



Minnesota North Star Academy

From the Executive Director's Desk

Happy Holidays! It is time for another news update about MNSA. Students and staff are gearing up for the upcoming winter break. Classes will resume January 2, 2008. First semester will end on Thursday, January 17th. Report cards will be mailed home during the week of January 21st along with IEP progress reports as well. If you have any questions about your child's IEP progress or report cards, please contact your child's case manager.

Basketball season is well underway. We currently have 17 students involved in

girls and boys basketball. I am pleased to see a high turnout for both teams. Both teams will travel to Ohio to participate in Central States Schools for the Deaf basketball tournament. Deaf Schools from Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana will participate in the tournament as well. The tournament will happen during the week of January 21st.



Another exciting piece of news that I wanted to

share is that some of our students were featured in a documentary, Democracy It Is! (Program 8: "Activism & Social Justice") produced by Wisconsin Public Television along with other partners. Program 8: Activism and Social Justice recently won a Platinum AVA Award! The Platinum Award is AVA's highest Award. (<http://www.awaawards.com/>)

To read more about Democracy It is!, please go to <http://democracyitis.ecb.org/>

Have a wonderful winter break!

Update: New Teacher Hires

As for new teacher hires, Ronda Jo Miller started at MNSA the week after Thanksgiving. She has been a great fit for MNSA. She is currently teaching all of technology classes along with few other classes this semester. It has been a smooth transition for students after Mark's depar-

ture. Her email address is rmiller@mnnorthstaracademy.org.

Unfortunately, Greg Montgomery has decided to rescind his decision to teach here at MNSA. He notified me of his decision during the first week of December. I am disappointed to share this news with you.

However, MNSA will continue to provide exemplary education to our students. All of 2nd semester classes have been filled with our qualified teachers.

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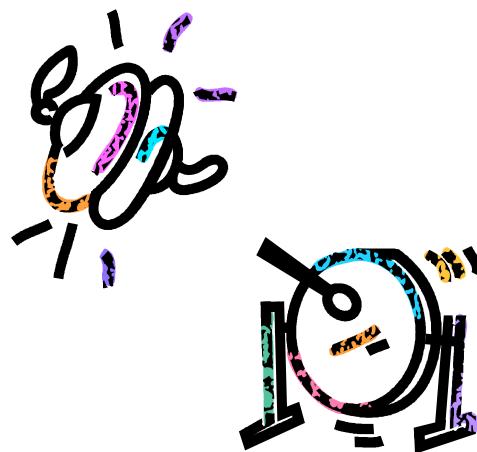
Special Points of Interest

- ◆ Winter Break—December 22nd—January 1st
- ◆ PTG Meeting—Tuesday, January 15th
- ◆ First semester ends January 17th
- ◆ No school—January 18th—Record Keeping Day
- ◆ No School—January 21st—Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Observed

D/HH Day & CRASH Performance

MNSA students attended two field trips during the month of December. On December 3rd, the students went to University of Minnesota to participate in Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Day held on Twin Cities Campus. Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to watch different Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing presenters share information about leadership and identify. At the end of the day, a tour of the campus was provided as

well. On December 14th, the students went to Southern Theater in Minneapolis to watch "CRASH" which is a presentation of percussive music and dance which is very visual for Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing students. CRASH was directed by Mary Ellen Childs. You can read more about her and CRASH at <http://www.maryellenchilds.com/main.htm>



Update: State-wide and District-Wide Testing

Minnesota Basic Standards tests (BST) were given during the week of November 19th. Minnesota BST only applies to students who are in their junior or senior years respectively. Our district assessment, Northwest Evaluation Association Measurement of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) were issued to students who are new to MNSA this year during the week of

December 10th. Returning MNSA students will be given the NWEA MAP testing in the spring. The new students will also take the NWEA MAP testing in the spring as well. NWEA MAP will measure students' academic progress in the area of reading, writing, and mathematics. If you want to know how your child performed on the

NWEA MAP tests, please contact your child's case manager.



Parental Involvement/Inputs are greatly appreciated. Next PTG meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Please do not hesitate to stop by my office, call or email me. My email address is kkause@mnnorthstaracademy.org

You can also call the front office at 651-771-2000.