



NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

Fall 2015



NICOLET KNIGHTS NEWS

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Nicolet School District

Issued October 15, 2015 - Volume 5: Published four times a year by

The Nicolet Union High School District, 6701 North Jean Nicolet Road, Glendale, WI 53217



The support of our community is a key component to Nicolet's success. To that end, it is important to us that you have every opportunity to be engaged in what's happening at Nicolet.

In this newsletter you will learn more about the chance to volunteer for our Curriculum Review Advisory Committees as well as a new Community Question feature on our website that allows you to share your thoughts with us.

We are inviting the entire community to our annual open house on Tuesday, October 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You are welcome to come as your schedule allows to see first-hand the educational opportunities offered to students. We are proud of the experiences we provide and we hope you will be too!

Believe it or not, we have already started the budgeting process for the next school year. Looking ahead we know that the \$2.15 million operational referendum approved by district residents in 2011 expires after the current school year. The referendum funds have allowed Nicolet to continue offering the breadth and quality of educational programs that the Nicolet community has come to expect.

As we engage in this budget process it is imperative that we maintain open dialogue with the community. In the coming months the administration will make a recommendation as to the annual dollar amount and the number of years for the next operational referendum to supplement the district budget in the years ahead. I look forward to a conversation about continued excellence at Nicolet.

You are always welcome to reach me directly at robert.kobylski@nicolet.us or 414-351-7525.

Yours in education,
Robert Kobylski, Ed.D.
Superintendent



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 22 & 23: Parent-Teacher Conferences
See page 2 of the newsletter for details

October 26: School Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

October 27: Community Open House
6:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

November 5: Special Education Parent Support Group
2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Studio Theatre (F106)

November 11: Parent Advisory Council to the Superintendent (PACS) Meeting
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Library (D110)

November 23: School Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

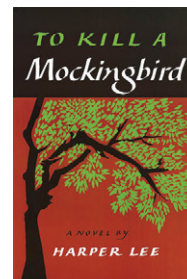
November 26-27: Thanksgiving Break

December 9: Parent Advisory Council to the Superintendent (PACS) Meeting
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Library (D110)

December 23 - January 1: Winter Break

More dates are available at www.nicolet.us

NICOLET THEATRE PRESENTS



Nov. 12, 13, 14 at 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 15 at 2:00 p.m.

**For ticket information
visit the school website.**



A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GREG KABARA

Greetings Nicolet families,

The 2015-16 school year is off to a great start!

We had a strong turnout for Math Parent Night a few weeks ago to discuss what is happening in the mathematics department. Parents had the opportunity to attend a mini-lesson demonstration and engage in conversation with teachers and administrators.

This is the second year implementing the new math curriculum, and we recently sent a letter to parents outlining some of the adjustments we are making based on the feedback we received from students and parents.

A vital part of student success is the partnership between parents and teachers. On October 22 and 23 there will be an opportunity for formal parent-teacher conferences (see details below). Please keep in mind that parents are welcome to contact individual teachers at any time with questions via phone or e-mail. Teacher contact information is available on our website.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our students' success!

- Principal Greg Kabara

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CURRICULUM REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Nicolet Union School District is collaborating with our partner primary school districts to review our science curriculums and our human growth and development curriculums. We are seeking volunteers to serve as representatives on two different Curriculum Review Advisory Committees.

The goal of the committees will be to review existing curricula (resources, standards, instructional strategies, etc.) and make recommendations for revisions.

The committees will meet at least three times during the 2015-16 school year and committee members will be asked to review relevant research-based articles and knowledge-building resources prior to meetings. All meetings will take place at Nicolet High School in room B113.

Advisory Committee volunteers will be solicited through October. If you are willing and able to participate as a volunteer on either committee, please apply online: www.nicolet.us/families/curriculum_review_advisory_committees.cfm.

2015 PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thursday, October 22 (3:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.)

Friday, October 23 (7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Parent-Teacher Conferences will follow an open, no appointment necessary format.

During conference hours, all of the teachers will be seated at tables around the room and parents will circulate to each teacher at their own discretion. There will be no set order in which parents have to meet specific teachers.

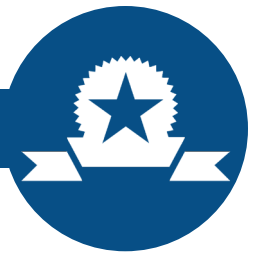
Parents are asked to limit each conference to five minutes to ensure that all parents have the opportunity to meet with as many teachers as they would like. If more time is needed, please make arrangements with the teacher to meet before or after the open sessions.



During the first week of school, all incoming Freshmen received a new Chromebook as part of the district's new initiative to enhance classroom learning.

Image Credit: Jonathon Gregg
Fox 6 News 9.2.15

ALUMNI AND STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



ALUMNI

Aaron Gersonde (Nicolet '04) and **Andrei Mikhail** ('04) are owners of Movidia, a Spanish restaurant in Walker's Point. Inspired by Spain's capital, Madrid, the restaurant offers authentic Spanish dining, including favorites such as tapas, paella and flamenco for entertainment. Address: 524 S 2nd St, Milwaukee, WI 53204.

Jonathan Manyo (Nicolet '95) is the owner of Morel, a restaurant in Walker's Point. Morel is an American farm-to-table restaurant that finds inspiration from local farms, purveyors, foragers and artisans in Wisconsin. Address: 430 S 2nd St, Milwaukee, WI 53204.

Magdalene Beck (Nicolet '14) was chosen as one of two University of Virginia students who were invited to Harvard University to participate in an intensive training and conference, led by Harvard's Institute of Politics (IOP). The conference, entitled "Campus Activation: Increasing Student Voting and Political Engagement," will feature political practitioners and expert organizers on voter registration and campus political engagement.

Kyle Fraser (Nicolet '98) was the overall winner of the Lakefront Marathon held on Sunday, October 4 with a winning time of 2:27:38. Congratulations!



NICOLET FOUNDATION UPDATE

As part of continued efforts to enrich the education of Nicolet students, the Nicolet Foundation sponsored an event for Ms. Kelly Saunders' English 11 class on September 28. Celeste Ng, bestselling author of *Everything I Never Told You*, joined the students for a discussion of her debut novel, her writing life and how to read an artist's intentions once a book is published. Students read the book prior to Ms. Ng's visit and had their books signed after an hour and a half of questions and answers in Nicolet's community room.

STUDENTS

Congratulations to Nicolet's five National Merit Semifinalists: **John Campbell, Madeline Folstein, Zachary Hampel, Emma Juetner** and **Sydney Stelzer**. The students were chosen out of over 1.5 million high school juniors who took the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

Of the approximately 16,000 semifinalists nationwide, only about 7,400 are expected to receive the National Merit Scholarship and Merit Scholar title. The final scholarship winners will be selected next spring based on their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment and honors, and awards received.

We also congratulate **Emily Blumenthal** and **Martin Muenster**, who were recognized as Commended Students in the National Merit 2016 Scholarship Program.



About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2016 competition, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered.





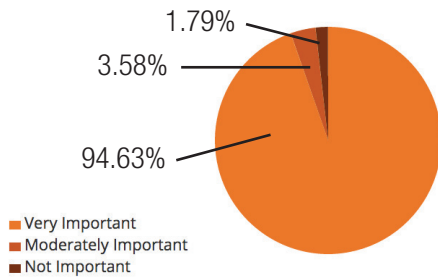
NICOLET'S COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Superintendent Dr. Robert Kobylski has launched a Community Question feature on the district website. The goal is to create an opportunity for ongoing dialogue and receive feedback on what's happening at Nicolet.

Every month, parents and community members will have the opportunity to answer a new question online. The Community Question can be found on the superintendent's page on the district website, www.nicolet.us/district/nicolet_community_question.cfm. Please take a few minutes to respond and provide your comments or suggestions for Dr. Kobylski. Below are the responses from September's Community Questions.

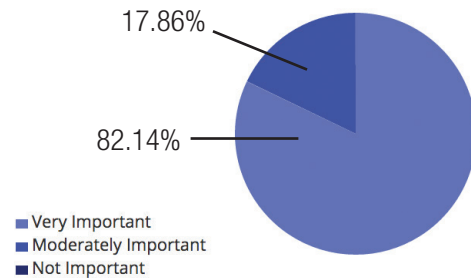
HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOLS

Nicolet High School serves the communities of Bayside, Fox Point, Glendale and River Hills. When making the decision to own/rent/purchase a home in the district, how important to you or your neighbors was the high quality of schools?



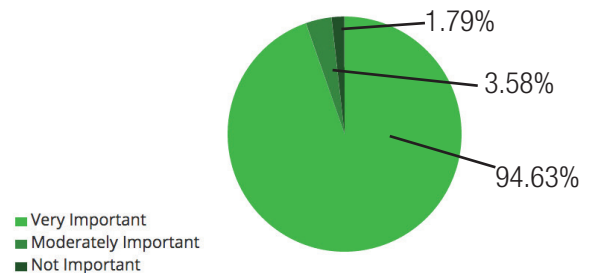
HOME VALUE

U.S. News and World Report named Nicolet High School one of the "Best High Schools" in the nation in 2014. How important do you think high quality education is to maintaining and raising the value of homes in our district?



COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS

Nicolet High School leads the North Shore in the percentage of Advanced Placement tests taken by our students to receive college credit for their work. This is a strong indicator of how well students are preparing for college. How important is it to you that schools in your community are adequately preparing youth for post-secondary education?



PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE SUPERINTENDENT (PACS)

Research has consistently shown that active parent involvement can increase a child's academic success, as well as the school's overall programs. With this in mind, Superintendent Dr. Robert Kobylski established a new Parent Advisory Council to the Superintendent (PACS). The goal of PACS is to engage families in helping to shape education policy for our students.

PACS is intended to be a formal means to include parents' voices in the district's decision-making process. Members will advise the district of parents' perspectives and provide recommendations regarding school district opportunities and challenges. As part of PACS, parents will join faculty and staff in our commitment to accelerating the achievement of every student, in every classroom, every day, by supporting Nicolet High School's articulated goals.

Meetings will be held monthly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Nicolet Library (Oct 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 9, April 20, May 11). All meetings are open to the public, but the conversation will be limited to committee members. For more information about PACS visit:

<http://www.nicolet.us/families/pacs.cfm>



DISTRICT STANDARDS



The Board of Education approved the **Nicolet High School District Curriculum Standards** at the August 24th board meeting. The standards can be found below, as well as on the district website.

WI Model Academic Standards for all Subjects

Wisconsin Academic Standards specify what students should know and be able to do in the classroom. Wisconsin has academic standards for separate content areas. The State Superintendent and Legislature must ensure that all children have equal access to high quality education programs. This requires clear statements of what all children in the state should know and be able to do and the evidence that students are meeting these expectations. Academic standards provide a firm foundation to establish the content of Wisconsin's statewide assessment system.

Common Core State Standards

Common Core College and Career Readiness Standards are evidence-based standards for kindergarten through 12th grade in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. The standards were drafted by experts and teachers from across the country and focus on developing the critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills students will need to be successful. Specifically, they are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to take credit bearing introductory courses in two- or four-year college programs or enter the workforce.

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards

The ACT College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) are the backbone of ACT assessments. Empirically derived descriptions of the essential skills and knowledge students need to become ready for college and career, the Standards give clear meaning to test scores and serve as a link between what students have learned and what they are ready to learn next.

ISTE International Society for Technology in Education

Rapid advances in technology have led to profound shifts in how we live, communicate and work. To prepare our students for the world they will soon enter and for a future we cannot yet imagine, education must not only adapt to these changes but innovate. Innovating education goes far beyond just learning how to use new tools. It requires us to rethink how we teach and learn. And it calls on us to re-engineer our districts, schools and classrooms for the digital age. The family of ISTE Standards works in concert to support students, educators and leaders with clear guidelines for the skills, knowledge and approaches they need to succeed in the digital age.

Next Generation Science Standards

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) framework provides a sound, evidence-based foundation for standards by drawing on current scientific research — including research on the ways students learn science effectively — and identifies the science all K-12 students should know. They include the critical thinking and communication skills that students need for postsecondary success and citizenship in a world fueled by innovations in science and technology. These science practices encompass the habits and skills that scientists and engineers use day in and day out. In the NGSS these practices are wedded to content. In other words, content and practice are intertwined in the standards, just as they are in today's workplace.

AP College Board Standards for College Success

The College Board has developed college- and career-readiness standards in order to help states, school districts and schools provide all students with the rigorous education that will prepare them for success in college, opportunity in the workplace, and effective participation in civic life. The College Board Standards for College Success™ make the necessary college-readiness knowledge, skills and abilities explicit so that states, school districts, schools and teachers can better align their educational programs with clear definitions of college readiness.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Nicolet High School has established a special education parent support group. The inaugural meeting took place earlier this month and four additional meetings dates have been planned for the 2015-16 school year: November 5, January 7, March 3, and April 7.

The goal of this group is to provide a venue for parents of students with disabilities to access relevant information, network with other parents and participate in discussions of topics that will assist in supporting the needs of your child.

For more information please contact Anne Ignatowski, Director of Student Services at anne.ignatowski@nicolet.us or 414-351-8169.



RED CARPET TRADITION

Carrying on an annual tradition, faculty and staff lined the red carpet on Tuesday, September 1 to kick off the new school year and welcome students back as they entered the building.



2015-16 NEW FACULTY



Join us in welcoming these new teachers and faculty members to the Nicolet learning community, and congratulating those with new positions:

Abigail Carver (Special Education Teacher), Sandy Couch (Administrative Assistant, Attendance Secretary), Sam Cox (World Languages Teacher), Rita Gipp (Technology Education Teacher), Nicholas Haubner (Special Education Paraprofessional), Ryan Heath (Physical Education Teacher), Suzanne Husman (Physics Teacher), Holly Klatt (Payroll and Benefits), Maureen Newborn (School Social Worker), Adam Piaskowy (Math Teacher), Emily Schmidt (Special Education Teacher), Christopher Sheff (Special Education Teacher), Michelle Streed (English Teacher), Patreece Terrell (Literacy Interventionist), Jennifer Tomlin (Performing Arts Teacher), Beth Van Asten (Special Education Teacher), Charlotte Wichert (Part-time French Teacher), Kathryn Woods (School Psychologist) and Angela Young (Administrative Assistant, Substitute Coordinator, Attendance Secretary).

NICOLET ATHLETIC UPDATES



Girls Tennis: The team is currently ranked #2 in the State and will host the WIAA Sectionals vying for another trip to the WIAA State Championships in Madison.

Girls Swim: The team is one of the top ranked teams in the area and boasts returning State Champion Gwen Worlton who recently committed to Nebraska to swim for their Big 10 team after graduation. The Girls will host the WIAA Sectionals with hopes of a return trip to the WIAA State Championships.

Boys Volleyball: After a few "rebuilding years," the team is again challenging for a North Shore Conference title and a run at the WIAA State Tournament.

Girls Volleyball: The team is once again one of the top teams in the North Shore Conference and is eyeing a trip to the WIAA State Tournament.

Girls and Boys Cross Country: Both teams are currently in the top half of the North Shore Conference and will host the Conference tournament this year.

Boys Soccer: The team is navigating its way through a tough North Shore Conference schedule and placing high in weekend tournaments along the way with the hopes of hosting a playoff game during the WIAA Boys Soccer Regionals this year.

Boys Football: The team returned to Varsity action after a one-year hiatus and continues to rebuild. Participation has increased from 50 players to 78 players in one year with several underclassmen gaining valuable varsity experience with an eye on being much more competitive in 2016.

Girls Golf: The team is improving each week continually beating their season best score.

The Booster Club is selling Nicolet Bobbleheads. Please stop by the athletic office to purchase yours today for just \$20. Bobbleheads can also be purchased online and shipping is available:

<http://www.bobbleheadhall.com/product/nicoletknights/>



Nicolet Hall of Fame

The Nicolet Athletic Hall of Fame honors former student athletes, coaches and other individuals who have contributed outstanding accomplishments towards Nicolet High School athletics. Five candidates have been selected to the Class of 2015 Nicolet High School Athletic Hall of Fame. The candidates include three athletes, Kurt Krueger (Class of '69-Football/Wrestling/Track), Linn Grieb Wright (Class of '74-Track), and Amy Larsen Sordahl (class of '90 Softball/Basketball/Volleyball); one coach, Jim Sperl (1981-2008) Basketball/Football/Golf); and one distinguished service, Wally Schoenfeld (1955-1978-Athletic Director/Coach/Administrator).

To learn more about the inductees, visit www.nicolet.us/activities/hall_of_fame.cfm.

A Hall of Fame Committee comprised of Nicolet Athletic Staff, past and present, chose the 5 individuals from a pool of more than 40 nominees. All future inductees will be chosen following a formal nomination process available to the community and on the Nicolet website. Nicolet High School congratulates all the inductees and their families!





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Nicolet School Board

Elizabeth (Libby) Gutterman, President

Ellen Redeker, Vice President

Joseph Kasle, Treasurer

Marilyn Franklin, Clerk

Morton Grodsky, Member

NICOLET COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Residents of Bayside, Fox Point, Glendale and River Hills please join us for the

NICOLET COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

You're
Invited

Open House showcases the wonderful, interesting and innovative education taking place at Nicolet, your community high school.

Community support plays an integral role in the opportunities provided to Nicolet students. This is your chance to get a firsthand look at everything Nicolet has to offer. Come see for yourself....

- Participate in classroom experiences led by our teachers and students
- Watch rehearsal for the upcoming Nicolet Theatre production of "To Kill a Mockingbird"
- Observe a live production in the Nicolet Broadcasting Studio
- Attend a meeting of the Nicolet F.E.A.R. Robotics Team
- Witness the creative process of Nicolet's award-winning art and music students
- Find out about our numerous athletic programs and extracurricular activities
- Sample food from our cafeteria
- And much, much more!

