

NCSSM moves up to 2A conference

By STEVEN LIAO

NCSSM's sports teams will be competing in the Northern Carolina 2A Conference starting in 2013-2014, moving up from the Carolina 12 1A Conference the school was in last year.

What does this mean for NCSSM's athletic teams and student athletes?

pected increase in competition, this year's conference has seven other teams, as compared to the five other 1A teams in last year's conference.

The other schools in the Northern Carolina 2A Conference this year are Bunn High School, Durham School of the Arts, Franklinton High School, South Granville High

by the school itself. Given the limited number of available opponents within the region, NCSSM will face off with several of last year's opponents again this year, including Raleigh Charter.

Additionally, since last year's conference was a mix of 1A and 2A teams, NCSSM teams have prior experience against 2A competition.

The conference a school competes in is determined by the school's student population size and geographic location.

The largest 25% of schools are given 4A classification, the second largest 25% are given 3A classification, and so on. Within the classifications, schools are then assigned conferences based on geographic location.

The general idea is schools with larger populations tend to have larger talent pools, and thus by dividing schools according to population size, schools will be able to compete against schools with similar talent levels.

Whether this change is for the better or the worse, NCSSM's student athletes are surely prepared to do what they do best: accept the greater challenge.



Courtesy of NCSSM

A 2A Conference is expected to have stronger competition and more scouting opportunities than a 1A Conference.

Certain individual accolades, such as all-conference team, may also be harder to come by. In addition to the ex-

School, Southern Vance High School, Roanoke Rapids High School and Warren County High School.

While NCSSM is playing in a new conference, not everything will be new. Non-conference opponents are set

Events to look forward to

By ANDREW PETERSON

NCSSM is known for its high academic standards, hard working students, qualified teachers, and the unique connections and opportunities it gives every student. There are many events at NCSSM that extend beyond the realm of academics, giving juniors the opportunities to explore Durham and meet their classmates.

1) T-shirt Signing Dance - One of the most highly anticipated events at the beginning of the year, the T-shirt signing dance is the only excuse we have all year to write on someone's clothing and meet someone new. The T-shirt Signing Dance is one of the great icebreakers in the beginning of the year. It is a unique NCSSM experience that everyone enjoys.

2) Ice Cream Social - After struggling to move all of their possessions, Seniors and Juniors look forward to the first social event of the year. The entire student body gathers to share cold and tasty bowls of ice cream while meeting their new classmates. The Ice Cream Social is one of the few events where everyone comes together to eat, laugh, dance, and socialize after Move-In Day.

3) Clubs and Extracurriculars - NCSSM's clubs and extracurricular activities give NCSSM students a much needed break from the academics. Students have the opportunity to explore new and unique opportunities that are only offered at NCSSM. Students can become active through community service, academic competitions, recreational clubs, and sports. NCSSM's clubs and extracurricular activities offers every student the chance to be active in the school, a team, or the community.

4) Spirit Week - Every year, Student Government hosts a week of fun, goofy activities. Students have been known to go all out, sporting some embarrassing outfits throughout the week. From wearing ridiculous hats to being unrecognizable in their new get-ups, students never fail to disappoint to show their school spirit. Among the days of ridiculous dressing, there is the famous "Hawaiian Shirt Day," where every Senior and Junior sets aside a day to "appreciate the other side of the spectrum."

Spirit Week is one of the most memorable events of the year, and it creates some of the most embarrassing photos of your high school experience.

5) Semiformal - One of the most highly anticipated events of the year, Semiformal is the first NCSSM dance any junior will experience. It gives every student the opportunity to dance and celebrate before

welcoming in the New Year. After the elaborate and over the top proposals that range from woven Christmas lights to large banners and body paint, couples gather to hear the famous reading of the Christmas Carol by Dr. Miller.

6) Mr. Uni - Not many schools have the honor of hosting a Male Beauty Pageant. Watching your classmates compete for Mr. Uni and Baby Uni gives every male the opportunity to show their talents while entertaining their fellow Unicorns. After the laughs, tears, and unforgettable moments, the celebrity judges will decide who will be "Mr. Unicorn."

7) Durham - Loops give students a chance to get off campus and explore Durham. They can go to Southpoint for movies and shopping or Brier Creek for restaurants. They can explore 9th street or Downtown Durham. Catch a show or stroll through the historic Tobacco District while munching on M e l l o w Mushroom Pizza. Durham has many excellent restaurants and shopping districts to distract even the most focused student away from their schoolwork.

8) Culture Fests - NCSSM's students hosts some of the most entertaining and unique cultural experiences in the community. Latin America Fest has wonderful dances and costumes from Central America. Asia Fest is one of the largest productions at NCSSM, including fantastic dances, amazing musical performances, and unforgettable experiences. Africa Fest highlights the NCSSM's Culture Fests give the Student Body the chance to explore different cultures and experience learn about their fellow classmates.

9) Sporting Events - Every week, crowds gather to cheer on the Unicorns. Tons of Students come to cheer on our soccer and basketball team. Unique and overzealous cheers can be heard coming from the soccer field during every game as the students cheer on the Unicorns.

10) Classes - Among all of the social events and extracurricular activities, students still face enormous and rewarding academic challenges. NCSSM offers classes that cannot be taken anywhere else. Everyone enjoys the academic opportunities, no matter how frustrating they can be. Classes give us the chance to meet our classmates, learn from teachers, and explore our curiosities. The classes at NCSSM give every student the chance to be great. Enjoy them, explore your passions, and take advantage of this exciting opportunity.

Ask Tori!

Q: I am super excited for the academics, friendships, and life at NCSSM but I am really nervous about living with a roommate; how should I get closer with my roommate and have a successful year living with her?

-Nervous Nellie

A: Dear Nellie, Living at NCSSM away from home is an extremely different experience as we share our living spaces with our hall mates and our rooms with a roommate(s).

Don't worry too much though! Through the roommate survey, roommates are

paired based on lifestyles, interests, habits, and personalities which help with pairing successful roommates. Going into it, don't expect too much from your roommate; your roommate does not have to be your new best friend; she is just someone you must be able to live in harmony with during the school year.

Of course, you and your roommate may click right away and be the best of friends for life. However, start out slowly and get to know their interests and any requests they may have while living together.

From the get-go, establish rules or expectations of each

other to ensure that you guys have clear understanding of each other and learn to communicate.

If you go into learning to live with your roommate with a positive mindset and are willing to work together and communicate, you should have a successful year living with her. Good luck and have fun!-Tori

If you have a question that you think Tori could help you with, please submit it by email to stentorian123@gmail.com. It may appear in a future issue!



NCSSM Bhangra closes out the 2013 AsiaFest with dance.

Photo courtesy of Zihui Yang