2009

2009 We are '09

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We are '09

Northern University High School
Price Lab & NU High

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In Memory of
Devon Ray Turner
1990-2009

We will remember you...

Price Laboratory School
Northern University
High School

Friends &
Family
Senior Tally
Predicted by the Class of 2009...

Nicole Lopez Perez
Best Hair

Michael
Most likely to wear his letter jacket after high school

Vijay
Most likely to take over the world

Lisa
Most likely to appear on America's Most Wanted as an innocent bystander

Calvin
Best smile

Devon
Class clown

Megan Hardy
Most likely to cure AIDS

Marissa
Most likely to become a teacher at NU High/Price Lab School

Libby
Most likely to have High School Musical on their iPod

Leandra
Best personality

Elizabeth & Will
Best couple

Erik
Most likely to publish a book

Brad
Most likely to become Sports Illustrated Athlete of the Year

Catherine
Most outgoing
Margot - Most likely to travel the world

Kendall and Ashleigh - Most artistic

Paul - Most likely to win a million dollars on Jeopardy

Elena - Most musical

Thomas - Most school spirit

Erica and Megan - Most changed over the years

Boyle - Most likely to be a contestant on American Idol

Wrenna - Best Eyes

Jordan & Brad - Most athletic

Deana - Most likely to surprise everyone at the class reunion

Deshaun - Best Laugh

Kendall - Best dressed

Ryan & Nate - Best sense of humor

Jared - Most likely to write lyrics at 2:00 am
"We are '09."


Marissa Baskerville

Favorite Memory: State basketball and this year in physics with Ms. Couch.

Future Plans: Attend UNI and major in Elementary Education.

Erik Basom

Favorite Memory: Taking philosophy through dual enrollment at UNI.

Plans: Attend UNI to major in Philosophy and Religion.

Deana Brown

Favorite Memory: Freshman year playing in the pit orchestra for "Singing in the Rain."

Future Plans: Take a year off and then go to school.

Deshaun Bullock

Favorite Memory: The overflowing hot tub in Iowa City.

Future Plans: Attend a community college and then transfer to UNI or U of I.
Bailey Carlisle

Favorite Memory: Going to Chile!

Future Plans: Attend UNI to study Exercise Science or Chemistry.

Erica Cornett

Favorite Memory: My favorite memory at NU High would have to be junior prom. Not only was it my last time at prom, but it was also my first. It was one of the many memories at NU High, so it's hard to really choose a favorite. ~ It's not the days in your life you'll remember, it's the memories. - Author Unknown

Plans: Attend Valencia CC for two years, and then transfer to UCF to major in nursing and minor in photography.

Thomas Creeden

Favorite Memory: Winning state golf and going to state basketball.

Plans: Attend UNI.

Brad Denning

Favorite Memory: Winning state basketball junior year.

Plans: Attend NIACC and then U of I.
Michael Fremont

Favorite Memory: Being a part of NUHS Theatre.

Plans: Military Basic Training, then attend UNI.

Lisa Gansen

Favorite Memories: The trip to Chile and getting to know everyone that went on the trip. Cheerleading all four years and watching the squad grow.

Plans: Attend Wartburg to major in physical therapy or research.

Leandra Gute

Favorite Memory: The Theatre - being in it and working with everyone.

Plans: Attend UNI and major in Education.

Megan Hardy

Favorite Memory: Play On! We had the best cast, I loved every rehearsal.

Plans: Attend Oberlin College for Neurology and Theatre.
Megan Hills
Favorite Memory: Junior year prom.

Vijay Iyengar
Favorite Memory: Math class with Mr. Maltas.
Plans: Attend ISU and major in Engineering.

Elizabeth Hoffman
Favorite Memory: Being involved in different activities; theatre, band/state jazz, prom, and soccer. Many great things and people that I will have forever have come from these experiences.
Plans: Attend UNI

Kendall Jackson
Favorite Memory: Going to state and winning.
Plans: Attend Kirkwood and then U of I.
Ashleigh Jensen

Favorite Memory: Theatre and cheerleading.

Plans: Attend UNI and major in Graphic Design.

Nicole Lopez

Favorite Memory: Going to Chile with my classmates.

Plans: Attend University of Iowa and major in Biology. Go into Pre-Med.

Jordan Lankford

Favorite Memory: State basketball 2009.

Jared Luchtenburg

Favorite Memory: Trip to Iowa City freshman year.

Plans: Move to Iowa City and attend U of I.
William Maletta

Favorite Memory: Starting in the substate final game for boys soccer.

Plans: Attend UNI and major in Business Law and play on the UNI Mens’ Soccer Team.

Paul Mauer

Favorite Memory: Playing "Nick Ranelli" in "Murder is a Game."

Plans: Attend UNI and major in GIS.

Elizabeth Schultz

Favorite Memory: Freshman year hosting my French exchange student and hanging out with Brittan, Jenny, and the other hosts.

Plans: Attend Loras and major in Marketing with a minor in Biology and Irish Studies.

Ryan Scoular

Favorite Memory: Going to state basketball and playing club soccer.

Plans: Attend Hawkeye then UNI to major in Business.
Calvin Siebel
Favorite Memory: State basketball.
Plans: Attend Hawkeye or NIACC, maybe play baseball.

Elena Tallakson
Favorite Memory: Trip to Chile.
Plans: Attend U of I to study dance.

Nathan Smith
Favorite Memory: State Basketball.
Plans: Attend Wartburg and play tennis.

Catherine Stone
Favorite Memory: Trip to Chile, state basketball, and senior prom.
Plans: Attend UNI.
Margot Taylor

Favorite Memory: Being part of speech and going to All-State and NU Theatre. Going to Chile my junior year.

Wrenna Walsh

Favorite Memory: Cheer with Coach B, Chile trip, and getting an amazing amount of parking tickets.

Plans: Attend Purdue and major in Genetics.

Devon Turner

Favorite Memory: When we were underclassmen and life was simple.

Plans: Attend California Fire Academy (Train to Hire)
Senior year is the defining year in every young adult's life. It's their last year of high school and the year most students turn 18 years old. It's the switch from high school to college, the chance to gain true freedom and become independent, and the last year to spend time with the friends and classmates that they have had since elementary school. That is why you will see this year's seniors making sure they are remembered forever. ~ William Maletta
Class Officers: President - Marissa Baskerville
Vice President - Vijay Iyengar
Secretary - Libby Schultz
Student Representatives - Megan Hardy & Ashleigh Jensen
French IV
Advanced French class for junior and senior students.
Taught by:
Dr. Zwanziger

Highlights...
Ambition Excellence Achievement

This year has been filled with many great events. From sports, theatre, speech, musical groups, to everything else, we have been very involved in making memories that will always remind us of our high school years. Volleyball, cross country and football all had great seasons, and the girls basketball team had one of their best seasons ever. Boys basketball made it back to the state championship round again. There were two great plays: I'll Leave it to You and Murder is a Game, starring both new and veteran faces. The speech team made it to state and the jazz band went back to state for the second year in a row. 2009 was a great year we will all remember.

~ Elizabeth Hoffman

The senior presentation is required of all seniors. The requirements for this presentation are met through the PLS Advisory Program. The purpose of this requirement is to support students in the transition process from high school to postsecondary options. Students develop a portfolio which provides student achievement data for the five PLS student learning goals. It also incorporates individual short and long term career goals and a personal action plan for achieving these goals.
The 2008-09 year set a precedent for Physics - 90% of our graduating class took at least one semester, with 80% taking a full year! (Of course, the students probably signed up because they heard that fall semester is all about Excel!) And they did excel in more ways than one. They learned what it's like to use the data collection probes and software, and how to get up close and personal with 'Elmo.' If anyone has a flat tire, the Physics class of 2009 will know how to change it! Thanks for a great year!

~ Ms. Couch (rhymes with 'grouch'). And as a side note, for a small graduating class, the class of 2009 had a record number of students take a full year of Anatomy & Physiology!! Way to go!
Pre-School through 8th Grade Classes

Guidelines for Success

Give Me "5" at PLS!

Respect
Learning
Responsibility
Attitude
Integrity/Honesty
This yearbook page has been removed because it contains individual photos with corresponding names of former Malcolm Price Laboratory School students who, as of this date, may still be legal minors under the age of 18.

This page will be added in the future at an appropriate date.
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This page will be added in the future at an appropriate date.
Sixth Grade

Ali Al-Mabruk
Cece Hawbaker
Justine Henck
Darrell Jackson
AJ Jones
Meta LeCompte
Emma Lewis
Olivia Lewis

Daniel McVicker
Simi Mitra
Josh Peterson
Natalie Peterson
Nick Peterson
Trevor Smith

Seventh Grade

Annamarie Backstrom
Aja Baskerville
Christian Burt
Rowen Conry
Nick Crow
Colt Dayton
Srinidhi Dhanwada
Hanna Dietz

Sami Dye
Amelia Eastman
Lauren Eastman
Austin Fuller
Alissa Geving
Hanna Gibson
Cile Gilbert
Darian Goecke

Elizabeth Hansen
Eric Henderson
Michael Hockey
Spenser Printy
Alex Prophet
Danielle Snowden-Jacoby
Tre Thomas
Emily Trautmann

Kyle Wiebers
Jonathan Wood
Morgan Williamson

Not pictured:
Rachel Clark
Eighth Grade

Cody Brown
Brandon Corkery
Margaret Creeden
Jocelyn Durman-Welch
Amber Fuller
Riley Garcia
Emily Hall
Dominique Harrington
HaLanier Holmes
Linne Hoofnagle
Tristan Holt
Damian Hundley
Kasey Jackson
Kiley Lukensmeyer
Jamal Mermella
Kory Miller
Damien Mohorne
Maranda Moyer

Evan Rector
Anna Smith
Samira Robinson-Thomas
Josh Thompson
Mitchell Van Arsdale
Shirann Vaughn
Ken Yoshizawa
Atif Zaman
High School
More than just a high school!

“NU High is the experience of a life time.”
Alexandra Joy Thompson
Class of 2012
Loud and Proud

Chanae Adams
Thomas Amlie
Jesse Bankston
Jordan Bankston
Jaren Bergman
Judy Bleile

Brandy Butler
Palden Choekyong
Darrell Coleman
Brandon Culmore
Patrick Douglas
Lauren Forsberg

Megan Grey
Brianna Gute
Marsha Hill
Eric Hines
James Krogh
Nathan LeCompte

Christine McKenna
Adam Milambiling
Allison Moyer
Colton Questra
Troy Scoular
Caroline Sell

Alex Stanley
Alexandra Thompson
Megan Williamson
Bryce Wolf
Jake Wumkes
Not pictured:
Sigrid Walter

"The best thing about my freshman year was being able to cheer at state."  ~ Alex Thompson

"My freshman year has given me a chance to be with a new group of people."  ~ Darrell Coleman

"Changing schools to NU High has allowed me to learn new things."  ~ Brandy Butler
The 9th graders working hard in class.

"Those who get lost in school will never find their way through life." ~ Patrick Douglas

"It's been a little different than middle school, but a good different ... just a little harder." ~ Allison Moyer
Freshman just hanging out...
"My overall objective of the Earth Science class is to help students gain an appreciation for the earth as a whole, and improve their understanding of how the earth's many systems function to give us the planet we live on today. I strive to make all the concepts easy to grasp and enjoyable to study."

~ Aaron Spurr

"Earth Science is taught by Mr. Spurr. The units we have studied this year include rocks & minerals, the view from the earth, weathering & soil formation, topographic maps, the solar system, plate tectonics, erosion & deposition, weather, geologic history, and stars."
There are many classes that 9th graders go to daily, where they learn, have fun, and do what they do. Here are five examples:

U.S History
Mr. Troyer is the U.S history teacher. We've learned how Columbus accidentally discovered America, and about The Civil War.

Language Arts
Ms. Koch is the Language Arts teacher. We've covered the election, watched Hidden Dragon Crouching Tiger, and read Romeo and Juliet.

Math
Mr. Wilkinson is the Math teacher. We've covered math problems such as graphs, equations, and much much more.

P.E
Mr. Elser teaches P.E. class. Our units have covered Soccer, LaCrosse, Volleyball, and we learned the famous Capture the Chicken.

Yearbook
Mrs. Dykstra is the teacher of this class, and the one who made this yearbook possible. We learned how to edit photos and these pages.
Mason Walsh  Jenn Weaver  Joe Weber  Raquel Williams  Stephan Yoshizawa

Nikolaus McCallum  Kendall McDonald  Taryn Moyer  Terry Nielsen  Heather Oelmann

Megan Patnode  Alex Pirce  Alex Prinsen  Sarah Prophet  Alex Quinones

Devon Shaver  Andrew Stone  Ana Tallakson  Jordan Thomas  Wendell Tsai

Mason Walsh  Jenn Weaver  Joe Weber  Raquel Williams  Stephan Yoshizawa

Our Advisors... Totally Acclats Yours!
Sophomore Class 2009

"The sophomore class accomplished a lot this year, whether it was in sports, music, theater or academics. Because we have the biggest class at NU, our student body is really diverse which allows us to learn a lot about each other. As our high school career continue, you can expect to see a lot from the Class of 2011!" ~ Jyothi Dhanwada, Class President

1. Top left - Members of the Cyber Defense team giving a thumbs up.
2. Top right - Mr. Weber's Social Studies class working in the 250 Lab.
3. Lower left - Sarah, Raquel and Christian posing for a yearbook photo.
4. Lower right - Sophomores performing a dance in P.E.
"My first year at NU High was new and interesting because I had more freedom here."

~ Wendell Tsai
American Literature
Researching in Mrs. Jorgensen's class

One of the favorite quotes of the sophomore class after studying Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Self-Reliance" was the line, "To be great is to be misunderstood." This quote, which was perplexing to some and inspirational to others, could serve as an excellent slogan for the six-week author study/research paper unit in Mrs. Jorgensen's American Literature Class.

During the final six weeks of the fall semester, 52 sophomore students worked "tirelessly" on an American author study/research paper. They had the task of choosing an influential American writer, studying their life and works, and ultimately writing a 5-7 page MLA research paper that explored the writer's style, perspective, influence, or historical context. In their attempts to answer the question, "What makes my author so great?" they often fell subject to utter misunderstanding and sheer frustration!

Each student was required to read a full length work by their author, use primary sources to support their thesis statements, while filtering in their own analysis and interpretation of important aspects of the writer's life and/or work. They learned how to construct an outline, parenthetical citations, a works cited page, and ended the unit with writing verse portraits of their author (their author's life told through poetry).

By reading about an author's life, delving into one of their famous books, and writing a research paper, the students became experts on their authors and came to the conclusion that "A man's greatness lies in the power of thought."

Junior Class 2009

"This junior class is historic. We are quite possibly the greatest class to ever grace these halls with our presence."

~ Eddie Diemer
We do what we do.
-Rameses Smith
"Junior year was fun."
~ James Kapanka

"Junior year was the year that we really came together as a class to get ready for our senior year."
~ Meagan Schneider

Class of 2010
Small, but mighty.

~ Rhyanne Abernathy-Manning
"Students learn about ecology from populations to ecosystems, energy conversions in living systems, cell structure and function, reproduction from cells to humans, DNA to proteins, genetics, diseases and immunity, and evolution." ~ Mrs. Walter

The purpose of studying biology is to give students a rich set of experiences that will guide them to a deepened understanding of living systems and help them to develop their scientific reasoning abilities. This understanding will carry over into critical analysis and creative problem-solving related to current and future issues.

I am consistently impressed with the students’ enthusiasm and willingness to try a variety of activities. Some of the activities they have been asked to do, such as carrying out their own biological research projects from the design to the analysis stage, have been closer to a college than a typical high school level. These students rose to the challenge, even in the face of frustrations, such as having their experiment mowed over by the landscaping crew!

One of my favorite things is when individual students bring in observations from their personal lives that connect to what we are learning in class. For example, some of the students are fans of the TV show, House MD, and have recommended episodes that link to our biology curriculum. I think that it's making these kinds of personal connections that leads to long-lasting learning.

We are biological beings, and so it is important to understand how we interact with other living things, from the beneficial bacteria in our intestines to the plants and animals we consume and the millions of species with which we share the planet. ~ Mrs. Walter, Biology Instructor

Eddie Dieiner and Cara Harrington conducting an experiment in biology class.

Mrs. Walter did a really good job teaching biology. She tried very hard to see that we understood what she was doing and she was always willing to help. ~ Murja
Going to state basketball for the second year in a row made the year.

~ Jalen Bergman

Mrs. Walter is a really great biology teacher. I learned a lot this year.

~ Emmett Fritz
Junior year has probably been the hardest year academically, but it really helped me get ready for college.

~ Haley Burbridge

"It has been interesting taking college classes and seeing how they are different from high school."

~ Ridwana Zaman
"Yearbook was fun. It helped me with photography, which I would like to do more of in the future."

~ Jamil Forehand
2008-09

Jim Malts
Kim Miller
Curt Nielsen
Joe Smeins
Dave Smith
Lori Smith
Aaron Spurr

Jim Stichter
Mary Stichter
Jody Stone
Clare Struck
Michelle Swanson
Jolene Tagtow
Denise Tallakson

Mary Tiffany
Michael Troyer
Rick Vanderwall
Bridgette Wagoner
Laura Walter
Lee Weber
Lou Weber

Josh Wilkinson
Nicole Wilkinson

Not Pictured:
Rick Knivsland
Shelley McCumber
Elizabeth Zwanziger

Tulalip Tech Instruction

[Images of people and activities]
Chile


"It was a great opportunity! We were able to experience a lot of cool things and met many great people. Now I will always have friends and family in Chile." ~ Cara Harrington

"The thing I enjoyed the most was going to the beach and surfing." ~ Emmett Fritz

"Chillin' in Chile." ~ Spencer Jensen

"Getting to know my host sister was definitely the best part of my trip. I formed such a unique friendship in just two weeks!" ~ Haley Burbridge

"Hanging out all night and going to the beach to surf was the best part." ~ Jesse Lankford

The best part about going to Chile was meeting all the people and making a lot of new friends." ~ James Kapanka

"It was a sweet trip down there with once in a lifetime experiences with great friends." ~ Keith Hanson

"Chile was a great time. We had a lot of fun and learned a lot. My favorite part of Chile was my host family and hanging out with everyone at the centro." ~ Eddie Diemer
Large Group

District Competitors

- In Shadow’s Storm
  Jyothi Dhanwada, Sarah Dietz, Alyssa Kilbourn, Christine McKenna, Jordan Thomas.
- Blood Reversal
  Jesse Bankston, Jordan Bankston, Megan Grey, Colton Questra.

State Competitors

- Rupert and the Seven Email Brides
  Mason Walsh, Sarah Prophet.
- Improv Group Button
  Kyle Basom, Alec Calhoun, Kieran Cowden, Tad Klenske, Mason Walsh.
- Dig That Crazy Beat
  Kyle Basom, Alec Calhoun, Sarah Dietz, Joni Griffith, Leandra Gute, Rachel Hanson, Megan Hardy, Alyssa Kilbourn, Tad Klenske, Margot Taylor, Jordan Thomas.

All-State Nominations

- Improv Group Zipper
  Joni Griffith, Rachel Hanson, Sarah Prophet, Raquel Williams.

Individual

District Competitors

Reviewing
- Megan Grey
Storytelling
- Alyssa Kilbourn
Literary Program
- Alex Prinsen
Poetry/Prose
- Sarah Prophet

State Competitors

Literary Program
- Judy Bleile, Megan Hardy
Acting
- Jyothi Dhanwada, Sarah Dietz, Leandra Gute, Rachel Hanson
Poetry/Prose
- Sarah Dietz, Megan Grey, Alyssa Kilbourn, Jordan Thomas

Radio News
- Jyothi Dhanwada
Storytelling
- Caroline Sell
After-Dinner Speaking
- Jordan Thomas

All-State Nominations

Improv
- Rachel Hanson
Membership in the Alpha Chapter of the National Honor Society is earned through demonstration of the four ideals held in high esteem by the society: Character, Leadership, Service & Scholarship.

NU Student Council 08-09

Members:
Josh Eisen, Will Rector, Jyothi Dhanwada, Libby Schultz, Terry Nielson, Eddie Diemer, Marissa Baskerville, Ashleigh Jensen, Megan Hardy, Haley Burbridge, Cara Harrington, Ana Tallakson, Jordan Bankston, Christine McKenna, Caroline Sell, Jaren Bergman.

Student Council Projects:
Candle Fundraiser
Elementary "Can-do" Kick-off and Pizza Party
Middle School Movie Night
3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
High School Dance
YEARBOOK CLASS 2009

Building memories one pixel at a time.


NU High students posing with the UNI Panther while doing concessions for the yearbook at the Mcleod Center.
Jordan Thomas and Jenn Weaver working on the design of their yearbook pages.

Taylor Bond and Deshaun Bullock collaborating on the design of the 2009 Senior Tally Page.

Yearbook students returning to school after doing face-to-face advertising sales in the community.

Staff Responsibilities

In yearbook class, students are responsible for the design, production and marketing of the school's annual publication. They are involved with planning, page design, photography, writing and editing copy, and fundraising and advertising.

photography

Using digital cameras and photo-editing software to capture and document academics, sports and activities is one of the primary responsibilities of the yearbook staff.

layout & design

Becoming familiar with the principles and elements of design establishes the foundation for creating professional page layouts for the yearbook.

journalism

Interviewing students and faculty, writing articles and captions, getting quotes and coming up with interesting titles and subtitles are all significant aspects of creating a memorable yearbook.

sales & fundraising

Learning how to sell advertising and get the positive message out to the business community is important in acquiring supportive sponsors for the yearbook.
Front Row (l-r): Megan Grey, Caroline Sell, Deana Brown, Raquel Williams, Joni Griffith, Jyothi Dhanwada, and Mrs. Mary Grey.
Back Row (l-r): Josh Eisen, Alex Quinones, Jared Luchtenburg, Paul Mauer, Adam Milambiling, Megan Hardy, and Alyssa Kilbourn.
"I'll leave it to you."

NU High Fall Play
"I'll Leave it to You."

As his family surrounds him, open-mouthed with the shock, Daniel Davis (Kyle Basom), grins sheepishly and spreads his arms out wide. "I'll leave it to you."

And so ends the first act of NU High's fall play, "I'll Leave It to You", a light comedy about a British family who must deal with the fact that they have no money. When the ever-spacey Mrs. Dermott (Megan Hardy) reveals to her five children that they are literally penniless, the Dermott family is shocked. What ever will they do? Will they have to give up the house? Whatever may happen, the Dermott family is in for a wild ride. Oliver (Paul Mauer) gets promoted to assistant manager of the motorworks, Sylvia (Jordan Thomas) is on the rise to becoming a famous movie star, Evangeline (Alyssa Kilbourn) publishes a novel, and Bobby (Tad Klenske) writes many popular songs, as well as finds a romantic interest in girl-down-the-street Faith Crombie (Winky Boody), daughter of the snooty and wealthy Mrs. Crombie (Leandra Gute). And then there's little Joyce (Sarah Dietz), the youngest of the bunch, who puts herself to work and wins the prizes at school. Even the family's butler Griggs (Colton Questra) is along for the journey, popping in and off the scene bearing telegrams and letters. And when Uncle Daniel Davis returns onto the scene, the result is laugh-out-loud comedy full of mishaps and misunderstandings.

Throughout the production, our NU cast had a whirlwind of experiences. From eating Chinese food while costume shopping to writing novels backstage, to constructing sets and tearing them down, from fresh new faces to old familiar ones, and from jumpsuits to emerald green tea dresses, "I'll Leave It to You" was quite the show both on and off the stage. And with our final performances under the bright lights we call the NU stage, I know for a fact that we shone like the stars we are.

And as for my fellow cast members, I have one thing to say: 1, 2, 3, PWN! *arm motion*

~ Jordan Thomas
Dear Reader,
You have officially been invited to a weekend of murder...

"Murder is a Game"
Spring Play
Whodunit?

Murder is a Game sounds like a good book title; but what if this time, the book isn't fiction, and the game is real? In NU's spring play, "Murder is a Game," a simple case of writer's block leads to a serious case of "whodunit."

Was it the author team Sloan and Toby Bigelow (Joni Griffith and Tad Klenske)? Or was it their devious book publisher, Lois Dunston (Jordan Thomas)? Or perhaps it was the doctor, Stephen Leech (Kyle Basom)? Maybe it was even his wife, the snooty Cora Leech (Margot Taylor). Surely it was Nick Ranelli (Paul Mauer), the gangster of the party. But what about that ditzy actress, June Ripley (Megan Hardy)? And of course, we can’t forget about exotic dancer BB Mink (Jyothi Dhanwada). In a house full of people playing games, can the game of murder be stopped before it's too late?
Mr. Brown is a great teacher and makes Band feel like a real class. - Jesse Bankston

NUHS Concert Band
Oboe: Sarah Prophet, Wrenna Wathen
Clarinet: Kyle Basom, Savannah Campbell, Brittney Culmore, Nicole Curran, Kendall McDonald.
Bass Clarinet: Will Rector
Saxophone: Terry Nielsen, Catherine Stone, Ta'mone Williams, Bailey Carlisle, Jawanza Holmes, Tad Klenkske.
Trumpet: Brandon Culmore, Michael Fremont, Joni Griffith, Jesse Lankford, Christine McKenna, Colton Questra, Andrew Stone.
F. Horn: Jesse Bankston, Alex Stanley.
Tuba: Doug Curran, Alex Prinsen, Peighton MacLeod.
Trombone: Jaien Bergman, Judy Bleihe, Nik McCallum, Ana Talleksen
Percussion: Alec Calhoun, Palden Choekyong, Thomas Creeden, Dominique Fagan, Elizabeth Schu
"It doesn't matter to me if you make mistakes, as long as you play loud!"

Mr. Kevin Brown

"The NUHS Jazz Panthers had another successful and exciting year. The high school jazz band was again crowned district champions and captured first place at the Tallcorn Jazz Festival held at UNI. The year was highlighted by placing 4th at the Iowa Jazz State Championships! Both the junior high and high school groups worked hard and had a GREAT time making superb music. ~ Mr. Brown"
High School Sports
Let The Sports Begin!

"Best experience of my life"
Jesse Bankston

"Train hard, work harder, play even harder."
Darrell Coleman
Football Honors

Brad Denning: 2nd Team All-State Des Moines Register-WR, 2nd Team All-State INA News-WR, Iowa Preps Top 20 WR in the Class of 2009, District #3 Offensive MVP, 1st Team All-District-WR, and 1st Team All-Metro-WR

Johnny Hines: 1st Team All-District-LB, 1st Team All-Metro-LB, 3rd Team All-State INA News-TE. Top 20 LB in the Class of 2010,

Ta’homme Williams: 1st Team All-District-Back and 1st Team All-Metro-Back

Andrew Stone: 1st Team All-District-WR, Iowa Preps 1st Team All-State Sophomore Team. Top 10 WR in the Class of 2011, and Honorable Mention All-Metro-WR

Thomas Creeden: 1st Team All-District-QB and 1st Team All-Metro-QB

Jawanza Holmes: 2nd Team All-District-Offensive Line and 1st Team All-Metro-DL

Kyle Denning: 2nd Team All-District-QB

Joe Weber: 2nd Team All-District-Defensive Line and All-Metro Honorable Mention-DL

Devon Turner: 1st Team All-Metro-OL

Jimmy McClain: Honorable Mention All-District and All-Metro LB-AJ Jones: Honorable Mention All-District and All-Metro-LB

DeShaun Bullock: Honorable Mention All-Metro-DL

Alex Quinones: Honorable Mention All-Metro-TB

Homecoming Court: Ellie Tallakson, Ashleigh Jensen, Megan Hills, Bailey Carlisle, Queen Catherine Stone, King Thomas Creedem, Kendall Jackson, Jordan Lankford, Nate Smith, Devon Turner.

(Homecoming)

Homecoming Queen and King
Catherine Stone and Thomas Creedem
Bailey Carlisle, Ashleigh Jensen, Ellie Tallakson, Megan Hills, Queen Catherine Stone, Devon Turner, Kendall Jackson, Nate Smith, Jordan Lankford, & King Thomas Creeden make up 2008's Homecoming Court.
"Let's go Panthers!" rings out the calls and cheers of the NU cheerleaders, calling their football players on to victory. "Let's go!"

Today is September 26th, 2008, and right now, the NU Panthers are crushing the AGWSR Cougars. All week, the halls have been crowded with superheroes clad in tights, '80s scenes and prom queens, the many colors of the rainbow (including the infamous plaid), sleepy-head students wearing comfortable pajamas, and, of course, the respected colors of black and orange have abounded. Talent has been showcased, and royalty has been established. This is Homecoming 2008.

And as this final defining moment ensues, as the Panthers crush the Cougars, Homecoming 2008 rolls to a close, with a final shout-out loud: "GO PANTHERS!"
Senior Leaders of Cheer:


Sophomore Leaders of Cheer:

"My first year as football cheer coach was a great time and allowed me to work with several great young ladies! It was a great season. I'm very thankful for all their help and effort!"

~ Mr. Brown
Our theme for the year was “It’s the little things,” and it truly was. We worked hard all year to make the little things count. We are improving each year as a team, as individual players, and as teammates. Our record improved, our passing improved, our blocking improved, and with hard work in the off season, we will be a force to reckon with next year. We had a great group of five seniors that will be truly missed next year and a big thanks to them for their leadership and effort. It was certainly appreciated. GO PANTHERS!

~ Coach Bear
Boys Cross Country

Honors: Terry Nielsen: All Metro Team Boys, NICL Conference Team, State

About the Season

The girls and boys teams both had very successful seasons this year. With low numbers on both sides, we were still able to compete in the top half of most meets. We worked hard every day in practice and in meets. Many positives came out of the season, including 1) Christine McKenna taking 1st at Metro and Joni Griffith placing 6th, Terry Nielsen placing 7th at Metro and 4th at the NICL Meet. At districts, both teams raced tough: Christine got 5th and Joni got 16th. Terry also had a strong showing as he placed 6th at districts. Christine and Terry both qualified for the State Cross Country Meet. All team members improved a lot throughout the whole season and ran their season's best times toward the end of the season.

~ Coach Will Reingardt

Back Row: Keith Hanson, Vijay Iyengar, Coach Will Reingardt.

Terry Nielsen

"Cross country was fun and it was great to be able to go to state."

~ Coach Will Reingardt
Girls Cross Country

All Metro Team Girls: Christine McKenna, and Joni Griffith.
NICL Conference Team: Christine McKenna. State: Christine McKenna 24th place.


Christine McKenna

"Cross country was really fun and we all improved so much."
I think what was special about this team was that they were unselfish and committed to the team from the beginning to the end of the season. It was a special season in the fact that we were able to go back to the State Tournament and defend our Championship from last year. Although we were runners up, I was very proud of how we competed. A few of our key wins were against East High in our first game of the season. It’s not very often that a 1A school beats a 4A school in any sport. We also avenged our first loss to Union with a convincing win at the US Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids. I also thought on, our best games and wins of the season was our first 1-0 victory in the state tournament against undefeated and number one seed Adair Casey. Lastly, I would like to thank the seniors for all their hard work over the past four years and wish them the best in whatever they pursue.

- Coach Elser
"We lost a lot of players from last year but were still able to make it back to our second consecutive state championship game. We came up a little short of our ultimate goal, but still had a great season. We are really looking forward to next year!"

~ Eddie Diemer
"Our family was the key to our success!"

~ Maddie Backstrom

“This year had some ups and downs for our basketball team, but we found ourselves in a lot of games and took many of them right down to the wire, regardless of the opponent. It was a very promising season in that we will bring back eight of the top nine players from this year back to next year’s team.

The girls worked very hard throughout the year and truly became a family by seasons end. We will also miss Bailey Carlisle, our lone senior, next year. Her leadership and character helped us so much this year and we want to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the panther basketball family."

~ Coach Struck
Basketball Cheerleading
Five, Six, Seven, Eight

Front row: Lauren Forsberg, Christine McKenna, Caroline Sell. Middle row: Alex Thompson.
Back row: Coach Brown, Jordan Bankston, Wrenna Walsh, Coach Fonda

State Basketball
NU Girls Soccer

Honors: All State Honorable Mention Girls Soccer Team for the 2nd year in a row: Jesse Lankford, All Metro Girls Soccer Team: First Team: Jesse Lankford and Raychel Pool, All Metro Honorable Mention: Alex Pircer, Elizabeth Hoffman and Libby Schultz, Waverly-Shelbree All Tournament Team: Jesse Lankford, Captains: Jesse Lankford (3 years), Libby Schultz and Raychel Pool. Team Offensive MVP: Jesse Lankford (22 goals and 15 assists); Defensive MVP: Alex Pircer.

Girls Soccer Team:

About the Season:
4th winning season at 9 wins and 3 losses. This is the first year in many years that the NU girls advanced in the first round of substate, then they fell to WSR. Jesse Lankford, team captain noted "We had some great games this year and we look forward to next season where we will have more experience in key positions. Losing Libby in the middle is going to be a challenge."
NU Boys Soccer

Honors: Jordan Lankford was selected for 2nd Team All State Boys Soccer, the first NU soccer player to ever be awarded All State recognition. Captains: Jordan Lankford, and Will Maletta.

About the Season: Jordan Lankford said, "This was one of the best seasons we had in high school soccer and he will miss the team."

NU Girls Track Stars

Honors: Morgan Granger: State Qualifier in 100 M Dash, Christine McKenna: State Qualifier in 1500 M Run, 4x1 Morgan Granger, Kendall McDonald, Meagan Schneider, and Rhyanne Abernathy-Manning (3rd Place at State). 4x2 Morgan Granger, Kendall McDonald, Meagan Schneider, and Rhyanne Abernathy-Manning (5th Place at State)

Girls Track Team


"It was great to take four events down to state and do so well in them. We are looking forward to next year."
~ Coach Struck
NU Boys Track Stars

Honors: 1600- State Qualifier - Terry Nielsen, 400- State Qualifier - Dominique Fagan
Long Jump - 5th place Ta'mone Williams, High Jump State Qualifier AJ Jones

Boys Track Team


"We have everyone back for next year and think we can get even more events to state."

- Coach Webb
The 2008-2009 season was another strong year for the NU High boys tennis team. We finished the year with an overall meet record of 7-2. It was the 6th straight year we finished with a winning record. At this year's conference meet we took 2nd place, an improvement over our 3rd place finish from the previous year, with Nate, Kyle, Paul, D.C., and Brad having all medal Honors. The team was led by seniors Nate Smith. Nate took 2nd place among the number one players at the conference and finished third in singles at the 2009 district meet. Nate, a 4 time letter winner, finished his NU high career with a combined singles and doubles record of 75-32.

The 2009 squad also received strong contributions from seniors Paul Mauer and Brad Denning. Paul earned his fourth letter in tennis, took 3rd place in 3 singles, and took 2nd place in 2 doubles with D.C. at this year's conference meet. Brad went undefeated in dual meets (8-0) at the 5 singles spot and took 2nd place at the conference meet.

Kyle Denning made great strides in his game and moved up from the number 6 spot he played as a freshmen to the number 2 spot on the 2009 team. He finished the dual meet season with a mark of 8-1, and took 2nd place in singles and doubles at the conference meet.

The 2009 squad was further bolstered by the addition of four first-time letter winner D.C. Chowdhury who took 2nd place in conference while playing at the number 4 seed. Tad Klenske went undefeated (5-0) in Dual meet competition and Keith Hanson and Brandon Culmore did a great job filling in when the team needed them. With the experience these four gained over the 2009 season the team looks to be on solid footing for 2010.

A special thanks goes out to Coach Josh Wilkinson for his expertise and assistance. The entire team benefitted greatly by his presence. - Coach Froyen

Letter Winners
Nate Smith - 12th - 4x
Paul Mauer - 12th - 4x
Brad Denning - 12th-2x
Kyle Denning - 10th - 2x
Tad Klenske - 10th - 1x
D.C. Chowdhury - 10th -1x
Keith Hanson - 11th -1x
Brandon Culmore - 9th-1x

Dual Meet Scores
vs. South Hardin 9-0
vs. Apl-Parkersburg 2-7
vs. Waverly-SR 8-1
vs. Union 7-2
vs. Independence 1-8
vs. Union 7-2
vs. South Hardin 9-0
vs. Grundy Center 7-2
vs. Dike - NH 6-3

"We get money on the tennis courts."
~ Kyle Denning

Honors
Ellie Tallakson - 12th - 4x
Megan Hills - 12th - 4x
Bailey Carlisle - 12th - 2x
Ana Tallakson - 10th - 2x
Maddie Backstrom - 10th - 2x
Christine McKenna - 9th - 1x
Nicole Curran - 11th - 2x
Savannah Campbell - 10th - 2x
Haley Burbridge - 11th - 2x

Individual Conference
Ellie Tallakson - 4th place
Megan Hills - 4th place
Ana Tallakson - 3rd place
Bailey Carlisle - 4th place
Savannah Campbell - 6th place
Christine McKenna - 2nd Place

"Tennis was a great way to meet new friends and become closer to awesome people." ~ Maddie Backstrom
"The golf team had an outstanding season and I am very proud of them." ~ Coach Weber
2009 was an exciting year for NU Golf

The NU High Boys golf team had an outstanding season in 2009. Led by five varsity letter winners who accounted for all the scoring in every match all season, NU recorded the second lowest scoring average for the year in school history. They improved over last year’s state championship team effort by shooting 162.87. The Panthers won the NICL Conference Tournament for the second straight year, which was a first in school history. They also won the BCLUW invitational, and had five players make all tournament, another first in NU History.

Pacing the team’s effort for the year were a talented trio of Senior Thomas Creeden, Junior Jalen Bergman and Sophomore Joe Weber. All three were within 1 ½ strokes of each other all year, and each was the low counter for NU on several occasions. Junior Emmett Fritz and Sophomore Andrew Stone also contributed significantly with each player posting a counting score in over half the meets during the season. Other members of the team during the 2009 season included Senior letter-winner Kendall Jackson, and JV award winners Juniors Spencer Jensen and Will Rector, Sophomore Alex Quinones, and Freshman Jesse Bankston.

Joe Weber had the most outstanding year of any Panther, recording the low team average, and registering the low counting score for NU in over half of the meets during the year. Weber's District Tournament performance was among the best rounds ever in school history, and earned him an individual trip to the state tournament. Weber shot a one-under-par 71 at Pheasant Ridge. Weber was edged by two-time state champion Jon Tink of Walnut Ridge Baptist in a playoff for medalist honors. Weber also was the runner-up in the tough NICL tournament, and finished in the top ten in all five major tournaments. Thomas Creeden, meanwhile, capped off an illustrious career with top ten finishes in all 5 tournaments, including being the medalist at the BCLUW Invitational with a phenomenal 9 hole round of 2-under par 33. Jalen Bergman contributed four top ten finishes to the team during the year. Weber, Bergman, and Creeden were all named NICL all-conference.

The season ended on a bittersweet note, as NU nearly shot a school record in the District Tournament, posting an outstanding team score of 311. Unfortunately, this was not to be a year of good fortune, as the two top teams in the state of Iowa were also in the field. Grundy Center and Newman HS of Mason City both improved the mark set by NU, and advanced to the state tournament, five shots ahead of the Panthers. Coach Lee Weber commented saying, "Last year we were very fortunate to have terrible weather help us at the state tournament; this year we had perfect weather on the most important day (the district tournament) and that allowed many of the other teams and players to shoot very low scores. Had we gotten the wind that usually blows out at Pheasant Ridge, or even the rain that was in the forecast, I think we would have held our scores, but other teams would have struggled. But you can't control the weather, and you can't play defense in golf. I hope it doesn't take anything away from our players. The golf team had an outstanding season and I am very proud of them." ~ Coach Weber
Honors: First Team All-Conference - Nate Smith, Tanner Cooke, Brad Denning, Kyle Denning, Johnny Hines  
Brad Denning - First Team All State, Kyle Denning - Second Team All State


"The guys had an outstanding year by winning the conference and getting to substate. Hopefully, we can make another run next year."  
"Coach Denning
Softball

Honors: Meagan Schneider - 2nd Team NICL, Catherine Stone - Honorable Mention NICL
Maddie Backstrom - Honorable Mention All Metro, Meagan Schneider - Honorable Mention All Metro


"The girls improved as the year went on."
~ Coach Struck
Welcome to the Jungle

Junior Class

Senior Class
Prom Court

The "Stuff" That Buys Happiness
Mr. Aaron Spurr, NU Faculty Member

Five Pieces of Advice:
Don't Buy That.
Find happiness in stuff that isn't "stuff."
Treat your body as though you'll need it for the rest of your life.
Try new things and develop new interests throughout life.
Continue learning from your parents as long as you can.

Present Reflections
Marissa Baskerville, Class President
I would like to start by thanking the parents, teachers, and faculty, without whom all of us would not be at this point today. We are here to celebrate the accomplishments we have all made up to this moment. High school was a journey and we had great memories along the way. Whether it was a play, a concert, a game, or even a class, we had some good times at NU that we are sure to remember forever.

Senior year was a big year, big decisions had to be made and hopefully you have made them. It was a year filled with filling out forms for scholarships and colleges. It was a year of planning for open houses and the future. It was a long, bumpy road to get here but we made it. We are here at this very moment to celebrate that journey and celebrate the start of a new one. Be proud of yourselves Class of 2009. You are a unique group of students and it has been a pleasure knowing each one of you.

Past Memories
Ellie Tallakson
"We don't remember days; we remember moments."
"Our class can be described as fun loving, creative, cooperative, knowledgeable, independent, insightful, daring, and best of all good friends. All of these experiences and memories have gotten us to where we are today. And I know they will help us achieve our goals in the future."

Future Dreams
Megan Hardy
The future, I have decided, is what you make of it. It can be beautiful, it can be devastating, but this book of life we all seem to be scribbling on is only just beginning. The decisions we make, and the past we lug around with us, are the only keys we hold to the future. Is the foreshadowing of the future imbedded in our past? I can't say. Possibly. Like the empty canvas of an artist, we can paint the future as beautifully as we'd like, but we'll never achieve or do anything by simply staring adoringly at what we hope to become.
Vijay Iyengar

Vijay,
Congratulations. Remember, the sky is not the limit. ~ Mom and Dad

Kendall Jackson

Kendall,
I can't wait to see all of your talent unleashed on the world. Go on out and grab a big ole' chunk! I am so proud of everything you do. Keep kicking those obstacles out of your way. ~ Dad

Elizabeth Hoffman

Congratulations E!
Who would have thought that this eventful year would come along so quickly. I have cherished watching you grow into a person that I am proud of and admire. It doesn't seem that long ago when we took the "first" school picture outside on the PLS steps. I'm proud of all of your accomplishments but most of all who you have become as a person. I love you and wish you continued success on your next journey. ~ Mom

Erica Cornett

Erica,
You have a big heart, a caring spirit, and a passion for making the world a better place. You will make a difference and do good things. In return, good things will happen to you. We are proud of you. Lots of Love, ~ Mom and Dad
Dear Thomas,

Do you remember when you were about two years old and your favorite thing to do was go to the UNI football games so you could "conduct" the UNI marching band? Aunt Michelle even had to ask the director for a tape of the UNI Fight Song so you could conduct them at home too! The really amazing thing was how good you were! You kept those little hands going and never missed a beat, and we knew from that early age that God had gifted you with a love for music and very good rhythm! Never forget the great price God paid for you Thomas, and live your life in that freedom of Christ and with purpose! Ephesians 2:8-10. We have always been and always will be very proud of you!

We love you, ~ Dad, Mom and Margaret

Ellie Grace,

The definition of grace is "an elegant way of moving." We had no idea when we named you after your Great Grandma Grace how that name would fit you so perfectly. Whether you were on the tennis or volleyball court, in the classroom or on the stage, you have always done your best to move through the experiences elegantly. Your talents shine through in everything you do. Good luck in your new adventure in Iowa City. We love you and will be there to cheer you on. Always keep a song in your heart as you dance through life.

Love, Mom, Dad, Andy, and Ana

P.S. As you told us at age three, "We'll be together all the days!".
Acknowledgements

NU High
2009 Yearbook

2008-09 Yearbook Staff

9-12th Grade Staff
Jamil Forehand, Elizabeth Hoffman, Will Maletta, Murjanatu Ibrahim, Alex Thompson, Andrew Leonard, Patrick Douglas, Jesse Bankston, Colton Questra, Megan Patnode, Dzeneta Jusufovic, Nathan LeCompte, Taylor Bond, Jenn Weaver, Deshaun Bullock, Brad Denning, Libby Schultz, Rameses Smith, Jordan Thomas, Stephan Yoshizawa.

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Published by Jostens Yearbook Company
Arizona Senator John McCain wins the Republican nomination for president and names Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate. Palin is the Republican Party's first female nominee for vice president.

Democratic Senator Joe Biden of Delaware becomes the 47th vice president of the United States. A member of the Senate since 1973, Biden brings long-time Washington experience to the Obama administration.
The values, fashion and personal vitality of the Obama family resonate with Americans. Public interest in the first family rivals that of the interest in the Kennedy family in the 1960s.
Barack Obama makes history as the first African-American to win the presidency of the United States. The former Illinois senator promises an era of change that captures the imagination of voters nationwide.

**Electoral Votes**

- **Obama**: 365
- **McCain**: 173

McCain/Palin run a strong campaign, winning 22 states. But they are defeated 53 vs. 46 percent in the general election and by a substantial margin in the Electoral College.

**Celebrations around the world**

America makes history

Obama wins
In January 2009, President-elect Obama attends the ultimate power lunch in the White House, meeting and getting advice from President Bush as well as former Presidents George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

During the inauguration ceremony, Malia Obama captures the moment from a unique point of view.

Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th president of the United States before millions in Washington, D.C. Obama's inaugural address calls for a "new era of responsibility" in the face of economic decline and a pledge to choose "hope over fear."

"We have chosen hope over fear..."
Economic Crisis

Unemployment rate hits 16-year high in January 2009

With buying power declining in the consumer marketplace, companies nationwide are forced to lay off workers. The national unemployment rate hit 7.2 percent in December and is rising steadily. The hardest hit states are Michigan, Rhode Island, California and South Carolina.

World News

Housing Foreclosures

Detroit's struggling "Big Three" automakers: General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, request and are eventually offered a bailout package of just over $17 billion in December.
In January 2009, after both engines failed due to ingesting birds, US Airways Flight 1549 ditched in New York’s Hudson River. All 155 passengers and crew members were saved, thanks to the skill and courage of pilot Chesley B. “Sully” Sullenberger.
Public bicycle sharing systems, already popular in Europe, roll into American cities like Washington, D.C., to help fight traffic congestion and reduce pollution.

Environmentally conscious consumers use items such as reusable cloth shopping bags and Klean Kanteen water bottles that don't leak harmful chemicals like BPA.

Tight money and high gas prices push auto manufacturers to investigate super fuel-efficient and electric cars. The Chevrolet Volt is an early contender and the tiny "Smart" car is already on American roads.

Chevy Volt
Brad Pitt launches the "Make It Right" project to build 150 green-sensitive new homes in the New Orleans Lower 9th Ward, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Pitt contributes $5 million to the project.

In September, Google and General Electric partner to develop clean technologies. Modernizing the national electric grid to enable wider deployment of wind, solar, and geothermal energy will be an early priority.

The green cleaning movement gains momentum nationally as environmentally safe non-toxic cleaning products are used in many homes, as well as state and city institutions.

President-elect Obama asks all Americans to volunteer their time on the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, January 19, and to continue throughout the year. More than 12,000 service projects take place across the country.
The Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics showcase some of the most amazing performances in Olympic history.

Summer Olympics

The Olympic Opening Ceremony

Sports

Usain Bolt Fastest Man Ever!

American swimmer Michael Phelps makes Olympic history with eight gold medals. Phelps sets three world records in his five individual wins.

Cristiano Ronaldo

Tiger Woods

World Series

Red Wings win 2008 Stanley Cup

The Philadelphia Phillies win their second World Series with a five game victory over the Tampa Bay Rays. The fifth game takes three days to complete after a rain delay.
The Chinese gymnasts take the team title, but Americans Shawn Johnson (floor exercise) and Nastia Liukin (all-around) take individual gold medals for the U.S.

MVP Santonio Holmes makes a tip-toe catch in the corner of the end zone with 35 seconds remaining to lead the Pittsburgh Steelers past the Arizona Cardinals 27-23 in Super Bowl XLIII.

Jimmie Johnson captures the NASCAR Sprint Cup championship for the third straight year in his famous #48 Lowe's Chevrolet Impala SS.
MTV spins off the reality show *The Hills*, following Laguna Beach star Lauren Conrad and her friends to Los Angeles.

**Paul Blart: Mall Cop**

Bedtime Stories

Australian Heath Ledger, in his last film role as the Joker in the Batman epic *The Dark Knight*, wins a posthumous Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama.
Britney Spears rebounds from years of personal challenges with her fifth No.1 album, Circus. She becomes the only act in Nielsen SoundScan history to have four albums that debut with 500,000 or more copies sold.

Rapper Lil' Wayne takes home four Grammys, including Rap Album of the Year for Tha Carter III and Best Rap Song.

Due to low ratings, MTV's flagship show Total Request Live shut down in November after a 10-year run.

R&B singer/songwriter Ne-Yo brings out his third album, Year of the Gentleman, which debuts on the Billboard 200 at No. 2. The album garners six Grammy nominations.
The video for Will.Lam's song "Yes We Can" garners more than 1.3 million hits on YouTube and becomes an anthem for young voters during the presidential campaign.

Fox's American Idol adds a fourth judge to the popular show. Grammy-nominated songstress Kara DioGuardi joins regular panelists Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell.

Rocker David Cook, with 58 percent of the fan votes, beats balladeer David Archuleta in the 2008 finals of Fox's American Idol.
Texting becomes the new writing. Teens everywhere learn to double-thumb miniature keyboards and invent a new language of abbreviations and signs.

Top style trends this year include baggy pants, oversized sunglasses, designer purses, black nail polish and plaids.

The nation converts to all-digital TV in 2009. The Department of Commerce offers government coupons to make the conversion more affordable.