



Appleton North High School

"The Lightning"

Dear North High School Student and Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Appleton North and the 2015-16 school year! One of the cornerstones to our continuous school improvement efforts at North is to continue developing more personal connections within our large high school. Five years ago, we piloted a **Smaller Learning Community (SLC)** at the freshmen level. For the past four years, all freshmen were involved. The premise of SLC's is to create a team structure in which a group of students share the same teachers. Specifically at North, this includes the **four content areas** of **science, social studies, math, and English language arts**. Due to its success, we are continuing this positive staffing structure with **all** freshmen being assigned to one of three dynamic teacher teams. Each team of content teachers will have a structured, common planning time in order to better address the academic, developmental, social, and personal needs of our freshmen students. This is especially critical during transition periods, such as going from middle to high school.

You are receiving this letter because your freshman student will be a part of this exciting continued school improvement effort. Your child is a part of the "GOLD" team, which includes the following content area teachers: Mr. Steve Sugrue for Science, Mr. Curt Salm for Civics ~ Social Studies, Mrs. Kelsi Van Fossen (Knutson) for Math, and Mr. Reed Rudie for English Language Arts. Though every effort is taken to avoid conflicts, some students' course requests and scheduling needs make it impossible for them to have the same teachers.

These staff members will have common planning time scheduled daily and will be meeting each week throughout the school year. Their collective efforts are to ensure that all students have the opportunity to be more successful and achieve their full potential during their first year in high school. Moreover, this will benefit your child in numerous ways including regular and collective communication with students and parents, curriculum mapping and coordination of assignments, planning, and assessments, early identification and intervention with students who need additional attention, as well as to help establish a greater sense of community and teamwork. We believe these ongoing efforts will make a positive difference in your educational experience.

All of the staff members on this team will be hosting an informational session prior to our Back-to-School night on **Monday, September 14, 2015 in the LMC at Appleton North High School at 6:00 p.m.** We strongly encourage you to come and hear more about our SLC's. If you have any questions about the coming year, please don't hesitate to contact us. Lastly, I encourage you to visit our school's website to stay connected with all that is going on at North: <http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/north>.

North is a tremendous school environment in which to grow and learn. I look forward to our journey together. We have high expectations for *our* school and *our* students and are counting on you to partner with us in *our* pursuit of a successful educational experience for **all** children.

It's going to be a great year!

Respectfully,

James K. Huggins, Principal