



NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

Spring 2016



NICOLET KNIGHTS NEWS

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Nicolet School District

Issued March 1, 2016 - Volume 7: Published four times a year by
The Nicolet Union High School District, 6701 North Jean Nicolet Road, Glendale, WI 53217



Once again we are proud to share news with our community about the educational experiences offered at Nicolet as well as the achievements of our students and faculty.

Over the past several months, we have engaged the community in a conversation about our shared commitment to maintaining educational excellence at Nicolet. As a result the school board has taken several steps to ensure that the District is poised to continue on this path into the future.

On January 25, the school board extended contracts for the District's leadership team through the 2017-2018 school year. This consistency will allow us to continue implementation of our strategic plan that supports student achievement at Nicolet.

Based on community feedback gathered in November, the school board unanimously approved placing an operational referendum question on the April 5 ballot asking taxpayers for permission to increase our state revenue limit by an additional \$3.15 million per year for each of the next six school years (2016-2017 through 2021-2022). These operational funds will be used to maintain and support instructional programs, services and class sizes at Nicolet.

To ensure voters can make an informed decision this spring, we have included information about the referendum in this newsletter (please see pages 4-5). Additionally, **the District will hold open house style informational sessions to answer your questions about the referendum on Wednesday, March 16 (6:30 – 8 p.m.) and Saturday, March 19 (9 – 10:30 a.m.)**. I encourage you to attend one of the meetings as your schedule allows.

As always I welcome you to reach out to me directly with your questions and thoughts. I may be contacted at robert.kobylski@nicolet.us and 414-351-7525.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 16: Referendum Information Open House
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

March 19: Referendum Information Open House
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the Library (D110)

March 23: Nicolet Parent 101 – The Informed Parent
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

March 25 - April 3: Spring Break

April 5: Election Day – Referendum Question

April 9: Prom
Renaissance Place

April 13: Nicolet Parent 101 – The Involved Student/Parent
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

May 20 & 21: American Cancer Society - Relay For Life
Gym 2 & Nicolet Stadium

June 4: Cookies & Cram
Nicolet High School Cafeteria

June 5: Graduation
1:00 p.m. at the Milwaukee Theatre

More dates are available at www.nicolet.us, including End-of-Year Award Ceremonies.



@NicoletKnights



/NicoletHighSchool



Learn more about the April 5 Referendum on pages 4-5 →



A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GREG KABARA

Greetings Nicolet families,

As we make our way further into second semester, students are already beginning the course registration process for next school year. Our goal at Nicolet High School is to provide a variety of academic and enrichment opportunities that will allow students to meet their college and career goals.

The Nicolet High School College and Career Readiness Guide provides an overview of the courses offered at Nicolet and how those courses align with potential career pathways. We are excited to offer this resource to help students plan a program of study that supports their future goals. The guide is available on the district website.

I am proud to announce that Nicolet High School has been selected to host the first ever Wisconsin Professional Learning Community Institute this August. Administrators and teachers from all over the country attend these professional development conferences and Nicolet was selected because of our efforts to implement best practices and policies in recent years. We look forward to sharing more information about this exciting accolade in the coming months.

- Principal Greg Kabara

PTSO UPDATE

Please "like" the Nicolet PTSO Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NicoletPTSO> to stay up to date on PTSO's efforts and visit the PTSO webpage for information including past and current meeting minutes, newsletters, fundraising, and volunteer opportunities at <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>. To get involved with PTSO please contact Piper Melkonian, PTSO President, at pmelkonian@mac.com to volunteer.

Purchase a Nicolet Knight window decal cling via our ongoing fundraiser. Share the Nicolet pride and place it on your vehicle or storefront window. They are available in the Nicolet High School office for only \$5.00 each.



NICOLET FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Foundation thanks all who contributed to the Annual Appeal. We raised nearly \$15,000 to enrich the Nicolet learning experience.

Mark your calendars! The Foundation is excited to sponsor the participation of Nicolet art students in the upcoming Gallery Night and Day in the Historic Third Ward on April 15 and 16.

The Foundation's next fundraiser will be The Knight on the Town in October 2016. For more information and updates, visit nicolet.us/families/foundation and "like" us on Facebook by searching for "Nicolet High School Foundation."



PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE

Don't miss Nicolet Theatre's Spring Musical, Legally Blonde! A fabulously fun, international award-winning musical based on the adored movie, Legally Blonde the Musical follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. Tickets are \$10.

An evening of One Act performances will be held May 26 and May 27 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.

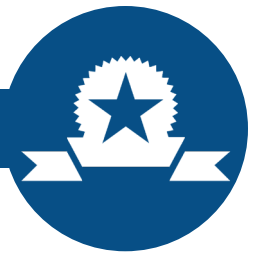
The Nicolet community is invited to attend the spring concerts. All concerts are free of charge and begin at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 28: Band
Thursday, May 19: Choir
Tuesday, May 24: Orchestra

Be sure to "Like" the Nicolet Performing Arts Committee on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NicoletPerformingArtsCommittee for more updates.



STAFF, ALUMNI AND STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



STAFF AND ALUMNI

Nicolet School Board member **Marilyn Franklin** was honored for her 40 years of public service by Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers and John Ashley, executive director of Wisconsin Association of School Boards, during the state convention on January 21.



Marilyn Franklin

Rachel Morello

(Nicolet '10) joined WUWM-FM in January as the station's first education reporter. A graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Morello most recently covered education for public radio and television stations in Indiana.



Rachel Morello

STUDENTS

Senior **Elizabeth Tong** was recently selected as a finalist for the Morehead-Cain Scholarship Program. She is among the mere 6% of nominees to become finalists, which would fully fund her undergraduate college education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Elizabeth will take part in the Final Selection Weekend in March, where approximately 60 of those finalists will become Morehead-Cain Scholars.

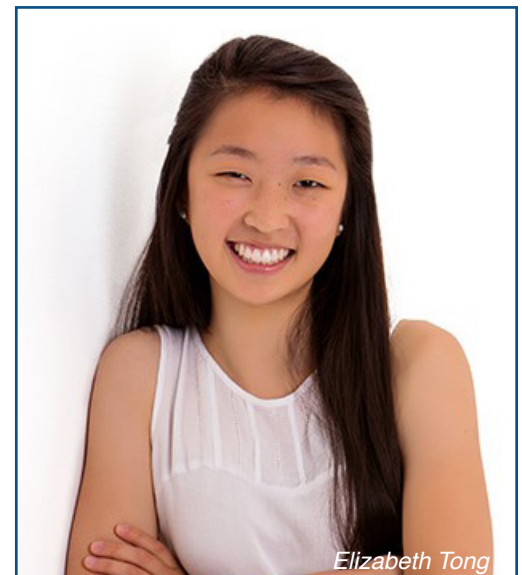
Junior **Maria Graziano** won the Wisconsin Association of Foreign Language Teachers 2016 Lynn Bolton Student Travel Scholarship.

Congratulations to the following students who received a Gold Key in the 2016 Scholastic Writing Awards:

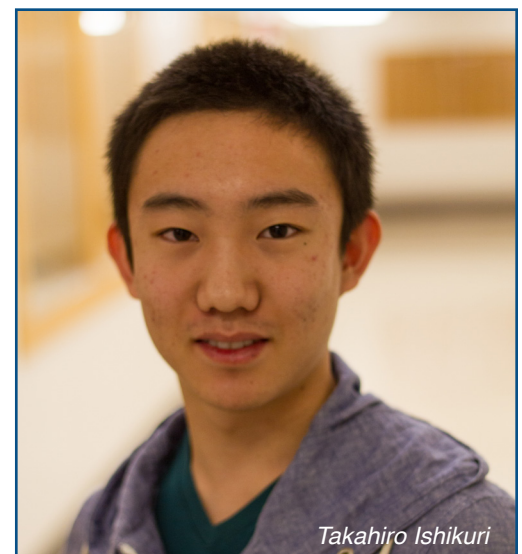
- Emily Anderson** for her short story, "The Proud Life of Jackson Hobbes"
- Augusta Byrne** for her personal essay, "Girls and What's Wrong with Them"
- David Cranberg** for his humorous essay, "Trump vs 2020"
- Morgan Johnstone** for her poem, "Doors Like Guns"
- Morgan Kramer** for her flash fiction, "My Last Night"
- Jacob Newman** for his poem, "Ten Minutes of Television"
- Lauryn Wagner** for her short story, "I'm Sorry"

Their work is now considered for national competition, with winners announced in mid-March.

Junior **Takahiro Ishikuri** recently scored a 36 on his ACT. He plans to study medicine or engineering in college.



Elizabeth Tong



Takahiro Ishikuri



APRIL 5 REFERENDUM

WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT TUESDAY APRIL 5, 2016?

The Nicolet High School District's School Board has unanimously approved placing an operational referendum question on the April 5 ballot asking taxpayers for permission to increase our state revenue limit by an additional \$3.15 million per year for each of the next six school years (2016-2017 through 2021-2022) to maintain and support instructional programs, services and class sizes at Nicolet.

The formal resolution requesting permission to exceed the state revenue limit will appear as follows on the April 5, 2016 ballot:

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN SETS A LIMIT ON THE AMOUNT OF MONEY, PER STUDENT, THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS CAN RECEIVE EACH YEAR THROUGH PROPERTY TAXES. AN OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM REQUESTS PERMISSION FROM VOTERS TO EXCEED THIS AMOUNT.

AN ADDITIONAL \$7 PER YEAR FOR EVERY \$100,000 OF A HOME'S VALUE

*Shall the Nicolet Unified High School District, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to **exceed the revenue limit** specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by **\$3.15 million per year for non-recurring purposes** for the 2016-2017 school year through the 2021-2022 school year, in order to **maintain and support** instructional programs, services, and class sizes?*

THE REFERENDUM, IF APPROVED, WILL END AFTER SIX YEARS. IT WILL NOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

IF APPROVED, THE REFERENDUM FUNDS WILL BE USED SPECIFICALLY TO MAINTAIN CLASS SIZES, CURRENT COURSE OFFERINGS AND PROGRAMS RATHER THAN MAKE BUDGET REDUCTIONS.

WHAT WILL THE REFERENDUM COST?

If approved, homeowners would pay an additional \$7 per year for every \$100,000 of their home's value for six years.

ESTIMATED TAX INCREASE PER YEAR FOR 6 YEARS (2016-2017 through 2021-2022)	OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM \$3.15 Million Per Year (Approximate Increase of \$0.07 per \$1,000 of Property Value)	
	Property Value	Per Year
\$100,000	\$7.00	\$0.58
\$250,000	\$17.50	\$1.45
\$500,000	\$35.00	\$2.91



WHY ARE WE PROPOSING THIS REFERENDUM NOW?

- Our current operational referendum (approved in 2011) is expiring and without a replacement referendum, the district is facing a budget shortfall averaging \$3.15 million per year each of the next six years.
- We must continue to maintain and protect instructional programs, services and class sizes to support student achievement for every student, in every classroom, every day.
- We are responding directly to community input provided this fall by more than 2,150 residents, with the majority supporting an operational referendum for \$3.15 million per year for six years.



MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

If the referendum is not approved, the district will need to make approximately \$2.1 million in immediate budget cuts and use an estimated \$800,000 of the district's fund balance (operating reserves) for the 2016-2017 school year. We estimate an ADDITIONAL \$925,000 in budget cuts would also be required for the 2017-2018 school year, before leveling off to approximately \$175,000 to \$275,000 of reductions per year thereafter.

WHAT ACTIONS HAS THE DISTRICT ALREADY TAKEN TO REDUCE COSTS?

When facing budget reductions in the past, the district has made difficult decisions to reduce operating expenses in order to maintain a balanced budget. Some past cost saving measures include:

- Reducing full-time teaching staff
- Decreasing instructional support services such as guidance counselors, social workers and classroom aides
- Eliminating course offerings, including two world languages
- Combining the athletic and recreation department staff and services into one office
- Reorganizing administrative positions and duties
- Shifting resources away from the classroom to support required utilities, transportation and other non-educational expenses

WHAT ADDITIONAL CUTS WOULD THE DISTRICT NEED TO MAKE IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

Without renewing the operational referendum that is expiring, the district is faced with making reductions of 15% across all departments. The district would need to close the budget gap(s) by making potential cuts such as:

- Reducing teachers and support staff, resulting in increased class sizes
- Reducing the variety of courses taught at Nicolet and offering fewer sections of each class
- Reducing funding for music, theatre and art programs, which could mean fewer performances and shows
- Reducing funding for athletics, which could result in the elimination of some teams
- Reducing co-curricular programs, such as FEAR robotics, forensics, mock trial, photography and Model UN
- Reducing funding for instructional technology



VOTING INFORMATION

- **Vote on April 5 between 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.** Visit <https://myvote.wi.gov> for polling information.
- Remember you will need to show an acceptable **photo ID**.
- **Vote early** at your local municipal clerk's office starting Monday, March 21 until Friday, April 1.
- **Request an absentee ballot** if you are already registered to vote. You must request the ballot no later than Thursday, March 31 at 5 p.m.



MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION & LEARN MORE

- **VISIT** www.nicolet.us/district/referendum.cfm
- **EMAIL** us at Nicolet_Referendum@nicolet.us
- **SCHEDULE** an informational presentation for neighbors or community groups at 414-351-7520
- **ATTEND** a Referendum Information Open House
 - **Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 – 8:00 PM**, Nicolet High School Library
 - **Saturday, March 19, 9:00 – 10:30 AM**, Nicolet High School Library



STUDENTS RECEIVE VISUAL ART AWARDS

A record number of 26 students earned a total of 53 Regional Scholastic Art Awards this year. To see additional student work visit www.nicoletphoto.com/Scholastic-Images.



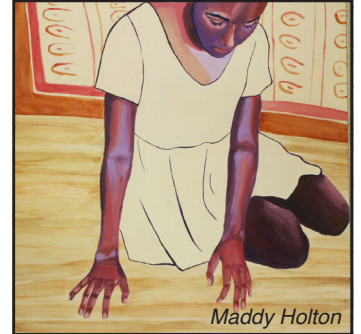
Melanie Falk

Art Portfolio Winners:

Gold Key | Jack Berroug, Emma Bird, Wil Dietz, Lieschen du Plessis, Elizabeth Jaekels

Silver Key | Arielle Bordow, Wil Dietz, Lieschen du Plessis, Elizabeth Tong

Honorable Mention | Arielle Bordow, Maya Magana, Rayanne Pelican, Brandon Poll, Sam Scribner



Maddy Holton

Individual Entries

- Jack Berroug - 2 Silver Keys, Honorable Mention
- Emma Bird - Gold Key, Silver Key
- Arielle Bordow - 2 Silver Keys, Honorable Mention
- Wil Dietz - Honorable Mention
- Leilani Dolphin - Silver Key
- Lieschen du Plessis - 2 Gold Keys, 2 Honorable Mentions
- Jennifer Emond - Honorable Mention
- Kelsey Enea - Silver Key
- Maddie Falk - 2 Silver Keys, Honorable Mention
- Jennifer Froh - Honorable Mention
- Anna Girton - Honorable Mention
- Sean Hanzel - Honorable Mention
- Emilie Haworth - Silver Key
- Maddy Holton - Honorable Mention
- Elizabeth Jaekels - Silver Key
- Eve Jonas - Honorable Mention
- Max Kinstler - Gold Key
- Madison Kohnke - Honorable Mention
- Raevaughn Lord-Huertas - 2 Honorable Mentions
- Maya Magana - Honorable Mention
- Ryan Mitchell - Honorable Mention
- Katie Novak - Gold Key
- Rayanne Pelican - Honorable Mention
- Brandon Poll - 2 Honorable Mentions
- Sam Scribner - Silver Key, Honorable Mention
- Alesandra Tejada - Silver Key, Honorable Mention



Arielle Bordow



Brandon Poll



Kelsey Enea



Will Dietz



NICOLET ATHLETIC UPDATES

Ski Team: The Boys and Girls Ski teams both qualified for the Ski State Championships. Boys State team members are Charlie Dickson, Charlie Rosmann, Harry Rosmann, Jake Tarnowski, Grant Siverhus, Filip Selvik and Sam Wiegers (alternate). Girls State team members include Elizabeth Jaekels, Sydney Smith, Gabi Marcus, Maddie Wallace and Abby Schill (alternate).

Boys Hockey: The Boys are led by Nico Aguilar, Zach Asmann, George Sullivan, Ethan Long, Conner Aguilar and Kyle Asmann.

Boys Basketball: The Boys basketball team is led by seniors Tyree Young, Raylonzo Woods and Jezzriah Burton, who are the top scorers.

Girls Hockey: The Girls Hockey team is conference champions for the second consecutive year. The Girls finished 8-0-1 in Eastern Shores Conference games. Junior Nicole Unsworth earned 1st Team All-Conference and Freshman Marie Dedert earned Honorable Mention All-Conference.

Boys Wrestling: The boys finished 6-1 in North Shore Conference duals, their highest finish since 2001. Varsity wrestlers include: Ryan Kuesel (106), Robert Lagerman (113), Jaren Yoder (120), Alex Riedijk (126), Amani Reid (132), Teague Worlton (138), Savion Dean (145), Adam Plotkin (152), Parker Keckeisen (160), Peter Driscoll (170), Chris Azcueta (182) and Colin Shea (195). Freshman Parker Keckeisen finished 5th place in the 160 pound weight class at the WIAA state wrestling tournament. This is the first time a Nicolet wrestler has placed at state since 1997.

Girls Gymnastics: The girls Varsity and JV both finished in 3rd place at the North Shore Conference Gymnastics Meet. Two gymnasts qualified for the WIAA State Tournament, Junior Ellen Liang and Sophomore Cailin Mahoney.

Boys Swimming: Dylan Hall, Collin Siverhus, Ben Cook, and Ricky Romersi competed in the State Swim and Dive Meet. Senior Jeremy Moser captured the State Diving Championship and came within 9 points of the state record.

Girls Basketball: The Girls basketball team is led by seniors Brookelyn Robertson, Brandilyn Robertson, Michelle Pigg, Samantha Peltz, Amythest Graham, Julia Simenz, Lydia Hawthorne and Asanate Lanier. Brookelyn leads the team in scoring, rebounding and assists.

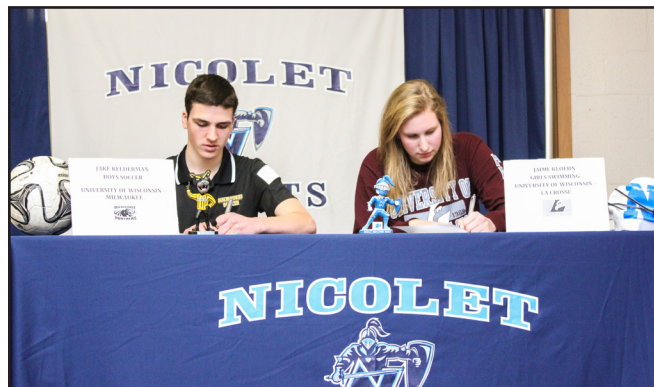


NICOLET HIRES VARSITY FOOTBALL COACH

Nicolet recently hired Alex Moroder as the new Head Football Coach for the 2016 season. Coach Moroder is a Homestead Graduate who was the Head Football Coach at New Berlin West the past four seasons. He will also begin teaching at Nicolet in the Fall in the Business Ed Department.

NICOLET ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

Five Nicolet Athletes recently signed letters of intent in a ceremony at NHS to participate in College sports next year. **Pictured below from left to right:** Greta Ricigliano - Soccer, Saint Michaels (Vermont), Tom Driscoll - Soccer, Knox College (Illinois), Chris Azcueta - Wrestling, UW-Oshkosh, Jake Kelderman - Soccer, UW-Milwaukee and Jaime Kloehn - Swimming, UW-La Crosse.





NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

6701 N. Jean Nicolet Road, Glendale, WI 53217
www.nicolet.us

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 5474

Nicolet School Board

Elizabeth (Libby) Gutterman, President
Ellen Redeker, Vice President
Joseph Kasle, Treasurer
Marilyn Franklin, Clerk
Morton Grodsky, Member

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

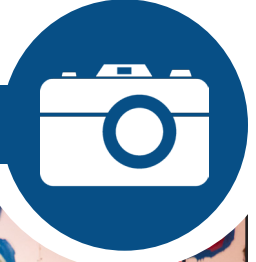
Meetings are held in the Library (D110)

March 17 – Board Workshop (4:00 p.m.)
March 21 – Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
April 14 – Board Workshop (4:00 p.m.)
April 25 – Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Visit the district website for additional meeting dates.



Learn more about the
April 5 Referendum on
pages 4-5 →



SMILE, NICOLET!



Five Nicolet Seniors have advanced to the Finalist level of the National Merit Scholarship competition (pictured from left to right): Emma Juettner, Madeline Folstein, Zachary Hampel and Sydney Seltzer.
Not pictured: John Campbell



Nicolet music students performed at the Student Smash on February 17 while students involved in art, dance, theatre, robotics, broadcasting and various service groups showcased their talents as well.



Nicolet FEAR is working hard to prepare for the robotics competition in March. Visit www.nicoletfear.com to learn more. Good luck!



Boys Basketball Coach Paul Hepp is retiring from coaching after 21 years. The Nicolet community expressed appreciation for Coach Hepp's leadership at the last home game on February 19.