

In the News

No School

There will be no school for students on Monday, March 4 due to a teachers' workshop day and parent-teacher conferences.

There will also be no school on Friday, March 29 and Monday April 1 in observance of Easter.

Homecoming Games

The 2024 Winter Homecoming games will be a double header held at Northome High School on Friday, Feb. 23.

The boys will be playing the Blackduck Drakes starting and the girls play the Clearbrook-Gonvick Bears.

Game times are listed inside this issue of The Express. Any changes to the schedule will be posted online.

Mid Term

Friday, Feb. 23 marks mid-quarter for Third Quarter of Second Semester. Teachers will be posting mid-quarter grades the following week.

Conferences

Parents may meet with teachers on Monday, March 4 for conferences. Elementary teachers will be scheduling appointment times. High school teachers will be available after 3:30 P.M.

If there is a certain teacher parents wish to see, they can schedule a specific time with a teacher, otherwise, it is an open house.

Express Publication Dates

- March 11, 2024
- March 27, 2024
- April 17, 2024
- May 7, 2024
- May 15, 2024

Holcomb advances to State Brain Bee competition

**By Juleen Trisko
 Advisor**

Senior Geneva Holcomb earned a place at the Minnesota State Brain Bee competition after ranking a qualifying in the first round proctored computerized exam on Thursday, Feb. 1. The top 30 students from this preliminary round progress to the State Competition.

The last NHS student to move on to State was Michael Bardalas from the Class of 2020.

The Brain Bee is a neuroscience competition targeting high school students (grades 9 - 12). Is locally coached by NHS science teacher Mr. Jim Schneider.

Holcomb, along with senior Kenly Hallstrom, junior Joy Adegun and freshman Amy Rowe answered questions from the book *Brain Facts* published by the Society for Neuroscience.

The types of questions asked deal with such topics as: brain anatomy, neurodegenerative diseases, addiction, sleep and memory.

To prepare, Holcomb said she went to the practices and outlined the book so she could retain the information.

Holcomb credits past participants for some of her success. "I used the book Rachel Fahey [Class of 2016] used," she noted, "and on the inside there are a few highlighted words and some things written in. In the back folder of the binder, there are a few of her old flashcards she made which are great to help with studying."

She joined Brain Bee for a couple of reasons. First, she likes being a part of the science clubs. Second, it seemed like an interesting activity. Third, she enjoyed knowing more about the brain. And finally she enjoyed the company of the other competitors.

In the future, Holcomb wants to teach high school history "which is completely different than Brain Bee," she noted, but she likes "seeing where people come from and how they got where they are now."

She added, "It just makes my day when I can tell someone a little bit about history even if they're paying attention or not."

The next round of competition was held on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. In addition to competing in the final rounds, state finalists will also had an opportunity to tour the research laboratories of University of Minnesota neuroscientists.

"It was pretty cool how they make the microscopes themselves," Holcomb said of the tour. Their tour guide was one of the professors at the college who was studying eyes and glial cells. He is currently working on how the brain tells blood vessels to enlarge in the area of the brain where the current processing is taking place.

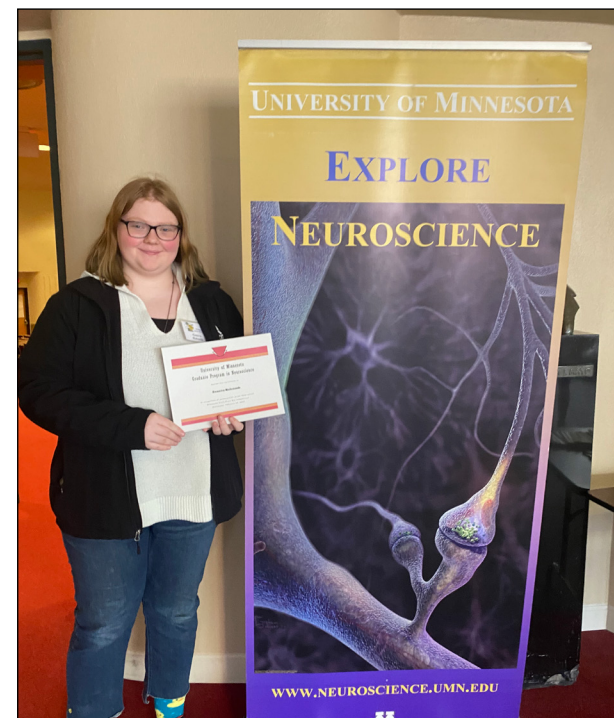
For example, he stimulates a mouse's whiskers and then looks at the blood vessels in the whisker reaction center to see what is going on. To do this, he built his own two-photon

microscope. It uses an infrared laser to look into the brain to measure what is going on.

He actually has built two or these microscopes. He saved the university almost \$700,000 by building them instead of purchasing them.

The second round was a speed round where participants are asked questions to test their knowledge of the material.

The final round was a Jeopardy style round where each student was asked the same question and asked to write their answer down. Each answer was evaluated for accuracy by a panel of judges. The winner of the MN State Brain Bee was the participant with the most correct answers at the end of this round. Holcomb did not make it to the final rounds.



Geneva Holcomb shows her Brain Bee State Competition certificate outside the Mayo Theatre on the Minneapolis campus of U of M.

Hallstrom wins subsection AAA title

**By Juleen Trisko
 Advisor**

Senior Kenly Hallstrom was the Subsection 29 Triple 'A' Award winner. The announcement came at the Wednesday, Feb. 7 dinner in Menomonie honoring school district winners.

This Minnesota High school League award, recognizes high school seniors from across Minnesota for their achievements in academics, the arts/activities and athletics.

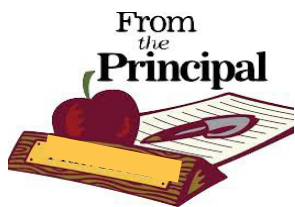
To qualify, stu-

dents must have a 3.0 grade-point average or better and participate in League-sponsored athletic and arts/activities programs. League member schools are invited to nominate one boy and one girl for the award.

Award recipients are selected through a multi-level process involving the League's administrative regions and a committee of educational, athletic, and arts/activities leaders.

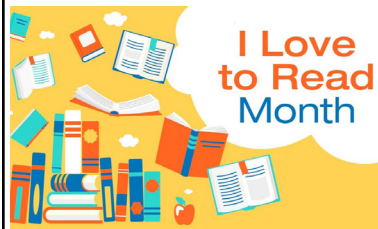


Senior Kenly Hallstrom (center) was accompanied to the honorary dinner by Lucy LaValley and her mother, Emily Lindley (Photo submitted)



Knowledge is Power! Where will it take you?

**A Message from
Ms. MacKenzie Lehn**



It's a great month because it's I LOVE to Read Month!

It is always a good time to sit back and enjoy a book. During the month of February we have been taking some extra time to dig into the books for I Love to Read Month!

Elementary students kicked the month off with breakfast in their classrooms, flashlight, partner and fort reading. Pete the cat even joined in on some reading excitement. Throughout the month we have had different guest readers that shared their love of reading and stories with us.

We appreciate everyone that took time out of their busy schedules to come read with us!

As our students read, they are working to earn heart links for our chain. If they get to my office,

we will be having a fun day to celebrate! They are getting VERY close, so I better start planning! The top readers from each class will be treated to a special breakfast with me at Shining Light Cafe. Keep reading my friends!

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

~Dr. Suess

Parent - Teacher Conferences

Why are parent teacher conferences important?

Conferences are a great way for parents to get involved in their child's education. It allows time to discuss your child's progress and work together to develop a plan to help your child be successful. It is critical that school and families work together.

Studies show that kids do better when their parents are involved in school!

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday, March 4m from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (No School this day). Elementary teachers will be connecting with

each family to set up a time to meet. High School teachers will be reaching out to families to set up a time to meet if their student has a grade below a "C."

High school teachers will also be available for drop in conferences for all students from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in their classrooms. The very well known, "World's Famous Hot Dogs," will be served in the Commons from 4 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

We look forward to seeing all of you there.

Para recognition week

I would like to recognize the amazing paraprofessional team that we have in our building. The week of January 22- 26 is para educator recognition week. We have many paras that work diligently to support our students and teachers each day.

I would like to thank all of our paras for all of the hard work and dedication that they display each and every day. We are incredibly lucky to have you as part of our team! It's time to celebrate YOU! You are making a difference in the lives of our students every day!

on the Friday the week before publication. Exceptions are obituaries and reports on weekend events

Letters

Letters to the editor and other opinion articles are welcomed. Letters must be signed and include address and phone number for verification of authenticity. We reserve the right to edit lengthy letters.

Express Staff

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Deadlines

The deadline for most news in the Express is noon

Halo Awards

If you would like to recognize someone for a good deed, you can send a "Halo" message to The Mustang Express and have it printed in the next issue. Notes can be sent to jtrisko@northome.k12.mn.us.

A halo is sent to the **student council executive committee** for all the hard work you students have done to get homecoming planned in a short amount of time.

--Monica Fontana

Student council advisor

• • •

A shout out to **Cloey Buentemeier and Abby Rosson** for being good class leaders. You set a good example for school spirit and class participation.

-- Chaz Dietrich

Para

• • •

Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club for \$1,200.00 to German Club and Anonymous for \$10.00 to Band/Choir.

• • •

Thank you to **Maggert Trans-**

portation for the generous donation enabling Feb. 2 to be Free Ice Cream Friday!

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The staff of the *Express* sends out its gratitude for the hard work and dedication of our paras, including **Gracy Arhart, Cayla Buentemeier, Chaz Dietrich, Colleen Elhard, Janet Johnson, Becky Kallio, Jill Reinarz, Malissa Schue and Lindsey Welch.**

• • •

I send halos to Mr. Schneider and Kierra Waller -- Schnieder for helping learn the brain and scheduling everything; and Kierra for keeping me calm at the brain bee companion and reminding me to take a break from studying from time to time.

--Geneva Holcomb

Senior

Public Service Message to Middle School Boys

**By Mitikie Stueven
The Mustang Express**

Note: Staff, students and parents have asked that this story be reprinted. It was originally published in the March 30, 2022 edition of The Mustang Express.

Okay, middle school boys, I am going to tell you this as a big sister. Listen to your mothers! Take a shower.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "hormonal changes between the ages of 8-14 in girls and 9-14 in boys are the biggest causes of body odor."

Other factors like sweat, dirty clothing, tight clothing, food choices, failure to bathe regularly, dirty bedding, and poor hygiene can make body odor unpleasant for other students and staff who are in close proximity.

When we older students come into a classroom after middle school students have used it, the

room stinks.

Students admit they don't shower regularly or use deodorant and don't even care. I'm sure your mothers have told you to.

Body spray does not help you after you are done with gym. You need a little more than an Axe shower to cover the sweat and stank from running around in gym.

You may have gotten away with not showering or using deodorant when you were little, but you are not little any more.

If you want dates, you better step up that shower and toothpaste game. Lose the Axe.

Here are some tips for good hygiene.

- Use deodorant every day
- Shower every other day unless you play sports, then shower after every practice and game
- Don't wear the same clothes every single day. Your future date will appreciate this, and so will the upperclassmen.

Blandin Foundation hosts information-gathering meeting with students

By Juleen Trisko
Advisor

Six juniors and seniors met representatives from the Blandin Foundation on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at Northome school to discuss higher education. The group is researching ways to create scholarship and leadership opportunities.

Students were asked a series of questions including: What are the pros and cons of higher education? What are the difficulties of going to college?

The most common answer was cost and uncertainty about what to study. Many feared spending a lot of money on a field they weren't sure they were really interested in. If they ended up not liking their choice, they would be either stuck

in that career or out a lot of money.

"It was relaxing and every enjoyable," commented senior Geneva Holcomb.

"It was enjoyable to do," said senior Kierra Waller. "It is nice to know that other people feel that way about their future."

The group is meeting with other schools before synthesizing the information this summer. A report will be sent to the students once the process is completed.

"It was an engaging discussion experience that was very chill and casual," junior Caden Troy said, "plus had a great participation reward. I'd recommend doing it if they host it next year."

In exchange for their opinions and time, students were gifted with a \$50 Target card.

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) has March 1 deadline

Tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students may apply to enroll in Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) and other advanced enrichment programs. General information about the PSEO program will be provided to all eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade students by March 1.

Qualifying credits granted to a student through a PSEO course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or require-

ment will be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of the state academic standards.

Interested students must fill out an application form and submit it by May 30 for enrollment the following school year. The application form must be signed by the student and his/her parent or guardian. Students wishing to take a PSEO course should contact the school counselor.

Use of Cars for School Activities

Students traveling by car to school-sponsored events during the school day or on activity trips must have either a teacher or a school-approved adult driving each car used. The school has an obligation to provide approved transportation to the participants of school activities. When such transportation is provided, students are expected to use it.

The school district may provide transportation for students to and from extracurricular activities. To the extent the school district provides extracurricular transportation, the district may charge a fee for transportation of students to and from extracurricular activities and optional field trips at locations other than school.

2024 Winter Home Coming Friday Game Schedule

4:00 p.m.	8th grade boys	Small Gym	vs Blackduck Drakes
5:00 p.m.	7th grade boys	Small Gym	vs Blackduck Drakes
6:00 p.m.	JV boys	Small Gym	vs Blackduck Drakes
6:00 p.m.	Varsity girls	Main Gym	vs Clearbrook Bears
7:30 p.m.	Varsity boys	Main Gym	vs Blackduck Drakes
7:30 p.m.	JV girls	Main Gym	vs Clearbrook Bears

Consideration for parking on school district property

The school district allows limited use and parking of motor vehicles by students in school district locations subject to the following rules

Parking a motor vehicle on school property during the school day is a privilege.

Students are not permitted to use motor vehicles during the school day in any school district locations unless an emergency occurs and permission has been granted to the student by the principal.

Students are permitted to use motor vehicles on the high school campus only before and after the school day.

Unauthorized vehicles parked on school district property may be towed at the expense of the owner or operator.

The school district may conduct routine patrols of school district properties and inspections of the exteriors of the motor vehicles of students.

Interiors of students' vehicles

in school district locations maybe searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law and/or school policy or rule. If a search yields contraband, school officials may seize the item and may turn it over to legal authorities when appropriate.

A student who violates this policy maybe subject to withdrawal of parking privileges and/or discipline according to the school district's "Student Discipline" policy.

It's Back! Can you find the horseshoe in the Express?

Contest Rules

- Anyone can enter except members of *The Mustang Express* staff.
 - A winner will be drawn from the entries with the correct answers.
 - Winners will be announced in the next edition of **The Mustang Express**.
 - All entries due at the Express Office (Classroom) by 10 a.m. on the first Wednesday after publication. Drop off in the school office and Shining Light Cafe.
 - Winners can pick up their prizes after their name appears in the paper or are contacted.
 - Only one entry per person per edition.
 - In case of a tie, a random drawing will be held.
- Win a prize from the Express Prize box.

Name the page and describe the area it is in. (Or circle, clip the section and drop it off with your information.)

Name _____

Contact info _____

Where you found the horseshoe _____



Bring back Responsibility Honor Roll

By Mariah Hanson
The Mustang Express

In 2019 we had a reward called the Responsibility Honor Roll (or Response, for short). If students worked hard in class, showed effort and respected their teachers, staff and classmates then they would get on the Responsibility Honor Roll.

This honor roll was not off of just academic grades because there were a few kids that would study super hard and still only get a B, or a C. If students had been bringing their grades up because they had been trying, then they would make it.

When students did make it on the Responsibility Honor Roll, the school would give all sorts of rewards.

There were several different types of rewards. They would let students go to the front of the lunch line, let students leave class 5 minutes early, give students delicious treats. These are just a few examples.

Then came COVID and a lot of restrictions to what kids could do in school. Instead of the regular rewards, staff did a big reward at the end of the semester such as the fishing trip. It was really nice.

They would do a small treat at the end of quarters, and a bigger one at the end of a semester. COVID messed up the rhythm of things, so we ended up not doing Responsibility anymore.

I think that we should bring the Responsibility Honor Roll back. I feel that kids worked harder to

get on it, and the kids that already work hard got a nice treat. It was nice to know that someone cared and appreciated the hard work that we put into our education.

I feel that not only is this a nice treat, but it is also a good motivation; motivation that could get other kids into good habits, like studying, paying closer attention so they can get their grades up and show the teachers and staff that they are putting in the hard work.

I do still believe that it should be earned. I think that any kids who work really hard, and are always asking questions, getting their work done, and are showing improvement in their grades, should be on Response; at that point, I would say they earned it. It's a good perk to have kids do what they are sup-

I think that any kids who work really hard, and are always asking questions, getting their work done, and are showing improvement in their grades, should be on Response.

posed to do. It can also help with your college applications for students.

We could bring back the old scoring system to determine who would be on Response. For Responsibility grades, an 'A' average from all teachers in all classes, in four areas-cooperation, courtesy, work habits, and dependability, make a student eligible for the 'A' Responsibility Honor Roll. The lowest grades a student would be allowed to have to be a member of the Responsibility Honor Roll would be

two 'A's and two 'A-'s.

So to get on Response, it wasn't like one had to be Albert Einstein; a student just had to show effort, courtesy and respect for the teachers, staff and classmates. Show that they are a good student.

I say that we should bring it back, maybe students will show more of an effort, learn good habits, and even start to improve for the better. It really is just an amazing reward to know that we are putting in hard effort, and work for someone to actually care.

Secrets to working the scoreboard clock at games

By Kierra Waller
Senior

Hello, my name is Kierra, and if you didn't know, I am the one running the scoreboard at the volleyball and basketball games; NOT the shot clock. Since this will be my last year doing so, I thought that I should pass on some useful tips and tricks to whoever chooses to take over. This is also for everyone else who has wondered exactly what I am doing.

Tip 1: People are going to think you are running the music and look at you funny when there is a Katy Perry song playing instead of the national anthem, but since you aren't, just shrug your shoulders and say, "It's not me." They probably won't believe you, but, hey, you tried.

Tip 2: Always listen to Sherri Dahl; she is running the book, and she knows what she is doing. She will talk out loud to herself; you need to listen to her; she is very helpful.

Tip 3: Different sets of refs will treat you differently. Some will treat you as a coworker, and others will act like they are your boss. The ones who act like your boss also tend to

throw random things at you that they expect you to know and do. Now what you say to them is "Oh, thank you. I will try to do that from now on." If they are not at the next game don't worry about it; just do what you are used to.

Tip 4: You will mess up; the key is to play it off. If the entire stands are yelling at you, "Clock!, Clock!" Just casually start the clock. It's not going to change the fact that you messed up or that the entire town called you out, but you acting cool about it is going to help you feel better.

Tip 4.5: You will mess up the points in basketball. That is a fact, especially when they switch sides. The fans don't tend to notice this as much, so just double check with Sherri and fix it as soon as possible.

Also, if the stands of the visitors yell at you for the score being wrong, remain confident. I have not been wrong one time that they have done that. (But, you should still check with Sherri.)

VERY IMPORTANT Tip: If you mess up recording personal fouls, don't just wait until the person who you recorded for the foul to get an actual foul. Keep it record-

ed and just give the foul to the person you were supposed to the last time on their next foul. This maneuver technically cancels it out and works it all out, but the players get very mad and the game has to stop while you have a chat with the refs, coaches and Sherri. (This will make sense once you start working.)

Tip 5: Become friends with concessions workers (get their phone numbers for deliveries). Thank me later.

Tip 6: Some games are going to be 1000% more stressful. For example, Homecoming, Blackduck, Bigfork, and Littlefork just because the crowd and the players seem to care more about winning those games. There is also just tension in the air, which makes the games exciting to watch but not so exciting to run.

Tip 7: You are going to feel like you are not doing enough at Volleyball games. They are so easy, but don't second guess yourself, or you will do something wrong.

Tip 8: Don't cheer for the Mustang team to win. I guess I don't know what would happen if I did. I just cheer for whoever is winning because that means there's a chance of running time which means I get

to go home sooner. (Sorry guys *insert me shrugging shoulders)

Tip 9: ALWAYS show up early, the game start time changes so often it's better to be prepared than late. If you are late, complaining won't work; you're just the clock person.

Tip 10: Talking out loud helps during stressful times. The shot clock person might think you are asking him questions, but I find it helpful. (My dad runs the shot clock. Lol)

I saved the best for last

Tip 11: Sometimes the entire clock system short circuits, and you lose all control of everything. It seems to only happen during varsity games which is lovely.

My tip for this is . . . First get the ref's attention which is sooo much harder than it needs to be. Then shut the entire thing down; don't worry if you do it right you should be able to resume the previous game.

Other than that I have no idea because I honestly have no idea what's happening and I usually just pull random cords and hit random buttons until something works.

Useful Numbers to Know

20 min.- Time for warm-ups before basketball games

Don't start the clock for the varsity game until the home team is on the court.

10 min.- Time for halftime at JV and varsity basketball games. (Junior high will be random, so just ask the refs.)

1 minute and 30 seconds- Time outs.

15 seconds- time remaining in time outs when you should hit the buzzer.

9 minutes and 35 points difference (my favorite time) - Running time until 30 points difference.

3 minute- Time between sets or matches in volleyball.

20, 16, 10, 4, 2 minutes- Time when you hit the buzzer in volleyball warm-ups. This is when the numbers of the concession workers come in handy.

I guarantee that I am missing something, but running the clock is truly about winging it. You learn what works and doesn't.

So best of luck...



Senior Updates:

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) was delayed this year and the rollout has had its share of hiccups. However, the application is now open and available to seniors. You may have heard recent news about further delays. This is referring to a delay in sending the application information to colleges from the Department of Education.

However, you can still complete the FAFSA and should do so as soon as possible. We are very fortunate to have assistance from Mandy Schram, director of The College Place for northern Minnesota. This is a non-profit that supports col-

lege access for students, and her contact information is available here in the Express.

We held a FAFSA completion night for seniors, and Mandy is available to students for ongoing FAFSA support either virtually or in person as well.

As we get closer to spring, keep checking the scholarship page on the school website at

<https://www.northome.k12.mn.us/page/2731>

The school website is under construction currently but this page is still accessible. Local scholarship applications will be available mid-late March.

Be watching for infor-

mation from colleges you have been accepted to regarding housing, registering for classes, orientation, and other steps needed to prepare to start classes in the fall. This information is often sent by email or text, or available through the online accounts you set up to apply (StarID eservices for Minnesota State schools).

Class of 2024 "To Do List"

As a Class

- Apply for colleges!
- Start brainstorming ideas for and planning your class trip! (Try starting at least two months before you want to go on it.) You must go to a school board meeting about it at least a month beforehand.
- Order caps, stoles, and tassels (ask Sue about best companies for this)

- Choose speaker for graduation (Since it is Memorial Day weekend and many people have family plans, you may find your first choice cannot do it. **You also do not have to pick a teacher.** Think of all staff members, coaches and community leaders.)
- Start planning baccalaureate; make a planning committee.
- Schedule date and time, make programs, talk to chosen church officials, pick readers.
- Attend school board meeting before trip so you have it approved!
- Get class graduation party schedule so no two parties overlap.
- Order flowers to hand out to parents at graduation.
- Buy decorations for graduation.

- For valedictorian and salutatorian, write speeches! **You must submit them to the principal by Monday of graduation.** Find time to practice using the sound system in the gym.
- Decorate for graduation.

As an Individual

- Check your credits. Make sure you have the required amounts for graduation.
- Make sure to ask for recommendation letters about two weeks in advance.
- Continue to check the school website for scholarship information.
- Finish up your scholarships.
- Make sure you have applied for colleges. Priority deadline is March 1

- some are even earlier.
- Apply for housing for your colleges.
- Make and send out graduation invitations.
- Get class graduation party schedule so no two parties overlap.
- Make sure you have applied for housing and confirmed your enrollment at your college(s). Priority deadline is May 1 for many schools but not all. Be sure to check dates.
- For valedictorian and salutatorian, write speeches! Submit to the office the Monday of graduation.
- Send out thank yous for graduation gifts as you receive them.
- Send out thank yous to those who gave you scholarships.



Sending "Owl of Our Love" from first grade
 First grade students made Valentine treat bags on Wednesday, Feb. 14. They took them home full of Valentine treats and cards. (Photo by Gayle Shaughnessey)

Brain Bee State Competitors Roster

2024 - Geneva Holcomb, senior	places in top 3 of State Competition (Sophie Eitenmiller (Sr), Jetta Lievsay (Sr), Angel Teston (Jr))	2012 -- Scott Pierson, senior
2021 - 2023 -- No Brain Bee, COVID		2011 -- Scott Pierson, junior
2020 -- Michael Bardales, senior		2008 -- Tamara Tyson, junior
2019 -- Maggie Dreher, junior		2006 -- Ricci Bender, senior
2018 -- Northome School Video	2016 -- Rachel Fahey, senior	2006 -- Lyndsey Fraley, senior

ECMC The College Place

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About Me

My name is Mandy Schram and I am the Director of The College Place for northern Minnesota. My organization (ECMC) is a nonprofit that provides free services and resources to students of all ages to help them pursue postsecondary education.

Services

- Individual assistance completing applications for admissions, financial aid, and scholarships
- College resource guides
- Access to career assessment tools
- Assistance developing educational plans
- One-on-one mentoring
- Small group workshops
- Encouragement and support

Call, email, text, or schedule an in-person or virtual appointment with me today!





E-learning Day



A teacher's perspective on our day off from regular class

By Juleen Trisko
Advisor

Oh my gosh! Is that what I really look like everyday? Are those jowls I see starting? And that neck! Gobble, gobble.

This is how I started my E-Learning day Friday, Feb. 9. While some might be thrilled to hear they can stay home yet attend school via Google Meet, I am not one of them. I find I am too easily distracted and spend much of my time bemoaning how I look on camera.

Before you judge me, know that I am not atypical. The students also are busy looking at themselves, making faces, or hiding under a blanket. Most prefer their camera off.

There are a few reasons we teachers like the cameras on. First, we can make sure students are actually in class and haven't just joined the meeting and left the room.

When the cameras are off, we teachers are talking to ourselves and small icons, often silly, icons that students chose to represent themselves. It's tough to have a conversation -- especially when you are concerned by possible jowls and turkey-neck.

The challenge of E-learning days is developing lessons that will engage students without overwhelming them, to create a productive lesson without

reinventing the classroom, to make students accountable without punishing those without the internet.

The students tell me themselves that they prefer to be in person. It is ironic that while technology has emboldened people on some platforms such as Facebook, it has intimi-

I find I am too easily distracted and spend much of my time bemoaning how I look on camera.

dated students in the Google Classroom. They don't want to see their own faces or hear their own voices echoed back to them. Nor do I.

I do like that school can continue despite the inclement weather. What I like even better is that when I ask the class to quiet down, I don't have to wait for them to actually do it. All I have to do in Google Meet is hit the "Mute" button. Instantly, there is peace.

Yes, a few students like to turn their microphones back on to be silly, but again, I just have to click that

Mute button. That would be handing in the actual classroom.

When school returned to normal on Monday, people were in a better mood. An E-learning day made us miss what we had and appreciate it when we were back. Another bonus.

None of us want to go

back to the days of being online everyday like we were during COVID. Yet, an E-learning day every now and then reminds us what we like about being together in person.



A student's perspective on learning from home

By Cloey Buenetemeier
The Mustang Express

I hate E-learning days. I was happy to hear that school would be two hours late on Friday, Feb. 9, but that soon turned into sadness when I learned that the school would have a full day of online classes. Ugh!

I got up and got ready like any other day because we had to turn our cameras on this year. I had to look good when I joined the meets under Google Classroom. When you get up and get out of bed, do you show your face to the whole world? I look like a lion.

I pulled my Chromebook out of my backpack that sat on the floor to make sure I could log in. Sometimes kids' WIFI won't start, or they can't hear anything on the teachers' end of things.

Thank goodness we didn't have to turn our cameras on for homeroom. "Ev-

eryone is probably getting dolled up right now," Mr. Schneider, our advisor, said. This was a good thing because one of my classmates was still putting on her pants.

During first hour, I admit I was busy looking at my teacher's house. We watched a video and then were told to complete the assignment that went with it. If we had been in class, we would have had

During first hour, I admit I was busy looking at my teacher's house.

notes.

I am going to call out my classmates here, but that is okay because they probably won't read this article. They weren't watching that video. It was too easy to be distracted at home.

I had my dog to play with, TV shows to watch, my phone to answer, snacks to grab. So many things other than watching a video on the ACT test.

Second hour, we took our regularly scheduled test. We then had reading time. We would have read in class, but there, Ms. Trisko would be checking to make sure we were actually reading.

I actually read. Well, not the book I would have in school. There were a lot of *Pet the Cat* books to my little brother, so I was technically reading.

Enough to get my mom to sign a note verifying it.

Because third hour was a study hall, I went downstairs for brunch. That was followed by some TikTok.

Fourth hour, Mr. Schneider had us take notes, but I didn't even have my notebook, so I just took a screenshot. Normally, we would ask a lot of questions but online, we were all quiet. No

one wants to show their face. We asked all of our questions on Monday.

My fifth hour teacher was almost late because she had been vacuuming. She MADE me turn on my camera because I sounded too much like my aunt Mandy and that was freaking her out a bit. Teachers are so odd sometimes.

Sixth hour we had a study hall instead of starting a new unit. I don't like doing worksheets on computers and neither do my classmates. It was much better to wait for in-person. Seventh hour, I worked on my regular online public health class.

I didn't get any student council stuff done. The coronation video didn't get done. I could have read my actual book. I still don't understand one of my worksheets, but I am getting there.

I'd rather have a two-hour late start than to be at home. There are just too many distractions.



Class of 2024 “To Do List”

As a Class

- Apply for colleges!
- Start brainstorming ideas and planning your class trip! (Try starting at least two months before you want to go on it.) You must go to a school board meeting about it at least a month beforehand.
- Order caps, stoles, and tassels (ask Sue about best companies for this)
- Choose speaker for graduation (Since it is Memorial Day weekend and many people have family plans, you may find your first choice cannot do it. **You also do not have to pick a teacher.** Think of all staff members, coaches and community leaders.)
- Start planning baccalaureate; make a planning committee.
- Schedule date and time, make programs, talk to chosen church officials, pick readers.
- Attend school board meeting before the trip so you have it approved!
- Get class graduation party schedule so no two parties overlap.
- Order flowers to hand out to parents at graduation.
- Buy decorations for graduation.
- For valedictorian and salutatorian, write speeches! **You must submit them to the principal by Monday of graduation.** Find time to practice using the sound system in the gym.
- Decorate for graduation.

As an Individual

- Check your credits. Make sure you have the required amounts for graduation.
- Make sure to ask for recommendation letters about two weeks in advance.
- Continue to check the school website for scholarship information.
- Finish up your scholarships.
- Make sure you have applied for colleges. Priority deadline is March 1 -- some are even earlier.
- Apply for housing for your colleges.
- Make and send out graduation invitations.
- Get class graduation party schedule so no two parties overlap.
- Make sure you have applied for housing and confirmed your enrollment at your college(s). Priority deadline is May 1 for many schools but not all. Be sure to check dates.
- For valedictorian and salutatorian, write speeches! Submit speeches to the office the Monday of graduation.
- Send out thank yous for graduation gifts as you receive them.
- Send out thank yous to those who gave you scholarships.

Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony for the NHS Class of 2024 will be at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 24 in the big gym at school. More details will be provided as the date is nearer.

Student participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege, not a right. Students who have completed the requirements for graduation are allowed to participate in graduation exercises, unless participation is denied for appropriate reasons, which may include discipline. Graduation exercises are under the control and direction of the building principal.



By Cloey Bueneteimer The Mustang Express

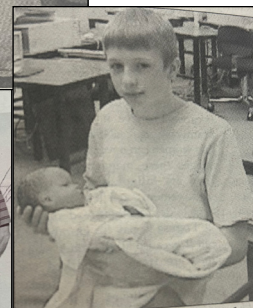
I spent some time looking at old year books and newspapers from the past 30 years. I decided to do some about the staff in our school, many of whom attended Northome School.

How well can you do? The answers are listed upside down at the end of the article, but a true Mustang has P.R.I.D.E. and never cheats!

Good luck!

If you have an idea for a theme, send me an email or stop me in the hallway. I'd love to year from you.

1. What year did the boys basketball team get second place in the Northland Conference?
 - A. 2010
 - B. 1983
 - C. 2019
 - D. 1991
2. Who was the last person to get onto the 1,000 points club with 1,122 point?
 - A. Alexis Dreher
 - B. Kylie Owen
 - C. Rylee Neft
 - D. Andrew Fahey
3. Who is this Northome High School graduate?
 - A. Raymond Schenheit
 - B. Darrell Buentemeier
 - C. Douglas Albrecht
 - D. Mark Corner
4. What year did the girls volleyball win Upper Mississippi Conference Champions?
 - A. 1991
 - B. 2014



- C. 1983
- D. 2019

5. Who were the last two athletes to be recognized as the 3-sport letter winners?

- A. Zion Foreseen
- B. Cayde Johnson
- C. Bailey Lindley
- D. Gaige Schue



6. Who won Winter Homecoming Queen in 2014?

- A. Rachel Fahey
- B. Kristina Kalio
- C. Heidi Bloom
- D. Tanyssa Olafson



7. Who built a rolling cart out of an old office chair for Ms. Fahey (who doesn't get to use it because Ms. Trisko borrows it all

of the time)?

- A. Kane Grover
- B. Kaden Elhard
- C. Daylan Mohs
- D. JD Dreher

8. What was the Class of 2020 class color?

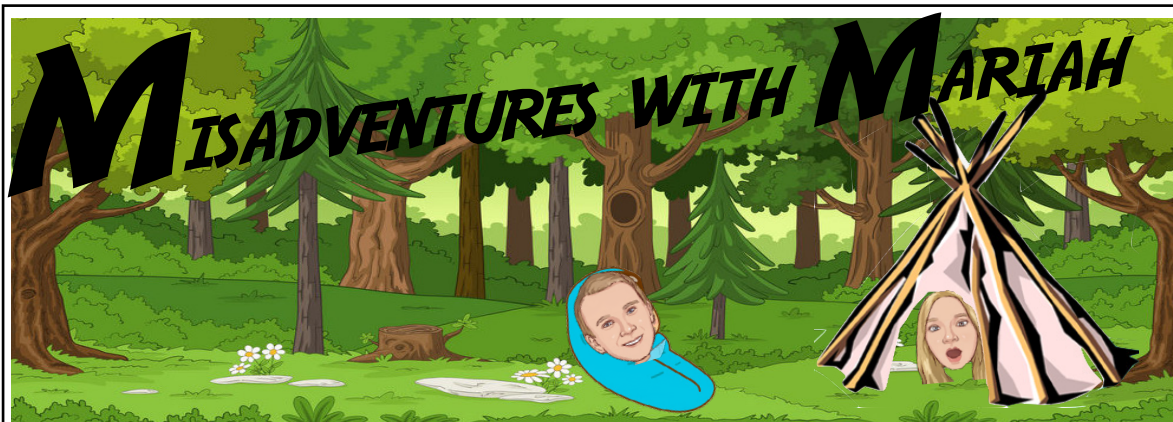
- A. Maroon & Grey
- B. Gray & Blue
- C. Pink & Green
- D. Black & Yellow

9. Which staff member was taking care of a plastic baby for his ninth grade health class in 2003?

- A. Matt Hanson
- B. Jim Schneider
- C. Cory White
- D. Tyrone Moen

10. What staff member is pictured in an Northome Elementary School production of *Anne of Green Gables*?

- A. Marti Waller
- B. Alissa Carlson
- C. Kaylee Fisher
- D. Amber Bender



Trees, forts, and engineering errors

By Mariah Hanson
The Mustang Express

My siblings and I love camping. My parents used to watch these shows about living in the wild, including the show *Alone*. These shows inspired us, their children.

When my brother, Dalton, was nine, my sister, Bella, five and I 7, we thought it would be cool not to camp in a tent or a camper, but to make our own home from nature, and camp in it. We were always outside. Right when we conceived the idea, we hopped right to it.

We had built stuff with dad's shop tools before, but this time all we wanted was a tarp, rope, a saw, and of course nature.

We went straight into the woods and found a good spot and gathered sticks, pine branches, and some logs. We tied a long branch to two trees with the rope we had, laid all the other sticks and branches on it, and then laid the tarp over it. After that, we put even more branches over the top to make it more sturdy and wild like.

We weren't sure if it was going to rain that night, so we made sure to make our forts waterproof. Bella made hers; Dalton made his; I made mine. They all pretty much had the same structure.

We had all the forts in a line. All of the forts were built going slightly down hill. Dalton, of course, got done building his fort first, and so he decided he would make the bathroom. We would not be going into the house for any comforts.

After we got done building our

forts, we went straight to Mom and Dad and asked if we could camp in our forts. Mom and Dad decided to let us spend the night outside, but they were going to stay out there with us. Well, technically not with us. They slept in the camper while we slept in our

Dalton did not do a good job engineering the toilet in our bathroom.

forts.

Not only did we need this bathroom because we wanted the full experience but also because mom and dad locked the house, and the camper bathroom didn't work.

Dalton did not do a good job engineering the toilet in our bathroom. Now, it really wasn't anything that fancy; it was just a coffee can, some toilet paper and hand sanitizer. I believe he could have gone with something better than a can, and maybe he should have built the bathroom a little farther away, but he put himself in charge, and being younger, I was not going to criticize his ideas.

The worst part about his engineering was that he placed the bathroom at the top of the hill. This hill wasn't super steep, but it was just steep enough. His bad choice ended up backfiring on him. He not only put the bathroom uphill, he put his fort just below it.

We furnished everything for a night in our forts including blan-

kets, stuffed animals, our pillows, some toys, books, just a little bit of everything. We were pretending we lived there, so of course we had to bring our bedrooms with us.

I remember sitting in Dalton's fort, just talking before soon having to go to bed, so we had our

blankets all set up.

Before bed, we used the bathroom. A little bit later, Dalton started to get comfortable in his fort like my sister and I did in ours. Not long after we were snuggled in, we heard Dalton ask, "Why is my blanket wet?"

Bella and I got up and walked over to Dalton who had sat up and was looking for where the wetness was coming from.

Let's just say it was an unpleasant surprise to find that Dalton's great invention of the coffee-can toilet had a hole in the bottom of it. Dalton was so disgusted, as we all were.

He went to the camper to sleep with mom and dad. Well Bella and I, being so young, only stayed outside in the dark for approximately 10 minutes before we got too scared and ran into the camper as well. After that, we didn't use that can --or ANY can, but we still played hard in those forts.

WOULD YOU RATHER

live in a zoo

OR... an amusement park?



Kendra Rosebear
Freshman

"In an amusement park because there is more stuff to do."



Wyatt Schackman
Sophomore

"Amusement park for the food."



Caden Troy
Senior

"I would rather live in a zoo because I think it would be a little more quiet."



Geneva Holcomb
Senior

"A zoo, because it would probably smell better than an amusement park."



Brandon Troy
Eighth Grade

"In an amusement park because there is more food."



Ava Szydel
Seventh grade

"In an amusement park because I would never get bored."

Compiled by
Charli Hallstrom, sophomore