



88 MUSTANG MINUTES SPRING 2014 ISSUE



75 1250th Street
Middletown, IL 62666

<http://www.nhm88.com>
www.twitter.com/nhmesd

Phone: (217) 445-2421
tdugan@nhm88.com

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- Superintendent's Corner
- ISAT Testing
- Running w/Mustangs
- Family Health Night
- Chromebooks Arrive
- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Friday, March 14 — No School Teachers' Institute
- Thursday, March 20— Early Dismissal (1:30) for School Improvement
- Friday, March 21 — 3rd Quarter Awards Assembly — 8:30 am
- Monday, April 14— Friday, April 18 No School for Spring Break
- Thursday, May 22 — 8th Graduation @ 6:30 pm
- Monday, June 2 — 1:30 pm Last Day of School

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

It's hard to believe the school year is rapidly coming to a close! While missing several days of school due to dangerous sub-zero wind chills and snowfall, our teachers have been working hard to ensure the children are ready for the next grade levels and for high school.

A strategic planning committee is in the process of meeting soon, charged with the task of drafting a detailed vision for the District to achieve within the next five years. Many community leaders, teachers, board members, and parents have already been invited to join this very important committee.

In order to continuously improve the climate and overall achievement at New Holland-Middletown, building improvements continue to be made. Rather than spending precious tax dollars or carefully preserved district fund balances, the District has been actively pursuing several grants, including two rounds of School Maintenance Program Grants, a School Safety Grant from IEMA and an Energy Efficiency Grant. For the first

round of improvements, our gym will be repainted with brighter school colors and the two old wooden doors are being replaced with safer steel doors that have 16" window openings in order to avoid injuries.

The next round, which NH-M is still awaiting its award notification, could include waterproofing and selective tuck-pointing of the building. The School Safety Grant will equip all classrooms in the 1947 wing with locking door handles that can easily be locked from the inside.

As you can tell, there are lots of exciting new things happening within the walls of NH-M on a daily basis, and I feel very privileged to be able to share the story of our amazing school district with you! Enjoy what is hopefully the last of this winter weather!

Respectfully yours,

Todd Dugan

Todd Dugan
Superintendent

MEET THE MUSTANGS

Each issue, we will spotlight a member of the NH-M faculty/staff in this column. This month, we will meet **Mrs. Katie Chandler**. Katie currently teaches 5th grade at NH-M, and is in her 9th year with the District. In addition to 5th grade, Katie has taught 4th grade and Junior High Language Arts in the past. Originally from Mt. Pulaski, Katie (formerly Mrs. Kuhlman) is happily married to Mike Chandler with 5 kids of their own. Katie graduated from Milliken University in Decatur with her Bachelor's Degree, and is currently finishing her Masters' Degree through Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. When asked what she likes best about her job, Katie replies that "seeing familiar families and getting to know new families is what she likes best about working at NH-M."

SPRING CONCERT

NH-M is very excited to announce the return of its annual Spring Concert! This program will feature the talent of the NH-M Music program, including performances by the Junior High Band and Chorus. The Spring Concert will be held at NH-M on Thursday, May 1st at 6:30 pm. This event is open to the community, and is a great chance to see our students show off their musical talent!



ISAT TESTING

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) will be administered during the two weeks beginning **Monday, March 10, 2014 through Friday, March 21, 2014**. Schedules may vary between the grade levels, but it is of the utmost importance that **all student are in attendance during this time**. Children should be prepared for this high stakes testing, and parents can help ensure their child's success by:

- 1) Discussing the importance of the test with their child and encouraging them to do their best
- 2) Minimizing home distractions during this two week period such as special events or late night activities
- 3) Making sure your child follows an established routine and gets a good night's sleep
- 4) Making sure your child eats a good breakfast (*Please remember that the school does provide a hot breakfast program*)

NH-M teachers are working hard to prepare for the ISAT testing. Please take note of the above suggestions and help your child do their very best to prepare for state tests.



RUNNING WITH THE MUSTANGS

NH-M Community Supports Education is gearing up for the 2nd Annual community-wide 5K run in Middletown on April 12, 2014. In addition to a 5K run (and shorter runs/walks for children), there will be a Family Fun Day in the community centering around the NH-M school. This valuable community group is an independent 501(c) community non-profit group that is helping to continue support of 1:1 technology being deployed to NH-M students. For more information, or to register, please visit:

<https://secure.getmeregistered.com/RunningWithTheMustangs>



FREE PRE-K SCREENING

New Holland-Middletown will be holding free pre-Kindergarten screening on **Thursday, April 3, 2014 from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm**. This will be held at the school, and is open to all children ages 3-5 living in the NH-M district. Children will be screened for vision/hearing, concepts, speech/language and motor skills. To make an appointment, please call the school at 445-2421.



FAMILY HEALTH NIGHT 2014

New Holland-Middletown, working with the Logan County Health Department and Chestnut Health System, is hosting a Family Health Night at the school on **Tuesday, April 22 at 6:00 pm**. This event is completely free and open to the public. Various agencies from Logan County will be on hand, and door prizes will be awarded. Three brief, informal sessions will be presented on the following topics: 1) Parent communication regarding substance abuse, 2) Nutrition and 3) Resources available within Logan County to residents. Please plan on attending this informational evening at NH-M!

SUMMER ENRICHMENT—READING & MATH

Once again, NH-M is offering families a chance to help your student maintain reading and math skills over the summer break. GRASP correspondence courses usually take your child one hour per week. The enrollment fee is \$26 for one subject, or \$46 for both. Call the school at 445-2421 for more information.



NH-M LICENSE PLATE FRAME FOR SALE

For a limited time, NH-M will be offering a chance for community members to show off their **NH-M Mustang Pride!** For only \$3.00 each, the school is offering the below to adorn your vehicles. In addition to proudly displaying NEW HOLLAND-MIDDLETOWN on school colors, the frames also have the Mustang logo with the District's motto: "*Learning Is Our #1 Priority!*" To purchase, please visit or call NH-M.



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

On Friday, February 28, the 5th-8th grade classes of NH-M visited the American Cancer Society in Springfield following a field trip to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. They then presented the Society with a check from the proceeds made from (pink) T-shirt sales and a dance held in October.



8TH GRADE GRADUATION

The date and time for 2014's 8th Grade Graduation was approved by the NH-M Board of Education at the March Board Meeting. Although the District has utilized nine Emergency Days this year, the date/time for 8th Graduation was scheduled for **Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 6:30 pm** in the NH-M gymnasium.



FREE GOOGLE APPS NIGHT

NH-M will be hosting a free evening of instruction on cloud computing using Google Apps. Chrome-Classroom certified instructors Kirsten Larson and Todd Dugan will be teaching this introduction to Google Apps, including Gmail, docs and Google Drive. The event is free and open to the public. It will be held on **Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 6:00 pm** at NH-M. If enough interest warrants, these night sessions may continue, depending on interest and attendance.



BULLYING PREVENTION AT NH-M

The Logan County 4-H Extension Office in Lincoln recently provided NH-M with a bullying prevention course for the 5th grade class. The mini-course, delivered over a series of six classroom visits, is designed to bring awareness to students regarding the many facets of bullying in the school setting, such as name calling, teasing, unwanted putdowns and exclusion. Shown here is Logan County 4-H instructor Carissa Akpore in a visit to Mrs. Chandler's 5th grade classroom.



COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

Twice a year, NH-M Superintendent Todd Dugan holds a couple of informal Coffee with the Superintendent sessions in both New Holland and Middletown. Both events have been well attended and well received. They offer residents a chance to ask questions and share compliments and concerns about the school district. Again this spring, Superintendent Dugan will hold these sessions at **Slacker's in New Holland at 5:00 on Monday, April 28** and **Stagecoach Inn in Middletown on Tuesday, April 29 also at 5:00 pm.**



ISBE FINANCIAL SCORE

Each year, the Illinois State Board of Education assigns school districts a Financial Score based on the shape of their school budgets in relation to their fund balances. While it is a complicated formula to determine these scores, all districts in Illinois receive one of the following four scores:

- ⇒ Financial Recognition (the highest category of financial strength)
- ⇒ Financial Review (monitored by ISBE for potential downward trends)
- ⇒ Financial Early Warning (possibly certified in financial difficulty)
- ⇒ Financial Watch (monitored very closely by ISBE with a possible Financial Oversight Panel)



Last year (2013), NH-M received a 3.90/4.00 scale, which was Financial Recognition. ***For this past year (2014), NH-M received a perfect 4.0/4.0, again receiving Financial Recognition, the highest category of financial strength a school district can receive by ISBE.***

CHROMEBOOKS ARRIVE

The 3rd grade class at NH-M recently received their very own personalized Google Chromebook laptops, making them the last official class to have a Chromebook for every student in grades 3rd-8th! While students in grades K-2 will have 1:1 access to Apple iPads, these Chromebooks are much more suited for older and more advanced learners. Shown in this picture is Miss Minde Moore's 3rd grade class receiving individualized, leveled, Math instruction via their Chromebooks.



NH-M #88
Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

**BOXHOLDER
MIDDLETOWN, IL 62666**

