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Welcome

Lyn Comer-Jaworski
District 214 TDP Coordinator

Welcome to the third edition of the TDP Quarterly newsletter.

In this edition, Mark Welter discusses his work with the AP physics program at Prospect High School. We also highlight Amanda Bhansali and Cindy Carro, recipients of the Principal’s Award for their efforts at developing a school-wide culture for learning and student achievement in the Literacy Lab at Wheeling High School.

This summer, we expanded our TDP offerings. More than 40 TDP Summer Enrichment Series seminars will take place at Buffalo Grove, Rolling Meadows and Wheeling high schools. Each seminar costs $75, plus applicable fees. Included in this issue is a comprehensive list of the four-day classes. All TDP students are encouraged to participate. Registration is required.

In collaboration with our High School District 214 College and Career Counselors, we are also offering a two-part college application workshop on August 13. Rising seniors can take advantage of getting an early start on drafting their college applications. Diane Bourn, Nancy Davis and Paul Genovese will provide students with an overview of the various types of written requirements in the college admissions process. Further details are inside.

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the summer musical, The Addams Family. This production runs July 9 through 11 at Forest View Educational Center, 2121 South Goebbert Road in Arlington Heights. This all-District performance, showcases some of the most outstanding student talent across our schools. Students looking to get involved with this production can contact Jeremy Morton at jeremy.morton@d214.org.

We look forward to your participation in our TDP programs this summer!

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Follow the TDP Program on Twitter: @D214TDP
The Power of 15 is a partnership between High School District 214 and Harper College providing increased opportunities for college credit before high school graduation. The program allows District 214 students to take college classes in high school that can simultaneously count toward their high school diploma and college degree. Successful completion with a grade of C or better will result in transferrable college credit on a Harper transcript. The partnership is based on research showing students who enter college with 15 or more credits are twice as likely to graduate with a degree.

**Power of 15 Course Offerings in District 214 (2015-2016 academic year):**

- College Composition (03291/03292)
- College Mathematical Applications 101 (04971/04972)
- College Algebra (04401/04402)
- College Physical Science (05241/05242)
- College Speech Communication (03890)
- College Introduction to Visual Art (02990)

**Summer Opportunity:**

Speech 101, offered on Harper’s campus

**To Enroll:**

- Meet with your counselor to determine placement and course options.
- Complete the Harper College Dual Enrollment Application for Admission, available from your school’s Student Services office.
- Have your high school include a copy of your American College Testing (ACT) and/or Compass testing scores with your application, if you have taken them.
- Complete the Power of 15 Dual Enrollment Guardian Permission Form, available from your school’s Student Services office or online at www.d214.org.
- Return the Harper enrollment application and Guardian Form to your counselor.

**Recommendations and Requirements:**

- It is recommended that students entering this program have a C average or better in their high school courses.
- Students must take the Power of 15 class in their home school if offered there.
- All Power of 15 classes must be part of the student’s schedule.
- Some courses carry requirements:
  - Students enrolled in College Composition (03291/03292) must have an ACT English score of 19 or better and an ACT Reading score of 20 or better, or a Compass Reading score of 77 or better and a Compass Writing score of 65 or better.
  - Students enrolled in College Mathematical Applications 101 (04971/04972) or College Algebra (04401/04402) must have an ACT Math score of 23 or better or a Compass Algebra score of 53 or better in addition to a Compass Geometry score of 46 or better while having earned two semesters of high school Geometry with a C- or better.
Parent/Guardian Permission

☐ BGHS  ☐ EGHS  ☐ Academy  ☐ JHHS  ☐ PHS  ☐ RMHS  ☐ Vanguard  ☐ WHS

Enrollment Year: _____________ – _____________

Student Name & ID

Name: _____________________________________________________________

ID: _______________________

Classes enrolled in (please check all that apply):

☐ College Composition (03291/03292)
☐ College Mathematical Applications 101 (04971/04972)
☐ College Algebra (04401/04402)
☐ College Physical Science (05241/05242)
☐ College Speech Communication (03890)
☐ College Introduction to Visual Art (02990)

Agreement:

☐ Students enrolled in College Composition (03291/03292) must have an ACT English score of 19 or better and ACT Reading score of 20 or better. A student can also qualify for this course by receiving a Compass Reading score of 77 or better and a Compass Writing score of 65 or better.

☐ Students enrolled in College Mathematical Applications 101 (04971/04972) or College Algebra (04401/04402) must have an ACT Math score of 23 or better. A student can also qualify for this course by receiving a Compass Algebra score of 53 or better in addition to a Compass Geometry score of 46 or better, or two semesters of high school Geometry with a C- or better.

☐ Students enrolled in these courses are not guaranteed college credit. These classes have the opportunity to receive college credit if the student receives a C grade or higher.

☐ Students who fall below a “C” grade point average with these courses could be in danger of impacting their Financial Aid packages.

☐ For questions about credit transferability with any of these courses, please contact the college or university in which you are interested.

I have read all the above information:

Student Signature: ____________________________________________ Date: _____________

Parent Signature: ____________________________________________ Date: _____________
Registration is open for the TDP Summer Enrichment Seminar Series. These teacher-generated courses are individually designed, focusing on a particular topic of curricular or personal interest. Classes will be offered in one-week installments from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday between June 8 and July 23.

These non-credit seminars will be held at Buffalo Grove, Rolling Meadows and Wheeling high schools.

Each seminar costs $75, plus applicable fees. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from these seminars.

Seminars will run during the following weeks:
- Monday, June 8 to Monday, July 13 (Summer Musical at FVEC)
- Monday, June 15 to Thursday, June 18
- Monday, June 22 to Thursday, June 25
- Monday, June 29 to Thursday, July 2
- Monday, July 13 to Thursday, July 16
- Monday, July 20 to Thursday, July 23

Interested students may register online through May 29. Click here to register.

Space is limited. Courses are subject to cancellation if minimum student enrollment is not met.
June 8 – July 13

All-District Summer Musical

The Addams Family – Jeremy Morton and Stephen Colella
Forest View Educational Center
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class Limit: Cast size

Broadway musical sensation, The Addams Family will take the District 214 stage Thursday, July 9 through Saturday, July 11. The District is looking for unique actors who can “do it all” to fill these dynamic roles. The glitzy-gloomy show brings to life the beloved and bizarre characters created by cartoonist Charles Addams. Each member of the ensemble must be able to perform comedy, drama and improvisation with the ability to dance and sing. Those chosen for the cast will work with District 214 instructors to perfect their roles and deliver a show-stopping performance. Rehearsals begin June 8.

For more information visit: http://www.d214.org/summermusical.html

June 15 – June 18

Building Communication Skills Through Theatre – Mary Luckritz
Rolling Meadows High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 15

This class will provide a safe environment for students with autism disorders to utilize drama, acting methods and techniques as a vehicle for learning communication and interpersonal interaction skills in order to successfully negotiate relationships in everyday life settings. Students will engage in theatre games, communication exercises and group dance. Activities from this session will culminate in a performance open to parents and friends on Thursday, June 18 at 3:30 p.m. on stage.

June 22 – June 25

Critical Digital Literacy – Joanna Marshall
Buffalo Grove High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 30

This class will assist students in becoming critical consumers and producers of digital media, while also helping them become responsible digital citizens. Students will demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products using technology. Students will also create original works as a means of personal or group expression, apply digital tools to gather, evaluate and use information from a variety of sources and media. This class promotes advocacy and the practice of safe, legal and responsible use of information and technology.
**Culinary Boot Camp** – Ronna Pflanz  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 20  
In this course, students with little or no cooking experience will learn the basics to survive in the kitchen. Students will work in a collaborative work environment and the focus will be on culinary skills, problem solving and self-help skills. Students will have various hands-on learning experiences with food and cooking in the lab.  
This class requires an additional $10.00 materials fee.

**ESPN’s 30 for 30: Sports and Society** – Brad Abel  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 20  
Students will examine a series of vignettes from ESPN’s 30 for 30 series. Students will discuss the historical, economic, political and social impact sports have placed on various societies. Issues such as racism, international relationships and migration/immigration will be discussed.

**Fitness Center Fundamentals** – Michael Naughton and William Montemayor  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 60 (30 per instructor)  
This class is designed for students who do not have experience using the Fitness Center or for anyone who would like to gain additional knowledge on maximizing opportunities in this facility. This class will identify safety protocols, review all equipment, demonstrate proper use of machines and reinforce multiple exercises.

**Introduction to Graphic Design** – Sara Farrell  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 26  
Students will learn how to use Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator by creating posters and projects with vector images, edited photos and text. In addition, students will bring their Illustrator designs to life with the vinyl cutter by creating custom stickers. Students will also learn the basics of typography and the importance of selecting the best font for the job.  
*This class requires an additional $5.00 materials fee.*

Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 30  
Students will consult a variety of texts to help them understand and analyze issues of privilege, micro aggressions, colorblindness, internalized and institutionalized racism. The class will study the historical and contemporary impact of institutionalized racism in this country. Student voice will be honored, as students will ultimately dictate the direction of a reflective and creative project.
**Summer Shape Up** – Jamie Kapsimalis  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 30

In this class, students will demonstrate the ability to discern healthy choices to meet their individual fitness needs. Students will also participate in various alternative fitness activities such as Yoga, Pilates, Body Sculpt, Meditation, Interval Training and Plyometrics. In addition, students will explore and discuss mental fitness and its impact on their body.

**The Art of Short Fiction** – Matt Snow  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 20

In this class, students will immerse themselves in the art of creative writing through instruction, short fiction and poetry. This class will foster the art of creative writing, alleviate fears students may have of the blank page and ultimately increase their intelligence, writing ability and creativity.

*This class requires an additional $3.00 materials fee.*

**You Need to be R.A.D.** – Rita Runyard  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 24

The R.A.D. systems of basic self-defense develop and enhance the options of strategies for women. This class will educate young women of the risks surrounding them, teach them simple but effective self-defense strategies and provide them with confidence to protect themselves if they are ever attacked.  
This class is designed for females.

**Changing the World Through Music and More** – Sean Radcliff  
Rolling Meadows High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 30

Students will identify different forms and examples of social activism and evaluate the effectiveness of raising awareness vs. providing aid. Collectively the class will design a project that promotes positive change in the world.  
*This class requires an additional $3.00 materials fee.*

**Hip-Hop Dance** – Lucas Pang  
Rolling Meadows High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 14

This class will teach the students how to interpret music and movement through hip-hop dance. In addition, students will develop their skills through practicing the execution of choreography.
**Shakespeare Rocks!** – Rita Sayre  
Rolling Meadows High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 25  
Students will unpack Shakespeare’s language, imagery and complex themes using selections from a variety of his plays. Each student will engage in the “Hidden Meanings” class challenge: finding the hidden stage directions inside the dialogue, culminating in a performance of *Macbeth*.

**The Hundred Foot Journey** – Jenna Sandstead  
Rolling Meadows High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 20  
Using the film “The Hundred-Foot Journey,” students will compare Parisian culture to French culture in the rural parts of France. Students will also learn the linguistic and dialectic differences of the French language in Paris versus the South.

**Discovering Earth Science in the Nano Classroom** – Lisa Del Muro  
Wheeling High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 18  
Students will learn how to use the Scanning Electron Microscope to image fossils and perform an elemental analysis. Students will also learn how to use the 3D light optical microscope and make a 3D file. After studying various rocks and minerals, students will print a 3D image of a fossil.  
*This class requires an additional $10.00 materials fee.*

**June 22 – July 2**

**American Red Cross Life Guard Certification** – Allison Holysz and Jeff Skalon  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Maximum capacity: 20  
**Note: The length of this class is two weeks: 8 days (25.5 hours)**  
Interested in a great summer job or challenging career as a professional lifeguard? Through videos, group discussion and hands-on practice, students will learn teamwork, rescue and surveillance skills, First Aid and CPR/AED and other skills needed to work as a professional lifeguard. Training options feature two core courses—*Lifeguarding and Shallow Water Lifeguarding* (available in a blended learning format)—plus optional add-on modules, including waterfront skills or waterpark skills modules. Successful completion results in a 2-year certification in lifeguarding that includes first aid, professional-level CPR and AED in one certificate. A digital certificate is available upon successful completion of course.  
*This class requires an additional $20.00 materials fee and a $35.00 certificate fee (made payable to Buffalo Grove High School).*
June 29 – July 2

Diners, Jars of Bees and Escaping Anatomy Women: The Prose Poem – Laura Wagner
Buffalo Grove High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 25
The prose poem is neither poetry nor prose. It steals the best from both worlds to create something new and unexpected. If you haven’t fallen in love with writing yet, you haven’t had the opportunity to try writing creatively. This class will expose students to a wide variety of styles of writing, as well as pre-writing, writing and revising techniques to help them group their passion for writing.

Language, Power, and Identity: A (Cool) Introduction to Linguistics – Rachel Moyer
Buffalo Grove High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 30
This course is a celebration of linguistic diversity. Students will consult a variety of texts to recognize and affirm linguistic diversity and discuss how we code switch our language and behaviors regularly. Students will use documentary clips, blogs and news articles to create a project that is creative in nature.

Don’t You Forget About Me: The Life and Works of Filmmaker John Hughes – Bruce Janu
Rolling Meadows High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: None
In this course, students will examine the history and significance of John Hughes in American cinema. In addition to identifying stereotypes and images of teenagers in film, students will also compare and contrast the portrayal of teenagers in film during the 1980s with that of today.

Graphic Design: Adobe Photoshop – Kent Dyer
Rolling Meadows High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 24
The lessons of this course are adaptable to students with any skill level of Adobe Photoshop. Beginner students will learn basic functions and editing techniques of Photoshop. Advanced students will learn more complex features of Photoshop. All students will learn to use Photoshop to create original digital designs and learn more about the pathways possible through the digital arts. Students will use Photoshop to create original designs using shapes, drawing tools and colors. Students will then transform these designs into patterns. These patterns will turned into unique complex designs with the incorporation of gradients, filters and layer styles. Students will have the option to print these large 11 x 17 inch designs or keep them digital.
Is This Even Legal? – Katie Alexander & Gabriella Stetz Jackson
Rolling Meadows High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 20

In this class, students will gain knowledge and appreciation of the digital world we live in and how we can all positively contribute to that world. Students who complete this class will have an understanding of how to create and license one’s own music, movies, artwork, learn how to develop a digital dossier and how to create a blog.

Leadership and Personal Growth – Joe Bush
Rolling Meadows High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 20

The goal of this course is to introduce students to theories of leadership, teach students how to implement leadership and help them develop a personal goal plan. Learning activities will include team-building activities, book discussions and the creation of a growth plan for each individual.

Manufacturing Today – Rich Hyde
Rolling Meadows High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 16

In this class, students will utilize Autodesk Inventor CAD/CAM software to create products for use in everyday life. Students will also create products using the MakerBot 3D printer, as well as the ShopBot CNC router.

This class requires an additional $10.00 materials fee.

Beauty in the Unseen World – Carol Bouvier
Wheeling High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 12

This class will teach students how to use the scanning electron microscope and Photoshop to create art. Students will also learn how to use the Phenom Desktop Scanning Electron Microscope and the art of creating a good SEM image.

This class requires an additional $10.00 materials fee.

July 13 – July 16

Fashion Boot Camp – Ronna Pflanz
Buffalo Grove High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 20

This class will provide basic sewing skills to individuals with little or no sewing experience. Students will learn basic safety procedures with sewing equipment, proper ways to identify fabric and how to follow directions on commercial patterns.

This class requires an additional $10.00 materials fee.
Interplay Improvisation for Dance, Drama, Musical Theatre and Speech  
– Diane Rawlinson  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 35  
In this course, students will find a playful way to be present and in the moment, a necessary trait not only in the performing arts, but in life in general. Students will create a nonjudgmental environment for themselves and others. Students will also explore improvisation techniques to expand their creativity in the performing arts by applying improvisation techniques, to both the creation and performance of dance and drama.

Perusing Poetry with Pleasure  – Janet Levin  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 12  
The goal of this course is to inspire students to read and enjoy poetry of all types. Students will read and discuss poems selected by the teacher. Students will engage in a discussion after watching Def Poetry and music videos online.

The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction  – Lisa Cottrell  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 20  
The goal of this course is to widen students’ perception of creative nonfiction and provide various opportunities for students to explore their personal interests and talents. Students will create a writing portfolio after learning how to “workshop” their writing in a group setting. Students will also access various resources including books, magazines, web sites and online learning communities and select one piece of writing to submit for publication (not required).

Graphic Design: Adobe Illustrator  – Kent Dyer  
Rolling Meadows High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 24  
The lessons of this course are adaptable to students with any skill level of Adobe Illustrator. Beginner students will learn basic functions and editing techniques of Illustrator. Advanced students will learn more complex features of Illustrator. All students will learn to use Illustrator to create original digital illustrations and learn more about the pathways possible through the digital arts. Students will use the Pen Tool and effects to create an original Illustrator design. Students will also create their own personal logo design.

“Shark Tank” Business Challenge  – Chad Froeschle  
Rolling Meadows High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 12  
In this class, students will generate a viable business idea that will be pitched to local business owners. Students will develop their communication and collaboration skills. Students will be provided feedback and data to flexibly revise or refine their business plan.
Think, Exist: An Introduction to Philosophy – Andrew Riege
Rolling Meadows High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class Limit: 24
In this class, students will gain an understanding of philosophy. Students will explore the areas of epistemology, metaphysics, ethics and various other topics. Students will also enhance their critical thinking skills, as well as their ability to see issues from multiple perspectives.

Forensics and the Use of the Scanning Electron Microscope and 3D Optical Profiling Microscope – Carol Bouvier
Wheeling High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 16
In this class, students will solve a mystery related to their work in the lab. Students will learn how to use the Scanning Electron Microscope to image pollen and insect samples. In addition, students will use the 3D Optical Profiling microscope to image hair and fiber samples.
This class requires an additional $5.00 materials fee.

July 20 – July 23

Micro Internships – Krista Paul
Buffalo Grove High School
Eligible Grades: 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 25
This class will provide students with an authentic educational experience to support career exploration. Experiences from this class will provide students the opportunity to observe and engage with professionals in their typical work setting; learn specific job tasks of the person they work alongside; gain insight into the career planning process; identify potential career opportunities with possible majors of study; develop critical thinking competencies and problem solving abilities and have the opportunity to improve the ability to communicate including developing and utilizing networking skills.
Note: This class will meet off campus. Students will be assigned a placement in the community based on their identified career path of interest. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from their internship placement.

Screen Printing – Sara Farrell
Buffalo Grove High School
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Class limit: 20
This class will teach students how to create crisp original images and bring them to life through screen printing. Students will learn how to create vector images in Adobe Illustrator, prepare files for print, stretch screens, coat screens and learn how to line up a two-color print.
This class requires an additional $10.00 materials fee.
Students will need to provide their own shirt to print on.
**Writers Workshop** – Janet Levin  
Buffalo Grove High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 12

This class will encourage student writing in a variety of genres for a variety of audiences. Students will write in preferred genres, new genres, create blogs, share writing on blogs and with peers and/or the teacher. Students will also be exposed to ways to have their writing published.

**Graphic Design: Digital Photography: Digital Arts** – Kent Dyer  
Rolling Meadows High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 24

The lessons of this course are adaptable to students with any skill level of digital photography and *Adobe Photoshop*. Beginner students will learn basic functions using a manual digital camera and basic functions and editing techniques of *Photoshop*. Advanced students will learn more complex features of a manual digital camera *Photoshop*. All students will learn to use manual digital cameras and *Photoshop* to create original digital images and learn more about the pathways possible through the digital arts. Students will learn how to use *Photoshop* to edit and manipulate their personal digital photos. Students will learn how to use the green screen to create advanced digital photos.

**Wall Street Survivor: The Fundamentals of Investing** – Chad Froeschle  
Rolling Meadows High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 20

Students will participate in a stock market, mutual fund and options simulation. Students will also participate in a tour of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and meet with an operations manager from RJO Futures.

**When Chicago Was Hollywood: The History of the Film Industry in Chicago** – Bruce Janu  
Rolling Meadows High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: None

In this course, students will identify neighborhoods and landmarks of Chicago on a map. Students will examine an early history of film, noting the unique role Chicago played in the creation of the industry. Through discussion, students will critique the use of Chicago as a movie location through several unique Chicago-based films.

**Electronics, Energy and the Future** – Lisa Del Muro  
Wheeling High School  
Eligible Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class limit: 18

In this course, students will learn the process of photosynthesis and how photosynthesis and solar cells relate. Students will also learn how to make a solar panel and then calibrate the solar panel. Students will also make nanowires and study diffraction patterns.  
*This class requires an additional $10.00 materials fee.*
Show Dates Are:

July 9, 10, 11 @ 7 p.m.
at Forest View Educational Center

Contact Jeremy Morton for more information: jeremy.morton@d214.org
Mark Welter  
Prospect High School

**How long have you been teaching?**
This is my 18th year of teaching at Prospect High School.

**What other experiences have you had related to your field?**
In college, I assisted a professor with a research project one summer. I spent time in the lab taking spectroscopic data while attempting to “grow” diamonds on molybdenum, a chemical element, using a type of blowtorch. Any application to coat materials with diamonds would have been far off, but this experiment would aid future trials by examining details within the flame while it also deposited soot on the molybdenum. My experience also allowed me to see the many components of a research experiment: grant funding, library research, discussion with other scientists and seeking help from other universities for access to their lab equipment.

During another summer, I had an internship with a company that designed servomotors. I worked with a group of sales engineers and learned how they determined what motors and control equipment would fit a client’s needs. It was interesting to see the business side of this company.

(continued on next page)
In terms of teaching, I tutored in the math and physics departments at college. One semester I also assisted with a math professor’s project to determine if small group settings helped algebra students increase their understanding of algebra. I oversaw mandatory homework sessions with a group of about 15 students, meeting twice a week.

Currently I’m president of Physics Northwest, an alliance of physics teachers in the Chicago suburbs that meets seven times each school year to share teaching, demonstrations and lab ideas.

What drew you to this subject and class?  
I always enjoyed math in school, even though I had to take Algebra 1 twice. I also enjoyed art ever since I had a coloring book. In high school I had thoughts of becoming either a math teacher or a commercial artist. I ultimately decided to attend art school. I learned a lot, but felt the constant deadlines placed on a commercial artist would lead to quick burnout. After this, I went to college to be a math teacher and minored in physics at the suggestion of my high school geometry teacher. In college I experienced my first physics course, and I was hooked. The combination of solving problems while learning about the way the world works was irresistible to me. Each class was fascinating and challenging at the same time. AP Physics C is a lot like that experience — it is challenging for students, but I feel students come out with a deep understanding of how various laws of physics can explain a tremendous amount of natural phenomena.

What do you enjoy most about preparing to teach this course?  
The learning! I enjoy learning more about physics and how to teach it. Trying to anticipate student questions keeps me interested in reading and experiencing more about physics. I also like to work with other teachers to determine effective methods for teaching the topics. As teachers, we remain ever hopeful that we’ve discovered “the best way” for students to grasp something tough.

What are the challenges of teaching this AP course?  
The pace is a challenge. At Prospect, we teach both semesters of AP Physics C. This requires us to prepare for two tests in May (Mechanics and Electricity and Magnetism). Students need to build their problem-solving skills, calculus confidence and content knowledge all year long. Many topics build on previous topics, so there’s always a need to incorporate older material with new content. It is also tough to balance the need for calculus early-on in the class with a student’s need of time to digest new math concepts being taught in their calculus class.

What advice do you have for your AP students?  
My geometry teacher in high school used to say, “Always ask yourself, what does it mean?” If you can understand a problem at a fundamental level, the solutions will come logically. Classes also seem less like a compilation of facts and more like an organized system of knowledge when you understand “what it means.” I also believe we become smarter as we get older. Don’t be discouraged if you struggle right now. Keep working and the breakthrough will feel great.
Wheeling High School’s Literacy Lab Helps Boost Success

The Literacy Lab is located in the Wheeling High School library. This peer-tutoring center is designed to assist students with their academic needs. It helps students at all levels, in all subjects.

Two teachers, Amanda Bhansali and Cindy Carro, have been instrumental in the success of this resource center. Together, Cindy and Amanda undertook a complete overhaul of the Literacy Lab in the summer of 2014. This academic resource center currently has 100 student tutors and helps more than 300 students each week.

(continued on next page)
Many tutors are AP students themselves. They assist other students in classes that they have already taken or are currently enrolled in. These AP students find that teaching and tutoring certain topics makes the concepts clearer in their own minds.

When is the Literacy Lab open?

- 7:25 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 7:25 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday.
- At least one classroom teacher and between three and 15 students staff the Literacy Lab each period.
- Every day after school, four content area teachers work in the Lab as tutors, in addition to student tutors who volunteer their time.

Additional Information

- Teachers send students with a written pass or fill out an online form that generates a printed pass for students. The tutors retrieve students directly from their study halls and work with them on specific skills.
- After each tutor session, the tutor completes an electronic exit slip summarizing the visit. This slip is forwarded to the student’s teacher. This feedback further directs students the next time they visit the Literacy Lab.

How can the Literacy Lab help students, specifically AP students?

- Some AP teachers have been using the Literacy Lab for remediation. If an AP student does poorly on one unit, the student can work with a tutor on material in order to be eligible for retakes.
- Other AP teachers have been proactively sending struggling students to the Literacy Lab for two to three days prior to upcoming assessments in order to review and study.
- Many AP students walk in during their lunch hour to receive help.
Looking to get a jumpstart on your college applications?

This summer, the High School District 214 College and Career Counselors are offering a free two-part workshop open to all rising seniors. Students are welcome to attend one or both sessions.

**Conquering the Common Application** – Diane Bourn, Nancy Davis, Paul Genovese
Rolling Meadows High School
Computer Labs (Room A11, C109 and Library)
Eligible Grades: 12
1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

On August 1st, the Common Application will launch the 2015-16 application, which will be accepted by more than 550 colleges and universities. If two or more of the schools on your list accept the Common Application, this summer session will help you get a head start. Learn how to:

- Create a Common Application account
- Build a college list
- Choose appropriate deadlines
- Start the new Common Application
- Get tips on navigating the most challenging aspects of the application
- Learn about how to track the supplemental pieces required for application completion

**College Essay Writing Session** – Diane Bourn, Nancy Davis, Paul Genovese
Rolling Meadows High School
Computer Labs (Room A11, C109 and Library)
Eligible Grades: 12
2:30 to 4 p.m.

In this workshop, rising seniors will learn how to write effective college admissions essays and personal statements. An overview of the various types of written requirements in the college admissions process will be provided. Students also will create a list of the writing requirements for the colleges they are considering attending. Students will read sample essays and personal statements, with opportunities to rate the quality and suggest ideas for improvement.

This session will allow students to devote time to writing their college admissions essays. College counselors will be available for assistance during this 90-minute writing session.

**Advanced registration is required.**

Interested students can register by contacting Pam Pilafas at (847) 718-7672 or pam.pilafas@d214.org. Please provide your name, ID number and high school when registering. For further details or additional questions, please contact your building College and Career Counselor.