

North High News



October 2007

OMAHA NORTH HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL



Principal's Points
by Gene R. Haynes

"I have learned that I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I can do about it." ~ Andy Rooney

Greetings! On Wednesday, August 22, 2007, staff welcomed the class of 2011. As principal of Omaha North High Magnet School, I take pride in the opportunity to work with the best students and staff each day. We have high expectations for all of our students as we prepare them for a global society. Omaha North High Magnet School's diverse student population embraces all cultural and ethnic backgrounds, working together to enhance a spirit of excellence.

The Omaha Public Schools' process of school improvement is called Excels-Plus. This strategic plan identifies goals, strategies and assessment measures to increase student achievement and evaluate progress. Our plan focuses on the following goals:

- Communication—All students will improve reading comprehension across the curriculum.
- Math & Science—All students will improve problem-solving skills across the curriculum. All students will improve scientific inquiry skills across the curriculum.
- Safe & Secure—All students will demonstrate respect and responsibility for others in the learning environment and school activities.
- Magnet School Goal—Students will use applications in multimedia technology to support learning and to access, organize and evaluate information.

PRINCIPAL – PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ORGANIZATION (PTSO)

***PARENT ADVISORY MEETINGS:**

Upcoming Dates (Please mark your calendar accordingly)...

October 9, 2007 -	6:00 p.m.	February 12, 2008 -	6:00 p.m.
November 13, 2007 -	6:00 p.m.	March 11, 2008 -	6:00 p.m.
December 11, 2007-	6:00 p.m.	April 15, 2008 -	6:00 p.m.
January 8, 2008 -	6:00 p.m.	May 13, 2008 -	6:00 p.m.

*Parent Advisory will meet promptly at 7:00 P.M. following the above meeting dates.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES:

November 8, 2007 -	12:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Multi-Purpose Center)
March 13, 2008 -	12:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Multi-Purpose Center)

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Omaha North High Magnet School is very proud of our results and we will continue to enhance the school climate in order to provide a safe and secure learning environment. We will continue to address our students' needs to improve our academic achievement. We will also address the expectations of all students' behavior as we prepare our students to become positive influences in a global society.

We have had several members of our teaching staff receive honors and awards in their field of expertise.

Mrs. Barbara Wiig – English/Drama Teacher of the Year

Dr. Darren Holley – Math/AP Calculus Teacher – BC Calculus Course authorized by the college board for the 2007-08 academic year (as a national model plan)

Ms. Therese Laux – Music Teacher (Apple Distinguished Educator Award)

Mrs. LeeAnn Vaughan – Science Teacher (Excellence Bio-Technology Educator Award)

We thank you for your continuing support of Omaha North High Magnet School students and staff. We wish the very best to each Omaha North High Magnet School family this year. Also, I would like to personally wish you all continued job happiness and success in the years ahead and beyond.

Counselor's Comments

by Kevin Custard, Director of Guidance

Welcome to the guidance and counseling program at Omaha North High Magnet School. We have the Comprehensive Competency-Based Guidance Program with 3 components—Domain Specialization Counselors, Assigned Counselors, and Response Counselors. This means that your student has eight counselors who can help them with their needs. We are very excited to welcome Mrs. Kristin Lawton and Mr. Bryson Wisser to the guidance department this year! The counselor assignments are as follows:

A,B	Ms. Bernard	Records
C,D,E	Ms. Jamal	Personal/Social
F,G,L	Ms. Lawton	Academic
H,I,J,K	Mr. Mertz	Careers
M,N	Mr. Moneke	Advanced Education
O,P,Q,R	Mr. Wisser	Personal/Social
S	Mr. Custard	Guidance Director
T-Z	Ms. Pfeiffer	Advanced Education

Omaha North High Magnet School continues to educate our students with an A+ education. We are very proud to announce that graduating seniors from the class of 2007 received over 400 scholarships totaling over \$4,000,000. This is a wonderful achievement attained by students, parents, and staff of Omaha North High School through dedication, learning, and determination. Students in all grade levels are encouraged to take classes that will stretch their learning and increase their opportunities for the future.

GRADUATION—CLASS OF 2008—Friday, May 23, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Civic Auditorium

Parents of Juniors and Seniors:

Please share the CUES publications. These publications have very important information concerning college admissions and scholarship information. You can locate the CUES on our Guidance web page or you are welcome to stop in the GRC to get a copy of this at any time. The CUES are also emailed to the juniors and seniors when they come out. The Junior CUES will come out approximately once a month. The Senior CUES will be issued

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every two weeks. Juniors and Seniors have received their first issue. **BE SURE TO ASK FOR THE CUES.** Included will be information about ACT, SAT testing; review sessions for these tests; procedures for college applications, scholarships and visits. Cost of processing each application is \$1.00. Resources are located at the EducationQuest (391-4033) and Omaha North High School. Over 275,000 scholarships, grants, and loans and 650 college scholarships are on file at website--www.fastweb.com

How can you help your student (as a parent)? Here are some suggestions:

1. Attend orientation meetings or other information meetings:
 - Meet teachers, counselors, and administrators.
 - Ask questions.
 - Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences (November 8 & March 13)
2. Help your student with time management. Encourage them to study every night, do homework when assigned, and start projects early.
3. Encourage your student to become involved in at least one activity other than classes.
4. Get involved in the PTO or as a volunteer at our school.
5. Communicate with your child, your child's teachers, and your child's friends (and their parents).

If you have a need for licensed therapy counseling, please contact a counselor to get FREE, confidential counseling services. These services are provided by Nebraska Methodist Hospital Foundation. The counselor at North High School three days a week is Mrs. Jill Eckerman, 557-3482.

CONGRATULATIONS

Senior Class 2008 Officers: **John Erickson**, President; **Asialee Drews**, Vice-President; **Meng Lo**, Secretary; **Jolene Holland**, **Stephanie Leonard**, **Koua Moua**, **Andi Schuermann**, Sergeants-At-Arms.

NOVEMBER 8th TESTING DAY

The following activities will be held for students on Thursday November 8th:

9th grade – EXPLORE test

10th grade – PLAN test

11th grade – Campus Visits*

12th grade – Career Shadowing/Campus Visit*

*require permission slips

The 9th grade students will be taking the EXPLORE test. If a student is absent on this day, they will still be required to make up the exam. The 10th grade students get a chance to take the PLAN test, which provides great practice for standardized tests such as the ACT. If a student is absent on this day, they will still be required to make up the exam. For the second year, we are planning campus visits for the 11th graders. We have a wide range of schools to choose from; however, permission slips are required for this activity. New this year, 12th grade students have the opportunity to career shadow someone in the professional field of their choice. Information will be presented to the students in the Senior Level English Classes. A permission slip will be needed for this day as well. If a student misses either the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade activities their absence will be counted as "unexcused" absences and will be dealt with accordingly.

OMAHA NORTH HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR SENIOR CLASS OF 2008

Oct 1 Curriculum Day—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

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Oct 2	SAT Registration deadline for November 3 Test
Oct 6	SAT
Oct 25	College Night—5-6 p.m., Lecture Hall
Oct 23	End of 1 st Quarter, Teachers submit 1 st Quarter Grades
Oct 27	ACT @ ONHMS
Oct 28	Metro College Fair--12:30 -4:00 p.m., UNO Fieldhouse
Oct 30	SAT Registration Deadline for December 1 Test
Oct 31	VOCATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR—Viking Center—11-1:15 p.m.
Nov 2	ACT Registration Deadline for December 8 Test
Nov 3	SAT
Nov 8	All Grades Testing ½ Day--7:45-11:00 a.m.
Nov 8	Parent-Teacher Conferences--12:30-7:30 p.m., MPC
Nov 9	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Nov 9	ASVAB Test--8:00-12:00 Noon, Sign up in GRC
Nov 16	Senior Class Meeting--10:15 a.m., ONHS Aud, Jostens
Nov 21	Teacher Inservice Day—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Nov 22-23	Thanksgiving Recess--NO SCHOOL
Nov 28 & 29	School Traditions Cap & Gown & Graduation Announcement Ordering—11-1:15 p.m., Viking Center. The price for a cap, gown and tassel is usually under \$25.00 for all three items.
Nov 29	Teachers submit 2 nd Quarter Progress Grades
Dec 1	SAT
Dec 8	ACT @ ONHMS
Dec 13	Last Day to Order Jostens Announcements—11-1:15 p.m., Viking Center
Dec 14	Winter Music Concert—7:00 p.m., ONHMS Auditorium (Dinner prior in V.C.)
Dec 26	SAT Registration Deadline for January 26 Test
Dec 22-Jan 6	Winter Break--NO SCHOOL
Jan 4	ACT Registration Deadline for February 9 Test
Jan 9-10	Final Tests for 1 st Semester
Jan 11	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Jan 11	End of First Semester
Jan 11	Teachers submit 1 st 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 rd Quarter Progress Grades
Feb 7	Last Day to Order Jostens 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

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Feb 26	Parent Involvement Day/Honors Convocation
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 rd 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 th 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 th 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)
May 23	FRIDAY--Graduation Practice--9-10:30 a.m. --MANDATORY
May 23	COMMENCEMENT--Seniors report at 6:00 p.m.; Ceremony at 7:00 p.m. Civic Auditorium
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
Information for professional counseling services may be obtained through your counselor.

Questions? Call your Guidance Resource Center at 557-3408

Art News

A small-group project of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce Leadership Omaha (LO) Class 29 and the Omaha Public Schools teamed up with Ville de Sante Life Center to create a learning experience for youth and adults that benefited the elderly residents in Omaha, Nebraska.

LO small group members who coordinated the project and interviews with six Life Center residents were Linda Cunningham, Ruth Ann Manley and Tim Reed. These interviews were then given to the art teachers at Benson, North, Northwest, Nathan Hale and Monroe.

Using the interviews as their inspiration, students created artwork specially designed to reflect some aspect of the resident's life. The artwork will be hung at the center in honor of the residents. The pieces were presented to the residents on Sunday afternoon, May 20th. All parties seemed pleased with the results.

Omaha North presented a piece of work to Cindy Faulkner which displayed her African American heritage. **Beth Wipf** created the wall hanging made from clay, copper and colored glass. Kim Cooper is her instructor.

Nathan Hale Middle School students Kalie Talarico and Breanna Hines instructed by Kat Anderson, painted the scene on the piece made by North High senior, **Maren Jensen**. Twenty-nine pine trees represented the number of children and grandchildren Lela Hamilton has, as well as her former northern Minnesota home.

The program enlightened all who participated, from the learning experiences of the actual clay work, to the interaction with the residents. Thank you to everyone for your time, commitment and care for the people of our community.



Photo by Lynn Cooper

Omaha Summer Arts Festival

Wow! North did it again! We had more students represented in Omaha's Summer Arts festival than any other high school. Eighteen North students were in the show.

Phil Prazan and **Justin Duster** each won \$150.00 scholarships. **Phil's winter scene was purchased by Summer Arts Festival (another \$100.00 for Phil) to be given to the John and Carman Gottschalk Foundation as a thank you for their support of the Festival. The piece was framed and a plaque placed on the matting. Phil's name is also on the back of it!

Fourteen of our students won Awards of Merit: they each received \$25.00! They are:

Dylan White, Maren Jensen, Anna Van Osdel, Martin Lastovica, Geoffrey Amstutz, Wendy Sheibal, Nicole Ryley, Brandon Redick, Samantha Keithley, Michelle Madsen, Josh Hendrickson, John Erickson and **Nathan Fox**.

The following students were represented in the show: **Samantha Keithley, John Erickson, Nate Fox, Michelle Madsen, Phil Prazan, Josh Hendrickson, Dylan White, Geoff Amstutz, Kenyatta Coffiel, Wendy Sheibal, Alaina Walter, Justin Duster, Brandon Redick, Anna VanOsdel, Martin Lastovica, Nicole Ryley, Elizabeth Wipf** and **Maren Jensen**.

Way to go North!

Many thanks to our students who participated and we look forward to another great year in 2008!

Freshmen Opportunities For Success

The teachers and administration at Omaha North High Magnet School are committed to providing educational opportunities for all students to insure their success. The freshman teachers and administration want to insure that all freshmen earn their credits so that they will advance to the sophomore class.

Research shows that many freshman fail as a result of not turning in assignments. Many opportunities are provided for freshman to get the academic help that they need. Those freshmen who are behind in turning in their assignments may be assigned to the Homework Help Room by their teachers or administrator, Mr. Savio. The hours for **Homework Help Room are from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Media Center.** Teachers are available to help the students in their core subjects and to assist in completion of assigned work. If your child should fall behind in his/her work, the teacher may complete a form scheduling a time to work in the Homework Help Room and contact home with this information. This is an additional support system in helping your child succeed in high school and graduate in four years. ***With your support in this endeavor we are hopeful we will see more of our students achieving academic success!***

Omaha North High Magnet School is also implementing the concept of **SUPER SATURDAYS.** These Saturdays will be used for the freshman to gain tutoring from their core teachers in an attempt to aid the students in being successful. The Super Saturdays will be assigned by Mr. Savio or their core teachers. **SUPER SATURDAYS** are being provided for the student needing additional support in completing assigned work. This alternative is for the student who cannot stay after school in the Homework Help Room or for the student who does not attend the Homework Help Room when assigned. The student would report to school on Saturday and from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and be provided assistance in those subjects in which he/she is failing or needs additional support.

As you can see, we are providing additional services for our freshmen and are hopeful they will see that **"failure is not an option."** Your support and the support of our teachers working together to assist in your child's success, the result can only be a "WIN" for all of us.

We thank you for your support!

French Club

French Club started off with a big bang as we immediately began our preparation for the Homecoming Parade. The theme Bright Lights, Big City was a lot of fun for us since Paris is in fact, The City of Lights. Our entry included a 13 ft. Eiffel Tower and a street scene complete with a sidewalk café. The best part of our entry was the fantastic group of club members who assembled the whole float and marched in the parade. As a result of our efforts, we were awarded the Principal's Cup!

We are pleased to announce our outstanding officers:

President: **Koua Moua**

Vice Presidents: 7-8, 9-10.

- Amanda Keeling**
- Brittany Dailey**
- Logan Watson**
- Nick Kellen**
- Ravan Charles**
- Ryan Mockelman**
- Shane Beasley**

2nd Vice president (French 5-6)

Lily Steckman

Secretary (French 3-4)

- Adrienne Huffman**
- Jessica Carlson**
- Taylor Atkins**

Sergeants - at - Arms (French 1-2)

- Brittany Pham**
- Estephani Findlay**

On October 24, French Club, German Club and Spanish Club visited Vala's Pumpkin Patch for our Halloween outing.



Everyone had a wonderful time!

Library Media Center News

The Library Media Center is gearing up for over 3,000 new books. Thanks to the Sherwood Foundation our library media center collection will expand. Some of the new books include e-books, graphic novels, fiction, and many more. We have students who love to visit, check out books, work on homework, and e-mail friends on the computers. Please encourage your student to browse or check out the new books located on the display shelves in the Library Media Center.

When doing research outside of school the computer catalog can be accessed on-line at <http://youseemore.ops.org>. The catalog page is a great resource for students working on research assignments. The aquabrowser creates a discovery trail of keywords to help students use the correct search terms. The on-line database page lets students access thousands of periodical articles from home plus on-line encyclopedias, newspapers, almanacs, primary sources, and dictionaries. The power-search page searches every resource our school has to offer. This includes the databases and books. To access the databases outside of school, check out the Making the Grade handout. Students can also access the computer catalog web site from any computer in the building.

The hours for the Library Media Center are 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Our staff includes Mrs. Kari Bulgrin-Library Media Specialist, Mrs. Pauline Muhammad-Library Paraprofessional and Mrs. Amy Carrizales-Library Paraprofessional.

**Are you tired of wasting time searching the Internet?
Are you unhappy with all of the advertising on the web?**

Are you unsure about the reliability of your Internet information? Solve the problem and save time by using the online information resources available through Omaha Public Schools. These subscription resources are available on any Internet computer in your library media center or classroom. (Click Search OPS – Select link: Online Databases).

For home access, see directions below:

OPS Online Catalog @ <http://youseemore.ops.org>

The catalog provides information about the collections of all school library media centers.

World Book Online @<http://worldbookonline.com>

Home access requires login ID and password.
Login ID: omaha Password: nebraska

EBSCO @ <http://search.ebscohost.com>

EBSCO provides full text articles from hundreds of magazines and other information sources
Home access requires login ID and password.
ID: omaha Password: nebraska.

Culturegrams @<http://online.culturegrams.com>

Culturegrams provides detailed information about states and countries.
Home access requires login ID and password.
Login ID: omahaps Password: omahaps

Gale Reference databases @<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/omah93080>

Home access requires password. Password: omah93080

Contact your school library media specialist for assistance in using these resources.



★ "Check out the latest videos and music products from our Music and Media Technology program
★ at <http://web.mac.com/omahanorth>
★
★ North students have produced award winning videos and music that are entertaining and educa-
★ tional! For more information, send an email to omahanorth@mac.com"
★



JROTC News

Greetings from the Battalion Staff of 2007/2008. The year is off to a good start and we extend our congratulations to **Josh Howe** and **Sarah Bartling** for being selected as the Battalion Commanders for first and second semester respectively.

Filling in the rest of the staff is **Erik Williams** - S1, **Amber Holliday** - S2, **Don Hubbell** - S3, **Corinne Brooner** and **Amy Gaddy** - S4 and **Frank Arnason** - S5.

Best of luck to our Varsity and JV Marksmanship Teams will their competition schedule. The Orienteering Competition is scheduled for early October.

Advanced Placement News

College Board Announces AP Scholars; 2 from North named National Scholars

Congratulations to the 15 North students who were recognized by the College Board for outstanding results on multiple AP Exams administered in May 2007. The College Board named 2007 graduate **Eric Norrgard** as the Nebraska State Scholar for having the most AP Exam grades of 3 or higher in the entire state. Norrgard and classmate **Corey Stone** both achieved "National Scholar" status by scoring 4 or higher on more than eight AP Exams. To put their achievements in perspective, Norrgard and Stone are the first AP National Scholars from Omaha North in records dating to the mid-90's and Norrgard is the first AP State Scholar from North since 1998. Others receiving recognition were:

Scholars with Distinction (five or more grades of 3 or higher with at least 3.5 average): **David Guthmann, Benjamin McGill, Kayce Rich**

Scholars with Honor (four or more grades of 3 or higher with at least 3.25 average): **Grant Turner** and **Benjamin Wagner**

AP Scholars (three or more grades of 3 or higher): **Ankit Agrawal, Carly Goodman, Kari Munk, Robert Swanson, Stephanie Valentine** (all 2007 graduates) and current seniors **Marna Stack, Lucas Thode** and **Christa Webber**. Stack, Thode and Webber are eligible for additional AP Scholar awards in 2008.

UNO Offers Dual Enrollment to Omaha North Students

For the fourth year, the University of Nebraska-Omaha and the Omaha Public Schools have partnered to offer dual enrollment to students in select Advanced Placement classes. For a significant reduction in tuition for a UNO class, Omaha North students can earn transcribed credit through UNO. The credits transfer to most post-secondary universities throughout the United States. The AP courses listed below have been selected by UNO to be Omaha North High Magnet Schools' dual credit courses for the 2007-08 school year. These courses are held at Omaha North as part of the AP class already in progress:

Fall DE Registration (was due October 9)

AP Calculus BC
 AP Government & Politics (United States)
 AP English Literature & Composition (for UNO ENGL 1010)
 Honors Calculus 3

Spring DE Registration (will be due early February 2008)

AP World History
 AP Calculus AB
 AP Government & Politics (Comparative)
 AP English Literature & Composition (for UNO ENGL 1020)
 AP Environmental Science
 Honors Differentiated Equations

For more information about Dual Enrollment, visit the "Academics" link at <http://www.ops.org/north>, go directly to <http://webmail.ops.org/~dsitzman/DEFAQ> or contact Dan Sitzman at 557-3476.

Be Safe. Be Respectful. Be Responsible.

Omaha Public Schools
Omaha North High Magnet School
4410 North 36 Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68111

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Omaha, Nebraska

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.



Parent Teacher Conferences
November 8, 2007

12:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Multi-Purpose Center

See you there!