

# **Sportsmanship Summit 2013-14**

The sportsmanship summit is an important concept stressed by the MHSAA and brought over from the Huron Shores Conference when the three teams from that conference joined the North Star League. Not only does it stress the importance of sportsmanship among schools in the league, but also develops strong leaders within the individual schools. As a suggestion, each school chooses two students from each grade 9 – 12 to attend the meetings. It is recommended that the students be athletes, but not as important as being good leaders. Some schools also choose to bring two 8<sup>th</sup> graders at least the final summit, to prepare them for next year. Some schools alternate students for each gathering, while other schools maintain the same students each year, replacing the seniors with the previous eighth graders to keep the strong leaders with some consistency in their schools.

First annual sportsmanship summit took place at Whittemore-Prescott in January of 2014. Approximately 80-90 student athletes from the league schools attended. Mr. Erickson had the students all divided into different groups so that they would have to be with students from other schools. After an introduction of the purpose of the gatherings, Mr. Erickson spent some time with “ice breakers” to get to know other members of the group, along with a sportsmanship video. Emphasis for the groups was to discuss sportsmanship issues, bring up league questions, develop a sportsmanship reading that could be used by each school, and come up with ideas for group skits, which each group later that day performed on stage for the other students. Skits were done well, great ideas and some great comments from the students on what sportsmanship means, and what it means to respect opponents.

Second sportsmanship summit also took place at Whittemore-Prescott in the beginning of the spring season. Continued emphasis on group discussion/intermingling with the emphasis again on coming up with "sportsmanship readings". There was a continued competition between the groups in performing their skits, and the friendly competition in the gymnasium which ended the session after lunch. Group competition and the "silly" games played in the gym were a big success.