

District Newsletter



Welcome to the 2010-2011 School Year

FALL 2010

Another school year is well under way for the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District! As of September 8, the district had a total enrollment of 2,992 students, with 1,831 at North Hunterdon High School and 1,161 at Voorhees High School.

We welcomed several new staff members this year, who are listed on

page 2 of this newsletter. We have also added the state mandated class of Financial Literacy to our curriculum. This half year course will be mandatory for graduation for all students from the current freshmen Class of 2014 going forward.

District Goals

The high school district will be concentrating on several goals during the current school year.

Per state mandate, our faculty will continue to align all curricula to the new State Core Content Standards to be completed by June 2011.

The district will also incorpo-

rate all senior English electives into a single course titled English IV. This new full-year course will incorporate aspects from most of the electives that would be eliminated. More informa-

tion will be made available once the course outline is approved. English IV would be included

in the 2011-2012 curriculum guide.

The district will also explore uses of its technology resources in order to increase the efficiency of its

procedures at the school and district levels.

We look forward to communicating with our parents throughout the school year. Please continue to check your email and/or our websites for the latest messages from

our district. If you have any questions, please contact the high schools' main offices or the District Communications Coordinator.



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Don't forget to visit our websites frequently for the latest news and information:

District website -
www.nhvweb.net

North Hunterdon -
www.nhvweb.net/nhhs

Voorhees -
www.nhvweb.net/vhs

Come out to support our sports teams!

[Click here for North Hunterdon's game schedule](#)

[Click here for Voorhees' game schedule](#)

District Welcomes New Staff Members

Though we have had to reduce our work force due to budget constraints, we have welcomed new faces to our district this year who have replaced those full-time employees who retired or resigned.

At North Hunterdon, the faculty welcomed Peter Arthmire - Chemistry teacher and Colleen DeLucia - Mathematics teacher.

Voorhees welcomed Kelsey Baer - Family & Consumer Sciences teacher, Jennifer Gigantino - Special Education teacher, Christina Grodkiewicz - Art teacher, and Ian McElroy - Latin teacher.

We have also welcomed Megan Grilli-Oesterle, who is the new Gifted & Talented Coordinator for both high schools.

At Back to School night, parents may have met other new employees not listed here. The district has hired several individuals to fill in for permanent employees who are out on temporary leave.

Please help us make our new employees feel welcome in our district.

Important Calendar Dates

To view the high school's district calendar, please visit our website, www.nhvweb.net, and click on the Community Resources tab. This is the calendar that has been approved by the Board of Education. The next time our schools will be closed is on November 4 and 5 for the NJEA Convention, and November 24 (half day) through November 26 for the Thanksgiving recess.



Parents should also be aware of the dates for our staff in-service days, when students will be dismissed at 11:55AM. The dates for staff in-service have been scheduled as follows:

November 10, 2010	February 9, 2011
December 8, 2010	March 9, 2011
January 12, 2011	April 6, 2011

Home Logic

The high school district had a successful launch of Home Logic during the last school year and now has the vast majority of its parents using the system. Home Logic is a secure program that allows parents to monitor their child's grades and assignments online for all classes. Home Logic enables parents to be informed of their child's progress in a more timely manner. In the past, parents would receive progress reports in the mail. As these reports take time to prepare and mail for almost 3,000 students, the information in the report could be a week or two old. Home Logic enables parents to view their child's grades on a test or assignment within a few days (depending on how long the teacher needs to grade all assignments or tests). The parent can also view

teacher comments if any are necessary.

With so many parents now using Home Logic, the district has decided to eliminate progress reports and the mailing of report cards for the first three marking periods, which will save time and money. Parents can opt-in to still receive all report cards by mail. The final report card of the year will continue to be mailed home to all. Parents will receive a notification when report cards are ready to be viewed online.

*Paper report cards
becoming a thing of
the past.*

If parents have questions regarding Home Logic, they should contact the registrar at their child's high school, Sue Gutwillig at North Hunterdon or Sherri DiMarcello at Voorhees.

Sharing Services, Saving Money

The district has continued to look for ways to partner with its sending elementary districts to share services and save money.

For many years, our transportation department has reached out to elementary districts to bid together on transportation routes. This joint bidding has helped the district save \$16,902 for the 2010-2011 school year. The joint bidding also saved \$14,163 for Lebanon Township School District and \$3,951 for Union Township School District for this year.

In addition, our technology department is now hosting the Hampton Elementary School District's website and staff email accounts. As part of a shared services agreement this school year, the high school dis-

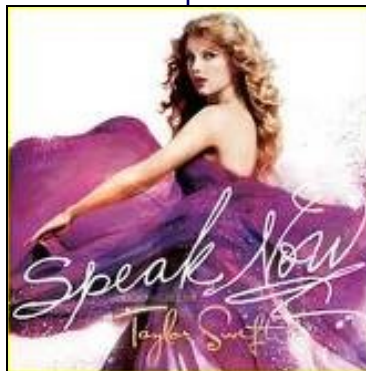
trict's technology staff will also provide basic technical services, such as desktop or laptop installation and repair and software installation, to advanced technical services, such as server installation and repair and network software troubleshooting to the elementary school.

The Hampton school district will pay an hourly rate for all services.



NHHS Student Wins Contest to Attend Taylor Swift Album Release Event

Melissa Castrogiovanni, a senior at North Hunterdon High School and resident of Bethlehem Township, has been chosen as one of four winners in the Taylor Swift Album Release Contest. Swift's new album, *Speak Now*, was released on October 25, 2010 in New York City. All four winners attended the album release event in New York and also traveled to Los Angeles from New York with Taylor Swift to attend the release event in L.A.



Individuals entering the contest had to be at least 13 years of age and were asked to

write a 40 word or less essay answering the question, why should you be chosen to win the trip to be with Taylor Swift at her album release event. The most creative and enthusiastic essays would win. In Melissa's essay, she wrote that she has not missed a day of school since the second grade and she would gladly ruin her perfect attendance record to see Taylor Swift.

This is a very exciting prize and we congratulate Melissa on creating a winning essay.

School Closing Information

Through School Messenger, a web-based notification system, all parents and staff members in the high school district receive a phone call if school is closed, will operate on a 2-hour delayed opening, or is closing early due to inclement weather or an emergency. If a parent or staff member misses the recorded phone call, there are several other ways to find out the status of school for the day:

- Check the district's website (www.nhvweb.net)
- Dial main school numbers (NHHS: 908-713-4199,

VHS: 908-638-2199) and choose option 9

- Tune in to North Hunterdon's TV Channel 25 on Comcast Cable, News 12 New Jersey, or WFMZ Channel 69 Allentown
- Listen to WLEV 100.7FM or B104.1FM

School Messenger phone calls and the update to the recorded message for the school switchboards are completed by 6:00AM on the day that school will be closed or will have a delayed opening.

District Receives \$42,400 Safety Grant

The New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group (NJSBAIG) has awarded the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District, a member of the insurance group, a grant in the amount of \$42,400 for enhancements to safety and security at both of its high schools.

In its application for NJSBAIG's 2010 Safety Grant Program, the high school district identified several areas where the money would be utilized, though the specific examples given below may be subject to change. Areas identified included:

- Communications – expansion of existing communications network for communicating during emergencies and evacuation drills. Examples include purchasing additional handheld communication devices and installation of additional speakers linked with public address system.
- Parking Lot Safety – provide additional and replacement small equipment and supplies to increase the visibility of security personnel and

enhance pedestrian and motorist safety. Examples include purchasing additional traffic barriers, signs, cones and reflective attire for district security personnel.

- Professional Development – implementation of training materials addressing topics specific to school bus drivers to ensure safe transport of students, as well as other staff training on various safety related topics.
- Building Security – expansion of existing video surveillance network and electronic locking system for doors to control access and monitor activity in buildings.
- Medical Response – provide additional and replacement small equipment for nursing staff and athletic trainers in the prevention of injury and screening/treatment of patients.

The grant will be awarded to the high school district on December 9, 2010.

VHS Field Hockey Helps Ronald McDonald House

At their game on October 1st, the Voorhees High School field hockey team raised \$942.11 through a bake sale for the Ronald McDonald House as a thank you for helping their coach Beth Stocker and her family through a tough time.

Friends, family and fans of the Voorhees team and the opposing North Hunterdon team purchased coffee, hot chocolate, bagels, doughnuts, cookies, pumpkin bread, soda and many other items, all donated by the Voorhees field hockey players and their parents. The Voorhees men's soccer team was also playing the same day against Delaware Valley so there were many spectators who purchased items for a good cause. Some generous fans even donated \$10 or \$20 for a cup of coffee and a bagel.

Collected donations were given to the Ronald McDonald house in the name of the Stocker family. Beth Stocker has been head coach of the Voorhees field hockey team since 2003. Mrs. Stocker missed a few games this season as she gave birth to her second

child, Maddie, on September 21. Unfortunately things did not go as smoothly as hoped for little Maddie. She was born with a left congenital diaphragmatic hernia and was flown to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for treatment. The Ronald McDonald House provided the Stocker family with a room for \$15 a night, compared to over \$150 for a hotel room. The family was given breakfast, dinner and transportation back and forth from the hospital for free.

After two weeks, Maddie was allowed to go home. When the Ronald McDonald House found out the family was leaving, they helped Beth's 5-year old son, Nate, pick out blankets and toys for his new sister.

Maddie is home and doing well and Beth Stocker is back coaching the team. The field hockey players were thankful for the generosity shown to their coach and her family and wanted to do something to give back. Donations continued to come in after the bake sale and the total donation given to the Ronald McDonald House was \$1,165.

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 20, 2010 Meeting:

- Board adopted final budget for 2010-2011 school year with NJDOE’s reduction of \$1,411,297
- Board adopted energy savings plan created by Honeywell International.
- Plans for reconstruction of press box at Voorhees High School were approved.

→ August 17, 2010 Meeting:

- Board approved a shared services agreement with Hampton Elementary School District for technical services.
- Board accepted bids for transportation routes for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Professional consultants, PTSAs and Booster Clubs were re-approved for 2010-2011 school year.

→ September 14, 2010, Board Goal Setting Meeting:

- Three goals were created for the 2010-2011 school year:
 - The Board will present a budget less than state cap, which includes appropriate cost savings initiatives and alternative revenue sources where feasible.
 - In order to guide district decision making, the Board will actively engage its constituent communities and municipalities in a system of two-way communication.
 - The Board will complete its self evaluation and the superintendent’s evaluation within statutory timelines.

→ September 21, 2010 Meeting:

- Board accepted its goals for 2010-2011 school year.
- Discussion took place regarding school choice for all Clinton Public School students now that Glen Gardner has fully merged into the Clinton school district. Currently, Clinton Town students are allowed to attend either North or Voorhees; Glen Gardner students attend Voorhees. No decision was made to change policy at that time.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

November 16, 2010: Regular Session, 7PM, Voorhees Cafeteria

December 14, 2010: Regular Session, 7PM, North Hunterdon Media Center

January 11, 2011: Work Session, 7PM, District Office

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.	2013
Bethlehem/Glen Gardner/Hampton	
Francis Goger	2013
Debra Roosen (VP)	2011
Clinton Township/Lebanon Borough	
Sandy Seidorf	2011
Roger Straight	2013
Beverly Thorne	2012
Barbara Walter (Pres.)	2011
High Bridge/Lebanon Township	
Carol Anne Mates	2013
Garry Peabody	2012

Students Named AP Scholars & National Merit Semi-Finalists

District-wide, 216 students (146 students at North Hunterdon High School and 70 students at Voorhees High School) have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams taken in May 2010.

Fourteen students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. These students were:

North Hunterdon: Lucy Marie Bertocci, Jeffrey Chen, Julia Gonski, Joel Klein, Justine Langman, Daniel Wei and Shane Wilson

Voorhees: Kacie Albert, Gregory Brittingham, George Hartmann, Ian Krisanits, Laura Sluyter, Elizabeth Warmingham, and Will Woliver-Jones

The district has also learned that four students were named Semi-Finalists and 38 students named Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Students are chosen based on their scores on the 2009 PSAT exam.

If a semi-finalist becomes a finalist, he/she will have the opportunity to be awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. 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.

Congratulations to all our scholars!



*Pictured above (L-R):
Voorhees Principal
Dave Steffan, Semi-
Finalists Joshua Haas
and Nick Porto*

*Pictured right (L-R):
North Hunterdon Prin-
cipal Michael Hughes,
Semi-Finalists Mat-
thew Berry and R.S.
(parent has chosen to
withhold name on
website)*



Don't forget Spirit Week and the Milkcan Game!

Spirit Week will be happening the week of November 15 leading up to the Milkcan Football Game, North vs. Voorhees, on Friday, November 19. It's a week full of school spirit, decorations, contests and a pep rally. Hope you can join us on the 19th to watch our high schools battle it out for the coveted gold milk can!

Important Contact Numbers:

District Office - 908-735-2846	NHHS Guidance - 908-713-4130
Transportation - 908-713-4116	NHHS Health Office - 908-713-4171
NHHS Main Office - 908-713-4110	VHS Main Office - 908-638-6116
	VHS Guidance - 908-638-2124
	VHS Health Office - 908-638-2148

Mailing Addresses:

District Office
1445 State Route 31
Annandale, NJ 08801

North Hunterdon High School
1445 State Route 31
Annandale, NJ 08801

Voorhees High School
256 County Road 513
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826