



## North High School

October 2011

Downers Grove North High School is committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for all our students. We are pleased that we can celebrate the educational success of our students again in 2011, while continuing to work carefully to develop and enhance interventions designed to provide for the needs of all learners.

Among the indicators of student academic growth and achievement are:

- A continued yearly increase in the composite ACT score to 24.3, our highest ever composite score, and higher than 95% of high schools in Illinois.
- Across all sections of the Prairie State Achievement Exam, 74% of our junior met or exceeded standards, higher than 96% of all high schools in Illinois.
- Our enrollment in Advance Placement (college level) courses continues to rise, with 559 individual students enrolled in 1131 sections. In 2011, 790 AP exams were taken, with 83% of the exams receiving passing scores of 3, 4, or 5.
- Growth in our average student test scores from the Explore test (incoming freshman) to PLAN (spring of freshman year) to retired ACT (spring of sophomore year) to the PSAE (spring of junior year) are above the local and national norms.
- A significant number of freshmen enrolled in our Read 180 program have demonstrated 2 or more years of growth in reading within one school year.
- Students enrolled in our PSAE Test Prep Class gained 2.6 points in math, and 4.3 points in reading as measured by the April PSAE test (typical growth is 2.0 points per year).
- Over 86% of North graduates continue their post-secondary education at 2 or 4-year colleges or universities.

North continues to provide academic and behavioral interventions designed to support and accelerate student learning, and increase student achievement. Our STRIVE (Success Through Reaching IndiVidual Expectations) provides after-school homework assistance and tutoring.

The school's study halls have been redesigned to provide more focused levels of support and structure to meet different learning needs. Currently, 35 teachers are involved as Literacy Coaches, to help teachers incorporate reading strategies in their instructional practices throughout the curriculum. Our co-teaching model continues to expand, providing greater access for our IEP students to more rigorous, college-preparatory learning experiences. Strategies for Academic Success provides reading support for struggling readers; as does Read 180, an intervention program for incoming freshmen. Advanced Strategies for Academic Success course has an enrollment of 35 sophomore and junior transfer students who receive additional help after taking our Strategies for Academic Success program. Three required professional growth opportunities; Project CRISS, Assessment Literacy, and Cooperative Learning provide staff with training in best instructional practices. Twice a month, all certified staff members meet in small Professional Learning Community teams to identify, plan, and implement strategies to further enhance student learning. For our parents, a newly redesigned Parent University program provides opportunities to learn about supports and initiatives available at the school, and ways they can partner together with the school for the benefit of their children. New to DGN this year, our "Positively North" program promotes the importance of being respectful, responsible, and engaged in creating a positive school culture. This emphasis is designed to better meet the social/emotional needs of our students and to ensure we have a school where all members are treated with dignity and respect.

The continued upward trend of academic growth at North is the result of the collective efforts of our staff, the diligence and hard work of our students, and the support of our parents and community. We believe these combined efforts will continue to result in increased success, both now and with the opportunities that await students beyond North High School.

Scott Kasik  
Principal