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Students remain goal-oriented, looking forward to holidays

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DELPHOS — Delphos St. John's juniors Liz Winhover and Austin Heiing and Jefferson Senior High juniors Kelli Kramer and Reid Corzine have been keeping busy since they were last interviewed. Whether they have been engaged in sports, academic studies, extracurricular school functions and clubs or completing personal aspirations, these students are looking forward to Christmas break and spending time with family and friends.

Since the beginning of the school year, the students have been very busy with activities ranging from sports and school committees to personal projects and service/volunteer work.

"I am a member of The National Honor Society and participate in Quiz Bowl," Kramer said. "Every Monday, we (Quiz Bowl Team) travel to different schools to challenge ourselves and other Quiz Bowl teams."

Additionally, Kramer is a member of the prom committee and after the first of the year, will begin

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tutoring a fifth-grade student either at the middle school or in their home.

Corzine has been excelling on the school's wrestling team and practices with the team each day except for Sunday, the day he works at the Topp Chalet in the kitchen.

"I also tutor a sixth-grade student, complete all coursework for my post-secondary classes at OSU, work concessions and attend prom committee meetings each week," Corzine said.

Winhover just completed soccer season and said that right now she is focusing on writing, since it is the season for writing competitions. She explained that she just finished NaNoWriMo — National Novel Writing Month — in November, where the goal was to pen a 50,000-word novel.

"It was a huge project for me," Winhover said. "I actually went over the 50,000-word limit and hit 89,000 words so my novel would have an ending!"



Heiing said that as a junior at St. John's, it is a year that particularly focuses on doing service and volunteer work for others.

"Also, as a member of National Honor Society, I am expected to do a certain amount of extra service throughout the year," he added.

Each student is looking forward to a break in studies during the holidays and visiting with family and friends.

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"Study time is not required and I'm taking a break," Kramer said. "I'll have more time for shopping and traveling to see family members."

Corzine said now that he has finished his post-secondary class finals at OSU, he has a lot more time to study high school coursework.

"I'm going to take some time off from studies," Corzine stated. "Gotta have fun or I will never enjoy school to its fullest extent."

Corzine said he is planning on spending some time with family and friends over Christmas break and traveling to Chicago with his mom over the New Year's holiday to see his friends.

Winhover said her studies are going okay, although she has a lot of long-term projects that she's been working on.

"The holidays keep me focused because I know if I want to enjoy the Christmas break, I need to get all of my homework done!" Winhover said enthusiastically.

"My studies have remained about the same as they were earlier in the year," Heiing said. "With Christmas break coming up, I have been slacking off a little but not too bad."

In October, the PSAT test was offered to students wanting to take a preparatory exam for the SAT test. Kramer and Winhover took advantage of the firsthand practice for the SAT, which also gave them a chance to enter the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools.

The PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills and writing skills. "I suppose I did as well as I expected," Kramer

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said. "I'd like to improve by being better prepared rather than going into it blind."

"My results were as I expected them to be on the PSAT," Winhover stated. "I scored better in the reading sections than the math and that shows me where I need to improve."

Additionally, Winhover reported that guidance counselors will not know who is eligible for the National Merit Scholarship until September of 2014.

Each student has their own process when it comes to selecting a career field or the college they want to attend. After Kramer's visit to Rhodes State College on Dec. 13, she decided to remain open-minded and found interest in Forensic Science. She thought working in a lab doing fact-finding and perhaps someday, becoming an expert witness would fit her. "I first wanted something in the field of law, possibly become a lawyer," she detailed. "I don't know that I want to work or deal with demanding people."

Reid said he will go to OSU and major in Biochemistry and specialize in Pathology or Microbiology studying diseases and if possible, developing cures.

"I want to make a difference," he spoke seriously. "I want to facilitate cures for specific cancers or diseases, that's what I want to do!"

"I haven't done any more college searching," Winhover said. "I plan on finding a major that interests me and then searching for qualified colleges from there."

Heiing said looking at college has become a lot easier for him at school because the school now has the student resource room up and running.

"This allows students to get online and search information about careers or colleges that they are interested in," he said. "I haven't taken any campus visits yet, I plan to do that in the second semester."

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After the first of the year, all four juniors will begin preparing for either the ACT or SAT test and each has their own strategy.

Corzine did not take the PSAT; instead he is preparing for the ACT, which is geared toward specific subjects including Science, Reading, Writing, Math and English.

"I'll probably take the ACT in January and prepare by practicing tests online," Corzine added. "I'm specifically focusing on math subjects, Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus."

Corzine has planned to attend the Ohio State University campus in Columbus and said he needs to score a 26 or better on the ACT to be automatically accepted at the main campus.

"The branch campus in Lima requires a student score 24 points on the ACT," Corzine added.

Heiing said he will be taking the ACT in February.

"I don't plan on attending any ACT prep workshops because I can take practice ACT tests and get tips on how to do better on the ACT by working on the Boost Your Score program that is available in the student resource center here at school," Heijng stated.

"I'm going to take the SAT in April," Kramer said. "I already took the ACT and scored a 27 out of 36 points."

"I plan on going to an ACT prep workshop in the new year and then taking the ACT right after that," Winhover said.