



88 MUSTANG MINUTES SUMMER 2014 ISSUE



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- Superintendent's Corner
- Registration Info
- Baseball/Softball Info
- Chromebook Meeting
- 2014-2015 Calendar
- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Tuesday, August 5 —
Registration 9:00am –6:00 pm
- Monday, August 18—
First day of School for students (1:30 pm Dismissal)
- Wednesday, August 20 —
Board of Education Meeting — 7:00 pm
- Monday, August 25 —
First Full Day of School Attendance
- Monday, September 1—
No School in observance of Labor Day
- Thursday, September 18 —
1:30 pm Dismissal —
School Improvement

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

What a hectic summer it has been! Hard to believe that school will begin for students in only 33 days! By now, parents are getting ready for children to head back to school, and the school supply lists are now available at the store (ours have been sent to Wal-Mart and CVS).

While it is very quiet at the school during the summer months, it is a good time to accomplish a lot of reflection on what makes our district so special! As you've probably heard, this year will be NH-M's 2nd year of adopting iPads and Google Chromebooks in a 1:1 environment. Since our first year, several area districts (Chester-East Lincoln and Midwest Central, to name a couple) have announced similar goals. It feels great to lead a district that is leading others, and it has to feel good to know that your child is receiving the latest and greatest in terms of curriculum and instruction.

Several grants have been received this year, which will allow the District to adopt MyMath in grades K-5, which is a combination online and textbook

Math series completely aligned to the Common Core State Standards. A large grant was awarded to the District in the form of \$8,000 from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to install photo-voltaic solar panels on the south side of the school. While these panels won't produce large amounts of energy (best guess is enough to power one of our classrooms), it is a valuable teaching tool regarding one of the fastest growing and rapidly changing fields (STEM— Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

Additionally, grants have been submitted to expand our breakfast and lunch program, as well as submitted to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in order to try our hardest to bring the very best to our children...because they deserve the best! 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 **Mrs. Caitlin Lore**. Caitlin was recently hired to replace Miss Kirsten Larson, who moved out of state after getting engaged. Mrs. Lore recently completed her student teaching at nearby Mt. Pulaski Junior High School, and is very familiar with utilizing Google Chromebooks in the Language Arts classroom. She possesses a Bachelor of Science degree in English from Indiana State University, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. Since graduation, she has been substitute teaching in Lincoln, as well as serving as a writing tutor at Lincoln College. She and her husband live in nearby Lincoln, and she is very excited to join the NH-M learning community!

REGISTRATION 2014-2015

Back-to-school registration will occur this year on **Tuesday, August 5th from 9:00 am until 6:00 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.



GYM PROGRESS

As many of you know, due to a stage roof replacement error last year, NH-M received the funds to replace our aging gym floor at no cost to the District. Not only is this gym floor replacement long overdue, but it is a huge improvement to our school climate! After initially running into a few minor delays, the gym floor is back on track to being completed by the time school begins next month, complete with the new Mustang logo in center court. Removal is a long, hard job that will continue for about another week, after which the new floor system will be installed. Look for a community open house very soon this early fall!



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.



ALTERNATE REVENUE BONDS & GRANTS

As many of you have probably heard throughout the community, the NH-M #88 Board of Education has been discussing the possibility of issuing Alternate Revenue Bonds in order to complete some much-needed improvements to our District facility, including HVAC and possible security improvements. While nothing has been formally decided, our District has solicited input and proposals from Performance-Based Contractors with proven energy-saving results. At best estimate, if our District were to proceed with a replacement of our inefficient boiler (that was converted from steam to hot water, thus decreasing its efficiency even more), our energy savings could be as much as \$10,000 per year, even after an increase in energy use from adding air conditioning!



I wanted to take this opportunity to make the details of this discussion very transparent. At no point will property taxes paid by district homeowners be responsible for this project. Rather, because Logan County was fortunate enough to have implemented the County School Facilities Sales Tax in 2012, bonds sold would be completely paid for from this tax that is already being collected every time people patronize Logan County businesses. Your elected Board of Education members should be commended for progressively investigating ways in which to improve the learning environment, comfort and safety of our kids! As always, please contact me with any questions you may have.

CHROMEBOOK MEETING

This year, our students in grades 6th-8th will begin to be afforded the opportunity to take their Chromebooks home with them. Before this can happen, we will need to meet with parents to briefly explain expectations for home use. This very short and informal meeting will occur the same night as our annual Open House. We are very excited to be truly 1:1 this year!



NEW TEACHER TRAINING



With four new teachers joining our ranks this year, NH-M will be providing a formal New Teacher Orientation Training this Friday, July 18 at the school. Collaborative Google trainer Dominic Manola from Schaumburg, who provided invaluable training and resources to our staff last year, will be back at NH-M to provide this training.

Teachers will be provided with considerable training on how to use Gmail, Google Apps, Drive and Chromebooks in the classroom. Following the training, all staff (returning and newly hired) will be heading to the Stagecoach for supper and fellowship with colleagues. This close, supportive atmosphere is what separates NH-M from most districts, and explains why our District excels!

COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

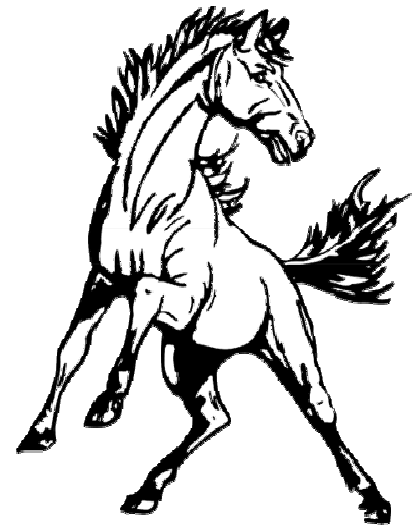
This fall, NH-M Superintendent Todd Dugan will hold an informal Coffee with the Superintendent session. This fall, the session will be held at Slacker's in New Holland on **Monday, August 25 at 5:00 pm**. No agenda is prepared ahead of time... just the concerns and compliments of interested community members.



NH-M #88

Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

**BOXHOLDER
MIDDLETOWN, IL 62666**



COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

Twice a year, NH-M Superintendent Todd Dugan holds a couple of informal Coffee with the Superintendent sessions in both New Holland and Middletown. Both events have been well attended and well received. They offer residents a chance to ask questions and share compliments and concerns about the school district. Again this spring, Superintendent Dugan will hold these sessions at **Slacker's in New Holland at 5:00 on Monday, April 28** and **Stagecoach Inn in Middletown on Tuesday, April 29 also at 5:00 pm.**



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 (2013), NH-M received a 3.90/4.00 scale, which was Financial Recognition. ***For this past year (2014), 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.***

CHROMEBOOKS ARRIVE

The 3rd grade class at NH-M recently received their very own personalized Google Chromebook laptops, making them the last official class to have a Chromebook for every student in grades 3rd-8th! While students in grades K-2 will have 1:1 access to Apple iPads, these Chromebooks are much more suited for older and more advanced learners. Shown in this picture is Miss Minde Moore's 3rd grade class receiving individualized, leveled, Math instruction via their Chromebooks.



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