, or drying something, especially one for firing pottery or baking bricks).
- **Yearbook:** a book published by the graduating class of a high school or college, containing photographs of class members and commemorating school activities.

## HOMECOMING AND PROM

- **Homecoming:** It is a dance/party in many universities and high schools in the United States which takes place in the fall semester. It usually includes activities for students such as sports and culture events and a parade through the streets of the city or town. *Homecoming* should not be confused with *prom*, as they occur at different times of the year. Homecoming usually occurs in the fall, and prom usually occurs in the spring and the latter (éste ultimo) is a more formal event.

When attached to a football game, **Homecoming** traditionally occurs on the team's return from the longest road trip of the season. The game itself, no matter if it is football or another sport, will imply (*implicar*) the home team playing a considerably weaker opponent. The game is supposed to be an "easy win" and thus weaker schools will sometimes play lower division schools.

- **Prom:** (short for promenade). In the United States, prom is a semi-formal dance or gathering of high school students. This event is typically held near the end of the senior year. Boys wear tuxedos, and girls wear long dresses with corsages (ramillete, arreglo floral) on their wrists (*muñecas*). The colour of the girl's dress and both the boy's vest and tie have to match.
- **Tuxedo:** the usual US and Canadian name for dinner jacket. Boys usually rent it since it is quite expensive to buy one.
- **Chaperone:** an adult who accompanies or supervises young people on social occasions.
- **Corsage:** a flower or small bunch of flowers worn pinned to the lapel, bosom, etc, or sometimes carried by women.
- **Corny:** simple and sentimental.
- **Stag:** a man unaccompanied by a woman at a social gathering.
- Play a prank **on:** a mischievous trick or joke, esp one in which something is done rather than said. Some of the common pranks that are played to ask someone out for the HOMECOMING or the PROM dances are:
  - a) Sticky note car
  - b) Saran wrap car

## STUDENTS NAMES IN HIGH SCHOOL

The four years of undergraduate education are called:

- (1) **freshman year**, and someone in their first year is a freshman. You might sometimes hear this shortened to "frosh."
- (2) **sophomore year**, and someone in their second year is a sophomore. Sometimes sophomore is shortened to "soph." the word comes from the ancient Greek and combines the roots for "wise" and "fool". Being a "wise fool" definitely reflects the kind of self-confidence that characterises second-year college students.
- (3) **junior year**, and someone in their third year is a junior. Junior can be abbreviated as "jr." in writing.
- (4) **senior year**, and someone in their fourth year is a senior. Senior can be abbreviated as "sr." in writing.

These same terms apply in the same way to the four years of a standard high school: 9th grade is freshman year, 10th grade sophomore year, 11th grade junior year, and 12th grade senior year.

School funding mainly comes from tax-payers. So there is a big difference in school facilities depending on the city or the neighbourhood they are located in thereby bringing forth lot of inequality in the type of education given as well as in the choice of electives.

<http://www.fulbright.org.uk/study-in-the-usa/school-study/us-school-system>