



NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

Winter 2018



NICOLET KNIGHTS NEWS

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Nicolet School District

Issued December 17, 2018—Volume 11: Published three times per year by
The Nicolet Union High School District, 6701 North Jean Nicolet Road, Glendale, WI 53217



As we approach the end of 2018 and reflect on the past year, the Nicolet community has a lot to be proud of. This newsletter highlights a few of the many student and faculty accomplishments since the newsletter last fall. I look forward to witnessing the incredible accomplishments of our students and teachers yet to come this academic year.

I'm thrilled to share with you that Nicolet received a rating of Exceeds Expectations on the most recent School Report Card released by the state's Department of Public

Instruction with a score of 81.5, an increase of 2.8 points from the prior year. The state report card also highlighted the Class of 2018's fantastic ACT composite score of 24.2, compared to the statewide composite of 20.5.

I'm incredibly pleased that Nicolet's scores continue to rise year over year, due to the positive results of curriculum enhancements and the hard work of our teachers, students and staff. The District will continue to focus on encouraging students to reach their fullest potential by providing opportunities for all students to be stretched academically, in and outside the classroom. Parents and the broader community are integral to Nicolet's continued success. Thank you for your investment in our students.

I encourage you to take some time to read over the athletic facilities update on page 5. The Nicolet School District has been in the process of identifying needs in order to provide our hardworking student-athletes with facilities that meet WIAA/NFHS standards and reflect the sense of pride our students deserve.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback on the updates in this newsletter. You can reach me at robert.kobylski@nicolet.us and 414-351-7525. I encourage you to follow us on social media to stay up to date on the latest happenings at Nicolet.

During this holiday season, I am grateful for the students, faculty, staff and all of you who make Nicolet a thriving learning community. Best wishes to you and yours in 2019!

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



January 18: Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Dinner
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

January 19: PTSO Cocoa & Cram
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

January 30: Nicolet Parent 101
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

February 20: Nicolet Parent 101
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

February 28: Parent/Teacher Conferences
3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

March 7-10: Nicolet Theatre Presents *Mamma Mia!*

March 13: Nicolet Parent 101
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

March 16: National History Day Regional Competition
7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

March 18: Solo Ensemble Concert
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

More dates are available at www.nicolet.us.

Stay up-to-date on all the latest Nicolet happenings and events by following us on social media.

 @NicoletKnights

 /NicoletHighSchool





PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Greetings Nicolet families,

As the semester closes and winter break is upon us, I feel that I am increasingly more aware of how Nicolet students and alumni are impacting the world around them every day. Students, alumni and teachers are traveling to foreign countries by means of impressive scholarships and grants to share their expertise, creating incredibly moving works of art on a regular basis, and working towards major scientific breakthroughs that literally may change the world.

I'm thankful that the culture at Nicolet allows students opportunities to excel in foreign languages, study abroad, learn from visiting teachers, and much more in the pursuit of becoming well-rounded learners and successful participants in the global economy. Much of this success is due to our first-rate teachers and Global Scholars Program, which you will see mentioned throughout this newsletter.

Thank you parents, students, staff and the greater Nicolet community for your support of Nicolet High School. It is a pleasure to work in this positive community that continually fosters standards of excellence for our school.

—Principal Dr. Greg Kabara

PTSO UPDATE

Do you want to know what's going on at Nicolet? Are you looking for a way to be involved that won't take too much time or effort? PTSO is for you and it's never too late to join.

Here are a few of the things PTSO is working on:

- PTSO gives out **Merit Awards** to students for being involved in their high school community. Check out information on our webpage.
- **Cookies, Cocoa & Cram** is scheduled for Saturday, January 19. Every year PTSO co-hosts a study session at Nicolet before exams with teachers available to help students.
- Look for information on our exciting spring, **Drive In Movie Night**.
- Coming soon: **Grad Grams** - A great way to recognize 2019 graduates and retiring staff.

Stay up-to-date by visiting the PTSO webpage:

www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm.

"Like" PTSO on Facebook: facebook.com/NicoletPTSO/

Questions: Contact us at nicoletPTSO@gmail.com.

See you at our next meeting: Thursday, January 17 at 6 p.m.

Co-Presidents: Traci Schwartz & Kris Barger

Vice President: Janice Pfaffl

Treasurer: Brenda Stelzer

Secretary: Jean Bernstein

SPECIAL VISITOR FROM SENEGAL

In the spring of 2018, Nicolet Social Studies teacher **Sue Bolly** traveled to Senegal with the Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This semester, **Moustapha Fall**, a teacher representative for the advancement of English, visited Nicolet from Senegal. Moustapha worked with the students in the Global Fellows program at Nicolet and was a great asset to teachers and students during his visit. He presented to over 500 students, and observed 10 different classes. His 12-day stay consisted of a Badger game, a trip to the Harley-Davidson Museum and more!

Of his visit to Nicolet, Moustapha said, "I am deeply touched by what I have seen and experienced in this school. I especially appreciate how warm-hearted and welcoming people are. My special gratitude to the social studies department and Miss Bolly. This stay has left an indelible mark in me that I will proudly carry for the rest of my life. Thank you all. Forever in my heart."





ALUMNI NEWS

Adam Butlein ('97) invented "LiteZilla," a massive, interactive glowing canvas similar to the popular '80s toy, Lite-Brite. He now has over 80 installations across the world and recently donated a LiteZilla to Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin's Clinical Cancer Center.

Caroline Marowski ('18) and **Francisco Cid-Rodriguez ('18)** are spending the 2018-2019 school year as CBYX Scholars living with host families in Germany and attending classes at the local gymnasium.

Elly Bird ('18) is a mandolinist in The New Vintage Frets, a group that pays homage to the tradition of mandolin music in Milwaukee.

Justin Hurwitz ('03) was nominated for best original score for "First Man," Damien Chazelle's drama about Neil Armstrong and the Apollo 11 moon landing. The duo worked together in 2016 on "La La Land," which resulted in two Golden Globes and two Oscars for Hurwitz.

Rhea Stark ('14) was named a 2019 Rhodes Scholar. Rhea will study Islamic Art and Archaeology at Oxford University this fall following graduation from Brown University with a perfect academic record in 2018. She studied Archaeology and the Ancient World and Middle East Studies.

Thomas Nguyen ('18) received a second place scholarship of \$1,000 through the National Spanish Examinations. Only 12 students are chosen from among the 150,000 students that take the National Spanish Exams each year.

Yotam Haber ('94) composed a new concerto entitled "The Little Bird." **Hanna Hurwitz ('04)** and the Nicolet Orchestra debuted the concerto at the fall concert on November 29. Read more on page 7.

To submit an update about Nicolet alumni, please send the alumnus name, graduation year and relevant information to public.relations@nicolet.us. Submissions will be reviewed for publication in future newsletters and other district communications.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Nicolet High School Foundation awarded the following enrichment grants this fall:

- \$500 to the **German Club and Honor Society** for a learning and service activity with the Hunger Task Force.
- \$2,000 to the art department for **Raku Artist in Residence, Jeff Shawhan**, to work with the ceramic and AP art students.
- \$310 to bring native Spanish speakers into the **Spanish 4 Honors** classes.
- \$2,500 for a presentation by the co-founders of **Serve 2 Unite**, an organization founded in response to the Sikh Temple shooting in 2012. The organization's focus is "cultivating courage, wisdom, love and human kinship on our earth."



The Foundation is in the midst of our annual appeal for support. Please consider a gift in any amount. Donations can be made throughout the year by visiting our website: www.nicolet.us/families/foundation.cfm and clicking on the **DONATE** button.

PROJECT ADAM HERO AWARD

Nicolet Athletic Trainer Marissa Strehlow was recently honored with the **Project ADAM Wisconsin Hero Award**. At a varsity basketball game last January, a 70-year-old man lost consciousness. His heart stopped beating, and Marissa calmly began CPR and used the school's AED device to restart his heart activity. On November 30, Marissa accepted the award next to the man whose life she saved.

The Project ADAM Wisconsin Hero Award honors a school staff member, coach, student or visitor that activates the school's cardiac emergency response plan by calling 911, starting CPR and getting the nearest AED. Project ADAM was founded in 1999 following the death of Adam Lemel, a local high school student who died of a sudden cardiac arrest. Adam's parents worked with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin to create a program educating schools about the proper use of AEDs and supplying them with the tools and knowledge they need to save lives.





NICOLET STUDENT FEATURED IN MUSIC VIDEO



Nicolet student **Grace Flaherty** was recently featured in a professional music video called “Perfect To Me” by up and coming performer Anne-Marie. Francie Cohen, a friend of Grace, auditioned with a video submission, describing what she thinks is “perfect.” Not knowing what the audition was for, Francie spoke about her relationship with Grace. After Francie’s inspiring submission, the two were selected and traveled to Chicago for an exciting 12 hour day of filming! **Watch the music video online at <https://youtu.be/2FtFwAaCjrM>.**

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Spanish 4 Honor Students hosted their annual Thanksgiving food drive this November. Students collected nearly 18,000 non-perishable food items, and donated more than \$4,700 to Feeding America, United Migrant Opportunity Services and Faith Santa Fe Lutheran Church serving, many Spanish speaking citizens in Milwaukee.



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP



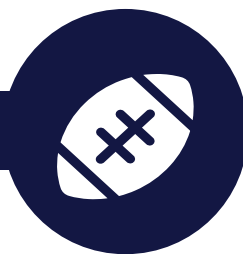
Thirteen Nicolet seniors have been named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. **Dillon Collins, Priyanka Guptasarma, Angelina Jaglinski, Sam Kovnar, Benjamin Kramer, Louis Miller, Avery Mitchell, Jason Scheuer, Claudia Schneider, Anna Spektor-Bulatova, Megan Sullivan, Blair Wales and Olivia Weslow** will go on to compete for one of 7,500 National Merit Scholarships to be offered next spring. Nicolet had the third highest number of semifinalists of any high school in the state.

FRENCH EXCHANGE STUDENTS



Exchange students from Martinique were welcomed to Nicolet in late October. They stayed with host families, shadowed students and attended classes. Last spring, students in the French department had a chance to visit Martinique. We’re thankful that Nicolet students have the enriching educational opportunity to experience and visit cultures different from their own.





CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the 37 Nicolet student-athletes who earned all-conference recognition this season:

Football:

John Quam (1st Team)
 Parker Keckeisen (1st Team)
 Jeremy Kobe (Honorable Mention)

Girls Golf:

Valentina Bianchini (Honorable Mention)
 Isa Pierri (Honorable Mention)

Girls Tennis:

Annabelle Crowley (1st Team)
 Emma Koppa (1st Team)
 Olivia Ward (2nd Team)
 Bella Rosmann (2nd Team)
 Miah Bohlen (2nd Team)
 Ela Sabnis (2nd Team)
 Kalina Kapatonic (2nd Team)
 Taylor Steinberger (Honorable Mention)
 Itu Igoni (Honorable Mention)

Girls Swim/Dive:

Taylor Hall (Honorable Mention)
 Ana Eurich (Honorable Mention)
 Gloria Kawai (Honorable Mention)
 Sydney Geboy (Honorable Mention)

Boys Soccer:

Nathan Hernandez (1st Team)
 Matteo Quintero (1st Team)
 Eric Perlin (1st Team)
 Will Navarre (1st Team)
 Logan Lafferty (2nd Team)
 Jason Scheuer (Honorable Mention)
 Danny Manger (Honorable Mention)
 Owen Porter (Honorable Mention)
 Max Katz (Honorable Mention)

Boys Cross Country:

Nicholas Holmes (1st Team)
 Payton Goudreau (2nd Team)

Girls Volleyball:

Madeleine Ellegard (2nd Team)
 Ava Ellegard (2nd Team)
 Grace Sullivan (Honorable Mention)

Boys Volleyball:

Matt Heidenrich (1st Team)
 Ryan Mitchell (1st Team)
 Nick Peterson (2nd Team)
 Jarrett Henderson (2nd Team)
 Jameson Junge (Honorable Mention)

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

The Nicolet School District has been in the process of identifying needs in order to provide our hardworking student-athletes with facilities that fulfill current standards and reflect the sense of pride that they deserve. Nicolet student-athletes have been performing and practicing on substandard athletic facilities for some time. Some of the facilities are aging, having borne the brunt of overuse and water damage, and others do not even meet the WIAA/NFHS requirements to host competitions.

Working in partnership with MSOE, we are now under construction for a new baseball stadium and locker room facility at Richard E. Maslowski Park supported by a \$2 million donation provided by a private donor to MSOE. Additional fields for girls softball and community recreation will be constructed during a future phase of the project as fundraising goals are reached. Until that time, MSOE has offered Nicolet the use of its softball field.

Additionally, we have raised \$3.8 million to date from the sale of our upper athletic fields on the east side of I-43. This will help to fund Phase I of the redevelopment project on the main campus: a stadium to serve soccer, football, track and field and physical education needs as well as an elevated tennis complex with 12 courts, lights and seating.

The funds raised from the sale of the upper athletic facilities have been a great boost; however, we are still working to complete the final stage of fundraising for our new tennis facility and our stadium on the Nicolet campus.

No taxpayer dollars will be used to cover construction costs of the new athletic facilities, nor will any funds from the 2016 referendum be used on the project. The District is committed to renovating our athletic facilities and will continue to work with community leaders, alumni and the booster club on fundraising efforts.

Parents and supporters interested in staying informed and assisting with the fundraising effort are encouraged to contact the District via Ferne Hecker at ferne.hecker@nicolet.us.

**CONGRATULATIONS,
 NICOLET KNIGHTS!**



LETTER OF INTENT SIGNING



Congratulations to seniors **Parker Keckeisen**, **Josie Keldermann** and **Destiny Huven** for signing their collegiate letters of intent! Parker will wrestle at the University of Northern Iowa, Josie will play soccer at Marquette University, and Destiny will join the track and field team at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.



Nicolet and MSOE baseball teams at the Maslowski Park groundbreaking



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Nicolet Athletic Hall of Fame honors former student athletes, coaches and other individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Nicolet High School athletics. Nicolet High School is proud to announce that six candidates have been selected to the Nicolet Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2018.



ATHLETES

- Gary Adelman** ('59) – Football/Basketball/Tennis
- Mickey Szilagyi** ('64) – Football/Basketball/Tennis/Baseball
- William Gengler** ('79) – Swimming
- Andy Memmel** ('81) – Boys Gymnastics
- Kathleen Hannan** ('07) – Cross Country/Basketball/Track

COACHES

- Richard Sykes** (1989-2012) Boys Baseball

GIRLS BASKETBALL AT FISERV FORUM



The girls varsity basketball Team played in the new Bucks arena, the Fiserv Forum, on November 21.

The Knights defeated West Bend East 48-41 in a tough game. Last year, West Bend East defeated the Knights three times. The girls were the first varsity team to get a W in the new arena!



Candidates will be honored at a celebratory dinner on Friday, January 18 at 5 p.m. in Knights Hall. Following the dinner, they will be honored during halftime of the boys varsity basketball game vs. Hartford. **Tickets for the dinner and the ceremony can be ordered by calling 414-351-8145.**

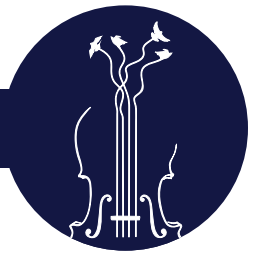
NICOLET THEATRE PRESENTS:

RADIUM GIRLS

This year's fall play, *Radium Girls* by D.V. Gregory, was another wonderful success for the theatre department! In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage—until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Directed by Laura Anderle, Nicolet students brought to life the story of a woman named Grace and her battle with the U.S. Radium Corporation. A story written with warmth and humor, the powerful drama offered a glimpse into American obsessions of health, wealth and the commercialization of science.



WORLD PREMIERE OF THE LITTLE BIRD CONCERTO



Every two years, Nicolet alumni working as music or theatre professionals are invited to return to Nicolet to mentor students and provide hands-on experience and guidance in pursuing their passion for the arts. This year, professional concert violinist **Hanna Hurwitz ('04)** performed a new modern concerto by friend and composer **Yotam Haber ('94)** called "The Little Bird" with the Nicolet Orchestra directed by **Jamin Hoffman**.

As part of the program, Hanna Hurwitz held a workshop with students for three days, culminating in the world premiere performance of "The Little Bird" concerto during the fall concert on November 29. Composer Haber desired to write a piece that challenged and encouraged students to play their instruments in new, unique ways, giving them the chance to explore the "sound worlds" and creative possibilities of their instruments.

Encouragement and motivation from Nicolet teachers and students contributed to Haber's decision to pursue a career in music. Haber hopes "The Little Bird" concerto also inspires Nicolet students to discover new opportunities to pursue their musical passions post-high school.

The new work was commissioned by the Nicolet Performing Arts Committee (PAC) and is an Artist-in-Residence program supported by the Kenn Miller Chair for the Performing Arts, which was started by the PAC as a tribute to the school's former theatre director and teacher who led the program for 32 years.



Composer Yotam Haber, violinist Hanna Hurwitz, and Nicolet Orchestra Director Jamin Hoffman





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Theresa Seem, Treasurer
Marilyn Franklin, Member

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Library (D110)

- January 17:** Board Workshop (4:00 p.m.)
- January 24:** Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- February 14:** Board Workshop (4:00 p.m.)
- February 25:** Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- March 14:** Board Workshop (4:00 p.m.)
- March 19:** Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Visit the district website for additional meeting dates.



SMILE, NICOLET!



German Club and Honor Society students participating in a service activity with Hunger Task Force. The Foundation awarded an enrichment grant to make this experience possible for students.



Thirteen Nicolet Seniors have been named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists.



Nicolet seniors Annabelle Crowley and Emma Koppa capped off their senior season by winning the Division One State Girls Tennis Doubles Championship! Their final season record was an impressive 29-3. Congratulations!