

Hillsdale Academy President's Report: 2011-2012

Hillsdale Academy enjoyed another year of excellent work both at home and across the nation. The Lower School students scored in the 99th percentile in all areas of study on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Among these fine young scholars, Gretchen Siegel, a student in Mrs. Karen Somerville's fifth grade class, competed at the state level in both the Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee and the National Geographic Geography Bee. First and second grade teacher Mrs. Carin Harner and Taylor Hannel, president of the Hillsdale Academy National Honor Society, combined Lower and Upper School forces throughout the year to raise over \$4,000 for the Lingap Children's Foundation in Toledo City, Philippines. Of this amount, \$1,600 was raised during the third trimester all-school "Penny Wars."

Not to be outdone by the Lower School, the senior class landed in the 99th percentile of the 800 high schools in the state of Michigan on their ACT and AP test scores. Sabeek Pradhan scored perfect "5s" on eight AP exams as well as a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. Numbering among the nation's National Merit Scholars were Academy seniors Katherine Vaillancourt, Kegan Thorrez, and Sabeek Pradhan. Senior Anders Kiledal received a National Merit Commendation and earned his Eagle Scout badge in April. State Senator Bruce Caswell addressed these impressive seniors at the Academy's commencement ceremonies on June 3rd. Following the valedictory speech by Katherine Vaillancourt, the annual Latin speech by salutatorian Sabeek Pradhan, and the co-salutatory speech by Meg Ryan, Senator Caswell encouraged the graduates to work hard, maintain integrity, love God, and seek truth. Under the tutelage of music teacher Mrs. Gail Mowry, the Academy orchestra, chamber choir, and senior string ensemble added beauty and inspiration to the event.

Beyond the walls of the school, students offered strong Quiz Bowl competition to their local peers. The Upper School team won the local as well as regional competitions and, for the first time in Academy history, won the state championship. This triumph earned the team an opportunity to compete in the national Quiz Bowl event in St. Louis, Missouri. Further success was achieved by the school's seniors who competed in the Southeast Michigan Science Fair, a region that includes the schools of Ann Arbor, Michigan. At this event, Antonia Busch took the "Grand Overall Winner" trophy as well as first place in the Biochemistry and Microbiology division. Katherine Vaillancourt and Joel Calvert received top awards in their fields of biology and physics. Awards in statistical analysis were also claimed by Joel Calvert, Anders Kiledal and Sabeek Pradhan. Further adventures outside of school included trips to the Henry Ford Museum by Mrs. Karen Somerville's 5th and 6th graders and Mr. Brent Falke's 7th grade class as well as an Upper School trip to the Thompson-Shore book factory in Dexter, Michigan.

The Hillsdale Academy athletic program continued a strong tradition of success in 2011-2012. The boys' program won conference championships in cross-country and golf. Coach Neal Brady's boys' soccer team retained the Hillsdale County Cup for the second year in a row. The boys' basketball team was named first place for Class D Team Academic All-State by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan. The boys' cross-country team also earned top ten Team Academic All-State recognition. Senior Joel Calvert earned All-State honors in cross-

country and track and field. He will continue his running career at Hillsdale College. Junior Chip Blood earned All-State honors in golf after he finished eighth at the Division 4 State Finals. And Sabeek Pradhan was named as one of two male Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Scholar Athlete Award winners for Class D.

The girls' program enjoyed great success with the girls' track and field team winning its eighth straight conference championship. The track and field team also finished second at the MITCA Team State Championship. The girls' basketball team won the conference and district title. The golf team finished in the top ten at the MHSAA finals for the third year in a row. The basketball and volleyball teams were named Team Academic All-State. Many individual girls earned great honors throughout the year as well. Junior Shaley Albaugh led the way winning her second consecutive state title in the 800-meter run and placing in three other events. Albaugh also finished fourth in the state cross-country championship. Senior Emily Brady, juniors Chrissy Craig and Elyse Lisznyai, and sophomore Victoria Heckenlively also earned All-State in track and field. Senior Meg Ryan was named All-State in girls' basketball and will play at Gettysburg College.

Finally, the Academy continued to work with schools and individuals across the nation in their efforts to establish Hillsdale Academy model schools as well as classical charter schools. Through the Barney Charter School Initiative, Hillsdale Academy has assisted in the establishment of Founders Classical Academy in Lewisville, Texas. Among private schools, Hillsdale Academy assisted in the establishment of Oakdale Academy in Waterford, Michigan. Hillsdale College students who apprenticed at the Academy readily found teaching positions in Arizona, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming. And among the approximately 200 people who visited the Academy this year were 18 principals from Beijing in the People's Republic of China.