

# North High News



December 2007

OMAHA NORTH HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL



## *Principal's Points* by Gene R. Haynes

"I have learned. .... that one should keep his words both soft and tender, because of tomorrow he may have to eat them." ~ Andy Rooney

We will continue to provide educational opportunities that enable all students to achieve their highest potential.

As we bring the first semester to a close, I encourage all parents/guardians to engage in your sons'/daughters' academic success. By providing the necessary leadership and guidance that supports their learning, you are providing a conducive environment as they finish up their semester and the new semester begins.

Please stress the importance of attendance. Research states that students with poor attendance do not do well in school.

We would like to extend our parents partnership that will address our student needs to improve the achievement gap for academic success.

We invite you to the following upcoming events:

January 11, 2007 (Friday) - **New Student Orientation** - 5:00 p.m. - Viking Center

January 27, 2008 (Sunday) - **8<sup>th</sup> grade Open House** - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

(tours begin in the Viking Center)

February 11, 2008 (Monday) - **Parent Involvement Day** - all parents will report to the school auditorium at 8:00 a.m. upon arrival.

March 13, 2008 (Thursday) - **Parent Teacher Conferences** - 12:30 - 7:30 p.m. (MPC)

You are always welcome to attend all events and get a first hand view of the many opportunities that are provided to our students.

I thank each of you for allowing us to work with the various students in Omaha. We are very proud of each and every one of them. We are looking forward to an exciting new year and your participation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gene R. Haynes, Principal

Omaha North High Magnet School

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### *Counselor's Comments*

*by Kevin Custard, Director of Guidance*

#### **COLLEGE IS AFFORDABLE!!!**

Find the answers at our Financial Aid Meeting on **Tuesday January 15, 2008, at 5:30 p.m.** in the lecture hall at Omaha North High Magnet School. A representative from EducationQuest will be the guest speaker. **Juniors, Seniors and PARENTS** are invited to this meeting.

Get reliable, free service from **EducationQuest**. Call **Sheila Schoessler, 391-4033**, for an appointment at North High School or at 11031 Elm St. Students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. FREE services include electronic searches for scholarships, careers, and colleges; completion and electronic filing of the FAFSA; and answering questions concerning student loans.

Note: To file the FAFSA electronically and free of charge, use [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

#### **RESUMES**

Encourage your student to make a resume and save it on the computer. These are essential for Juniors and Seniors (especially for letters of recommendation) and other students who want to participate in special programs and/or scholarships. A "quick" resume can be done individually in the Computer Center.

#### **COLLEGE & SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINES!!!**

Please encourage students to complete scholarship and college applications two weeks before the deadline. If applications are brought to the GRC at the "last minute", we cannot guarantee that transcripts and letters of recommendations will be sent on time. NOTE: UNO's application deadline to be considered for Scholarship is February 1, 2008. and UNL's deadline to be considered for Scholarship is January 15, 2008. Please have transcript request in to Ms. Brace 2 weeks in advance.

#### **ACT/SAT TESTS!! (JUNIORS AND SENIORS)**

ACT--February 9, April 12, June 7      SAT--January 26, March 1 (@ North), May 3, June 7

Get your registration packets in the GRC or register on-line. Questions concerning the ACT Written part can be directed to Ms. Pfeiffer at 557-3424.

#### **SENIOR ACTIVITIES**

You and your graduating senior should have received a Senior Letter and Calendar about graduating items, scholarships, and college applications (Also see the Senior Cues). If you need more information, please call your counselor at 557-3408. The Senior Cues are emailed to students and on the Guidance Web Page.

Helpful phone numbers: EducationQuest--391-4033; Jostens/School Traditions (Rings,Announcements) 733-0300

The Class of 2006 received over \$4 MILLION in scholarship money.

The Class of 2007 received over \$3.75 MILLION in scholarship money. The class of 2008 is an amazing, talented class. Let's hope that can translate into scholarships for your futures!

**Seniors: READ the Cues; APPLY for scholarships; COPY scholarships received for the GRC.**  
**ASK questions if you don't know something.**



**GRADUATION: FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Omaha Civic Auditorium**

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### SCHOLARSHIP FRAUD

- \*If you must pay money to get money, it might be a scam.
- \*If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- \*Spend the time, NOT the money. Contact your NHS counselor.
- \*Never invest more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships.
- \*Nobody can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship.
- \*If you're suspicious of an offer, it's usually with good reason.



**IF YOU SUSPECT FRAUD:** Contact your counselor at North High School

### ALL-GRADE TESTING AND CAREER INFORMATION

In November, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students took the EXPLORE and PLAN tests. Students will be given their test scores including an explanation of the different work skill levels and the academic/elective classes that would help them to increase skill levels during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Ask to see their scores and certificates. Both career and educational resources will be discussed with students using the Careers and Education in Nebraska booklet.

Juniors went on a college/career visit and received a wealth of information while on the various campuses. Seniors were able to participate in a Career Shadowing Project and got to see first hand what their future career might hold.

All the results and outcomes achieved through testing are filed in each student's Career/Planning Portfolio located in their counselor's office. Students receive this Portfolio when they graduate.

### PLAN and PSAT TEST RESULTS

The PLAN and EXPLORE test results will be interpreted to students after we receive them in February 2008. The PSAT test results were interpreted to students on Tuesday, December 18, 2007.

### REGISTRATION 2008-09

Please encourage your student to think about classes for next year. Courses are set up on a semester or full-year basis. Once a class is registered for, it is important that the student remain in that class for the duration of the semester or year. In following district policy, only seniors will be allowed 1 block of release during the 2008-09 school year. College Admissions consider what, and how many, classes/courses seniors take in their senior year. College admissions offices are most favorable toward students who continue a full schedule through all 4 years of high school. Students reaching into higher level courses in high school show a marked stability in continuing their education beyond high school and achieving a college degree. Information will be available to you during **Parent Involvement Day on Monday, February 11**. Please discuss the course selections your student is considering. If you have further questions about registration, please call your student's counselor at 557-3408.

### JOBS

Mr. DeWayne Holmes, Job Placement Counselor for O.P.S., continues to help students with job placement every Wednesday. A sign-up sheet to see Mr. Holmes is in the Guidance Resource Center.

### ADULT NIGHT SCHOOL

Students who fail core classes (English, math, science, and social studies) may take on-line credit recovery courses to make these up. Any high school student may now attend these classes. Cost is \$100.00 for Angel Credit Recovery. Contact a counselor to verify if courses are needed to graduate and register.

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### SUMMER SCHOOL

Information about O.P.S. Summer School will be forthcoming in late April. If your student needs to make up some required classes, contact the counselor in early May.

### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

If you have questions about joining this prestigious society, please call Ms. Cheryl Connors or your counselor. Juniors or seniors must have a 3.5+ GPA, volunteer hours, and participate as a leader in activities at school and in the community to be considered for membership.

### PARENTS Still Make the Difference!

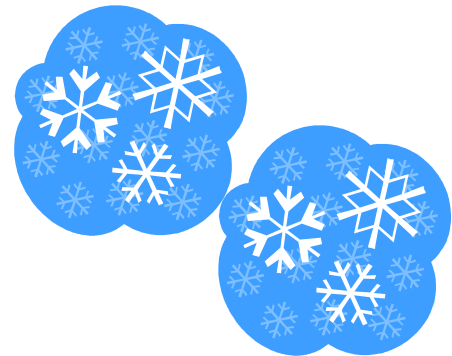
We encourage you to continue to communicate with your student. Take time to spend a minimum of 10 minutes a day talking with each other. Another communication technique is to write letters or notes (your student can read this in private and respond to you). Write your child a thank you note showing your appreciation for something they did. This acknowledgement shows you care and teaches our young people gratitude. Extend this courtesy to teachers who show extra care and concern for your student. Buffett nominations will be coming out soon. This is a valuable learning tool and practice--graduating seniors will need to write thank you notes for interviews, opportunities, and awarded scholarships.

### OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

Recognizing those outstanding teachers who have taught your child(ren) is easy to do. Nominations for the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Awards may be submitted to The Buffett Foundation, 222 Kiewit Plaza, Omaha, Nebraska 68131 by January 31, 2008. <http://www.stbfoundation.org/award.shtml>.

### **OMAHA NORTH HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR SENIOR CLASS OF 2007**

Jan 4	ACT Registration Deadline for February 9 Test
Jan 9-10	Final Tests for 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester
Jan 11	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Jan 11	End of First Semester
Jan 11	Teachers submit 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester Grades
Jan 11	New Student Orientation—5:00 p.m.
Jan 14	Second Semester Starts
Jan 21	NO SCHOOL—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 26	SAT
Jan 28	Last day to Add a class
Jan 29	SAT Registration Deadline for March 1 Test
Feb 4	Last day to Drop a class
Feb 7	Teachers submit 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Progress Grades
Feb 7	Last Day to Order Josten Cap & Gown—11-1:15 p.m., Viking Center
Feb 9	ACT @ ONHMS—8:00 a.m.
Feb 10	All City Performance—7:30 p.m.
Feb 18	NO SCHOOL--President's Day
Feb 19	NO SCHOOL for students--Teacher Inservice
Feb 26	Parent Involvement Day/Honors Convocation



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Mar 1	SAT @ ONHMS
Mar 7	ACT Registration Deadline for April 12 Test
Mar 12	Senior Meeting—10:15-11 a.m., in Homerooms
Mar 14	Teachers submit 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Grades
Mar 13	School—7:45-11:30 a.m.; Parent Teacher Conferences—12:30-7:30 p.m.—MPC
Mar 14	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Mar 17	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Begins
Apr 1	SAT Registration Deadline for May 3 Test
Apr 7-11	NO SCHOOL—Spring Break
Apr 12	ACT @ ONHMS
Apr 14	Begin Summer school registration
Apr 15	Graduation Tickets go on sale—Seniors receive 6 complimentary tickets; additional Tickets are \$3 each (cash only); Jostens orders delivered this week
Apr 16	Jostens Delivery
Apr 16	Teachers submit 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Progress Grades
Apr 23	Blue & Gold Academic Breakfast @ 7:30 a.m. & Convocation
Apr 27	SAT Registration Deadline for June 2 Test
May 3	SAT
May 6	ACT Registration Deadline for June 14 Test
May 9	Teacher Inservice—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
May 15	Senior Scholarship Night--7:00 p.m., NHS Aud.
May 16	Vikings of Distinction
TBA	Senior Banquet—6 p.m., Parents Invited
May 20	Eric Awards (Seniors' Last Day)--9:00 a.m., NHS Aud., Awards, Caps & Gowns issued, Senior Picture with Mr. Haynes taken (Pictures will be available for purchase on Graduation Day for \$8 each)
<b>May 23</b>	<b>FRIDAY--Graduation Practice--9-10:30 a.m. --MANDATORY</b>
<b>May 23</b>	<b>COMMENCEMENT--Seniors report at 6:00 p.m.; Ceremony at 7:00 p.m.</b>
Jun 7	SAT
Jun 14	ACT

Important Resources for You:

**SENIOR CUES**--College Reps, college applications, scholarship applications and deadlines; see Ms. Brace **EducationQuest**, 11031 Elm St., is an excellent, free source to obtain college, scholarship, and financial aid information. Call Sheila Schoessler, 391-4033, for an appointment.

**Job Placement Counselor** (Mr. Holmes) visits North with job/career opportunities every Wednesday. Sign up in the GRC to see him.

**Military Recruiters**--See Mr. Mertz in the GRC

**Jostens (Cap & Gown; Graduation Announcements)**--Representative: Matt Langley, 733-0300  
Information for professional counseling services may be obtained through your counselor.

Questions? Call your counselor at 557-3408

## *AP and Dual Enrollment*

In the coming weeks of January, students in the following courses will have an opportunity to register with the University of Nebraska–Omaha for Dual Enrollment: Dr. Holley's **Honors Differential Equations**, Dr. Meyer's **AP Calculus AB**, Mr. Ahern's **AP World History**, Mrs. Westbrook's **AP Environmental Science** and Ms. Roberts' **AP Comparative Government & Politics**. Students enrolled for Dual Enrollment during first semester must reapply to be considered for second semester credits. This includes Dr. Holley's **AP Calculus BC** and Ms. Wilson's **AP English Literature & Composition**.

The Dual Enrollment program permits students to earn a grade and credit through UNO for the course, with the ability to transfer the grade and credit to most post-secondary institutions in the US. The cost of \$200 per course is a significant savings over the cost for the same number of credits while in college. The fee also covers the \$84 AP Exam fee for the course. A fee reduction is available for students in the Federal Lunch Program.

For FAQs, updates and more information pertaining to Omaha North's involvement in Dual Enrollment, go to "AP Course Information" under "Academics" at <http://www.ops.org/high/north>.

Students intending to take any AP exam in May will need to register and place a \$20 non-refundable deposit by March 15 to avoid the \$50 late fee. Fee reductions are available to students in the Federal Lunch Program. For more details, visit the "AP Course Information" page on the school's website.

## *Science News*



### **Omaha North 9<sup>th</sup> Graders Study at Teton Science School**

Thanks to the continued generosity of Lozier Foundation, three Omaha North 9<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the Teton Science School's Young Women in Science program near Jackson, Wyoming, October 28-November 2. During the week, the students hiked in the mountains, teamed with staff researchers to investigate ecological topics, identified celestial objects in the night sky, and developed leadership skills with other young women from Montana and Wyoming high schools. The Teton Science School was featured in the November 2004 *National Geographic*. Selected through a highly competitive application process after being recommended by 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselors and teachers, Omaha North's 2007 representatives were **Kyla Huber**, **Mina Holmes** and **Jessica Powell**.

## *Summer Camps*

### **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Summer Technology Camp at Omaha North High Magnet High School**

Students currently in grades five, six, and seven are invited to attend Summer Technology Camps. Current 5<sup>th</sup> graders can attend Robotics Camp, June 2-13, 2008. Current 6<sup>th</sup> graders can attend Aeronautics Camp, June 16-27, 2008. The Structural Engineering Camp, for current 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, also runs June 16-27, 2008. For additional details, visit the "Summer Programs" link under the "About" button at <http://www.ops.org/high/north>.

## Elect Business

### **Elect Business Courses for your next year electives! Learn Successful Strategies For Life!**

Whatever path you are pursuing — college prep, career training, tech prep, or school-to-work — every student can learn how to succeed in life by electing business courses!

Why study business? There are several reasons why you should enroll in business education at Omaha North High School:

1. Business transactions, decisions, and interactions are a part of every person's daily life. All students, regardless of their ultimate career goal, need business courses in high school.
2. Business courses contribute to higher-order thinking.
3. Business courses enhance achievement test performance.
4. Business programs contribute to workplace readiness and help develop skills and knowledge employers want and need.
5. Business programs provide for integrated learning.

Omaha North High School offers several courses in business education which are beneficial to all students. These courses are: Academy of Finance, Accounting, Business Economics, Business Law, Business Management, Computer Information Management, Education for Employment, Entrepreneurship, Keyboarding, Personal Finance, Marketing, Internship Labs

**Elect a Business Education class for the 2008 – 2009 school year!**

**Look in your course catalog for descriptions!**

## FFA News



**LiNK** is an educational outreach project developed by members of the Omaha North FFA. The collaborative, year-long program began three years ago and brings together inner city students from an elementary, middle, and a high school to expose the young people to forestry education. Each year, the project kicks-off with a trip to Arbor Day Farms where the door is opened to many exciting processes in our natural world. The groups continue to meet on a monthly basis throughout the school year in order to further understanding of trees. An elaborate Arbor Day event, planned by the Omaha North FFA, includes the LiNK students and concludes the program each year as the community comes together for a celebration of trees in our lives. Inclusion in the LiNK group has become an honor for the students at each of the three schools.

Six members of the Omaha North FFA are selected each year to be one of six leaders of a LiNK group. Throughout the year, each North leader works with a middle school assistant, from King Science and Technology Magnet; and five elementary students, from Lothrop Magnet Center. The leader makes a large commitment to planning and staging interactive activities that will help their young friends learn the value of trees in our community.

At Lothrop Magnet Center, approximately thirty students are selected at the beginning of each school year from the entire fourth grade class to participate in the project. To be selected, the students compete with an original essay, poster, or other format that focuses on trees. This year's groups, which include thirty-four elementary students, are currently growing forty Blue Spruce seedlings in Lothrop's greenhouse. Plans are underway to plant those trees as part of the 2008 Arbor Day celebration.

In addition to Omaha North's FFA LiNK activities, the Chapter also assists their magnet pathways schools with other projects. In October, Chapter members accompanied Lothrop fourth-graders to Mead, NE for their Ag Awareness Festival. FFA members planned and hosted a "Medical Entomology" event at Lothrop's Family Night in early November. In December, members will serve as judges at King's annual Science Fair. Spring of 2008 will bring several other collaborative opportunities between the schools.

### Health Office News

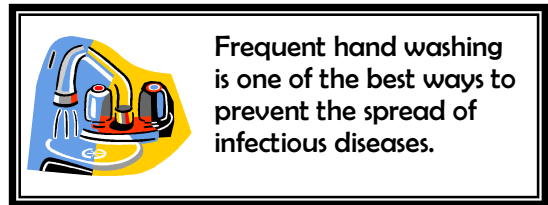
Our winter weather has arrived and is in full force. Please make sure your student is properly dressed for winter conditions. Remind your children that loss of body heat and frostbite can occur quickly and it is important for them to have layers of clothing, coats, gloves, and hats available for changing weather conditions. The health office does not have clothing items to loan out to students.

The Health Office is seeing an increase in the number of students in the office complaining of vomiting, stomach pains, cough, fever and other symptoms of the flu. If your child has been ill during the night or prior to coming to school, please consider allowing them to remain home. If your child has a fever, they must be kept home until they are fever-free for 24 hours. Remember the importance of using good hand washing techniques to prevent the spread of illness. Also remember that students cannot carry medication with them for the treatment of these illnesses. All medication must be kept in the Health Office and be accompanied by a signed medication permission form from your child's doctor as well the parent/guardian. This includes over the counter medications as well as medication prescribed by your child's doctor.

Please remember to notify the school of any changes in address, phone numbers to both home and work and changes in emergency contacts. It is important that we are able to make contact with parents/ guardians quickly in case of illnesses or emergencies. Working together we can ensure the safety and health of our students and staff of Omaha North High Magnet School.

With the increase of winter illnesses, the Health Office has also seen an increase in the number of doctor and dentist appointments that are being scheduled during school hours. If at all possible, please try to schedule these appointments for after school so that your student does not miss class time. If this is not possible, please notify the Health Office about appointments in a timely manner with either a written note or phone call, 2 hours prior to the appointment. Thank you for your cooperation with this process.

Feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions at 557-3415.  
Wynelle Tolen RN



### JROTC News

The North Orienteering team finished third in the October 6<sup>th</sup> competition held at Hummell Park. Eleven teams from four area school districts competed in the event which is a combination of map reading, orienteering terrain, and physical fitness competition. North entered six individual teams, finishing third overall and our team of John Erickson and Joshua Howe finished third individually. Other North team members were **Merle Joslin, Edwin Wood, Dana Jensen, Cole Luchsinger, Kendall Weiss, Courtney Baker, Justin Atuncion, Adam Cleveland, Erik Williams, Sarah Bartling, Sara Gilson, and Hope Turner.**

The North JV Marksmanship Team finished second in the OPS team competition which ended 1 November. **Merle Joslin** received the award for top average score and high individual score in the league. Other members included **Adam Cleveland, Jordan Stevens, Xavier Shulte, Courtney Baker, Justine Kohtz, and AJ Cappellano.**

North's Varsity Rifle Team competed in a National Competition during the week of December 3<sup>rd</sup>. North will compete against approximately 150 other schools in a postal competition. Results should be available on-line after 20 December 2007.

## Student Council

At the annual Nebraska Association of Student Councils State Convention, Omaha North High Magnet School Student Council Received the following awards:

Outstanding Student Council - Gold Level (the highest level there is!)

All-State Student Council: **Stephanie Leonard** and **Alicia Breyne**

NASC Principal of the Year: Kathy Lee

NASC Advisor of the Year: Rachel Beck

We also were recognized for donating \$2625.00 to the state charity, Make-a-Wish. With the money Student Council raised, Robert, a terminally ill child from Nebraska, was able to visit Disney World.

After a successful Homecoming Week of **BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY**, Student Council was busy with the following projects:



**Breast Cancer Awareness Minute** – on October 31<sup>st</sup>, we had a minute of time during B2 where students were asked to donate their pocket change to Breast Cancer Research. In one minute, North was able to raise \$576! Students and staff also dressed up in pink and wore pink ribbons to bring awareness to the disease.



**Canned Food Drive** – the week of November 12-16, North High students and staff donated 2,436 non-perishable items to the Omaha Food Bank. Mr. Dickey's B2 class donated the most items, 344, and were rewarded with doughnuts and juice.

In the spring, North Student Council will host the Metro-Area Schools Student Council Convention. Students are busy planning the event, and are excited to show off our school and pride to our neighboring schools.

## DECA News

Seniors **Shayla Wolf** and **Aminata Fall**, officers in Omaha North DECA, are working with the mayor's office and the North Omaha Development Project as part of the NODP Communications Task Force. The students are applying their Marketing class background as the group develops taglines and other marketing ideas for the North Omaha area.

## Ms. Aerts Honored

### **National Group Names North Teacher as "Rising Star" in Journalism Education**

Hillary Aerts, Journalism teacher at Omaha North High Magnet School, has been named a 2008 Rising Star Award recipient. This national recognition by the Journalism Education Association (JEA) honors ten teachers from across the nation with one to five years journalism teaching experience. Aerts' commitment to journalism education and passion for her work to help students create outstanding media was noted as a key part in her selection for this award. A plaque will be presented to Ms. Aerts at the JEA/NSPA Spring High School Journalism Convention in Anaheim, CA.

Aerts is the advisor for the school yearbook and *The North Star*, the school newspaper at Omaha North High Magnet School.

***Be Safe. Be Respectful. Be Responsible.***

Omaha Public Schools  
Omaha North High Magnet School  
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Omaha, Nebraska 68111

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### *Omaha North High Magnet School Mission Statement*

The mission of Omaha North High Magnet School is to provide educational opportunities which enable all students to achieve their highest potential.

### *Omaha North High Magnet School Vision Statement*

The vision statement of Omaha North High Magnet School is to provide a quality educational opportunity for all learners in a safe, secure and well-organized learning environment, where students, staff and community are valuable and equitable members of a positive atmosphere that fosters life-long learning skills.

*Upcoming  
Events*

January 11, 2007 (Friday) - **New Student Orientation** - 5:00 p.m. - Viking Center  
January 27, 2008 (Sunday) - **8<sup>th</sup> grade Open House** - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
(tours begin in the Viking Center)  
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