



Minnesota North Star Academy Star Academy

From the Executive Director's Desk

Greetings! It is time for another news update about MNSA. Teachers have been working feverishly on different things. Kristin has been working with her students supporting them with their science fair projects. Anthony who is the school's academic bowl coach, coordinated local Academic Bowl competition that was held on Monday, November 19th. It was a wonderful event for MNSA and everyone else involved! Three other schools participated in this competition. Coon Rapids High School, Highland Park High School, and Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf are the participating in the Academic Bowl. Many individuals including parents volunteered for this

event. Thank you! A big thanks to those who have volunteered for this event. MNSA and Highland Park played against each other in the championship round. I am very proud to announce that MNSA won 1st place in the academic bowl competition. Congratulations MNSA Academic Bowl Team! A huge round of applause to Anthony for coordinating this event for MNSA!

Volleyball season ended several weeks ago. The volleyball players really had a great season under Nic's helm. The spirit from the players have been very positive. Many other schools have commented on how wonderful volleyball play-

ers' sportsmanship have been. I am very proud of our volleyball players.

Basketball season will be underway starting after Thanksgiving break. First practice for the girls will be held on Monday, November 26th. First practice for the boys will be held on Tuesday, November 27th. If your child is interested in playing basketball, please contact Nic at nic-zapko@mnnorthstaracademy.org.

It was great to see some of you at our parent/teacher conferences. I hope to see you again at the December PTG meeting.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving

New Hires

As previously mentioned in September/October newsletter, Mark Schwartz has accepted a technology position elsewhere. His last day at MNSA will be on Friday, November 30th. I have worked hard to ensure that students will experience a smooth transition in all of their technology classes. I am pleased to announce that I have hired two full-time teachers. Ronda Jo Miller

who recently completed her student teaching at New Mexico School for the Deaf has accepted a full-time teaching position here at MNSA. Her first day will be on Thursday, November 28th. She will teach Mark's technology classes for the remaining 1st semester. For the 2nd semester, Ronda Jo will be teaching a variety of classes such as electives and Health and PE. Greg Mont-

gomery is another new hire that I am pleased to announce as well. He hails from Arizona and will be making the move next month. His first day at MNSA will be on Wednesday, January 16th. He has technology background, so he will be teaching 2nd semester technology classes. Please welcome Ronda Jo and Greg!!

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Special points of interest:

- PTG Meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 11th at 6:30 p.m. at MNSA
- Thanksgiving Break—No School Thursday, Nov. 22nd and Friday, November 23rd
- Congratulations to MNSA Academic Bowl team for placing 1st in the competition!

Detention Hall

MNSA students are held to high expectations to perform well academically and treat students and staff with respect. Students are also expected to behave in an appropriate manner in a school setting. I am proud to say that MNSA students do behave well for the most part. Unfortunately, we have had incidents where students are constantly late to class or may not be respectful towards their peers and MNSA staff members. I wanted parents to be aware that we have started the policy

of issuing detention hall. Students will always receive a warning before being issued a detention hall. The first three detention halls that students receive will be served during lunch hour. When students receive a detention hall for the fourth time, it will be served after school from 3:30

p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Parents will be expected to come to MNSA and pick up their child at 4:30 p.m. Parents will be informed in a timely manner when their child receives a detention hall for the fourth time.



State-wide and District-Wide Testing

Minnesota Basic Standards tests (BST) will be 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) will be 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.



Grades

Students will receive their report cards in the mail at the end of 1st semester which is right around January 17th. Mid-semester grades were already shared with the students and parents at parent/teacher conferences. If your child is struggling to pass any of these courses, your child's mid-semester grades have already been mailed to you. If you have not received anything from

MNSA in the mail, then your child is passing his/her classes.



Parental Involvement/Inputs are greatly appreciated.

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.