

"The Navigator"

Principal's Newsletter

St. Charles North High School

Vol. 29 No. 3

February 2008

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.Ringsby@d303.org



(L to R) Andy Whitwell, Mr. Steve Mahoney, and Mike Ajax display their finished Woods projects.

WOODS STUDENTS DONATE PROJECTS TO FOUNDATION AUCTION

Mike Ajax, a Woods IV student, and Andy Whitwell, a Woods II student, have decided to donate their class projects to the annual Greater Education Foundation Auction to help all of the students in the district. Both students chose to build chess/checker boards. Their Woods instructor, Mr. Mahoney, stated that these boards are one of a kind since each is made one piece at a time. The boards are made of oak and walnut and took the students each approximately 25 hours to complete them. These boards are signed and numbered by the students.

You may be the proud owner of one of these beautiful boards if you attend The Greater St. Charles Education Foundation Annual Auction on Saturday, February 9th, at 6:00 PM at the St. Charles Country Club and are the highest bidder. Reservations are required. Call Stephanie Golemba @ (630) 377-2777 for more information.

Coach Ron Brown Honored as Assistant Coach of the Year

On January 12th at the Illinois Track and Cross-Country Coaches Association meeting held at Oak-Park River Forest High School, St. Charles North Assistant Cross-Country Coach Ron Brown was awarded the Dave Pasquini Award.

This honor is given to several assistant coaches each year in the State of Illinois in recognition of their outstanding contribution and dedication in the sports of Cross-Country and Track and Field.

Brown has served as an Assistant Cross-Country Coach since 1989, teaching and coaching at St. Charles East HS before coming to St. Charles North HS when it opened in 2000. In that time period, he has coached twelve teams that have qualified for the IHSA Cross-Country State Championships, eight of which have placed in the top ten. He has also served in the past as an Assistant Track and Field Coach at St. Charles East High School.

Congratulations Mr. Brown on this well-deserved award!



Mr. Ron Brown receives the Dave Pasquini Award and Assistant Coach of the Year Honors.

PEN OF THE PRINCIPAL



This issue of the Navigator is truly inspirational. Throughout the articles there are several citations of our North Stars' success. Innovations in the various disciplines are occurring with a resounding response. Our students continue to perform at exceptionally high levels in various fields of study and performance. Our PLAN Test scores indicate a level of student achievement which raises the bar from years past.

A more subtle indicator of our North Stars' progress comes from their conversations. Students are referencing the common assessments they are experiencing in their classes. They are beginning to see consistency in their course work. They are delving into meaningful issues in their classes and student committees. A core of at least twenty students has committed to actively participating in the Community Engagement meetings at Charlestowne Mall. These students are bringing back conversations from that forum and continuing the discussions with their peers and teachers. The impact on our daily lives is phenomenal. We are experiencing a deepening of thought and questioning. It is not out of the norm to see study groups working after school hours. Our Student Government Executive Board has committed to cross-river meetings with St. Charles East High School to work for the betterment of all District 303 high school students. Several student organizations communicate the messages of hope and assistance through our 411 time. Our students are examining their lives here and taking proactive actions to help each other academically, socially, and emotionally.

Growth and progress are measured in many ways. Beyond test scores, our North Stars show us thoughtful and purposeful directions in their actions and words. They touch our lives in ways that cannot be described verbally.

The second part of this school year promises to be extraordinary. We know that our "Stars" can reach the stars.

Kim Zupec
Principal

THANK YOU WAL-MART



(L to R) Kathleen Hewell, BOE President; Jason Thomas, STC Wal-Mart Manager; and Kim Zupec, North HS Principal.

A check for \$5,000 was presented to the Board of Education at their January 14th meeting by Jason Thomas, manager of the St. Charles Wal-Mart. The money will help cover the replacement costs for the St. Charles North High School electronic sign that was damaged by vandals in September.

"Supporting the communities where Wal-Mart stores are located and the schools within those communities is important to us" Thomas said.

Board President Kathleen Hewell and Principal Kim Zupec accepted the check on behalf of District 303.

CURRICULUM CORNER

Mark Moore, Assistant Principal for Curriculum & Instruction

St. Charles North Students Continue to Show Impressive Measurement Gains

On October 30, 2007 all North Sophomores took the PLAN Test. The PLAN is a test designed by ACT for sophomores to provide information on their preparation for the ACT exam.

For your reference: the PLAN is scored on a 1-32 scale, while the ACT is scored on a 1-36 scale.

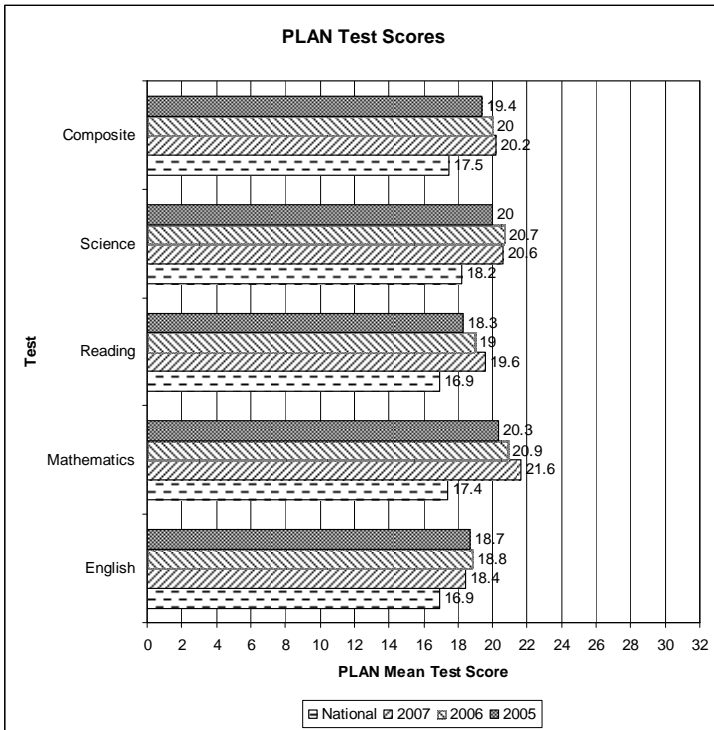
1.) As the chart below shows (PLAN Test Scores Chart A), North students showed statistically-significant gains of 0.7 points in Mathematics and 0.6 points in Reading from the 2006 test to the 2007 test. Changes in English and Science from 2006 to 2007 were statistically insignificant.

2.) Another way of looking at the score information is to examine percentiles instead of scale scores. For example, if a student's score places him/her in the 73rd percentile, it means that the student's score is equal to or better than the scores of 73% of the test-takers. Percentiles are typically given on a national basis.

On the PLAN Test, the composite scores are calculated so that 25% of the test-takers nationally earn scores in the 1-14 range, 25% earn scores in the 15-16 range, 25% earn scores in the 17-19 range, and 25% earn scores in the 20-32 range (CHART B). These four groups of scores are the national quartiles. Each of the individual tests have similar score ranges (CHARTS C, D, E).

North students significantly out-performed the national pool of students. The charts below show the percentage of North students who fall into each of the score range quartiles. Notice, especially, the data from the Science test: 63% of our students fall within the top 25% of the nation.

Our teachers continue to work within their course-team Professional Learning Communities to improve our courses for the benefit of our students. We expect the results on this spring's Prairie State Achievement Examination to show more significant gains by our students.



(CHART A)

National Quartile	PLAN score range COMPOSITE	% of North Students with scores in the range COMPOSITE
75-100%	20-32	55
50-74%	17-19	31
25-49%	15-16	10
1-24%	1-14	3

(CHART B)

National Quartile	PLAN score range SCIENCE	% of North Students with scores in the range SCIENCE
75-100%	20-32	63
50-74%	18-19	22
25-49%	16-17	9
1-24%	1-15	6

(CHART C)

National Quartile	PLAN score range ENGLISH and MATH	% of North Students with scores in the range ENGLISH	% of North Students with scores in the range MATH
75-100%	20-32	37	58
50-74%	17-19	34	28
25-49%	14-16	19	12
1-24%	1-13	10	2

(CHART E)

National Quartile	PLAN score range READING	% of North Students with scores in the range READING
75-100%	20-32	52
50-74%	16-19	30
25-49%	14-15	14
1-24%	1-13	4

(CHART D)

PTO News

PTO Thank you to:

- All who supported Post –Prom Poinsettia fundraiser either by purchasing plants or helping with sales.
- Marcy Speare and Hospitality for providing cookies and beverages at the Future North Star Night for 8th graders and their parents.
- Parent volunteers who helped with ticket sales during lunches for the Black and White Ball and Sadie's dance.
- Jeff Forsell and Tina Wolfe for their ongoing efforts with Marketday and its contribution to the PTO. These proceeds provide the PTO with funding for SCN students and events.

Upcoming Events and Reminders

- The Greater St. Charles Education Foundation is hosting a Jazz Event on Feb 9th. The event features the St. Charles North and East Jazz groups. The evening includes a sit down dinner and live & silent auctions. The PTO is donating 2 inlaid wood chess boards and 1 beautiful hall mirror. All items were made by SCN Wood shop students. If you have not received an invitation please contact Stephanie Golemba @ 630-377-2777 or visit www.stceducation.com. All proceeds benefits all children of D303.
- The PTO is a proud supporter of the St. Charles Literature Festival occurring this month. North High School will be delighted by the unabridged Shakespeare performances.
- PTO sponsors four \$1,000 scholarships this year for North seniors to help with post-high school education. Students or parents can pick up an application in the Guidance Office. For further questions contact Donna Loynachan @ 630-584-8406.
- PTO is looking for a business to sponsor 2008 senior signs. These signs are placed in the front yards of all seniors by PTO representatives. Each sign will have a student name and supporting business on both sides. If you know of an interested business who would like to support 08' senior signs, please call Lori McQuillan at 630-587-3352.
- PTO is partnering with the SCN Wellness Committee looking at avenues towards healthy choices for SCN students. The Wellness Committee is chaired by Wilma VanArragon and we thank her for welcoming PTO's involvement. If any parent has thoughts or ideas on promoting health and wellness, contact Paula White at 630-377-2050 or Mary Fremgen at 630-513-0917.
- Please feel free to attend PTO meetings to see what is going on and to become involved. This is the time of the year when planning begins for next year's PTO Board. PTO is a great way to do something for our school. Meeting dates for the remainder of the school year are: Monday February 11th, March 17th, April 21st, and May 19th. Meetings are in the LRC at North HS at 7:00 PM.

Lori McQuillan 630-587-3352

Jill Stone 630-584-9882

Between the Lines

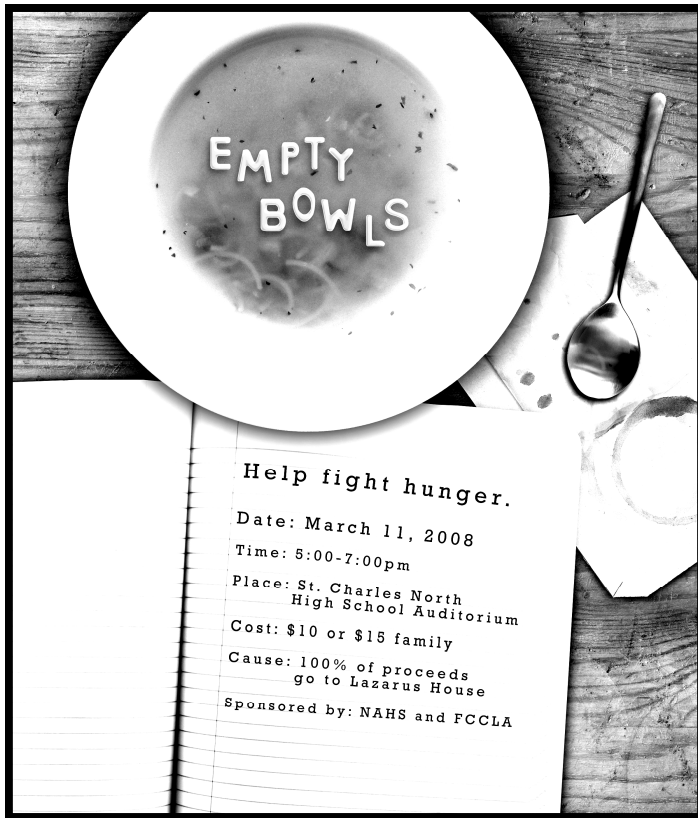
John Rutter, Athletic Director

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 2008 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!!

What's Happening in Humanities?



Poster created by Heather Stickney, graphic art student.

The St. Charles North Art Department will again this year sponsor the "Empty Bowls Dinner" on Tuesday, March 11th from 5:00pm until 7:00pm at the St. Charles North High School Auditorium. Through Empty Bowls, an international project to fight hunger, St. Charles North art and foods students raise funds for Lazarus House, a St. Charles based facility which provides food & shelter to men, women, teens, and children from the local community who are in need. One-hundred percent of the proceeds are donated to Lazarus House. In addition, this year at Empty Bowls, St. Charles North is hosting the 2007-2008 Senior Showcase. Any senior who is interested in taking part in the Showcase must have taken an art class during one of their four years here at North. Please drop off your art piece at Office 410 by Feb 22nd to be involved in this event.

Consider attending Empty Bowls (\$10.00 donation per bowl or \$15.00 for families), enjoy the Senior Showcase, and then stay for the choral concert immediately after the dinner – a complete night of the arts!

With the assistance of the Greater St. Charles Education Foundation, the St. Charles North High School Writing Center continues to support students with any writing assignment from any curricular area. Student response to this venture has been overwhelmingly positive. From September through November, writing consultants were scheduled to assist students for just under 2,000 minutes. The intrepid writing consultants volunteered, as requests from students continued to pour in, and instead of 2,000 minutes, the Writing Center

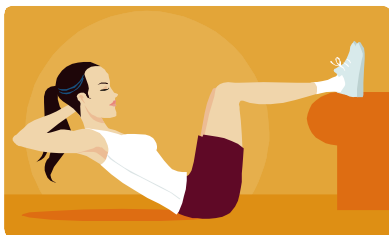
was open for approximately 10,000 minutes. Thanks to the Greater St. Charles Education Foundation and to Jen Shoaf, the Writing Center Director, for launching this important intervention accessible to all students, from a senior in AP to a freshman in Global Issues, and now, during the second semester, open on a drop-in basis during all lunch periods

The St. Charles North Music Department has qualified nine students for the All-State Festival. These students, along with several hundred others from District IX, auditioned in October for the opportunity to participate in the District IX Festival this past November. Their scores were then used to determine who would have the privilege of attending the All-State Festival in January 2008. When one considers the thousands of students who auditioned in Illinois, it is clear what an honor these students have achieved. Congratulations to the following students for their talent, efforts, and dedication to their school, community, and families. Band: Michael Backer, Trumpet. Orchestra: Jeanie Chung, Violin I; Emily Borger, Violin II. Choir: Kate Oscarson: Alto II, All-State Chorus; Jack Shales: Bass II, All-State Chorus; Aditya Akkapeddi: Bass I, Honors Choir; Lisa Korth: Alto II, Honors Choir; Brooke Lauritzen: Soprano I, Honors Choir; Samantha Resser: Alto I, Honors Choir.

St. Charles choir and orchestra students performed at Disney World on Saturday, January 19th. The choir and orchestra performed that afternoon at Disney Downtown on the Dock Stage. That evening the band and color guard was scheduled to perform, but the Florida weather had different plans for us. The good news is that all band and color guard members were able to stay on their busses and stay dry the entire time – unlike all those waiting in anticipation for the parade. Nevertheless, thanks to all – students, parents, chaperones, and music teachers – for a wonderful trip.

The Alliance for College Readiness, a group of educators from surrounding school districts and Elgin Community College, developed a brochure "Are you preparing yourself for college work?" that is now available through the Guidance Office. Jason Schmidt, Lindsay Pearson, and Michele Machowicz are North High School's English faculty representatives who assisted in the development of the brochure and continue this year to work on articulation from high school to college. This February Jason Schmidt will also be involved in articulation efforts linking middle school to high school. His focus will be on the transition from grade 8 Language Arts to grade 9 English I.

NEW WELLNESS CURRICULUM APPROVED FOR 2008-2009



After a lengthy curriculum renewal process spanning several years, the Board of Education approved a new wellness curriculum to be implemented at both East and North High Schools. This new curriculum includes changes to each level of Physical Education, Health, and Driver Education as well as the addition of three new courses: Athletic Training and Health Occupations I and II.

In physical education, the budget provides for the purchase of textbooks for each level, large quantities of heart rate monitors and pedometers, a variety of equipment for a cardio lab, as well as software to allow for students to track their individual fitness plan results. This new technology-based curriculum will allow for more individualized fitness programs and is intended to meet the needs of each individual student.

The Health Education and Driver Education students will receive new textbooks and materials to add to the curricular changes taking place in those courses.

The Athletic Training course will be a new elective available within the Wellness Department. This course will be open to juniors and seniors who are interested in learning more about the field of Sports Medicine. Students will learn basic anatomy and physiology as well as prevention, evaluation, treatment, and rehabilitation strategies used for common injuries. This course will be one semester in length.

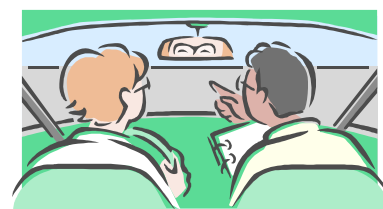
The Health Occupations I course will also be available to junior and senior students on an application basis. Students interested in any field within the medical profession are encouraged to take this one semester course. Throughout the course, students will research a variety of medical professions in order to become better educated about the options available to them after high school. Professionals from the community will serve as guest speakers to discuss post-secondary education and/or training, job responsibilities, and salary potential. Students will receive instruction about basic anatomy and physiology including the proper procedures for taking vital signs as well as become First Aid, CPR, and AED Certified.

The Health Occupations II course will also be offered to junior and senior students who have completed Health Occupations I with a "C" or better. Students in this two-class period course will undergo a more detailed analysis of the human anatomy as well as complete an internship at Delnor Hospital a few days per week. Students will take part in several rotations in which they will be able to see a variety of medical professionals at work. This course will also be application-based due to the space available at Delnor Hospital. We hope to add additional rotations outside of the hospital as the program grows.

The Wellness Learning Area is excited about the new changes and is looking forward to implementing the new curriculum next year.

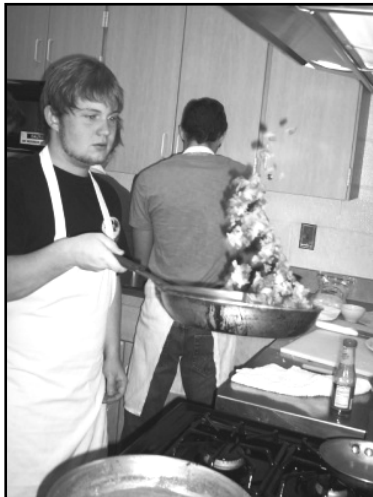
Driver Education Department is Awarded Grant

St. Charles North was chosen to participate in the Illinois Teen Safe Driving Program. Our school will receive \$2,000 from IDOT and Allstate Insurance Foundation to start our Operation Teen Safe Driving Program. A number of the Driver Education teachers and the H.O.P.E. Club will be implementing activities and awareness for safe driving. The focus of our program will be driving sober and click-it or ticket. This program will begin this spring and will target all students of St. Charles North High School.



New Technology at North

The wireless network is up and running at North! Teachers and students can now use laptops wirelessly throughout the building (in most locations). Wireless hubs were installed to gain wireless connectivity in offices, classrooms, the auditorium, and the physical education areas. Two LCD projectors have been mounted in the ceiling in the Learning Resource Center to aid instruction in the LRC. Teachers can connect laptops to the LCDs or use one of the LRC computers when instructing.



Mike Bull "caught in action!"

Finals in Foods Classes

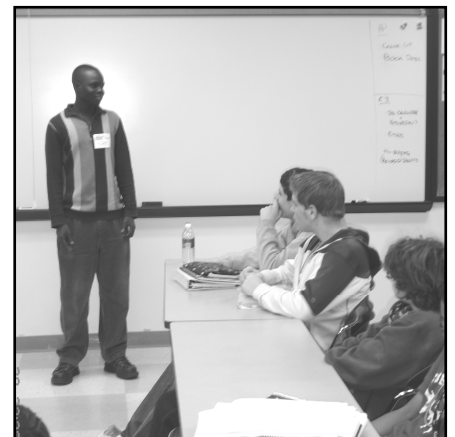
An old saying "The proof is in the pudding!" is almost taken literally when it comes to finals in the Foods classes. As a final project, students plan and prepare a breakfast (or dinner in the case of second semester foods), which is served to an adult guest. Just like a real restaurant, each student has a job as manager, chef, assistant chef, or server. They are evaluated on their planning process, food preparation skills, plating creativity, table setting, and etiquette. Guests are given a score sheet and asked to comment on food quality and service, which become part of the final grade. Organized chaos may be a way to describe the minutes leading up to guests arriving (perhaps even just a bit panicky). But all is well, when guests and students alike comment that "this was the best final I have ever had!"

Global Issues Classes Welcome the Lost Boys of Sudan...

The Global Issues classes spent a week analyzing the deteriorating situation in Sudan and the Darfur region to gain an understanding of how genocide happens. As part of the unit, students studied the history of the region and discussed how history can not only explain current events but also provide a framework for projecting the success of possible solutions. The unit focused on south Sudan and the refugee crisis that the conflict has created.

The classes were honored to have six of the survivors of this genocide, known as "Lost Boys" visit them and describe first hand the horrors they experienced and the hope they have for rebuilding their country in the future.

An outline of the unit, as well as additional resources of information, can be found on the St. Charles North home page under the link "Sudan: A weeklong investigation". Please feel free to look it over to learn about this important current event, or contact Rebecca Reber for information. (RReber@d303.org or 630-443-3370)



Peter, a Sudan genocide survivor, answers questions from Global Issues students.

College Panel in Child Development 3: Introduction to Teaching and a Future Educators Association Meeting

What is college really like? What if I don't get along with my roommate? How do I get graded in college? What is the difference between a large university and a small college? What are the teachers like? These questions and more were discussed during the College Panel where SCN alumni returned to talk with the Child Development 3 class, Intro to Teaching class, and a Future Educators Association club meeting after school. Alumnae included: Kate Hauser, Senior at Monmouth College; Naveen Mohiuddin, freshman at UIC; Becky Orr, freshman at ISU; Danielle Leitner, Junior at ISU; Meagan Wheeler, sophomore at ISU; Danielle Yockey, freshman at NIU, and Katelin Shafer, freshman at Christopher Robin University in Virginia. All the alumnae had participated in the Child Development sequence courses and is majoring in an education field from Early Childhood to Secondary Education. The upper classman indicated how the experiences and information from teaching preschool and assisting in an elementary or middle school classroom from the Child Development Classes had given them an upper-hand above their college classmates. "I liked the advice that they gave about visiting a lot of campuses so you can find the right one and tips on how to use your time" responded Sarah Purcell, SCN sophomore.

Preschool Observation Day

Child Development 1 students have been studying the preschool aged child and offered an opportunity for a preschool play day. The students created age appropriate hands-on activities linked to the Illinois Early Learning Standards. Activities included storytelling, movement with music, cooperative games, and organized free play activities that focused on math, science, social science and language.



Child Development student, Chelsea Gatchel, observes Tessa Miller from the Star Kids Pre-School Program as she enjoys an activity.

DECA Students Attend Leadership Conference

DECA is an international association of high school students studying marketing, management, and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality, and marketing sales and service. Throughout the fall, St. Charles North DECA members have participated in various leadership conferences and events through DECA. The first leadership conference was held at Elgin Community College in September. Over 25 area high schools and 650 students attended this event. Students had the opportunity to attend workshops and hear business leaders in the area speak about leadership, career development, and business opportunities. In December, several students attended the Central Region Leadership Conference in Indianapolis. This event had 13 states and over 3,500 high school students in attendance. Students had the opportunity to network, attend workshops, and identify chapter ideas.

In addition, DECA members have also been busy at their weekly meetings organizing fundraising campaigns, creating a service project, and preparing for competition. Our DECA students are gearing up for the competition season! On January 22, we had 33 students who competed in the Area 20 Competition at Charlestown Mall. At this event, students presented a presentation to a judge in their specific area and took a product knowledge test and an economics test. Students who qualified at that event will attend the State Competition in Decatur on March 6-8, and any student placing in the Top 3 at State will attend the National Competition, which is being held in Atlanta, Georgia at the end of April.

Also coming up is our 3rd Annual Battle of the Bands! This event will be on Thursday, February 28. If you would like more information about DECA, please contact Mrs. Lee or Mrs. Leatherman.

FEA hosts their annual Teacher Panel

St. Charles North FEA is a club for students who want to become educators. FEA has three primary goals; to help students explore teaching as a career option, to provide a realistic understanding of teaching, and to encourage students from diverse backgrounds to think seriously about the teaching profession.

On Wednesday, November 28th, FEA hosted its annual teacher panel. This is a program created to allow future educators an opportunity to question and discuss the teaching profession with their very own teachers. Mr. Mundt and Miss Seneca from St. Charles North and Mrs. Ferdinand from Aurora University FEA came to participate on this panel. Besides the funny stories, FEA members were able to learn about recommended colleges and major and minor suggestions which will help them in future decisions. It also provided them with useful information about student teaching and life as an actual teacher and all that it entails. It was a good way for members to get a better understanding of what it is like to be an educator from the teacher themselves.



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.

NOVEMBER Breakfast with the Stars Award

Presenter

Ms. Colleen Keough
Mr. Roy Pine
Ms. Jenny Watson
Mr. Brad Mitchell
Mrs. Marsha Brown
Mr. Steve Imig
Ms. Alicia Seifrid
Ms. Jennifer Clow

Recipient

Samantha Fitzsimmons
Debra Balk
Antoinette Shales
Marie Pellissier
Alexander Chinderle
Danielle Browne
Sloane Passmore

DECEMBER Breakfast with the Stars Award

Presenter

Ms. Sarah Manwaring
Mr. Scott Von Essen
Mr. Don Spencer
Mrs. Laura Brasse

Mr. Steve Mahoney
Mr. Kendall Kutska
Mr. David Likar
Mr. Jim Lotarski

Recipient

Kevin Hohe
Justin Jacobson
Nathan Miteff
Emma Baar
Katharine Fragoso
Hayley Jackson
Risa Sacomani
Bryan Bodway
Julianna Noverini
Michael Tyler James
Kavita Deodhar

JANUARY Breakfast with the Stars Award

Presenter

Ms. Lindsay Boynton
Ms. Bethany Herrera
Mr. Bradford Lenart
Ms. Kathleen Monaco
Mr. John Meggesin
Ms. Linda Goll

Ms. Kendra Lee

Recipient

Steven Hay

Samantha Pestano
Justin Lettieri
Derek Chaudury
Colleen Fabing
Danielle Jacobs
James Mason

STUDENT SERVICES

Kevin Scotellaro, Assistant Principal for Student Services

Cell Phone Policy Clarification

The Deans' Office would like to remind both parents and students that according to our handbook cell phones and other electronic devices, while allowed in school, are to be turned off and kept out of sight during the school day. These can be a great distraction to classes and the camera aspect of phones has also proven to be a problem.



If students are found to be using their cell phones during the school day, the phones may be confiscated and given to the appropriate Dean. For a first offense, students will be warned, and the phone will be returned at the end of the day. Subsequent offenses will result in escalated consequences and the phones will only be returned to a parent.

If you need to reach your child for **emergency purposes** during the day, you can call the Deans' Office at (630) 443-5713 or the Attendance Office at (630) 443-5712 and they will assist you. If students need to call home during the day, they may come to the Student Services Office. If they are ill, students are expected to go to the Health Office first to allow the professionals there to make an assessment. The nurses will contact you regarding the health of your child if necessary.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Now is the time to send your seniors into the Guidance Office to look through the scholarship file. The scholarship file is full of great local scholarships with due dates fast approaching.

You can also go to the North webpage to see the list that is currently available. Go to north.d303.org and scroll down the page to the "Scholarship Opportunities" icon. That list gets updated weekly and will announce the criteria for each scholarship.

If you have any scholarship questions, feel free to call Karen Porter in the Guidance Office @ 630-587-7130 or kporter@d303.org.

You can't win unless you fill out the applications.

REGISTRATION FOR 2008-09

By now the registration process for the 2008-09 school year has begun, beginning with our incoming freshman for next year with the "Future Freshman Curriculum Night" that occurred on January 31. Our current freshman, sophomores, and juniors will receive registration presentations from our school counselors the week of February 18. During the week of February 25 the junior class will meet with their counselors to complete the course request forms for next year, followed by the sophomores the week of March 3rd, and the freshman during the week of March 10th. During the week of March 17 course verification forms and letters will be mailed home for students and parents to review and make any necessary changes. These course verification forms must be returned by April 7. During the period until April 7 you may want to take advantage of the opportunity to contact your counselor with any questions or additional guidance. The last chance to change course requests is April 7.

As you give thoughtful consideration to this decision-making process, we encourage students and parents to review their four-year plan and consult the new Course Offering Book and Planning Guide, which is also available on the district web site. It is also suggested to consult with your current teachers for guidance on courses within the same discipline.

Attention Seniors Planning to Attend College:

By now, most of our seniors interested in attending a college or university in 2008 have applied to the schools they are interested in. Several of these students already know whether they have been accepted, while some will find out in the next month or two. This can be a trying time for all involved. Please be patient while schools make their final decisions. If you have not heard from a school in question and it has been a while or something doesn't feel right, check with the admissions office directly. If unsure, feel free to check with your high school counselor.

If you are planning to attend college this Fall and have not applied yet, we strongly recommend you take care of this as soon as possible. There may be some institutions that have not filled up yet. Keep in mind, some students make the mistake of applying to a school but forget to have the transcript and/or test scores sent from our office. Please note that you have not officially applied until your application is complete!

Remember, seniors have until May 1st to formally commit to a college and turn in deposit money, although it is okay 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. This is not only good etiquette but allows an institution to offer that spot to another worthy candidate.

In addition, many highly selective colleges require that students send an official mid-year grade report to them. Students who still need to do that can give their guidance counselor a transcript request, \$1.00, a mid-year grade form (from the college), and an addressed business-sized envelope with proper postage. These should be turned in as soon as possible now that first semester grades have been finalized.

All students planning to attend college in the fall will need to complete a final transcript request 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 a dollar, envelopes, or stamps! Please note, these will be mailed out once second semester grades are finalized, which will be approximately a week or two after graduation. Any NCAA Clearinghouse forms that have previously been completed will also go out at this time.

A Summary of Post High School Planning for Juniors:

The guidance counselors recently presented important post high school planning information to juniors during their American History classes. During that time, we informed the juniors what they should be doing right now, later in the year, and into the summer and fall of senior year. In addition to providing valuable information, we gave them useful handouts and answered questions. Please take some time and ask your child what they learned from that presentation and view the handouts. The topics we covered included resources to use for college searches (such as websites), general entrance requirements, college visits, standardized testing, and the college application process.

In addition, each counselor is planning to meet with his/her own juniors during second semester. At that time, we will be talking in more detail about schools/careers they are interested in, providing additional information, and making sure that they have the tools and knowledge to continue on the right path to finding the "good fit" we talked about. For more detailed information on these college related topics, visit our web site, which is: <http://north.d303.org/scnpps/guidance.htm>.

General College Testing Information for Juniors:

Since we get so many questions at this time of the year in regards to college entrance exams and test preparation, we have included more detailed information here on that popular topic.

- 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 request appropriately.
- We recommend taking these tests towards the end of junior year. If necessary, a student can retake in September of senior year. Note: If taking one of these tests as a senior in the fall, students will need to register for the test during the summer.
- Students can take either test as many times as they want. Note: Juniors will get a free ACT test on April 23rd as part of the Prairie State Achievement Exam, which the counselors will help sign them up for sometime in March.
- 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. (Check the remaining dates below.) 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 inside registration book).
- Test registration packets, available 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 out the registration two to three months ahead of time.
- 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**. (It is very important that students include this code so their counselor receives their scores to send to colleges later on.) For updated information on the ACT, go to the following web site: www.actstudent.org. For SAT, visit: www.collegeboard.com.

Remaining ACT and SAT Test Dates for 2008:

<u>Test Dates:</u>	<u>Regular Registration:</u>	<u>Late Registration:</u>
* ACT: April 12 ACT: June 14	March 7 May 9	March 21 May 23
SAT: March 1 SAT: May 3 * SAT: June 7	Jan 29 Apr 1 May 6	Feb 7 April 10 May 15

KEY: * = Test given here at St. Charles North High School

Standardized Test Preparation Information:

College entrance tests are an important part of the college admissions process. Questions for both the ACT and the SAT come from concepts learned in previous classes. However, some students benefit from additional preparation, which is offered through a number of agencies. Note: signing up for a prep course does NOT also sign you up for the actual test, which is a separate step. The following is an alphabetical listing of prep programs that local families have found beneficial in helping students perform at their best:

Elgin Community College

Location: ECC Length: 28 hours Dates: February 16 – March 16, 2008

Time: Sat 9am-1pm; Sun Noon-2pm Cost: \$169 before February 7, 2008

Contact: 847-622-3036; www.elgin.edu

Excel Edge

Location: St. Charles North High School

Length: 18 hours Dates: January 28 – March 30, 2008

Time: 7:00 -9:00 pm (Mondays) Cost: \$212 (Note: December 12 deadline)

Contact: Information mailed to juniors in November

Standardized Test Preparation Information (Cont'd):

Huntington Learning Center

Location: Geneva Length: Varies by student Dates/Time: Arranged
Cost: Varies (\$40-68/hr.) Contact: 262-0560; www.huntingtonlearning.com

Kaplan

Location: Naperville, Schaumburg, Aurora Length: 36 hours Dates/Time: Varies
Cost: \$699 ACT; \$999 SAT Contact: 1-800-KAPTEST; www.kaptest.com

Learning Ascent

Location: Instructor comes to your home; Tutoring Center also available Length: Varies
Dates/Time: Varies by student
Cost: Varies (\$40-46/hr at home; \$29.95/hr at center) Contact: 222-2795; www.learningascent.com

Princeton Review

Location: Naperville, Schaumburg, Oakbrook Length: 24 hours Dates/Time: Varies
Cost: \$699 ACT; \$999 SAT Contact: 1-866-877-7737; www.princetonreview.com

Sylvan Learning Center

Location: South Elgin; St. Charles Length: Varies, based on individual/group
Dates/Time: Varies Cost: Varies (\$42-\$47/hr.) Contact: 847-841-1771; www.sylvanprep.com

Tutoring Club

Location: Geneva Commons Length: Varies based on individual/group Dates/Time: Arranged
Cost: \$1190-\$1390 individual/group rates TBA Contact: 208-9832

Waubonsee Community College

Location: Sugar Grove Length: 6 hrs – 25 hrs Dates/Time: Early Spring—see website or flyer
Cost: \$59 - \$165 Contact: Jamie Cox at 466-5720; www.waubonsee.edu/communityed

Students may also wish to consult the following publications:

“Preparing for the ACT Assessment”, published by ACT. This booklet is free and is available in the NHS Guidance Office and on-line at www.actstudent.org. Other test prep materials may also be purchased at the ACT web site for a reasonable cost.

“ACTIVE PREP” This is the only test prep software on CD-Rom with real ACT retired tests and an interactive learning experience. These can be checked out from NHS LRC for free.

“The Real ACT Prep Guide”, published by Peterson Guides. This book contains information from the makers of the ACT and includes retired ACT exams; may be purchased at bookstores.

“Taking the SAT”, published by College Board. This booklet is free and is available in the NHS Guidance Office and on-line at www.collegeboard.com. Other test prep materials may also be purchased at the SAT web site for a reasonable cost.

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

- Register early (either online 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 (including water) 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.

What students can do to maximize their performance on standardized tests (CONT'd):

- 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 in case 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 may be voided and you won't get your money back.

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE?

Attend the
ILLINOIS COLLEGE EXPOSITION
 Fox Valley Area Fair
 St. Charles North High School Gym

Tuesday, April 15, 2008****
 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

- Visit with representatives from a large number of in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities.
- Learn about programs, campus activities, admission requirements.
- Get answers to your questions.

****Revised Date

Financial Aid Information for College Bound Students:

For those who attended the Financial Aid Night 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 below for you. At the end are some 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 may give money to students for their athletic, musical, leadership, or academic abilities; other schools will give students/families 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 by download and at most libraries), or complete the form online at 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.

Financial Aid Information for College Bound Students (CONT'd):

Before beginning the FAFSA, get a PIN number at 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—no paper is involved. If you're a dependent student and your parents have a PIN, they can sign the application electronically as well. Signing the application at the time you apply means you'll get your results faster.
- Make corrections to your FAFSA.
- Access your Student Aid Report and make corrections to it.
- Access all your federal student aid records online, including any federal student loan information.

You can complete the FAFSA anytime after Jan. 1st of your 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 own specific deadlines. Note: Some schools may also require an additional form in order to obtain more accurate financial information from you, such as the CSS Profile.

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.

When you complete the FAFSA, you can also have your information sent to six colleges. Once they receive your results, they will review that data to determine your eligibility and contact you. If you are found eligible, each school's financial aid administrator will send an award letter outlining the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare award letters from the schools you applied to and see what aid each school is providing. At this time, you and your family are 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 1st to make their final decision as to whether they will attend their school or not.

You need to respond to the colleges' financial aid offer by either accepting or rejecting part or the entire offer. If you don't respond by the deadline, the award may be cancelled. It is very important that the student inform the colleges he/she decided not to attend, so the college can then give admission and funds to students who are planning to attend their institution.

Aid from most of the federal government programs is awarded based on financial need (except for unsubsidized Stafford Loans and PLUS loans). The government uses an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number when they determine your family's need. The EFC is a measure of your family's financial strength and is calculated from the information you report on the FAFSA. Your EFC will appear on your Student Aid Report. 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.

So, you might be curious at this point how much 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! After you get your application results, contact the financial aid office at the school(s) you're considering (or the school you'll be attending) for information on your eligibility.

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 will have to provide adequate documentation to support any adjustments.

Financial Aid Information for College Bound Students (CONT'd):

The financial aid administrator at each school that offers you admission 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 you might get—scholarships, state aid, etc. Each school you apply to will send you a notice of the types and amounts of aid you are eligible for.

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 1st*. 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.

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 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.



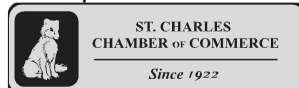
Students seeking part-time jobs or summer jobs
should plan to attend the upcoming...

Annual Teen Job Fair
Monday, Feb. 18 - 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Pottawatomie Community Center, 8 North Avenue
St. Charles

Representatives from several community businesses will be on-site
to share information regarding their company and provide
employment applications for current or summer job openings.

For more information contact: Cheryl Hutchinson at 513-4331 or chutchinson@st-charlesparks.org

In cooperation with the...



Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics Career Expo

For Kane and DuPage County High School Students

Fermilab, Wilson Hall
Wednesday, February 20, 2008
5:30 – 8:30 PM

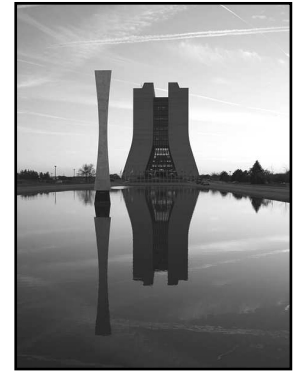
Come and join science, mathematics, engineering, and technology experts from a wide variety of careers.

- **Meet scientists, engineers, and technicians**
- **Ask career questions of the experts**
- **Learn about academic options from college and university representatives**
- **Discuss career fields with professional association representatives**
- **Attend panel discussions on career areas**

Panel discussions will be held at 6:15 PM and 7:15 PM. Session details will be posted on the expo webpage.

Parking is free and available on the west side of Wilson Hall. Overflow parking is available at the Lederman Science Center. Enter Wilson Hall on the ground or first floor.

For more information on the expo, directions to Fermilab, and for event updates in case of inclement weather; go to: <http://ed.fnal.gov/programs/careerfair/>



Career representatives may include:

Analytical Chemist
Anthropologist
Biologist
Environmental Scientist
Forensic Scientist
Paleontologist
Physicist
Astrophysicist
Architectural Engineer
Chemical Engineer
Civil Engineer
Electrical Engineer
Mechanical Engineer
Robotic Technologist
Software Engineer
Actuary
Economist
Statistician
Computer Programmer
Database Administrator
and more

PARENT UNIVERSITY

MEAN GIRLS

Tuesday, February 26, 2008 7:00 PM
St. Charles North High School Room 302

**Sticks and stones will break your bones,
but words can break your heart...**



Welcome to the world of relational aggression (more commonly known as Mean Girls), where snide remarks, online attacks, and social isolation are used to establish a hierarchy on the social scene. In this important workshop, parents will learn:

- The hallmarks of relational bullying
- Coping strategies for young girls
- Roles of the bullies, victims, and bystanders
- Tips for parents

Join Dr. Christine Hibbard for this important and informative program!

Call (630) 513-4408 or log on to www.d303.org
to reserve your seat!!



Health Career Expo

Thursday, April 10, 2008
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Delnor Hospital
300 Randall Road in Geneva

A cooperative effort between Delnor Hospital, Geneva High School, St. Charles East and North High Schools, Batavia High School, Kaneland High School, Burlington Central High School, and the Fox Valley Career Center.

Envision Your Future in Health Care

Health care is more than just doctors and nurses. Working alongside these dedicated medical professionals are hundreds of clinical professionals who play critical roles in the delivery of health care. From radiologic technologists and physical therapists to exercise physiologists and social workers, the medical field offers incredible possibilities.

Discuss your possibilities with a variety of healthcare professionals. Colleges and universities will also be on hand to discuss health care educational options.

The fair is designed for high school-aged students as well as adults who may be considering a career change.

- Physicians
- Respiratory Care
- Paramedic/EMT
- Radiology
- Massage Therapy
- Laboratory
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Human Services
- Nursing
- Personal Trainer
- Podiatry
- Dental/Dental Hygiene
- Dialysis
- Pain Management
- Wound Care
- Nurse Practitioner
- Pharmacy
- Food and Nutrition
- Community Health
- Veterinary Medicine
- Physician Assistant
- Midwifery
- Cardiac Testing

**For more information, call
 Judy Smith at 630/208-4073**

Third Annual
Beyond the Classroom: Educational Resource Fair
 Tuesday, February 26 7:00-8:30 p.m.
 Rotolo Middle School
 Batavia

This FREE event will allow families to learn about summer and after-school enrichment activities for K-12 students. It is co-hosted by D303's Gifted-Talented Resource Group, parent groups in Geneva and Batavia, and the Regional Office of Education.

A sampling of the 40-plus organizations that will be represented at the fair:

Illinois Math and Science Academy
 Northern Illinois University
 Inspirare School of Music & Expressive Arts
 Northwestern University
 SciTech Hands-On Museum
 Discovery Center Museum

DuPage Children's Museum
 Elgin Children's Chorus
 Noble Fool Theatricals
 First Street Playhouse
 Da Vinci Academy
 Aurora University

Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
 Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
 National-Louis University
 Waubensee Community College
 Music Education Centers of America

For more information, see www.qtrg-d303.org.



IMPORTANT DATES*(Sometimes dates/times change....check school website often)***north.d303.org**

- | | | | |
|--------------|--|----------------|---|
| Feb 8 | - National Honor Society Blood Drive, Auditorium Foyer, 9 AM - 3 PM <i>(Community Welcome)</i> | Mar 4 | - Concert, Symphonic, Chamber Winds Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM |
| Feb 7, 8, 9 | - Winter Play, Auditorium, 7:30 PM | Mar 5 | - ETC Schedule |
| Feb 11 | - PTO Mtg., LRC, 7:00 PM | Mar 6 | - NHS/EHS Chamber Orchestra & Chorale Concert, Norris Cultural Arts Centre, 7:30 PM |
| Feb 11 | - Jazz Bands & Jazz Lab Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM | Mar 10 | - Board of Education Mtg., Admin Bldg., 7:00 PM |
| Feb 11 | - Board of Education Mtg., Admin Bldg., 7:00 PM | Mar 11 | - Empty Bowls, Auditorium Foyer, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM |
| Feb 12 | - Jazz Concert w/Guest Artist & TMS Jazz Bands, Auditorium, 7:00 PM | Mar 11 | - Vocal Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM |
| Feb 13 | - 411 Schedule | Mar 12 | - 411 Schedule |
| Feb 16 | - Black & White Ball, Riverside Receptions, 6:00PM-10:00 PM | Mar 13 | - Variety Show, Auditorium, 7:30 PM |
| Feb 18 | - Presidents' Day Holiday - Schools Closed | Mar 17 | - PTO Mtg., LRC, 7:00 PM |
| Feb 19 | - Parent AP Information Night, 6:00 PM, Auditorium | Mar 19 | - ETC Schedule |
| Feb 20 | - ETC Schedule | Mar 19 | - Silent Auction, NHS, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM |
| Feb 20 | - Vocal Jazz Concert w/Guest Artist, Auditorium, 7:30 PM | Mar 19 | - Mr. SCN, Auditorium, 7:00 PM |
| Feb 21 | - SCN Wind Ensemble/Haines MS Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM | Mar 21 | - End of 3 rd Quarter |
| Feb 25-Mar 2 | - Sadie's Week | Mar 24-28 | - Spring Break |
| Feb 25 | - Sadies Olympics, NHS, 6:00 PM | Mar 31 | - School Resumes |
| Feb 26 | - Wind Symphony & TMS Band Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM | April 2 | - ETC Schedule |
| Feb 27 | - 411 Schedule | April 9 | - 411 Schedule |
| Feb 27 | - Film Fest, Auditorium, 7:00 PM | April 11 | - School Improvement Planning - No school for students |
| Feb 29 | - Teacher Institute Day- No school for students | May 3, 4 | - Prom/Post Prom |
| Mar 1 | - Sadie's Dance, Main Gym, 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | May 14 | - Senior Academic Honors Night, TBA, Auditorium |
| | | May 24 | - Senior Farewell, NHS, 4:00 PM |
| | | May 25 | - Commencement Ceremony |
| | | May 26 | - Memorial Day Holiday |
| | | May 27, 28, 29 | - Final Exams |
| | | May 30 | - Last Day for Students if no "Emergency Days" used |

St. Charles North High School
255 Red Gate Road
St. Charles, IL 60175



TIME SENSITIVE MAIL

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