



88 MUSTANG MINUTES FALL 2016 ISSUE



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Superintendent's Corner
- Basketball Schedule
- Playground Update
- Christmas Program
- Community Service
- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Friday, November 11
— Veterans' Day
Assembly — 9:00 am
- Wednesday,
November 23—Friday,
November 25 No
School—Thanksgiving
- Saturday, December 3
— Christmas Mustang
Style — 7:00 am
- Thursday, December 8
— Christmas Program
— 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, December
21— Monday, January
2 No School —
Christmas Break

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Once again, our school is having an eventful and positive school year! There are lots of exciting happenings to report, all of which directly benefit our kids!

Our district has received a rather large grant from Monsanto to be used to further develop our STEAM program (Science, Tech, Engineering, Art and Math) with a dedicated "dream lab." This is nearly complete, as the floor was recently installed by local flooring craftsman Mr. John Renfro. The rest of the equipment will include design software, a tinker station that is already established, and a 3-D printer that will hopefully be opened up to the community at large next year.

Our students never cease to impress me, as they recently volunteered their time after school on two evenings to replace the missing "Welcome to Middletown" sign.

Our NH-M Speech Team recently finished a respectable season in Springfield at the State Meet last weekend. Even more importantly, our participation rate was up to 15 students, up from 12 last year, and 2 the year before that!

Many great things continue to happen in this wonderful school community...it truly is a GREAT day to be a MUSTANG! From our family

to yours, have a **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Respectfully yours,

Todd Dugan

Todd Dugan
Superintendent

MEET THE MUSTANGS

Each issue, we highlight a member of the NH-M faculty/staff in this column. This month, we will meet **Miss Hannah Durchholz**. Currently teaching Jr High Math, Science and STEAM, Miss Durchholz is also the NH-M Scholastic Bowl Coach. Prior to coming to NH-M, Miss Durchholz graduated from Benedictine University in Springfield in May of 2014. Miss Durchholz is a lifelong resident of the area, having been born and raised in nearby Williamsville. In her spare time when she's not teaching or coaching, she likes to run, play music and spend as much time outside as possible! Miss Durchholz loves coming to work everyday because she knows her kids will make her laugh.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The NH-M Christmas Program will occur at **6:30 pm on Thursday, December 8** at the NH-M School. ***School will be dismissed at regular 3:10 dismissal time on this day.*** The program will feature Christmas songs performed by the NH-M Band and Chorus students. Students should report to the school **no later than 6:15 pm.**



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Many of you may have noticed a new, school-colored "Welcome to Middletown" sign at the northern entrance to the village as you travel on the New Holland-Middletown Blacktop. This sign was designed and erected by our students (under the supervision of our teaching staff) as an act of service to the community after the sign was vandalized and removed earlier this year. As a result of their giving spirit, the students who worked on the project are the grand marshals of this year's New Holland Christmas Parade on December 3, 2016! Great job, NH-M students!



VETERANS' DAY PROGRAM

As our District has done in years past, New Holland-Middletown has waived the holiday option in order to attend school on Veterans' Day. The reason for this revolves around the average teenager being unaware of what Veterans' Day is all about, except for another day out of school. This year, we will continue to attend school and honor those who have served. We will have a breakfast in the cafeteria for local veterans beginning at 8:00 am, followed by an assembly program beginning at 9:00 am in the gym.



SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

As is common across our region (and also across the entire state of Illinois), schools are facing a shortage of qualified substitute teachers. In order to substitute teach, you will need to acquire a Professional Educator License (PEL) or a Substitute License. Note: You must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited 4-year institution. If you are interested in substitute teaching at New Holland-Middletown, please stop by the school office for assistance, or visit <http://www.roe17.org> for more information.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS

In order to improve our operating efficiency, save taxpayer dollars, and also become better stewards of the environment, NH-M is currently pursuing more energy efficiency grants funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Although our HVAC system and solar panels have significantly reduced our carbon footprint (and energy costs), most of the district is still lighted with older T-8 bulbs. The district is currently applying for steep financial incentives to upgrade to LED lighting, not only to save energy but also to provide a much warmer light for student learning.



NH-M PRESENTING AT CONFERENCE

NH-M will once again be represented at the statewide level for its advances in incorporating the elements of the “maker movement” into the classroom. Mrs. Darcy O’Connor, 4th grade teacher and Maker Space expert, will be highlighting how NH-M students have benefitted from lesson plans in the school’s maker spaces. These areas are designated for students to work creatively and practice design thinking. Mrs. O’Connor will be sharing her practices at the upcoming Illinois Education & Technology (IETC) 2016 Conference November 16-18 in Springfield.



CHRISTMAS MUSTANG STYLE

Mark your calendars for another NH-M community event on the morning of **Saturday, December 3, 2016**. The annual “Christmas Mustang Style” returns with some added features! As in years past, an all-you-can-eat breakfast will be served and plenty of vendors will be on hand offering holiday goods. In addition, a raffle for a new, HP Chromebook complete with case, as well as auctions for class-made baskets will take place. A Santa shop for young children to complete their Christmas shopping (for a small budget) will be held, as will a screening of “Polar Express” and performances from the NH-M Band and Chorus students!



PLAYGROUND UPDATE

This week should be the final week that our older playground equipment will be used by our students. The district has received a matching grant from the Woods Foundation to pay half the costs of a new, state-of-the-art Nucleus playground to be installed the week ending November 18. Nearly \$10,000 was contributed by our community group, the NH-M Community Supports Education group! This is a much needed upgrade for the children of the school, and was possibly only through the matching grant and the continued community support of NH-MCSE sponsored fundraising events, such as the upcoming Christmas Breakfast—Mustang Style! Continue supporting NH-M at all upcoming NH-MCSE events!



NH-M #88

Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

**BOXHOLDER
MIDDLETOWN, IL 62666**

