



September/October 2007 Newsletter

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October 8, 2007

Minnesota North Star Academy Star Academy

From the Executive Director's Desk

Greetings! It is hard to believe that we are into our sixth week of 2007-2008 school year. Things are progressing well here at Minnesota North Star Academy. We have welcomed few more new students which brings our total student count to 33. A lot of positive things have been happening here at North Star.

Recently, our girls' volleyball team traveled to Illinois to participate in the Central States Schools for the Deaf volleyball tournament. Throughout the weekend, the players had the opportunity to play and meet with other

students from other schools for the Deaf (Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan). The players had a wonderful time participating in the tournament. The team will also travel to Wisconsin this coming weekend to play a game against Wisconsin School for the Deaf. Go Comets!

Academic Bowl team has also signed up to participate in the Midwest Region Academic Bowl competition to be held at Indiana School for the Deaf in February. The team has already started practicing for the competition. North Star is also in the process of hosting a local academic bowl

competition with other local Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing programs. The event is tentatively scheduled for November. More information will be sent out once plans are set in place.

Also, a college recruiter from Rochester Institute of Technology paid a visit to North Star sharing information about their program to our students. College recruiters from Gallaudet University, Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, and California State University-Northridge will be coming to North Star throughout the school year.

Staffing Changes

The staff here at North Star has been an awesome group to work with. They are a group of dedicated and hard-working teachers. There will be staffing changes that will be happening and I wanted you to be aware of it. Unfortunately, Mark Schwartz, our technology teacher, has accepted a non-teaching position

working at another school starting in December. Mark has agreed to continue working at North Star until Friday, November 30th. Minnesota North Star Academy thanks him for his dedicated work since North Star opened in 2004. He was the first group of staff hired to work at North Star when it first opened.

The search process for a technology teacher has already begun. I have already received several applicants for the position. North Star will continue to provide quality education to our students. I will keep you posted with this process. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

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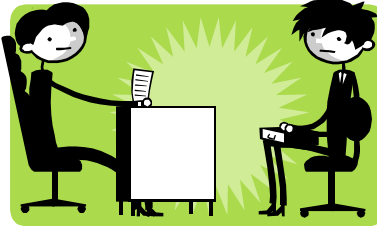
Special points of interest:

- PTG Meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 16th at 6:30 p.m. at MNSA
- MEA—No School Thursday, Oct. 18th and Friday, Oct. 19th
- Parent/Teacher Conferences—Monday, Oct. 29th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (No school for students)

Advisory Time

Advisory time allows students to participate in different activities outside of the core academic classes, such as Student Council, clubs, and individual meetings. Students have been already assigned to their advisors. Advisory time happens everyday from 12:45 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., except on Mondays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we have club days, in which students will be participate in Yearbook, Academic Bowl, and Event Planning. On

Wednesdays and Fridays, students will have individual meetings with their advisors to begin working on developing their Individual Graduation Plan (IGP). This is the first time that each student at North Star will have an IGP. The purpose of IGP is to have students



create their goals that they would like to accomplish during this school year as well as the rest of their high school years. Short-term and long-term goals will be developed by the students under teachers' guidance. Be sure to ask your child about his/her IGP once he/she has completed it.

PTG News

We had our first PTG meeting on September 20, 2007 despite thunderous and rainy weather that evening. Fortunately, the atmosphere inside was much warmer, with the food and delightful company. It was a good turnout. The group discussed fund raising efforts, some policy changes, and the trip to France in spring 2008. The PTG voted to postpone the France Trip

until March 2009 due to several factors. At the meeting, it was also discussed the possibility of having only juniors and seniors to go on international trips. Postponement will give all students an opportunity to be involved in fund raising efforts and staff a chance to plan a meaningful experience for the students. If you have any fund raising ideas, please contact Anthony Ritz

at aritz@mnorthstaracademy.org. The next PTG meeting is set for Tuesday, October 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the North Star Lounge.

Transportation

Transportation provided by our students' home districts have been progressing well without any major glitches. A friendly reminder to make sure that you contact bus transportation company if your child will not be riding on the bus/van before or after school. This will ensure that your home district's transportation provider is aware of

when your child is riding the bus or not.



I hope to see you at Parent/Teacher Conferences on Monday, October 29th between 9 a.m.—5 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.