



NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

Summer 2015



NICOLET KNIGHTS NEWS

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Nicolet School District

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



As summer fills our days with fun and family gatherings, it also gives us time to reflect on the successes of the past school year.

Once again we are excited to share our students' achievements and update you on recent news about the Nicolet community.

This spring, *The Washington Post* published the 2015 ranking of America's Most Challenging Schools. Nicolet ranked fourth in Wisconsin and first in the North Shore based on the number of advanced placement tests given. This is a measure

of how well our students are preparing for college. Nicolet's ranking has moved up from tenth to fourth since 2011.

One of the keys to Nicolet students' success is the support and involvement of our parents and the community. As we begin preparations for next year, I am looking for ways to allow for more parental involvement. A new advisory council will meet several times during the year to discuss pertinent educational issues. Anyone with interest in joining the committee is encouraged to contact me. I can be reached at robert.kobylski@nicolet.us and at 414-351-7525.

I am proud of all that our students, faculty and staff have achieved. I thank all parents for their support and I look forward to starting another successful year before we know it! In the meantime, enjoy the rest of your summer!

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

STUDENTS TO RECEIVE CHROMEBOOKS FOR DIGITAL LEARNING INITIATIVE

Incoming Nicolet freshmen will receive Chromebook laptops as part of the Digital Learning Initiative. The goal is to provide all students with access to a computer to allow participation in online and interactive learning mediums that supplement lessons in the classroom. Students will keep the computer for their four years at Nicolet.

Currently Nicolet teachers can check out carts of laptops for their classes, but only 49% of teachers say they are available when needed. Also, although 96% of students have access to a device outside of school, 65% share with other family members. The school district will pay for the new Chromebooks and phase out replacement of the 610 existing student computers in the school.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 18: Registration and Photo Day

August 26: Freshman Orientation

September 1: First Day of School

September 4: Picture Make-up/Photo ID Day

September 9: Back to School Nite (6:00 p.m.)

October 16-17: Homecoming

October 22-23: Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 27: Open House

More dates are available at www.nicolet.us

NICOLET'S NEW MOBILE APP



Stay in touch with Nicolet High School by downloading our new mobile app! The Nicolet High School app provides up-to-date information at the touch of a button.

You can easily navigate through news updates and daily announcements, personalize your calendar to follow the schedules of activities, organizations or athletic teams that interest you, view photos of recent events at school or even check out what's for lunch. The app also enables you to search our staff directory to quickly find the contact information you need, or keep up on grades in Skyward.

Download the new Nicolet High School mobile app to your smartphone or tablet on either the App Store (Apple) or the Google Play Store (Android) today.



NICOLET FOUNDATION UPDATE

In keeping with its mission, the Foundation granted over \$37,000 to the school during the 2014-2015 school year for programs and equipment including:

- 27 digital cameras for classroom use
- support for Senior Service Day, Taste of Fine Arts, World AIDS Day and The Minority Leadership and Empowerment Group
- an artist in residence to work with students in the art of Raku
- funding of a one-man Shakespeare theatrical experience
- the opportunity for students in American Studies to attend a lecture and dinner with National Book Award winning Author Sherman Alexie and a visit from New York Times best-selling author Simon Van Booy

In appreciation of the author visits, teacher Kelly Saunders wrote in a note of thanks to the Foundation Board, "these exciting opportunities to extend learning could not take place without you."

The Foundation welcomes those interested in supporting Nicolet academics to attend one of its meetings. If you would like to join us for a meeting or would like more information about the Foundation, please call Chris Macon at 414.351.7561 or Susie Falk at 414.232.2562.

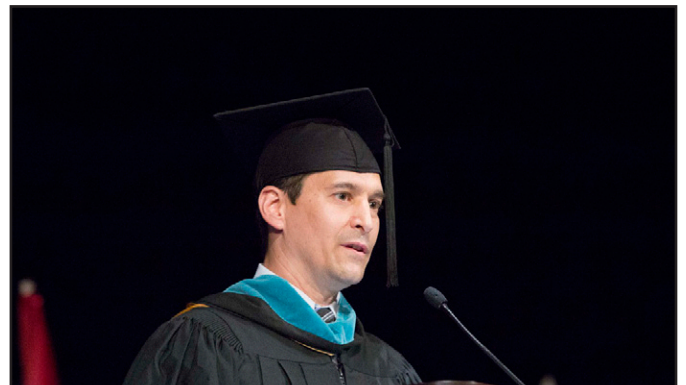
NEW ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL JOINS ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Nasif Rogers is joining the Nicolet High School Administrative team as a new associate principal. Rogers transferred from his instructional coaching role to the associate principal position on July 1, 2015. He replaced Dr. Mae Beard, who retired at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Rogers joined the Nicolet team as a social studies teacher with an undergraduate degree in History and Educational Studies from Ripon College. He later became the district AVID director and a substitute for the associate principals. Rogers has been a leader on the 9th grade transition team and most recently has served as an instructional coach. He is in the process of completing the Woodrow Wilson MBA Fellowship in Educational Leadership at MSOE.



Mr. Nasif Rodgers is the new associate principal at Nicolet.



Principal Greg Kabara addressing seniors at graduation.

A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL GREG KABARA

Greetings, Nicolet families and community

members! I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the last school year. It takes the combined efforts of parents, school, and community to help our students reach their goals. I am proud of all of our outstanding student accomplishments achieved this year. A special congratulations to our graduates, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

I hope you enjoy a restful, safe and fun summer break.

I look forward to a great 2015-2016 school year.

-Principal Greg Kabara

NICOLET ACCOMPLISHMENTS



NICOLET STUDENT ART ON DISPLAY AT STATE FAIR

Congratulations to the Nicolet High School visual art students who will have work exhibited in the 47th Annual Wisconsin State Fair 2015 Young People's Art Exhibit.

The following students placed in the competition from over 365 art works entered:

- Connor Press:** 2nd Place Special Needs Artwork Awards
- Claire Konnor:** 2nd Place Photography
- Katherine Harris:** 2nd Place Ceramics
- Robert Dietz:** 1st Place Ceramics
- Ma'ayan Oren:** 1st Place Ceramics
- Lieschen du Plessis:** 1st Place Painting & Judges' Favorite Award

Other students who will have their work exhibited include the following: **Westen Groh, Emma Laskowski, Max Lennett, Claire McCullough, Adam Mitchell, Sona Perlin, Charlie Rosman, Sam Scribner, Laura Slattery, John Unsworth & Aaron Zetley.**

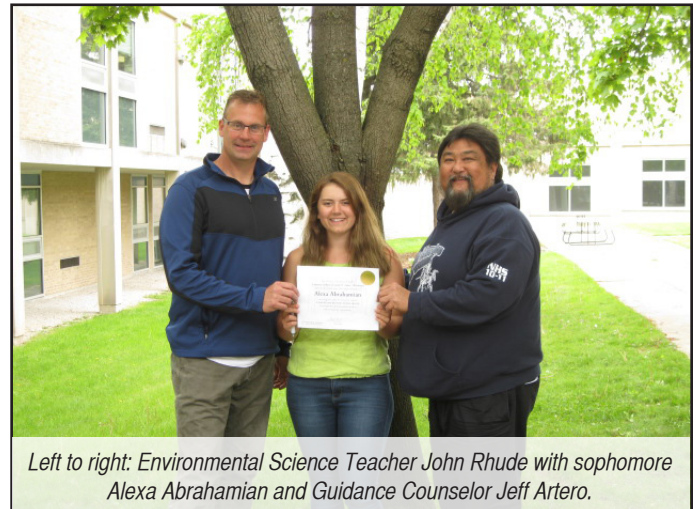
The exhibit will be on display during the entire run of the State Fair from August 6-16, 2015 in the Expo Center lobby. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our students' exceptional art works. Please stop by to view all of the art while you are at the fair.



STUDENTS

Two Nicolet students were recognized at the National Scholastic Ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Thursday, June 11. **Lieschen du Plessis** earned a National Silver Medal for her painting, "Do You See Me Now" and **Jessica Plotkin** won the National American Voices Award for her essay, "Sight in Darkness."

Congratulations to **Alexa Abrahamian** (Nicolet '17) for being selected to attend a semester at Conserve High School in the fall on a full scholarship. Conserve School is an environmental high school located in Land O'Lakes, Wisconsin. Each semester the school accepts about 80 students from around the country and the world.



Left to right: Environmental Science Teacher John Rhude with sophomore Alexa Abrahamian and Guidance Counselor Jeff Artero.

FACULTY & ALUMNI

Congratulations to Nicolet English teacher **Nicole Mueller** on being selected as a finalist for the Janet I. Martin Award by the Still Waters Collective. This award celebrates teachers who actively engage students in creative writing in and outside of the classroom. Mueller will receive a plaque and \$100.

Lamar Johnson Harris (Nicolet '10) graduated from West Point Military Academy in May. He excelled academically and has been admitted to both Harvard and MIT. To celebrate graduation, he is spending some time in Seoul, Korea.

Leo Purman (Nicolet '11) is a student at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He recently started his senior thesis project, which will be a series of photos from throughout the Midwest. The photos, taken over a 14-day road trip, will examine lighting technology over time to document the transition from sodium vapor bulbs to LEDs. The work will be printed and displayed during the spring of 2016 in the Tisch School of the Arts Lobby.



Nicolet graduates from the Class of 2015 were accepted to colleges and universities all across the country.

Academy of Art University
Alverno College
American Musical and Dramatic Academy
Arizona State University
Art Institute of California, San Diego
Auburn University
Augsburg College
Augustana College
Ball State University
Belmont University
Beloit College
Berklee College of Music
Boston College
Boston University
Bradley University
Brandeis University
Brigham Young University-Hawaii
Brigham Young University-Idaho
Butler University
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Cardinal Stritch University
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Carroll University-Wisconsin
Carthage College
Central Christian College of Kansas
Coe College
College of Wooster
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia College-Chicago
Columbia State University
Concordia University-Wisconsin
Connecticut College
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art
Denison University
DePaul University
Dickinson University
Drake University
Drexel University
Edgewood College
Elmhurst College
Emory University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida International University
Florida State University
Franklin University Switzerland
George Mason University
George Washington University
Grambling State University
Grinnell College
Hamline University
Harvey Mudd College
High Point University
Indiana University-Bloomington
Iowa State University
Johnson & Wales University, North Miami
Johnson & Wales University, Providence
Kalamazoo College
Knox College
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Lewis & Clark College
Loyola University Chicago
Macalester College
Madison Area Technical College
Madison Media Institute
Manhattan School of Music
Marquette University
Maryland Institute College of Art
Marymount Manhattan College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McKendree University
Miami University-Oxford
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Middlebury College
Milwaukee Area Technical College
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Montana State University, Bozeman
Mount Mary University
Muhlenberg College
Nativ
New York University
New York University, Tisch School of the Arts
Northeastern University
Northern Michigan University
Northland College
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University, University Park
Purchase College State University of New York
Purdue University
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Ripon College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Saint Louis University
Saint Mary's College
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seton Hall University
St. Norbert College
St. Olaf College
Syracuse University
Tuskegee University
University of Arizona
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Dayton
University of Denver
University of Evansville
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri Columbia
University of Montana, Missoula
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina, Charlotte
University of North Carolina, Charlotte
University of Pittsburgh
University of Richmond
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of South Carolina
University of St. Thomas
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Texas, Austin
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
University of Wisconsin-Parkside
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin-Stout
University of Wisconsin-Washington County
University of Wisconsin-Waukesha
University of Wisconsin - Whitewater
Valley City State University
Vanderbilt University
Washington University-St. Louis
Waukesha County Technical College
Whitman College
Winona State University
Xavier University
Yale University

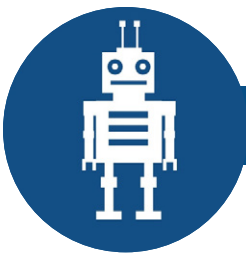
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK, SENIORS!

GRADUATION



The Nicolet High School Class of 2015 Commencement Ceremony was held at the Milwaukee Theatre on Sunday, June 14.





NICOLET F.E.A.R. THRIVES IN SPRING COMPETITIONS

Since starting as a rookie team in 2012, the Nicolet F.E.A.R. Robotics Team has experienced many highs including the opportunity to throw out the first pitch at a Brewers' game last fall. This spring, the team continued to thrive during its third competitive season.

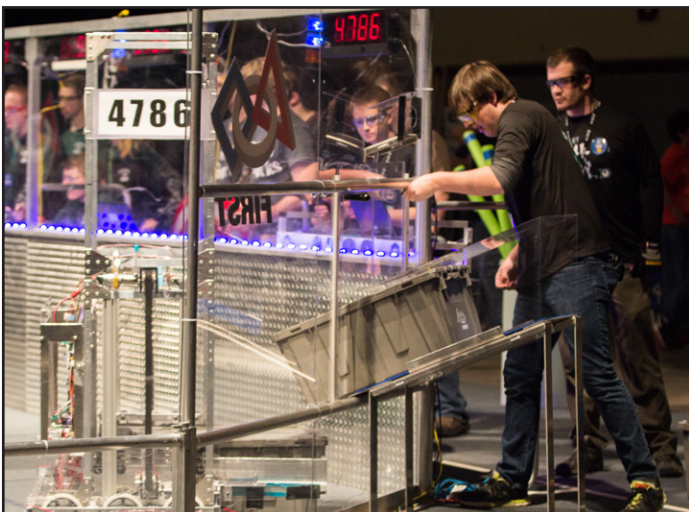
After months of safety and skill development workshops, the team kicked off the 2015 season in January. Its goal: To create a robot that could stack recycling containers and dispose of "litter" in the form of pool noodles. Over 57 Nicolet students, from all grade levels, worked to design, build, test and market their robot in just 44 days!



The team continued to impress as it concluded its season at the Wisconsin Regional competition. The tournament is known as one of the most challenging events of the 8-week robotics season, and F.E.A.R. placed a remarkable 15 out of 60 teams! After receiving 40th place last year and 56th in their rookie season, the students proved that they're continuing to grow and excel as a robotics team.

In addition to their work during the season, F.E.A.R. members also mentor students from local middle schools in friendly FIRST Lego League competitions. The competitions include learning how to construct a robot, research a topic, and present ideas to create an innovative solution to a world problem.

Congratulations to F.E.A.R.'s students and mentors! The Nicolet community looks forward to seeing what next year has in store. The team has certainly shown that there's nothing to fear but F.E.A.R. itself!



Their hard work paid off when F.E.A.R. competed in Duluth's Northern Lights Regional competition in February. For the first time in team history, F.E.A.R. participated in the elimination rounds of a regional tournament and placed second along with two alliance partner teams.

But the success didn't stop there! Out of the 59 competing teams, F.E.A.R. received the Underwriters Laboratories Safety Award for using innovative ways to eliminate hazards during robot construction and competition.



For more information, visit:
<http://www.nicoletfear.com/>

NICOLET ATHLETIC UPDATES



Boys Golf: The boys won the Waukesha West Sectional Golf Tournament held at Naga-Waukee Golf Course on Wednesday, June 3. The team shot a final score of 312 to win the Sectional by 11 strokes for the first time since 1998! The boys peaked at a good time, shooting their lowest score of the year, in fact it was the lowest team score in the past 4 years. Alex Braun, Tucker Bauman, Ben Spector, Michael Carruth, Eric Walsh and alternate August Eurich went on to finish 13th at the state tournament held at University Ridge Golf Course on June 8 -9.

Boys Tennis: The boys competed in the WIAA Individual State Tournament on June 12 & 13. Kevin Ballecer won his first match. Calin Dumistrescu won two matches. Rafael Baresh came very close to beating his opponent in the first match. The doubles team of Sam Scribner and Ari Robinson won their first match and the doubles team of Jack Steinberger and Brett Conard won three matches to get to the final day of competition.

Girls and Boys Track & Field: The girls and boys competed in the WIAA state tournament in La Crosse June 5-6. The 4x100 relay team of Dakari Williams, David Dunlap, Devin Fears and Desmond Steward finished 17th and also finished 4th in the 4x200. Rylee Callahan and Cailin Mahoney competed in the Pole Vault with Rylee finishing 9th.

Girls Softball: Juniors Ania Kotecki and Sam Peltz earned North Shore Conference Honorable Mention All-Conference recognition.

Girls Soccer: Several Nicolet players received NSC All-Conference Recognition including: Hillary Miller (1st Team), Greta Ricigliano (2nd Team), Sophie Marshall (2nd Team), Hayley Sentz (Honorable Mention), Amina Maamouri (Honorable Mention), Danielle Sobelman (Honorable Mention).

Boys Baseball: The team completed the season this month and was lead by Seniors Craig Carey, Jake Olin, Matt Appleby, Kyle Brahm, Alex Braun, Joe Delia, George Wilson, Ian Greenfield and Ricky Kerns.

Plans for upgrading Nicolet's athletic facilities are moving forward. Nicolet is working with the City of Glendale to move forward on development of the Bender Road site and initial grading has begun. The school board has listed the upper field property east of I-43 for sale and is considering purchase proposals. The fundraising feasibility study will be discussed at school board and booster club meetings later this summer. Taxpayer dollars will not be used to fund the project.

Please contact Dr. Kobylski if you would like to get involved.

Did you know?

Nicolet High School has 27 sports teams and almost half of them qualified for the State Tournament during the 2014-15 school year:

- Girls Swim
- Girls Tennis
- Gymnastics (4th in State)
- Girls Hockey (State Champs)
- Boys Swim (4th in State)
- Boys Ski
- Girls Ski
- Boys Track
- Girls Track
- Girls Lacrosse
- Boys Golf
- Boys Tennis

Nicolet Athletics ranked in the top ten of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's School of the Year honors for 2014-15.

Fall Preview

Nicolet High School will field three levels of tackle football in the Fall and will open the Varsity Football season on Friday, August 21st at Waukesha South.

Athletic Participation Forms are now available online in Skyward. Contact Renee Tazalla in the Nicolet Athletic Office at 414-351-8145 with questions.





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Nicolet School Board

Elizabeth (Libby) Gutterman, President

Ellen Redeker, Vice President

Joseph Kasle, Treasurer

Marilyn Franklin, Clerk

Morton Grodsky, Member



SMILE, NICOLET!



Nicolet Theatre students performed Charlie and the Chocolate Factory for the spring children's show.



During Spring semester, Spanish 5 students learned a traditional dance from Sevilla, Spain called "Sevillanas," to perform for family, peers, and community members.



The Nicolet Rugby Team competed this Spring and finished the season with a record of 4-4.



Nicolet students visited Washington, DC to get an inside look at democracy in action. They visited sites throughout the city including the Supreme Court.



Prom was held at the InterContinental Hotel in downtown Milwaukee on Saturday, April 25, 2015.