

MEMO

To: Mike Riggle
Fr: Karen Geddeis
Re: Students and Staff Who Excel
Date: April 20, 2011

At the meeting on April 25, 2011, we will honor four staff members who have recently achieved great accolades.

Kay Sopocy, GBS Head Girls Softball Coach

The Illinois Coaches Associations has named GBS Head Softball Coach Kay Sopocy Class 4A *Coach of the Year*. She has been the softball coach at GBS for the past 18 years and is also the assistant athletic director.

Scott Knapp, GBN Mathematics Teacher

GBN mathematics teacher Scott Knapp has been accepted as a Teachers Teachings with Technology (T³) Regional Instructor. This professional development program is offered by Texas Instruments. Knapp will attend an annual workshop and international conference and then will be scheduled to provide training all over the country during the summer months. This program will offer Knapp access to the latest technologies and teachings, and will allow him to enhance his role as a resource in the GBN Math Department.

Nate Unterman, GBN Science Teacher

GBN science teacher Nate Unterman joins a small group of only five teachers in the country to be selected to represent QuarkNet and the United States at the High School Teachers Program at CERN (a French acronym for European Organization for Nuclear Research) this summer. Teachers from Europe, Latin and South America, Asia and Africa will attend this three-week program aimed at promoting the teaching of physics in high schools; furthering the exchange of knowledge and experience among teachers of different nationalities; exposing teachers to the world of research; stimulating activities related to the popularization of physics within and beyond the classroom; helping CERN establish closer links with European schools; and encouraging cooperation between CERN and existing programs sponsored by the European Union in the area of scientific education.

Tara Tate, GBS Debate Coach

The National Forensic League recently bestowed GBS Head Debate Coach Tara Tate with a Distinguished Service Key. Tate is one of only 310 members who have earned this prestigious distinction since 1925. The NFL founder initiated this honor to reward those coaches who unselfishly serve and contribute to speech education. “By choosing to devote yourself to others, you demonstrate the spirit of the league at its finest,” said NFL Executive Director J. Scott Wunn.