



NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

Winter 2017



NICOLET KNIGHTS NEWS

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Nicolet School District

Issued December 15, 2017 - Volume 7: Published twice a year by

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



As we approach the end of 2017 and reflect on the past year, the Nicolet community should be very proud. In addition to the updates and acknowledgments you will read in this newsletter, I would like to highlight a few of our most significant accomplishments.

Earlier this year, the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** named Nicolet Union High School District a **2017 Top Workplace**. This award is well deserved and acknowledges the energy and attention our teachers and professional staff

commit to accelerating the achievement of every student, in every classroom, every day. I want to extend my congratulations and appreciation to our entire team!

I am also excited to let you know that Nicolet received a rating of Exceeds Expectations on the most recent School Report Card released by the state's Department of Public Instruction. We scored 78.7 (out of 100), and this news is even more encouraging because Nicolet's score continues to rise year after year despite the fact that the State Report Card has undergone modifications each year.

The State Report Card also validates other metrics that show Nicolet is headed in the right direction, including last year's junior class score of 23.7 on the statewide ACT assessment (compared to the statewide composite of 20.0). Over the last five years we implemented several curriculum enhancements to help all students reach their academic potential while also addressing the achievement gap. This year's score is a marked increase over previous years and a testament to the efforts of teachers and students.

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 also 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 wonderful learning community that continues to grow and thrive. Wishing you and yours all the best in 2018!

Yours in education,

Robert Kobylski, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



January 13: PTSO Cocoa & Cram
10:00 a.m. — Noon in the Nicolet High School Cafeteria

January 26: Nicolet Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner
5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School
See page 4 for more details

January 31: Nicolet Parents 101-Junior Knights Day, Academic Planning & Course Planning
6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. in the Nicolet High School Library

February 21: Nicolet Parents 101-School Culture, Daily Schedule & Student Resources
6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. in the Nicolet High School Library

February 24: Science and Engineering Fair
8:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. in the Nicolet High School Cafeteria

March 8: Parent/Teacher Conferences
3:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m. at Nicolet High School

March 14: Nicolet Parents 101-Skyward Access, Parent Organizations & Go To List
6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. in the Nicolet High School Library

April 4: Nicolet Parents 101-Activities, Athletics & Co-curriculars
6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. in the Nicolet High School Library

April 14: Prom
7:00 p.m. — 11:00 p.m. at the Harley Davidson Museum

More dates are available at www.nicolet.us

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



@NicoletKnights



/NicoletHighSchool



Greetings Nicolet families,

We are off to an exceptional start to the 2017-18 school year! The year kicked off with our red carpet event. Students and staff enjoyed the annual celebration.

I would like to applaud our students for their work in generating positive school spirit at athletic events, music concerts, the school play and other activities throughout the fall. It is great to see our students supporting each other in their extracurricular activities.

Students have also been involved in a number of volunteer and community service projects. I know there are great lessons to be learned from these experiences and I commend the students for their commitment to giving back.

As we look toward second semester, students will be registering for 2018–2019 classes. The College and Career Readiness Guide provides a list of graduation requirements, college admission information and a four-year planning guide to assist students in choosing courses that align with their goals. Additional information and resources are available on the district website: http://www.nicolet.us/students/college_and_career_readiness_guide.cfm

This holiday season, I would like to express my gratitude to the students, staff, parents and community for their passion and support of public education and Nicolet High School. It is my pleasure to work with a positive and supportive community that creates and maintains high standards for our school.

-Dr. Greg Kabara, Principal

NICOLET FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Foundation has a new president, Steven Arenzon, and new vice-president, Kristi Klein, for the 2017-2018 school year. Steven followed Susie Falk who stepped down after three years, but still remains an active board member. The Foundation also welcomed Traci Schwartz and Michelle Wales to the Board in September.

This fall, the Foundation was able to support a variety of educational opportunities totaling \$3,650 in grant funding, including:

- World Languages
- An artist-in-residence for the Art Department
- A visiting author for the English Department
- A food sustainability service project for the German Honor Society/German Club

Please consider donating to the Foundation’s annual appeal. Funds raised will support the faculty and students through enrichment grants. No donation is too small. To donate, visit www.nicolet.us/families/foundation.cfm.

CURRICULUM UPDATES

Nicolet conducted the second annual **College and Career Readiness Day** on October 18. Students in grades 9-11 took standardized assessments while seniors attended a series of breakout workshops to provide recommendations on writing college letters, completing college applications and applying for scholarships.

Nicolet is again offering juniors the opportunity to participate in an **ACT® prep program**. Our goal is to give Nicolet students a competitive advantage when taking the ACT® next spring. Students were able to pick from a variety of options to best suit their schedule and preparation style.

Along with our partner primary school districts, Nicolet is reviewing the **Career and Technical Education Curriculum** to ensure the skills being taught align with state standards.

-Dr. Brenda Turner, Director of Teaching & Learning

PTSO UPDATE

Don't let their high school years pass you by! Do you want to know what's going on at school? Are you looking for a way to get involved that won't take a lot of time or effort?

PTSO is for you and it is never too late to join.

Here's what we are working on now:

- Students are working toward their Merit Award. This is an excellent way to encourage students to be involved!
- January's Cocoa and Cram event is scheduled for Saturday, January 13th
- Coming soon: Grad Grams - A great way to recognize 2018 graduates and retiring staff

Stay up-to-date by visiting the PTSO webpage for information, including meeting minutes, newsletters, fundraising and volunteer opportunities. www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm
"Like" PTSO on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NicoletPTSO. If you have questions please email co-presidents Traci Schwartz and Kris Barger at NicoletPTSO@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

KNIGHT ON THE TOWN
APRIL 21, 2018
FOUR POINTS SHERATON



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



The Nicolet National Honor Society raised over \$500 in cash donations and ten full boxes of supplies to send to organizations supporting families in hurricane-affected areas. Everything from shampoo to diapers to deodorant overflowed the donation boxes thanks to the community's generous donations. The Nicolet National Honor Society appreciates your generosity!

The Leadership and Service Club is off to a great start this school year! The club began the year with a bake sale fundraiser for hurricane relief. In September, club members volunteered at the Urban Ecology Center's Hike Milwaukee event. They also hosted Urban Ecology Center Volunteer Program Manager Meghan Jones to speak with members about the history of the center and the power of leadership through service. In October, the club organized a coat drive for the Salvation Army and worked at the Urban Ecology Center's Enchanted Forest event.

Twenty Nicolet High School students took part in the 2017 German Club Fall Service Day. Students spent the morning at the Hunger Task Force Farm harvesting and processing kale, collard greens and pumpkins for distribution to needy people in the Milwaukee area. Students also learned about sustainable agriculture and donated 40 boxes of cereal to the Hunger Task Force's Fall Cereal Drive.



OLD YEARBOOKS FOR SALE

Looking for a copy of an old Nicolet yearbook? We're cleaning out storage and have extra copies of every year except 1988! The books will be on sale for \$40 each. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please contact Ferne Hecker at 414.351.7520.



Nine Nicolet High School seniors have been recognized as semifinalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Rachel Blumenthal
Sarah Fleming
John Karnes
Christopher Hellman
Lucas Houchin-Miller

George Lawton
Anna McDougall
Thomas Nguyen
Benjamin Vuchetich

The Merit Scholar® title will be announced in the spring. These scholarship recipients will join more than 330,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar® title, including several Nicolet graduates.

The Nicolet French Department hosted 24 French exchange students in October from Isle sur la Sorgue in the Provence region of France. The exchange students went to school with their Nicolet host students for 3 days and attended social events, such as a Halloween party.





Nicolet science teacher **Jennifer Bault** (above) had the once-in-a-lifetime experience of **studying polar ice cores with leading researchers in Antarctica** as part of PolarTREC 2017. PolarTREC (Teachers and Researchers Exploring and Collaborating) is a program in which K-12 teachers spend 3-6 weeks participating in hands-on field research experiences in the polar regions.

As only one of three researchers on her team, Mrs. Bault studied seasonal ice production in the Ross Sea from October 21 to November 25, 2017. Students had the ability to follow her experience through her blog and a facilitated Skype session. Mrs. Bault is excited to use her unique experiences and research to benefit her work in the classroom.

Nicolet business teacher **Mike Kania** was recognized as a **WISE Financial Literacy Gold Star Teacher** for the 2016-17 school year!

In the spring of 2017, students scored an average of 53% on the Financial Literacy Certification Pre-Exam at the beginning of the semester. At the end of the semester, students took the actual certification exam and received a class average of 84%. Twenty-two out of the twenty-three students, or 95.7%, scored high enough to earn the WISE Financial Literacy Certification. Thomas Croft, who graduated in 2017, scored a perfect 100% on his exam and was a finalist for a \$10,000 scholarship from WISE.

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.

Freddy DeBow ('05) played the saxophone on tour with R&B singer Charles Bradley from 2012 through August 2017. DeBow hit the stage throughout western Europe, Australia, Singapore, and the United States — even playing at festivals like Coachella and Lollapalooza.

Michael Poll ('95) received an invitation to play basketball in the 2018 World Special Olympics in Seattle.

Laura LeBrun ('12) recently spoke to groups of freshmen about the work she does with Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos. Her organization benefited from the National Honor Society's Hurricane Relief Drive.

Idan Ben Yitschak ('12) was chosen to accompany the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley and the Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff on their tour of the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Adam Levin ('90) became the administer of the Facebook group "Old Milwaukee," where community members gather to share old photographs and memories from the city's history.

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 2017.

ATHLETES

- Don Edwards** ('58) – Golf/Football
- Kristin Patterson** ('82) – Volleyball/Basketball
- Eric Robertson** ('99) – Tennis
- Andy Cole** ('02) – Track/Volleyball



COACHES

- John Gustavson** (1984–2003) Girls Basketball/Boys Volleyball
- Paul Hepp** (1995–2016) Boys Basketball

Candidates will be honored at a celebratory dinner on Friday, January 26 in Knights Hall. Tickets for the dinner and ceremony can be ordered by calling 414.351.8145.



The fall sports season for the Nicolet Knights was highly successful. The **Boys Volleyball** team captured the North Shore Conference Championship with a 7-1 record and also won the WIAA Regional Championship, advancing to the Sectional Semi-Finals. Senior outside hitter **Sean Shtivelberg** was named NSC Player of the Year. The **Girls Tennis** team finished 2nd in the NSC and advanced to the WIAA State Tournament with a sectional championship win over rival Whitefish Bay. The **Boys Soccer** team finished 2nd in the new 10-team NSC with a 7-1-1 record, its highest conference finish in several years, and won the WIAA Regional Championship, advancing to the WIAA Sectional Semi-Finals. The **Girls Volleyball** team won the WIAA Regional Championship and advanced to the WIAA Sectional Semi-Finals. Senior **Cori Meyers** became just the third player in school history to record 1,000 kills and has committed to play volleyball in college for Winona State University next year. The **Girls Swim** team finished 4th in the very tough NSC and advanced five swimmers (Taylor Hall, Elizabeth Sullivan, Anna Christenson, Kate Tobin, Ana Eurich) to the WIAA State Tournament. The **Boys Cross Country** team advanced two runners (Max Selbach and Nick Holmes) to the WIAA State Tournament. The **Nicolet Football** team defeated Cedarburg in their last game of the season, 21-14. It was their first varsity win against the Bulldogs since 1991.



Ten Nicolet student-athletes were selected to participate in a series of leadership exercises on November 1st in Hartford as part of a Leadership Conference sponsored by The North Shore Conference. 100 students (10 from each school) participated. Representing Nicolet High School were: Carson Trimborn, Sonny Phinisee, Reese Parish, John Quam, Chloe Ewings, Matt White, Parker Keckeisen, Landry Elliott, Lia Oren and Jaya Williams.

28 Nicolet student-athletes earned All-Conference Honors in the North Shore Conference: Jaren Yoder (Football), John Quam (Football), Annabelle Crowley (Tennis), Emma Koppa (Tennis), Julia Bohlen (Tennis), Ellie Berman (Tennis), Miah Bohlen (Tennis), Daphne Buening (Tennis), Amy Drame (Tennis), Angela Sendik (Tennis), Noah Hernandez (Soccer), Logan Lafferty (Soccer), Andrew Muenster (Soccer), Nathan Hernandez (Soccer), Alex Tejero (Soccer), Maxwell Selbach (Cross Country), Nicholas Holmes (Cross Country), Cori Meyers (Volleyball), Leah Weiler (Volleyball), Alyx Jacobson (Volleyball), Grace Sullivan (Volleyball), Julia Rodrian (Volleyball), Sean Shtivelberg (Volleyball), Matt Heidenrich (Volleyball), Alex Arisson (Volleyball), Jack Brahm (Volleyball), Andrew Heidenrich (Volleyball) and Ryan Mitchell (Volleyball).



RECRUITING REALITIES

Does your son or daughter have interest in playing athletics at a college level? Nicolet High School Athletics invites you to spend an evening with recruitment guru Jack Renkens as he explores the myths and presents the realities of college recruiting!

**Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Nicolet High School - Community Room**

All student-athletes and families will receive complimentary admission. It is never too early to start the recruiting process, and athletes of all levels can benefit from this informative program.

The Nicolet Booster Club recognized a senior athlete from each Nicolet Varsity Athletic Team this fall season with the Knight Pride Award. Winners chosen exhibited qualities of outstanding dedication to their sport, put team above self, displayed leadership on and off the playing field, showed academic integrity and lived by the principles of the Nicolet Athletic Code of Conduct. The winners were: Jaren Yoder (Football), Cristina Bianchini (Girls Golf), Julia Bohlen (Girls Tennis), Emily Hilger (Girls Swim/Dive), Ayman Isahaku (Boys Soccer), Maxwell Selbach (Boys Cross Country), Ciara Jones (Girls Cross Country), Cori Meyers (Girls Volleyball) and Sean Shtivelberg (Boys Volleyball).



FALL PRODUCTION: 1984

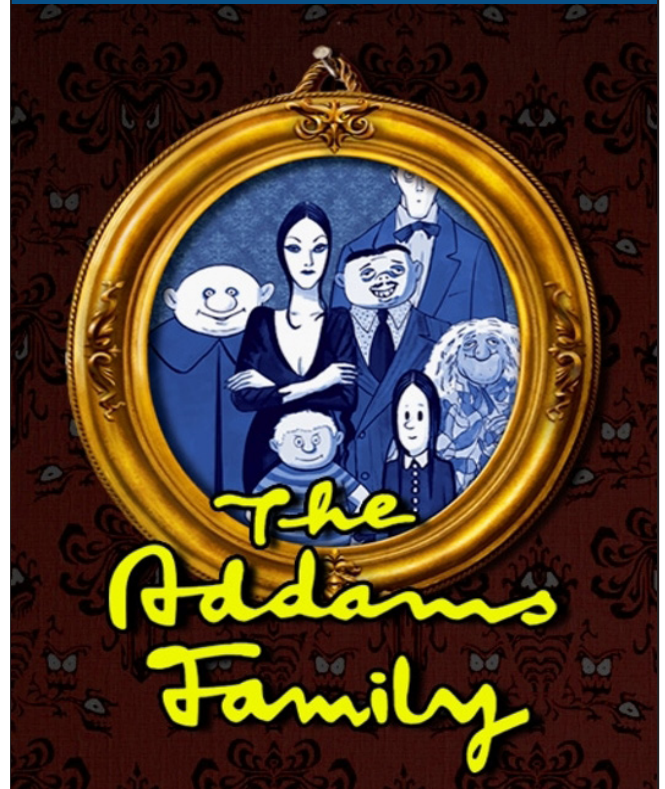
Nicolet Theatre staged a thought-provoking rendition of George Orwell's *1984* for the 2017 fall play. The closing performance was accompanied by a thoughtful and engaging talk-back with the show's cast and crew. The student-led discussion centered on the relevance of the play's themes to our concerns today, such as the increasing presence of screens in our lives and how actions can be manipulated by the threat of surveillance.



Nicolet Theater Director Laura Anderle chose *1984* as the fall play because of its topical nature, and was pleased to see how students connected with the material and eagerly shared their insights about the subject matter during rehearsal discussions. Anderle commented, "Having conversations like this is what sparks me to continue to teach theater." As one parent observed, the post-performance discussion was an example of how the performing arts can be a means to introduce students to critical thinking, much like an exercise in a humanities course.

Nicolet is proud of our theatre students for not only providing entertaining shows, but for performing productions that serve as a forum for educational and thoughtful exploration.

NICOLET THEATRE PRESENTS



FEBRUARY 21–25

CHILDREN'S PLAY



SATURDAY, APRIL 28

10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

1:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Free tickets available at the Nicolet Welcome Desk.



PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE UPDATE



The Performing Arts Committee (PAC) supports our amazing theater, music faculty, and students through generous donations, promotion efforts and volunteering. The PAC recently provided grants for the following programs:

- Nicolet's Vocal Jazz Ensemble students will have the unique opportunity to travel to McNally Smith College of Music's Vocal Jazz Festival in St. Paul, MN to work one-on-one with vocal jazz musicians, attend multiple master classes, perform on stage, and make a professional recording.
- Dinner for visiting UW-Madison Wind Ensemble members conducting master classes for Nicolet musicians. The UW-Madison Wind Ensemble will also perform a free concert for the local public.
- A donation to the fund to purchase and install a new state-of-the-art sound system for Nicolet's auditorium. This upgrade will benefit all of the performing arts departments (theater, band, orchestra and choir) as well as the school and community. Our talented students' voices and instruments will be heard like never before!

Donate and learn more about the PAC at http://www.nicolet.us/families/performing_arts.cfm.

Join our email list for updates: http://eepurl.com/c2_3zH



The Pikers, an all-male a capella group from Washington University, performed for the Nicolet Concert Choir on October 16. The group of non-music majors arranges all their own music and talked to the class about opportunities to continue music after high school.

NHS HONORS MUSIC RECITAL
Featuring Band, Choir & Orchestra students
March 19 at 7:00 p.m.
Community Room & Studio Theatre (F106)

Congratulations to students in Nicolet's Advanced Scene Study class on their success at the Wisconsin High School Theater Festival! The three-day theatre experience for high school students and teachers consists of educational theatre workshops, the forensic one-act play competition and evening events. Nicolet students performed their production of a one-act show called "Man Woman Flower." Participating students include:

Wyatt Chang
Olivia Rasmussen
Sofia Pfaffl
Sophie Shapiro

Lauren Westfahl
Abeje Schnake
Maya Schnake
Grace Greene

Gabe Smith
Libby Noll
John Paul Penoske
Yoana Petrinska



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NICOLET SCHOOL BOARD

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Dr. Leigh Wallace Tabak, Clerk
Theresa Seem, Treasurer
Marilyn Franklin, Member

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Library (D110)

January 11: Board Workshop (4:00 p.m.)

January 22: Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

February 15: Board Workshop (4:00 p.m.)

February 26: Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

*Visit the district website for
additional meeting dates.*

SMILE, NICOLET!



We're proud to announce that Nicolet Union High School District was named a 2017 Top Workplace by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel! Thank you to our teachers and professional staff who focus their energy and attention on accelerating the achievement of every student, in every classroom, everyday.