

Team of principals ranked All-Stars

Five principals from high schools in the *Observer* area met March 28 at *The Observer* offices in Livonia to select this year's Academic All-Stars.

As before, the 2002 Academic All-Stars were chosen on the basis of their grade point averages in academic subjects and SAT or ACT scores. They distinguished themselves in other ways as well, such as their community and school involvement.

The committee sorted through 47 applications representing public and private high schools in Canton, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Redford and Westland and Wayne. Of these, 18 students were chosen to be Academic All-Stars. The All-Stars, along with the runners-up, are honored in this special section of *The Observer*.

The selection process is rewarding to the panel in a special way.

"I always truly enjoy this because this shows the kind of students we have in the schools," said Rod Hosman of Churchill High School, who chaired the committee. "Truly, truly outstanding."

"It's good to have academics rewarded," said Sister Joan Charnley of Bishop Borgess High School.

"They are well-rounded people," said Patricia Patton of Canton High School. "Sometimes there is stereotyping kids who are academically very strong but you can see they do a lot of things."

"It is interesting to see how well



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGDFELD

By the numbers: Judging this year's Academic All-Stars were, front row, Livonia Churchill Principal Rod Hosman, Bishop Borgess Principal Sister Joan Charnley, back row, Canton Principal Patricia Patton, Livonia Franklin Principal Dan Willenborg and Garden City Principal Jerry Perttunen.

rounded ... how involved (they are)," said Jerry Perttunen of Garden City High School, who was on the committee for the first time.

"The future of our nation is in good hands," said Dan Willenborg of Franklin High School.

Personnel at each of the participat-

ing high schools did the calculations to rank the students, and the panel double-checked the numbers to verify accuracy.

Using grades from "core" classes in math, English, social studies, language and science, a core grade point average was established, then multiplied by 250. The best any student could do was a 4.0 GPA, which translated to a score of 1,000.

Next, a student's SAT score was divided by 1.6, or the student's ACT score was multiplied by 27.778, adding another 1,000 possible points.

The highest possible total score is 2,000. All of this year's winners had total scores of more than 1,900.

This is the 17th anniversary of *The Observer's* Academic All-Stars program. The program started in 1985 when Robert Schramke, the Redford Union High School principal at the time, approached a newspaper executive with the idea of honoring students for academic achievement.

"We believe that honoring these outstanding students is part of our mission as local newspapers," said Hugh Gallagher, managing editor of *The Observer Newspapers*. "These are bright, well-rounded young people who will make fine contributions to our communities in the years to come."

Each All-Star will receive a certificate of recognition and the latest edition of Webster's New World Dictionary.

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The students selected as Academic All-Stars have made the best of our educational system. They have achieved at the highest level and have prospects of advancing in their education in the years ahead.

Educating the young is an important social responsibility about which everyone has an opinion. The following come from a Web site of educational quotes:

"Luck is the tag given by the mediocre to account for the accomplishments of genius."

- Anonymous

"If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail."

- Abraham Maslow

"Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education."

The human mind is our fundamental resource."

- John F. Kennedy

"An educational system isn't worth a great deal if it teaches young people how to make a living but doesn't teach them how to make a life."

- Anonymous

"We cannot learn without pain."

- Aristotle

"Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death."

- Albert Einstein

"He who opens a school door, closes a prison."

- Victor Hugo

"Education is a social process ... Education is growth ... Education is not a preparation for life; Education is life itself."

- John Dewey

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled."

- Plutarch

"Genius is divine perseverance. Genius I cannot claim nor even extra brightness but perseverance all can have."

- Woodrow Wilson

"The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think, than what to think - rather to improve our minds, so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with the thoughts of other men."

- Bill Beattie