

the Stentorian

north carolina school of science and mathematics

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Maius Opus Moveo, y'all

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Class of 2002, welcome back. Class of 2003, take a good look at your home for the next two years. The Stentorian staff hopes that everyone will have a marvelous year and will take full advantage of all that this school offers.

Juniors are probably excited about starting a new school and living away from home. They might be a little nervous, however, about leaving the familiarity of their friends and family. The Stentorian staff and the entire NCSSM community are here to help make the transition as easy as possible. Remember, the seniors were in the exact same position a year ago, and the faculty and staff are used to helping students through the confusion of orientation. To get your year off to a great start, read on to discover all the things you can do at Science and Math.

First of all, the staff has planned lots of fun orientation activities for the first few days. Tonight there is a community picnic followed by an ice-cream social and dance. These provide lots of opportunities to make new friends, so be sure to talk to everyone you see. Sunday night, after the seniors have moved in, there is a drama presentation in the Assembly Hall that is well worth going to.

There is a movie night scheduled for Monday and we've heard that the movie is a very popular one. Finally, on Tuesday night there is a Tee-Shirt Signing Dance that the whole school is invited to. This is one of NCSSM's wonderful traditions and provides good practice for signing yearbooks at the end of the year. It's also a great way to learn people's names. Don't be afraid to sign and get signed by people that you just met—that's the whole

point. Classes start on Wednesday, and suddenly you'll feel like summer camp is over...but don't worry. There are always lots of activities to go to, even when Orientation is over.

One of the year-round activities on campus is I-vis, short for intervisitation. Each hall can have I-vis twice a month and open their hall to any visitors for a few hours on the weekend. I-vis is the time to hang out with your friends of the opposite gender in their rooms and is a chance to meet

people you do not have classes with.

During your first few days here, there will be a Club Fair where you can sign up for any and all clubs that you're interested in participating in, like ACC, Mafia, SGA, Ultimate

Math.

Fall sports are yet another way to meet others and get involved. Despite not having a football team, NCSSM does well in other autumn sports like women's tennis, women's volleyball, men's soccer, and men's

and women's cross-country. For tryouts schedules, see Eileen Witt, Brian Gonyeau, or any of the coaches. Talk to seniors to get a realistic estimate of the time commitment that each of these teams requires. If

your parents) understand that the transition between your home school and here can be difficult at first. Eventually, you will figure out how to get everything done and still have time for your non-academic activities and friends. You are forced to manage your time, and sooner or later everyone devises a system that works for him or her. One of the best things you can do to help your grades and your understanding of your courses is going to tutorials. Almost every department offers evening tutorials with both teachers and students available to answer your questions and help with your homework. Going to tutorials will help you immensely, and your teachers will be impressed with your dedication. If you concentrate on your schoolwork and learn how to balance your activities you will quickly acclimate to NCSSM.

This is just an introduction to your new life, but you will learn much more from your hallmates, friends, classmates, teachers, SLIs, and counselors. We seniors can be overbearing, but most of us have your best interests in mind and are simply trying to be helpful, so listen to us. One last piece of wisdom: There are three aspects to life at Science and Math, and they are school, sleep, and social life. You can choose two. As with all else, the choice is yours.



The entrance to Waits

Kitty Fromson

Frisbee, Outdoors Club, Key Club, Spanish Club, SEA, and of course, the Stentorian. Representatives from every club on campus (and there are a lot) will set up booths, answer questions, and get your name on their mailing list. Some people are active in about ten different organizations; some concentrate on just a few. Either way, you will find groups of people who are interested in the same things you are and these people will be your friends for your entire career at Science and

you're just interested in cheering from the sidelines, there's a place for you, too. Getting wild at games is a time-honored NCSSM tradition.

We have another suggestion for you, too. It's a good idea to remember what the first S in NCSSM is for: school. Science and Math is a lot of fun, but forgetting that you're here for education is not a good idea. Most people's first quarter grades are a bit lower than they're used to, but this isn't the end of the world. Teachers (and

Stem Cell Controversy Pits Science Against Politics

ALEC GIBSON

Perhaps no policy issue has been more talked about among Washington politicians this summer than embryonic stem cell research. Scientists have lauded the potential medical benefits of such experimentation since its advent in November 1998, when researchers announced that they had successfully cultured embryonic stem cells. It was not until this summer, however, that the controversy surrounding embryonic stem cell research, which involves the destruction of days-old embryos in order to collect the cells, has exploded onto Capitol Hill and the news media. Now, politicians are grappling with a debate that delves into previously unexplored ethical questions.

As far as scientists are

concerned, it all began in November 1998 when a team of researchers from the University of Wisconsin led by James Thompson and another team of researchers led by John Gearhart of Johns Hopkins independently announced that they had successfully cultured human embryonic stem cells. Pluripotent stem cells, such as those found in embryos, are named for their potential to differentiate into any of the body's 220 cell types. Not only had the scientists cultured the cells, but they had stopped them from differentiating. These cultured stem cells could then be readily inserted into a variety of tissue types, where they receive developmental cues from their surroundings and develop into the appropriate tissue type. Currently, the Geron Corporation, a biopharmaceutical company

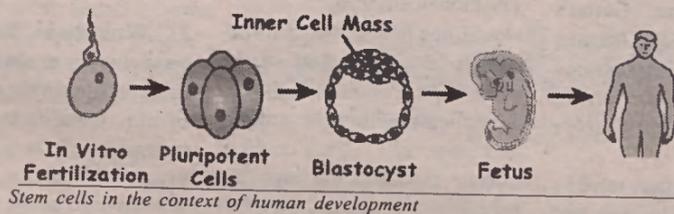
that helps fund Gearhart's work, has generated roughly half of the body's cell types using embryonic stem cells.

In mice, the tissue regeneration made possible by embryonic stem cells has repaired brains that have suffered from strokes, and the rodent equivalents of Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Scientists hope that this kind of tissue regeneration will one day offer cures for the human versions of these diseases, as well as repair cardiac tissue damaged after heart attacks and replace cells that are damaged or missing in diabetes patients. The

source of the cells are left over embryos from in vitro fertilization clinics. These embryos

same purposes as embryonic ones.

Because the process of procuring stem cells from four-day-old embryos ends that embryo's potential for developing into a human being, the re-



would be discarded were it not for the research.

Stem cells can also be found in adult tissue, though in much smaller concentrations (one in a few thousand cells). They too can be isolated by positively identifying the molecules specific to their surface. The normal function of adult stem cells is to regenerate existing cells within the body, but scientists are attempting to adapt adult stem cells for the

search raises serious ethical questions, forcing lawmakers to draw the line as to exactly when life begins. Some opponents consider the destruction of human embryos equivalent to the destruction of human life. Many opponents of embryonic stem cell research advocate the use of stem cells found in adults. They insist that researchers who use embryonic stem cells should simply use adult stem cells and

SEE "STEM CELLS" PAGE 2