

CENTRAL ACADEMY

FALL, 2012

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CONNECTED 4PARTNERING
WITH CHINA 4Calling all Academy
Alumni!!

- "Like" the Central Academy Counseling page on Facebook
- Ensure your contact information is always up-to-date to receive the latest news from Central Academy
- Spread the word among your fellow Academy alum

CONGRATULATIONS IB DIPLOMA RECIPIENTS

An International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma is often considered to be the "gold standard" in a well-rounded college preparation. Earning the IB diploma requires dedication, rigorous preparation in six core subject areas, and extensive work outside of school. Over the summer, the five students who were attempting to earn the IB diploma in 2012 learned they had achieved their goal!

Central Academy began offering the IB Diploma Programme four years ago. In preparation, teachers studied the program extensively, attending workshops to learn about the philosophy of IB and the internationally recognized courses they would teach. Additionally, ongoing marketing efforts help

educate students and parents about the opportunity to pursue the IB Diploma. While it is still unique to the state of Iowa, the IB Diploma Programme is present in 141 countries across the world.

Enrollment in the IB Diploma Programme at Central Academy continues to grow. This year, 35 students are enrolled in the full slate of courses necessary to pursue the IB Diploma. Since its inception 31 students have earned the IB Diploma at Central Academy.

Congratulations to the newest IB Diploma recipients!!

Cole Bates-Norum—NYU
Alyssa Bean—Grinnell College
Dhynasah James—Iowa State
Andy Troxell—Grinnell College
Lansing Wei—Georgia Tech



AP RESULTS ARE IN!!

Central Academy has a long-standing tradition of excellence in Advanced Placement examinations. The 2012 testing season was no exception. This year Academy students took almost 800 AP exams, resulting in the highest AP Index rating in the state of Iowa at 7.62!

Of the students who took AP

exams, 79.5% of those students passed with a score of 3 or higher. The average AP exam score of 3.53 at Central Academy was over 22% higher than the national AP exam average.

"Central Academy has a legacy as a leader in Iowa when it comes to offering students

access to high-level academic programs, such as Advanced Placement," said Crista Carlile, Supervisor of Central Academy. "Year after year, the results speak for themselves. Central Academy is unparalleled in the ability of our teachers to prepare students for the rigors of AP exams."

AP NATIONAL SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED-NEW RECORD SET

Each year the College Board recognizes students for outstanding accomplishment on AP exams. This year, 29 Central Academy students were recognized with the highest honor College Board has to offer: AP National Scholar. In order to be recognized as an AP National Scholar, students must have a near-perfect average of 4 (on a scale of 1-5) on each AP exam taken. Additionally, students must score at least a 4 on eight or more of these exams. This is the highest number of National AP Scholars ever recognized in one year at Central Academy. In

addition to a record number of AP National Scholars, Central Academy boasts the female State AP Scholar for 2012, Kayleigh Hauri. Kayleigh had the highest AP exam average of any female in the state of Iowa in 2012.

"The great success of these students is an inspiration, and their nationally recognized accomplishments in the classroom are testament not only to their talent and intelligence, but also to the great teachers and educational opportunities that are available here in Des Moines," said Interim Superintendent Tom Ahart.

In addition to the 29 students named as AP National Scholars, 161 Central Academy students were recognized as AP Scholars at some level in 2012. Since 1991, almost 4,000 Central Academy students have been recognized as AP Scholars for outstanding achievements on AP exams.



The 2012 National AP Scholars are:

Seniors (Class of '12)

Jack Bequeaith—Williams College
Philip Bui—Iowa State University
Philip Dobrinov—University of Chicago
Brady Edwards—Northwestern University
Emma Fisher—St. Louis University
Tyler Foley—University of Wisconsin
Corey Grief—Northwestern University
Kayleigh Hauri—Georgetown University
Will Hemminger—Elon College
Rachel Jacobs—Northwestern University
Zach Lindeberg—Baylor University
Sarah Liu—MIT
Margaret Long—University of Notre Dame
Matthew Mackay—University of Toronto
Stephanie Manivanh—Harvard University
Megan Mansfield—MIT

Sarah Mansfield—Tufts University
Naveen Nath—Duke University
Samuel Norman—Creighton University
Rebecca Rasmussen—Grinnell College
Yeltsin Rodriguez—University of Iowa
Takashi Yanagi—University of Notre Dame

Juniors (Class of '13)

Eric Chen
Ashley DeHaan
Thanh Lai
Nathan Leys
Luke Sheeley
Julius Tembe

Sophomore (Class of '14)

Max Pilcher

**A New Record
for Central
Academy—
29 National
AP Scholars**

CENTRAL ACADEMY STUDENT EARNS TRIP TO GERMANY

Luke Sheeley, a Central Academy student and one of the students who earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT exam last summer, travelled to Germany on an all-expense-paid summer study trip in 2012. Sheeley was selected as a national winner after scoring in the 96th percentile on the Level 3 2012 National German Exam for high school students sponsored by the American

Association of Teachers of German (AATG). Nearly 23,000 students participated in the program. After qualifying with a high score on the National German Exam, he answered several short essay questions in German and in English and was interviewed by a committee comprised of high school teachers and college professors of German.

"Luke is an outstanding German student. His dedication to both the German language and culture has made him the perfect recipient of this award," said Kimberly Glandorf, Central Academy German teacher. "I am both happy for and proud of Luke." Sheeley is one of 44 outstanding German students selected from across the U.S.

to receive this award. The study trip took place June 27-July 21 and included round-trip air



CENTRAL ACADEMY STUDENTS 7TH IN NATIONAL MATH COMPETITION

Central Academy has some of the best high-school mathematicians in the country, as demonstrated by their 7th-place finish in the 2012 Collaborative Problem-Solving Contest (CPSC), a national mathematics contest administered by National Assessment & Testing.

While most math competitions encourage rote memorization, familiar problems, and quick mental reflexes, the CPSC presents schools with fifteen unique, intricate problems to be solved over the course of a week. Under

the guidance of coach Mike Marcketti, students worked together using brainstorming, collaboration, research, and technology to solve the problems, gaining experience with skills that will be critical in college and their careers. In addition to their overall 7th-place recognition, Central Academy was commended for having the highest score on six of the fifteen problems, including problem twelve, one of the most difficult. This problem involved finding

sequences of numbers with certain properties that can be interspersed with other sequences, as well as converting sequence definitions from one style or format to another.

"When our students see themselves ahead of traditional powers like Palo Alto High School, they really begin to understand the amazing mathematical community that is in place here at Central Academy," said Mike Marcketti, a math teacher at

Central. "The problems on this contest are a challenge for most of us to read, let alone solve. Nonetheless, our students earned the highest score on six of the fifteen questions."



Central Academy math teachers at the Platteville Math Competition

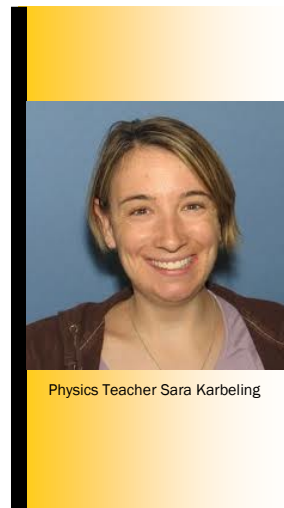
SUPER TEACHER HEADS TO SUPER COLLIDER

Central Academy physics teacher Sara Karbeling was among 35 teachers from around the world selected for a prestigious internship at CERN, the Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire. CERN, home to the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is located in Switzerland. The LHC is sort of an autobahn where protons and ions are used as crash test dummies to simulate a reenactment of the Big Bang, in layman's terminology.

An added bonus to Karbeling's experience was the announcement of the discovery of the elusive Higgs boson particle on July 4, 2012 at CERN. The Higgs boson was, until recently, only a theoretical particle which, simply put, is believed to be responsible for giving objects their mass. On September 12, 2012, CERN announced their discovery had been confirmed in two peer

reviewed journal papers.

While in Switzerland, Karbeling blogged about her experiences in the lab and being present at the site of the big announcement. "It was a wonderful experience to be surrounded by so many people who were so excited about the news!" said Karbeling. It's safe to say, students are in for a treat this year as Karbeling brings her experiences into the classroom.



Physics Teacher Sara Karbeling

NEW TEACHERS HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

Three new teachers welcomed students this fall at Central Academy. Petra Lange, Dan Swanson, and Lindsay Kasuga joined the outstanding Academy staff this year, replacing retirees Jean Ellerhoff, Michael Schaffer, and Jeff Hepburn respectively. Lange previously taught high school English courses and served as a secondary literacy coach for DMPS.

Swanson left Cedar Rapids Xavier high school where he taught a variety of social studies courses, and Kasuga most recently taught high school science in Colorado. "Each of these individuals was selected because of their knowledge, enthusiasm, and experiences," said Crista Carlile, Academy Supervisor.

"Central Academy has a tradition of having the best educators in the state of Iowa and our newest teachers are no exception."

Each of the teachers has a demanding schedule, juggling a variety of middle school and high school courses. In addition to the demands of preparing for

multiple high level courses, teachers must also contend with increased class sizes.

Despite these challenges, all three instructors are thrilled to be at Central Academy. "The students here are amazing," Kasuga recently said. Judging by the students' reactions, they think their new teachers are pretty amazing too!

CENTRAL ACADEMY

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Central Academy offers students from across the Des Moines metro challenging, academically advanced coursework in core academic areas and world languages. Home to Iowa's only International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, Central Academy also offers a wide variety of Advanced Placement courses and six world languages, many of which are unique to central Iowa.

GLOBAL YOUTH INSTITUTE CONNECTS STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Global Youth Institute was created in 1990 to bring together youth from Friendship Force Clubs from around the world. For 22 years, students have come together to study and contemplate significant global issues challenging the world today.

Last summer, two Central Academy students traveled to Shijiazhuang, China under the guidance of Dr. Tom Forsgren. For three weeks, students investigated and collaborated on issues related to the theme of "Urbanization: Impact, Response, and Sustainability."



This theme was chosen because the world's urban population recently exceeded the number of people living in rural areas. Students

Students participate in activities to experience local traditions and culture.

explored how urbanization creates many challenges including housing, transportation, unemployment, and social support services. Students researched and discussed how community leaders are responding with plans for urban renewal, economic development, and cultural attractions to make cities appealing to young professionals.

The busy agenda included many opportunities for students to experience the culture and traditions of their host country. A retreat and homestay with a local family helped students learn to adapt their

behavior and respect the norms of their hosts. Additionally, Des Moines Public Schools awards credit for students who complete the trip. Students earned academic credit as a "Global Ambassador" for their summer work.

"One of GYI's strengths is the confluence of new ideas and energy. You can find this energy in all members, all enthusiastic about exploring a differing culture," reflected student Joe Wandro. "Shijiazhuang is full of energy, what a what a perfect place for GYI."

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS PARTNER WITH CHINESE UNIVERSITY

In July, four Central Academy students travelled to China to participate in a twelve day Global Positioning Summer (GPS) Program. Sponsored by Academy teachers Diane Fox and Michael Shaffer, the Program took place at Central University of Finance and Economics (CUFE) in Beijing China. GPS brings youth from around the world together with students from CUFE to experience China in a way few people have a chance to do. Each

morning, in-depth studies of Chinese culture, economics, history, and politics were taught by CUFE staff and students. These were followed by sessions in which GPS participants interacted in small group settings with foreign ambassadors, Chinese trade experts, and CEO's of major Chinese businesses and media outlets.

In addition to these unique learning opportunities, time was allowed to experience the

"can't miss" sights and sounds of China. The delegation travelled to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the new 798 Art District, a Chinese Kung-Fu theater presentation, and to Tianjin on the bullet train.

The GPS Program provided a wonderful blend of high-level academic endeavors with opportunities to explore the natural and cultural wonders of China, but just as important were the bonds of friendship that were forged between this

diverse group of high school and college students from around the world.



Pictured from left: Sarah Johnson, Katy Roat, Philip Dobrinov, and Joseph Nelson