



88 MUSTANG MINUTES SUMMER 2015 ISSUE



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- 2015-2016 Calendar
- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Thursday, August 6 —
Registration 10:00am –
7:00 pm
- Tuesday, August 18—
First day of School for
students (1:30 pm
Dismissal)
- Monday, August 24 —
First Full Day of School
Attendance
- Monday, September
7— No School in
observance of Labor
Day
- Thursday, September 17
— 1:30 pm Dismissal
— School
Improvement

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer breaks, and spending quality time with their families. It's hard to believe that school will be starting again in a little over two weeks!

School supply lists have been updated and posted on our website, our Twitter account, and also faxed to Lincoln and Springfield CVS, Walmart, and Kroger stores.

This summer has been a little more calm than in years past, with no major building renovations occurring. However, numerous grants and opportunities have been applied for, and all are aimed at making NH-M the best possible learning environment for our kids!

This year, our district theme will focus on "achievement." I'm not just referring to grades and/or test score achievement, although those are certainly a part of achievement. We will look at individual student growth, or emotional and social achievement. As a District, we will look at financial achievement. In order to help focus on

this theme, I have set a personal goal for myself to stress some form of achievement in each and every faculty meeting, teachers' institute, Board of Education meeting, and community assemblies.

I'm very excited about our focused approach this year, and I feel super confident that in the hands of this extremely dedicated staff of teachers and support staff, you will notice a huge difference this year! More to come, but in the meantime, enjoy the rest of this beautiful summer with your families!

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 **Ms. Cathy Stephens**. Cathy is currently in her 2nd year of teaching 1st grade at NH-M. Prior to teaching at NH-M, Cathy was employed at Springfield Public Schools District #186. Cathy loves her students, and appreciates the support from parents that our District possesses. Cathy lives in Springfield with her daughter, Angelina, who will be attending 5th grade at NH-M this upcoming year!



REGISTRATION 2015-2016

Back-to-school registration will occur this year on **Thursday, August 6th from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm**. This registration is for both students returning to and students new to NH-M. Please look for a link on the NH-M website (<http://www.nhm88.com>) soon that will contain all documents that parents may print off ahead of time in order to gather needed information at home, which should speed up this annual process.



SOLAR SCHOOLS GRANT

NH-M was awarded a \$7,000 Illinois Solar School grant last year through the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. Since that time, the District has moved forward with Microgrid Energy to install a 1kW photovoltaic system in the form of an awning (pictured at right) panel. This panel will produce approximately 1,200 kWh annually, which equates to powering 4 PC's, 28 light bulbs, or 2 barrels of oil. While not a huge financial Savings (\$113 per year), this will serve as an excellent instructional tool for our students, and an added bonus is the environmental impact of avoiding 55,000 lbs of CO₂ emissions, equating to the equivalent of 50,000 miles driven in year one, or the equivalent to planting 4 acres of tree each year. Microgrid will arrange a community ribbon-cutting ceremony once completed, so stay tuned for more upcoming news!



BASEBALL/SOFTBALL INFORMATION

As in years past, New Holland-Middletown offers the opportunity for boys and girls to play baseball and softball. Boys' Baseball is offered through an IESA-approved cooperative agreement with Carroll Catholic School in Lincoln, and Girls' Softball is offered through a similar agreement with Lincoln Junior High School. Girls interested must be in grades 6-8 this year, and boys interested must be in grades 5-8. Please see the respective school websites for more information.



NH-M STAFF GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY

NH-M faculty and staff met at the Central Illinois Food Bank in Springfield on a hot afternoon this summer to spend the afternoon volunteering in the warehouse. The Food Bank serves 21 counties in Illinois, including Logan County, and needs help sorting and organizing the vast amount of food (over 8.5 million pounds annually) to be distributed to area food pantries, soup kitchens, residential programs and after-school programs. In addition to appreciation from the staff at the Food Bank, NH-M also received a letter of appreciation from Illinois State Representative Tim Butler, which was shared at the July 22 Board of Education meeting.



MILES OF SMILES TO SERVICE NH-M AGAIN

We are pleased to announce that Miles of Smiles will once again visit NH-M to perform free dental exams and cleanings on all students at NH-M. This service is provided to all NH-M families free of charge. In addition to the exams and cleaning, Miles of Smiles also provides fluoride treatments. Any student entering grades K, 2nd and 6th will need a dental exam, and this options satisfies that Illinois requirement. They will be at NH-M on **Friday, September 18th, 2015.**



NH-M COMMUNITY MEMBER RECOGNIZED



Annie Coers of New Holland has been recognized by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation as an “Illinoisan of the Day” for 2015. The Illinoisan of the Day program honors individuals who exemplify the qualities and characteristics associated with the Land of Lincoln: integrity, dependability, sense of community, and strong ethics. She was recognized on July 11 at the 7th annual Corn Dog Kickoff and will receive additional recognition during the IL State Fair.

Annie was recognized for her service and leadership exhibited in her community. She serves on the New Holland Village Board, the Logan County Fair, the New Holland 4-H program, and also serves as the Vice-President of the NH-M Community Supports Education non-profit group.
Congratulations, Annie!

COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

This fall, NH-M Superintendent Todd Dugan will hold an informal Coffee with the Superintendent session. This fall, the session will be held at Stagecoach in Middletown on **Monday, August 31 at 5:00 pm.** No agenda is prepared ahead of time... just the concerns and compliments of interested community members.



HEALTH & MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

As families finalize back-to-school plans, the following information may be helpful as a summary of the requirements for public school students in the state of Illinois:

- Kindergarten = Eye exam, physical and dental exam
- 2nd grade = Dental exam
- 6th grade = Dental exam and physical

Any student participating in athletics will also need a physical on file, regardless of grade entering. For more information, please visit the following website: http://www.idph.state.il.us/back_to_school/index.htm or call the office at 445-2421.



NEW SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

In years past, Illinois students in grades 3-11 have taken many assessments to remain in compliance with the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act, including ISAT's and most recently the PARCC exam. Illinois State Board of Education has submitted plans to the US Department of Education to begin testing students in grades 5th and 8th annually on the Next Generation Science Standards. This assessment will be administered via computer, similar to the PARCC.



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 (2014), NH-M received a 4.00/4.00 scale, which was Financial Recognition. ***For this past year (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.***

ENERGY SAVINGS AT WORK

This year marks the first year that students at NH-M will attend the first part of the school year in an air-conditioned facility. Although we will still dismiss early the first part of the week, families will no longer have to worry about finding child care arrangements for early dismissals related to heat! Not only is this new HVAC system designed to save energy costs (especially our well-above average winter electricity usage), but more importantly will significantly improve the learning environment for NH-M students throughout the school year.



NH-M #88

Learning Is Our #1 Priority!



**BOXHOLDER
MIDDLETOWN, IL 62666**