



88 MUSTANG MINUTES SPRING 2016 ISSUE



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- Superintendent's Corner
- Sports Schedules
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- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Monday, March 7 — Spelling Bee — 8:45 am
- Friday, March 11 — 1:30 pm Early Dismissal
- Friday, March 18 — 3rd Quarter Awards Assembly — 8:30 am
- Friday, March 25 — Friday, April 1 — Spring Break
- Monday, April 4 — School Resumes
- Friday, April 29 — No School — Teachers' Institute

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

This school year is rapidly approaching the three-quarters mark, and lots has been happening at our small yet innovative school!

For starters, we have fully functional solar panels installed that were grant-funded and allow us to sell electricity back to Ameren each month in the form of a credit. Not only are we able to do this, but we are modeling to our children the importance of being good stewards of the environment as we keep track of our carbon offset. In the past month alone, we have produced 140 kilowatt-hours of electricity!

Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Rheume recently received grants from Donors Choose for their classrooms. In the 4th grade, a classroom "maker space" was donated, including a set of Kinex building blocks, a flying drone with a camera and 2 Osmo devices that work with iPads and help students solve complex geometrical

expressions.

In the Music room, we now have a set of grant-funded congas and bongos that can bring the Afro-Cuban musical experience to our band students! This grant was funded in near-record time in part from Black Friday sales of the game "Cards Against Humanity." Not only is this a valuable experience for our kids, but seeing the community come together to provide our students with resources is something of which everyone should be proud!

It's been another great year here at NH-M, and I hope to continue sharing with you the good news! Continue showing and sharing your Mustang Pride in our community!

Respectfully yours,

Todd Dugan

Todd Dugan

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. Shelby Wall**. Originally a native of Logan County, Shelby grew up in nearby Atlanta, Illinois where she attended public grade school and was active in 4-H. A recent graduate of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, she now lives in Armington with her husband, Dustin. She is enjoying her first year in the District as she gets to know the many supportive families, and enjoys the innovative atmosphere of NH-M!



SPRING CONCERT

The Annual NH-M Spring Concert returns this year under the direction of Mrs. Sarah Rheaume, our new and talented Band/Chorus and General Music teacher. The concert will be held in the NH-M gymnasium on **Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 6:30 pm**. This concert is free, open to the public and will include performances from the Chorus and Band students.



PARENT ADVISORY MEETING

Earlier this year, Senate Bill 100 headed to Governor Rauner's desk where it was signed into law. This bill dramatically changes the way schools can discipline students by "excluding" them from school (i.e., suspensions and expulsions). Parental input is requested for a meeting that will also differentiate what constitutes bullying as opposed to inappropriate school behavior. The public is invited for a forum that will take place at NH-M on **Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 6:30 pm**.



7TH BOYS' BASKETBALL

This year, our 7th Grade Boys' Basketball team made it further than ever was thought possible. After winning both Regionals and Sectionals, the team headed to the IESA State Tournament in East Peoria! They won two games on the first day of the tournament, earning a chance to play in the State Championship Game! Our boys earned a State Runner-Up Trophy which will be presented at the March Awards Assembly. It was an exciting season, and we are very proud of our team!



ISBE FINANCIAL SCORE

For the fourth year in a row, New Holland-Middletown ESD 88 has been awarded the financial profile score of a perfect 4.0 on a 4.0 scale. This earns NH-M *the highest category of financial strength for a school district, that of Financial Recognition!* Not only is NH-M continuing to improve the education of each student, but we are doing so with a balanced budget. This is based on the ratio of expenditures to revenue along with fund balances and number of days of cash on hand. Not only is NH-M able to continue operate on a balanced budget, but we've also done it while lowering the tax rate by approximately 14 cents per \$100 of assessed equalized value over the past four years! Your Board of Education members are to be commended for their dedication to both students and the taxpayers.



8TH GRADUATION DATE

At its regularly-scheduled February meeting, the NH-M Board of Education voted to set the date for this year's 8th Graduation ceremony for **Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 6:30 pm**.



ILLINOIS 5 ESSENTIALS SURVEY

Each alternating year, school districts across the state of Illinois are required to administer the Illinois 5 Essentials Survey, designed by the University of Chicago for the Illinois State Board of Education.

Teachers and students in grades 6-12 are required to take it, and parents are encouraged to as well. Although not required, responses help paint a picture of community perception of our school district. To take this survey, go to <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois> and select "Parent Survey." Survey window closes on March 11, 2016.



PARCC TESTING

NH-M will again be administering the state-mandated PARCC tests to students in grades 3rd through 8th this Spring. Last year, districts were told the assessment was a valid and reliable indicator of student performance, although standards for the test had not yet been determined. As it

turns out, schools that tested with paper and pencil scored significantly higher than schools that administered the test online. This year, we have been told that we must give the test online, and that soon all schools will have to in the future. Our PARCC testing window opens March 17, 2016.



STATE-OF-THE-DISTRICT BREAKFAST

In an ongoing effort to involve the community as much as possible, NH-M will be hosting a "State of the District" breakfast for all interested community members at **7:00 am on Tuesday, March 8, 2016**. Similar to the State of the Union and the State of the State, this breakfast will bring attendees up to speed on what has been occurring at New Holland-Middletown Elementary as well as offering the chance for the public to eat a breakfast exactly like the ones offered to all NH-M students free-of-charge on a daily breakfast. District building improvements and technology will be demonstrated, and tours will also be provided. In order to ensure enough meals are ordered, please RSVP to the school at 445-2421 or via email at tdugan@nhm88.com by Monday, March 7, 2016.



NH-M #88

Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

**BOXHOLDER
MIDDLETOWN, IL 62666**

