



88 MUSTANG MINUTES SPRING 2013 ISSUE



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Superintendent's Corner
- ISAT Testing
- Running w/Mustangs
- Spring Schedules
- Financial Score
- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Friday, March 8 —
11:30 am Early
Dismissal
- Thursday, March 14
— 3rd Quarter
Awards Assembly
8:30 am
- Friday, March 29-
Friday, April 5: No
School Spring Break
- Tuesday, April 9—
School Board
Election
- Thursday, May 23 —
8th Graduation @
6:30 pm

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

As we approach the completion of the third grading period at NH-M, many positive things have occurred and continue to occur on a daily basis in our school district!

While not officially affiliated with the school district, *NH-M Community Supports Education* continues to host many community-based fundraising and awareness events that raise funds for NH-M to go 1 to 1 with technology devices in the next few years. While the funds generated will go along way in bringing the NH-M classrooms into the digital age, more importantly, these events are a great chance to bring the New Holland and Middletown community members together in support of a great cause and enjoy time together! The next big event planned is a Family Fun Day and 5K with lots of smaller events and celebrations throughout Middletown on **April 13, 2013**. Even if you are not able to run a 5K, there will be walks and smaller runs as well as family activities all throughout the day! Please plan on attending and showing your support for the New Holland-Middletown Mustangs! Most recently, NH-M was awarded a

\$4,500 competitive grant from the Lowe's Charitable Foundation to upgrade the school library from a traditional books and shelf format to a 21st Century media center equipped for the Information Age. With live feeds on weather and news being displayed, as well as e-readers and digital subscriptions and modernized furniture, our new Information Center will be the hub of our school. Other grants continue to be explored, including a possible STEM grant to transform our junior high Science lab into a state-of-the-art facility equipped to gather research and conduct lab experiments. Stay tuned for more exciting news on this front.

Again, I would like to thank the entire community for the support shown to our school in my first year of service to the district! We truly are, in my opinion, an outstanding community where **Learning is our #1 Priority!**

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. Stephanie Wankel**. Stephanie currently teaches 2nd grade at NH-M and is in her second year with the District. Originally from Petersburg, she graduated from Western Illinois University in 2010 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She lives in the Petersburg area with her husband Kyle and their two dogs, Pilot and Karen. When asked what she enjoys most about her job, she says "all of it!"

JUNIOR HIGH SCIENCE FAIR

Mrs. Wellbaum's Junior High Science classes completed their biannual unit on the Science Fair. Many research projects and supporting data were on display, including a hovercraft among other things. Hypotheses were formed about scientific inquiry, such as which types of soil could best withstand earthquakes and which types of salt could melt ice the quickest. While there were several first place winners, all of them did a **great job!**



ISAT TESTING

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) will be administered during the two weeks beginning **Monday, March 4, 2013 through Friday, March 15, 2013**. Schedules may vary between the grade levels, but it is of the utmost importance that **all student are in attendance during this time**. Children should be prepared for this high stakes testing, and parents can help ensure their child's success by:

- 1) Discussing the importance of the test with their child and encouraging them to do their best
- 2) Minimizing home distractions during this two week period such as special events or late night activities
- 3) Making sure your child follows an established routine and gets a good night's sleep
- 4) Making sure your child eats a good breakfast (***Please remember that the school does provide a hot breakfast program***)

NH-M teachers are working hard to prepare for the ISAT testing. Please take note of the above suggestions and help your child do their very best to prepare for state tests.

RUNNING WITH THE MUSTANGS

NH-M Community Supports Education is gearing up for the community-wide 5K run in Middletown on April 13, 2013. In addition to a 5K run (and shorter runs/walks for children), there will be a Family Fun Day in the community centering around the NH-M school. This valuable community group is an independent 501(c) community non-profit group that is helping to accelerate the rate at which 1:1 technology is deployed to NH-M students. For more information, or to register, please visit:

<https://secure.getmeregistered.com/RunningWithTheMustangs>



NH-M WINS LOWE'S GRANT—

New Holland-Middletown was recently awarded the Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant for 2012! This competitive grant was awarded to 17 school districts in Illinois, 12 of which were in the Chicago land area. The grant will be funded to upgrade the school library into a 21st Century Informational Media Center, equipping the library with live TV feeds and updated furniture. Stay tuned!



NH-M ATHLETIC PROGRAM UPDATE

After two successful Public Forums for Community input in January and February, the general consensus of the public and subsequently the NH-M Board of Education was to continue the cooperative agreement between NH-M and Carroll Catholic School for IESA Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities. While acknowledging the need for continuous improvement, NH-M has initiated the process of forming an advisory committee consisting of administration, board members and community members to meet as needed to provide NH-M feedback to Carroll Catholic regarding the strengths and areas of improvement of the cooperative.

NH-M SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

For the months of January and February, NH-M students engaged in their service learning project for the benefit of the Humane Society of Logan County. With many activities tied to the project, including a Family Reading Night and funds raised according to books read, the students have also been donating loose change to benefit the society. Currently, the Loose Change Leaders are 4th grade, with \$97.00, closely followed by the 1st grade class.



NH-M HONORS RETIRING EDUCATOR

At the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on February 20, the NH-M Board of Education honored **Mrs. Lynn Corley** with a plaque recognizing her years of service to the district. She submitted her letter of retirement to the Board, effective at the end of the 2013 school year. Mrs. Corley has served the children of New Holland and Middletown communities for the past 28 years. Her dedication to students and commitment to learning have helped NH-M on the path to becoming a 21st Century school. Serving as an Elementary teacher of multiple grade levels and assignments at both New Holland Primary School and the Middletown Middle School buildings, Mrs. Corley was most recently the District's Technology Director. In appreciation for all that she has done for NH-M, the District wishes Mrs. Corley a *Happy Retirement!*



8TH GRADE GRADUATION

The date and time for 2013's 8th Grade Graduation was approved by the NH-M Board of Education at the February Board Meeting. Although the District has utilized one Snow Day this year, the date/time for 8th Graduation was scheduled for **Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 6:30 pm** in the NH-M gymnasium.



NH-M SPELLING BEE 2013

The annual school Spelling Bee was held Monday, February 25th at 8:30 am. The top three winners from each classroom (4th-8th) were able to participate for the title of Top Speller at NH-M. The following students participated: 4th -Mya Kate Kirgan(1) and Hannah Watson, 5th -TJ Merriman(1), Skyler McGrew, Malikye Roller, 6th-Kayla Stropes(1), Denver Hoffert, Alec Wibben, 7th-Connor White(1), Clayton Skelton, Patrick Hoban 8th-Selena Quezada(1), Kaleigh Caldwell, Scott Lessen. First runner up was Kayla Stropes and the **Top Speller was Connor White**. Connor correctly spelled "relic" and "flavoring" for the Win. The top speller from each classroom was treated to lunch at Wendy's in Lincoln by Mr. Dugan and Ms. Bicknell.



PRE-SCHOOL & K-SCREENING

Any child between the ages of 3-5 residing within the New Holland-Middletown District is encouraged to attend our annual free pre-school screening and early Kindergarten registration. This will be held at the school on **Thursday, March 7 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm**. Children will be assessed in the development of fine and gross motor skills, concept and communication skills, as well as vision and hearing. Please call the school at 445-2421 with any questions.

COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

Earlier this year, NH-M Superintendent Todd Dugan held a couple of informal Coffee with the Superintendent sessions in both New Holland and Middletown. Both events were well attended and well received. They offered 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 15** and **Stagecoach Inn in Middletown on Tuesday, April 16 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:

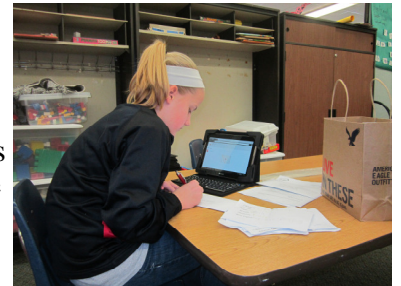
- ⇒ Financial Recognition (the highest category of financial strength)
- ⇒ Financial Review (monitored by ISBE for potential downward trends)
- ⇒ Financial Early Warning (possibly certified in financial difficulty)
- ⇒ Financial Watch (monitored very closely by ISBE with a possible Financial Oversight Panel)



For this year, New Holland-Middletown ESD 88 received a *Financial Recognition* score! This is great news not only for the families of NH-M students, but to all taxpayers in the district. Achieving this score is

TECHNOLOGY COMING TO NH-M

The first pieces of technology have started arriving at NH-M. Thanks in large part to Federal grants and a local grant from the Woods Foundation, the District has begun evaluating technology devices that will best meet the needs of our students in order to provide them a 21st Century education! With Title I funding, the District is evaluating a small number of Samsung Galaxy Tablet 10.1's in the hands of a few select students. While it is unsure which operating system (iOs/Apple, Android or Windows) will ultimately prove most effective at NH-M, students are enjoying the evaluation of this technology!



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