



88 MUSTANG MINUTES SPRING 2015 ISSUE



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- Superintendent's Corner
- PARCC Testing
- April 18— Family Fun
- Solar Schools Grant
- Surplus Property
- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Friday, April 3—
Friday, April 10 — No School for Spring Break
- Saturday, April 18 —
3rd Annual *"Running with the Mustangs"*
5k/Family Fun Day
- Thursday, April 23 —
Spring Concert—6:30 pm
- Friday, May 15 — 8th
Graduation @ 6:30 pm
- Monday, June 2 —
1:30 pm Last Day of School

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

As we prepare to spend the Easter holiday and Spring Break with our families, it seems like a great time to reflect on all that we have accomplished as a united learning community in these past few years!

As you've probably heard, the state of Illinois' fiscal crisis is making it harder and harder to provide a quality education while at the same time operating on a balanced budget. As many districts around have undergone extreme cuts to student programs, many have been forced to reduce staff and other items directly impacting student achievement.

In addition to weathering these cuts in funding, NH-M has been able to accomplish the following:

- ◆ Added 1:1 technology to all students in the district
- ◆ Upgrade HVAC to 97%-efficiency
- ◆ Add Air-Conditioning
- ◆ Added a Gifted program targeting gifted and talented students
- ◆ Receive several grants, including a Solar Panel grant

All of this and more are happening

daily, impacting the quality of our students' lives for the better, thanks to the support and dedication of a true school-community partnership!

One example of this community dedication came from our very own, Mrs. **Karen Davison**, NH-M Board member and community volunteer, who was named the Lincoln Courier's March Citizen-of-the-Month! Karen's devotion to NH-M and love of service can be seen in many others, which is one of the reasons why NH-M succeeds!!

As budgets continue to dwindle in the state of Illinois, rest assured that the students of NH-M will continue to receive the very best education possible in the area!

Enjoy the beautiful spring weather, as well as the upcoming Easter holiday with your families!

Take great care,

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 **Mrs. Jamie Wellbaum**. Jamie currently teaches 5th grade and is responsible for the district's Gifted and Talented Programming offered to qualifying students. In her seventh year of employment at NH-M, Jamie has previously taught the Junior High sections of Math and Science. A graduate from Eastern Illinois University and a Logan County native, Jamie, her husband Joe and their daughter Brooke live in Springfield. Mrs. Wellbaum enjoys her new teaching assignment, but especially likes working with younger students mastering important Reading skills.



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, April 23 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!



PARCC TESTING

NH-M students recently completed the first window of the required Pearson Assessment for the Readiness for Careers and College (otherwise known as PARCC). Although there were technical “glitches” that occurred, NH-M had a relatively easy time administering this online assessment since becoming a 1:1 school two years ago. Although NH-M does not agree with the manner in which PARCC testing became a reality, we are nonetheless dutifully administering it to all students in grades 3rd-8th, as required by law. The next testing window will occur beginning April 27, 2015. Next year, the PARCC assessment is scheduled to be given even more often, resulting in roughly the equivalent to a month of instruction. This loss of valuable instructional time, along with studies showing the readability level being as much as 2 grade levels higher than the level being assessed. While NH-M appreciates accountability, we are also cognizant that a quality education is quantified by **much more than a test score**. Nevertheless, NH-M will comply with Federal law and administer the PARCC assessment as directed by the Illinois State Board of Education.



RUNNING WITH THE MUSTANGS

NH-M Community Supports Education is gearing up for the 3rd Annual community-wide 5K run in Middletown on **Saturday, April 18, 2015**. 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-SCHOOL SCREENING

New Holland-Middletown will be holding free pre-school screenings on **Tuesday, April 14, 2015 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.



SPELLING BEE 2015

New Holland-Middletown held its annual Spelling Bee at the school on **Monday, March 30 at 8:30 am** in the gym. Again, the school-wide winner this year is 6th grader Miranda Nelson, who has won the school Spelling Bee two years in a row. Congratulations, Miranda!



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.



SURPLUS PROPERTY

At a recent NH-M Board of Education meeting, several unused and/or obsolete pieces of equipment were declared as “surplus property” by the Board and approved for public sale. These items include:

- Large projection TV in library
- 4 DVD players
- 5 large classroom dividers (pictured)
- 6 VCR's
- 8 A/V carts
- 8 overhead projectors
- 6 overhead projector carts
- 1 utility cart
- 5 rolling coat racks (pictured)
- 4 tube televisions
- 2 old scoreboards



*** These items are no longer used regularly at NH-M, and will be disposed of this summer. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please make an offer and place in a sealed envelope prior to the May 20, 2015 Board of Education meeting. If you would like to look at these items closer, please call the school at 445-2421 to make an appointment. The proceeds from the sale of these items will be utilized to continue upgrading the library with more equipment and modern furniture updates. ***

8TH GRADE GRADUATION

The date and time for 2015'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 **Friday, May 15, 2015 at 6:30 pm** in the NH-M gymnasium.



BOYS' BASKETBALL

Congratulations to our CCS/NH-M/Zion 8th Boys' Basketball team for an outstanding season! For the first time in many years, our team won the IESA 8-1A Regional Tournament that was held at NH-M. After advancing to Sectionals in Decatur, our team narrowly lost to Our Lady of Lourdes. From NH-M: Denver Hoffert, Mark Maaks, TJ Merriman and Alec Wibben played on this winning team!



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 **Stagecoach Inn in Middletown on Thursday, April 30 at 5:00 pm.** There is no agenda for the meeting, just an informal chance to hear about the latest happenings at NH-M.



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)



For the second year in a row (2014 and 2015), 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.

SOLAR SCHOOLS

NH-M was recently awarded a Solar Schools Grant for the purchase of a 1kW photovoltaic system solar panel for the school. This competitive grant was awarded by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, and covers 90% or up to \$7,000 for the installation of this panel. This panel will be facing the south, and will be displaying for students in “real time” how much energy is being produced at the school. Not only is this important in saving energy, but it is also a great educational tool for students as they learn about green, or clean energy sources.



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NH-M #88

Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

**BOXHOLDER
MIDDLETOWN, IL 62666**

