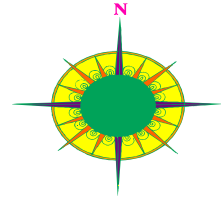


# "The Navigator" Principal's Newsletter

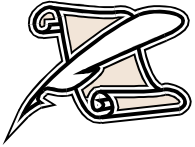


St. Charles North High School

Vol. II No. 2 October 2000

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: MarilynRingsby@st-charles.k12.il.us



## "From the Pen of the Principal"

Brilliant sunshine, "North Star blue" ribbon and local dignitaries were all present at the September 5<sup>th</sup> opening day of school. Most importantly, however, was the presence of our nearly 900 students. This was *their* day. This was the day we have all been waiting for and was a day intended from the very beginning to be *for the students*. Watching the students enter the building for the first time, seeing smiles on their faces, and listening to the typical teenage conversation about *their* new school was very special. In the true sense of the word, St. Charles North High School opened its doors *to the students* and bricks and mortar came to life.

The most recent parent survey indicated a desire to know more about the curriculum and instruction process at the high school level. To that end, I have asked Mrs. Denise Herrmann, Assistant Principal, to begin a regular column titled "Curriculum Corner". Beginning with this issue, we will share what we think will be informational to you. If you have suggestions for topics to be included, please contact Mrs. Herrmann here at school.

Our Fall Fling is ongoing as of this writing and appears to be a great success. Special interest clubs are active, music groups are practicing and participating in school events and athletic teams are already enjoying success. Encourage your daughter or son to become involved in the life of the school. Connections with the school are clear indicators of future success for students.

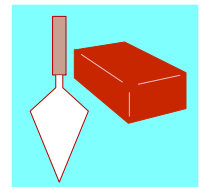
The early days of September are turning into the cool days of October and a daily routine is beginning to establish itself at North High School. Hopefully, you were able to be a part of our "Back to School" parent evening in September. October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> are Institute Days for the staff, October 29<sup>th</sup> is our school Dedication, and we would like for you to be sure to mark November 13<sup>th</sup> on your calendar so that you can participate in the fall Parent/Teacher conference day.

In closing, please remember that we are working *with* you, our parents, to assure student success. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Feel free to visit your school. Welcome to North High School!

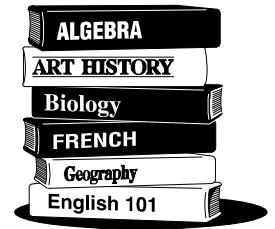
F. Kesman  
Principal

## BUY A BRICK!

The Courtyard is taking shape. We had the fortune of having Jim Haugen, Landscape Architect from Wasco Nursery, donate a master landscape plan which will be the "guiding star" for our Cosmic Courtyard Challenge. The walkways have been poured and the brick circles will be taking shape soon. You still have an opportunity to "Buy a Brick" to have your student mark themselves in a permanent place of history here at SCNHS. **The deadline for Buy A Brick forms has been extended to October 15<sup>th</sup>.** The brick can hold your son's/daughter's name, their accomplishments, activities and/or their year of graduation from St. Charles North High School. A committee has been formed from the PTO that is coordinating the landscape challenge. Please contact the PTO or Dr. Debbie Kling in the Student Activities Office for more information. **Order forms to "Buy A Brick" are available in the main office.** If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Nelson at 587-7000 #9894.



## CURRICULUM CORNER



**Welcome!** We have celebrated the opening of our new school by; hosting an All School Picnic and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, participating in many fall sport contests, listening to the marching band, watching the drill team and cheerleaders perform, and throwing our first 'Fall Fling'. Now it is time for the spotlight to shine on the excellent work that teachers and students are doing in our classrooms. As Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction, I have the honor of leading and supporting the efforts of 60 dedicated teachers and 6 accomplished Instructional Coordinators. We will be working together to ensure that all students meet or exceed standards by using instructional strategies that actively engage students in learning.

### The Big Picture

All instructional areas will be working toward the establishment of standards for learning, the development of assessment tools that measure student achievement toward standards, curriculum renewal, and the design of innovative instruction. Specific examples of District-Wide Curriculum Projects for the 2000-2001 school year in which St. Charles North teachers will participate include:

- 9-12 Language Arts – Design and implement a writing portfolio
- 6-12 Science – Establish learning standards and indicators for science content, process, and thinking skills
- 6-12 Social Studies – Write, implement, and refine assessment tools that measure indicators of student learning toward social studies standards
- 9-12 Mathematics – Communicate with K-8 math teachers about new math programs and conduct needs assessment for 9-12 standards and assessment work
- K-12 Wellness – Identify the wellness practices and character attributes needed for students to become responsible citizens and determine ways to incorporate those into varied curricular areas

### Collaboration

The list above is a small sample of the types of work our staff will be doing in order to provide your students with the finest learning environment possible. However, we also know that the home environment plays a vital role in your student's education and hope to work in partnership with families and the community to capitalize on our collective efforts to support each student's intellectual, social, and physical development.

*Denise Herrmann*  
*Assistant Principal*

### EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS OR ACTIVITIES

Encourage your student to get involved in Extra Curricular Clubs or Activities. It broadens the scope of your student's perspective and can help to round out their overall attitudes about high school. If the time frames for a particular club or activity do not work out due to transportation situations, contact the Students Activities Office so that possibly some accommodations can be made. Students may join clubs ALL during the year, not just in the beginning of the school year. Remember, in the beginning some students are simply not sure what they might like to do. Once they have observed some new activities, they may want to get involved. Promote their confidence and support their willingness to get involved!

**ATTENDANCE NUMBERS**

If your son or daughter is sick or will be arriving late to school, the attendance number to call is **443-5711 or 443-5712**. Until our voice mail is in operation, we will answer our phones from 7:00 AM TO 3:00 PM. Please have your student's I.D. number ready to present. Once voice mail is available calls for attendance can be left any time. Please, however, call as early as possible so that our records accurately reflect the absence.

**APPOINTMENTS**

We ask that, as much as possible, parents do not make outside appointments for their student during the school day. Classroom time is valuable and missing this time could jeopardize student progress in addition to the disruption students entering and leaving classes cause.

**MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS**

It is only in emergencies that the school can send messages for students. In addition, because of security and safety concerns we cannot let parents walk around the school looking for their son or daughter. Thank you for your consideration in these matters of school disruption and safety.

**Guidance News**

- The **PSAT/NMSQT** (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a test designed for JUNIORS as a first step for getting practice taking the SAT exam. The test when taken during the junior year is also used in entering the National Merit Scholarship Corporation competition for scholarships and recognition.

Each year several SOPHOMORE students – who would like to be better prepared for the NMSQT – take the PSAT as a practice for the following year's competition. This year's exam will be given on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Charles East High School at 8:30 AM. Sophomores interested in taking the exam signed up in the Guidance Office between September 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> (for a cost of \$14.00). If you have any questions about the PSAT, please contact Marv Leavitt, guidance coordinator, at (630)443-5717.

- The **PLAN** is the practice ACT exam designed to be taken during the fall of the SOPHOMORE year. The PLAN test has two major components: **test practice** for the ACT in four Achievement Areas (English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning) and **career exploration**.

We encourage ALL OF OUR STUDENTS to take the PLAN test during their sophomore year. This year we will be giving the PLAN exam at St. Charles North High School on **Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 AM. Registration for the PLAN will take place in the North High School Guidance Office from Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> during regular office hours (7:15 AM – 3:30 PM). The cost for the PLAN TEST IS **\$13.00**.

- The guidance counselors are in the process of calling down their students to: (1) reach out and get to know them better and (2) to share how guidance services can help students make good choices and be successful in high school. These brief, informal meetings will mainly take place during the student's lunch or study hall periods.
- The guidance counselors are available to assist parents with numerous issues. You can contact them at:

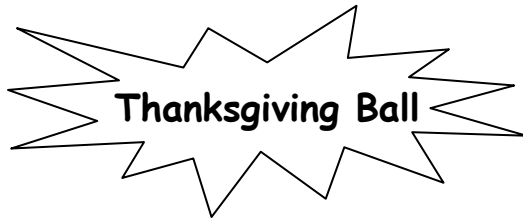
Classes 2003 and 2004	A-D	Mr. Leavitt	443-5717
Class of 2004	E-Z	Mrs. Shouba	443-5714
Class of 2003	E-Z	Mrs. Munro-Krusz	443-5715

**BUS DRIVERS NEEDED**

Like kids? Like making money? You can do both driving a school bus! We will train you, \$12.82 an hour. Call Transportation @ 377-4884 for more information.

## PHOTO RETAKES

Photo retakes for all students who did not get their yearbook photo and portraits taken will be on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Retakes will be taken between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM in the cafeteria foyer. If students need additional photo order sheets, please stop by the Student Activities Office to pick up a form.



The Thanksgiving Ball is Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at SCNHS from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM. SCNHS students may bring a guest from SCEHS or another school. Guest passes are distributed from the Student Activities Office or when they purchase their tickets.

## Student Planner

Would you like your own Student Planner? The first 58 pages has a wealth of information about General School Information, Extracurricular Activities, Clubs and Athletics, Academic Information, Report Card Schedule, Student Services, Student Rights and Responsibilities, Attendance and Discipline and the Code of Conduct. Extra planners are available for purchase (\$5) in the Student Activities Office.

## TECHNOLOGY TEAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Two parent volunteers who are familiar with the use of technology are needed to be a part of our building technology team. The team's purpose is to develop a building technology plan that provides structure for allocating resources and integrating the meaningful use of technology into the curriculum. Team members will include administrators, teachers, parents and students. Meetings may be either after school (2:45 PM) or evening on a monthly (more often at first) basis. The first meeting will be Thursday, October 19, at 2:45 p.m. in the LRC. Parents who are interested may send an email to [LucyKempton@st-charles.k12.il.us](mailto:LucyKempton@st-charles.k12.il.us).

## Say Pepsi, Please!

We would like to welcome Pepsi-Cola to the North Star family. Through the generous support of Nick Giachino and John Mircheff of the Pepsi-Cola Company and Mike Kubaszewski of Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers, Inc., we will be providing a number of special services to our students including scholarships, leadership opportunities and, of course, beverage service. Whether it is for the school lunch program or during extra-curricular activities, we will be featuring Pepsi products. Pepsi has already been an active sponsor of our student programs by donating Pepsi products for our-all school picnic, our recent Fall Fling dance and for our athletic programs.

## The North Star

The weekly student bulletin called The North Star is posted each Monday on our website. You can get an overall feel for what's coming up that week along with dates and club meeting times. **The school website address is:**

[www.st-charles.k12.il.us](http://www.st-charles.k12.il.us)





## “Schweer’s Lockerroom Talk”

The North Star athletic teams are up and running . . . and swimming and playing football, soccer, tennis, golf, etc. I might add they are performing exceptionally well. At last check, the Girls Golfers (the sport where our 1<sup>st</sup> Varsity win came from) was 8-3 in Varsity competition, while the Girl Swimmers have yet to be beaten on the Varsity level. Football, although faced with an incredibly tough schedule, has shown tremendous improvement week to week, and is currently riding a two-game winning streak. Sophomore Boys Soccer is undefeated and putting the ball in the opponents net like it is an arcade game. All of our programs are showing the obvious outward signs of success.

Perhaps what is more impressive, however, is the way the athletes, coaches, and parents have dealt and thrived in an environment where our “home” facilities are at other sites. I know the level of frustration this has caused, but it will be over soon, and we will have access to our own new facilities. Just ask the Girls Volleyball team, as they hosted a freshman tournament in the new gym. What an exciting event. But until we get our facilities released to us on a permanent basis, we need to continue to be flexible and as positive as possible. Many of you have heard my favorite saying that: “The Main Thing is to Keep the Main Thing, The Main Thing.” Well, the Main Thing in athletics is the interaction which goes on between an athlete and their coach on a daily basis, a function totally unrelated to facilities issues or wins and losses. It has been my observation that these interactions have been extremely positive and ongoing, providing the program a sound foundation from which to build once we move into our new home.

As an organization, we will continue to push the construction dates we are being given. However, we want to make sure that our enthusiasm to move in, is tempered by a constant awareness of providing a safe environment for the students, as well as a finished facility which was constructed in a “thoughtful” fashion providing us a home we can be proud of for years to come.

**Go North Stars!**

### Student Driving

Currently, student driving to school is prohibited. The staff of North High School made this decision during the late summer months prior to the opening of school. The parking lot was not complete and in some cases impassable, traffic patterns for buses and parent vehicles were being established, supervision requirements were uncertain and a strong concern for student safety led to this decision.

Over the first weeks of school, some of these conditions have improved and we are currently *considering* driving privileges for students. Positive dialog with many parents has brought family concerns to our attention. Decisions made this year may not necessarily apply in the future, as our growing student population will necessitate an annual review of any procedures. As we work through this situation, please help support a safe environment by asking your son or daughter to respect our regulations at this time. Please contact Mr. Kesman, Principal, or Mr. Mark Gould, Dean of Students, if you have any thoughts or suggestions regarding this issue

## Superintendent's Corner

### **NEW SCHOOL YEAR**

The 2000-01 school year is indeed a "new" school year. Bell-Graham Elementary School opened, Wredling Middle School relocated to Dunham Road, and two St. Charles High Schools began new traditions.

Many new students and parents have joined the District 303 family. Student enrollment has grown from 10,440 last year to over 11,140 today. With new attendance boundaries, most students (over 6,000) are attending a different school this year than they did last year.

The yearlong *Celebration of Learning 2000* continues. All students, parents, and community members are invited to afternoon open houses and formal dedications at Bell-Graham Elementary School and St. Charles North High School. The dedication of Bell-Graham Elementary School will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and at St. Charles North High School at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Parent Feedback, Communications, and the Board of Education.***

In order to better improve communication, the District conducted a parent survey last May. Almost 3,300 parents completed the survey. Overall satisfaction for the entire School District was very high.

- Using a 5.0 scale, overall satisfaction was 4.0 with 77% of the parents rating the school district very satisfied (5.0) or mostly satisfied (4.0).
- Parent satisfaction increased at the elementary school level, middle school level, and high school level from a previous survey in 1996. For example, satisfaction at the elementary school level rose from 4.05 in 1996 to 4.24 in 2000 with 86% of parents rating elementary schools 4 or 5.
- Likewise, parent satisfaction in all curricular areas, (English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) also increased from the last survey in 1996. District-wide these increases were statistically significant.
- Parents also noted a positive change in the level of involvement by parents in major decisions. In 1996 only 49% of parents were satisfied with the level of parent input regarding major decisions. Today, 68% indicate high levels of satisfaction in this area.
- At the same time, parents indicated the District needs to improve food service and transportation services. Staff will be reviewing performance in these areas to better meet the needs of students and parents.

All principals will receive specific survey information regarding their schools. This survey information will be shared with all parents in their respective school buildings over the next few months.

### **Having Breakfast with the Board of Education**

Throughout the school year, the Board of Education will be inviting small groups of citizens to meet with them for an informal discussion regarding school issues. These breakfast meetings will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. approximately once a month. If you are interested in being invited to one of these meetings, please contact Board of Education secretary, Linda Ledbetter at 513-3030.

### **And Construction Continues**

Work on the additions at Anderson Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, Wild Rose Elementary School, and Thompson Middle School continues as planned. The Wild Rose Elementary School addition should be open by October 1<sup>st</sup>, and other additions should be completed by the end of the first semester. Financially, the construction fund has grown to approximately \$85 million.

- This includes \$67 million from the 1998 referendum,
- A \$9.9 million state construction grant,
- \$2.5 million in mandated land/cash donations from developers and
- \$5.5 million in interest, grants and other donations. These revenues, by law, need to fund various construction projects and other facilities related items. The Board of Education has allocated these funds to address all of the items in the 1998 referendum, plus numerous life/safety and renovation projects throughout the District. At the same time, the Board of Education is saving \$9.9 million for future facilities needs. (For example, the cost of a new 600-student elementary school is \$10 million.) Specific use of these dollars will be determined at a future time by the Board of Education.

*Community Unit School District 303 is committed to educating students who will have the competence and character to excel in the global community as responsible citizens and life long-learners...* Together we as students, parents, staff and community members can fulfill that commitment.

*Francis J. Kostel*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

YEARBOOK

Polaris (The North Star) is the new name of our yearbook! The name was chosen by the student body and staff. The theme for this years edition will be "Spirit of the Stars".

Parents and members of this community have developed long-standing traditions of supporting activities important to the students of St. Charles East High School. As a new facet of the St. Charles community, St. Charles North High School would like to establish those same types of traditions. As a yearbook patron, you can help support one of the many activities that is starting to build a strong foundation.

Since the price of the yearbook covers only part of the actual printing costs, we must depend on business ads, personal ads, and a patron listing for additional funds. In lieu of business ads in the index section of the book, we would like to personalize the Polaris by allowing you to sponsor your students' favorite page or for your business to support a specific club, sport, or fine art.

In addition to helping fund a yearbook of which the school and the community will be very proud, you have the opportunity to support an education program that teaches students valuable skills in writing, design, photography, computer use, and business.

The minimum purchase price for a patron page is \$20. Of course, we would appreciate any further donation. Your name will appear on the page you have selected (on a first come, first serve basis) or on the list of Polaris Patrons if you return the form below with your check by December 1.

Polaris

Patron's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Patron's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Patron's Student/Business (print) \_\_\_\_\_

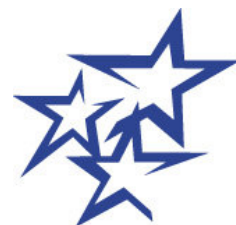
Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Please make check payable to St. Charles North High School

I would like to sponsor this page: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please list the specific club, sport, fine art, activity, or student photo page, that you would like to sponsor. Patrons will be chosen on a first come, first serve basis. All other Patrons will be placed on the list of Polaris Patrons.)

Please send form to:

St. Charles North High School
ATTN: Marcie Pickelsimer/Polaris
255 Red Gate Road
St. Charles, IL 60175



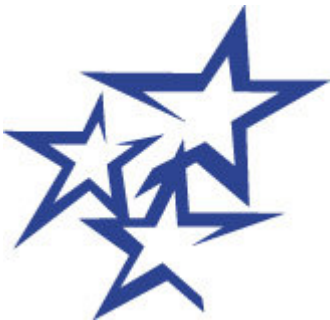


**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- School Dedication Ceremony** - October 29 at 2:00 PM
- Central Booster Club Meeting** - November 6 in LRC
- Parent/Teacher Conferences** - November 13<sup>th</sup>
- PTO Meeting** - November 20 at 7:00 PM in LRC
- Thanksgiving Vacation** - November 23 and November 24
- Central Booster Club Meeting** - December 4 in LRC
- PTO Meeting** - December 18 at 7:00 PM in LRC
- Winter Holiday Concert** - December 18 and December 19
- Winter Vacation** - December 21 thru January 1

District Website  
[www.st-charles.k12.il.us](http://www.st-charles.k12.il.us)

St. Charles North High School  
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St. Charles, IL 60175



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