



"The Navigator"

Principal's Newsletter

St. Charles North High School

Vol. V No. 1 September 2003

255 Red Gate Road / St. Charles, Illinois 60175 / Phone 630/443-5700

We value feedback from the District 303 community. Write or call us. Your response is always appreciated

Mr. Frank Kesman, Principal
e-mail:mringsby@d303.org

Marching North Stars Gear Up for an Exciting Season!

The Marching North Stars started this school year with their annual marching band camp. The 250-member band spent the two weeks learning this year's show, which features the music from the movie, The Blues Brothers. The new SCN Color Guard, led by choral director, Mrs. Bach, also attended the marching band camp and will also be featured this year.

The North Stars unveiled their amazing show at the first home football game on September 5th, and the very next day the band traveled to Six Flags Great America to be the featured performers in a parade that showcased the band, color guard, and drill team throughout the entire park.

The North Stars will also host the University of Wisconsin Marching Band this fall. The U of W Marching Band will perform at SCN during the home football game on September 26th and will feature alumni from our own Marching North Stars!

The marching band has also been invited to perform at the Oswego Invitational Marching Band Festival. This festival features performances from some of the top marching bands in Northern Illinois and is an outstanding opportunity for our band.

The marching band and color guard season will also include a trip to Walt Disney World this January. This will be the second time that the North Stars have been accepted to perform at the Magic Kingdom, and the students are looking forward to returning and providing another outstanding performance for thousands of spectators.

If you would like more information about the marching band or other aspects of the band program, you can visit us on the web at www.d303.org/schools/scn/. Click on academics. Click on humanities. Scroll down and click on band!



Marching North Stars practice long hours for half-time show



All new Color Guard rehearsing a new routine

SCN Color Guard

One of the new and exciting groups this year is the SCN Color Guard. While this group was previously in existence here at SCN, its new sponsor, uniforms, equipment and members are creating quite a buzz in North Star country.

Under the direction of sponsor/choreographer Janel Bach, the 21-member team traveled to Eastern Illinois University in July to attend the Smith-Walbridge Flag and Rifle camp. At camp, the SCN Color Guard won two awards: Most Improved School and Most Improved Student, won by sophomore Lauren Klacko.

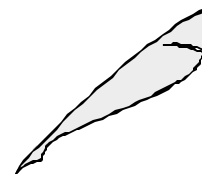
With a successful car wash and camp experience under their belts, the SCN Color Guard is currently preparing for this year's marching show; The Blues Brothers. They look forward to performing at games, assemblies and Disney this year!



Four North HS graduates make the "big time"! Now marching with the U of W are (L to R) John Meister, Chris Hanson, U of W Mentor, Grant Jacobson, and Matt Cameron.



"Pen of the Principal"
Mr. Frank Kesman, Principal



The pathways followed during the last three years have taken us from a time of exploration to one of tradition and success. The participation of every student, staff member and parent in the continuation of these traditions will make St. Charles North High School even more successful than in the past. I am asking each student, parent and staff member to take this moment of "welcome" to reflect on what your role might be in these expanded opportunities as you add to the North Star high school experience. The cooperative efforts of everyone in our educational community will contribute to the successes we will enjoy in the classroom, within the student activity program, or on the athletic field.

This year, our focus on the North Central Association accreditation process will be to take the initial steps in the development and implementation of strategies to address our school improvement goals. Mr. Eric McClaren, Principal of the Illinois Math & Science Academy, has joined our efforts and will serve as our NCA Visitation Team Chairman. It is my expectation that addressing these two goals will make a difference in the learning experiences of our students. Our two goals are:

- Affective Goal: All students will improve their ability to identify responsibilities and develop the habit of meeting obligations they place upon themselves and those placed upon them by others.
- Cognitive Goal: All students will increase their ability to think and communicate with clarity and precision across the curriculum and in a variety of settings.

This fall, we welcome yet another freshman class. With 534 members, the class of 2007 replaces our inaugural class of 2003. This brings our population to 1,965 students. As we approach 2,000 students, we are nearing the capacity of our facility. Our hallways are more crowded, staff offices have been consolidated, the daily schedule is less flexible and students are served in the cafeteria in four, very full lunch periods. To address these issues, we are preparing a facilities report to be presented to the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education. We will keep you informed as we work through these issues.

The entire staff at North High School welcomes you to the 2003-2004 school year. Working together, we will continue to emphasize the importance of each individual student as partners in the cooperative venture of making St. Charles North High School the very best of learning environments.

"Bring Back the Weave"

With our continuing traffic congestion, one solution last year was to develop a "morning weave" into the parking lot. Please help traffic to flow more smoothly by allowing east and west bound vehicles to *alternate* as they enter our parking lot. Everyone will save some time. **Thank you!** And, don't forget to allow an occasional car or bus to leave the lot along Red Gate Road.



"Who Ya Gonna Call?"

- ❑ **Attendance Issues** (i.e. absence, late arrivals, early release) **CALL: 443-5711 or 443-5712**
- ❑ **Transportation Issues** (i.e. bus problems) **CALL: 587-7137**
- ❑ **Parking Lot Issues** (i.e. parking permits) **CALL: 443-5713**
- ❑ **Transcript Issues or Student Information change** (i.e. request transcripts, change of address or phone number) **CALL: 443-2761**
- ❑ **Schedule Issues** (i.e. schedule changes, corrections) **CALL: 443-5716**
- ❑ **Athletic Issues** (i.e. contact coach, problems regarding athletics) **CALL: 443-3450**.....info regarding athletic events such as schedules and location may be obtained from **ATHLETIC HOTLINE: 443-5708**....info may also be obtained from school website (www.d303.org)
- ❑ **Work Permits** (i.e. questions regarding work permits, request work permit) **CALL: 443-5700**
- ❑ **Student Activities/Club Issues** (i.e. questions/concerns regarding a school function) **CALL: 443-2777**
- ❑ **School Store Issues** (i.e. questions regarding PE uniforms, locks, spirit wear, letterman jackets) **CALL: 443-5681 between 10:12 am – 1:38 pm)**
- ❑ **Medical Issues** (i.e. medications, vaccination records) **CALL: 443-2752**
- ❑ **Teacher Issues** (i.e. would like to contact teacher) **CALL: 443-5700**
- ❑ **Auditorium Issues** (Tickets for school productions, facility equipment needs) **CALL: 587-7103**

FRESHMAN HEALTH FORMS

If you have not submitted your child's 9th grade Child Health Examination Form, please do so immediately. We are mandated by State of Illinois guidelines to exclude any student who does not have a 9th grade exam.

Wilma Van Arragon, R.N.
School Nurse

Freshman Transition

On August 14th, 2003 over 500 new freshmen students entered St. Charles North High School for the first time. After being greeted by over 40 upper classman representatives, students were sent on a scavenger hunt throughout the school.

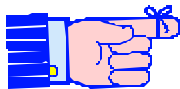
In addition to receiving their class schedules and books, the freshmen were given tips on how to navigate the hallways, log onto the computer network, and clued into the popular places to hang out before school. The upper classmen mentors were then available for directions on the first day of school for the new freshmen. This was just another way to welcome the Class of 2007 to St. Charles North High School.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE REMINDER

If a student is going to be absent from school, please call the attendance line at 630/443-5711 by 7:30 a.m. In addition, if students arrive late to school or need to leave early, they must sign-in at the attendance office.

Messages to Students

Please understand that we are unable to deliver messages to students unless it is a medical emergency. If you are making an appointment on the same day, please tell your child to check in periodically at the attendance office to find out the time of the appointment.



Dress Code Reminders

The dress code states that students must be covered from shoulders to mid-thigh. Shirts need to be at least three inches wide on the shoulders in order to provide appropriate coverage. Clothing which is considered revealing will not be allowed on any student.

The following are some examples of inappropriate clothing for school:

- ✓ Bare midriffs, backs, halter tops, low-cut or strapless tops without a covering shirt.
- ✓ Excessively short skirts or shorts.
- ✓ Visible underwear.
- ✓ Clothing which depicts the use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal substances.
- ✓ Clothing which depicts graphics or wording with sexual, vulgar, lewd, or indecent meanings or connotations.
- ✓ Clothing with graphics or wording which depicts violence in any form.

A complete list of inappropriate clothing for school is explained on page thirty-nine of the student handbook. We would like to thank all the students for responding so well by making better choices on what they wear to school. We know it is difficult to find appropriate clothing in stores today.



Parking Lot

The configuration of the school's parking lot and the access into and out presents challenges for those who use it and those in charge of overseeing its use. A large challenge is presented at the Red Gate Road entrance before and after school. We again thank all of you who use that entrance for the patience and courtesy you show towards each other and pedestrians as you enter and leave the school grounds. As our school has grown the amount of cooperation needed between all has also increased and the North Star community as a whole has done a good job meeting the parking challenges.

However, inside the parking lot it is sometimes a different story. Students and parents are reminded to drive **slowly** and with **caution**. Students driving recklessly may lose their driving privileges. Unfortunately, we get just as many complaints about parents driving fast and reckless in the lot. Please, drive defensively and keep the interest of pedestrians upper-most in your mind as you use the parking lot. Also, the access road directly in front of the school is only for buses before and after school. Please drop off or pick-up students in the parking lot.

Red Gate Morning Back-Up

Being caught in the Red Gate Road back up that occurs in the mornings is not an excuse for arriving to school late. Up to five minutes late to first hour will be considered a tardy. The student is to go directly to class and take the tardy with their first period teacher. If a student arrives more than five minutes late it is considered to be a truancy and the student should report to the attendance office. If you find yourself arriving late because Red Gate is backed-up you must leave home earlier.

Designated Parking Spots on Campus

All students parking on campus have a designated spot to use. Seniors park in the numbered spots on odd or even days. Juniors park on the range on odd or even days. Students in certain educational classes (Co-op, Child Dev. II, ECC, Prin. Of Tech.,) have an every day hangtag and must park in the back of the main lot unless they have been put in a reserved lettered spot. A student parking in a wrong spot will be given a tow warning and may face possible disciplinary action. **A second offense may result in towing. Not displaying your hangtag may also result in disciplinary action.**

Juniors and parents of juniors should realize that the range is closed for approximately two months out of the school year; from about the end of October to the end of November and the end of March to the end of April. Exact dates will be announced at a later date. Juniors must find an alternate means to and from school.

We do have a small number of spots designated for emergency temporary parking. Any student with a driver's license may one-day park if needed. A temporary permit must be picked up in the Dean's office and the cost is \$2.00.

North Star PTO News

Welcome new and returning parents. Thank all of you that have joined SCN PTO. For those of you that would still like to join, it's not too late. Just send in a \$15 check to school made out to SCN PTO. Included in that fee is a student directory, eligibility for your student to receive a senior scholarship and the knowledge that you are supporting many worthwhile activities for the students and teachers at our school. We provide refreshments for Back-to-School Night, dinners for teachers after all day conferences in November, assistance with Homecoming activities, snacks for juniors during the two-day Prairie State Achievement testing in April, an exciting after prom event (meetings 2nd Tuesday of the month in LRC from 7-9 pm), and many more events during the year.

Come find out first hand how you can be more involved in behind the scenes high school events. PTO meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month in the LRC from 7-9 pm. You can access our meeting minutes and budget on the school web site at d303.org, then click on North High School, then PTO.

Did you remember to pick up your student directory at Back to School Night? If not, then have your student go to the main office for a copy. Remember PTO members get one free copy with additional copies available for \$5.00. This year we have included more information – booster contact numbers, counselor information, parents' names and addresses. We think you will find this to be a very useful directory.

Did you know that we have Market Day at the St. Charles North High School? For information and pick up dates, contact Treva Wine at 762-8287, Kathy Polito at 513-0299 or Margie Jimenez and 443-8562. You can order on-line by going to www.d303.org, click on North High School, then click on PTO and there is a link to market day or go directly to www.marketday.com and enter in North High School.

As a PTO we are involved in two very big upcoming events. First we are planning a Chili Cook-off with Central Boosters (this is in place of the Corn Boil) to take place prior to a home football game in late September or October. As it is still in the planning stage, please check the web site for details or contact Julie Vicory at 377-9484 or Bob Lanning at 584-5057 for more information. Plan to put a chili team together – we will have teachers competing against students and parents. It should be fun for all as there will be judging and prizes with a chili dinner served afterwards.

The other big upcoming event is Homecoming. This year we truly have a Homecoming - to be held the week of Oct. 20th. Consult the student directory for your child's parent class rep or class advisor if you would like to volunteer with float building supervision, have a location to build the float or would like to participate in other Homecoming activities such as decorating and/or dance chaperoning.

If you haven't had an opportunity to see the Pen & Ink Print of St. Charles North High School that PTO commissioned as a fundraiser, go to the main office at school or look for the PTO table at special school events. Norie Rooney, local artist and mother of one of our instructors, has drawn a beautiful rendition of the main building, auditorium and athletic wing entrances. The cost of the print is \$25. You will also receive a \$25 certificate toward framing at Colbert Custom Framing. There are also note cards with the drawing available (think senior graduation thank you cards). Order forms are available in the main office or call Theresa Shoup at 365-6797 for more information.

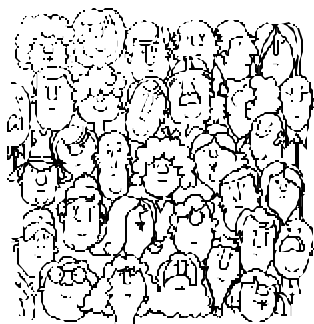
We look forward to the coming year – the commitments, challenges and the first 4-year class to graduate at St. Charles North High School.



Market Day

Jan Stark – PTO President

Back-to-school schedule too much? Would an order from Market Day help with the meal planning? Next pick-up in the high school cafeteria is Tuesday, October 14th at 3:30 PM. Place your order by October 9th at marketday.com.



PARENT RESOURCE NETWORK (PRN)

Parent Resource Network began two years ago as a program to bring information to parents of a nature different than could be found through school programs and correspondence. As parents of teens we know there are many unanticipated challenges that we face. During the first years of our child's life we share during playgroups, then there is informational sharing at the bus stop. But as our children get older not only is it harder for us to know their friends, it is almost impossible for us to know their friends' parents. So the informational exchange between parents of teen children becomes more difficult at a time when that information is more crucial.

PRN's focus is to bring not only expert information to parents but also to allow informational exchange between parents that might not otherwise take place. During a presentation you can expect to hear from an individual that is knowledgeable about a particular topic as well as time to interact with other parents informally around refreshments. Our presentations have included the topics of Drugs and Alcohol, Teen Emotional Well-being, Bullying, Teen Driving and the College Application Process to name a few.

This year we are trying a little different format than previously. We plan to have 2 or 3 short presentations (all related to a topic) in one evening so that you can choose which topics interest you. You can attend one or all the presentations as we plan to have them repeat during the evening. During the 2003-2004 school year we plan to hold three of these evenings. The first will be held in early October and then two more in early 2004.

For our first presentation Parent Resource Network and St. Charles North Guidance Department will be presenting a mini-seminar evening on the "College Application Process." This will be different than the program held by the guidance department at Back-to-School Night. Topics to be included are: What an admission's officer is looking for (hint – consistency, challenge, and thoroughness), How to use the school's COIN Program (a college search program), and The Nuts and Bolts of the application process (testing, references, timing). Parents of all high school students are invited to attend this informational night. Freshmen parents – it's not too early to be thinking about college and how early planning and course scheduling will really make the application process less stressful. We have had very positive feedback on this presentation in the past. The program will be held at SCN on Oct. 2, from 6:30-9:30 pm. For more information, call Jan Stark at 513-5883, look for informational flyers at school, or in the daily newspaper calendar section.

We hope to see you there.

Jan Stark
PRN coordinator



Senior Elyse Dankoski, National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist, and Mr. Kesman

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

Elyse Dankoski, senior, has been named a National Merit Scholarship Corporation Semi-Finalist for 2003. As a result of her performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, Elyse has been identified as a recipient of this award which places her in the top 1% of high school students nationwide. Of the more than 1.3 million students who participated in the exam last year, 16,000 have been recognized with the State of Illinois garnering 745 recognized students. We wish Elyse the best as she now continues the application process to be named a National Merit Finalist next spring. We are particularly proud of Elyse as she represents the first National Merit Semi-Finalist in the brief history of our school. Congratulations, Elyse!

NATIONAL PHYSICS CONTEST

North Star senior, Lauren Eichmann, took first place in the 2003 American Assoc. of Physics Teachers National Physics Photo Contest in the Natural Category.

Each year, AAPT organizes a High School Physics Photo Contest. Physics students are challenged to submit a photo illustrating a physics concept. The students are required to take the photo themselves and include a written summary of the physics occurring in the photo.

Senior, Kate Schowe, also came through to the top 100 and the final judging.

For more information about this competition, visit the following web site:

<http://www.aapt.org/Contests/pc03.cfm>

Congratulations to both students and their physics teacher, Diana Hall.

VICA State Competition

North HS students, Simon Quick, Nick Nieto, and Paul Licitia represented the Fox Valley Career Center last spring at the SkillsUSA~VICA State Competition. All three North HS students competed in Residential Wiring competition and did an outstanding job. Licitia took 1st in state and placed 17th in national competition. A belated congratulations to these students

DRILL TEAM WINS GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN AWARD

The St. Charles High Schools Drill Team Cancer KICK-A-THON received one of 59 Governor's Hometown Awards honoring community service projects from across the State of Illinois. Winners of the 22nd Annual Governor's Home Town Awards were honored in Springfield on June 24th, 2003.

"I want to thank the countless numbers of people from Alton to Zion who give of their time, talents and resources to improve the quality of life for those around them," said Gov. Blagojevich. "A special congratulations goes to the winners of the Home Town Awards whose programs and efforts went far beyond expectations. They are representative of the kinds of communities which make this such a great state in which to live and raise a family."

"These programs show how much of a difference community volunteers can make in improving the quality of life in Illinois at the grass roots level," said Jack Lavin, Director of The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, who administers the Governor's Home Town Awards Program.

Last year the Drill Teams raised over \$17,000 for the American Cancer Society. The St. Charles HS Drill Teams continue their commitment to work together to fight cancer. Plans are already underway for the 10th anniversary Drill Team CANCER KICK-A-THON on October 3, 2003, which will be hosted at St. Charles East High School football stadium this year. The goal for this year's KICK-A-THON is \$25,000. For further information, please call Shawn Lruzon at (630) 377-4646 or Nancy Franson at (630) 443-2766.

Humanities

All of our North High School Humanities teachers were busy over the summer, preparing for the upcoming school year.

Specifically, our Art staff gathered together to review their curricular work of last year--incorporating State of Illinois Fine Arts Goal #27 into their ongoing lesson planning--and plan better units of study for our students in this year's courses. After many of our art teachers had finished the District-based seminar for Understanding by Design, they joined collectively with East High School teachers to write plans that include knowledge of the "historical and social relevance of art" for ongoing student assessment. In art this year, students will see a greater attention to the ongoing "artistic conversation" of our culture's artists and art critics.

Selected members of our English staff met to plan Understanding by Design based units for our upper level--11th and 12th grade--English courses. During the course of this planning in July, the English cross-river curricular team decided to begin the process of revamping the ENTIRE secondary language arts curriculum, and this became the primary focus of the group's work for latter July and August. If plans come to fruition, students can expect a language arts program built around the "best approaches" in comprehensive, literacy instruction, which includes a sharper focus for writing in the classroom and more careful attention to reading.

Finally, our Band Directors were--as they always are--preparing for the upcoming marching season with summer band camp and pre-school-days practices. Go marching North Stars!

Richard C. Jones
Instructional Coordinator for Humanities
(voice) 630.443.2737 (fax) 630.443.2769



Art Around Town

Congratulations to the students whose work was on display during the month of July in the "Imagination: Celebrating the Arts 2003" Art Show held at the St. Charles Public Library. During the month of August this same body of work was on display at the Norris Cultural Arts Center. The talented artists that had their work included in these displays were, Alyssa Balleto, Zaynab Hameeduddin, Briana Tubman, Stephaie Mitchell, Lauren Lutella, David Hilborn, Katie VanCleave, Drew Roberts, Meg Feiza, and Nick Alexander.

Learning Resource Center

Technology Across The Miles

During part of June and July, Cheryl LaMaster, Instructional Coordinator for Media & Technology, mentored teachers in New Mexico through an online program developed through Fermilab National Laboratory. The online program, called Lincon, originally assisted teachers in Illinois to develop engaged learning and technology oriented classroom projects. The program now works with teachers throughout the entire country. Although she never met the teachers face to face, Cheryl used the Internet to help the New Mexico teachers design interdisciplinary engaged learning projects to be conducted in their classrooms during this coming school year. The projects are often math and science oriented, but can be for any curricular area or any educational level. The topics for this summer were geometry and dance, weather, and helping wolves survive in the wild.

GOT PLANTS?

The Learning Resource Center is looking for a few large floor plants for the area by our large windows. If your family has plants that no longer fit into the decorative scheme of your home, please consider donating them to North LRC. Please call Cheryl LaMaster at 630-443-5669 to donate.

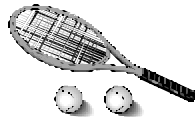
GLOBAL STUDIES **COMMON ASSESSMENTS FOR PROGRAM EVALUATION**

The Global Studies Learning Areas at St. Charles East and North High Schools worked collaboratively throughout the summer to create standards, indicators, common assessments and plans for program evaluation.

A group of Social Studies teachers, Andrew Johnson (East), Bob Dobbertin (North), and Bill Stepien (North) worked to create three common assessments to administer at various times during the school year. The assessments, based on various standards and early and late high school indicators, will be administered at approximately the same time at both high schools this year to collect data on standards achievement. The common assessments will be administered at the Sophomore, Junior and Senior year courses – World History, US History, and Government. The teachers will be trained in administering, and scoring the assessments, in order that the scores be calibrated, meaningful data to use for program evaluation.

Another group of Social Studies teachers, Scott Woods (North), Diane Ring (East), Tom Haymond (East), Jay Brickman (Instructional Coordinator, Global Studies STC East), and Kathryn Zimmer (Instructional Coordinator, Global Studies STC North) worked to create a timeline for the 2003-2004 staff development work. The groundwork has been laid for studying how various groups describe the ideal High School Social Studies program. This data comes from various professional organizations, other Large Unit District Associations (LUDA) in the area, PSAT scores, the CUSD Middle School Social Studies Program, a faculty Needs Assessment Survey, and a Student Survey. This data will be analyzed for trends, and used to create Social Studies Program proposals. The Social Studies staff will choose one program proposal in November 2003. The remainder of the staff development days this year (and next) will focus on creating "Idea" teams to write program/course descriptions, propose textbook adoptions, etc.

A group of Foreign Language teachers, Trish Dawson (East), Rose Mayer (East), Trish Nikrandt (North), and Linda Feiza (North), Jay Brickman (Instructional Coordinator, Global Studies STC East), and Kathryn Zimmer (Instructional Coordinator, Global Studies STC North) met to finalize the Foreign Language standards, indicators, and descriptors for Foreign Language years one and two. This group also created a plan for the staff development work to be completed during the 2003- 2004 school year. These plans include the completion of Foreign Language standards for years four and five, and the creation of common assessments for various levels/languages to be administered in the 2004-2005 school year. Data gathered from the common assessments will be used to evaluate the current Foreign Language program.



"Between the Lines"

North Stars fans have been anxiously awaiting the start of the fall season. A football and boys golf conference championship along with a 5th place finish at state by the girls swim team last year gave their fans plenty to look forward to. During the first week of competition, the girl's tennis team and golf teams won tournaments. Our soccer and volleyball programs are off to good starts. Our cheerleaders and State Champion Drill Team performed along with the marching band and color guard at our 1st football game. Both North Star cross-country teams are training hard with more members than ever. In fact, nearly 1 out of every 3 St. Charles North students have signed up for the athletic program this fall.

Be a part of this year's excitement. Come out and support your North Stars. A great tradition begins.

"GO NORTH STARS!"

Central Boosters

This is the central organization that supports all the athletic teams and music activities that students are involved in. Most teams have a specific parent support group that is backed by and under the umbrella of Central Boosters. Here are just a few of the things Central Boosters has done for your students and your school this past year: building from the ground up our beautiful new outdoor concession stand, organizing the staffing for the stand so it's open for you to use, providing for free the required pre-athletic participation physicals to all students, paying for clinics for many coaches to improve their coaching skills, and providing a sports portrait to all graduating senior athletes.

We would first like to say a special thanks to several people: Michele Fey and Andy Jones, who both worked tirelessly on the concession stand, (without whom it wouldn't exist!). We also would like to thank Tom Schweer, our departing first Athletic Director.

There are too many others to thank here, but countless parents and community members lent a needed hand. We are planning some special fundraisers for the future to help pay off the loan for the concession stand and would like to count on your continued support this year. If your student benefits from these programs here at North, please consider becoming involved in this worthwhile group. We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month, and below is a list of our meeting dates for the upcoming year. Questions? Call Bob Lanning (584-5057) or Robyn Flinn(584-3647).

2003

August 18
September 8
October 13
November 10
December - no meeting

2004

January 12
February 9
March 8
April 12
May 10

Wow.....What a Beautiful Field!!!



(L to R) Lorenzo Ornelas, Isidro Duarte, Francis Njuguna, Mauricio Franco, Leo Jimenez, Albert Tijerina, Carmelo Franco.

The boosters, staff, and students of SCN HS would like to give a big THANKS to the incredible maintenance & grounds crew at North for the beautiful stadium playing field! All your hard work and perseverance has really paid off! Your dedication has turned our field into one of the BEST in the State in just three to four short months THANKS AGAIN!!!

SCHOOL STORE

Are you looking for a way to support St. Charles North High School. Well then come visit the School Store located in the Main Commons during the lunch periods. The School Store carries all kinds of spirit wear (sweatshirts, shorts, pants, t-shirts, polo's, wind breakers, hats, and Lettermen's Jackets). You can also find blankets, license plate holders, jewelry and basic school supplies. So stop by and check out the merchandise and support the North Stars!



Visit the SCHOOL STORE 10:12 am - 1:38 pm daily.



The North Star Council Executive Board



The North Star Council Executive Board is comprised of eleven students who have been elected by their peers on North Star Council to oversee the structure and function of the student government system at St. Charles North High School. The offices that make up the Executive Board are president, first vice-president, second vice-president, corresponding secretary, recording secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, and the class presidents.

The roles of the Executive Board are to organize and run council meetings; communicate with council committees, classes, the student body, staff, administration, and community at large about their activities and involvements; help orchestrate annual homecoming events; and to set the standard for exemplary leadership and service throughout the St. Charles North High School community. In essence, the Executive Board's primary function is to foster and facilitate a setting that encourages and empowers others to be both leaders and servants.

The North Star Council Executive Board worked hard over the summer of 2003 to prepare themselves for the challenges that they will face in the coming academic year. They organized and participated in the annual North Star Council Retreat at Lorado Taft Campus in Oregon, Illinois, met on multiple occasions to select committee chairs to help make Homecoming 2003 a success, created a calendar of meeting dates and upcoming events for 2003-2004, and conducted the North Star Council Workshop to help motivate and inspire current representatives and potential honorary members to become involved with council this year. The current, primary focus of the Executive Board and North Star Council is Homecoming 2003. Students and advisors have been working diligently to ensure that this year's Homecoming is one of excitement, fun, tradition, and wonderful recollections. The North Star Council Executive Board and its representatives look forward to making 2003-2004 a year full of positive accomplishments and fantastic memories.

2003 - 2004 Student Council Executive Board:

- President - Brea Rathman (Sr.)
- 1st Vice-President - Katie Kurtz (Sr.)
- 2nd Vice-President - Johnny Buchta (Sr.)
- Corresponding Secretary - Brooks Autry (Sr.)
- Recording Secretary - Jennifer Ringsby (Soph.)
- Treasurer - Eric Jamison (Jr.)
- Parliamentarian - Mike Fremgen (Sr.)
- Class of 2004 President - Nirupa Kartha (Sr.)
- Class of 2005 President - Katie Van Cleave (Jr.)
- Class of 2006 President - Leah Shales (Soph.)
- Class of 2007 President - TBA, Elections to be held in Sept.

Nat'l Honor Society

National Honor Society is a national service organization of eligible juniors and seniors selected on the basis of character, scholarship, leadership, and service qualifications. Students must demonstrate excellence in all four areas of the NHS pillars. Eligible juniors and seniors will receive a letter inviting them to participate in the selection process in the third week of September. Initial eligibility is based on a student's cumulative GPA of 4.5 or higher on the weighted and unweighted scales. Students may become members of NHS through consistently high academic performance, evidence of strong character, involvement in service to the community and school, and effective leadership in clubs, organizations, or community.

During the school year members of NHS plan and participate in a variety of service projects including The Northern Illinois Food Bank, Senior Stars, Doughnuts for Dozens, in-school tutoring, blood drives, school morale promotion during finals, the September 11th memorial, Variety Show, honoring all seniors with a gift at graduation, faculty babysitting during holidays, and independent service to the community.

For questions about NHS or if you have ideas for service projects contact Mrs. Amy Macechko or Mr. Scott Woods at 443-3370.



Homecoming 2003



Chicken wire, 2'x4's, volleyball, toothpicks, lifesavers, and balloons are not likely to be seen in the Bat Cave or in Harry Potter's Hogwart's luggage but this year's North Stars will be utilizing the materials listed above as St. Charles North High School prepares to do battle as the Good vs. Evil Homecoming Week begins. Team strategy and planning kicks off on Friday, October 17, 2003, with float building. Saturday, October 18, 2003, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., students will have the opportunity to design and decorate walls, display cases, and windows throughout the school and in downtown St. Charles to promote school spirit and prepare for the battle to begin. Monday, October 20, the school will be a sea of purple, yellow, green, red, and gray as we celebrate Class Color Day. There will be a pep assembly to introduce the activities of the week, Penny Wars and Ticket Sales begin during lunch hours. Tuesday makes every North Star a super hero and brings the classes together at night for the Co-ed Volleyball Challenge. College wear will be sported on Wednesday and, in the evening, the classes will continue clashing in the Small Games Assembly to be held in the Main Gym at 7:00 p.m. for the coveted North Star Spirit Flag and Homecoming Royalty will be announced. Don't miss the St. Charles North High School Homecoming Parade on Friday afternoon at 2 p.m., October 24, 2003, down Main Street in St. Charles. Friday night means cheering on the North Stars as we battle against the East Aurora Tomcats, crowning the King and Queen and announcing the spirit flag winner. The week ends with the Homecoming Dance Saturday night, October 25, 2003, from 8-11 p.m. at St. Charles North. Get your tickets early and tune in as we make Homecoming 2003 a week to remember. Same North Star Time. Same North Star Channel.

DATE(S)

EVENTS

Friday, October 17-Thursday, October 22

Build Floats for Homecoming at your class location.

Saturday, October 18

12-4 p.m. at SCN

8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Decorate your class walls and display cases

Decorate your class windows downtown St. Charles

Monday, October 20

Class Color Day: Dress in your class color!! Freshmen: Purple; Sophomores: Yellow; Juniors: Green; Seniors: Red; Staff: TBA

Morning Spirit Assembly (see schedule)

Lunch Hours (Monday-Friday):

Penny Wars: Each class is trying to gather as many PENNIES as possible for each penny is worth a point, but other silver coins and currency is worth minus points to each class. Watch as other classes dump their money into other jars on their way to achieving victory. This event happens during lunch every day this week.

Ticket Sales: Tickets for the Homecoming Dance to be held on Saturday, October 25 will be available for purchase.

Tuesday, October 21

Dress in clothing that expresses our Homecoming theme "Good vs Evil". Float Building begins at 3:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Gym

Co-Ed Volleyball Game

Wednesday, October 22

Sportswear Day: Dress in your favorite sports team wear.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Gym

Small Games Assembly: Watch the classes battle it out in crazy games.

Thursday, October 23

Twin Day: Dress in similar fashion to someone else. Float Building ENDS at 10:00 p.m.

Friday, October 24, 2003

North Star Color Day: Dress in royal blue, silver, or black. Homecoming Parade at 2:00 p.m. Downtown St. Charles Homecoming Games at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 25

Homecoming Dance 8-11 p.m. in the Small Gym



St Charles North Drama Presents

2003-2004 Season Subscriptions

A Little Bit of Everything



Fall Play: *Dr. Faustus* (By Christopher Marlowe, Translated by Nicholas Rudall); Thursday, October 29th - Saturday, November 1st 2003

What is knowledge? Where does it come from? What are its uses? Dr. Faustus wants a career to match the scope of his ambition, a subject to challenge his enormous intellect. So he turns to magic, which seems to offer him godlike powers. He knows, however, that it involves forbidden traffic with demons. *Dr. Faustus* is a drama about a famous scholar who sells his soul to the devil in exchange for magical powers.

Student Directed One Act Festival; Thursday, January 22nd - Saturday, January 24th 2004

Come see some of the brightest "Stars" St. Charles North has to offer in the 2nd annual One Act Festival. Their peers for your entertainment perform one act plays chosen by, and directed by Seniors as we give some of our newer talent a chance to "shine for more than just the heavens above".

Winter Play: The Musical Comedy *Murders of the 1940's* (By John Bishop); Thursday, February 12th - Saturday, February 14th, 2004

The creative teams responsible for a recent Broadway flop assemble for a backer's audition of their new show at the Westchester estate of a wealthy "angel." The house is replete with sliding panels, secret passageways and a German maid. As the composer, lyricist, actors and director prepare their performance, and a blizzard cuts off any possible retreat, bodies start to drop in plain sight. However, and with no thanks to the bumbling police inspector who snowshoes in to investigate, the mystery is solved in the nick of time and the "Slasher" unmasked—but not before the audience has been treated to a sidesplitting good time and a generous serving of the author's biting, satiric and refreshingly irreverent wit.

Spring Musical: *Into The Woods* (By James Lapine, Stephen Sondheim); Thursday, April 29th - Saturday, May 1st, 2004

Into the Woods blends various familiar fairy tales with an original story of a childless Baker and his Wife, who catalyze the action of the story by attempting to reverse a curse on their family in order to have a child. The Narrator leads the company through "The Prologue" as we learn about a series of wishes that are more important than anything - even life itself - to these characters. Cinderella wants to go to the King's Festival; Jack wishes his cow could give milk; and the Baker wishes he and his Wife could have a child. As these characters venture *Into The Woods* to express their wishes, we meet Cinderella's Stepmother and stepsisters, Jack's aging mother, and Little Red Riding hood, some princes and a Wolf. As they show us how truly anything can happen when one goes, *Into The Woods*.

Season Ticket Prices For the 2003-2004 Season

- Adult Season ticket \$20.00
Includes 1 ticket for all four productions
A \$1.00 savings per show over the at the door price
- Student Season ticket \$12.00
Includes 1 ticket for all four productions
That's only \$3.00 per show



Either chose your dates below **or** let us know (up to a day before you plan to attend the show) by calling 630-587-7103 message box #3 and leave your name, subscription # and when you plan to attend

You can also choose to have your ticket waiting for you at the box office **or** have them mailed to you for your convenience.

<u>Show:</u>	<u>Dates & How Many Tickets:</u>								
	Adult		Student		Adult		Student		
<u>Dr. Faustus</u>	Thur. Oct. 30 th	_____	_____	Fri. Oct. 31 st	_____	_____	Sat. Nov. 1 st	_____	_____
<u>One Act Festival</u>	Thur. Jan. 22 nd	_____	_____	Fri. Jan. 23 rd	_____	_____	Sat. Jan. 24 th	_____	_____
<u>Musical Comedy</u>	Thur. Feb. 12 th	_____	_____	Fri. Feb. 13 th	_____	_____	Sat. Feb. 14 th	_____	_____
<u>Into The Woods</u>	Thur. Apr. 29 th	_____	_____	Fri. Apr. 30 th	_____	_____	Sat. May 1 st	_____	_____
All Shows Begin at 7:30 pm									
Name: _____									
Address: _____									
Phone: _____									
Number of Adult Subscriptions: _____ @ \$20.00						Total: \$ _____			
Number of Student Subscriptions: _____ @ \$12.00						Total: \$ _____			
Checks Made Out to: St. Charles North Drama # 320						Total Due: \$ _____			



Welcome To The "S.T.A.R.S." Circle

The S.T.A.R.S., or Student Technicians & Actors Recourse Support is an opportunity for you to help St. Charles North Drama in showing other types of theatre to our students of our Drama and Tech Clubs, as well as the Thespian Society. Every month each group plans an activity to see some type of theatre at a different venue to show them what else is can be done in the field. Your membership will also help to off set the cost of the students to participate in the Illinois High School Theatre Festival in January at Illinois State University.

As a member of S.T.A.R.S. you will receive special VIP treatment reserved especially for you including the following:

- 1 of 2 tickets to all 4 North Star Drama Productions
- \$5.00 donated in your name to the P-Arts Foundation of district 303
- Special Reserved VIP Seating area for you and your party at the show you attend
- A free VIP concession area during intermission of the show for you and your party with a chance to meet and talk with members of the production staff of the show
- Special acknowledgement in the show programs

A single ticket S.T.A.R.S. membership is only \$30.00 a season

A double ticket S.T.A.R.S. membership is only \$50.00 as season

To reserve your spot among the St. Charles North Drama S.T.A.R.S. either call 630-587-7103 message box 3 and leave the information below or fill out the form below and send it back to:

St. Charles North High School Drama
255 Red Gate Rd.
St. Charles, Il. 60175
Attn. Joe Pietrie

Please sign me up to be among the S.T.A.R.S

Name (as it will appear in the program): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Check Membership You Would Like: **Single for \$30.00**_____ **Double for \$50.00**_____

P.P.S. Class Notes

Welcome to the 2003-04 School Year at St. Charles North!

On the behalf of the entire staff of the St. Charles North Pupil Personnel Services Learning Area, I want to welcome you to a new and exciting year at St. Charles North High School! The transition from summer vacation itineraries to challenging first semester schedules has been made! We see our students working hard to meet the challenges they face as they assume their new roles as Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors. As each of you face those challenges we want to remind you that the counselors, deans, social workers, psychologist, nurse, police liaison officer, student assistance counselor, registrar, secretaries, and deans' assistants are here to help you! Each month "P.P.S. Class Notes" will provide helpful information for your class. Whether you are a senior making your final selection for a college or career or a freshman establishing important habits that will take you closer to your goals, we will be there to support you.

To help us in providing you the information that you need, we encourage you to contact us with any questions or topics you would like us to include in our communications. Feel free to call us at 443- 5716 or e-mail us.

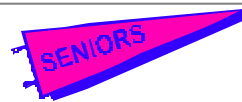
We are excited to have the opportunity to serve you!

Dr. Bruce A. Lane
Assistant Principal
Pupil Personnel Services

P.P.S. CONTACT INFORMATION

Assistant Principal	Bruce Lane		443-5668	blane@d303.org
Deans of Students	Mark Gould	A-Hov	443-5713	mgould@d303.org
	Anne Krob	How-Nep	443-5713	akrob@d303.org
	Matthew Ruckoldt	Neq-Z	443-5713	mruckoldt@d303.org
	Robert Freitag	Des-Hov	587-7135	rfreitag@d303.org
Counselors	Jeanine James	Shb-Z	443-5638	jjames@d303.org
	Matthew Kirby	A-Der	443-5717	mkirby@d303.org
	Kim Munro-Krusz	How-Mas	443-5715	kmunro-krusz@d303.org
	Larry Nothnagel	Neq-Sha	587-7146	Lnothnagel@d303.org
	Geri Shouba	Mat-Nep	443-5714	gshouba@d303.org
	Sue Habich		443-2761	shabich@d303.org
Registrar				
Nurse	Wilma VanArragon		443-2752	wvanarragon@d303.org
Psychologist	Chris Lewandowski		587-7131	clewandowski@d303.org
Social Workers	Lynda Askew	A-Mas	443-5629	laskew@d303.org
	Susan Terronez	Mat-Z	443-5626	sterronez@d303.org
Police Liaison	Det. Darrin Lee		443-5659	dlee@d303.org
Student Assistance Coun.	Pat Radke		443-2758	pradke@d303.org

SENIOR CLASS NOTES



Finish Strong!

The decisions you make this year will be some of the most important decisions of your life. This year will require focus, balance, and effort. While enjoying the activities of a senior year, you will need to maintain a high degree of effort to have a strong finish to your high school academic career. Colleges and future employers look carefully at the degree of challenge and success in your last year. Students who "take it easy" after three years of hard work, are often surprised by the negative impacts this has on them.

The best advice for your senior year is, "Do not miscalculate." Seniors received a senior information packet that provided important information, including a current transcript of courses taken. Double and triple check the courses listed on your transcripts against the requirements for graduation. If you have questions, contact your counselor. It is extremely important that you know both what you need to graduate and to keep the doors to the opportunities you want after high school wide open.

PSAE Retakes

In your senior packet you have received, you will receive your Prairie State Examination Scores. The State of Illinois allows seniors the opportunity to improve their PSAE scores by retaking both days of the PSAE in October. Notify Dr. Lane in the Guidance Office if you want to retake the test. The retake tests will be scheduled for October 25th (Day One ACT) and October 28th (Day Two Prairie State Exams and WorkKeys). Students must take both days if they choose the retake option.

Back-To-School Night College Information for Seniors

On September 9th the Guidance Department presented a College Information Night for senior parents. Some of the highlights are summarized below:

College Selection Process - At this point you should have a clear idea of the factors that are important in a college, e.g. location, size, academic program, admissions requirements, expenses and financial aide, housing and facilities, activities and clubs, special programs, and crime statistics. You should have number of colleges, universities, technical schools or other post-high school educational opportunities in mind. You should be working to get to know these schools and working to narrow the group to which you will apply. If you need to further refine your choices in these areas remember that there are many resources that can assist you this summer.

- You can check with the guidance office or the PPS web page to get lists of the many web sites that provide college, career, and military information.
- You may make appointments to come in to access the COIN and Career Cruising programs to look for career and college information.
- You may access the guidance office college catalog collection to get more information on the colleges you are interested.
- You can use institute days or vacation days to do college visits that will help you narrow your choices.

Tips for College Visits - When visiting a college it is suggested that you: 1) Take an unofficial transcript with you; 2) Do a campus tour; 3) Attend a class; 4) Visit a residence hall; 5) Talk to students and faculty; 6) talk to the admissions and financial aide offices. It is always preferable to visit on a normal weekday rather than a weekend. Columbus Day or Institute Days during the school year are the best for visitations.

College Application Process - It is important that seniors follow the College Application Process to assure that your applications arrive on time. Below are brief reminders regarding the process:

- **Apply early! Apply early! Apply early!** Nearly all colleges and universities strongly recommend applying early to assure that your application is given careful consideration.
- Obtain and complete an application for each school in which you are interested. A good college search process will narrow this number to less than ten schools.
- Complete all parts of the application that are required for you to fill out. This should be done neatly with pen or typed.
- Include and attach any essays, letters of recommendations and application fee.
- Address an envelope and attach the *proper* amount of postage.
- Fill out a transcript release form for each application and include \$1.00 for each request. If your application needs to be post-marked by a particular date, that date needs to be noted on your transcript request.
- Bring all of the above to the guidance office and give it directly to the guidance assistant, Mrs. Zoerlein, or your counselor. Do not leave applications on desks or counters. Be sure you give it directly to one of these people.
- Make copies of all vital documents for your records. It is strongly suggested that you keep a file with copies of all of your applications, information requested, and any essays you have written for easy access when completing the applications for colleges or s scholarships.
- If you apply on line, remember that you still need to request that a transcript be sent.

College Application Process (Cont'd)

- It is extremely important to:
 - Check each school's application deadlines and **turn the application in a minimum of two weeks before the due date.**
 - Applications due by January 1st must be received in the Guidance Office **one week before** holiday break begins to ensure that they are received on time. If a counselor recommendation is requested, they must be turned in **a minimum of two weeks before** the holiday break.

Financial Aide - While the guidance department can point you in the right direction for getting information regarding financial aide for college, we are by no means the experts in the area. Each year in December the Fox Valley Schools sponsor a Financial Aide Night at Geneva High School in December. This year it is scheduled for December 4th at 7:30 PM in Geneva High School's Auditorium. In follow up to this initial meeting, the Guidance Department at North is planning a second smaller session in January. In addition to these resources students and parents may want to use a variety of online resources. An excellent resource is collegezone.com a website sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Other online financial aide information resources are included in the *A RESEARCH GUIDE FOR FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ON THE INTERNET* included on page 21 of this newsletter.

Scholarships - A number of scholarships are offered each year to seniors at St. Charles North High School by a variety of businesses, clubs, and community organizations. When scholarships applications are received they are publicized through the student announcements, on the college bulletin board outside of the Guidance Office. Students who are interested in applying for any of these scholarships should see Mrs. Porter in the Guidance Office.

NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse - The NCAA requires all new college athletes who want to compete in Division I or II athletics to meet specific initial and ongoing eligibility requirements. To help our students better understand these requirements, **Coach Bobbie Cesarek**, Northern Illinois University's NCAA Compliance Director has been invited to speak regarding the initial eligibility requirements on **December 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Charles North Auditorium**. Her presentation will help students and their parents understand the initial eligibility requirements and the NCAA rules for recruiting athletes.

**JUNIOR CLASS NOTES****TESTS**

Testing, both for college entrance and for assessment of State Learning Standards, represent an important task for Juniors. The tests provide juniors with an opportunity to demonstrate their levels of achievement and can significantly help increase their post-high school opportunities if they do well.

PSAT - The PSAT/NMSQT measures skills that are important for success in college including verbal reasoning, math problem-solving, and writing. Taking the PSAT enables students to: 1) Practice for SAT Program tests; 2) seek information from colleges; 3) get feedback about critical academic skills; and , 4) enter scholarship competitions

The PSAT is required of students interested in the National Merit selection process. The PSAT, a practice version of the SAT I, will be administered on Saturday, October 18, 2003 at St. Charles North. The test is for juniors but sophomores may take the test as well. The scores of sophomore students will not be used for the National Merit selection process. Juniors and Sophomores can register in the guidance office beginning Monday, September 22 through Friday, October 10, 2003. The cost is \$15.00.

ACT AND SAT TEST DATES - On the following page are the test dates and registration deadlines for the ACT and SAT tests. St. Charles North's School Code Number for both the ACT and SAT tests is: 143796. By entering this code on your test the results will automatically be sent to St. Charles North. Juniors taking the ACT or SAT I will automatically have their scores forwarded to the Illinois State Scholar Program for consideration if they take the test between September 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004. Juniors may request in writing that their scores be withheld.

Juniors should note that the April 3 test date set by ACT is during our Spring break. Students planning to take the April test should plan accordingly. In the past when this has occurred, some students adjust their Spring break schedules to allow them to take the test here, some decide to take the test in February or in June at other test sites, and still others opt to locate test sites at their Spring break location.

ACT AND SAT TEST DATES (Continued)****ACT**

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Nearest Test Center and Code</u>
September 27, 2003	August 22, 2003	Wheaton Community HS North Test Center Code 174940
October 25, 2003	September 19, 2003	St. Charles North HS Test Center Code 209620
December 13, 2003	November 7, 2003	Elgin Community College Test Center Code 010180
February 7, 2004	January 2, 2004	Elgin Community College Test Center Code 010180
April 3, 2004	February 27, 2004	St. Charles North HS Test Center Code 209620
June 12, 2004	May 7, 2004	St. Charles East HS Test Center Code 189960

Fee \$26.00 (for school year 2003-2004)

SAT I and SAT II

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Nearest Test Center and Code</u>
October 11, 2003	September 9, 2003	Elk Grove HS Test Center Code 14-302
November 1, 2003	September 26, 2003	Aurora –IMSA Test Center Code 14-117
December 6, 2003	October 30, 2003	Aurora –IMSA Test Center Code 14-117
January 24, 2004	December 22, 2003	Aurora –IMSA Test Center Code 14-117
March 27, 2004	February 20, 2004	Aurora-Marmion Academy Test Center Code 14-110
May 1, 2004	March 25, 2004	St. Charles East HS Test Center Code 14-555
June 5, 2004	April 29, 2004	St. Charles North HS Test Center Code 14-558

Fee: \$28.50 (for school year 2003-2004)

PSAE - The PSAE is a set of tests required by the State of Illinois to assess the progress of all Illinois juniors in reaching the State Learning Standards. These tests will be administered to all juniors on April 28 & 29, 2004. The tests include a full ACT assessment on the first day and a set of State developed exams and ACT WorkKeys assessments on the second day. The PSAE scores are placed on each student's transcripts.

Illinois Consume Education Proficiency Test - Students may take the ICEPT to meet the State requirement that students take a consumer education course. The test is offered October and January. Students should listen to daily announcements for the registration dates.

TEST PREPARATION

Juniors may improve their performance on standardized tests by doing a number of things that help them to better understand the test, how it works and effective strategies for taking that particular test. There are a number of books and electronic resources available in the Learning Resource Center and local public libraries that students can checkout to use to prepare for these tests. There are also a number of very good on-line websites designed to help students prepare for specific tests. Taking exams that are designed to give students practice for a specific test can also provide students valuable experience. Students can take the PLAN test as sophomores to prepare for the ACT; and, students can take the PSAT as juniors to prepare for taking the SAT. Taking practice tests found in ACT or SAT preparation books can provide valuable experience.

There are a number of private companies that offer specialized courses designed to prepare students for specific tests. A list of these companies and courses can be found on the PPS website. Several courses will be offered at St. Charles North during the 2003-2004 school year.

BEGINNING THE COLLEGE SEARCH

As juniors, you should be well into the work of identifying the career options they wanted to be available to you when you graduate. The first step of this work is identifying the career options you want to pursue. The second step is identifying the colleges or post-secondary training that will help you enter the career of your choice. While you are welcome to attend any information event planned for seniors, several key events will be structured specifically for you.

PRN Online Career and College Planning Resources Night - October 2, at 6:30 PM p.m. at St. Charles North, the Parent Resource Network in conjunction with the Guidance Department will be presenting a workshop on using online resources for career and college searches. This workshop will help parents and students learn to use the COIN Program, Career Cruising, and other online resources for career and college searches.

Junior College Planning Night - During second semester there will be an evening college planning night for junior and their parents. Notice of the dates and times will be published in December.

Fox Valley and ECC College Fairs - Juniors should plan on attending at least one of two large college Fairs. Elgin Community College will host a college fair the evening of October 7th. The Annual Fox Valley College Fair will be the evening of Tuesday April 20th. Both of these college fairs host representatives from over a hundred colleges, universities, military academies and specialized training schools. These evenings offer an exceptional overview of the post-secondary educational opportunities for our students.

Talk to Visiting College Representatives - Each week representatives from colleges visit our campus to provide students with more personalized information about their schools. The schedule of visiting representatives is announced each week, placed in the student bulletins, and posted on the College Information Bulletin Board. Below is the list of representatives who have currently scheduled to visit our campus.

COLLEGES AND MILITARY VISITS				
DATE	DAY	ORGANIZATION	TIME	LOCATION
9/16/03	Tues.	Valparaiso University	12:30-1:30	LRC
	Tues.	Univeristy of Dayton	10:30-1:00	LRC
9/23/03	Tues.	Gustavus Adolphus	12:15-1:00	LRC
9/25/03	Thurs.	Michigan State	10-1	LRC
		Hope College	10:30-	LRC
9/30/03	Tues.	Bradley University	12:30-1:30	LRC
		DePaul University	11-12	LRC
		Lewis University	10:30-12:00	LRC
		University of W-LaCrosse	11-11:30	LRC
10/7/03	Tues.	Monmouth	10-1	LRC
		Quincy University	10-11:15	LRC
		University of Iowa	10-10:45	LRC
		Illinois Wesleyan	10:30-12	LRC
10/14/03	Tues.	University of San Diego	11	LRC
		So. Methodist University	10:30-1:00	LRC
		Lake Forest College	10:30-11:30	LRC
		Carroll College	10:30-11:30	LRC
10/21/03	Tues	No. Arizona Univ.	10-10:30	LRC
10/23/03	Thurs.	Augustana	11:30-12:30	LRC
10/28/03	Tues.	Purdue	10-11	LRC
		No. Michigan University	11-12:30	LRC
		University of IL – Springfield	11-11:30	LRC
11/18/03	Tues.	Northern Illinois University	10:30-12:30	LRC



SOPHOMORE CLASS NOTES

Focus on Careers

As you continue to work hard to build a strong academic record by challenging yourself to do your absolute best in all of your classes, it is time to begin defining your long-term career goals. While exploring career options has been woven into every year of your education, identifying clear career goals is an essential task for sophomores. These goals will help guide your work in high school and will define the kinds of post-high school education you will seek. Several important events will help you with this task.

The PLAN Test

The PLAN provides students with information they need to prepare for future academic and career success. The PLAN test is a test designed by the ACT Corporation to help sophomores prepare to take the ACT as juniors. Its results provide an estimated range of their ACT Assessment composite scores and information regarding their relative strengths and areas for improvement on the ACT. In addition the PLAN test provides students valuable career interests information. The PLAN test will be given on Saturday November 15, 2003 at St. Charles North. Sophomores may register in the guidance office beginning Monday, October 20 through Friday, November 7. The cost is \$15.00. For more information about the PLAN test, call the guidance office at 443-5716.

In December there will be a PLAN interpretation meeting to help sophomores and their parents better understand and use the results to prepare for both the ACT and making important career decisions.

FRESHMAN CLASS NOTES



To each and every member of the Class of 2007, welcome to St. Charles North High School! We were excited to greet you during Freshman Orientation and from what we have seen so far, each of you has everything it takes to have an outstanding high school career!

Freshmen Physicals

State law requires that all 9th grade students in Illinois provide a completed physical to the high school. It is extremely important to understand that **students who do not have an updated and complete physical form on file will be excluded from attending school** until this State requirement is met. If have question regarding the school physical contact our school nurse, Mrs. VanArragon (443-2752).

More Tips for Success

The challenge to all freshmen is to quickly learn what is expected at the high school level, to understand the rules of the school, and to develop the skills and habits that will lead you to a successful four years. Helpful suggestions for getting your high school career started on the right track include: 1) Set specific goals for yourself; 2) Get Involved!; 3) Ask for help; 4) Set clear priorities and manage your time wisely; 5) Be here every day possible; and, 6) Know your counselor and how to make appointments to see him or her when you have questions.

A RESEARCH GUIDE FOR FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ON THE INTERNET

The Guidance Office staff have provided this information, which contains information pertaining to college searches, testing and financial aid, as a convenience so that students, parents and staff can discover valuable college resources. St. Charles North High School and Community Unit School District 303 do not endorse any of these sites or the services they offer, and is not responsible for any information, or misinformation, contained in these sites.

General College Information

Career Cruising - <http://www.careercruising.com>

This subscription site features search resources for both college and career. North students can pick up a direction sheet in the guidance office, which contains the necessary password information.

Christian Colleges - <http://www.christiancollegesearch.com>

This website contains a college search for Christian colleges.

A RESEARCH GUIDE (cont'd)

General College Information (cont'd)

College Source - <http://www.collegesource.org/home.asp>

Site provides complete catalogs for every university in the United States.

CollegeXpress - <http://www.collegexpress.com>

Offers information on college searches, the admission process, financial aid, athletics, and can link to specific colleges. There is also a place to ask specific questions and get replies from experts in the field.

College View - <http://www.collegeview.com>

Site allows one to search for colleges, scholarships and financial aid. Also provides links to college web pages and on-line applications.

National Association for College Admission Counseling - <http://www.nacac.com>

Here, one will find helpful information for both parents and students. Links to other sites include college web sites, financial aid, and special interest sites.

NCAA Clearinghouse - <http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net>

All students interested in participating in Division I or II sports at the college level need to register with this service at the end of junior year; contains very helpful information for student-athletes.

Princeton Review - <http://www.review.com> Offers college searches, test prep for ACT & SAT, financial aid information, and useful advice.

Peterson's Education Center - <http://www.petersons.com> Find useful college search, financial aid tips, on-line applications and test preparation information.

Universities on the Web - <http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state>

Contains links to over 3,000 colleges and universities, including both 2-year and 4-year schools.

Financial Aid / Scholarship Information

College Illinois - <http://www.collegeillinois.com> Here, one can discover more about planning financially for a post-secondary education, including the 529 prepaid tuition plan that allows you to lock in the current cost of tuition and fees for college.

College Link - <http://www.collegelink.com> Includes information on college searches, sources for scholarship and financial aid, and student success tips.

College Net - <http://www.collegenet.com> This site is a database of colleges, scholarship opportunities and academic resources with direct links to college homepages.

FAFSA on the Web - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> All college-bound seniors should apply for financial aid using this form after January 1st. FAFSA on the web contains the electronic application utilized by all colleges and universities throughout the country. To discover where helpful workshop sessions are located, visit <http://www.faam.org>.

fastWEB - <http://www.fastweb.com> Contains a free scholarship search database. This site will save a student's profile and e-mail new scholarships to their mailbox on-line.

Federal Trade Commission - <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/alerts/ouchalrt.htm> Site provides information on what to look out for in regards to scholarship scams.

The Financial Aid Information page - <http://www.finaid.org> Quality page of links to many financial aid sites, including scholarships, loans, and scam alerts.

Financial Aid / Scholarship Information (cont'd)

Go College - <http://www.gocollege.com> This website provides college and scholarship searches as well as practice ACT and SAT tests.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission - <http://www.isac-online.org/> Our state's own valuable resource for students and parents to remain up-to-date as to the latest financial aid news and changes; students can also do scholarship searches. Excellent links also.

Sallie Mae - <http://www.salliemae.com> A comprehensive on-line resource for planning and paying for college. The various areas will provide answers to many of your questions, including scholarship scams, finding the right college, loans, etc.

Test Preparation

ACT - <http://www.act.org> Contains test preparation for the ACT - free test questions and review. Software can also be purchased from this site. **Please Note: Our ACT high school code is: 143-796.**

SAT - <http://www.collegeboard.org> Site offers sample SAT questions. One can take a mini-SAT to analyze strengths and weaknesses. Software can also be purchased from this site.

College Power Prep - <http://www.powerprep.com> SAT and ACT test preparation, including "an ACT/SAT tip a day". Free software for review programs. This is an excellent resource to review and prepare for college entrance exams.



School Mascot – "Polaris"

IMPORTANT DATES

Parent Resource Network Meeting – Oct 2, 6:30-10 PM, Rm 300/LRC

School Improvement Day (No school for students) – Oct 10

Columbus Day (Schools Closed) – Oct 13

Board of Education Meeting – Oct 14, 7:30 PM, Admin Building

PSAT Testing – Oct 18, NHS

Homecoming Week – Oct 18 – Oct 25

Pops/Marching Band Concert – Oct 20, 7:30 PM, Auditorium

ACT Testing – Oct 25, NHS

Board of Education Meeting – Oct 27, 7:30 PM, Admin Building

Fall Play (Dr. Faustus) – Oct 30-Nov 1, 7:30 PM, Auditorium

End of 1st Qtr. – Oct 31

Vocal Jazz Concert – Nov 4, 7:30 PM, Auditorium

Instrumental Jazz Concert – Nov 6, 7:30 PM, Auditorium

Board of Education Meeting – Nov 10, 7:30 PM, Admin Building

Breakfast w/the Stars – Nov 6, 7-7:30 AM, LRC

Vocal Music Concert – Nov 11, 7:30 PM, Auditorium

Parent Teacher Conferences (No School for Students) – Nov 13

Inservice Day (No School for Students) – Nov 14

PLAN Testing – Nov 15

Special Symphonic Wind Band Concert – Nov 18, 7:30PM, Auditorium

Orchestra Concert – Nov 20, 7:30 PM, Auditorium

Board of Education Meeting – Nov 24, 7:30 PM, Admin Building

Thanksgiving Vacation – Nov 27 – Nov 28

Board of Education Meeting – Dec 8, 7:30 PM, Admin Building

Madrigal Dinner – Dec 11 – Dec 13, 6:00 PM, Baker Church

Constellation Concert – Dec 16, 7:30 PM, Auditorium

Winter Vacation – Dec 22 – Jan 2

School Resumes – Jan 5

St. Charles North High School

255 Red Gate Road

St. Charles, IL 60175



**A community dedicated to achievement and growth through
discovery, cooperation, preparation, and inspiration.**