



## **Normal Community West High School**

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### **GOOD NEWS REPORT**

To: Dr. Alan Chapman and Unit 5 Board of Education  
From: Tom Eder, Principal, Normal West High School  
Mary Ahillen, Principal, Parkside Junior High School  
Date: November 9, 2006

It is our pleasure to recognize a group of faculty members from Parkside Junior High School and Normal West High School who are spearheading a remarkable series of initiatives that already have positively impacted the cultures of our schools and lives of many of our students. Deb Brown, Sue Lakin, Chris Hawkins, Julie Nourie, Bev Schweinberg, John Bierbaum, Arlene Peterson, Teri Wilson, Katie Klokkenga, Berny Chiaro, Marty Tarmann, Deb Cochran, Laura Lamb, and Kathy Whitney are the 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Task Force.

These men and women are excellent teachers in their respective academic areas or as counselors. Beginning in the fall of 2005, they have dedicated themselves to a mission that goes beyond the boundaries of their curriculum. The difficulties of making the transition, socially and academically, from junior high to high school are well known and the subject of national professional discussion. These teachers have researched the problem, discovered best practices and visited high schools with effective programs. They have developed a number of new orientation programs involving unique scheduling, student mentorship, and integration of junior high and high school teaching practices that we have begun to implement at PJHS, KJHS, and NCWHS. The results so far are extremely promising.

We wish to salute these teachers for their willingness to “go the extra mile” to help students. They are creative thinkers who are taking our schools and students into some uncharted areas that we have confidence are going to make all of us better. They truly represent the best qualities of the teaching staffs of Parkside Junior High School and Normal West High School. And the best is yet to come!

Sincerely,

Mary Ahillen

Sincerely,

Tom Eder