



88 MUSTANG MINUTES SUMMER 2016 ISSUE



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- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Wednesday, August 3
— Registration
10:00am –7:00 pm
- Friday, August 19—
First day of School for
students (1:30 pm
Dismissal)
- Monday, August 22 —
Open House — 6:00
pm
- Thursday, August 25
— First full day of
Student Attendance
- Monday, September 5
— No School in
observance of Labor
Day

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer breaks, and spending quality time with their families taking vacations or enjoying the time out of school.

With Back-to-School Registration right around the corner, students will soon be back in school. As in years past, we have attempted to align our calendar as close as possible to Lincoln Community High School's in order to help alleviate childcare arrangements on school holidays and teachers' institutes.

This year's theme is going to focus on "kindness" and will be geared toward treating others kindly at all times. Some of this will be treated as "digital citizenship" and other aspects will include service to others. Also, it is our hope that by incorporating this theme into a spiraling, continuous approach that the problem of "bullying" can finally be eradicated from school.

In addition to providing lessons about digital citizenship, our District has gained access to a new online tool called "Common Sense Media." This tool not only provides lessons for teaching responsible online behavior, but also has a component which helps parents decide which movies, video games, etc. are age-appropriate for their children. For more information, visit [http://](http://www.common sense media.org)

www.common sense media.org

I'm very excited about the increased opportunities for our students 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 issue, we will meet **Mrs. Darcy O'Connor**. Darcy is currently in her 3rd year of teaching 4th grade at NH-M. A 2012 graduate of Illinois College in Jacksonville, Darcy is currently living in Chatham with her husband, Dan and their two dogs. Darcy coaches Track at NH-M as well as coordinates the Girls on the Run program. She has been a pioneer of incorporating innovative technology in her classroom such as drones and Osmo's, and will be presenting at this year's Illinois Education Technology Conference. Her favorite part of her job is looking back at the end of the year to see how much they have grown academically and socially.



REGISTRATION 2016-2017

Back-to-school registration will occur this year on **Wednesday, August 3rd from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm**. This registration is for both students returning to and students new to NH-M. Registration fees have remained unchanged (\$50 registration fee and a \$20 technology fee). Waiver forms are available by request for families that meet income guidelines.



SOUTH WALL REPAIR PROJECT

This summer, the south wall of the original 1948 building was rebuilt in the interior. Plastered against the exterior bricks, this wall was beginning to show serious signs of deterioration. The interior wall was removed while the bricks were held in place by support beams and replaced by CMU concrete blocks. As in the past, the Board awarded this contract to local contractor Evans-Mason contractors at a competitive price. Nearly half of the funds used to pay for this project were from a previous state-awarded School Maintenance Grant and the rest was paid from Health-Life Safety funds and a small portion of local funds from the Operations & Maintenance fund. Now that the masonry portion of the project has been completed, the interior will be finished in time for school to start. The best place to see this renovation is inside the Junior High Math & Science classroom (pictured).



OPEN HOUSE

As in years past, New Holland-Middletown will host a “Back-to-School” Open House. This will be held at NH-M beginning at **6:00 pm on Monday, August 22**. This event will focus on meeting your child’s teachers, as well as an overview of the Student-Parent Handbook updated to reflect recent legislative changes. This will be an “open house” format with parents free to visit their child’s classroom, meet teachers, and view the facilities.



NH-M IS ON FACEBOOK

In addition to our website and our District Twitter account, New Holland-Middletown now has an official Facebook page! This is linked to our Twitter, so the same posts appear on both social media. To become a fan of this page, type in “New Holland Middletown” in the Facebook search page. Or you may visit — <http://www.facebook.com/nhmesd> and click on “Like” to view all district news feeds.



NH-M RECEIVES “MAKER SPACE” GRANT

This summer, NH-M learned that we had been selected to receive a grant from the Monsanto Fund in the amount of \$9,000. This grant will transform a previously unused classroom into a community “maker space.” This space will be a dedicated space for designers and tinkerers from the community to put their ideas into action. In addition to a renovation of the physical space, the grant will fund workstations and 3-D printers, as well as more traditional building tools, such as Lego blocks, art supplies, and more!



ILLINOIS EDUCATION FUNDED FISCAL YR 2017

Finally! Illinois schools now have a budget in place for the 2016–2017 school year! After almost two years of a budget impasse, a compromise was finally reached that will fund public schools and fund vital state operations for six months. For the first time in seven years, General State Aid is fully funded and a \$250 million school equity grant saw NH-M receive nearly \$30,000 in new unrestricted funding. While not a permanent solution, this was very welcomed, especially with the uncertainty surrounding school opening and/or closure with other area school districts.



NH-M BASEBALL CAMP

This summer, several NH-M students participated in a week-long camp of basic baseball skills held in the afternoons at the NH-M ball diamond. Ten students met during the first week of July for instruction and practice in the basic fundamentals of baseball, including hitting, fielding, catching and base running. The camp was supervised by Superintendent Dugan, while his 9th grade son, Ethan, a JV Baseball player for Midwest Central High School conducted the instruction. On the last day of the camp, students received their camp T-shirts (pictured) as well as Dairy Queen ice cream! It was a success, and if enough interest, is something that could hopefully occur each summer!



NH-M #88

Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

**BOXHOLDER
MIDDLETOWN, IL 62666**

