



# Technical High School

Pride, Respect, Responsibility



**Welcome Back and Happy New Year!**

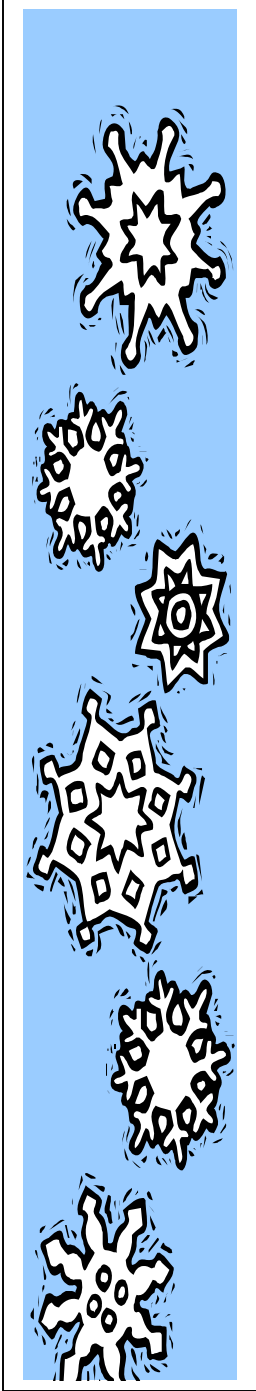
Tech's next Site Council meeting is January 26 at 6:00 p.m.

**TECH CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
January 16, 2009 – Battle of the Bands  
January 19 2009 - No School  
January 23, 2009 - Somali Night  
January 26, 2009 - No School  
February 9, 2009 - Jazz Concert  
February 10, 2009 - Two hour late start  
February 16, 2009 - No School

**ATTENDANCE**  
Please remember when your child is ill or absent, a parent/guardian must call Tech attendance office at 252-2231, extension 3007 each day of absence, or students may bring a signed note to the SAO excusing their absences **the day they return to school**. Your prompt attention to reporting absences is a great help to us as we seek to maintain and report accurate attendance.

**SCHOOL YEARBOOKS**  
This is your last chance to pre-order your 2008-2009 school yearbook. You can get an order form from Mr. Blair in room 316, or you can pre-order your yearbook online at [jostensyearbook.com](http://jostensyearbook.com). Thank you! The Yearbook staff.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**  
**NOVEMBER**  
  
**Amal Farah**  
**Kaitlyn Goenner**  
**Rachel Masters**  
**Sara Molitor**  
**Taylor Weirens**  
**Gabe Wood**



## Tech Government Students Place 4<sup>th</sup> in State

Twenty-Four Tech Seniors who are part of Mr. David Schorn's, **We The People** Class, placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 2008 State "We The People Constitution Finals" held at the Minnesota State Capital on Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. The students were selected to attend the finals by the Center For Civic Education and the State of Minnesota. The students were split into 5 teams with each team having a constitutional question that they would debate. The questions ranged from constitutional law applications, law interpretation and historical relevance to the US Constitution.

The event was held at the Minnesota State Capital. The teams were judged by a panel of Supreme Court Justices, state senators, and other state staff members. Team three, made up of Katie Cashman, Josh Wilcox and Ken Kruchten were honored to do their debate in the Supreme Court Chambers with three Supreme Court Justices as their judges. The top team for Tech was team #6 which included Brian Korver, Kevin Myhre, Erin Kotzenmacher and Collin Motchki. They placed second within their team competition. The winning school was Cannon Falls. They will advance to Washington DC in May.

The students and Mr. Schorn would like to thank Tech High School, Rajowski & Hansmeier, the Kotzenmachers and the Karl Family for their donations.

Congratulations to the following students on placing 4<sup>th</sup> in State: Andrew Karl, Paul Steinbeck, Ari Khairi, Charlie Leathers, Alex Mueller, Matt Kowalzek, Katie Cashman, Jayson Curtis, Tyler Gerads, John Hall, Derek Heaton, Jon Helminick, Brian Korver, Erin Kotzenmacher, Ken Kruchten, Mike Lukason, Kevin Myhre, Leo Pusateri III, Mike Seibring, Josh Wilcox, Collin Motschke, and Egan Dinndorf, Jake Ninnemann, and Drew Ostendorf.



## Night of the Stars

**For the past seven years, LEAF (Local Education Activities Foundation) has held a "Night of the Stars" to help raise funds for the support of student activities in arts, academics and athletics. This year's event will be held on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre. As always, it will feature the talented students and staff of our district. Don't miss this fun and enjoyable fundraising event!**

## TECH ACTIVITIES UPDATE

We have now reached what I like to call the “dog days” of winter. At this time we are very busy with all sports and activities. So far this winter season, the teams are doing very well. Our boy’s basketball team is currently undefeated and is ranked fourth in the state. They defeated a very good Roncalli High School out of Manitowac, Wisconsin in the Timberwolves Gatorade Shootout at the Target Center. They have a big game with Apollo on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

The boy’s hockey team is 6-3 overall and 3-0 in the conference. They won the Granite City Classic over the holiday break. They defeated three good teams in Sartell, Cathedral and Sauk Rapids/Rice.

The dance team has had several competitions and have placed very high in each of them.

Our gymnastics team is undefeated at this point, even though they have had some athletes suffer season-ending injuries. They are 3-0 in the conference and will compete for the title with Brainerd and Little Falls.

The abundance of snow has made our Nordic and Alpine skiers very happy. The boy’s Nordic ski team is doing very well. They have consistently placed very high in their meets and look to qualify for the state tournament.

The math team is undefeated and has a big meet on January 12<sup>th</sup> at Rocori.

Speech and knowledge bowl will be starting up their competitions this month and will look to compete for the state tournament.

**CLC Athletes of the Week:**  
**Hannah Zwiener, girl’s basketball, senior**  
**Nate Wolters, boy’s basketball, senior**

### **Events:**

If you want to see a very competitive wrestling invitational, come to Tech on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. and see some of the best wrestlers in the state compete.

On January 13<sup>th</sup> the boy’s swim team will be at home against Sauk Rapids at 6 p.m. The gymnastics team is also at home that night against Little Falls at 6 p.m.

There are many activities during January, and if you want a schedule of all the events go to the Central Lakes Conference website; [www.centrallakesconference.org](http://www.centrallakesconference.org). You will then need to go to Tech’s site that will give you a calendar of events. This website will also give you schedules, maps, results and standings. Please use this website as it is a wonderful resource.

## **TAME UPDATE**

### **“Transitions Made Easy”**

#### **Why is the transition year so important?**

We know that a successful freshman year in high school is extremely important and increases the likelihood that a student will graduate. Yet, the transition can be tough for many students. Tech High School is a larger, more competitive and grade-oriented environment than most incoming students have encountered. 9<sup>th</sup> graders are faced with many challenges: a new social system, increased peer pressure, a wider range of teacher personalities and teaching styles, new rules and expectations to adjust to, and an increased workload and rigor of their classes. Many things may happen for students during the transition - feelings of alienation and self-doubt, faltering grades, an increase in discipline problems, and less consistent attendance. Students who lack motivation, interest in school, or support at home are at an even higher risk for failure. Unfortunately, some of these students may ultimately disengage from school altogether.

#### **What can we do to make the transition easier?**

Fortunately, we have team of wonderful teachers, administrators, counselors, case managers and other staff that work in many capacities with 9<sup>th</sup> graders every day. These are the people that 9<sup>th</sup> graders depend on to help them navigate this whole new system. We are also lucky enough to have Link Crew at Tech, which offers a very important support system to 9<sup>th</sup> graders by connecting older students with a small group of freshmen. Link Crew Leaders are those constant and positive role models that are so important for incoming students.

#### **What is TAME?**

Tech High School was awarded a grant this year that specifically focuses on the issue of 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition. The TAME grant has an overall objective of increasing academic achievement by focusing on increased support and advising during the ever so important freshman year. Money from this year-long grant funds my position as 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition counselor and all of the programming being offered to 9<sup>th</sup> graders through the TAME program this year. There are many things that have already been done and even more things in the works to increase support to 9<sup>th</sup> graders through TAME. Here are a few of the highlights:

#### **Increased Academic Support**

Study Groups – I have 22 students that I meet with on a *daily* basis. They study in my “tutoring” room – sometimes by themselves, sometimes with my guidance, or sometimes with a peer tutor. We’ve also worked on goals, organization and study skills.

9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Study Skills – This is a class where students spend time working with peer tutors to complete homework & study. Next semester it will be revamped into a more structured program – students will use Monday’s for getting organized and making a plan for the week and Friday’s for reviewing and making goals for the next week. Completing weekly progress reports and implementing new study skills will also be a part of this class. Students will earn credit for the class.

Individual Meetings – At the end of each grading period I meet with students who are struggling and we review their progress and make a plan for success. I continue to check in with these students to help them stay on track.

Advanced & AP Readiness – Next semester I will work with a small group of current level 2 students who have been identified as potential advanced level & AP level students. Together we will address any current deficiencies either in content or skills (study skills, organizational skills, etc.) so they may work on these areas and prepare for the rigor of advanced & AP classes.

### **Increased Personal Support**

With counselor caseloads pushing 400 students, and increased responsibilities being put in the hands of guidance counselors, this means less and less of their time is available to meet individually with students. Many high school students don't actually sign up to see their counselor until they are juniors or seniors. I have been able to spend much of my time meeting with 9<sup>th</sup> graders on a one time, occasional or weekly basis (depending on their needs). Much of this time is spent focusing on how they are doing with the transition to Tech – academically, socially, and emotionally. I also see students to talk about a variety of peer, family & self-esteem issues. The importance for every student to have an adult at school that they feel cares about them can't be underestimated!

### **Increased College & Career Planning**

Every 9<sup>th</sup> grader will complete a "Career & Educational Planning Portfolio" this year. Activities that have been or will be completed by all students for their portfolio are:

"Reality Check" – Students anticipate what their real cost of living will be based on what they will need to spend on housing, utilities, transportation, entertainment, cloths, food, etc.

Self-Reflection – Reflecting on strengths, weaknesses, accomplishments, interests, and goals.

Inventories – Students used DISCOVER to complete interest, values & abilities inventories. DISCOVER is an internet based program created by ACT. It aligns with the EXPLORE test which all district students take in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and the PLAN test which all district students take in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Students can use DISCOVER from any computer, at any time, throughout high school to explore careers, colleges, majors, jobs, etc.

Career Comparison – Students compared different careers of interest using DISCOVER. They looked up: education needed, recommended high school classes, recommended activities, work tasks, helpful personal qualities, skills needed, MN salary, MN outlook & likes / dislikes of people in the various careers.

4-year Course Map – In January students will complete an outline of classes they are taking and make a plan for classes they want and need to take in 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Assessment data including EXPLORE results from 8<sup>th</sup> grade, MCA scores, and MAP scores will be added to portfolios.

In February & March I will meet individually with each 9<sup>th</sup> grader to review their portfolio, set goals, and answer any of their questions.

In April all 9<sup>th</sup> graders will attend a Career Fair where they will hear from a variety of speakers from different occupations & post-secondary institutions.

**How can students join the TAME program?**

ALL 9<sup>th</sup> graders are part of the TAME program. If you have a 9<sup>th</sup> grader who:

Is unorganized

Has multiple missing assignments and / or one major assignment missing

Doesn't pay attention / can't seem to focus

Scores poorly on tests & quizzes

Has peer / friend / family issues troubling them

Isn't being challenged and could move to a more advanced class

Isn't performing to their ability level

Needs some academic / career / college guidance

Or just needs somebody to talk to

PLEASE email, call or write me a note – just let me know and I will see them and arrange for appropriate services.

Books – I have started a collection of books geared towards teens about various mental health issues, careers, college, and study skills. Teachers, students, staff & parents are all welcome to borrow these books. Please email me for a list.

Class presentations – Teachers who want to help their students with study skills, 4-year planning, careers, college, etc – if you have an idea let me know and we can come up with a presentation or activity that works for their needs.

*Rebecca Pfeifer*

*For more information on the TAME grant, please contact me at [rebecca.pfeifer@isd742](mailto:rebecca.pfeifer@isd742) or 320-252-2231 x 3451.*