



88 MUSTANG MINUTES SUMMER 2017 ISSUE



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- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Wednesday, August 2 — Registration
10:00am –7:00 pm
- Thursday, August 17 — Open House/
Meet the Teachers
Night — 6:00 pm
- Friday, August 18—
First day of School
for students (1:30
pm Dismissal)
- Monday, September 4 — 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.

This year has seen a mild amount of building improvements as opposed to years past. Our 5th-8th grade wing is being equipped with safe and secure classroom doors that can lock in an instant. Our library/learning center will be repainted, and I'm super excited to show off this kid-friendly, inspiring and educationally stimulating color scheme!

The Board of Education has also decided to hire two local school bus drivers and lease new 2018 Bluebird buses in an attempt to provide better service and also save \$20-40,000 per year. We will also be using local businesses S.K. Davison Trucking and FS both in New Holland for maintenance, repairs and fuel. This should keep more of

our hard-earned tax dollars within our district, as opposed to paying a third party school bus contracting company as in years past.

Finally, we will be increasing our use of volunteers this year. Any parents or community member that is interested in reading to kids, helping in the classrooms, monitoring recess or just being a good role model for our kids, please feel free to contact the office to fill out a background check form. If you are able to, we could definitely use more substitute teachers!

I'm very excited about this upcoming year! More to come, but in the meantime, enjoy the rest of this beautiful summer with your families!

Respectfully yours,

Todd Dugan

Todd Dugan

TECH & LEARNING AWARD 2017

This year, I recently learned that I was nominated for and chosen to receive the "Leader of the Year" Award by Tech & Learning magazine, a premier source of educational technology news. While I was extremely honored to be selected for this award, it really is more of a testament about this very supportive community, and how much it values a community school that exists to serve children first! So congratulations on being the district that is leading the way!



REGISTRATION 2017-2018

Back-to-school registration will occur this year on **Wednesday, August 2nd 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. **Reminder: Illinois now requires 1st day compliance on immunizations.**



SCHOOL BUS CHANGES

This year, our school buses will be driven by NH-M employees, instead of being contracted by a third party bus service. This has been studied as an option for the past few years, and will eventually save our district up to \$40,000 per year. The first change you will notice will be our 2 new, 2018 school buses equipped with cameras, comfortable seating and improved acoustics. The district will save considerable sums of money by leasing these buses and employing our own drivers instead of continuing with a bus contractor. While there may be a few hiccups in the beginning (as with all new ventures), rest assured we will work through these. After all, it has been many, many years since NH-M was in the bus business!



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 Thursday, August 17**. This event will focus on meeting your child’s teachers and offer an opportunity to drop off your child’s school supplies. This will be an “open house” format with parents free to visit their child’s classroom, meet teachers, and view the facilities. **Also, the NH-MCSE will be providing free hot dogs for supper!**



WHAT IS THE NH-MCSE?

The Community Supports Education committee is a group of parents, community members, and teaching staff formed in 2012 to help advance the learning of our students, similar to a School PTO. Since its creation, the CSE has funded many technology advances such as: Chromebooks and iPads for every student, playground equipment and the yearly maintenance required to keep operations up to date. All of this would not be possible without our generous donors, volunteers, and community support.

We will be hosting an exciting variety of family friendly events this year! Keep an eye out for our newsletters and if interested in joining the CSE or volunteering for an upcoming event, please contact Diane Monday at diane.monday@outlook.com or join us on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm at NH-M.



NH-M RECEIVES “MAKER SPACE” GRANT

This summer, NH-M learned that we had been selected to receive yet another grant from the Monsanto Fund in the amount of \$5,000. This grant will be used to supplement the district’s STEM-based “maker space” lab with even more innovative equipment, like an Xbox Kinect for Science measurements and 3-D printing (aerial style), more building supplies and small (cordless) power tools and even a sewing machine! This year, our Maker Space will be opening to the community on certain days...stay tuned!!



2016 PROPERTY TAX BILLS EXPLAINED

As most homeowners probably noticed when the 2016 property tax bills were mailed out earlier this month, residents saw a significant increase in their assessed valuation, thereby resulting in an overall increase in their tax bill. Please know that NH-M #88 actually decreased our tax rate based on the 4.14% increase in assessed valuation provided to the district last fall.



The cause of the rise in tax was because many of the taxing bodies kept their rate the same or lowered it, but the state of Illinois contacted the Logan County Supervisor of Assessments Office and ordered a multiplier be added to all properties within the Corwin, Sheridan and Broadwell Townships due to a perceived lower (and unequalized) assessed valuation that had not been adjusted for several years. So while NH-M levied for about 4% more than last year (cautiously awaiting an end to Illinois' budget impasse), values saw an increase of nearly 10%, causing the increase in tax bills felt by all residents of these three townships.

Again, this was not NH-M #88's design nor intention, but nevertheless we feel that anytime taxes are increased, the taxpayers deserve an explanation. I know this does not make it any easier to pay the installments, but please know that NH-M takes its responsibility of being good stewards of district tax dollars very seriously and this multiplier was not a result of locally elected officials, but rather at the State level. If you every have any questions about tax bills, assessed valuation, or levying questions in general, please do not hesitate to contact NH-M Superintendent Todd Dugan.



NH-M #88

Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

**BOXHOLDER
MIDDLETOWN, IL 62666**

