

# NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

**Michael P. Hughes**  
Principal

**John P. Hahola, Jr.**  
Assistant Principal

**Dr. Richard Bergacs**  
Assistant Principal



**Patricia Raleigh**  
Director of Guidance

**John Deutsch**  
Administrator/Director of Athletics

**Carol Skidmore**  
Dean of Students/Mathematics Supervisor

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November 15, 2011

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:

On Thursday, December 1, 2011 North Hunterdon High School will be hosting the Rachel's Challenge Program for all NHHS students. Rachel's Challenge is a program dedicated to Rachel Scott. Rachel was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Rachel's acts of kindness and compassion coupled with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing school programs in America. The program will use a variety of powerful video/audio footage of Rachel's life and the Columbine tragedy and will hold students spell-bound during a one hour school presentation that motivates them to positively change the way they treat others.

Our goal is to help our students recognize the importance of kindness and how they can create a positive climate in the school and our community. About a month before she died Rachel wrote an essay in her English class in which she stated, "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will show a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go." This is the culture we are looking to expand on in our school.

There will be two assemblies on the morning of December 1<sup>st</sup>. All NHHS staff members will be included in the sessions as well, including but not limited to secretaries, maintenance staff, cafeteria workers, aides, etc. This will be followed by a separate 90 minute interactive training session for approximately 100 NHHS students. The students will be randomly selected for the follow-up training that shows how to sustain the momentum created by the assembly. The assembly creates the "want to" or desire for positive change. The training session teaches the "how to" and ensures that the positive impact will continue.

The evening of December 1, 2011 the Rachel's Challenge speaker conducts a powerful session with parents and community members at 6:30 p.m. in the North Hunterdon High School Theater. This session is similar to the assembly program and ends with a specific challenge to parents and community members, showing them how they can reinforce the decisions our youth are making.

I am looking forward to this wonderful program and the positive changes it can help foster in our school. I hope this will spark conversations in your own home about positivity, and more importantly, I hope you are able to join us for the parent program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MP Hughes". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael P. Hughes  
Principal