



# NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement  
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day



A Newsletter for the Residents  
of the Nicolet School District

Fall 2014

## FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT DR. ROBERT KOBYSKI



Throughout our storied history, the educational family at Nicolet High School has always viewed high expectations and a commitment to excellence as the cornerstones of the quality education program we provide to our students. The success our students have achieved over nearly six decades is a direct result of our professional educators who believe that all students can learn at high levels given rigorous instruction, targeted support and sincere personal encouragement.

This newsletter charts the initial steps of a bold new strategic direction our district will follow to prepare the students of today for success in the future. An unprecedented amount of research, public dialogue and professional collaboration have gone into this reaffirmation of our shared aspirations for our students. Our commitment is to be the best public school district in the entire state of Wisconsin, one where we accelerate the achievement of every child, in every classroom, every day.

As you review the information in the pages that follow, I encourage you to share your thoughts with me directly. I can be contacted at [robert.kobylski@nicolet.us](mailto:robert.kobylski@nicolet.us) and at 414-351-7525. As always, thank you for your support!

Yours in education,

Robert Kobylski, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

### “COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT”

Dr. Kobylski will hold Superintendent listening sessions again this school year. Parents and community members are invited to come share ideas about district initiatives, legislative action and how to improve education for all Nicolet High School students.

Coffees will be held in the Community Room at Nicolet High School.

October 15, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.      February 11, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
December 10, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.      April 21, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- September 2: First Day of School
- September 6: Nicolet Night at Miller Park
- September 10: Back-to-School Night
- September 15: REDgen Series
- September 16: Math Parent Night
- October 10/11: Homecoming
- October 22: REDgen Series
- November TBD: Parent 201 Forum

*More dates are available at [www.nicolet.us](http://www.nicolet.us)*

*To strengthen Nicolet's partnership with the Fox Point-Bayside, Glendale-River Hills and Maple Dale-Indian Hills school districts, we are increasing efforts to coordinate our professional development for staff.*

*On August 25, Nicolet hosted the teachers from all four districts for a meeting to kick-off the new school year. In his keynote address, Rick Wormeli, one of the first Nationally Board Certified teachers in America, challenged all of us to take bold actions that would lead to better instruction of our students.*

*The continued collaboration between all of the districts will allow us to take advantage of the efficiencies that K-12 districts enjoy and families will also benefit from the alignment of our school calendars. This coordination will add value to all of the school districts moving forward.*

## NICOLET AWARDS, ACCOLADES & UPDATES

English teacher **Kelly Saunders**, was selected this summer to participate in the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Summer Teacher Institute.

During a five-day program in Washington, D.C., Ms. Saunders worked with Library education specialists and subject-matter experts to learn effective practices for using primary sources in the classroom, while exploring some of the millions of digitized historical artifacts and documents available on the Library's website.

**Kelly DeJonge, student resource officer**, was recently elected as Director of Region 8 for the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). As director, her region covers Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Kansas.

NASRO is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing the highest quality of training to school-based law enforcement officers, school administrators and school security and safety professionals, working as partners to promote safer schools and kids.

English teacher **Nicole Mueller** was recently recognized by the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers as an outstanding educator whose dedication, commitment and guidance are represented by student work selected for national honors.

In addition, Ms. Mueller received a Certificate of Special Senatorial Recognition from U.S. Senator Ron Johnson, for teaching a recipient of a National Medal 2014 Scholastic Art.

### 2014-15 NEW FACULTY

Join us in welcoming these new teachers to the Nicolet learning community.

**Laura Anderle**  
*Theatre Director*

**Brian Weisse**  
*Social Studies Teacher*

**Christopher Early**  
*Special Education Teacher*

**Leah Weyers**  
*French Teacher*

**Deborah Moertl**  
*Math Teacher*

**Rebecca Winkler**  
*Special Education Teacher*



Congratulations to the 22 seniors and 32 juniors that were inducted into the **Nicolet Chapter of the National Honor Society** last May. Nicolet is proud to have them represent high academic achievement in the upcoming 2014-15 school year.

From June 19 through July 13, a group of **Nicolet students had a once-in-a-lifetime experience traveling across Germany**, becoming immersed in every part of the culture. While abroad, the students spent time in München, Heidelberg, Würzburg, Passau and Berlin, and even took a quick trip to Austria.

In Passau, the students visited and took classes at Nicolet's partner school of over 40 years, Gymnasium Leopoldinum.

Nicolet looks forward to welcoming the German students to the United States in early September!



Nicolet students in Heidelberg with the castle in the background.

**Sandra Gurneau (Class of 2014)** has been named a Congress-Bundestag Scholar for the 2014-15 school year. This program allows for a select group of American students to spend a year studying in Germany, living with host families and acting as unofficial ambassadors for our country. Sandra is the thirteenth Nicolet German student to be selected for this scholarship program, valued at over \$10,000, in the past 14 years.

# FROM THE DESK OF BRENDA TURNER, DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

## PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS FOR THE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR

**Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day...** With a clear focus on high expectations, personalized learning and professional learning communities, Nicolet is implementing several program enhancements for the fall:

### **STEM Academy** ***Engineering Design and*** ***Architectural Design Curriculum***

STEM curriculum (science, technology, engineering and math) is essential for preparing our students to be successful. STEM engages students through real work experiences, provides for dual credit options and creates the opportunity to acquire industry certification.

Student interest in STEM has never been higher. To address students needs, Nicolet has partnered with the STEM Academy to offer a new Engineering Design and Architectural Design curriculum for the upcoming school year. Students will have the opportunity to become certified in the 3D CAD design software, SolidWorks.

### **Improved Student Assessment Tools**

Student assessments help the district to measure student growth and set individual and district-wide educational goals.

The 2014-15 school year is the start of the new assessment system in Wisconsin. The WKCE will no longer be used in tenth grade as an accountability measure for Wisconsin schools in the areas of english, reading and math. Instead, the new accountability tool will comprise of the ACT and the ACT WorkKeys, which juniors will take in the spring.

Sophomores will still be required to take the WKCE in science and social studies until the state adopts new standards in those areas.

As a result of the increase in state mandated testing, Nicolet will no longer participate in MAP testing. Instead the ACT Aspire early high school assessment will be taken in ninth and tenth grades. Aspire is a digital, longitudinal assessment system designed to track student performance over time.

### **Co-teaching Classrooms**

Starting this year, Nicolet staff will implement a co-teaching structure to increase student achievement and hold all learners to high expectations.

Under federal law, students with disabilities must be placed in their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), which means that to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities and children without disabilities are educated together. To meet LRE requirements, research shows that the implementation of co-teaching establishes a structure to close achievement gaps of students with disabilities while also positively impacting the learning of all students by providing opportunities to engage and challenge learners to maximize their potential.

Traditionally, special education teachers at Nicolet have utilized a collaborative consultation approach, acting as an indirect resource to the regular education teacher while providing support to students with disabilities outside of the general education classroom.

Within the co-teaching model, regular education teachers and special education teachers work together as equals in the classroom. The co-teaching model enables the special education teacher to provide direct instructional support to the general education teacher by planning and teaching lessons within the regular education setting, allowing for both academic learning and remediation opportunities.

The state mandated assessments (listed below) will be funded by the state.

In addition to the state mandated assessments, Nicolet is also requiring the PSAT for all juniors on Wednesday, October 15. Advanced Placement (AP) tests are scheduled for May 4-15. These tests are not state funded.

### **2014-15 Nicolet High School** **State Mandated Assessments**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Grade Tested</b>	<b>Testing Date(s)</b>
ACT Aspire 9 (replaces Explore and Plan)	9	October 7 & 8
ACT Aspire 9 <i>measure student growth between fall &amp; spring</i>	9	May 12 & 13
WKCE Science & Social Studies	10	October 28
ACT Aspire 10 (replaces PLAN)	10	May 5 & 6
ACT	11	March 3
ACT WorkKeys	11	March 4

# FROM THE DESK OF BRENDA TURNER, DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

## New Mathematics Curriculum

This year Nicolet will begin implementing the **Common Core State Standards for Mathematics** (CCSSM). These standards challenge all students to be proficient in mathematical discourse, problem solving, logical reasoning, precision, collaboration and perseverance. The courses that are most affected by the Common Core Standards are: Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2 and PreCalculus. Nicolet teachers have worked diligently over the past three years to align current curriculum with the new standards in preparation for this year.

Research in student learning and effective teaching strategies have served as the framework to develop instructional practices that will help all students learn mathematics at a high level of understanding which will better prepare them to be ready for the demands of the 21st century.

The CCSSM are divided into two categories; the practice standards and the content standards (aligned with the ACT and the ACT WorkKeys assessments required for all juniors). The eight Mathematical Practice Standards are “HOW” students demonstrate their understanding and the Content Specific Standards are “WHAT” mathematical concepts and procedures students will be learning.

Algebra and Geometry will be implementing **College Preparatory Mathematics**. This program incorporates the eight Mathematical Practice Standards, the Content Specific Standards, and provides a rich and challenging mathematics experience for all students. The classes are structured to actively involve every student in the process of learning mathematics. Through this experience, we expect more students to continue to challenge themselves mathematically by taking higher levels of mathematics.

In preparation for the start of the school year, all math teachers actively participated in a four-day training followed by a day of collaboration. There will also be follow-up trainings throughout the year and each summer.

Parents interested in learning more about the curriculum changes are invited to attend **Math Parent Night on September 16 at 6:30 pm in the library**.

Additional information is also available at this link: <http://www.cpm.org/pdfs/research/Research%20Base%20Full%202013.pdf>

“As a teacher who has used CPM materials for years, I can tell you that CPM is not your typical textbook company. All CPM books were written by teachers to meet the needs of all students. The lessons are built to be adaptable to varying skill levels and carefully designed to address developing concepts and to help students make sense of the mathematical connections as their learning progresses. But, we all know that simply adopting a new textbook is not enough. That’s why when districts adopt CPM materials; they are joining an extensive support system. From the summer workshops, to the digital resources, to easily accessible parent aides, the ongoing follow-up workshops and scheduled support site visits – CPM is dedicated to working with your community in raising math achievement for all.”

~Lorna Vazquez - Teacher and CPM Trainer

“I was well aware of the benefits of CPM for students who struggle at math. However, I was pleasantly surprised at how much students who are strong at math are stretched using these techniques. Although our primary goal of examining new teaching methodologies was to reduce our achievement gap, I would not have been comfortable implementing any technique that would not also enhance learning for our highest achieving math kids. CPM does just that.”

~Eliot Scheuer - Nicolet Teacher

“The mission and vision of Nicolet High School focuses on creating an environment that inspires creativity, intellectual discovery and has high expectations for all students. This is the foundation of the Nicolet Math Department as we implement the Common Core State Standards in all of our math classes this year. After four years of researching best practices, studying data on student accomplishments and failures and reviewing instructional practices that promote increased student learning, we are excited for changes that we are bringing to our classrooms. We want all students, through collaboration, inquiry and active engagement in the learning process, to increase their mathematical knowledge and develop their logical problem solving skills. It is through this type of learning that we believe all students can come to appreciate and understand the beauty and importance of mathematics in the world around them.”

~Barbara Burns - Nicolet Instructional Coach

“The CPM training and PLC conference I attended this summer has reinforced my belief that we are providing all students the best in mathematical practices. I am excited for the year and working with the Algebra team in helping students maximize their learning.”

~Dan Gibbon - Nicolet Teacher

## FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL GREG KABARA

### Student Privileges *Exam Exemption Criteria*

The exam exemption is a privilege that students earn through good attendance, positive behavior and academic performance. Last school year, students took the initiative to research and compile the exam exemption criteria from other area high schools and present the findings to the high school administration. In a series of discussions, students and staff expressed an interest to maintain the exam exemption privilege for students rather than eliminate the privilege.

The updated guidelines that will be in place for the upcoming school year include:

- An increase in the minimum grade requirement to exempt an exam from a B- to a B.
- Students will be required to serve all detentions to be eligible for the exemption privilege.
- Elimination of the extra exemption for sophomore WKCE. (Most of the WKCE testing has been eliminated due to changes in the state assessment system).
- Understanding that a significant contributing factor to student academic success is classroom attendance, the maximum number of absences per semester has been reduced from ten days to five days.
- Seniors can earn a second exemption for second semester if they meet the new exemption criteria and make first semester Dean's List.

We believe the revised criteria raises the standards for this privilege. We will maintain our exemption appeal process. This allows students with extenuating circumstances an opportunity to have a committee review their situation and consider granting the appeal.

### Academic Success Center Improvements

Nicolet's Academic Success Center (ASC) strives to build student skill base, work ethic, motivation and resilience.

An Academic Success Plan (ASP) is created for each student in collaboration with the ASC staff, counselors, teachers and the student. The ASP itself is designed to capitalize on the student's strengths as well as areas for improvement indicated by assessment data. Long-term academic goals are established within the ASP, and short-term goals will be developed weekly to ensure that the student is making adequate progress towards his or her goals.

The ASC serves four main purposes during the regular school day:

- The students will be placed in the ASC for guided study hall. This program will serve as a more structured study hall with students in small groups working with individual staff members to ensure academic success through work completion and regular monitoring of student study skills and grades.
- The second and third areas of support include Title 1 services used to provide math and reading interventions for students who need the support. Our reading and math interventionists will provide one-on-one or one-on-small group instruction to close academic gaps for students below grade level in reading and/or math.
- The fourth component of the ASC is a credit recovery program. Students will be assigned to this intervention by their counselor based on individual needs.

The restructuring of the ASC and personnel changes will generate a change for study hall. Study hall allows students a quiet, flexible study area where they can work independently or collaboratively. Additional study hall expectations will be shared with students during the first week of school by the study hall supervisors.

### PARENT EDUCATION SERIES

Nicolet will be starting a parent education series with a variety of topics to help parents of high school students. Parent 201 meetings are geared for all current Nicolet High School parents. Parent 101 sessions for prospective Nicolet families will be held in the Spring of 2015. REDGen is a local community action group dedicated to promoting balance and resiliency in the lives of our youth and families.

September 15 **Race to Nowhere** – Film Screening & Panel Discussion sponsored by REDgen, 7:00 pm at Whitefish Bay High School

September 16 **Math Parent Night** – Emphasis on Algebra & Geometry; all are welcome – 6:30 pm in the Nicolet High School Library

October 22 **Fostering Resilience: Building Resilience in Children and Teens** – sponsored by REDgen, 7:00 pm in the Nicolet High School Auditorium

November TBD **Parent 201: Personalized Learning** – accelerating achievement for every student

# IMPROVEMENTS TO NICOLET'S ATHLETIC FACILITIES

A Master Site Planning Committee, composed of citizens from the communities the Nicolet Union High School District serves, met to assess the high school's current and future facility needs. Last spring the Committee conducted an extensive community outreach process to get feedback on several development options from citizens, taxpayers and local public officials.

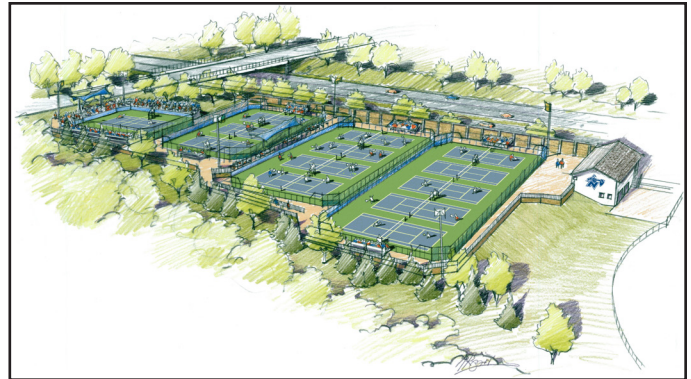
An overwhelming number of stakeholders supported "Option 2." The District will work with community leaders and athletic booster clubs on fundraising efforts and potential naming rights. Taxpayer dollars will not be used to fund the project. Descriptions of the facilities proposed in "Option 2" are below:



The football/soccer field would be rebuilt into the hillside to create elevated bowl stadium seating. It would also include a plaza entry feature, a new press box and a new multi-use concession/restroom/storage building.

In addition to high school athletics using the facilities, local recreation programs would also be able to take advantage, which would increase participation in youth athletics and adult recreation leagues.

Improved athletic facilities will have a direct impact on the quality of Nicolet's athletic programs and enhance the overall education we provide to our students. Nicolet's accomplishments on the field and in the classroom benefit our entire community. Please contact Dr. Kobylski if you are willing to invest in Nicolet's future by moving this project forward.



An elevated tennis complex would be built into the grade (north of the main field). The complex would include lights and a championship court with increased seating.



The City of Glendale is interested in partnering with Nicolet to develop a site at Bender Road to create new recreation and entertainment facilities for the community. Nicolet is proposing new baseball and softball fields at the site that include dugouts, batting cages, lights, a concession area and ample seating and parking. All fields would be constructed of synthetic turf. The softball field would include a flex fence to allow for adult recreation use as well as little league play. The baseball field would meet collegiate regulations. With these new facilities, Nicolet would no longer use the baseball field at Stormonth Elementary.

Visit [www.nicolet.us](http://www.nicolet.us) to stay updated on everything happening at Nicolet High School

## COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES FOR THE CLASS OF 2014

Congratulations to the recent Nicolet graduates attending colleges and universities across the country this fall.

Alverno College  
American Jewish University  
American University  
Art Institute of Wisconsin  
Belmont University  
Boston University  
Bradley University  
Brigham Young University-Hawaii  
Brigham Young University-Idaho  
Brown University  
California State University-Fresno  
Cardinal Stritch University  
Carroll University-Wisconsin  
Chicago College of Performing Arts  
Columbia College-Chicago  
Concordia University-Wisconsin  
Drake University  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Florida Atlantic University  
Gateway Technical College  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Hampton University  
Hope College  
Howard University  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
Indiana University-Bloomington  
Iowa State University  
Lake Superior State University

Lawrence University  
LIM College  
Madison Area Technical College  
Marquette University  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Miami University-Oxford  
Milwaukee Area Technical College  
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design  
Milwaukee School of Engineering  
Minnesota State University-Moorhead  
Missouri Western State University  
Mount Mary University  
Muhlenberg College  
New York University  
New York University - Tisch School of the Arts  
Northeastern University  
Northwestern University  
Ohio University  
Pennsylvania State University-University Park  
Princeton University  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Roosevelt University  
Sewanee-University of the South  
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale  
St. Catherine University-St. Paul  
St. Norbert College  
Stanford University  
Syracuse University  
Texas Southern University  
Texas State University

University of Alabama  
University of California at Berkeley  
University of Central Florida  
University of Connecticut  
University of Kansas  
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities  
University of Missouri Columbia  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of St. Thomas  
University of Tampa  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh  
University of Wisconsin-Platteville  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
University of Wisconsin-Stout  
University of Wisconsin - Whitewater  
Washington University-St. Louis  
Washington University-St. Louis  
(Olin School of Business)  
Western Illinois University  
Western Washington University  
Winona State University  
Xavier University

### NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 28, 2014

The community is invited to attend an open house on Tuesday, October 28 to learn more about the educational opportunities, athletic programs and extracurricular activities offered at Nicolet High School.

- Meet administrators and teachers
  - School tours led by current students
  - Student performances and presentations





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## Nicolet School Board

Marilyn Franklin, President

Morton Grodsky, Vice President

Joseph Kasle, Clerk

Ellen Redeker, Treasurer

Elizabeth (Libby) Gutterman, Member

## NICOLET NIGHT AT MILLER PARK

It may sound like the plot of a futuristic movie, but a robot is throwing out the first pitch at the Brewers game on September 6 at Miller Park. It's not just any robot, though...

*It was created by the Nicolet F.E.A.R. Robotics Team!*

Led by staff member Adam Thiel, the team just wrapped up their second season. Growing quickly over those two years, Nicolet F.E.A.R. is growing as a team and is quickly being established as up-and-coming.

"Our team has achieved a lot in only two years," said Thiel. "We have the support of our community and more importantly from the students, parents, teachers and administration. Nicolet F.E.A.R. is being supported in ways not all teams are, and that is a testament to the forward thinking of Nicolet High School."

The next step? Being chosen to throw out the pitch at the Brewers game! Nicolet is proud to have the team represent the school and F.E.A.R.'s robotic achievements. Way to go, Robotics Team!



Nicolet F.E.A.R. members have been preparing the team's robot to throw out the first pitch at Miller Park on September 6.



Join the Nicolet Community  
Brewers vs. Cardinals  
September 6, 2014

*The Nicolet F.E.A.R. robot will throw out  
the first pitch at 6:10 p.m.*