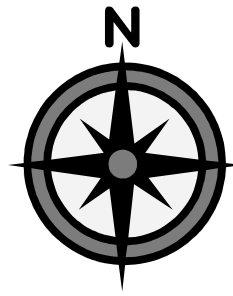


# *"The Navigator"*

## *Principal's Newsletter*



*St. Charles North High School*

*Vol. V111 No. 1*

*October 2006*

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

Mrs. Kimberly Zupec, Principal  
e-mail: MARILYN.M.RINGSBY@d303.org

### **Conn & Hsu Named 2007 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists**



Seniors Alison Conn and Raymond Hsu

Seniors Alison Conn and Raymond Hsu have earned semifinalist status in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship competition. They will be competing for 8,200 scholarships worth \$33 million, given by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The scholarships will be awarded this spring.

More than 1.4 million juniors in over 21,000 United States high schools entered the 2007 competition by taking the 2005 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. About 16,000 students nationally were named semifinalists in this, the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The nationwide pool of semifinalists includes the highest scoring entrants from each state and represents less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors.

To become finalists, semifinalists must have an outstanding record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by their school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm their earlier qualifying test performance.

The semifinalist and a school official must submit a detailed application and descriptive essay outlining their participation and leadership in school and community activities.

About 15,000 of the semifinalists are expected to become finalists. Merit Scholarship winners will be chosen from this group based on their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin or religious preference.

All finalists will compete for one of 2,500 scholarships totaling \$2,500 each. More than 300 corporations and businesses are also giving about 1,100 corporate-sponsored scholarships for finalists who meet their specific criteria, and about 200 colleges and universities will award about 4,600 college-sponsored scholarships for National Merit finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

### **Josh Eassa Earns National Recognition**

North Star Senior, Josh Eassa, earned national recognition in the 2006 American Foreign Service Association's (AFSA) National High School Essay Contest. To earn top honors, essays must pass through three levels of judging. Josh earned Honorable Mention, ranking his essay among the top 25 from around the country and overseas.

The American Foreign Service Essay competition was developed in partnership with the Nelson B. Delavan Foundation to promote Foreign Service and International Relations in young people. Students must write on the role of the United States Foreign Service in a current international issue. Students must do all their own research and writing. Josh's name now appears among the winners on the AFSA's website at <http://www.afsa.org/essaycontest/>. Congratulations Josh!



## "Pen of the Principal"

Welcome to the 2006-2007 school year. We are very excited about our many initiatives. This year promises to be the best academically for North High School.

As profiled on the next page, there are new members of the administrative team, although several of them are familiar faces to our North Stars. We welcome Assistant Principals Audra Christenson, Mark Moore, and Kevin Scotellaro. Also joining are Kristy Harrier and Mike Williams as Instructional Coordinators. Finally, John Peters and Melinda Roberts are our new Deans.

Several projects are underway as a result of our school improvement work from last year. Seventeen freshmen are participating in a "model" freshman advisory, meeting everyday during their lunch study time. Forty five sophomore students have been matched with forty five staff members in a mentor / mentee program. To compliment this, thirty of our sophomore students will form a partnership with thirty of our freshmen. Students in several of our teachers' classes, across Learning Areas, will be participating in student-led conferences in November. At this time, the student will present, in a reflective manner, to his parents and teacher the work he has completed in the course. School-wide, our staff has formed course level teams to impact classroom instruction through collaboration. Faculty research groups are studying effective grading practices, use of instructional time, and the application of technology in the classroom. The purpose of these research groups is to develop recommendations on ways to enhance student achievement. These initiatives combined with our focus on student performance directly links to the increased student achievement Mark Moore references in the article under Curriculum Corner.

Finally, I wish to reference a new procedure we have recently instituted. We posted two deans' assistants, one in the gravel lot and one at the crosswalk on the north side of Red Gate Road. To assure safety, we are asking those students who park in the gravel lot to cross Red Gate Road at the crosswalk located at the entrance to the River's Edge subdivision on the north side of the street. You may be delayed by one or two minutes as you drive into or out of our parking lot as the deans' assistant clears the way for students to cross. We appreciate your patience and cooperation. Student safety is our primary concern.

Our doors are always open. Please never hesitate to call or come in should you have a question and/or concern.

Again, welcome to what will be an exciting and productive school year.

Kim Zupec  
Principal

## GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

Nominations are open for an outstanding 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for the 2007 Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching. This is the first year that Kane and Will counties be included.

Nominees Must Be:

- Classroom teachers currently teaching grades **9-12 full-time** at a public or nonpublic school in Cook, Lake, DuPage, Kane or Will counties.
- Nominated no later than **Dec. 1, 2006**.
- Committed to continue teaching in Illinois for at least two years after receiving the award.

How to Nominate An Excellent Teacher:

- Go to [www.goldenapple.org](http://www.goldenapple.org) and fill out the form.
- For more information, call (312) 407-0006 x 121.



## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW NHS ADMINISTRATORS**



**AUDRA CHRISTENSON**  
*Assistant Principal for  
Activities & Operations*



**MARK MOORE**  
*Assistant Principal for  
Curriculum & Instruction*



**KEVIN SCOTELLARO**  
*Assistant Principal for  
Student Services*



**BETH CLEMENS**  
*Instructional Coordinator for  
Special Education*



**KRISTY HARRIER**  
*Instructional Coordinator for  
Wellness*



**JOHN PETERS**  
*Dean of Students*



**MELINDA ROBERTS**  
*Dean of Students*



**MICHAEL WILLIAMS**  
*Instructional Coordinator for  
Science & Technology Education*

## **North Star Teachers Honored**

Congratulations to nine North High School teachers who were honored in the 2005-06 edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers. The following teachers were nominated by former students who are excelling in a college/university setting: Barbara Beyer, Mathematics; Eric Bostrand - Business Education; Marsha Brown - Science & Technology Education; Rebecca Brown, Mathematics; Kristin Ditella, Social Studies; Robert Dobbertin - Social Studies; Shari Hayes - Physical Education; Brian Maloney, Social Studies & Foreign Language; Jared McCall - Science; and Mike Zernone - Social Studies; and Marilyn Zimmer, Mathematics.

## Curriculum Corner

Mark Moore, Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction  
630-443-2750

We are happy to introduce three new members of our school instructional leadership team:

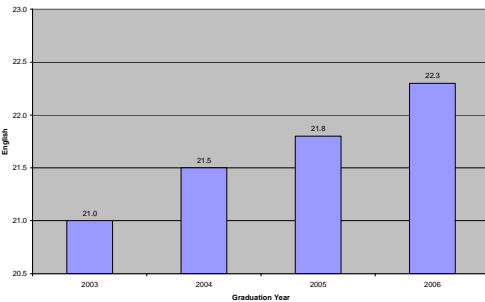
- Michael Williams is our Instructional Coordinator for Science and Technology. He joins us from the Pomona Unified School District in Pomona, California. Michael has served as a science department chair for schools in California.
- Beth Clemens is our Instructional Coordinator for Special Education. Beth has been working as a special education teacher at Haines Middle School.
- Kristy Harrier is our Instructional Coordinator for Wellness. She comes to us from East High School, where she has worked as a PE, Health, and Driver's Education teacher.

For general questions regarding our curricular offerings, our instructional coordinators are the experts to contact.

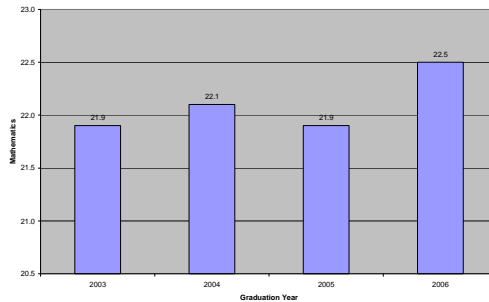
- Humanities: Michele Machowicz 630-443-2737
- Global Studies: Kathy Zimmer 630-443-2745
- Math/Business: Brad Mitchell 630-443-2754
- Science/Technology: Michael Williams 630-443-2738
- Wellness: Kristy Harrier 630-443-2767
- Special Education: Beth Clemens 630-443-2741
- Learning Resource Center: Cheryl LaMaster 630-443-5669

Our school community is proud of the strong level of improvement on the ACT Exam shown by our students from the Class of 2006. As the following charts show, our subject-level and composite scores increased significantly over the previous year. Our school composite score of 22.6 is the highest we have yet achieved. Through the hard work of our students, the dedication of our teachers, and the support of our parents, we are confident that the achievement level of our students will continue to increase.

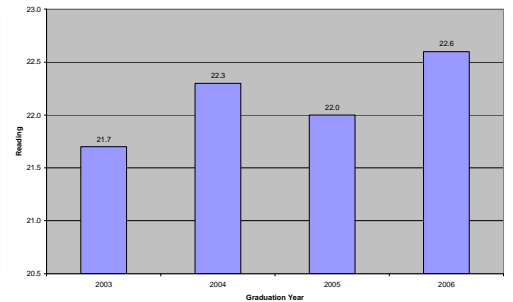
English ACT Subscore



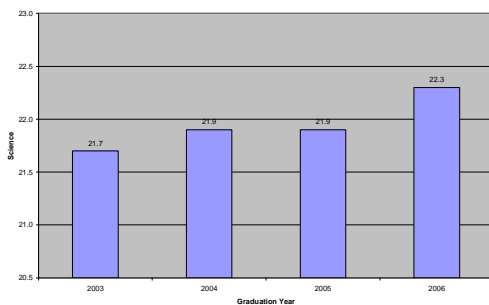
Mathematics ACT Subscore



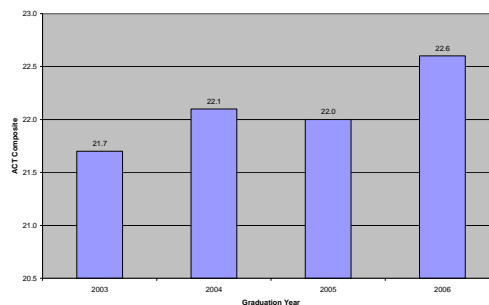
Reading ACT Subscore



Science ACT Subscore



ACT Composite School Average



Finally, our Advanced Placement scores from the May 2006 exams show that our students are completing college-level courses and being successful in those courses. As a comparison, in 2005, we administered 246 exams and achieved an overall pass rate (score of 3, 4, or 5) of 70%. In 2006, we administered 499 exams and achieved an overall pass rate of 70%. Maintaining a 70% pass rate while more than doubling the number of exams shows that our students are thriving in the rigorous environment of Advanced Placement coursework.

## PTO News

Welcome to all new and returning students and parents. **THANK YOU** to the many families who joined the PTO. Your dues will go to support many worthwhile activities for Saint Charles North students and teachers. If you missed joining – it's not too late! Send a check for \$20 payable to SCN PTO to the school office.

Our first PTO activities of the year happened even before the first day of school. For the second year, Paula White and committee held a **Freshman Parent Survival Meeting** during the freshman orientation time on August 11th. Over 200 parents attended and learned the answers to all kinds of mysteries about high school. If you still have some questions, pick up a copy of the **Parent Survival Guide** in the main office. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped out with that meeting, and thanks also to the parents who helped distribute snacks for the freshmen that day.

Sue Wachs and Kathy Polito organized another large group of parent volunteers to help with the **Materials Pick-Up Days**. Thank you to all who were involved in that effort.

On Back-to-School Night we were able to distribute the **Student Directory**, thanks to the diligence of Janet Herreras, who compiled the information, and the French National Honor Society students, who sold the directories that evening. We also enjoyed delicious desserts (dinner for some!) coordinated by Marcy Speare and the Hospitality Committee. Many thanks to all . . . You can purchase a directory in the main office for \$3 if you still need one.

The **Polaris Express** weekly email newsletter includes PTO updates and timely reminders for all types of happenings at North. If you would like to have it sent to you, send your email address to Cheryl LaMaster: [cheryl.lamaster@d303.org](mailto:cheryl.lamaster@d303.org) and ask to be included.

We welcome your attendance at the **monthly PTO meetings**. They are very informative and offer you an opportunity to hear first-hand what is going on at SCN with a parent perspective. Our next two meetings will be October 16<sup>th</sup> and November 27<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 PM in the LRC. Minutes from PTO meetings are available on the North web site (click on PTO), or you can email our secretary, Gina Morici at [gina2135@comcast.net](mailto:gina2135@comcast.net) and ask to receive the minutes electronically.

As this goes to print, **Homecoming** activities at North are in high gear. A special thanks to all the parents who take time out of already busy schedules to help with float building supervision, providing and serving food to students, running out for supplies and building materials, decorating, dance chaperoning, and so on. Your children may not always say they appreciate your involvement, but they do. Thanks also to our Faculty Class Advisors, our grade level parent reps – who are responsible for recruiting parent volunteers – and Rosemary Dittman and her Dance Committee.

We look forward to a great 2006-2007 School Year!

Lisa Beer  
[lbeer@comcast.net](mailto:lbeer@comcast.net)

Lori McQuillan  
[lorimcquillan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lorimcquillan@sbcglobal.net)

### **BETWEEN THE LINES**

*The Athletic Program at St. Charles North High School has anxiously awaited the arrival of the fall sports season with high hopes and expectations for each of our programs.*

*Once again we are privileged to have a coaching staff dedicated to continually improving our sports programs, while developing the talent and character of our young athletes. Our teams have spent numerous hours training over the past several months in hopes of being rewarded this fall. The number of participants in our fall sports programs continues to be very strong with over 600 student-athletes currently involved.*

*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 Fall Sports Season! St. Charles North High School values your support and believes it is critical to our success.*

**GO NORTH STARS!!**

