

King Elementary > West Middle School > Auburn Academy



Gifted News

A Newsletter from Parents for Gifted Education (PGE) • District 205

College Night April 28th

A Primer on how to prepare for, apply to, get accepted in and finance the college of your dreams.

Our MAY PGE MEETING will be held in the AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM on APRIL 28th with BUSINESS MEETING at 6:30 PM and the COLLEGE PROGRAM from 7 – 8:30 PM.

The Program:

The Application Process
Narrowing the Search,
Pursuing Scholarships
Suggested High School Preparatory Coursework
Opportunity for Questions

Speakers include:

Mr. Tim Keating, college coordinator for Auburn will share the view from the high school perspective.
Deetra Sallis, an Auburn graduate and an admission officer from Rockford College, will share a college's view of the process.
Current seniors and parents of students who have recently completed the process will share their experiences.
We will also try to have a college coach present to speak to students hoping to attain athletic scholarships.

Intended Audience:

While juniors, sophomores, and even freshmen and their parents can use this opportunity to become more aware the college process, all parents and students are welcome!

Appreciation Dinner for Gifted Teachers slated for May 14

PGE's annual appreciation dinner for gifted teachers from King, West and Auburn is scheduled for Friday, May 14. New District 205 Superintendent Dr. Dennis Thompson will attend the event, which will take place again this second year at the home of Connie and Keith Bland.

If you want to help with the event, please contact Connie Bland: connie@blandinc.com, 637-6691. To avoid telephone tag, e-mail contact is preferred. Please indicate if you will provide a dish and/or help with set-up (4:00-5:30 p.m.) or cleanup (7:45-8:30 p.m.). We are in need of appetizers, salads, main dishes (including vegetarian options), side dishes and desserts. Teachers seem to enjoy ethnic dishes, so dig out those family recipes!

Reception for Dr. Thompson June 7

Join PGE in welcoming Dr. Thompson at the June 7th PGE meeting at the West Middle School Library. The meeting begins at 6:30 PM with the election of officers for the next year and a farewell to Ruth Harris who has been the glue of our program over the last 26 years. That will be followed by an opportunity for Dr. Thompson to speak about his vision for the future of the gifted program in RPS 205. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Thompson to Rockford.

PE WAIVER UPDATE

First of all, what's the difference between a waiver and an exemption? With a *waiver*, a middle or high school student can trade their PE class for an academic class if they are involved in an organized physical activity outside the school day. Examples would be a school sport, dance classes, club sport (including but not limited to hockey, swimming, soccer, or gymnastics). The school must have proof of their participation or the student receives a failure for the PE class they didn't take. Our PE Waiver was granted in 1999 and expires at the end of this school year. The district has applied to renew the waiver through 2009. *Exemptions* exist regardless of the waiver since they are part of the school code. It reads as follows:

(105 ILCS 5/27□6) (from Ch. 122, par. 27□6)

(b) **A school board** is authorized to excuse pupils enrolled in grades 11 and 12 from engaging in physical education courses if those pupils request to be excused for any of the following reasons: (1) for ongoing participation in an interscholastic athletic program; (2) to enroll in academic classes which are required for admission to an institution of higher learning, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the pupil being denied admission to the institution of his or her choice; or (3) to enroll in academic classes which are required for graduation from high school, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the pupil being unable to graduate.

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PE WAIVER UPDATE cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

A school board may also excuse pupils in grades 9 through 12 enrolled in a marching band program for credit from engaging in physical education courses if those pupils request to be excused for ongoing participation in such marching band program. A school board may also excuse pupils in grades 9 through 12 enrolled in a Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program sponsored by the school district from engaging in physical education courses. School boards which choose to exercise this authority shall establish a policy to excuse pupils on an individual basis.

Please note if your child will be in 9th or 10th grade next year and plans to be in band (with the exception of orchestra and jazz band, all bands at Auburn are marching bands) or ROTC, they can replace gym with another class even if the PE waiver does not come through. 11th and 12th graders can exempt PE for participation in athletics or to take an additional academic class as well as if they are in marching band or ROTC. They must be enrolled in a full course load (6 classes) to use the exemption. Counselors should have explained this to everyone at registration. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Keating or Mr. Meli at Auburn. Unfortunately, none of these special exemptions apply to our middle school students.

BACK TO THE WAIVER. At a special meeting on February 9, the Rockford School Board voted to apply to renew our 5 year PE waiver for grades 6-12. All speakers and letters received by the board were in favor of the waiver. The request was submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Additional documentation was requested and submitted. Subsequently a group of PE teachers spoke at a board meeting and went to Springfield to voice their opposition to the waiver armed with petitions signed with the signatures of many students (ask your child if he signed one).

ISBE staff submits a report to the ISBE board regarding waiver requests. As of this writing, the ISBE staff gave the following explanation for sending the PE waiver request to the Illinois General Assembly with a "do not approve" recommendation:

Rockford School District 205 (WM100-3164) is asking to waive the provisions for daily physical education found in Section 27-6 of the School Code. The Rockford district was granted a waiver in 1999 that allowed it to offer physical education as an elective course for grades 6-12. Rockford was shortening its daily schedule from seven to six periods for financial reasons and requested the waiver "to provide additional class learning opportunities for students." The waiver expires this spring and Rockford has submitted a renewal request that would again permit students in grades 6-12 to choose physical education, band, chorus, orchestra, foreign languages or technology coursework as electives. Stressing the ongoing financial problems in the district and the continued 6-period days, the application states that: "college admissions and competition for scholarships demand that students take more rigorous high school studies than ever before. Computer technology competencies and the ability to speak a foreign language are valued skills for all students. Students are trying to take four years of the core subjects as well as

foreign language, technology, physical education, and the arts." Results from the 2002-2003 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) for physical development and health for students in grade 7 show an overall district score of 47% of students meeting and exceeding the Illinois Learning Standards, compared to a state rating of 64%. Individual school ratings range from 17% to 59% of students meeting and exceeding the learning standards. Data compiled from various locally developed physical education assessments for the district's high school students range from 62.2% of students in grade 9 meeting and exceeding state standards to 88.1% of students in grades 10, 11 and 12 (combined classes) meeting and exceeding the learning standards. The State Board is recommending that the General Assembly deny the renewal of Rockford's waiver request for daily physical education. Specific reasons for the recommendation are:

Lack of equal opportunities for learning. If this renewal is not disapproved, Rockford will have a decade during which some middle- and high-school students might never have to enroll in physical education. The very low ISAT scores for students in grade 7 indicate that the district has not met the requirement that its existing waiver be based on a specific plan for improved student performance.

On April 22 the ISBE board will vote on their waiver request recommendations for the General Assembly. Parents and administrators from the district plan to speak on behalf of the waiver. We will stress our support for physical education, the lost opportunities incurred with the change to a six period day and the desire for families to have the CHOICE of how their students will engage in physical activity. We will ask the ISBE board to add our waiver to the block being sent to the General Assembly with "no comment". Currently, less than 10 % of our secondary students employ the waiver or exemption, with West and Auburn students using the highest number of waivers of all middle and high schools in the district.

The waiver will then move to the General Assembly as part of the block or tagged as recommended for disapproval. If no action is taken on the block it passes. Requests tagged by ISBE for disapproval must be put to a vote. Both the House and Senate can vote, although only one has to be in favor for it to pass. In the past most PE waiver disapprovals have gone on to be passed by the General Assembly. But now, according to Senator Syverson, because of the governor's interest in childhood obesity, the climate in Springfield has changed. While our legislators will work to have our waiver passed, there are no guarantees. Once moved through the General Assembly, no further action can be taken by the governor on waiver requests.

Therefore, please take a moment to email or send a letter to representatives on the education committees of the House and Senate. They can be found by navigating to the state web site www.legis.state.il.us and clicking on committees. While you're writing in favor of the PE Waiver, also ask them NOT to support pending legislation **HB4167** which ELIMINATES ANY PE WAIVERS AND EXEMPTIONS and **HB3970** which LIMITS PE WAIVERS to 2 years.

The General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn May 21 (may be extended to May 29), so we should have resolution of this issue before the end of the current school year.

Javits Grant Unavailable

The purpose of the Javits program is to carry out a coordinated program of scientifically based research, demonstration projects, innovative strategies, and similar activities designed to build and enhance the ability of elementary and secondary schools to meet the special educational needs of gifted and talented students.

The major emphasis of the program is on serving students traditionally under represented in gifted and talented programs, particularly economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient, and disabled students, to help reduce the serious gap in achievement among certain groups of students at the highest levels of achievement.

GIFTED FUNDING

HB 4448--the most recent Illinois House bill to reinstate gifted--failed to make it out of the Rules committee, so it is no longer a bill. In response, the Illinois Association for Gifted Children sent out the following announcement: *"We have been told in the past that gifted was eliminated because we were not vocal and did not care. We need EVERYONE, and that includes you, to stand up for gifted NOW! Numbers count."*

During a visit with local legislators in Springfield, PGE parents were unable to gain commitment from our local senators or representatives to support legislation mandating services for gifted students. They said they supported block grants because it gave control back to the districts. They went on to say since we don't have the categorical grant, returning the language "gifted and talented students" into the code makes them an unfunded mandate which these politicians cannot support. Their advice was also to contact the governor (and key legislators) voicing your support for gifted education.

These "key people" you need to contact who are negotiating the final Illinois budget include:

Gov. Blagojevich, Emil Jones, Jr., Frank C. Watson, Michael

DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS...

At a recent school board meeting, Bob Evans outlined the primary responsibilities of the board as educating the students and maintaining fiscal responsibility to the community. He then related RPS 205 won't be doing as good a job with education next year in order to reduce the deficit enough to prevent a take over by the state.

As of the printing of this newsletter, students are scheduled to have 6 hours of classes at both the middle and high school for the 04-05 school year. The district saves \$2.5 million by cutting an hour at the middle schools and \$262,000 by eliminating zero hour at the high schools. At Auburn, the number of classes cut from the schedule will *be more than double the ten zero hour*

Last year the district failed to apply for the grant. In light of the loss of state funding for gifted, this year PGE offered to contract a grant writer. Dr. Thompson offered full cooperation of the district with the endeavor. Unfortunately, when we attempted to retrieve the grant application package, we were informed no Javits funds will be available for the 04-05 school year. Sadder still is our local legislator, Don Manzullo, who previously supported funding the program, does not in 2004.

PGE would like to find alternative funding for Zero Hour Gifted Classes at Auburn. One suggestion is to contact local businesses and ask if they'd underwrite a class. For example, asking a chemical company to pay for AP chemistry, a hospital to pay for AP biology, an engineering firm to pay for AP physics or calculus. The cost would be approximately \$12,000 for each class for the year. Parents can also underwrite classes. If you can assist with this project, please email PGE@rps205.com

Madigan, and Tom Cross

Send each of the five *and* your legislators (Syverson, Burzynski, Jefferson, Wait, and Winters) a message by email, postal mail and/or phone at their local and Springfield Offices. You can find those addresses on the internet at www.legis.state.il.us/. Ask them to:

- 1) Reinstate funding in FY 05 for gifted education at the level recommended by ISBE--\$19 million.
- 2) No gifted student should be left behind. Reinstate gifted education language into the school code.
- 3) Personal anecdote or story to underlie what gifted education means to your children and the effects of its elimination. Use your own words; write from your heart.

When all is said and done, it may come down to whether gifted education is covered under federal legislation. Interestingly, Dennis Thompson, the incoming superintendent, asked PGE if our district wrote IEPs (Individual Educational Plans) for each of the students in the gifted program. According to Dr. Thompson, gifted children are covered under special education and federal law mandates an IEP for each student.

classes due to additional budget cuts for class inefficiency reductions. Refer to the related article regarding West's proposed allocations for a six period day. Based on West's classification as a site based school, another change which has been discouraged is reducing the length of the periods to get an additional class period in each day. No final scheduling decisions can be made until the action is taken by the state on the renewal of our PE waiver (see related article).

There is little likelihood the BOE will return secondary schools to a seven period day. The only chances for that would be the district getting additional revenue from the state, or the new administration pressing for the seventh or zero hour. Even then, the BOE could choose to apply additional

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Gifted Education in Rockford...Where are we going?

The centralized academic gifted program in District 205 has followed an interesting course since its inception in the summer of 1975, following a path riddled with unforeseen roadblocks and also great successes. For example, the director and psychologist worked with the community to offer P.A.L.S. (Potentially Able Learners), a summer school program for gifted preschoolers and their parents, to qualify a diverse group of students to the program. Only two years later, these two individuals developed PEP (Pre-school Enrichment Program), a program for preschool children from low socio-economic families. Only through these kinds of successful minority recruitment programs did the gifted program achieve a level of diversity which later saved us from being one of the educational casualties of the People Who Care discrimination lawsuit. Since its birth, Ruth Harris, Gifted Program Psychologist, has worked with the ever-changing cast of administrators responsible for the program. The following individuals have played varying roles in the development of the gifted program over the course of its past 8 years; notably and sadly, none of these individuals remain employed with the district.

- 1996 Dr. Cheryl Peters, Director of District 205 Gifted and CAPA program, position is eliminated by the school board
- 1996 Dr. Barbara Pulliam, Associate Superintendent is charged with administering the program. Ruth Harris, Gifted Psychologist continues full time
- 1997 Gary Bishop, Director of Special Education assigned as administrator of Gifted and CAPA programs. Gifted Psychologist position is cut to half time.
- 1997- Summer 2003 Gary Bishop, Director of Special Education is administrator in charge of Gifted and CAPA. Gifted Psychologist continues at half time.
- Summer 2003- Gary Bishop is removed as administrator of Gifted and CAPA.
- From Summer 2003- present date the following administrators, in chronological order, have at some point had administrative charge of the program:
 - Linda Hernandez, Assistant Superintendent
 - Jan Jones, Interim Director of Special Education
 - Colleen Cyrus, Director of Special Education
 - Sharon Halton, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services
- February, 2004- Board votes to eliminate the position of Gifted Program Psychologist, move gifted testing to the department of Research and Development and eliminate the Gifted office.
- April, 2004 Sharon Halton, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services and administrator over Gifted and CAPA resigns. Lisa Mehlig, Director of Research and Development and administrator in charge of Gifted program testing resigns.

The most recent round of district budget cuts sacrificed the gifted psychologist position, the Gifted office, and placed gifted testing in the department of Research and Development. Presently, the dominant concern of PGE is the loss of our Gifted Program Psychologist, Ruth Harris. Current cen-

tral administrators - not directly involved in the program - have suggested testing no longer requires gifted certified personnel or needs to be overseen by a gifted psychologist; thus, the elimination of the Gifted Psychologist position has become a devastatingly concrete possibility.

Our psychologist functioned above and beyond the call of duty in many capacities. In addition to her responsibilities with testing, Ruth unofficially assumed the role of a gifted certified program coordinator since 1996. While the program was "administered" by others, Ruth did the majority of the work involved with gifted and CAPA curriculum across grades 1-12, developed budgets in collaboration with the 3 gifted site principals, facilitated the development of exit policy procedures, developed and implemented the High Needs Placement Program, as well as developed the first-ever Academy Handbook. When the current district administration recommended the elimination of the Gifted Psychologist, they not only lost the given position, but also eliminated the unofficial program coordinator and the single remaining individual in the district with the historical perspective of the program and its testing strategies. Such perspective proves exceptionally useful in maintaining continuity in the program and in realizing ways in which processes may be improved over time; our gifted psychologist has seen both the successes and mistakes of the gifted program, allowing her great insight in important decisions and changes to the program.

Based on preliminary discussions with the new superintendent, Dr. Dennis Thompson, we are hopeful the program will continue to flourish. Fortunately, Dr. Thompson has indicated the need for a school psychologist to interpret the data, although there has been no commitment with regard to Ruth. PGE has expressed the benefit to the district in having Ruth Harris continue as the gifted psychologist for at least another year. This would allow a transition period necessary for the integrity of the program while plans are made for its future. Ruth not only knows the history of the program, but has experienced it first-hand, having been involved since the early 1970's. She has seen the program through the lawsuit and has been instrumental in many positive changes throughout the years. It is essential for the person assigned to administer this program in the future to know where it has been, and also why it still survives and flourishes despite many obstacles, including the variety of test procedures used and methods involving how to work with the community in order to bring in and unify a diverse student group.

The last program strategic plan was done in 1999, prior to the end of the court order. Strategic planning sessions scheduled for January 2004 were canceled abruptly by administration a few weeks prior to the first meeting. It is imperative a new strategic plan is done with people involved who understand the history of the program, as well as with those who will lead it into the future. The District 205 Gifted and CAPA programs have been tremendously effective and most efficient over the last 30 years. There is however, much still to be done in the area of minority recruitment and retention. The program is in dire need of an administrator with gifted certification and experience. PGE is most interested in working with the new administrative team to make sure the program won't miss a beat during a very crucial time in the district.

DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS cont'd

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revenue to the deficit rather than increasing the school day. Dr. Thompson (the new superintendent) stated in a radio interview his belief in middle school students having no more than six hours in a day. That was before he found out the state of Illinois has mandatory PE through high school. Our state is unique in mandating PE in middle and high school. That makes a six hour day in other states akin to Rockford having the PE waiver. In a subsequent conversation with Dr. Thompson, he said without the PE waiver, he understood the difficulty in maintaining electives. He also agreed that there are some students (for example those in the Academy, where additional courses are required for the graduation seal) who may need another class period. In fact, the school system where he currently works has schools which offer a varied number of class hours. PGE hopes the new administration will be open to developing a plan to offer additional classes to students in the gifted program.

Auburn Achievers

National Merit Finalists

District 205 only had seven National Merit Finalists this year, and they all attend the Auburn Academy! Congratulations to seniors Laura Bland, Chad Casarotto, Adam Heinmann, Amanda Makulec, Shani Schechter, Karl Sturm and Mike White. You're the best Rockford has to offer!

Illinois State Scholars

Another hearty congratulations to the 32 other Auburn seniors who earned Illinois State Scholar status: Divya Amladi, Michael Arthur, Laura Bland, Chad Casarotto, Raquel Davis, Du'aa El-Noory, Katherine Evans, Melanie Green, Adam Heinmann, Eric Huber, Emily Jakobsen, Sarah Kaplan, Sara Koerber, Stacy Lemery, Joseph Lenox, , Amanda Makulec, Nick Meli, Abigail Mohaupt, Hillary Mohaupt, Alison Nichols, Amanda Otto, Ruxandra Radulescu, Depankara Reddy, Phyllis Roman, Amanda Ryan, Rachel Scanlan, Shani Schechter, Matthew Spoden, Jessica Stroud, Karl Sturm, Catherine Thuruthumaly, Diana Torres, Kelsey Voss, Amanda Walsh, Christina Westendorf, Mike White, Jamie Wilt and Michael Zimmerman.

Academic All Stars

And yet another hearty congrats to Auburns top 25, our Academic All Stars: Michael Arthur, Laura Bland, Chad Casarotto, Raquel Davis, Du'aa El-Noory, Katherine Evans, Emily Jakobsen, Sarah Kaplan, Sara Koerber, Stacy Lemery, Amanda Makulec, Abigail Mohaupt, Hillary Mohaupt, Alison Nichols, Amanda Otto, Jose Ramirez, Phyllis Roman, Amanda Ryan, Rachel Scanlan, Shani Schechter, Matthew Spoden, Jessica Stroud, Catherine Thuruthumaly, Diana Torres, Amanda Walsh, Mike White and Jamie Wilt.

Auburn student takes third in State Chess Tournament

Auburn junior Zack Beach placed third in his category at the state high school chess tournament Feb. 14.

Math League

Auburn's Math league team of 18 students tied for 19th out of 114 schools after the fifth of six tests in the annual competition.

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West Winners

West's Swim Team earned 1st and girls earned 5th in the city meet and placed 4th overall.

West's Mathcounts team came in 1st Place at the February 7th Mathcounts Regional Competition. Team members are Siva Sundaram, John Brown, Michael Jiang and Ju Lee. Placing 1st place in individual competition was Siva Sundaram, 2nd was John Brown, 3rd was Dayne Rogers, 5th was Michael Jiang, 6th was Ju Lee and 10th was Toby Odusanya.

West's Scholastic Bowl Team coached by Mrs. Deacon and Mrs. Mead. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders named to the team are John Brown, Megan Harris, Siva Sundaram, Michael Jiang, Kendall Coates, Stephen Szwiec, Thomas Dal Pra, Lucas Enser, Camille Simon, Arika Verma, Dayne Rogers, Mahalia Khasay and Rory Zuba. Team competition began for West on March 19th when the team beat St. James 217-208 and St. Bridget's 317-92. On March 24th West beat Holy Family 265-170 and St. James 307-192.

At the March 31st West 1 beat Holy Family 305-100 and St. Bridget's 315-116, West 2 beat St. Bridget's 253-215 and Holy Family 270-154. State Regional competition is April 27th in DeKalb.

The 6th Grade Girl's Basketball Team finished the season with an over-all record of 19-2, claiming the Rockford Public School Championship. The girls finished second at the Byron Tournament and first in the Valentine's Tournament hosted by St. Peters.

The 7th Grade Girl's Basketball Team finished the season with an 11-5 record; 7-1 in league play.

West Bowling Teams coached by Cindy Hunsberger and Leonard Pink finished the season as follows:

Boys Varsity 4th place, JV 2nd place

Girls Varsity 8th place, JV 5th place

West Builder's Club received national recognition in "USA Weekend" when they were given a Make a Difference Day Award. The award is for the Red Cross clean up of the shelter and surrounding neighborhoods organized by club member Jake Ball.

Young Author's Competition winners are:

6th grade: Erika Lenox, Colm Miller, Jake Schneider, Evan Mathews, and Rory Zuba

7th grade: Kelsey Campbell, Lucas Enser and Marissa Giannangeli

8th grader Kristen Sotakoun was the second-place winner in the Boone-Winnebago Regional Spelling Bee.

Nicole Fitzgerald and Ashlee St. John represented West at the National Junior Leadership Society Conference in Washington, D.C.

CHARTER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED?

Some members of the RPS 205 Board of Education have suggested the gifted program consider applying to the district to become a K-8 charter school. Any parents interested in organizing a committee to look into this issue should contact PGE by email (PGE@rps205.com).

KING KUDOS

King's 2003-2004 Creative Writers Winners!

- Grade 1- How the Tooth Fairy Got Her Job, written by Shawn Makulec
- Grade 2- Speedy, Our Magical Friend, written by Neysra Rivera
- Squirt's New Friend, written by Kyle Bolstad
- Grade 3- The China Trip, written by Mary Cunningham
- Grade 4- Tom and the Time Machine, written by Megan Jennings

King School's Boys' Basketball Team for their first place season finish!

King School's Girls' Basketball Team for their second place season finish!

The King Chess Team and Chess Club for another super year! King School sent 17 players to the Illinois State Chess Championship on March 20-21

K-1 Division: 11th place

Benji Bear, Evan Davis, Paul Zaczek

2-3 Division: 12th place

Serena Korkmaz, Nathan Krinickas, Jessica Beard, Neil Mediratta,

Ashwin Puri, Brianna Dao, Marc Trautmann, Cameron Smith

4-5 Division: 13th place

Seth Brown, Brandon Dao, James Reyes, Jerry Rubio, Jacob Schulman, Alex Trautmann

Continental Math League...

The Continental Math League meet is an international contest taken by the King School 2nd and 3rd graders. During the months of January, February and March the children answer 6 questions per month. These questions stress multiple- step problem solving. Geometry and algebra can also be a part of the meet questions. Congratulations to all the students who tried very hard on the 6 math problems at each meet!

2nd grade high scorers: Haseeb Haroon, YovonneBoese, Cameron Smith, Jesse Brekelbaum, Logan Gorsuch & Melissa Ihus

3rd grade high scorers: Jake Brekelbaum, Brianna Dao & Steven Chamberlain

REMEMBER THESE OPTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

High school students can take additional classes during the summer and over the school year through:

1. Rock Valley Colleges dual credit courses. Students may take approved courses tuition free and receive college credit and credit toward high school graduation. Rock Valley registration fees and course materials (books) are the responsibility of the student. A list of classes is available in the High School Planning Guide. See a counselor for details.
2. Virtual Learning. Students may take a maximum of 4 credit hours in correspondence classes from Institutions accredited by North Central Association and from the Illinois Virtual High School Program (www.ivhs.org). Health is a popular on line course. See a counselor for details.

CALENDAR SPRING 2004

PGE

April 28 PGE Meeting with College Night 6:30 PM, Auburn Auditorium

May 14 Staff Appreciation Dinner 5:30 PM, 3640 Zermatt Court

June 7 PGE Meeting with Reception for Dr. Thompson 6:30 PM, West Library

KING

April 20 PTO meeting, and Lighted Library

May 18 PTO Meeting

June 2 Fifth Grade Graduation at the Discovery Center

WEST

April 27 Regional Competition for West's Scholastic Bowl Team, DeKalb

May 5-6 Cinco de Mayo Celebration at West

May 13 West's Band/Orchestra Ice Cream Social

May 31 West Band marches in Memorial Day Parade

AUBURN

April 19 Booster Club Meeting 7:00 PM

April 22 & 23 & 24 Spring Play-Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You In The Closet And I'm Feelin' So Sad 7:30 PM

April 28 Stanford/PSAE Test grades 9-11

April 29 11th grade PSAE testing, no school for grades 9,10, and 12

May 5 Band Concert 7:30 PM

May 7 No School - SIP DAY

May 11 Orchestra / One - Acts 7:30 PM

May 12 French Honor Society Induction

May 17 CAPA Piano Recital 7:30 PM

May 17 Booster Club Meeting 7:00 PM

May 19 Red, Hot and Cool Jazz, Klehm Auditorium 7PM

May 19 Chorale / One - Acts 7:00 PM

May 22 Prom Forest Hills Country Club, 8 PM

May 24 Spring Sports Banquet

May 25 Senior Showcase 6:30 PM

May 26 Spanish Honor Society Induction

May 26 Senior's Last Day

June 2 Senior breakfast at Page Park

June 2 Baccalaureate Program planned by senior class

June 3 Graduation 10:00 AM - Metro Center

KING WEST and AUBURN

May 31 No School - Memorial Day

June 3 No School-Teacher Institute Day

June 4 Last Day of School - 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Auburn Achievers cont'd

(Continued from page 5)

Auburn Scholastic Bowl wins 3rd place in IHSA State

Starting team members included senior and captain Chad Casarotto, seniors Laura Bland, Melanie Green, Karl Sturm and sophomore Tyler Kerr. Other team members included seniors Adam Heinemann, Amanda Otto, Mike White, juniors William Brooks, Maia Mrkvicka, Colleen Powers, Arpeet Shah.

This was the third trip to state competition for Auburn and veteran coach Linda Green with the team finishing second in 2003 and third in 2004.

Auburn Science Bowl team advances to Nationals

Auburn Academy seniors Laura Bland, Chad Casarotto, Mike White and sophomore Tyler Kerr finished second in the Motorola Regional Science Bowl in February and will move on to national competition in Washington, D.C.

Auburn WYSE team advances to State competition

Auburn swept regional and section competition in the World-wide Youth in Science and Engineering competition, earning them a trip to state competition at the University of Illinois. The team placed second in regional competition at Rock Valley College, with the following students taking individual honors: Tyler Kerr, 1st in Biology; Hillary Mohaupt, 1st in English; Mike White, 1st in Physics; Laura Bland, 2nd in Chemistry; Chad Casarotto, 2nd in Physics; Mike White, 3rd in Mathematics; and Matthew Strong, 3rd in Engineering Graphics.

In sectional play at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, the team took third place and individual honors went to: Chad Casarotto, 1st in Physics; Tyler Kerr, 1st in Biology; Mike White, 2nd in Physics; Laura Bland, 3rd in English and Hillary

Mohaupt, 3rd in English.

Auburn High School finished third Saturday in the Illinois Masonic Academic Bowl for varsity Scholastic Bowl teams.

Auburn seniors take 2nd in Building Bridges competition

Auburn seniors Chad Casarotto, Adam Heinemann, Amanda Otto and Mike White took second place honors in the Building Bridges competition at Rock Valley College Feb. 28 as part of National Engineers Week, winning \$300 and a computer for their school.

Auburn seniors win Black History Quiz Bowl

Four seniors from Auburn won the Black History Quiz Bowl held on Feb. 26 and Feb. 28. The winning team, called "Auburn Seniority" included Ashley Anderson, Raquel Davis, Dominique Devereauwax and Sha'Donna Woods.

Two Auburn students first in Spanish interpretation

Two Laura Bland and Luz Castaneda captured first place awards Feb. 28 in the Northern Illinois Spanish Cultural Interpretation Contest at Mendota High School.

Chemistry Olympiad Qualifiers

Stephanie Baliga and Laurie Boettcher qualified to take the National Chemistry Olympiad Exam.

Congrats, Auburn Creative and Performing Arts Students

Students in the CAPA Program at Auburn earned recognition recently at two area art shows. In the 63rd Young Artist Show at Rockford Art Museum, Catherine Palmeno earned the Bank One award, and Ruxadra Radulecso and Shani Schechter both took Juror's Awards.

In the Rock Valley College Juried High School Art Show, Katherine Evans took first place, Shani Schechter placed third and Jurors' Mention went to Divya Amladi, Bruno Andrade and Cami Woodruff.

KEEP THE AWE! IN AUBURN — BUY RAFFLE TICKETS

Auburn Booster Club is sponsoring a Calendar Raffle. There will be prizes every day for 365 days. Tickets are \$25 dollars and only 4000 will be sold. Prizes:

\$50 MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

\$100 SATURDAY & SUNDAY

\$500 ON 7 SPECIAL DAYS

Winning tickets are re-submitted every day to win again and again.

VISIT AUBURNBOOSTERS.COM OR CALL 966-3333 EXT. 707

SEND ORDER FORM WITH CHECK TO
AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB
2302 TRILLIUM TRAIL, ROCKFORD, IL 61108

PLEASE PRINT - PRIZE CHECKS WILL BE MAILED

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ (INCLUDE AREA CODE)

\$25 PER TICKET – YOUR TICKET WILL BE MAILED TO YOU



PARENTS FOR GIFTED EDUCATION

2302 Trillium Trail
Rockford, IL 61102

Email: PGE@rps205.com

College Night April 28

Auburn HS

Reception for Dr. Thompson June 7

West Middle School Library

Staff Appreciation Dinner May 14

PGE ON THE WEB: PGE205.ORG

SCHEDULING CLASSES AT WEST NEXT YEAR

Because the outcome of the PE waiver is unknown and because the law states teachers must be notified of lay offs by April 1st, the district has RIFed (reduction in force) with two possible scenarios. PE teachers were laid off in case the waiver comes

through and students choose to take another elective in place of PE. Teachers who teach electives are laid off in case the PE waiver is not approved and all middle school students are required to take PE. In either scenario, students will have less to choose from. At each middle school, the principal made the decision which electives would be offered. West will have no general music, dance, drama, or vocal music. Art classes will be severely limited.

Without the waiver, sixth graders will have no electives. Seventh and eighth graders will have one elective from those proposed in the above chart.

Please notice that the previously mandated strand of language arts, vocational tech, computer literacy, and health is no longer

required. It turns out the only class of the strand mandated by the state or district was health, with students required to take one semester of health in middle school and another in high school. PGE asked if health could be incorporated into the sixth grade humanities or science classes to keep the seventh and eighth grade space open for electives. Parents were told no

because students in sixth grade are too young for the sexual education component of health. PGE has also asked if middle school health can be taken on line for credit (Brigham Young offers health on line for 7th and 8th grade students and are an approved provider for the on line high school health class), and were told no, it must be taken in the classroom.

Based on West being a site based school, there may yet be room for alternative scheduling strategies. Central administration has suggested alternative schedules which, for example, might allow a student to take two electives during one hour on a six day rotation (alternating three days of each).

The West administration has suggested shortening the class periods in order to fit an additional class into the school day. We will keep you informed, via the website www.PGE205.org whenever we have news of changes in electives and scheduling.

PROPOSED COURSE OFFERINGS FOR WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH MANDATORY P.E. (NO WAIVER) AND 6-PERIOD DAY FOR 2004-2005										
GRADE 6										
Courses:	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	P.E.	P.E./Health	Language Arts	Humanities		
School West	X	X	X	X	X		X			
West Gifted	X	X	X	X	X			X		
GRADE 7										
Courses:	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	P.E.	P.E./Health	Language Arts		Choice of One (Dependent on Reading Level): Lang. Arts (sem) or Reading (Sem), Publications (Yearbook) (Yr.), Foreign Lang. (Yr.), Instrumental Music (Band or Orch - Yr.), Comp App/Lit (Sem), Tech Ed. (Sem).	
School West	X	X	X	X		X				X
West Gifted	X	X	X	X		X				X
GRADE 8										
Courses:	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	P.E.	P.E./Health	Language Arts		Choice of One (Dependent on Reading Level): Lang. Arts (sem) or Reading (Sem), Publications (Yearbook) (Yr.), Foreign Lang. (Yr.), Instrumental Music (Band or Orch - Yr.), Comp App/Lit (Sem), Tech Ed. (Sem).	
School West	X	X	X	X		X				X
West Gifted	X	X	X	X		X				X