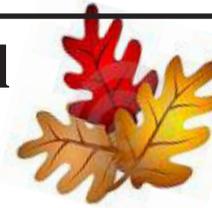




# News from the Nest



**New Ulm High School**  
*Home of the Eagles*



Volume 2, Issue 2

November 24, 2009

## 365 Days of Education? Not so Much A Push for Year-Round School Systems is Coming

By Lauren Horsch

NEW ULM - Swimming in Flaudrau, sleeping until noon, and staying up until the sunrise are usual summer activities for high schoolers in New Ulm, but a recent plan initiated by President Obama and U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan could change all of that.

The current proposal would not only lengthen the school day but also lengthen the school year. This could potentially mean year-round school systems all around the nation.

With this proposal the number of school days would increase to 230 from the minimum of 180 days now in public schools. Also in-



cluded in the proposal is a \$100 billion stimulus plan, which includes innovation grants of about \$5 billion. These two plans have already been passed in Congress, taking the first step to heed Obama and Duncan's plan.

While most American students cringe at a year-round school system, it is not a big, scary monster lurking in the corner that involves going to school for 365 days. Instead year-round schools that are in existence are set up in a 45-15 system.

A 45-15 system translates into going to school for 45 days, followed by a 15-day break. This plan also does not eliminate a summer break either; instead summer would be 6 to 9 weeks long instead of 12 weeks.

This is not a new concept either.

Carolin Jung, a German exchange student at NUHS, is used to a system much like this new proposal.

In her school back in Germany, she receives two weeks off for spring, fall, and winter breaks, and then six weeks off for the summer break.

But this is not the only difference Jung notices in our school system versus Germany's.

"[Students at NUHS] take tests or quizzes with notes. You shouldn't need notes," she said.

Jung also noted the fact that in some classes students receive points for homework, even though students "should just do it."

**Year-Round School continued pg. 5**

## Ghosts, Goblins, and Gnomes New Ulm High School Students Dress Up for Halloween

By Kacie Covington

NEW ULM - The halls of New Ulm High School were filled with a multitude of costumes on Friday, October 30. NUHS students showed off their Halloween spirit by overflowing the school with an array of clever outfits.

Halloween, which dates back 2000 years, started with the Celts who lived in what is now Ireland. They celebrated Halloween as the beginning of the New Year, which coincided with the end of the harvest season and the start of a cold winter often associated with death. The Celts believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth on the night of October 31st.

Halloween was brought to America by European immigrants. By the second half of the 19th century, America was flooded with immigrants who celebrated Halloween. With

this, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house-to-house asking for food or money. This behavior eventually became known as "trick-or-treating."

"I don't consider Halloween a religious holiday," senior Kevin Guttum said. "I mean way back when it was but now it totally lost its form and we have different ways of celebrating it." Seniors Leah Nelson, Mel Becker, and Rachael Zimmerman also said that they do not consider Halloween a religious holiday anymore.

Today Halloween is celebrated all over the United States not for the religious aspect but for fun. It is more for get-togethers, fun, carving jack o' lanterns, consumerism, and of course, trick-or-treating for our sweet tooth!

**Halloween continued pg. 9**



### Inside This Issue

<b>News</b>	
Facebook.....	pg. 2
Laser Engraver.....	pg. 3
Apprentice Class.....	pg. 3
<b>Features</b>	
Graduation Requirements.....	pg. 6
Life of a High School Student.....	pg. 7
Torgerson in Colombia.....	pg. 8
<b>Sports</b>	
Girls' Hockey.....	pg. 10
FFA Convention.....	pg. 13
<b>Fun &amp; Games</b>	
Frankly Speaking.....	pg. 14
Shout Outs!.....	pg. 15

## Facebook is Forever

By Bethany Saffert

NEW ULM – Over the last two years Facebook pictures containing alcohol have been turned in to New Ulm High School officials and have had serious consequences. It is important for students to take a second glance at what they are posting on their web pages. It is also important to know what to watch out for.

“Generally, the pictures are a chemical violation,” said NUHS Principal Mark Bergmann.

According to Bergmann, the school district has to act on any pictures turned in containing students violating the use of alcohol or drugs. NUHS follows the Minnesota State High School League chemical use policy. The first violation states that the student is out of any extracurricular or fine arts activity for two weeks.

“These consequences were put in place to deter students from making bad choices,” Bergmann said.

Comments on Facebook walls can also be turned in and can be used as evidence if considered harassing or threatening.

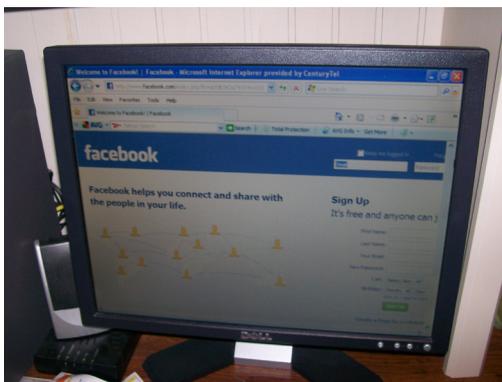
“Students use it [Facebook] for social interaction,” said Bergmann, “but they need to remember that it is public information.”

There has been talk, speculation, and rumor about specific people in the district who are designated to look for Facebook pictures violating school policy. However, this is not the case.

“We don’t look for Facebook pictures, just like we don’t drive around looking for parties,” said Bergmann.

The pictures turned in to school officials at NUHS have all been anonymous. Bergmann said he wishes the pictures were not reported anonymously. He believes that if someone is going to turn in a picture, he should at least put his name on it.

The fact that pictures are being turned in does not come as a surprise to most students because Facebook is being used non-stop. It can be accessed through both phones and computers.



Senior CeCe Huffmann reports that she goes on Facebook at least once a day just to check what is going on.

There are a lot of features that keep students

addicted beyond status updates and photos. Applications and games such as Mafia Wars and Farmville seem to be some local favorites.

“I go on Facebook every day or whenever I can to plant and harvest my crops on Farmville so they do not wither,” said senior Kaylen Berle.

In addition to playing games on Facebook, it is important to watch what pictures and comments are posted because it is public information. Colleges and employers sometimes look at profiles before accepting students or hiring people.

According to Alan Finder from the *New York Times*, “Many companies have been using search engines like Google and Yahoo to conduct background checks on jobseeking college seniors for some time. But now, college career counselors and other experts say, recruiters are starting to look up applicants

on sites like Facebook, MySpace, Xanga, and Friendster, where high school and college students often post provocative photographs and text in what some mistakenly believe is relative privacy.”

“I don’t post every thought or picture because I know that colleges and jobs can look at profiles to judge people,” said Berle.

“I do not post things that I don’t want to make public,” said Huffman, agreeing.

Many believe that pictures are gone forever once they have been deleted. However, pictures and comments posted on the Internet can never be permanently erased.

According to PhD student Joseph Bonneau from Cambridge University, “URLs to photographs may continue to exist on the Content Delivery Network (CDN) after users delete them from Facebook.”

Remember, what is posted on Facebook really can be there forever.

A word of advice from Mr. Bergmann: “Don’t post anything you wouldn’t want your grandma to see.”

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## Second Best...

### The Battle of the Helmets

By Tanya Russell

NEW ULM – New Ulm High School has received second place in a competition sponsored by the New Ulm Journal, Cash Wise, and Cash Wise Video.

The contest included students cutting out miniature football helmets for their school and handing them into Cash Wise Video to give the school a chance at winning \$10,000. NUHS collected around 6,174 receiving second place in a competition with area schools and will be receiving a prize of \$5,000. Cathedral High School came in first collecting 200 more helmets than NUHS.

“It’s always a close competition between Cathedral and New Ulm Public,” said Ms. Karla Hansel, a teacher at NUHS, “[but] I’m disappointed because last year I believe we came in first.”

Mr. Steve Worm, Activities Director at NUHS, said, “I thought we would do much better because we are a larger school.”

The competition has been running for quite a while, and New Ulm High has apparently been close to winning many times before. NUHS is planning to continue to enter the competition in the years to come as “it is a good opportunity as a fundraiser for our Activities Department,” said Worm.

“We don’t have anything to lose by participating,” added Hansel.

The fundraiser was originally set up to benefit the athletic department; however, not all of the money will be going toward that as they did not raise the money.

The money raised will be dispensed between each of the NUHS buildings, and they can decide how to use it as a ‘thank you’ for participating and helping the school.

According to Amanda Howk, a junior at New Ulm Public, students should support their school in competitions such as this “because it shows they care.”

“It’s for the students’ benefit,” Mr. Worm added.

New Ulm High School did also receive some helmets from the general public, so the school thanks them for their help.

As a side note, congratulations to Ms. Tasto’s homeroom for collecting the most helmets at the high school!

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# Apprentice

## A Different Type of Learning

By Presley Levenson

NEW ULM - On any given day, a person rounding the corner into the New Ulm High School Media Center would be likely to see an Apprentice student hard at work tutoring another student.

According to NUHS Guidance Counselor and Apprentice advisor Mrs. Margaret Weiss, "It [Apprentice] is a program that mentors students at NUHS and Jefferson."

The class was designed two years ago due to a request from Mrs. Pam Kirsch, Jefferson's principal, according to Weiss. It was then made into a class for high school credit and really "gives more options to the students," said Weiss.

The class also offers students who participate a chance to be a role model and work hands on in the classroom, according to Weiss. "At the high school level, the student receives experiences in teaching," said Weiss.

This class is unlike any other class at NUHS. "This class is held only on a pass fail basis," said Weiss, "so the class does not affect student's GPAs."

"I enjoy coordinating the program, but I am just not used to the grading aspect," said Weiss.

The grading is based on the student's journal assignments and

attending meetings with Weiss.

To Jefferson, the class reaps benefits. "Struggling kids get more one-on-one time," Weiss said. "The class also helps the kids to focus."



Interest in the class has grown from an average of 11 students participating last year to 16 students currently participating in Apprentice.

"I would like to see more [mentors] at the high school," said Weiss. "We could use more help for our students who are struggling in the high school."

# New Laser Action In NUHS

By Juan Castillo

NEW ULM - The Industrial Tech Department's laser engraver has been in our school for about two years now and much to the delight of many students. It is the biggest one on the market and can engrave or even cut all sorts of materials. Students are even able to engrave high quality pictures on to pretty much any material. "The engraver has even been used to engrave on a banana," said Mr. Jim Schwarz, an industrial technology teacher.

The engraver is used on a lot of wood projects to add a design on them, like on a table top or on top of the chests the students make. Other students like Senior Dylan Smyth like using the engraver to engrave cool pictures and names on their personal items. "The engraver is very awesome," Smyth said.

The laser engraver was purchased about two years by NUHS

to bring more technology to the shop classes, according to Mr. Schwarz. It was bought with the hope that it would attract more students to take shop classes and to make the classes more exciting.

The idea of purchasing a laser engraver came up when some of the shop teachers saw one in action at another school and thought this modern technology would make classes more exciting for student in NUHS. They talked to the principal and convinced him to get one for the school.

The laser engraver is used in the all the woodworking classes and photo airbrush. "It is constantly in use all day long running from eight in the morning to four in the afternoon," says Schwarz.

Any student that has had a shop class and knows how the engraver works can use it. It is really not difficult. "Kids grasp the concept really quickly," says Mr. Schwarz. The students seem to have no problem learning how to operate the engraver since a computer operates it and the students in

this age are very familiar with technology.

The engraver has helped the shop teachers make their classes more interesting and exciting. In woodworking classes "it gives kids a little added technology," said Schwarz. "In fact,



Of these 16 students, Logan Ahlness, a NUHS senior, mentors students at Jefferson. "I like interacting with the kids because they are so much fun," Ahlness said. "I also like watching them improve every time I work with them."

Jillian Irlbeck, another NUHS senior, also mentors at Jefferson. "I like working with the students," Irlbeck said, "but I hope to get more patience."

"I am planning on majoring in elementary education, so I thought this would be a good introduction," Ahlness said. "I hope I will learn to use different techniques of [teaching] reading."

Like most things, the program has some minor flaws. "Sometimes there is a lack of communication between the teacher and tutor," said Irlbeck noting one issue she has encountered.

"I think it would be nice if we got to work with more kids or the whole class," said Ahlness. "I would also like to work with kids on subjects other than reading."

Students who are encouraged to sign up for Apprentice are those who enjoy working with others, and students who have the ambition for it, according to Irlbeck.

"Also, students who are willing to be patient with younger kids," Ahlness added.

So next time you are registering for classes, keep Apprentice in mind for an option that goes beyond the typical classroom experience.

some day I wish I had two," Schwarz adds.

Overall the engraver has been a very big success in improving works and making classes fun for students.

### Did You Know?

A woodpecker can peck twenty times per second.

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## Filthy Food, No More

### What the Cafeteria Has Done to Protect School Lunches

By Tanya Russell

NEW ULM - David is standing in line waiting to get his lunch. The person ahead of him has a little cold, but David thought nothing of it until an epic sneeze shoots out of his line buddy's nose spraying everywhere. Lucky for David the lunch room has newly installed sneeze guards.

NUHS and the Health Department of Minnesota have worked together this summer and installed sneeze guards in the local cafeteria. This is due to a code that had been introduced by the state to protect students from illnesses at lunch.

Their job is mainly to stop gross and unwanted germs and bodily items getting in students' food.

"They're doing their job," said Sandy Reiter, head cook at the NUHS cafeteria.

Some of the students, however, disagree.

"There were a couple of times where there was hair or something," said Robin Kolstad, a freshman at NUHS.

Still, Alan Hohenstain, a sophomore at NUHS admits "they keep some of the germs out" and are better than nothing.

But for all the protection, the new sneeze guards make getting the food onto the trays take longer, but



only on one side.

"Not on our end," said Reiter. "On the other end, it just makes serving go a little slower" for students as they lift their trays up under the guards.

"We do our best, [but] you reach across to serve," said Janice Geske, assistant cook in the NUHS cafeteria.

Geske said that some kids "still lift them [the guards] up and grab the food, which does make the process faster but eliminates the whole purpose of the guards being there.

The new guards may not be the most convenient, but they are what the state thinks is best.

## ISD #88 Launches New School Website

By Juan Castillo

NEW ULM – ISD #88 just launched its new and improved website on November 1. This new website has a lot of new features, like being able to pay for school activities online, and is easier to operate. It also conveniently shows the user whether school is closed because of the weather.

This new website all began last summer. Mrs. Carol Thormodson and Mr. Kevin Rykhus, members of the ISD #88 Technology Department, are the ones working on this project for school. "It has been fun working on it and it is easier to work on now," said Mrs. Thormodson. They took some training to better improve their skills before starting on the on the website. They are both very happy with the new website, but still admit they will be working to better improve its performance and make it easier for users.

Still, students have already noticed an improvement in surfing the district's pages. "I think the new slide down menus really make everything easier to find," said senior Chelsey Bode.

The new website is very different from the older website. It is easier to maneuver, smoother looking, and offers a lot of new features the predecessor did not have. For example, parents can pay for school lunches, register kids for classes, and can buy Eagle's merchandise.

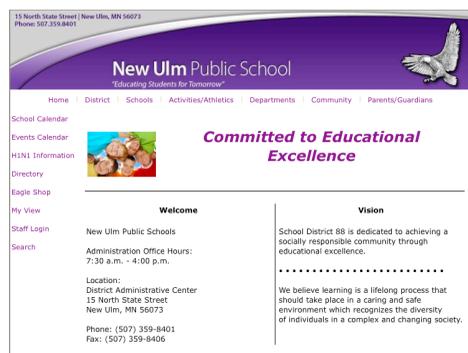
Parents are also offered the ability to make online accounts and personalize them based on their needs and wants. They can arrange everything to see certain items like their children's sports or other extracurricular activities. While they are there, parents can also pay for their

student's extracurricular activity fees and school expenses even, via credit card soon.

The reason for the new upgrade was that the older webpage outgrew its usefulness. The older site was hard to use both from the parents' and the staff's perspectives.

There will probably be more changes in the future to make the new website even easier to operate. Lunch payment is going to improve, and the Eagles Shop is going to have more changes.

Overall the new website has been a success. All the students, parents, and staff seem very happy with it. Students are excited to see what new changes are soon to be made to the site.



#### Did You Know?

If you keep a goldfish in a dark room, it will eventually turn white.

China has more English speakers than the United States

In Reno, Nevada, it is illegal to lie down on the sidewalk.

A chimpanzee can learn to recognize itself in a mirror, but monkeys can't.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

#### Did You Know?

The world's termites outweigh the world's humans 10 to 1.

In Singapore, it is illegal to sell or own chewing gum.



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# College Courses in High School: Are PSEO Classes Making the Cut?

By Rachel Enwright

NEW ULM – About 41 students at New Ulm High School are currently enrolled in college courses through the Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program. The program was started in 1985 “to help high school students get college credits before going to college and for some, to take more challenging classes,” said Mrs. Margaret Weiss, NUHS guidance counselor.

But are PSEO classes doing their job? And more importantly, do students take them for the right reasons?

For a junior to participate in PSEO, he or she must be in the top third of his or her class or have an ACT score of 23 or higher. As a senior, a student must be in the top half of his or her class or have an ACT score of 21 or higher.

Weiss believes that the requirements for the program are a little lenient. “The students should be held to a higher standard,” Weiss said. “Some [students] may not be ready.”

The relaxed requirements allow many students to take advantage of the program. According to Weiss, much of the appeal is having hours off during the day. Students who take PSEO are only allowed to have so many credits, so they have two or more free periods during the school day in exchange for a weekly night class.

NUHS social studies teacher Mr. Robert Bute agrees that PSEO has become just a way for students to open up their schedules and get out of class. “It shouldn’t be about getting out of school; it should be about getting an education,” he said.

To add to Bute’s concern that students are not taking classes for the right reasons, many of the classes are not challenging enough, say some students.

## Year-Round School from pg. 1

Mr. Jason Pankonin, a social studies teacher at NUHS, sees the benefits of a year-round school system. Students tend to retain more information and do not risk losing it over a long summer break, he says. Pankonin noted this happens more so in the younger grades.

“[High School students] are getting a new subject and covering new material,” he said. This switch in subjects helps detour the loss of knowledge during the long summer break.

Jacob Hlavsa, a sophomore at NUHS, agrees that it would be better for students, but he just does not find it ‘feasible’ for NUHS to make the switch.

“Students and teachers need a break,” Hlavsa said.

That’s the thing: students and teachers would get a break. The breaks, though, would not be one expansive one like students across the Midwest are used to.

However, despite these potential gains, Mr. Pankonin worries about the risk of students ‘burning out.’

The addition of days to a ‘nine-month job’ or even changing the system all together would increase pay and work days for the teachers, according to Mr. Pankonin.

“Teachers also burn out,” he adds, which could hurt teaching staffs more considering about half of all teachers who enter the profession leave by their fifth year of teaching.

“Our school calendar is based upon the agrarian economy and not too many of our kids are working the fields today,” said U.S. Education Secretary Duncan during a recent Associated Press interview, so in many ways year-round schooling makes sense.

Still, Mr. Pankonin likes the idea of keeping the three-month

NUHS senior Melanie Becker, who takes one night class a week in addition to Calculus three times a week at Martin Luther College, believes some classes “almost seem like a joke.” She and other PSEO students agree that the difficulty of the classes depends on the professor and can vary widely.

“I feel like I don’t even have to go to class,” Becker said about one of the classes she is taking. “I could just teach myself because I basically have to anyway.”

Bute agrees that the difficulty of the courses intended to challenge students is sometimes questionable. “When a high school class has higher rigor than a college class, that’s wrong,” he said. “My concern with PSEO classes is that some colleges are using them as a recruiting tool and sometimes lowering standards.”

However, for some students, PSEO classes are one of the few remaining options to challenge themselves. NUHS senior Dan Mohr, who takes a Calculus 2 class on campus at Minnesota State University-Mankato (MSU), feels he benefits from PSEO.

“I’m taking classes I wouldn’t be able to in high school. I’ve already gone through all the required classes and APs [Advanced Placement courses],” he said.

Mohr likes taking classes on campus not only because there are more options, but because he gets more exposure to college life. He feels the classes give students more freedom. “I like the college classes because they’re not based on daily work,” he said.

“A lot of responsibility is put on you by taking PSEO,” said NUHS senior Becky Stueber. “You have to take the initiative to do it all.”

summer break. He notes family vacations as a reason why a longer summer break is important. Also students who are very involved in school activities like athletics get the time to earn money for college during those three months.

When Mr. Pankonin was in high school, he enjoyed the time to read books that were not required and having family time.

Examining the proposal from another angle, the United States spends more time in school than Asian countries. The U.S. averages 1,146 instructional hours per year compared to Singapore’s 903 hours or Japan’s 1,005 hours. Yet curiously, countries in Asia are consistently out scoring the U.S. on math and science tests.

Even with all of our school days, the addition of a few hours here and there could make a big difference in the amount of learning done. Teachers could cover more ground, and students would be able to give more focus to classes they need work on.

So would year-round school be possible for schools around the area?

“Only if it was a federal or state mandate,” said Mr. Pankonin. He does not see a “real big effort” to try to change it in the local area at the moment.

For an administration to switch over the system, it takes months or even years of planning, and then it must be approved before anything can move forward. Many administrations argue that a year-round school system can be cost efficient, but it takes a lot of spending to get the system set up and running in the beginning.

For a district like New Ulm it would take a real effort to put it in effect.

“Each generation had to step up to the plate, so to speak,”

Although Stueber concurs that the difficulty of the classes depends on the professor, she feels she is being challenged. “You have to put a lot of effort into it,” she adds.

Some students enjoy PSEO so much that they decide to go full-time PSEO, taking all of their classes through MSU or another school’s program.

“It’s a good thing to take advantage of. You can already have a full year of college done by the end of your senior year,” said Stueber, who decided to go almost full-time PSEO because the classes are free and she enjoys the scheduling.

“Some kids love it,” said Weiss of full-time PSEO. “Some find that it’s not for them and come back here.”

As part of the decision-making process, many students find that it is difficult to be away from their high school classmates. “Everything from pepfests to Homecoming to Prom...I think you miss out on the fun day-to-day things,” said Bute. “College life is completely different.”

While some students are ready for something completely different, Becker believes “the high school experience would stink to miss.”

Many students and teachers find the PSEO program to have both advantages and disadvantages. Even so, Becker, Stueber, and Mohr all recommend taking a PSEO class, even if it is just to get a feel for college.

The debate continues over whether PSEO classes are doing their job. Many believe PSEO can be beneficial as long as students take classes for the right reasons. Are you?

Pankonin says adding that affluence plays a part in the success of a year-round school system.

Don’t worry, students in New Ulm High School, summer break seems here to stay.

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## Pass that Test

By Gretchen Austinson

NEW ULM - Last year, the juniors were the first class at NUHS to take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA-II) math test as a graduation requirement. This year as seniors, 71 of those students found out that they did not pass the MCA math test.

To help these students pass the retake test on December 4, the school district set up a GRAD math class to help the students better prepare. This class can be taken during the school day, as a night class every Tuesday and Thursday, which is taught by Mr. Lyle Erickson, or as an independent study where the students get the materials needed to study every Wednesday after school.

"Our district is committed to helping students improve," said GRAD math teacher Mrs. Deb Pribyl. "I believe we have a positive, aggressive approach that meets all our students' needs."

Despite 71 students needing to retake the exam, Mrs. Pribyl is "pleased with the number of students that did pass because we're above the state average."

The GRAD math class focuses on number sense, algebra, geometry, and probability and statistics. These four areas are the focus of the MCA math test.

"The goal is to teach the students enough math so that they can pass the test," said Mrs. Pribyl. "Even if they don't pass the test, they've learned more math."

"The thing that helps the students most is they care. They are focused," said Mrs. Pribyl.

According to Mrs. Pribyl, if a student does not pass the retake, they just need to take the class the next semester and they will have met the MCA math graduation requirement. According to Mr. Ryan

Ziemer, school guidance counselor, next spring the in-school class will be provided for those who do not pass the retake.

"I am tremendously impressed with the maturity and attitude that the students are working at daily in this class," said Mrs. Pribyl.

For this year's juniors, the school district will be looking at test scores from the NWEA test to target students who may struggle on the test, said Mrs. Pribyl. The guidance office is also encouraging students to take the Accuplacer test to help them find students who may have problems with the MCA-II test.

"We understand that we're having issues in math classes which is evident with the MCA test and Accuplacer, but we're working on plans to address these needs," said Mr. Ziemer.

## Graduation Requirements: Always Changing

By Amber Reed

NEW ULM - As technology and society evolve so do requirements to function and survive. And schools are no different as graduation requirements change to adapt to the evolving needs of the 21st century worker.

Currently, an NUHS student must meet the following requirements to graduate:

- Four years of English, including English 9, English 10, American Literature, and World literature
- Four years of Social Studies, including American History I and II, World History I and II, Economics, World Geography I and II, and American Government
- Three years of Math, including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Probability and Statistics
- One year of Phy. Ed./Health, including Forever Fit and Health

- One year of Arts (Fine Arts and Visual Arts)

Testing:

- MCA 9th grade writing test
- MCA 10th grade reading test
- MCA 11th grade math test

While these might seem like a lot of requirements, even these changed from the recent past. In the previous years only half a semester was required for English 9 and English 10. The students before the class of 2010 were also not required to pass the 11th grade MCA Math Test. That requirement was just added last year.

"I feel that the graduations requirements are very fair; all of the classes that are required will help me in the future," senior Jacob Thunander said. "I don't disagree with any of them at all. Although some of these classes are not the most fun, I have learned a lot."

As time marches on, these requirements will change once again. For example, the requirements for the class of 2015 will change slightly. They will be required to have algebra done by eighth grade.

"I am concerned about every eighth grader taking algebra," Mr. Ryan Ziemer, NUHS guidance counselor, said, "because knowing their cognitive level they might not all be ready to comprehend

the abstract concepts."

"I believe especially since algebra is going to be required in eighth grade, as a junior students should be taking pre-calculus level math classes because many schools are looking at math scores and some students have to do remediation courses in colleges," Mr. Ziemer said, which would mean further requirement changes.

The class of 2015 will also be required to take either chemistry or physics by eleventh grade.

But to make room for all these requirements some have noticed electives have been slowly dwindling lately.

"There are fewer electives to choose from than in previous years because there are more requirements," Mrs. Margret Weiss, NUHS guidance counselor, said. "Five years ago there were only two years of math and science, [for example]."

Because of the most recent requirement changes, NUHS has lost electives such as Graphic Design; Careers is now offered every

other year instead of every year; and Myths, Monsters and Villains, Coming of Age and Media Lit are now combined with English 9 and 10 instead of being offered as separate electives.

"I think that it is unfair that the government is requiring so many things that electives are being pushed out," Mrs. Kathy Nelson, NUHS English teacher said. "I think it

is tragic that we aren't allowed to keep our electives because of a top down system where somebody, some where who doesn't have an education background is determining our requirements."

Requirements begin when the state sets the minimum requirements all public schools must have; the school board then has the ability to add on to those minimums if desired, so not all grad requirements look alike.

"The biggest difference between us and other schools is Social Studies. We require four years, and most require three," Mrs. Weiss said.

Recently with the No Child left Behind law, increased stan-

dardized testing has frustrated many as well as part of the graduation requirements

"The state has begun to micromanage what the teachers are allowed to teach," Mrs. Nelson said. "I wish that we could teach to our subject matter and not to a test."

"The requirement I would like to see eliminated is the testing that requires students who are already doing well to improve to a percentage that is unattainable," Mrs. Nelson said.

While many think we have too many requirements, some would like to see others added.

"I wish they would require foreign languages," Jacob Thunander said. "I feel different languages are going to get everyone farther in life. Our culture is becoming very diverse."

Graduation requirements today are becoming more and more precise on what the state and schools think their students need to be learning.

The requirements are changing to keep us parallel to other districts and prepared for a rapidly changing work force. Even if electives are disappearing, hopefully enough will stay so students can pursue the future they desire.



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## Temporary Classrooms Can Education Really be Portable?

By Kassi Hague

NEW ULM - Due to a referendum not passing in November of 2006, decisions needed to be made regarding more space for the students at New Ulm High School, especially with the closure of the New Ulm Middle School.

It was decided that portables, temporary classrooms, were needed, and they would be put on school property. This project needed to be completed by September of 2007.

Now that we have had the portables for almost two and a half years, NUHS seems to be adapting well to the new space, but for how long?

When deciding to use the portables, the district took into consideration a lease levy, which allows the district to tax New Ulm taxpayers for the cost of lease property. By the end of the 2010-2011 school year, the portables are planned to be eliminated due to enrollment declines.

"The goal was to keep them for four years," Principal Mark Bergmann said regarding long-term plans for the portables.

"We intend to be able to accommodate all 7-12 grade needs within the Annex space and the existing New Ulm High School [by 2012]," Superintendent Harold Remme said.

"They have been more efficient than not efficient in the last two years," Remme added. "We have had a minor

problem such as a heating issue that occurred at first. Since then, they have been acceptable classrooms and have provided adequate learning."

Affectionately known as "The Math Palace" because that is the department housed there, math teachers generally agree they like the teaching space.

"The portables are good. They're clean and bright," math teacher Mrs. Deb Pribyl said after teaching in the portables for two years now. "On any given day it's great to pass through the outdoors [back to the main building]."

"Although the separation from the rest of the building is a definite drawback, it's a benefit that the math department works well together," Pribyl said.

Still, having to walk outside to reach the portables is one very obvious drawback, especially if there is bad weather! Additionally, there is no running water, so to use the bathroom or to get a drink of water, students are required to walk

over to the Annex. For the teachers, there is not a copy machine out there either.

"It stinks when it's raining and snowing, but yet I get a chance for fresh air," senior Caity Bierk said.

Although the drawbacks are pretty heavy, there are some benefits to the portables. It is a quiet and clean environment.

"Though it can be annoying when there is bad weather, I don't mind the portables because it provides a better learning environment," senior Anthony Wieneke said. Despite

walking out in the bad weather, students said it doesn't affect the way they feel about math. "Nope! I still love math," Wieneke said.

Although the portables can be a little hectic and there are not very many benefits, they have definitely helped our school and have been a huge help making progress in keeping 7-12 grade students on a single campus.



## High School Life

By Felicia Hooks

NEW ULM - It's 8:10. Students and teachers are rushing to get their day started for another typical day in high school.

Organization plays a great role in high school. According to sophomore Courtney Johnson, she stays organized by using a planner; and it works very well. But senior Liz Hoffmann looks at organization as keeping everything in one spot, and notes that it helps her a tremendous amount.

According to teacher Mrs. Patty Young, she uses mental and actual lists to stay organized. She also always tries to plan ahead. Some other simple ways to stay organized would be to label everything in your folders and notebooks, but remember to keep everything separated.

High school jobs are very typical in an average teen's life. But do teens work too much? According to Johnson, they do not. "It shows responsibility," says Johnson.

According to Young, she can see both sides. She thinks that her students that have jobs learn wonderful life skills like responsibility. But many of them don't have time to do the things that are important. "It takes away too much time in studying and keeps kids away from doing extra activities that they love," says Young.

Do students take high school life seriously?

According to Hoffmann, she takes high school seriously so that she can graduate. But according to junior Jenna Thedens, she only takes some parts seriously. Most of the time she just goes with the flow but does continue to try.

"You're only in high school once; you have to enjoy it," says Thedens.

High school can sometimes be difficult. Do some teachers not see it and over do it or push us just a little too hard?

"They don't always think about our outside lives and how busy they actually are," Thedens says. But she still admits they are very good teachers.

According to Hoffmann, she thinks that many teachers do over do it, too.

According to Young, she says she agrees that sometimes she does give out too much homework. She also says that if she had more participation, she would not have to give out not as much.

So what is the purpose of homework?

According to Young, it is to reinforce what is learned in class. And when you read and write, you collect more information.

High school can be very difficult but if you continue to work hard and stay organized, you should do fine. But always remember to have fun and stay on top of things.

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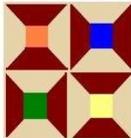


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## Torgerson's Adventure to a New World

### Mr. Torgerson Returns to NUHS after Teaching in Colombia for Two Years

By Hannah Stark

NEW ULM – For the past two years, Mr. Eric Torgerson, a teacher at New Ulm High School, explored a new way of life in the country of Colombia. Torgerson and his wife lived in Colombia and taught at a private American school.

Torgerson indicated he chose Colombia after attending an international job fair for teachers.

“We did not just take a trip to Colombia. We chose to live there for two years,” said Torgerson. Torgerson and his wife had to accept the way of life of a completely different culture. Some things they liked, and some things they had to adapt to.

Torgerson and his wife were not the only teachers from a different country who went to Colombia. “It was fun to get to know others, mostly teachers, from all over the world and to now be able to keep in touch with them,” Torgerson said.

While in Colombia, Torgerson taught English and found most of the curriculum to be the exact same as in the United States. However, the teaching style was slightly different.

“I liked teaching in Colombia because teachers are given much more time to prepare and work during the day than here in the states,” he said.

Even though Torgerson taught at a private, wealthier school, he found “the facilities [at NUHS] are much nicer and more modern.”

Another difference in the schooling of Colombia is the students that Torgerson taught. “The students were very easygoing

with almost no discipline issues,” said Torgerson.

Despite widespread poverty in Colombia, “Colombians are proud to be of the fact that they are the second most happy country in the world,” said Torgerson. According to Torgerson, they tend to live for the moment and find joy in almost everything they do. Torgerson explained that when walking down the streets, people all around would be dancing to music.

Another cultural difference between Colombia and the United States is that they are very concerned about appearance, more so than the U.S. Cosmetic surgery is common. “Everyone takes great trouble to look their best, even if it is just to go to the grocery store,” said Torgerson.

The school that Torgerson taught at was located in a big city. To escape the fast-paced lifestyle, Torgerson and his wife would visit a small fishing village called Taganga. It was their “getaway” that even had a swimming pool for only \$12 a night.

A favorite memory of living in Colombia for Torgerson was “the day I was working at my computer and a giant centipede came

up from the window. It was a foot long and was scary,” he said. Centipedes in Colombia are known to be very aggressive and have the ability to eat mice. “Much scarier than a snake and uglier!” he added.

Torgerson misses the weather of Colombia the most. It was toasty warm from the month of December through May. This season is referred to as the breezy season.

Torgerson also misses Colombia's delicious fruit juices. “They make the most amazing fruit juices from all sorts of exotic fruit,” he said. His favorite was guanabana.

Though Torgerson had a sensational time in Colombia, he missed his friends and colleagues. When he returned back to the United States, he was happy to be reunited with his dog and to live in his house again.

Still Colombia left a mark on Mr. Torgerson. “I would return to Colombia in a heartbeat,” he said. “I grew to love much about the country and especially its people.” He notes that Colombia is not as dangerous or risky as most Americans tend to think it is.

If Torgerson were to live through another experience such as his stay in Colombia, he would like to possibly adventure out into Europe or to another part of South America.

Torgerson has learned valuable lessons from this experience. “Mostly I take confidence. I now know that I can do what it takes to leave what is comfortable behind and live in another world, literally,” said Torgerson.



## The Most Dramatic Class Ever

By Gretchen Austinson

NEW ULM - From their British newscasters on Channel 40 to a Muslim selling slushies, this class is one hundred percent drama.

With two classes each school day, Mrs. Karla Hansel is very busy teaching her students about the art of drama, a popular elective English course at NUHS.

Drama is one of the most ancient and time honored traditions of humanity coming from the ancient Greek meaning “to do” or “to act.”

In this class, students learn about theater history, Greek tragedy, and Shakespeare. The students not only perform plays, but they also write their own scripts. Some of these performances are prepared assignments, but others are improvisations.

The goal of this class is to introduce as many aspects of drama as possible, to experience diversity and excitement of theatre, and to learn enough to encourage lifelong interest in theatre, according to Mrs. Hansel.

“Although most students taking the class will not pursue theatre as a career, they still benefit from learning effective uses of the voice and body,” said Mrs. Hansel.

At the beginning of the semester, the class focuses on the effective use of voice. Students go to Jefferson Elementary School's library to pick a children's book to retell in their own words. The best performers had the opportunity to present their stories to Jefferson Elementary students.

One of the favorite units for students was speaking with accents. This year there were a variety of different accents, from seniors Andy Meidl and Sam Utz's British news show to senior Brett

Gieseke's distinctive Chinese accent. The students wrote their own skits and then invited foreign exchange students to discuss how people tend to stereotype other ethnicities.

Another part of drama class that the students enjoy is diaphragmatic breathing. This helps students vocalize better. This practice involves lying on the floor and watching the slow rise and fall of a book balanced on their stomach.

Toward the end of the semester, the students look forward to the improvisation unit, which leads to a performance project. In the performance unit, the students write and perform their own play.

“Each traditional study unit is followed by a performance project. For example, following the study of Commedia dell'arte, an Italian comedy art, students will learn the act of joke telling and then perform an original stand up comedy routine,” said Mrs. Hansel.

Most recently, the drama class took a trip to the Children's Theater Company to see “Mayhem Poets.” This presentation was a blend of hip-hop, improvisation, and stand up comedy. Combining imagination with poetry made for

a lively performance.

“It was fun. The Mayhem Poets were amazing,” said senior McKenzie Adams. “Everyone should see them at least once.”

This trip gave the students the opportunity to see a professional performance, which is one of the requirements for the class.

“The students really make this class a lot of fun because of the energy and creativity that they bring to their performance pieces,” said Mrs. Hansel.

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# Hand Sanitizer Gone Bad

By Felicia Hooks

NEW ULM - Germ killing liquids that are used every day by all people to take the bacteria off their hands, also known as hand sanitizer, are in hot demand this year, especially in response to this year's H1N1 outbreak.

Hand sanitizer is normally used for taking the germs off your hands. But do you believe this or do you think that hand sanitizers can actually pose dangers?

According to the article "The Dangers of Hand Sanitizer," hand sanitizers contain high levels or concentrations of ethyl or isopropyl alcohol.

Ever since the H1N1 flu has escalated, people have been using hand sanitizers more than ever.

According to NUHS substitute nurse Rhonda Dahlgren, she uses instant sanitizer at least 15 times per day.

Hand sanitizers are effective if one uses a dime-sized

amount. However, hand sanitizers can be very toxic and poisonous.

According to the article "The Dangers of Hand Sanitizer," most sanitizers contain 60 to 90 percent alcohol. This high concentration if ingested even in smallest doses can cause dizziness, slurred speech, headaches, and brain problems, which reportedly has been an issue a few times with small children in the last year.

According to the article "Love to Know Safety," ways to avoid poisoning are to avoid using sanitizers as much as possible; use only the required amount; supervise children; use a foaming formula if possible, it dries faster; encourage teachers to use baby wipes rather than sanitizer, and try to eliminate finger nail biting.

Improper use of sanitizers is very common with many

people today too. Many people think that more is better when it really is not. Ways to avoid improper use would be to avoid putting sanitizers on open wounds. If hands have any dirt on them or under fingernails, make sure to wash hands first because the sanitizer will be less effective.

Since instant sanitizers are 60 to 90 percent alcohol, they are very flammable. If there were to catch fire, they could cause serious injury and damage to belongings as well.

"The only other alternate way to keep hands clean would be to wash with soap," comments Dahlgren.

There are many dangers to using hand sanitizers, but according to Dahlgren, "If used properly and safely, it can be very effective when killing germs and most bacteria."

## Halloween from pg. 1

NUHS students got involved in the Halloween festivities. According to Guttum, "Everyone should be able to trick-or-treat and participate in the activities."

"My favorite part of Halloween is dressing up with a group and seeing everyone else's costumes," said senior Sadie Blackstad, who participated in Stud. Co.'s annual Halloween Spirit Day at NUHS.

"I love all the creative costumes!" said Nelson. "My favorites over the years at NUHS have been The Random Lobster Claw, Movie Theater Floor, and anything in the English Department."

Dressing for Halloween does not take a lot of effort. "I got my costume from previous costumes and the good ol' thrift store," said Blackstad. "I think it's the most fun when costumes are homemade."

"For those of you who choose not to participate in dress up days, stop being lame. Dress up. You'll have so much more fun," stated Nelson.

"Sometimes it's easier and you have more fun if you get together with a group and dress up. It's fun to get together

and plan out your outfits," said Becker.

"I dress up because it is one day you get to be anything you want!" Zimmerman proclaimed.

Throughout the day staff at NUHS voted for their favorite costumes. The winners included:

- 7th graders as a group of crayons, a witch, and a tax collector.

- 8th grade winners included a mad scientist, an army guy, an old lady in a robe, a businessman, a hippie, and a carrot!

- 9th grade contest winners were a clown, a couple having dinner, and a group of students dressed up as Mario Brothers

"cereal" killers, and a colonial times zombie.

- 12th grade winners included two girls dressed up as Wonder Woman, Smokey the Bear, a zombie, Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox, a group of gnomes, and a set of twins dressed up as Dr. Seuss characters Thing 1 and Thing 2.

"These students definitely put some effort into their costumes!" Nelson said. "My favorite costumes this year were the gnomes, the random lobster claw, the chick magnet, and Paul and Babe."

Students at NUHS seemed to have a great time dressing up for Halloween. Energy was high as spooky spirits abounded in the hallways and classrooms. When the final bell of the day rang, the spirits cleared the hallways only to return to haunt the high school again in years to come!

### Sources:

"The Real Story of Halloween." 2008. A&E Television Networks. 11 November 2009 <<http://www.history.com/content/halloween>>.



ers characters.

- 10th grade winners were the random lobster claw, a group of girls dressed up like S'mores, and two Irish ladies.

- 11th grade winners were the Minnesota fisher ladies,

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## New Coach, New Team Chemistry

### Eagles Hoping to Improve

By Zach Munce

NEW ULM – Boys' basketball starts off the season playing Lake Crystal on December 5. Then it is off to a big section game against Mankato East on December 8.

"We are not going to have a lot of players, so it may give us a bad look in the section," said Zach Quiring, a senior on the boys' basketball team, referring to some suspensions because of an Eagle Squadron incident earlier this month.

There have been a few suspensions due to bad behavior at a volleyball game in the past. The basketball team is going to be missing about 6 or 7 players for a couple of games because of this.

"Hopefully this does not make us look bad in the section right away," Quiring said.

Missing players is not the only change in the air for the



team. There is also a new head coach this season.

"This will give us a breath of fresh air and I think it will help the team out," said Quiring.

Shane Heiderscheidt is the new boys' basketball head coach. Heiderscheidt brings experience to his new position having coached one year at Cedar Mountain High School for boys' basketball and nine years for Sleepy Eye's girls' basketball.

"I enjoy coaching because I enjoy the new challenges that every team brings to us," Heiderscheidt said.

"My goal for the season is to have a .500 record or better," said Heiderscheidt.

"I know the weaknesses of the team are a lack of confidence and our shot selection is not very good yet, but

our strength is that we are a very quick team," said Heiderscheidt.

"Our strategies are that we need to find a way to get better defense for the team," said Heiderscheidt.

The boys' basketball team's seniors have plenty of experience with Zach Quiring having played basketball for about twelve years, two of which on varsity, and Drew Dauer also with two years of varsity experience.

"I have not really set any goals yet but I know one of them will be to win the conference," Quiring said.

"My goals for this season are to improve from last year's record and to have fun," said Drew Dauer. "I would like to make memories this year because I enjoy memories from every season."

From hockey all the way to tennis, every sport has a few rivals that they would love to beat. Boys' basketball has a few that they would love to beat too.

"Our rivals are Waseca, St. Peter, and Fairmont since they are big conference games," Dauer said.

## Girls' Hockey Hoping to Repeat State Appearance

By Drew Dauer

NEW ULM – Fans cheer and the siren sounds as the New Ulm Eagles girls' hockey team adds another win to their victory column. The girls are lacing up their skates in preparation for another hopeful season.

"My personal goals are to be a leader as a senior and to work hard. I want to help out as much as I can and to stay positive," Kacie Covington, a senior on the team, said.

With their state tournament trip under their belt last year, the Eagles are fired up and have high hopes for the season.

"Last year's trip has motivated us just by having the experience and knowing that we can make it. It also gives us a goal to repeat this year," Covington said.

The team has two returning seniors as well as a posse of other young players.

"Me and Kaylen are the only returning players," said Covington. "Kaylen is one of the leading scorers and a captain from last year. I think we bring back leadership and knowledge of what we've done in the past."

This year, there will be a bit of a bump in the road to the start of the season due to the suspensions from the volleyball game. The suspensions' impact showed as the Eagles dropped their first game of the season 6-0 to Mankato West on November 12th.

"Only a couple players were affected by it, but it is

still a big loss and we will have to adjust for our first few games," according to Covington.



The team will be short a few players for the first few games of the season, but they are trying not to let it get to them and keep

their heads up. They will be impacted big since one of the players affected has been a captain in earlier years. They will have to learn to use their depth on the team and will have to adapt accordingly.

"We will have to start practicing with other players in their spots. Everyone on the team will have to step it up," Covington said.

This year, the team will be working extra hard in order to repeat or go even further in the state tournament. They have learned that with work it is possible to go

even further to accomplish their dreams.

"We will have to work hard in practices and go out to win every game we play," said Covington. "We need to be focused on hockey the entire season."

The future for the team looks promising as well with a lot of young up-and-coming players.

"We will be pretty good again this year. We have a lot of talent and the younger players are looking good too," said Covington.

Watch as the Eagles Girls' Hockey Team tries to soar their way into the state championship again this year.

## Wrestle Mania!

By Dylan Smyth

NEW ULM – Boys' wrestling is stacked this year with jacked seniors, led by the biceps of Jamie "The King" Gieseke and many more seniors including Pat Brinkman, Anthony "The Beard" Mathiowetz, Eric Ellanson, Slammin' Sam Sletta, Jacob Schmidt, Adam Dauer, and Jordan Lilleodden, who are all hoping to take it a step further and advance to state this year and beat their top rival Waseca.

"I hope to have an advancing team to sections, and I would love to go to state," said Mr. Jeff Nelson, a New Ulm High School wrestling coach.

The team is coming out strong by continuing to weight lift as much as possible and build every wrestler not only strong but also as an individual. "Our strategy is to build a positive team, and build each individual stronger mentally and physically," said Nelson.

The wrestling team consists of nine seniors this year, which is almost half of the team, making for hopes of continued solid performance. "There is a good group of seniors that have been dominant," Nelson said. "Jamie Gieseke and



Jake Schmidt usually rise to the occasion; they are good leaders."

Senior Jamie Gieseke, who has been wrestling for about 13 years, can bench around 300 lbs, finds that being a senior is a strength. However, he sees his weakness as being afraid of himself.

"I love to wrestle because it gives me a chance legally fight someone and take out my anger," said Gieseke.

But while the wrestling team seems to be strong this year, not all wrestlers will be starting. Multiple suspensions due to the Eagle Squadron incident have benched five of the wrestlers. The suspensions have left the five wrestlers out for five matches total: three matches are in a tournament taking place in Mon-



tecello and two league matches against Lake Crystal and Mankato East. One of the wrestlers that is suspended is Eric Ellanson, a senior in the 145 lb weight class.

"I am out for the first five matches, and it stinks because I am a senior and I would love to make it to state this year," said Ellanson. "Lake Crystal is one of our rivals and I was really looking forward to that meet, and now I can't wrestle."

The team's first meet is on December 11 at Mankato East. The team hopes to come out with a successful trip and wrestle their way to victory!

## Behind the Yearbook

By Drew Dauer

NEW ULM – Pages turning, pictures everywhere. Students rushing to get autographs from everyone they see. Another issue of "The Eagle" yearbook is complete. Let's go behind the scenes to find out how it is made.

Ms. Darlene Filzen is the woman behind the madness. She took on the job after the previous advisor was cut. She applied, was interviewed, and got the job.

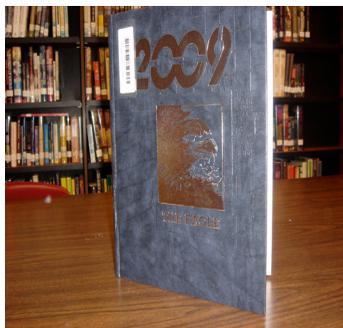
The job comes with great responsibility. She goes through a tough process before a yearbook can be produced.

"It involves lots and lots of time and plenty of hours. It could be a full-time job if it had to be," Filzen said.

"It is a very long process. I take pictures, plan the outline of pages, decide what to cover in the yearbook, and design pages. I also have to meet four deadlines in order for it to be complete on time," Ms. Filzen said.

Despite all her hard work, Filzen cannot do it alone.

"I have a staff of three students. They help type, take pictures, and design pages," Filzen said.



The process of making the yearbook is not cheap either as one might expect.

"I make about two dollars on each book that is sold. They are about \$58 a copy, and I keep it low so it is a reasonable price for students. I am not out to make a profit on it; it is for the students," Filzen said.

The process is long and often overlooked and taken for granted. So as you turn the pages and look at all the pictures this spring, make sure you think about all the hard work that is put into producing such an awesome yearbook.

There are a few different ways a student can order his yearbook. Order forms are mailed out to students, you can order them online at [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com), through mail, by phone, or even faxing an order.



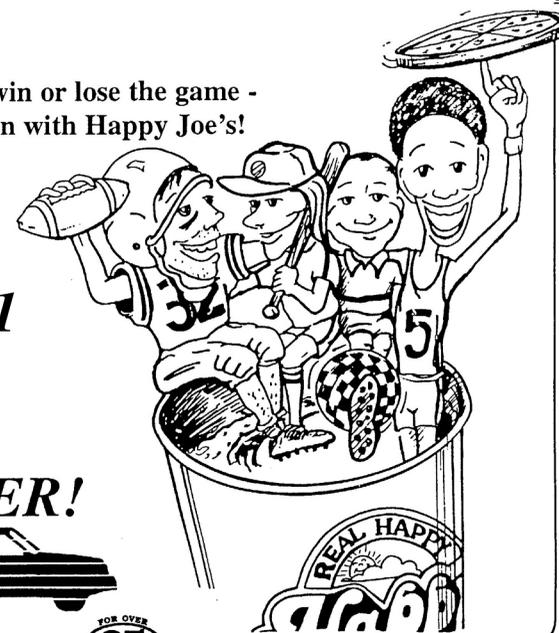
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## We Be Kickin'

By Zach Munce

NEW ULM - Girls' Danceline is going to start off an all new season with a new coach and an all new routine. It is a rebuilding year due to many members of the dance team quitting at New Ulm High School.

Due to the loss of dancers, there will be a lot of practice and reconstructing this year.

"We practice everyday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., except for Mondays when we lift weights from 3:15 to 4:00," said Whitney Lilleoden, a senior captain on the team.

"We do strength training, running, lots of stretching, work on jumps, and of course, the dance we are performing."

Starting the season off with a new coach, Heidi Fritz, everyone will need to adjust to a new atmosphere.

"I want to place in another competition and to improve as a team," said senior Kayla Kokesch.

"My goals are to improve on my dance skills and to improve as a team. I would also like to get better scores at competitions," said Lilleoden.

Memories are made in every sport, and Danceline is no exception.

"I enjoy spending time with my dance girls and working hard," said Lilleoden.

"My least favorite part of dance is girls not being sharp or not pushing themselves, and also that some of my best friends did not go out this year," said Lilleoden.

"My favorite memory has to be Homecoming," said Kokesch. "I also love to dance at all the different schools. The younger kids look up to us and the team bonds, and it is a lot of fun."

There are a few older dancers that plan on dancing

for the team in the future. They also seem to have plenty of experience.

"I have danced ever since I was three, that is 14 years," said Lilleoden. "I am planning on dancing after high school. I am going to try out for the dance team at college. But if that does not work, I am going to stick to teaching Just For Kix."

"I have danced for 14 years. I love to dance and hopefully plan on joining a college dance team in the future," said Kokesch.

"I am going to miss dancing for the high school. I am going to miss all the people in it and how close we get during the season," said Kokesch.



## Order in the Court!

By Molly Johnson

NEW ULM - The New Ulm High School Mock Trial team, led by senior captains Jacob Schmidt and Lauren Horsch, and coach Mr. Charles Anderson, has been working hard in preparation for their upcoming season.

Mock Trial is a Minnesota State Bar Association sponsored activity in which students perform various functions that occurs in a real courtroom or trial; hence they participate in a "mock" trial. NUHS Mock Trial has both Varsity and Junior Varsity teams.



The NUHS Mock Trial team is made up of 18 students, ranging from 7th to 12th grade.

A team consists of three lawyers and three witnesses for each case for each side. Each side has an attorney who prepares an opening statement and one prepares a closing argument. There is a direct examination done by a team, then followed by a cross-examination of the same witness by the other team.

The competition is set up just like a courtroom and run just like a real trial. A competition typically lasts three hours, according to senior Paul Ryberg.

The teams get scored on each component of the trial. "Everything that's in the courtroom gets a score on a scale from 1 to 10," said Anderson. Teams get scored as a witness on a scale from 1 to 10, and the same scale for

attorneys, the cross-examining, and the direct examining. After each category is judged, the scores are added up and the team with the most points wins the trial.

Mock Trial, just like sports, has a uniform of their own: business attire. This includes, but is not limited to, pant suits, skirt suits, and, of course, sweater vests.

Mock Trial does not have a set number of contests, according to Horsch.

"It all depends on how well we do in competition. We have probably three or four trials plus invitationals, then state, if we make it," said Horsch.

In order to qualify for state, the team has to win their region. In order to do this, they have to win three actual meets and then, as Horsch would say, they would be "state-bound 2010, baby!"

Both Ryberg and Horsch feel this year's team is highly capable of going to state.

"This year is probably our best year since my sophomore year. My sophomore year we went to state and this year looks even better than that," said Ryberg.

There are four key components to do well in Mock Trial, according to Anderson: confidence, preparation, the ability to work well with others, and being able to depend on one's teammates.

This is Mr. Anderson's 3rd year of coaching. His favorite aspect of Mock Trial is the students involved. "I love the kids," said Anderson.

It takes a lot of work to be in Mock Trial. A lot of preparation outside of their Monday and Thursday practices is not uncommon.

"You end up writing questions and statements outside of practice," said Horsch. "We also have attorneys that come in to help with the legal jargon. It's a lot of blood, sweat, and tears, but it's a bunch of fun."

"It teaches students that you get out of it what you put into it," said Anderson. "Last year we didn't get out-talented, we got out-worked. We're not going to let that happen again."

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## Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho, Off to Convention We Go!

### New Ulm FFA Members Attend the 82nd National FFA Convention

By Kacie Covington

NEW ULM - Twelve New Ulm FFA students attended the 82nd National FFA Convention this year. The students traveled by bus to the convention, which took place in Indianapolis, Indiana from October 21 through October 24.

The students experienced many different events while on the trip. The group set off late Monday evening, October 20 on a twelve-hour bus ride along with FFA chapters from Sibley East, Dassel Cokato, Belle Plaine, and Blue Earth.

"The bus rides were my favorite part of the trip because I got to know so many new people," said sophomore Claire Schwarz.

The New Ulm delegation, made up of Tom Maidl, Chantel Ruehling, Chantel Lewis, Amy Stadtherr, Chantel Miller, Jazmyne Miller, Abby Bastian, Claire Schwarz, Aaron Miller, Brett Gieseke, Alisa Covington, Kacie Covington, and Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Nelson, along with the other FFA chapters, stopped along the way in Chicago to tour the Chicago Board of Trade and the Federal Reserve Bank.

After stopping in Chicago, the group continued on to Indianapolis, and attended the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* on the first night.

The following day the streets of Indianapolis began to fill with a sea of blue FFA jackets. Our local group started their convention day off with tours to Franklin High School, Cummins diesel engine factory, and the Toyota forklift plant. After the tours the students prepared themselves for the opening session of the convention.

The first session of the 82nd Annual National FFA Convention kicked off with a bang! The keynote speaker for the session was Mike Rowe from the hit television series *Dirty Jobs*. After the session had concluded, the students walked to Lucas Oil Stadium for a Toby Keith concert. "The Toby Keith concert was one of my favorite parts of the trip," senior Brett Gieseke said.

As the convention progressed the group continued to attend sessions and also visited other fun places like the Career Fair, the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Indiana State Museum, and the Bulls and Bronx Rodeo.

"The sessions were great!" said junior Abby Bastian. "Sometimes they got a little long, but over all they were a good time." In addition to opening session speaker Mike Rowe, other session speakers included Hugh Grant, the Executive Officer of Monsanto Corporation, and Andrew McCrea, host of the national radio show *The American Countryside*.

"The Career Fair was my favorite part. I really enjoyed walking around and looking at all the booths," sophomore Aaron Miller said. The Career Fair consists of hundreds of agriculturally based

businesses and colleges from around the nation. Convention visitors were able to explore many opportunities and gather valuable information from the many exhibitors.

The convention also featured the presentation of national FFA awards to individuals and to FFA chapters. The retiring national FFA officers gave their farewell speeches and the new officers for the upcoming year were introduced. The National FFA Chorus and the National FFA Band performed followed by an additional highlight of the convention, the National FFA Talent Show.

The 82nd Annual Convention came to a close on Saturday, October 24 as the exhausted group of New Ulm students headed home.

"I would definitely go again because I had a great time and it was well worth it and a good life

experience," Bastian said.

"We did a lot of stuff different from last year and a lot of it had changed," Gieseke, a second-year attendee of the convention, mentioned. "I advise younger students to sign up and go in the coming years."



## MathCounts Preparing for Competition

By Butch Dwyer

NEW ULM - In Portable 1 on a chilly November afternoon around 3:15 p.m., eleven New Ulm junior high students are furiously computing bewildering math problems. While their fellow classmates are fleeing school grounds as fast as they can, these eleven mathletes willingly staying behind to workout their brains, gearing up for their next MathCounts competition.

MathCounts is a competitive middle school math league with participating schools all over the country. Teams from different schools meet up at various competitions that take place throughout the season.

According to Mrs. Janelle Woodbury, the activity's coach and advisor, a typical meet begins with the competitors receiving 30 problems to be solved in 40 minutes without a calculator. This is called the Sprint Round.

After the Sprint Round, the Target Round begins. In this round, students are given a total of eight problems. They receive two at a time and have six minutes to complete each set of two questions. The Target Round problems are tougher to complete than the Sprint Round questions, so contestants are allowed to use calculators.

Next comes the Team Round. A team consists of four partici-

pants. Each team gets ten problems to complete in 20 minutes. Calculators are also allowed in this round.

The final round is called the Countdown Round. In this round, the top-scoring sixteen individuals go head-to-head in the best three-out-of-five with another opponent. A problem is displayed on a Powerpoint Presentation, and whoever answers the problem correctly first wins that point.

Mrs. Woodbury holds weekly practices either before school or after school to help prepare the team for upcoming competitions. At practices, Mrs. Woodbury shows old examples of competition problems as well as teaches new strategies to solve various types of problems.

The MathCounts season spans from late November through early February. After the regular season, state qualifiers take place to determine which teams or individual competitors advance to the statewide competition. From there, contestants can even advance to the national level, which takes place during March.

Any current seventh or eighth grade student can participate in MathCounts, according to Mrs. Woodbury. "My thing is if you'd want to hang out and do math with me, I'd love it," she says.

"It's kind of cool because you get to be with other kids your age and have a fun way to learn and not be stuck in a room by yourself," says seventh grade competitor Elissa Schmiel.

Goals this year for the MathCounts squad is mainly to have a



good time although some of the students have more specific goals as well.

"My goal would be to at least make it out of regionals," eighth grader Taylor Tambornino said.

"I just want to make it as far as I can and try my best doing it," said Jenna Sellner, a seventh grade participant.

"My goal is that each time we go to a competition, we do one better than we did the previous time," said Woodbury. "My goal is that they just have fun."

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## Frankly Speaking

Dear Frank,

What's with guys giving girls weird looks when they lift in the weight room? Girls can lift too! Just because we aren't jacked and cannot bench 500 lbs. doesn't mean we don't like to stay toned. I started curling a 7.5 lbs. and I got looks as if I was Paris Hilton at Wal-Mart! I'm fed up with boys thinking we are wimps!

Sincerely,  
Buff Chick

Dear Buff Chick,

I totally understand your dilemma, and I think the best solution would be to confront the people who are giving you such weird looks. The faces they are making at you probably look weirder than someone curling 7.5 lbs. anyways. The guys are probably just jealous and the looks they give you are just their way of checking you out. Next time you are toning up and you get a weird look, just ask them "What's your problem?" or say "You know, if you keep making that face, it's going to get stuck that way!" After a few times they'll get the hint that lifting has many different purposes and they'll back off. Just work on toning up and tuning them out!

Sincerely,  
Frank

Dear Frank,

We often have to give speeches in my English class. Usually I'm fairly good at public speaking, but this year my crush is in my class. Attempting to make good eye contact with the audience, my eyes always manage to meet his. When this happens, my face turns red, my palms sweat, and I start to stutter. What should I do about this problem?

Sincerely,  
Speechless in Speech Class

Dear Speechless,

Consider yourself lucky! Many students have a fear of public speaking that causes red faces, sweaty palms, and stuttering—even if their crush is not in their class. To ensure that your next speech is stellar, try winking at your crush and making intense eye contact with him. It will make you feel more confident as well as make him feel really uncomfortable! He will turn red and avoid eye contact with you for the rest of the speech. This way, you can let your public speaking skills shine. And if you're feeling extra sassy, whisper him a saucy message as you strut back to your seat.

As well as improving your speech, you will find out if your crush is reciprocated or not. If so, just call me cupid. And if not, at least you can stop worrying about that stupid boy during your speeches!

Sincerely,  
Frank

## 2008 & 2009 Yearbooks Still Available!!



- 2008 => Cost is \$50.00
- 2009 => Cost is \$55.00
- See Ms. Filzen in room 112 if interested!

## Horoscopes

By Amber Reed

**Aries** (March 21 - April 19): You seem to be treading in deep waters this week. Start being nice instead of mean. Open yourself up to the ones around you so you can let loose. This week should turn out to be your best yet, as long as you make it that way. Lucky numbers: 18, 37, 10, 42

**Taurus** (April 20 - May 20): Your engines are going to kick into overdrive this week! You never seem to want to quit. Remember that not everything is a competition; some things are just meant to be fun! Lucky number: 24, 12, 78, 3

**Gemini** (May 21 - June 21): Take a step back and analyze my friend. Your center of balance is out of whack because of the stressors you've been facing. Take an hour out of your day to just relax. Find your Zen again. Lucky numbers: 11, 34, 56, 2

**Cancer** (June 22 - July 22): Take time for both. Today you'll have dual needs. On one hand, you'll want to take part in social activities. And at the same time, you'll need some time alone. Fortunately, you can and should do both! Lucky numbers: 26, 67, 4, 13

**Leo** (July 23 - August 22): Flash those pearly whites! You will make many people happy this week by flashing that dazzling smile of yours. Lucky number: 69, 54, 1, 15

**Virgo** (August 23 - September 22): Words are your weapon! People around you should beware of your hypnotic use of verbose verbiage. You could get away with murder just by speaking. But watch out, listening is your fault! Start to listen as much as you talk and you will see vast improvements. Lucky numbers: 33, 44, 55, 22

**Libra** (September 23 - October 23): SLOW DOWN! You are over thinking way too many things! You are focusing too much on the unimportant matters and not enough on the important ones. Try to make quick decisions this week, don't over analyze. Every decisions you make is not a science experiment. Lucky numbers: 11, 8, 17, 99

**Scorpio** (October 24 - November 21): "So many shops, so little time" seems to be your motto for the week. Keep that impulse shopping in check. You have college to think about. Try to focus more on your studies instead of what you're going to wear tomorrow. Rome wasn't built in a day, nor will you single handily save use from the recession! Lucky numbers: 21, 18, 87, 98

**Sagittarius** (November 22 - December 21): Relationship elevator going up! This week you will want to spend more time with someone special. Try planning a unique date for a change. Try not to let outside issues influence the way the date goes. Good luck! Lucky numbers: 77, 6, 9, 16

**Capricorn** (December 22 - January 19): The couch potato blues seem to be bring you down. Try to hit the gym and get those endorphins going this week. Once you start doing that you will see a change in your mood in no time. Lucky numbers: 29, 19, 23, 45

**Aquarius** (January 20 - February 18): Athena seems to be on your side this week! You will see a vast improvement in your grades, but remember this reward does not come free. Try to keep your focus on school and not the drama. Lucky numbers: 96, 67, 57, 83

**Pisces** (February 19 - March 20): Tune down the drama, my friend! Make things simple this week; simplicity will soon show to be your friend. Show your unique flare for drama through the way you dress, appropriately of course, but try to tone down the gossip. School should be enjoyable, not constant problems. Lucky numbers: 43, 26, 74, 85

## Cartoon

By Dylan Smyth



## Shout Outs!

### We Creep so You Don't Have to

By Lauren Horsch and Rachel Enwright

Geo-Neat-o! You drive me crazy. Thanks for making the parking lot a little bit more classy everyday.

Questions of the day, thank you for making my day worth one more point. I've never depended on random knowledge so much until I walk into that classroom. I'm coming for you, Ken Jennings. I'll be the next big Jeopardy pro.

Everyday when I go to my locker after seventh hour, I find these little inspirational notes left inside. To whom ever writes those notes: next time, leave your number; I would love to chill with you and discuss all the finer things in life. Random creepiness has never been such an attractive pick up.

Hairspray not needed.  
Bump-its defy gravity,  
Girl! It be so high.

Hey, boys! The haircuts that you have been getting are making all da ladies swoon over you. Ya look good, honeys.

No-Shave-November: Gross, but funny. Thanks for taking over faces everywhere, Beards. I never knew the whole "Lumber Jack" look could be so delightfully tacky.

### Did You Know?

A cow gives nearly 200,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime.

There are only 12 letters in the Hawaiian alphabet.

An adult lion's roar can be heard up to five miles away.

Chewing gum while cutting onions will prevent crying.

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds.

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