



88 MUSTANG MINUTES SPRING 2017 ISSUE



75 1250th Street
Middletown, IL 62666

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

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Superintendent's Corner
- Sports Schedules
- Field Trip Grant
- Energy Star Status
- 8th Graduation Date
- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Friday, March 17
— No School —
Teachers' Institute
- Tuesday, March 21
— Spelling Bee —
8:30 am
- Friday, April 7 —
1:30 pm Early
Dismissal
- Monday, April 10
— Monday, April 17
— Spring Break
- Tuesday, April 18
— School Resumes

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Hard to believe it's already the fourth quarter of the school year! With the mild winter and unseasonably warm weather, it's been a great winter season that typically seems to stretch on (and on, and on.)

Enclosed with this newsletter are a couple of recent articles that were featured in the magazine Leadership Matters, a magazine published statewide and distributed to administrators across the state of Illinois. Both of these articles mention NH-M for its service back to the community, one for our students repairing and replacing the "Welcome to Middletown" sign and the second for our teacher's volunteer grant-funded project that helped assist families with Christmas shopping this past holiday season.

Our school continues to make great progress both financially and academically. Our district received

again (for the fifth year in a row) the rating of 4.0 (our of 4.0 possible points) for Financial Recognition, the strongest indicator of financial strength. Our district is continuing to lead the area in innovation, as a recent article by Lincoln Daily News showcased in its annual **Education** issue.

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
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. Kelly Thompson**. Mrs. Thompson, a first-year teacher in the district, is currently teaching the 5th grade self-contained classes in addition to the sections of Gifted/Enrichment. Originally from Oreana, Illinois, Mrs. Thompson is now married to her husband Dylan. They live outside of Decatur with their dog, Jada. Mrs. Thompson is very happy to be doing what she has always wanted to do, which was teach 5th grade!



SPRING CONCERT

The Annual NH-M Spring Concert returns this year under the direction of Mrs. Sarah Rheaume, our talented Band/Chorus and General Music teacher. The concert will be held in the NH-M gymnasium on **Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 6:30 pm**. This concert is free, open to the public and will include performances from the Chorus and Band students.



EARLY CHILDHOOD/PRE-K SCREENING

NH-M #88 will conduct a free screening for children ages 3 to 5 years old suspected of requiring special education services due to delays in any of the following areas: — Communication — Concept Development — Physical Coordination — Behavior on **Monday, March 13, 2017 from 3:00-6:00 pm**. Children will be **screened by appointment only**. Please call 445-2421 to schedule an appointment. If your child is younger than 3 years old and you have developmental concerns, please contact: CIEDC- Head Start of Logan County, 2018 N. Kickapoo Street, Lincoln, IL 62656 (217) 732-3488



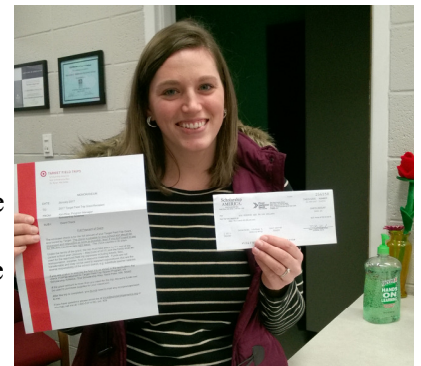
ENERGY STAR QUALIFICATION

NH-M #88 is currently seeking official Energy Star certification. In order to qualify for this annual designation, a property must achieve an ENERGY STAR score of 75 or higher on EPA's 1-100 scale. NH-M has already achieved a score of 93, thanks to many of the energy efficiency initiatives put in place over the years, including the large HVAC upgrade project three years ago. Once approved by the EPA, NH-M #88 will appear on the energy star website (www.energystar.gov). This is not only great news for our environment, this is also a huge savings for all taxpayers in the NH-M district!



NH-M TEACHER WINS FIELD TRIP GRANT

Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Lindsey Leischner recently applied for and received a large grant to pay for the entire primary wing to attend a field trip at the Sangamon Auditorium at the U of I in Springfield. She submitted the grant to pay for student and chaperone tickets to see the live production **"My Mouth is a Volcano"** which addresses aspects of bullying in schools. In each of the classrooms leading up to the field trip, lessons aligned with the play (bullying, choosing kind words, etc.) have been implemented. This experience, paid for by Mrs. Leischner's grant, would not have been possible without her hard work!! Special thanks to Mrs. Leischner for going above and beyond for the entire NH-M faculty!!



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 18, 2017 at 6:30 pm**.



EMERGENCY “LOCKDOWN” DRILL

On the next Teachers’ Institute/Non-Attendance Day (**next Friday, March 17, 2017**) NH-M #88 faculty and staff will be conducting their annual school emergency lockdown drill. This will be performed under the supervision of the Logan County Sheriff’s Office. Students will not be present, but there will be several officers at the school for this simulated drill. NH-M conducts this training annually in order to ensure that all staff members know how best to assure students are safe.



PATRIOTISM CONTEST WINNERS

The American Legion of Logan County has again sponsored its essay contest for students in Logan County junior high schools. This year, NH-M had several winners! They submitted an essay titled, “What the Flag Means to Me.” This essay was written by students in both Mr. Neisler’s Social Studies class and Ms. Lore’s English/Language Arts classes. NH-M had the following winners for 1st place: **Christopher Gunter from New Holland and Hannah Watson from Middletown** who each received \$200 cash. 2nd place winners Morgan Epps and Chloe Davison will receive \$100 and 3rd place winners Lucas Hurt and Everett Maaks will each receive \$50. Congratulations, NH-M students!



MAKER SPACE OPENS

After receiving a substantial grant from the Monsanto Corporation last year, NH-M was able to convert an unused classroom into a dedicated central “maker space.” While some of the items in the maker space are pretty high-tech (such as computers with design software, 3-D printers) others are fairly common items, such as paper cups, pipe cleaners, glue, play-doh and Lego’s. The room also has a “tinker station,” where kids can take apart and put back together old PC’s and laptops. This new push for “design thinking” is an emerging trend in education, as schools attempt to prepare students for an economy where some fear that 50% of current jobs can be automated by 2033. Pictured here is a 6th student who designed and printed a working flute piece for a project!



NH-M #88

Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

**BOXHOLDER
MIDDLETOWN, IL 62666**

