

# NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL WINTER NEWSLETTER

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
**APRIL 2021  
REFERENDUM**  
ON PAGES 10-11



## MESSAGE FROM SUPERINDENDENT DR. KABARA

In the face of uncertainty, our Nicolet community has remained committed to ensuring that 2021 is filled with growth, hope and excellence.

Throughout the semester, I encourage you to reflect on your experiences from this past year. Acknowledge your accomplishments, take care of yourself and your community and remember that even though we are apart, we can still share a sense of togetherness.

The Nicolet community continues to set an example in its pursuit of growth and achievement no matter the circumstances. Please be sure to visit Nicolet's website and social media for news on strategic planning, facility updates, student highlights, and much more.

I look forward to the continued good work in the year ahead.

Your partner in education,  
Dr. Greg Kabara, Superintendent



READ MORE  
UPDATES FROM  
**SUPERINDENDENT  
DR. KABARA ON  
HIS BLOG**



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# NICOLET NEWS

## SECOND SEMESTER RETURN TO SCHOOL

The Nicolet School Board reviewed and discussed parent and staff feedback, internal health metrics and guidance from the North Shore Health Department and voted to transition to in-person learning with a remote option for the second semester.

We are grateful for the high level of engagement from the Nicolet community that has helped us develop a plan to safely execute both in-person and remote learning options for the second semester. We thank our parents, students and staff for their patience and flexibility in helping us create a safe and effective educational experience for second semester.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.nicolet.us/district/return-to-school.cfm>



## FOUNDATION UPDATE

Mark your calendar for the **Big Knight In!** on April 24, 2021: the Nicolet High School Foundation's virtual fundraiser. This year, **the proceeds from the event will be used to purchase books for all English classrooms**

With a classroom library, all students will be surrounded by a wide range of independent reading materials that reflect their diverse abilities, interests, perspectives and identities.

Check the Foundation website <https://www.nicolet.us/families/foundation.cfm> or Facebook at Nicolet High School Foundation for more information on the event - which can be enjoyed from the comfort and safety of your own home!

# UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

### SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MARCH 11 | 4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MARCH 22 | 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

### SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

APRIL 8 | 4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

APRIL 26 | 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

### SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MAY 13 | 4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MAY 24 | 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.



## NICOLET SCHOOL BOARD

From left to right: Dr. Leigh Wallace Tabak, Ms. Marilyn Franklin, Ms. Elizabeth (Libby) Gutterman, Ms. Ellen Redeker and Ms. Theresa Seem

Please visit <https://go.boarddocs.com/wi/nicolet/Board.nsf/Public> for information on how to participate.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## RYANN LIEBL ('96)

Ryann Liebl wrote, directed, and starred in the independent film, *Mags & Julie Go On A Road Trip*. Liebl made a point to show off her home state as a backdrop for part of the film.

## STEVE ARENZON ('86)

Steven Arenzon, former Nicolet Foundation president and parent of three alumni, provided some much needed cheer to Nicolet students by donating knit hats for homecoming week.

## NATALIE MUENSTER ('14)

Natalie Muenster poses with her German guest sister Lotte Huber in the German city of Ulm. The two have stayed in touch since taking part in the NHS 2012 GAPP exchange. Natalie works for Facebook and has been telecommuting from Berlin these past few months.

## LAUREN ANGEL MEYERS ('91)

Lauren Ancel Meyers is the 2020 Marden Lecturer in Mathematics at UWM. Dr. Ancel is a Professor in the Departments of Integrative Biology and Statistics & Data Science. Meyers also founded the University of Texas-Austin's COVID-19 modeling consortium.



# STAFF UPDATES

## BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK

As we say farewell to **Coach Jeff Hocuk** as the head boys and girls track coach, we congratulate **Coach Mark Eichler**, on being named the next Nicolet track head coach.



## THANK YOU

Nicolet said farewell and thank you to two dedicated staff members leaving Nicolet for other opportunities. Thank you, **Principal Tom Dorgan** and **Associate Principal Josh Zimmers** for your years of hard work and service. We wish you all the best!



# REMOTE LEARNING REVIEW

This past semester, our staff and students went above and beyond to form relationships, learn and stay connected during virtual learning.



Ms. Saunders' Film Studies class welcomed filmmakers via Zoom to learn and connect with experts in the field.



The Visual Arts Department regularly sent kits home to each class so students could continue to create high quality work. For example, Nicolet art students had the opportunity to practice creating coil vessels during a 50 minute virtual ceramics class.



The 9th Grade Wellness classes refined their skill of giving Hands-Only CPR using pillows, stuffed animals, dolls and whatever other creative item they found.



The French Honor Society worked in groups of two or three on virtual service projects, including making no-sew blankets for refugees in France, interning with the Alliance Française de Milwaukee and crafting holiday cards to raise money for Doctors Without Borders. First semester, FHS also held a virtual induction ceremony with a rendition of the French National Anthem sung by FHS alumni.



## BEST BUDDIES HALLOWEEN

The Nicolet Best Buddies Club had a blast as they hosted a Halloween Match Party via Zoom in October.



# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALISTS

Six Nicolet High School seniors have been recognized as Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to **Johnathan Hellman, Owen O'Donoghue, Yanni Ma, Louisa Wood, Zane Brinnington** and **Samuel Albert**.

**Zane Brinnington** and **Samuel Albert** were also recognized as Commended Students.

“WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS FOR THIS TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT.”  
- PRINCIPAL TOM DORGAN



## DAVID MCCULLOUGH ESSAY CONTEST

In the inaugural year of the David McCullough essay contest, seniors **Ela Sabnis** and **Mia Lima** were recognized as finalists out of over 200 entries and Mia Lima won the 3rd place prize.



## NATIONAL SPANISH EXAM

109 students participated in the National Spanish Exam and achieved eight gold medals, 25 silver medals, 13 bronze medals and 31 honorable mentions.



## NICOLET GLOBAL SCHOLARS

**Sydney Geboy**, senior, led an event with 35 students writing letters to a school NHS is connecting with in Haiti.

**Joyce Essuman**, junior, planned and executed a seminar for her fellow students titled, “Ghanaian History and African Pride.” During four virtual sessions, students discussed their reading of Yaa Gyasi’s novel, “Homegoing” and discussed their perceptions of Africa. Joyce also taught peers about Ghana, its history before and after colonization, and Africa’s beauty.

## HEBREW CLUB'S HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Hebrew Club celebrated Hanukkah with music, games and a treat making competition.



## WINNING YEARBOOK

Nicolet High School’s yearbook, The Shield ‘19-20, won a first place award at the Kettle Moraine Press Association (KEMPA) competition. The yearbooks are assessed on content, writing, and design.

Anchored with excellent photos, solid journalistic writing and strong design, The Shield is a very good yearbook.

It’s evident a lot of work went into the book, and the staff is to be commended for putting out such a comprehensive publication in the midst of a pandemic.

- Kettle Moraine Press Association

# FALL SPORTS OVERVIEW

## NICOLET SPORTS TEAMS ENJOY SUCCESS IN FALL 2020

### GIRLS TENNIS

The Girls Tennis team captured the North Shore Conference Championship, following an amazing season that saw all 10 of their varsity players earn All-Conference honors.

The WIAA Girls Tennis Sectional was loaded with the top teams in the state, but Nicolet managed to finish second and send six student-athletes to the WIAA State Tournament: **Itu Igoni, Maddie Buckley, Amelia Ansay, Ela Sabnis, Kephely Igoni** and **Emma Kappel**.

### BOYS SOCCER

The Boys Soccer team finished third in the best soccer conference in the state and placed five players on the All-Conference team with **Will Navarre** earning All-State Honors.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The Girls Volleyball team finished third in the North Shore Conference. They placed four players on the All-Conference team with **Ava Ellegard** winning Co-Player of the Year. Additionally, **Ellegard** and **Katie Heidenrich** received All-State recognition.

### GIRLS GOLF

The Girls Golf team finished fifth in the conference led by First Team All-Conference golfer **Isa Pierri**.

### GIRLS SWIM

The Girls Swim team finished fourth in the very tough NSC and advanced four swimmers (**Gloria Kawai, Delanie Nikolay, Meredith Griffith-Topps** and **Sofia Zelazoski**) to the WIAA State Tournament.

### CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross Country team was led by **Jimmy Weseman** who earned First Team All-Conference honors.

### BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The Boys Volleyball team placed three of its players on the All-Conference Team (**Jameson Junge, Cam Balda** and **Jon Hellman**) with season highlights that included wins over Whitefish Bay and Homestead.

### FOOTBALL

The Nicolet Football team beat Slinger in the first home game of the year 27-7 and also defeated West Bend West 23-0 on Senior Night for their first shutout since 2010. The team also qualified for the WIAA playoffs for the first time since 1989.

### ALL-CONFERENCE

Nicolet student-athletes were well represented on the North Shore Conference All-Conference teams with 33 student-athletes earning All-Conference recognition!

## MASLOWSKI PARK UPDATE

The construction of the state-of-the-art softball facility and community field at Richards E. Maslowski Community Park is expected to be complete in spring of 2021. The park will feature a synthetic turf softball field, dugouts, lights, a press box, and seating for over 300 people and will allow residents, students and families to enjoy recreational activities and community events for years to come.



# ACADEMIC ALL-STATE HONOREES

The Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin announced that **Isa Pierri, Lily Wegehaupt, Isabella Aiello, Anika Byrne, Ava Wales** and **Mimi Ellegard** of Nicolet High School are named Academic All-State honorees for the 2020 girls' golf season.



## LETTER OF INTENT SIGNING DAY

The following Nicolet student-athletes will be taking their talent to the collegiate level next year:

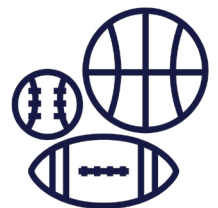
- KOBE JOHNSON**, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEN'S BASKETBALL
- WILL NAVARRE**, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MEN'S SOCCER
- JAMES GRAHAM**, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEN'S BASKETBALL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK  
KEEPING KIDS SAFE DURING THIS  
STRESSFUL TIME BUT ALSO GIVING  
THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE ACTIVE  
AND INTERACT WITH THEIR PEERS!

- TENNIS CLUB



## NICOLET RECREATION DEPARTMENT RECEIVES HIGH PRAISE FOR FALL PROGRAMMING



Throughout the Fall, the Nicolet Recreation Department provided a variety of safe programming for community members of all ages. To learn more

about the programs offered by the Recreation Department, please visit <https://www.nicolet.us/activities/recreation.cfm>

# ARTS

## VISIBLE INK

The 2020 Fall Issue of Visible Ink, a student-produced literary magazine, is available to read on the Nicolet website under Library Guides.

<https://nicolet.libguides.com/VisibleInk>

## WASB 2020 WINNERS

**Anika Byrne** earned first place for her piece entitled "Waking up in the Morning" and **Brianna Hintz** took second place with her piece entitled "Growth through Change."

## THEATRE

This fall, Nicolet Theatre produced the play *Antigone*. Based on the tragedy written by Sophocles around 441 BCE, then translated by Kenneth Cavander. Nicolet Theatre performed an adapted version by Matt Minnicino, placing the scene in Modern Day.



## Visible Ink

Nicolet High School's Literature Magazine  
Fall 2020

## UPCOMING ARTS EVENTS

February 12 - 14: Children's Show is available to stream

April 29 - May 1: Nicolet Theatre Spring Show

April 28: Taste of Fine Arts Live Stream

May 18: Spring Choir Concert

May 20: Spring Band Concert

May 21 - 22: Student Directed One-Acts

May 25: Spring Orchestra Concert



# STRATEGIC VISIONING

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Nicolet administrative team, school board, staff and Nicolet school community have the opportunity to collaborate to **REEVALUATE AND REFRESH THE DISTRICT'S COMPREHENSIVE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN** with goals and tactics that will guide the district for the next several years.

**GOALS** Provide an equal educational achievement opportunity for every child, both served and underserved.

**CREATE** new strategic goals and tactics in an effort to accelerate student learning

**REFRESH** the district's mission, vision and value statements. **Read the updated statements on this page.**

**ENHANCE** previous program developments

**FURTHER** our pursuit of equity

**DETERMINE** next steps for our comprehensive facility study



## MISSION

The Nicolet High School District exists to positively impact the world through education by accelerating the achievement of every student, in every classroom, every day.



## VISION

Nicolet High School commits itself to excellence and equity by intentionally engaging each student to achieve personal success and to contribute to the local and global community.



## VALUES

We are committed to:

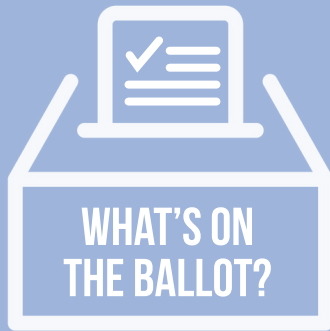
- Ensuring all students learn at high levels in an equitable learning environment
- Encouraging creativity, innovation and risk taking
- Building future ready skills
- Ensuring an inclusive school culture where all are valued
- Engaging in continuous improvement utilizing research based best practices
- Cultivating collective responsibility for the success of all
- Connecting our communities
- Teaching with a focus on personalized learning

# OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM 2021



## VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

The Nicolet High School District's School Board unanimously approved placing a question on the April 6 General Election ballot asking taxpayers for permission to replace the 2016 Operational Referendum for the following six school years so that Nicolet can continue to provide educational opportunities that reflect the community's high expectations.



### The formal resolution requesting permission to exceed the state revenue limit will appear as follows on the ballot:

*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 \$3,900,000 per year for six years, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year and ending with the 2027-2028 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of maintaining and supporting instructional programs, services, and class sizes?*

## WHY NOW?

In 2011, and again in 2016, the Nicolet community passed operational referendums to ensure the Nicolet High School District could continue to maintain and support educational programs, retain critical teaching staff, and maintain small class sizes.

We are proud to offer diverse and unique educational programs, in part, due to the support from previous operational referenda. This referendum ensures we can continue to offer the same level of programming.

**We are responding directly to community input** provided last fall through a community-wide survey with more than 2,590 responses, with the majority favoring an operational referendum for \$3.9 million per year for six years.

1

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.

2

According to The Wisconsin Policy Forum, 280 out of 422 (66.4%) public school districts in the state now have passed at least one referendum (operational or capital) since 2016.

3

Like the current proposal, Nicolet's previous referenda in 2011 and 2016 were also "non-recurring," which means they end after a set number of years.

4

If approved, the referendum funds will be used to maintain current course offerings, programs, and class sizes.

## DID YOU KNOW?

# HOW WILL THE REFERENDUM **IMPACT TAXPAYERS?**

If the referendum is approved, property taxpayers would pay an additional \$17 for every \$100,000 of their property value for the next six years. This impact is demonstrated in the chart to the right. Based on current assumptions for debt structure, enrollment, and forecasted revenues, the District projects that the mill rate will decline in future years as shown in the graph below.

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT CHART		
PROPERTY VALUE	AVERAGE ANNUAL IMPACT	AVERAGE MONTHLY IMPACT
\$100,000	\$17.00	\$1.42
\$250,000	\$42.50	\$3.54
\$500,000	\$85.00	\$7.08

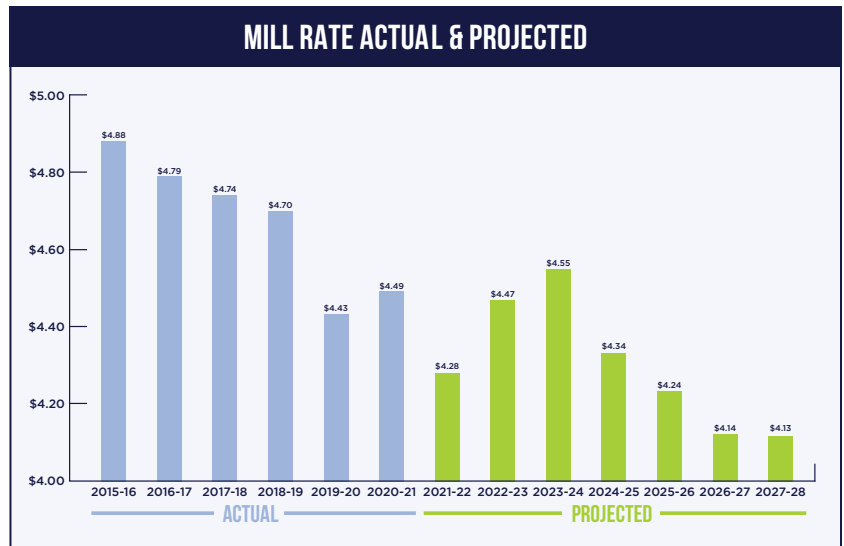
*All financial data is based on assumptions made at the January 2021 Board Workshop.*

## WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

Without a replacement referendum, Nicolet is facing an average budget shortfall of approximately \$3.9 million per year (or approximately 17.9% of the forecasted 2022-23 general operations budget) over the next six years. To achieve a balanced budget in 2022-23, Nicolet would need to implement an immediate reduction of \$3.4 million in expenses. Future years would require additional budget modifications.

The District would close the budget gap by making potential cuts such as:

- Elimination of some co-curricular and extracurricular programming for students
- Reducing the number of teachers and support staff, resulting in increased class sizes
- Reducing the variety and frequency of courses taught at Nicolet
- Reduced funding for instructional technology



*Mill Rate: Property tax dollars levied per \$1,000 of equalized (fair market) value.*

*All mill rate projections assume a 1.0% increase in property valuation across communities.*



## ELECTION DAY IS APRIL 6, 2021

Visit [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) to register to vote, request an absentee ballot (available March 16!), find your polling location and more.

## MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION & LEARN MORE

VISIT the operational referendum page at [nicolet.us](https://nicolet.us)



ATTEND a Referendum Virtual Information Session

- February 24 from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. or 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- March 3 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.





# NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

*Accelerating Achievement Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day*  
6701 N. Jean Nicolet Road, Glendale, WI 53217  
[www.nicolet.us](http://www.nicolet.us)

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## NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL **WINTER NEWSLETTER**



NICOLET TEACHERS PREP FOR THE VIRTUAL RED CARPET AS PART OF NICOLET'S ANNUAL FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL TRADITION



STUDENTS ACT IN TRADITIONAL GREEK TRAGEDY, *ANTIGONE* BY SOPHOCLES



ART STUDENTS ENJOYED CREATING THEIR OWN DESIGNS IN METALS CLASS



THE NICOLET GIRLS TENNIS TEAM COMPETES IN A MATCH VS. BROOKFIELD CENTRAL