

## Superintendent's Corner – Week of November 18<sup>th</sup>

We often hear the phrase “scholar athlete” when we talk about high school sports. During this conversation the emphasis is appropriately placed on “scholar”, eluding to the fact that our kids are students first and athletes second. As a parent of student athletes, I've tried to instill this concept in my own children, often encouraging them...at times mandating.... that homework and studying come before extra weight lifting or sprint work or tumbling practice or film sessions. The idea is that athletics are important and as amazing as I think my own children are athletically – often met with an eye roll and accused of using “dad goggles” when I talk to them about it, I know my kids aren't going to be professional athletes. This is where the student part comes in. The world of high school sports will teach our kids a lot of valuable life lessons. It'll teach them how to overcome hardships, how to lose with grace and win with dignity. They'll learn how hard work and a positive attitude will always trump talent paired with an attitude of entitlement, how to be coached and how to work with others. There's so much more that athletics provide to our students, but one of the most important things it provides is opportunity. But without the “scholar” part the opportunities that the “athletic” part provides is often missed.

Recently the Firelands Conference released their list of All Academic honors for the fall sports season. I'm proud to say that New London High School had 34 students named to the All-Academic Team. This includes 15 First Team honorees, 14 Second Team honorees, and 5 named as Honorable Mention. Leading the pack was our football and golf program with 4 students named as 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Academic each. Additionally, 3 of our Scholar Athletes earned a perfect 4.0 GPA during the first 9 weeks of the year.

As superintendent, I am very proud of our scholar athletes. I'm proud of their dedication to their sport as well as to their academics. I'm also very proud of our coaches, teachers, staff, and parents that put an emphasis on school while realizing the important role that athletics plays in the development of our students. Our students work hard on the field of competition and work even harder in the classroom. Those are the lessons and skills we strive to instill in all our students and ones that I can confidently say we are instilling in those 34 Scholar Athletes!

Until Next Time....GO Wildcats!!!!

Brad Romano  
Superintendent  
NLLS