

Honor society gives East students new goals

By TIM SMITH
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Two years ago, East Middle School teachers Beth Jakubik and Maria Koepfen remembered what it was like to be middle schoolers who had the chance to be part of the National Junior Honor Society.

"We thought it'd be a nice program to have here," Koepfen said. "It's community service, it recognizes them for their accomplishments in school. And it gives them another leadership opportunity. This gives students something to strive for."

Their idea became reality, and on Thursday night, 36 seventh-graders were inducted into the leadership-building student group, in front of proud parents and classmates who watched in the East cafeteria.

Among the impressed parents

was Nick Waldecker, who with other family members witnessed the induction of his daughter Jessica.

"With this they'll be growing larger (in character) every year," Waldecker said. "And they'll be inspiring others to perform."

East Principal Eugene Seaborn acknowledged the two teachers and their brainchild before and after the PTSA-hosted program.

"It's been a great way to honor some of our students, who do a lot of great things that sometimes go unnoticed," Seaborn said, a reference to community service efforts like donating time at the nearby American House.

According to Seaborn, membership in the NJHS could be a precursor for students to accomplish some outstanding things in high school, and perhaps even later in life.

Five attributes

"It's one of the things we talk about all the time, character, being a good person and being a good role model for other students," he said. "There are 800 other kids who can see they are helping senior citizens and doing other community service. ... I think this is a great school, and

this is just another piece of it."

East is the only middle school in the Farmington district with the NJHS, having inducted 69 students last year. In order to qualify, students must maintain a 3.5 grade-point-average in consecutive 10-week quarters, and achieve all O's (outstandings) in citizenship areas, explained Koepfen.

Then, they must maintain those levels of excellence until leaving eighth grade. During the ceremony, NJHS officers Chris Campbell, Ryann Norris, Michael-Paul Schallmo and Kristen Klucke tallied inducted in 1999-2000 read definitions of the five main attributes of a member - scholarship, service, citizenship, leadership and character.

Newcomers then read their essays to underscore what each attribute means to them. For example, Jessica Waldecker talked about citizenship. "Five hours of community service to become a member is a good learning experience."

Jason Moore's essay was about service. "I'd like to see if I can make a difference in someone's life," he said proudly from the podium.

Edward Kociela delved into the meaning of scholarship, about being involved in extracurricular activities and about the society itself. "Being in the NJHS is a goal of great essence to me."

A pledge

One of the highlights of the program was when all of the inductees stood in unison to recite the National Junior Honor Society pledge with Jakubik: "I pledge myself to uphold the high purpose of the NJHS, to which I have been selected, striving in every way by word and deed, to make its ideals the ideals of my school and of my life."

Then, they were awarded certificates and pins by Koepfen.

Other East students took part in the special night. The seventh- and eighth-grade string ensembles, conducted by Tracy Riggs, performed Bach arrangements at both ends of the program, respectively.

Just before the pledge was recited, music director Preston Brown led the vocal music group Encore in a rendition of *For the Beauty of the Earth*.



Staff Photo by Bill Dresler
Glowing with pride: Michael-Paul Schallmo lights a candle and makes a speech defining citizenship.



Staff Photo by Bill Dresler
Sworn: New inductees into the Junior National Honor Society take their pledges during a ceremony held recently at East Middle School.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

The 2000-2001 East Middle School National Junior Honor Society inductees include the following:

Joseph Albrecht, Brian Blankinship, William Brink, Melissa Butman, Chelsea Carbery, Caitlin Chamberlin, Jenna Charbarneau, Heather Chris-

tensen, Jessica Gregar, Steven Durbin, Amy Gasso, Lauren Givons, Jessica Godfrey, Brad Griffin, Angela Hall, Asia Hassan, Julia Kharmats, Edward Kociela, Gregory Kogowski, Angelien Leigh, Amber Maxwell, Natalie Mokris, Jason Moore, Emily Urban, Brigitte Penderel,

Gautam Reddy, Whitney Roman, Brindar Sandhu, Maya Shwayer, Alexandria Stankovich, Anna-Maria Turae, Jessica Waldecker and Jonathan Williams.

The sponsors are East teachers Beth Jakubik and Maria Koepfen.

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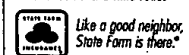
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