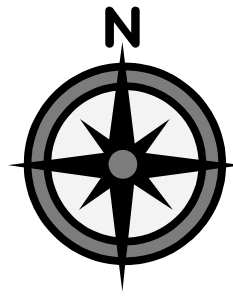


# "The Navigator"

## Principal's Newsletter



St. Charles North High School

Vol. V11 No. 3

February 2006

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

Mrs. Kimberly Zupec, Principal

We value feedback from the District 303 community. Write or call us. Your response is always appreciated  
e-mail: [mringsby@d303.org](mailto:mringsby@d303.org)



### Seniors Named Illinois State Scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) recently recognized eighty-one North HS seniors for outstanding academic achievement by naming them 2006 Illinois State Scholars.

These students rank in the top ten percent of the state's 139,500 graduating high school seniors. Selection is based on a combination of ACT and/or SAT I test scores and class rank at the end of the sixth semester of high school.

Congratulations to the following seniors for being honored as 2006 IL State Scholars:

Heather August  
Nora Becker  
Tyler Chamberlain  
Kaylin Dalrymple  
Melanie Edgar  
Katherine Fasbender  
Douglas Fry  
Charles Gorman  
Matthew Jolly  
Amanda Kunos  
Bryan Lesswing  
Kaitlin McFadden  
Catherine Nosal  
Daniel Polito  
Michael Pumper  
Derek Sanders  
Kathryn Skelton  
Joel Thompson  
Laura Walczynski  
Brian Wright  
Emily Zepeda

Joanna Bebenek  
Erika Boltz  
Stephanie Cihlar  
Danielle Detelich  
Christy Engel  
Kelsey Feiza  
Lauren Gardier  
Grace Harriett  
Rachel Juszcak  
Sarah Kurian  
Rebecca Lilovich  
David McGill  
Elise Novorolsky  
Stephanie Poquette  
Jillian Rigert  
Leah Shales  
Amanda Smith  
MacKenzie Travers  
Christine Weaver  
Ellen Zanis

Aimee Barrowclift  
Leah Bressler  
Jessica Cohen  
Glenn Dickey  
Jeffrey Engel  
Erin Flinn  
Christina Garrity  
Amanda Herrmann  
Lauren Klacko  
Thomas Lancaster  
Pei Liu  
Ian Miles  
Ian Pfeiffer  
Kelsey Proud  
Jennifer Ringsby  
Adam Shiltz  
Brianna Smith  
Elizabeth VanDril  
Meagan Wheeler  
Matthew Zavala

Nathan Becker  
Ruta Cepaitis  
Deric Cole  
Colin Ducharme  
Katie Eyre  
Vincent Frantz  
Tara Goodarzi  
Jennifer Janci  
Jordan Krage  
Kelsey Leingang  
Michael McDonnell  
Tim Murphy  
William Pigott  
Melissa Proulx  
Christopher Rosso  
Christine Shirreffs  
Jacob Thompson  
Evan Vice  
Steve Wiitanen  
Robert Zeman

### DRILL TEAM HONORED BY AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY



On January 20th, the American Cancer Society honored the North and East drill teams for their impressive contributions to the American Cancer Society. The drill teams, in a joint effort, raised \$50,000 last fall from their Annual Kick-a-Thon. This total contribution was up from \$35,000 the previous year. The Annual Kick-a-Thon has raised a total of \$200,000 over the last twelve years which has been donated to help fight cancer. This amount of generosity is a tribute to our community and to the girls' determination and hard work. Congratulations, and thank you girls!



## "Pen of the Principal"

January 24<sup>th</sup> marked the beginning of the second semester. During these next few weeks, your student will be registering for classes. Our course book for next year is accessible on line through our school web page. Additional printed copies are available here at the high school. To further assist the students in their selections, we restructured the curriculum move-up day so that every freshman, sophomore, and junior had the opportunity to tour and view classes in the elective areas. Our guidance staff is ready to assist you and your student as you work together to plan their course of study for next year. As your student completes the registration process, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions and/or concerns you and your student may have.

In the last newsletter, I introduced the Secondary School Redesign concept and North's Design Team. Since that publication our Design Team has met several times. We have been focusing on a wide array of data and have identified five areas for further investigation: student centered curriculum, student support systems, data driven decision making, technology enhanced instruction, and increased teacher/student expectations. We are in the process of researching proven, best practices in each of these areas. Our purpose for the next two months is to develop short-term and long-term goals for St. Charles North High School for the next three to five years. Our Instructional Coordinators are working with their staff to create models for action research and instruction to increase student achievement. Additionally, the Instructional Coordinators will be conducting student focus groups to gather student voice. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, thirty of our students will be joining thirty students from East High School to participate in a focused exercise to create the ultimate learning environment. Their product will be shared with the staffs at both high schools and the district's Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Education. All of these efforts will figure prominently in our Design Team's work. Each of these actions will enable us to build a continuous school improvement model to guide us. Secondary School Redesign is a process which is founded on the basic question "How is what we are doing increasing student achievement, and how do we know it is working?" Our emphasis is always student achievement in terms of rigor, relevance, and relationships. To keep you updated of our work in a timely manner, we have created a web site for SSR which is found on the school's web page. As you review our material, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Herrmann or me should you have any questions and/suggestions.

As a final note, we are working with the PTO to establish an electronic newsletter. Within the next few weeks you will receive information on how to register for this newsletter.

Thank you for your support. We had a very successful first semester. We are confident that our students will continue to exceed expectations.

Kim Zupec  
Principal

### SECOND ANNUAL PROJECT DANCE MARATHON

On March 11th, 2006, the second annual Project Dance Marathon will take place at North High School. Students and staff will stay on their feet from 9 AM to 9 PM to celebrate funds raised for the Fox Valley Special Olympics organization. Last year's total topped out at just over \$30,000. The registration cost is \$20 and dancers must raise a minimum of \$150 to participate. If you are interested in finding out more information about participating or donating, contact Shannon Mulder ([smulder@d303.org](mailto:smulder@d303.org)) or Erin Looney ([elooney@d303.org](mailto:elooney@d303.org)).

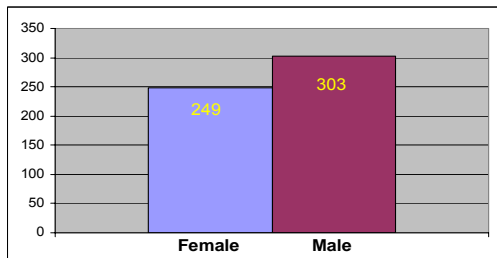
## Curriculum Corner

Denise Herrmann, Assistant Principal for Curriculum & Instruction

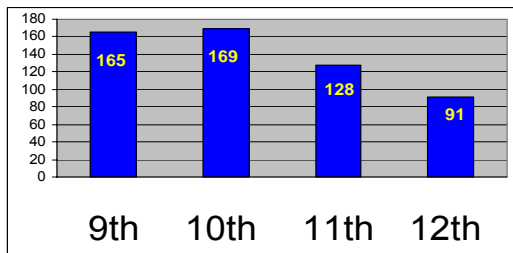
### Fall 2005 Parent Teacher Conference Data

P-T Conferences were held on Monday, November 21, 2005 from 11am – 7pm. The total number of students for whom conferences were held was 522 and the total number of individual conferences was 1811.

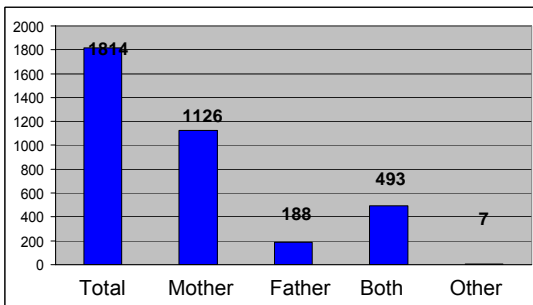
Student Profile – Gender  
Total of 552 Students



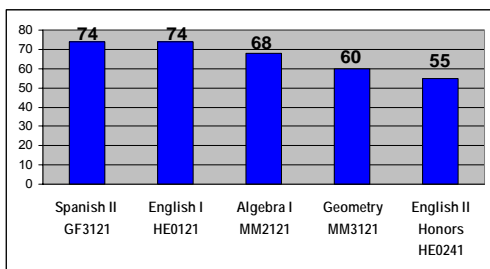
Student Profile - Grade



Who attended the Conference



Top Five Courses (Most Attended)



## Benefits of Rigorous High School Transcript

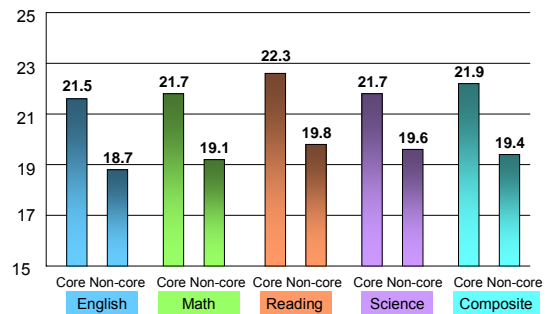
Currently, students are in the process of selecting courses for the 2006-07 school year. Data available from ACT and The College Board show that students who take challenging courses during high school perform better at college.

Transcript Study: single biggest predictor of college success is **QUALITY AND INTENSITY OF HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

Cliff Adelman, *Answers in the Tool Box*, U.S. Department of Education.

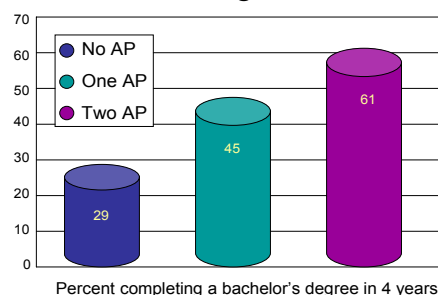
Also, the number and type of courses students take is directly related to their success on the ACT and other standardized tests. Students who complete a 'core' curriculum (4 yr English; 3 + yr Math; 3 + yr Science; 2 + yr Social Studies) show a 2-3 point increase over students who elect to take the minimum coursework required for graduation.

Average ACT Scores by College-Preparatory Core Coursework



Finally, research shows that students who successfully complete one or more Advanced Placement Courses in high school are more likely to be successful in college – regardless of the score they receive on the AP exam.

AP and College Success



## SENIOR EXIT PLANNING MEETING

On Monday, January 23rd, seniors attended their Senior Exit Planning Meeting in the auditorium. The meeting covered many aspects about end-of-the-year planning. Seniors received information on ordering Graduation Announcements, were informed about their final senior exit obligations, and had an opportunity to sign up to help with special end of the year events.

If you have any questions about the meeting, please call the Student Activities Office (630-443-2777) to get information that will assist your senior as they "Exit With Pride".

Class of 2006 "Important Dates to Remember" handouts are available in the main hallway kiosk. More information will be mailed home in the near future with regards to graduation, so please take the time to review this material when it arrives.

### Note from the Nurses' Office



We have noticed an increase in the number of students who are carrying over-the-counter medications for pain relief in their backpacks and/or purses.

Just a reminder, **this practice is against district policy: see page 20 in your students' planner. Students who do not abide by this rule will be referred to the dean which may result in a suspension from school.** This policy is in place to protect the health and safety of your child along with the other 2000 students in the building.

Please contact your physician and follow the proper medication policy procedure for all medications, over the counter as well as prescription medication.

The medication form is available on the district web site - [www.d303.org](http://www.d303.org). Click on health services and then forms to access the medication administration form.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for helping us to care for your children.

Amy Boynton, RN, CSN - 587-7108  
Wilma VanArragon, RN, CSN - 443-2752

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We understand that on occasion your student may need you to bring something to school that they have forgotten. In such emergency cases, please leave the article at the front kiosk with one of the dean's assistants. We will contact your student at the first available time so they can retrieve the article. Our goal is to preserve the academic time in the classroom by limiting the amount of interruptions. Thank you for assisting us in this matter.

### **What's Happening in Humanities?**

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Upstate 8 Art Show. All of the students' works helped create a beautiful all conference show. This year we had the largest group of students receive special recognition for their art than ever before at North High School. The following students placed in the show: Laura Johnson – First Place Painting; Kirsten Shoup – Second Place Painting; Dan Kosturik – Fourth Place Painting; Monica Miller – Second Place Ceramics; Tara Julison – Fifth Place Ceramics; Amber Wisner – Second Place Photo; Allison Cannon – Honorable Mention.

Congratulations also to Evan Bravos, Emily Burkner, Brianna Smith, Lauren Dutkiewicz, Jim Hlvczak, David Hutter, Rachel Juszcak, David McGill, Hannah Qualls, Colin Ranker, Brianna Smith and Mackenzie Travers for being selected as All-State musicians. They performed in Peoria in January.

Applied Study tutors Nick Fearer and Jackie Tyndall traveled to Haines and Thompson Middle Schools in early January. Together the Applied Study pair informed hundreds of future North Stars of the benefits of the Applied Study Program. The mass of eighth graders, showing interest in the program and seeking more information, eagerly addressed envelopes and contact forms. As pencils and pens wiggled across paper, Jackie and Nick presented their achievement stories and invited students to earn their place on the Applied Study Wall of Success.

In December, College Prep Composition teachers Lindsay Pearson and Jacob Burlingame hosted a writing/tutoring session for their CPC students. They invited members of the Northern Illinois University Writing Center to visit North High School and read the students' papers. NIU sent five tutors and their Writing Center Director, Gail Jacky. The students involved in the session felt that the experience was worth their time. The NIU tutors valued the trip as well. "Community outreach is one of our goals," Jacky said at the debriefing meeting with tutors and North teachers together. This pilot program/partnership with NIU will be expanded during the second semester. We look forward to the return of the NIU tutors and to the possibility of an on-line North student-NIU tutor partnership.

Finally, our Artech students are participating in the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual National Career Development Poster Contest. The students took advantage of the Career Cruising website to find and research jobs that would fit their strengths and interests. They applied their knowledge, creativity, and computer skills to create colorful posters about the career they are hoping to pursue. All students' posters progressed from the county level to the state level. Good luck to all.

## Databases Available From the LRC

The North Learning Resource Center has several online databases available at school and from home. The EBSCO "Ultra" database, a comprehensive database designed for high school libraries, contains full text for nearly 500 popular magazines, 88,000 biographies, over 500 pamphlets, 150 reference books and 60,000 primary source documents. The EBSCO group of databases also includes Newspaper Source, a full text coverage database of more than 200 newspapers. Separate databases in the area of health, history, education, literature and science are also part of the subscription. Another database, called the **Student Resource Center**, is "...a vast collection of reference works, newspaper and magazine articles, journals, pamphlets, primary sources, full-text plays and poems, and multimedia files including photographs, videos, animations, and audio files..." The Chicago Tribune newspaper, covering international and national news, is an additional online subscription. For those looking for an online encyclopedia, the Encyclopedia Britannica is available.

Passwords for home use are included in this issue of the Navigator. It is recommended that the sheet with the passwords be placed on or near your computer monitor for later use.



<http://www.d303.org/schools/scn/scnlrc/scnlrc.html>

usernames and passwords for North High School databases:

**Encyclopedia:** stcharlessd  
**Britannica** stcharlessd

**EBSCO databases:**  
scn303  
stars

**FirstSearch:** 100107647  
that8kexp

**Gale Resource Center:** polaris

**NewsIllinois:** scn  
stars

**Chicago Tribune:** scn  
stars

## VOTE FOR ABE!

The Abraham Lincoln Award is awarded annually to the author of the book voted as most outstanding by participating students in grades nine through twelve in Illinois. The award is named for Abraham Lincoln, one of Illinois' most famous residents and himself an avid reader and noted author. The award is sponsored by the Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA). The Abraham Lincoln Award is designed to encourage high school students to read for personal satisfaction and become familiar with authors of young adult books. This is the second year that the award has been given.

February is the time to actually vote for the 2006 winner. A student must have read 5 selections from the list in order to vote. Students who wish to vote will find a link from the North LRC webpage to the voting site. Voting must be completed by the end of February.

## Simple Acts of Kindness



Many families have been displaced, relocated and uprooted due to unpredictable weather conditions. Many families are homeless and residing in shelters, under bridges, in cars, or with other family members. At a stressful time, when one wonders "where I will lay my head", little time or effort is devoted to the intellectual needs of a child.

As a simple act of kindness, Child Development students created learning enrichment boxes. The box focused on a particular theme containing toys or supplies that would allow the participant to learn while engaged in play. The boxes were then donated to Lazarus House in St. Charles.

**Car Box:** (back L to R) Annette Gwozdz, Lauren Krantz, Lauren Toth, Ashely Kusswurm, Ellie Cantrell, Jordan Stewart, Melissa Gonzalez-Mendez, Anna Conrad. (front L to R) Kacey McNamara, Jordan Jurczak, Alex Messacar, Nikki Coppola, Teige Cooper.

Quality care and nurturing child care are also gifts that some of the students have shared with the participants of Lazarus House. Every Monday night 2 or 3 of the Child Development students volunteer to help with night time routines while parents have the opportunity to attend classes.

## PTO News

### PTO Thanks you:

- Kudos to the Beautification Committee for the holiday decorations in the main school lobby.
- Post Prom sold beautiful Poinsettia plants again this year; thanks to all who purchased these holiday flowers.
- Thanks to the Hospitality group who served cookies and refreshments at the Future North Stars Night for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents earlier this month.

### Upcoming Events:

- The **Citizens for Excellence in Education (CEE)** has reformed with new leadership to educate the D303 community about the \$86 million building bond referendum that will appear on the March 21<sup>st</sup> ballot. Co'-Chairs: Joe Annett and Jim Cooke will need a broad base of citizen and student involvement to inform voters. If you are interested in committing time to the committee's efforts, please call #584-6800. On behalf of the SCN PTO, we urge all residents to vote. SCN students 18 and over may register to vote in the school office with Mrs. Zucker or Ms. Habich.
- The **Greater St Charles Education Foundation** is once again hosting a "Jazz Event" to raise funds to benefit the students in D303. February 11<sup>th</sup> is the date; the Q Center in St Charles is the place. There will be a live and silent auction. Our PTO is donating a beautiful hall mirror made by our SCN Shop Instructors. If you haven't received an invitation, please contact Stephanie Golemba at 630-377-2777. Please come and join in the fun at this fun filled evening. Proceeds support all the children in our district.
- The Annual **SCN student Ping Pong Tournament** will be held again this year during February during lunch periods. Monitors are needed to help; please contact your grade level PTO parent representative. Their names are listed on the back cover of your Student Directory.
- The **St Charles Literature Festival** will once again be happening in our district February 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>. This wonderful event puts students throughout the district in classroom contact with well known local and national authors and storytellers. PTO is proud to support this event at SCN.
- Dr Michael Bradley a nationally known speaker and author of the book: "Yes, Your Teen is Crazy...Loving Your Kid ...Without Losing Your Mind" will be speaking at Clifford Crone Middle School in Naperville on Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Several PTO Board members plan to attend. If you would like to join in this parent "field trip" to hear Dr. Bradley speak, please call Paula White at #377-2050.

### PTO Reminders:

- PTO sponsors **four \$750 scholarships** each year for seniors of PTO member families. Pick up an application in the Guidance Office. For more information call Karen Porter at # 630-584-6938.
- If you don't have a 2005-2006 **SCN Student Directory**, copies are still available in the Main Office for \$3.
- Market Day: **February is Market Day Cookie Dough Month!** Several student and athletic booster clubs are selling 3 pound tubs of Market Day's famous frozen cookie dough. There are 8 varieties and each tub is only \$10. Each tub purchased will raise as much as \$4 for these clubs. If you would like to help a club, please contact Market Day Coordinator, Jeff Forsell, at 630-513-9236 or email him at [jeff4yf@comcast.net](mailto:jeff4yf@comcast.net) and he'll put you in touch with the club. For the students to benefit, the orders must be placed through the club. Orders can be placed until February 15<sup>th</sup> for pick up at the North cafeteria on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Don't forget about the regular Market Day menu of meats, poultry, vegetables, convenience foods and drinks. You can go online at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com) or ask Jeff for an order form.
- Please feel free to attend PTO **meetings** to see what is going on and to become involved. This is the time of year when planning begins for next year's PTO Board. PTO is a great way to do something for our school. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any PTO Board Member. Meeting dates for the remainder of the school year are: February 21<sup>st</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>. All meeting are held in the LRC from 7pm till 9pm.



## POST PROM 2006

Post Prom is less than 4 months away- May 13th! This 'after prom party' - 11PM till 3AM- at North, is a new tradition. The party is open to all who attend Prom and all SCN Juniors and Seniors. Last years event was so successful, the St Charles North parents have decided to bring it back to the school with a new theme, games, prizes, and much more! This year's theme will be the adventures of King Kong...the 8<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World. The school will be turned into a jungle with waterfalls, caves, volcanoes, and a few surprises.

Based on feedback from last year, several games will be brought back and new ones added. The caricature artists were a great hit, along with the money machine and the model car racetrack. Also thoroughly enjoyed were the awesome '21 for Fun' casino and the food & beverage bar. TONS of prizes were given out all night long including Best Buy gift certificates, sports memorabilia, Oakley sunglasses, electronic devices, and a grand prize!

All these activities are in the plans for this years post prom. Many parents are needed to make this run smoothly. Some jobs are before the event (fundraising, decorations, installation, tickets, prizes, publicity, food), some are the night of the event (security, food, games), and some happen after the evening (take-down, thank-yous).

We are looking for many parent volunteers. Please look over the following list of committees and call now to get involved:

- |               |   |             |  |
|---------------|---|-------------|--|
| Chairpersons: | Sue Becker (513-0514)<br><b>Co-chair needed</b>                                     | Publicity:  | Karin Roberts (584-2664)<br>Liza Elliott (584-5419)                      |
| Decorations:  | Shirley Nichol (377-8285)<br>Theresa Sacomani (377-1832)                            | Security:   | Janine Holm (513-6233)   |
| Food:         | Cindy Hueneke (377-9692)  | Thank Yous: | Pat Screeden (377-2448)  |
| Fundraising:  | Kim Sutcliffe (587-3897)  | Tickets:    | Rose Kowal (377-6377)<br>Mary Fremgen (513-0917)<br>Amy Storm (377-6530) |
| Games:        | Jeanne Hosler (584-1735)<br>Kathy Polito (513-0299)                                 | Treasurer:  | Jane VanDril (377-6408)  |
| Installation: | MaryBeth Reilly (513-5323)  | Volunteers: | Sue Wachs (587-1121)<br>Lisa Beer (443-7383)                             |
| Prizes:       | Paula White (377-2050)<br>Debbie Hopkins (377-7687)<br>Mary Johnston (847-289-8910) | Take Down:  | <b>Chair needed</b>  |

## SPANISH NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Thirteen Spanish National Honor Society members woke up bright and early on Saturday morning, December 10<sup>th</sup> for a good cause. Chris Lawrence, Melissa Proulx, Kelsey Leingang, Jennifer Ringsby, Stephanie Zwolan, Erin Little, Joanna Bebeneck, Kristi McCoy, Sara Korth, Sarah Miller, Katelin Shafer, Steve Whittian, and Ian Miles participated in WACO (Woodfield Area Children's Organization) and helped make Christmas possible for local children in need. These SNHS members were each given a Spanish-speaking child to take shopping in Wal-Mart with the purpose of buying Christmas presents for the child's whole family. This service event gave the participants a chance to use their Spanish skills to aid others.

Another way SNHS members are helping out is through Tuesday Tutoring. Anyone seeking help in Spanish is welcome to come to the LRC after school on Tuesdays.

## *DEBATE TEAM*

The thirteen member Debate Team's first official tournament held at Stevenson High School was a resounding success. In just our second year as a team, we continue to exhibit the desired North Star qualities: pride, dedication and achievement. Pride was shown in our mostly amateur team members as they challenged themselves to conquer their fears and enter the arena of debate, constructing solid speeches, poignant questions and decisive retorts. There was a sense of dedication as these students came together over the long two day tournament to support each other, their achievement and the blossoming team. Team captain, Evan Phillips, and high scorers Michelle Jennings and Heather Haseltine are major contributors to the team with several key victories and continue to inspire other teammates as the Debate Team enters new tournaments.

## Chess Team

January 21<sup>st</sup> marked the conference championship at Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville. St. Charles North gave a gallant effort even though we were missing three of our top eight players at the competition due to a band field trip to Florida. Andrew Holm, Dan Webel, Kevin Clark, Ben Stone, Jacob Zucker, and Stephanie Cirone picked up the slack and all played beautifully to keep us in the tournament. We ended up taking fifth place out of eleven teams competing, and that is with the North Stars forfeiting two boards due to our absentees.

Several of our North Stars individually excelled throughout the chess season with impressive performances. Each team is ranked and judged by the amount of points that are gained in each meet. During the season, individual's points are kept track of in order to see the point leaders for each board (board 1 being the strongest player of each team down to board 8) the entire season. Andy Holm (first board) finished in second place in individual point totals for the entire conference. Kevin Clark (third board) also had an impressive season finishing up in second place. Ben Stone (fourth board) and Dan Webel (second board) both took fourth place for the season in their respective boards.



Chess Team Members: (L to R) Jacob Zucker, Adam Stombres, Kevin Clark, Sami Khan, Dan Webel, Andy Holm, and Ben Stone.

We had a solid year as a team and with the return of the majority of our players; next year looks very promising indeed. But not to jump too far ahead of ourselves, currently our team has one more meet, the IHSA State Chess Competition at the Peoria Civic Center. This will take place February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and is sure to be a fabulous experience for everyone taking part. Wish us luck!

## Future Educators Association

Why did you choose to be a teacher? What rewards come from this particular career? What roadblock does one encounter as a teacher? Future Educators Association chapter from St. Charles North High School hosted a teacher panel to discover the answers. Teachers on the panel varied in the years of experience in the teaching field and included Mr. Burlingame, English; Mr. Stepien, History; Mrs. Cruthers, Math; Ms. Keough, English; Mr. VonEssen, English; a student teacher; and Ms. Looney, Spanish. The teachers shared their reasons for choosing the field of education, their background and training and what they have learned from the students as a teacher.

Phi Delta Kappa, through Aurora University, supports the local FEA chapters in the Fox Valley area. Phi Delta Kappa has decided to act as a catalyst to develop a national FEA network that will support the development of new teachers. FEA helps to explore teaching as a career option, provides a realistic understanding of teaching, and encourages students from diverse backgrounds to think seriously about the teaching profession.

## Fall Play Goes to State Festival

The STC North High School's fall production of "The Rimers of Eldritch" was chosen to be performed at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival. This annual three-day festival is the largest and oldest non-competitive high school theatre festival in the world. This year marked the 30<sup>th</sup> annual festival and was held at Illinois State University in January.

The play was chosen for the state festival by a Selection Committee using several criteria including the type and style of the production and the overall rating by the evaluators who viewed the production in North's auditorium in November.

The following students were involved with the production either on stage or with the production crew: Joanna Besser, Evan Bravos, Kalli Bravos, Jeanie Chung, Molly Clementz, Francesca Contaldo, Sam Copping, Chris Corry, Ashley Crimaldi, Krista D'Amico, Peter Daley, Tim Dwyer, Adam Foster, Brock Galauner, Lauren Gardier, Tony Gilmore, Amanda Golemba, Lauren Hall, Jessica Haney, Heather Haseltine, Bob Hollister, Michelle Jennings, Cason Konecny, Kelly Larsen, Chas Lowery, Jocelyn Malmstrom, Nikki Manta, Rachel Mastalski, David McGill, Pam Miller, Rachael Niewold, Madeline Paul, Ben Richards, Julia Roberts, Jack Shales, Kati Skelton, Stefanie Stephens, Ali Thrun, Mary Toledano, Mackenzie Travers, and Jessica Van Oss.





### BREAKFAST WITH THE STARS

The Breakfast with the Stars Program honors individual stars within our school community. Some of the individuals nominated are out there for all of us to see and congratulate. Others are behind the scenes or who, in their quiet way, demonstrate a level of excellence through service, academics, competition, or simple kindness. Some of these students give of their special talents on a day-to-day basis in the classroom and some of them excel in our extra and co-curricular activities. Each student is unique and special in the way they share and develop our school community.

#### JANUARY Breakfast with the Stars Award Recipients:

<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Ms. Christina Kenkel	Kelly McGushin
Ms. Kirsten Pemberton	Samantha Porter
Ms. Janice Young	Jillian Rigert Emily Zepeda
Ms. Jennifer Mitten	Maya Menon
Ms. Jennifer Shoaf	Athanasia Valis
Mr. Bradford Mitchell	Kasey Kaplan Keith Kaplan Terence Tarvis

#### FEBRUARY Breakfast with the Stars Award Recipients:

<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Mr. Joe Parks	Rhett Morici
Ms. Ann LaBotz	Laura Damm
Mr. Tim Davis	Michael Petkos
Ms. Dawn Hall	James David Jones
Ms. Rebecca Reber	Kaitlin O'Boyle
Ms. Kate Hensel	Kimberly Lang

### "BETWEEN THE LINES" John Rutter, Athletic Director



As our winter sports season begins to wind down, I would like to take this opportunity to remind each athlete intending on trying out for a spring sport, that proper paperwork must be on file prior to trying out for a spring sports team. This includes: a signed parent consent form, a current physical examination, and a signed code of conduct form. Registration materials are available in the Athletic Office.

On behalf of the student-athletes, coaches and administration, we would like to invite you to be a part of the St. Charles North High School 2006 Spring Sports Season! St. Charles North High School values your support and believes it is critical to our success. Hope to see you at a North Star contest!

GO NORTH STARS!!

### COACH REED VOSTAL HONORED



Coach Reed Vostal

Reed Vostal, St. Charles North High School Boys' Cross-Country Coach, has been named 2005 Illinois Class AA Boys' Cross Country Coach of the Year by the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches' Association. Mr. Vostal has been the Head Boys' Cross-Country Coach for the North Stars since the school opened in 2000. Congratulations to Coach Vostal on this well-deserved honor.

### Helpful Hints for a Successful 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

Students now have their first semester under their belt. Second semester has started, and a clean slate is available to each student! If you begin to see trouble brewing in a class, as the semester progresses, remember and utilize some of these helpful hints that are available to students.

- **Make arrangements to meet with teacher individually** before or after school or during a study hall for extra help.
- **Set up a study session** outside of school with a peer from class who understands the material.
- Attend the **FREE** and **USEFUL** Wednesday night tutoring sponsored by National Honor Society. The tutoring sessions are every **Wednesday night from 7-9pm in the 100's pod**. Students can come for as long as they need to and they will be paired up with a National Honor Society student who excels in the subject they need help with. Students **need** to bring their notes and/or text book.
- **Tuesday tutoring** is another option available to students who are having trouble with Spanish. It runs every **Tuesday in the LRC from 2:30-3:30pm**.
- There is a **math resource room** available every day between periods 3-7 in room 103. A math teacher is present in the classroom and there are also student helpers. Students can attend the math resource room during their lunch study hall or during a full period study hall to get extra help in math!
- You can hire your own tutor privately. Check the newspaper or district office for names and contact information.
- Sylvan and Huntington also offer private assistance. Check the phone book for contact information and hours.

### KUDOS

**Senior, David Hutter**, has been nominated for an American Red Cross "Hometown Hero" Award for his energy, enthusiasm, good will, leadership and volunteerism. Congrats to David on this recognition.

**North HS History teacher, Mr. Bill C. Stepien**, has co-wrote a chapter with his father, Mr. William J. Stepien, titled " 'Pulling the Cat's Tail' in Social Studies and History Classrooms" for the newly published book, "The Handbook of Secondary Gifted Education." The textbook is published by the National Association for Gifted Children.

### Two Seniors Join the Daily Herald Leadership Team



Seniors, David McGill and Kady McFadden named to Daily Herald Leadership Team 05-06

We are proud to announce two young leaders within our school who were chosen from the area suburban high schools to be named members of the 2005-06 Daily Herald Leadership Team. Area high schools had the opportunity to nominate two students who exemplify the attributes of leadership within their school and local community, and Kady McFadden and David McGill were two of only ten students in our suburban area to be awarded this annual honor. 149 students from 80 high schools were submitted for consideration. We are the lucky recipients of having these two students as part of our daily lives as they make a positive contribution everyday to North Star Country.

Kady serving in the role of President of the North Star Student Council has a resume longer than most CEOs, including heading up Project Dance which raised over \$30,000 for Special Olympics last year, American Red Cross, March of Dimes, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Service Learning, and National Honor Society and this spring takes on a significant student leadership role for the Referendum Committee. Her tireless and selfless work truly makes a difference for students and staff at North. Even beyond that, her outside volunteerism impacts our local community weekly.

David, in the meantime, started our Presenters Club a couple years ago, and this telecommunication activity provides both a monthly televised newscast along with twice weekly televised announcements. Beyond that, he is a leader within our Drama and Theatre Program, starring in numerous lead roles within our major play productions, tutors when he has time, competes on Speech Team, volunteers for National Honor Society and is still a contributing school newspaper writer.

We applaud these two young people who balance a busy school and social schedule with one other key ingredient - unselfish leadership.

## **NOTES FROM PPS**

### **Attention Seniors Planning to Attend College:**

Remember, seniors have until May 1st to formally commit to a college and turn in deposit money, although it is ok to do so earlier. It is very important that if students have been accepted at more than one school, they let each school know whether they are planning to attend, or not, by that time. This can be done by e-mail, a letter, or a phone call.

In addition, many highly selective colleges require that students send a mid-year grade report to them. Students who still need to do that, can give their guidance counselor a transcript release, \$1.00, a mid-year grade form (from the college), and an addressed, business-sized envelope with proper postage. These will be mailed out once first semester grades have been finalized later in January.

All students planning to attend college in the fall will need to complete a final transcript release for that school they have decided upon. The counselors will be seeing the senior students in May to complete that task. Good news – this is the *free* transcript, so we don't need to collect any dollars, envelopes or stamps! By the way, these will be mailed out once second semester grades are finalized. Any NCAA Clearinghouse forms that have previously been completed will also go out at this time.

### **A Summary of College Testing for Juniors:**

- Most colleges and universities require a college entrance examination (either the ACT or the SAT I) for admission, although students can take both tests. Later, a student can submit the higher of the scores by marking their transcript release.
- We recommend taking these tests towards the end of junior year. If necessary, a student can retake in September or October of senior year. Note: If taking one of these tests as a senior in the fall, students will need to register during the summer.
- Students can take either test as many times as they want. Note: Juniors will get a free ACT test on April 26th as part of the Prairie State Achievement Exam, which the counselors will help sign them up for later in the spring.
- Several colleges/universities are now either recommending or requiring the new writing component of the ACT. Check with the schools your child is interested in to see what their policy is. The ACT web site (see below) keeps an updated list of who is requiring it.
- These tests are given on Saturday mornings at least six times a year at high schools and colleges all over the country, although not at St. Charles North every time. If students wish to take a test on a specific date, and it is not being offered here, students are able to sign up at another school by using that high school code (see website or back of registration book).
- Test registration packets, which are in the Guidance Office, contain important information, such as costs, directions for filling out the registration form, testing locations and dates, and key deadlines. Note: Students who sign up late could find themselves taking the test at a school further away, so we recommend filling it out early.
- Students can also register online at the testing web sites. All one needs is a credit card, some time, and our high school CEEB code, which is: 143-796. For updated information on the ACT, go to the following web site: <http://www.actstudent.org>. For SAT, visit: <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

### **Test Prep Offered:**

Questions for both the ACT and the SAT come from concepts learned in previous classes. However, students have the choice of additional formal test preparation prior to taking the ACT or SAT. We have listed some of those options here:

- "Preparing for the ACT Assessment", located in the SCNHS Guidance Office for free.
- "ACTive Prep", which is the only test prep software on CD-ROM with real ACT tests and an interactive learning experience. This can be checked out by students at our LRC, or others, for free.
- "Excel Edge" ACT Class, offered here at SCNHS from February – March, one night a week from 7-9 pm.
- "ACT Preparation" Class, offered through Waubensee C.C. at Batavia H.S., Geneva H.S., and Sugar Grove Campus, Feb. – March, various days and times. Cost: \$59 (for 3 weeks) or \$199 (for 8 weeks). Call 466-7900 x5757
- "ACT Preparation" Class, offered at Elgin C.C. in Feb. – March, Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. Cost was \$169.00 last year. Call (847) 622-3036.
- Sylvan and Huntington have local offices that offer individual test preparation.
- Useful information can also be obtained from local book stores and on each testing company's website.

## NOTES FROM PPS (cont'd)

### Remaining ACT and SAT Test Dates for 2005-06:

<u>Test Dates:</u>	<u>Regular Registration:</u>	<u>Late Registration:</u>
*+ ACT: April 8	March 3	March 17
+ ACT: June 10	May 5	May 19
SAT: Jan 28	Dec 22	Jan 4
SAT: April 1	Feb 24	March 8
SAT: May 6	April 3	April 12
* SAT: June 3	April 28	May 10

KEY: \* = Test given here at STCN H.S.    + = Test given at STCE H.S.

### What students can do to maximize their performance on standardized tests:

- Register early (either on-line or by mail) so you test when and where you want. Otherwise, you could be driving for an hour on the morning of the test to an unfamiliar place. Plan ahead!
- Get a good night of sleep the night before the test.
- Eat a healthy and nutritious breakfast. Most testing centers forbid any food and drink in the room and only provide one ten-minute break.
- Take these items with you on test day: photo ID, test admission ticket, several #2 pencils (with erasers), a calculator, and watch (with alarm/beep turned off).
- Relax and be confident in your ability to do well. Remember, the ACT and SAT can always be retaken. In addition, colleges understand that many students take these exams two or three times.
- Read all instructions carefully before the test begins. Don't waste test time reading them at a later time.
- Pace yourself. Most people have enough time to answer all of the questions. Answer the "easy" questions first and then go back later and answer the more difficult ones.
- There is a difference between guessing on the ACT and the SAT: For the ACT, your scores are based on the number of correct questions you have, so it is to your advantage to answer every question. For the SAT, you don't have to answer each question correctly to receive a good score. If you have no idea for a specific answer, perhaps you should not answer the question and move on. On the other hand, if you can eliminate an answer or two, your chances of being correct just increased, and you may wish to answer.
- If you make a mistake, erase completely. Extra marks on your answer sheet could negatively affect your scores.
- Review your work if you finish early to see if you missed any questions or marked an answer twice. These tests have penalties if you work on a different section, either a past test or a future one, so don't do it. Your scores will be voided and you won't get your money back.

### Financial Aid Information for College Bound Students:

For those who attended either of the Financial Aid Nights (At Geneva H.S. in December or here at North in January), you probably left the auditorium with new and useful information and/or handouts. For those who couldn't make it, we offer some summary information and useful web sites which can assist you further.

First of all, financial aid is usually based on need or a talent. There are schools that will give money to students for their athletic, musical, leadership, or academic abilities. And there are schools that will give money based on their financial need. Need is determined by one main form at most colleges and universities: the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

The good news is that applying for student financial aid is FREE. If you need help completing the FAFSA, you can get that help free, too. You can either use the paper copy (which is available at most schools and libraries), or complete the form on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). We recommend using FAFSA on the Web if possible because:

- FAFSA on the Web identifies potential errors right away and prompts you to make on-the-spot corrections.
- You get online instructions for each question, and you can "chat" live online with a customer service representative if you have further questions. There's no charge for this help.

## **NOTES FROM PPS (cont'd)**

### **Financial Aid Information for College Bound Students (cont'd):**

Before beginning the FAFSA, both the student and parent will need to obtain a PIN number at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). Your PIN helps you:

- Apply online for federal student aid, using FAFSA on the Web.
- “Sign” your application electronically and complete the student aid process totally online — by signing the application electronically, you’ll get your results faster.
- Make corrections to your FAFSA.
- Access all your federal student aid records online, including any federal student loan information.

You can complete the FAFSA beginning Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> of your child’s senior year; you have until June 30 of that year to submit your FAFSA. But, you need to apply early! Schools and states often use FAFSA information to award nonfederal aid. Their deadlines are usually early in the year. Check with the schools you’re interested in for their deadlines. Note: Some schools may also require an additional form, such as the CSS Profile, in order to obtain more accurate financial information from you.

Once the FAFSA is completed, you’ll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). Your SAR contains the information reported on your FAFSA and usually includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number. The EFC, a measure of your family’s financial strength, is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information as soon as you get it and make any corrections or changes, if necessary. The EFC is calculated according to a formula established by law. Your family’s income (taxable and untaxed), assets, and benefits (for example, unemployment or Social Security) are all considered in determining your EFC. Also considered is your family size and the number of family members who will attend a college or career school. To be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, your EFC must be below a certain number, which can vary from year to year.

When you complete the FAFSA, you can also have your information sent to six colleges. Once they receive your results, they will contact you. If eligible, each school’s aid administrator will send your child an award letter outlining the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer your child. You can compare award letters from the schools your child applied to and see what aid each school is providing. At this time, your family is now better able to make a sound decision as to what school might be the best option. It is for this reason that colleges give students until May 1<sup>st</sup> to make their final decision as to whether they will attend their school or not.

You need to respond to each college by either accepting or rejecting their financial aid offer. If you don’t respond by the deadline, the award may be canceled. It is very important that you inform the colleges your child decided not to attend, so the college can then give admission and/or funds to students who are planning to attend their institution, and they can close your family file.

So, you might be curious at this point how much aid you might get. The EFC formula must be applied to each family’s financial information, so we can’t tell you here whether you’ll be eligible for federal student aid or estimate how much aid you might get. That’s why you need to apply—to find out!

The financial aid administrator at each school that your child has been accepted at, puts together a financial aid package that comes as close as possible to meeting your need. Keep in mind, most federal student aid funds are limited, so the total amount you receive might fall short of the amount you’re eligible for. Also, except for Federal Pell Grant aid, the amount of federal student aid you receive is affected by other sources of aid your child might get—scholarships, state aid, etc. Each school your child applies to will send you a notice of the types and amounts of aid you’re eligible for.

The EFC formula is basically the same for all applicants, but there is some flexibility. Your college financial aid administrator might adjust the cost of attendance or the information used to calculate your EFC to take into account special circumstances you might have. These circumstances could include any unusual medical expenses, tuition expenses, or unemployment. There must be compelling reasons for the financial aid administrator to take this step, however, and you’ll have to provide adequate documentation to support any adjustments.

## NOTES FROM PPS (cont'd)

### Here are some common myths regarding financial aid (cont'd):

*"Millions of scholarship dollars go unclaimed every year.".....False.* The statement that private scholarship dollars go unclaimed is unfounded. This is what professional scholarship search services would like you and your family to believe—they want you to pay for their services. You can do your own search for scholarships. We strongly recommend that students check our own scholarship box (located in the guidance office) each week or two. Students simply need to do what each scholarship requires, by the date given, in order to be eligible.

*"You or your parents can't get any financial aid because your family income is too high.".....False.* Income is only one of the criteria on which financial aid is based. If the school's costs exceed your family's means, your child will qualify for some form of financial aid (such as a grant, loan, or work study). Remember, several scholarships are based on merits or talents.

*"You shouldn't even consider your first-choice school if it costs too much." .....False.* Generally, the higher the total school costs, the easier it is to demonstrate eligibility for financial aid. Also, the stated costs at a school can be deceiving: Aid is often available to offset some of the costs. You should apply to the school and wait to see the financial aid award letter before making any final decision. Each year, we see several students who are attending private, expensive, or out-of-state schools for less money than what it would cost them to attend an in-state public school. Usually, that is due to a talent scholarship - academic, athletic, leadership, etc.

*"There's not as much financial aid as there used to be." False.* A recent statistic indicates that, in 1965, \$600 million was available for financial aid. Just a few years ago, federal student aid programs alone provided roughly \$61 billion in grants, loans, and work-study assistance to more than 7.6 million people. It is true, however, that loans and work-study are now a larger percentage of the total financial aid award than they used to be. In addition, each year, we offer more and more scholarships in the Guidance Office.

### Useful financial aid/scholarship websites:

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, which allows one to lock in the current cost of tuition and fees for college.

FAFSA on the Web – <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> - All college-bound seniors should apply for financial aid using this form *after January 1<sup>st</sup>*. FAFSA on the web contains the electronic application utilized by all colleges and universities throughout the country. First, register for a pin number at <http://www.pin.ed.gov/>. To discover where helpful workshop sessions are located (usually in February), visit <http://www.faam.org>.

fastWEB – <http://www.fastweb.com> - Contains a free scholarship search database; will e-mail new scholarships to student's mail box.

The Financial Aid Information page – <http://www.finaid.org> - This is a quality site for information and links on financial aid, scholarships, loans, and scam alerts.

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.collegezone.com> - Our state's own valuable resource for students and parents to remain up-to-date as to the latest financial aid news and changes; one can also find college planning information, perform scholarship searches, and use a financial aid estimator.

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.



Adopted by Board of Education  
01/09/06

August	
Teachers' Institute Days	August 21, 22
First Day of Classes	August 23
September	
Labor Day Holiday	September 4
Teachers' Institute	September 15
October	
School Improvement Day	October 6
Columbus Day Holiday	October 9
End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	October 27
November	
K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences	November 20
K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences	November 21
High School Teachers' In-service	November 21
Non Attendance Day (Offices Open)	November 22
Thanksgiving Break	November 23-24
December	
Last Day of School in 2005	December 15
Winter Break	December 18-29
January	
New Year's Day Holiday	January 1
School Resumes	January 2
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	January 15
End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	January 18
Teachers' Work Day	January 19
February	
Teacher Institute Day	February 16
Presidents' Day Holiday	February 19
March	
End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	March 23
Spring Break	March 26-30
April	
School Resumes	April 2
School Improvement Planning	April 6
K-5 only- afternoon Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-5 in classes AM	April 13
May	
Memorial Day Holiday	May 28
June	
Last Day for Students if No "Emergency Days" are used	June 1
Last Day for Students if 5 "Emergency Days" are used	June 8

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Feb 13 - Board of Education Meeting, Admin Building, 7:00 PM                            | Mar 9 - Orchestra Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM               |
| Feb 14 - Jazz Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM  | Mar 11 - Project Dance, Small Gym, 9 AM - 9 PM               |
| Feb 15 - ETC Schedule   | Mar 14 - Vocal Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM                  |
| Feb 16 - Jazz Concert w/ Guest, Auditorium, 7:30 PM                                     | Mar 15 - ETC Schedule  |
| Feb 17 - Institute Day, No School for Students  | Mar 20 - PTO Meeting, LRC, 7:00 PM                           |
| Feb 20 - Presidents' Day, No School   | Mar 20 - Board of Education Meeting, Admin Building, 7:00 PM |
| Feb 21 - PTO Meeting, LRC, 7:00 PM  | Mar 22 - 411 Schedule  |
| Feb 21 - NHS/EHS Combined Chamber Orchestra/<br>Choral Concert, Norris Center, time TBA | Mar 22 - Mr. SCN, Auditorium, 7:00 PM                        |
| Feb 21 - Wind Symphonic Band Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM                               | Mar 22 - Empty Bowls, Main Foyer/hallway, Rm 302, 7:00 PM    |
| Feb 22 - 411 Schedule   | Mar 24 - End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter                      |
| Feb 23 - Wind Ensemble Band Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM                                | Mar 27 - Spring Break  |
| Feb 27 - Sadie's Spirit Week  | Apr 3 - School Resumes                                       |
| Feb 27 - Board of Education Meeting, Admin Building, 7:00 PM                            | Apr 4 - Breakfast with the Stars, LRC, 6:45 AM               |
| Mar 1 - ETC Schedule  | Apr 5 - ETC Schedule   |
| Mar 4 - Sadie Hawkins Dance   | Apr 7 - ACT testing, NHS, 7:30 AM                            |
| Mar 7 - Breakfast with the Stars, LRC, 6:45 AM  | Apr 8 - Luau Madness   |
| Mar 7 - Concert Symphonic Band Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM                             | Apr 10 - Board of Education Meeting, Admin Building, 7:00 PM |
| Mar 8 - 411 Schedule  |  |

The Driver Ed Range will be closed March 20<sup>th</sup> – April 18<sup>th</sup>. Parking will be allowed in the gravel lot on a first come, first serve basis with the appropriate North Star hand tag displayed. Violators will be towed at their own expense.

**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**