



North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District

“Providing Success for all Students”

Fall 2009

Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year!

The opening of the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District on August 27, 2009 welcomed 3,006 students back to school along with 19 new staff members. There were no major construction projects or changes made over the summer so students were not met with any new surprises on their first day. Students did meet some new teachers and staff members as 19 employees were hired over the summer to replace staff who retired or left the district at the end of the last school year. No new positions were created as enrollment has decreased by about 20 students this year. All new staff members received a week of training prior to the opening of school and will work with a mentor during their first year in the district.

The beginning of the 2009-2010 school year has brought with it a heightened vigilance on preventing the spread of germs in schools as the H1N1 (swine) flu virus has spread across the country. Over the summer, the high school district put in place a pandemic plan that it hopes will help to prevent the spread of germs and viruses in its two high schools. Teachers were reminded, and are in turn reminding their students, to cover their coughs and wash their hands with soap and water. Tissues, antibacterial wipes, and hand sani-

tizers have been placed in each classroom. Custodial staff is paying extra attention to disinfecting commonly used areas such as cafeteria tables, drinking fountains, toilet handles, door handles, etc.

The district has been in close contact

with the Hunterdon County Health Department to stay informed on the latest news and guidelines regarding the H1N1 flu and its vaccine. The district has set up a webpage with news and links to information on the H1N1 flu (www.nhvweb.net/swineflu.asp). The district has also sent letters and notices to parents that have come from the Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention or the Hunterdon County Health Department.

The high school district is looking forward to another successful and safe school year, during which it will be focusing on the

goals in the box above. If you have questions about the district, please call 908-735-2846. ■

District Goals for 2009-2010:

- *By June 2010, all departments will have administered the State Core Curriculum Content Standards common quarterly assessments developed for each course and will have analyzed the results and revised the assessment as necessary.*
- *By June 2010, the new State graduation requirement for a 2.5 credit course in financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy will be developed and be ready for implementation for the Grade 9 class of the 2010-2011 school year.*
- *By June 2011, all curriculums will be aligned to the new State Core Content Standards.*

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Guidance Depts. Help Students With College Process

Anyone who has been to college may remember the chaotic process of trying to find the right college. First, you write down a list of colleges that might be of interest, then start your visits, cross off the ones you didn't like, then begin filling out college and financial aid applications, and then cross your fingers while waiting for the responses to arrive.

The process of finding and applying to colleges can be stressful and exciting. As the process can be, and often times is, overwhelming, it helps greatly when students and parents have the resources to assist them with their college search. The guidance departments at North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools have the resources plus the skilled personnel to help seniors and their parents when they begin the search process. The guidance departments hold several informational sessions during the school year that are designed to help parents and students make sense of everything involved with finding and applying to colleges.

"The evening programs are essential for parents and students to attend so they can have insight, tools and enthusiasm as they approach the exciting, yet intimidating, process of exploring possibilities for education after high school," said Sue Boer, Guidance Supervisor at Voorhees High School.

Beginning in September, both high schools hold college fairs and Senior College Nights. This year, over 100 colleges sent representatives to the fairs at each high school. The fairs are a great opportunity for students to pick up literature about the colleges, sign up on a college's mailing list, and speak one-on-one with someone who knows the college intimately.

Within a week of the college fair, the guid-

ance departments hold Senior College Night. Seniors and their parents hear from the guidance counselors the step-by-step process on how to fill out college applications. Most importantly, counselors discuss timeframes for students to be aware of when gathering the necessary paperwork for applications. For instance, seniors need to have copies of their SAT or ACT scores and high school transcripts sent to the colleges, and most students try to get letters of

recommendation from teachers or administrators. All of this information takes time and planning to obtain.

In addition to collecting these necessary pieces for the application, most students and parents also have the financial aid application looming in the background. Both high schools hold two financial aid nights during the school year. Counselors walk parents through what usually accompanies the financial aid applications and how to plan accordingly.

While the fall meetings are geared towards seniors, the guidance departments also hold informa-

tional meetings for juniors in the spring as they start their search for the right college. The sessions for juniors help prepare them to create a list of colleges and speak to representatives at the college fairs in the fall. Guidance counselors also encourage juniors to start thinking about subject matter for the essay, which accompanies most college applications.

While the guidance departments are available to help students and parents with the college search process, counselors recommend contacting the college directly if students have specific questions regarding the application. With so many colleges to choose from, the guidance departments recognize how valuable resources and information can help make the college process seem a little less overwhelming. ■



Board of Education News

This section will provide you with an update on key news and motions, which were discussed and/or approved at each Board of Education meeting. Agendas and meeting minutes can be accessed at this link: <http://www.nhvweb.net/boeagenda/>.

→ July 21, 2009 Meeting:

- Board accepts NJ Department of Education grant funding for boys gym roof at North Hunterdon. This roof project plus all projects in referendum received 40% funding from the state.
- Bids and transportation routes were re-approved for the 2009-2010 school year.

→ August 18, 2009 Meeting:

- Board accepted its goals for the 2009-2010 school year, which were discussed and chosen at a special meeting on July 29.
- Board re-approved Butter Krust Company and Pocono Dairies to provide food and dairy products to the cafeterias.
- Booster Clubs and PTSAs were approved for operation during the 2009-2010 school year.

→ September 22, 2009 Meeting:

- Board ratifies Supervisors Contract. Three-year contract provides 3% increase each year with a one-time stipend of 1.25% in 2009-2010 school year.
- Superintendent's contract approved by Board and will be effective until June 30, 2015.
- Board voted to postpone referendum until April 20, 2010, which will coincide with Annual School Elections. Moving the date of the referendum will save the district about \$70,000, which is the cost of running a special election.
- Bid to replace roof over boys gym at North Hunterdon High School was awarded to Clifton & Clark of Passaic, NJ whose bid totaled \$98,800. Roof was replaced in mid-October 2009.

→ October 13, 2009 Meeting:

- Board authorizes district to purchase electric generation services through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services.
- Board approves calendar for 2010-2011 school year. Calendar is available on the district website, www.nhvweb.net, under Community Resources menu. ■

Upcoming Board Meetings:

November 17, 2009: Regular Session at 7PM in Voorhees Cafeteria

December 8, 2009: Work Session at 7PM in North Hunterdon Library

December 15, 2009: Regular Session at 7PM in North Hunterdon Library

January 12, 2010: Work Session at 7PM in North Hunterdon Library

January 26, 2010: Regular Session at 7PM in North Hunterdon Library

Board of Education Members:

| <u>District/Member</u> | <u>Term Ends</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Franklin Township/ Town of Clinton | |
| Louis Pennucci | 2011 |
| Califon/Tewksbury | |
| Deborah Close | 2011 |
| Nicholas Nacamuli | 2012 |
| Union Township | |
| Monica Gondek | 2012 |
| John Kulick, Ph.D. | 2010 |
| Bethlehem/Glen Gardner/Hampton | |
| Francis Goger | 2010 |
| Debra Roosen | 2011 |
| Clinton Township/Lebanon Borough | |
| Sandy Seidorf | 2011 |
| Marc Shaffer | 2010 |
| Beverly Thorne (VP) | 2012 |
| Barbara Walter (Pres.) | 2011 |
| High Bridge/Lebanon Township | |
| Carol Anne Mates | 2010 |
| Garry Peabody | 2012 |

HomeLogic Allows Parents to Track Child's Progress

Parents of students in the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District now have the opportunity to check their students' progress in school with a few clicks of the mouse. The district has provided parents with the ability to sign in to a secure online program called HomeLogic, which allows parents to view their child's assignments, grades, and class attendance.

HomeLogic is the sister program to TeacherLogic, which is an online grade book tool used by

2009-2010 school year. So far, more than half of parents in the high school district have signed up to access HomeLogic.

"We were pleased with the response from both teachers and parents last year during the pilot program. HomeLogic gives parents real-time data and it will provide a more streamline communication between the school and parents regarding their child's academic status," said Richard Bergacs, Ed.D., Director of Technology.

The screenshot shows the HomeLogic web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for Attendance, Grades, Assignments, Events, and Discipline. The Assignments tab is selected. Below the navigation bar, there is a header for "Assignments For Dessarae Code (421811728)". A table lists the following assignments:

| Class | Instructor | Caption | Issued | Due Date | |
|------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Science 7C | Damon Falconer | Read Chapter 6-7 * | 2/26/2002 | 2/27/2002 | DETAILS |
| Math 7C | Nicolas Mctavish | Take Home Quiz * | 2/14/2002 | 2/15/2002 | DETAILS |
| Science 7C | Damon Falconer | Read Chapter 4 * | 2/4/2002 | 2/5/2002 | DETAILS |

* Denotes a Required Assignment

Sample view courtesy of <http://www.migsirs.com/cgi-bin/load.pl?page=homelogic>

teachers throughout the high school district. Once a teacher enters a grade on a test or assignment, takes daily class attendance, or posts a new homework assignments within the TeacherLogic program, parents will then be able to view all this information through HomeLogic.

Parents in the district have been asking for this access as other districts, such as Clinton Township Middle School and Phillipsburg High School, have already instituted similar programs. During the 2008-2009 school year, the district held a pilot program of HomeLogic. Eight teachers at each high school volunteered for the pilot program, which equated to about 600 students' parents who could be involved with the pilot. As the district received very positive responses from parents and teachers in the pilot program, it chose to expand the use of HomeLogic to all parents at the beginning of the

Students have also been encouraged by teachers to check their own progress through HomeLogic. Since students can see their grades as soon as the teacher posts them, students do not have to ask teachers throughout the year how they are doing - they can now check for themselves.

"Thus far, I have been positively impressed with the HomeLogic portion. Parents are able to check their children's progress and improvement in the class. Plus my students use HomeLogic to take responsibility for checking what work needs to be made up," said Jillian Ritchie, World Language teacher at North Hunterdon High School.

The HomeLogic program may eventually eliminate the need to mail progress reports in the future, however, this action would depend on how comfortable parents are with using HomeLogic and how many are signed up to use the program. ■

National Merit Scholars 2010

Thirty-nine seniors from North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools have been named as Semi-Finalists or Commended Students in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Semi-Finalists are: Michael Wu and Jeffrey Chen from North Hunterdon, and Andrew Botelho, Ian Krisantis, Megan Partridge and Laura Sluyter from Voorhees.

Commended Students from North Hunterdon are: Lucy Bertocci, Megan Campbell, Karl Chamberlin, Amanda DeCarlo, Adam Freitag, Kelly Gavigan, Julia Gonski, Samuel Goodwin, Thomas Infosino, Julianna Jarvis, Erich Junge, Daniel Kaplan, Cara Kubinak, Justine Langman, Gene Li, Breann Liebermann, Adrienne Liu, Timothy Meo, Michael Ronan, Amanda Steitz, Eric Tejada, Betsy Thorne, Daniel Wei, Ethan White, Shane Wilson, Matthew Wright, William Zhang, and Matthew Ziemer. Commended students from Voorhees are: Brandon Gnash, Jack Kurth, Danielle Piannucci, Will Woliver

-Jones, and Isabel Wylie.

This year, about 34,000 students throughout the country have been named as Commended Students for their exceptional academic promise. Commended students place among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2010 competition by taking the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Semi-Finalists are designated on a state representational basis, which means the students selected as Semi-Finalists are the highest scoring entrants in the state. About 15,000 students will go on to be selected as Finalists and will be notified of their selection in February. Students chosen as Finalists also have the opportunity of winning \$2,500 scholarships. ■

Group photos of students have been deleted for privacy reasons.

Voorhees Recognizes Outstanding Staff and Students

Most high schools have a strong sense of community and school pride, and Voorhees High School is definitely one of those. In an effort to sustain that sense of community and boost morale even more, Voorhees has initiated two new programs this school year.

The first new program is called Because You Do. This program recognizes teachers, staff members, and students who have gone out of their way to contribute back to the high school and/or community. Staff members nominate fellow staff members who they feel have given exceptional contributions to the high school and students. These nominated staff members are then asked to each select one student who has shown exceptional performance, character, and/or who has gone above and beyond. A committee of staff members reviews the staff and student nominations to confirm that the nominations are deserving. During a monthly faculty meeting, the nominated staff members and students are awarded a certificate along with a gift card for a Voorhees T-shirt at the school store. Nominations for the Because You Do program will be accepted four times during the year.

The Because You Do program was actually started at Hunterdon Central Regional High School. MaryJo Rosania, Voorhees art supervisor and former art teacher at Central, suggested the program to the administration at Voorhees, who instituted it this

school year. "This was a great morale booster when I worked at Central and thought it would be a great program to start at Voorhees. So far it has been quite successful," said Rosania.

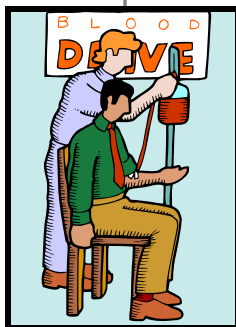
The second new program this year is called Praise Referral. This program is geared towards recognizing students who may not be the typical academic or athletic achiever. Faculty members can nominate students to receive praise in a variety of categories, including improved academic performance, personal behavior, and school/community support. The teacher fills out a praise referral form and sends it to Assistant Principal Ron Peterson for review. Peterson and Principal Dave Steffan meet with the nominated student and review the positive referral from the teacher. The student's parents are called about the referral and they receive a copy of the referral, which is signed by the principal.

"We had a student who was given a praise referral for stopping a fight from happening. He said his praise referral form is now the first thing you see when you enter his house. This program puts the positive back out there instead of us normally focusing on the negative," said Peterson. The Praise Referral program was also initiated at the beginning of this school year and has been just as successful as the Because You Do program. Within the first few weeks of the school year, a dozen students have already received a praise referral from a teacher. ■

Record-Setting Blood Drives Continue

The New Jersey Blood Services blood drives held at North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools continue to set new records each year. The two high schools actually ranked as the highest in high school donations in the state for 2008 (North ranked first with 668 pints donated and Voorhees was second with 637 pints)! In addition, both high schools ranked in the top 15 donation groups for 2008, ranking with companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Merck, and Met Life.

The record-setting continued for the high



school blood drives as the drive held on October 14 at Voorhees High School collected 215 pints, the highest ever collected at a Voorhees drive held in the fall! With a recent legislation change to allow 16 year olds to donate blood with parent permission, the records set by the two high schools last year have the chance to be broken during this school year.

North Hunterdon High School has its blood drive scheduled for Tuesday, November 24 from 7:30AM to 3:30PM in the new gym. Please stop by if you would like to donate. ■

Homecoming Pep Rally at NHHS

Pep rallies have long been a tradition at high schools and colleges across America. A scene in the movie *Grease* portrayed the quintessential pep rally that precedes the “big game” of the year, with athletes in their varsity jackets and cheerleaders shaking their pompoms. To this day, the pep rally lives on as the catalyst for students and staff to let their school pride ring out.

The “big game” for North Hunterdon High School’s varsity football team came on October 16, the day of the Homecoming game. A pep rally was held during the last period of the day to build the excitement for the game that evening against Linden High School. With 1,860 students and almost 100 faculty members packed into the gym, the varsity and JV cheerleading squads started things off with a few routines to help get the crowd cheering. Next, teacher and coach Charlie Heidecker took the microphone and had the grade levels compete on who could cheer the loudest. Needless to say the school spirit of the senior class easily beat the other classes.

The Homecoming court of eight girls and eight boys then took center court to perform a rehearsed skit to “Grease Lightning”, which brought



The Varsity Cheerleading squad gets the crowd pumped up with its impressive pyramid.

laughs and cheers from the entire crowd. Nominees for Homecoming Queen were: Lauren Borghard, Danielle Dowd, Lexie Fontini, Natalie Kudryk, Ann Lauer, Emma Swanson, Mary VanderVeen, and Ally Zimmerman. Nominees for Homecoming King were: Colin Brown, Jeffrey Chen, Ryan Cusack, Kevin Haplea, Eric Maul, Brent Pinkerton, Evan Reed, and Shane Wilson.

After the Homecoming court got everyone laughing, the three football captains, Shane Wilson, Kevin Haplea and Rich Dilley, took the microphone to introduce the seniors on the team. Then Shane Wilson got the crowd standing for a “Go North, Beat Linden” cheer.

This cheer turned into a reality at the football game that evening when the North Hunterdon Lions beat the previously undefeated Linden team 21-14. The end of the first quarter left the Lions down by 14 points, but the second half was a whole different story. The crowded stands were cheering so loudly when the Lions took the lead, it is safe to say that people in the surrounding neighborhood also knew the Lions were winning.

To cap off an exciting weekend, over 1,200 students gathered in the gym once again on Saturday, October 17, this time for the Homecoming Dance. Emma Swanson was crowned Homecoming Queen during the game on Friday, and she got to dance with her King, Jeffrey Chen, when he was crowned at the dance. ■



Left: The senior class shows the rest of the student body how the wave should be done.

District Newsletter

North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District
1445 Route 31, Annandale, NJ 08801

Charles M. Shaddow, Ph.D., *Superintendent of Schools*
Frank C. Helies, Ph.D., *Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/Pupil
Personnel Services*
Susan Press, *School Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

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District Meets AYP Requirements for NCLB

The Federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in language arts literacy and mathematics be measured annually for each school in New Jersey. Both North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools have met the preliminary requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress Status. AYP Status is determined by scores on the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA), which tests students' knowledge in language arts literacy and mathematics. All students take the HSPA in their junior year of high school. The district's new AYP status is based on the HSPA scores of students in the Class of 2009, who took the exam in March 2008.

North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools met 41 out of 41 indicators to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress status. Some of the indicators in-

clude: at least 95% participation rate of students enrolled in a particular grade level (for instance 95% of the Class of 2009 had to have taken the HSPA test for the high school to meet that indicator), total student population that met the benchmark target for the HSPA as determined by the New Jersey Department of Education, and the percentage of students with disabilities that met the benchmark target.

Schools which do not meet the benchmark targets, and therefore do not meet the indicators for Adequate Yearly Progress, have one year to improve. Schools that miss AYP for one year are placed into "early warning" status. If schools miss for two consecutive years, they are identified as "schools in need of improvement". If AYP is missed, schools must develop corrective action plans for the areas they did not meet benchmarks. ■

"Providing Success for all Students"