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GUERIN PREP OPENS NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH NEW TEACHERS, NEW HONORS PROGRAM, MORE LAPTOPS

Guerin College Preparatory High School will open the 2008-2009 with seven new teachers as well as a new honors program in which 22 incoming freshmen will participate.

Also, each member of the incoming freshmen class will be leasing laptop computers, bringing three classes of Guerin Prep students into the one-to-one computing program that began last year at the school.

New Teachers

Valerie Kroch, Veronica Muneton and Blanca Torres will join the foreign language department.

Kroch, who holds a M.A. in French from Miami University, Ohio, will be teaching French and Italian. She also taught French at Miami University and has served as a resident assistant in Dijon, France.

Muneton, who recently completed a B.A. in Spanish from Northeastern Illinois University, will teach Spanish. She studied in Granada, Spain, and has done extensive travel in Mexico.

Torres will also teach Spanish. A graduate of the Universidad Autonoma de San Luis Potosi in Mexico, Ms. Torres recently taught at Our Lady of Tepeyac High School.

Eunice Park has been hired to teach chemistry while Elizabeth Smreczynski, a former teacher at Queen of Peace High, will teach math.

(MORE)

Guerin Prep Back to School '08—add one

Park has a bachelor of science in biochemistry as well as a master's of education, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This past year she taught at Gregory Math and Science Academy.

Smreczynski takes current Guerin Prep faculty member Tom Newman's place in the math department following his appointment as the new director of technology for Guerin Prep. She holds a B.A. from St. Xavier University in mathematics.

Robert Kinkela joins the Theology Department. Kinkela, who just moved to Chicago from Michigan, previously taught at Bishop Foley High School in Madison Heights. He has a master's degree in theology from Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, Ohio.

Louis Rachmaciej has been added to the Physical Education department. Rachmaciej, who holds a bachelor of arts in physical education from Elmhurst College, will also coach football. He taught P.E. and coached football at Prairie Ridge High School, Crystal Lake.

New Honors Program

Academics, enrichment and service will form the focus for the newly established Nolan Scholars Program and for the 22 freshmen who will constitute Guerin Prep's first class of Nolan Scholars.

Recognizing the need to offer academically talented students a more challenging program, Guerin Prep will pilot this program during the 2008-2009 school year. This special four-year program will give gifted, motivated students an opportunity to pursue advanced courses of study, participate in enrichment and service experiences and receive special mentoring all aimed at preparing them to succeed at top tier colleges and universities.

The Nolan Scholars program honors outgoing Guerin Prep President Sister Nancy Nolan and is offered to the students who earned a President or Principal's scholarship as a result of their scores on the entrance exam last January.

"We've always had an honors curriculum," explained Bonnie Brown, principal, "but we're kicking it up a notch in keeping with our mission to be a college preparatory high school." Mrs. Brown believes the program will end up benefitting all students because it will raise the bar for everyone.

Karin Calandriello, Guerin Prep English teacher has been appointed director of the program. She is excited about the program because she thinks it will provide a new way of learning that will be interdisciplinary.

This coordination between disciplines will also tie-in with the enrichment experiences that are offered. She is hoping to provide real world experiences that will broaden student's horizons and help them get in touch with the world around them.

Guerin Prep Back to School '08—add two

For example, a Chicago theme is planned for first semester with an architectural tour planned by the Botanical Gardens providing the foundation for this study.

As a first activity, students will participate in the Barrington Teams Challenge Course on Aug. 18. Calandriello hopes this activity will set the tone for the whole program. “We want to challenge them, push them physically and mentally to see what they can do. The program is also intended to establish trust between the participants and to instill self-confidence. We want to encourage these students to be leaders in the school.”

Another hallmark of the Nolan Scholars Program will be the participation of parents in periodic meetings. “We want to assist parents in making good decisions about where their students should go to college and to help the

Mrs. Brown expressed her own hopes for the program. “If we are able to afford these students additional opportunities to enrich their experience and to expose them to new ideas, then everyone will benefit.”

The following students from Chicago have been named Nolan Scholars: Jacob Alm, Andrew Arias, Teri Brieske, Damian Correa, Melissa Cyrwus, Paula Kopec, Iwona Lazarz, Steven Legacki, Gioia Marzullo, Sergio Medina, Melanie Niepsuj, Sarah Reid, Danielle Santore, Natalia Skrzyniarz, Will Torres and Paulina Wojtach.

Other scholars include Izik Alequin and Cassidy Tarpey of River Grove; Ruben Anguiano of Melrose Park; and Jessica McClain, Andrew Ristau and Jenna Zacharias of Elmwood Park.

Laptops

Three classes of Guerin Prep students will now benefit from Guerin Prep’s one-to-one computing program, which was instituted last year.

According to Guerin Prep’s Principal Brown, this has already changed how teachers are teaching and thus how students are learning. Furthermore it is helping students be better prepared for college.”

Students bring their computer to class on a daily basis. In addition to regular programs, special software has been uploaded on the laptops, including some of the textbooks required for classes.

Thanks to a wireless infrastructure installed throughout the school building, each student is able to access the Internet anywhere. This enables teachers to transform traditional lectures into interactive research sessions, taking advantage of the nearly limitless sources of material on the Internet.

Back to School

The first full day of the 2008-2009 school year will be held Monday, Aug. 25, for an anticipated 650 students.

Guerin Prep Back to School '08—add three

Guerin Prep will welcome 165 freshmen and 12 transfer students to a half-day orientation session Wednesday, Aug. 20. A special meeting will be held for them and their parents the evening before, Aug. 19 at 7 p.m. at the school.

Orientation will continue for freshmen on Thursday, Aug. 19 when they will be joined by the sophomores for orientation that day. All four classes will have a half-day of orientation on Friday, Aug. 22.

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