

District Newsletter



DECEMBER 2010

High Schools Receive Award For Blood Drives

At the Board of Education meeting on October 26, 2010, North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools were recognized by New Jersey Blood Services, a division of the New York Blood Center, for ranking first and second, respectively, in total blood donations for their drives held during the 2009-2010 school year. North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools were the top two in a list that included 526 high schools in the tri-state area.

Barbara Pearson, Account Manager for New Jersey Blood Services, presented an award to the blood drive faculty coordinators at each school. The award read: "New Jersey Blood Services proudly salutes North Hunterdon High School and Voorhees High School, the top two ranked high schools for blood donations at New York Blood Center for the 2009-2010 school year. Thank you for your commitment to saving lives!" Accepting the award

for Voorhees High School was teacher and blood drive coordinator, Marc McGeehan, and accepting on behalf of North Hunterdon High School was



(L-R) Marc McGeehan, Steve DeLorenzo, Barbara Pearson, Robin Scheier, Principal Michael Hughes

Principal Michael Hughes and blood drive coordinators, Steven DeLorenzo and Robin Scheier.

A second award was presented by Judy Daniels, Manager of Corporate and Community Relations for New Jersey Blood Services, to Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Charles M. Shaddow. Dr. Shaddow was thanked for his service as

Education Chair on the blood services' Volunteer Leadership Campaign and for leading his two high schools to the rank of first and second for blood donations.



(L-R) Barbara Pearson, Dr. Charles Shaddow, Judy Daniels

The New York Blood Center serves New Jersey, Hudson Valley, Long Island, and the five boroughs of New York City. Blood donations from high school and college blood drives make up 20% of the total blood collected by the New York Blood Center.

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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](#)

VHS Student Has Webcam Interview with Ford Mustang Engineer

As part of an assignment in his Advanced Academic Literacies (AAL) class at Voorhees High School with teacher Sarah Hall, freshman Avery Van Hassel of High Bridge was asked to choose a career field, research the steps and skills necessary for that career, and then write a letter to a professional in that field. Avery chose Automotive Engineer as his career and decided to write his letter to Mr. Dave Pericak, Chief Engineer of the Ford Mustang, after reading that Pericak's dream was to own a Mustang and now he is in charge of designing the iconic muscle car.

To Avery's disappointment, Mr. Pericak did not write back right away. Instead Mr. Pericak took a different route. He contacted Principal Dave Steffan and set up a surprise Skype session with Avery during his AAL class on November 2. Avery was in shock at the surprise and his response to meeting Mr. Pericak through the web was, "Oh wow...Hi."

Mr. Pericak said Avery's letter "really resonated" with him as Avery shows the same passion as he has for cars and he felt a letter in return was not enough.

Avery, coincidentally wearing a Ford Mustang t-shirt, sat down and asked Mr. Pericak the questions he posed in his letter, such as how did you get to where you are today, what's it like to have the job you do, whether he had been designing cars since he was young, and how do you deal with conflicting opinions about the design of the car. Mr. Pericak told Avery and the entire class that to succeed and do what you love you need to gain the "necessary education, have tenacity, do not let go of what you want, and follow your dream." Pericak said he loves his job and the chance to interact with "the thousands of engineers it takes to create one car." He also reminded students that "a conflict of opinions can lead to great creative ideas" so learn how to break down the variety of opinions and concentrate on a couple. He also added that he has been drawing cars and working on them with his father since he was very young.

In closing, Mr. Pericak told Avery to stay in touch as the Ford company offers summer internship programs in the engineering field, and Avery can expect a care package in the mail.

Tewkesbury, UK Students Meet Tewksbury Twp. Students

Since 2006, exchange students from Tewkesbury, England have been coming to Voorhees High School and staying with host families. Twenty-one students from England, ages 17 and 18, made the trip this year. Exchange students arrived on Friday, October 22, 2010 and spent Monday and Tuesday with their host student attending classes at Voorhees. On Wednesday, the exchange students traveled to Princeton Uni-

versity for an admissions tour, then Thursday was sightseeing in New York City. Friday, October 29 and the weekend was spent at their leisure with the exchange student's host family, many partaking in Halloween festivities. The group headed back home on Monday, October 31. Below: The exchange students gathered with their host students outside Voorhees for a group photo before heading back to England.



Two Students Named Coca-Cola Scholar Semi-Finalists

Two students at North Hunterdon High School have been named semi-finalists for the 2011 Class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program: Patrick Boyle, a senior from Bethlehem Township and Makenzie Holmsborg, a senior from Clinton Township. With the 2011 class, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation will have provided more than 4,000 young scholars nationwide with over \$44 million in scholarships.

Patrick Boyle and Makenzie Holmsborg rank with approximately 2,100 high school seniors who are in the running for \$3 million in college scholarships that the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation will award in the spring of 2011. Students are selected to advance to this next phase based on academic excellence, leadership and achievement demonstrated in school and community activities. The Class of 2011 Coca-Cola Scholars will mark the 23rd consecutive year that the Foundation has awarded scholarships.

As semi-finalists, students must submit additional information that will be reviewed in January 2011 by a committee comprised of 30 educators from high schools and universities throughout the United States. If advanced, Patrick and Makenzie will be among 253 finalists who will travel to Atlanta April 14 - 17, 2011



to attend the Coca-Cola Scholars Weekend. During their visit, they will attend a final interview process that will determine whether they are designated as either a National or Regional Scholar. The 50 National Scholars will each receive a \$20,000 scholarship award, while the 200 Regional Scholars will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Three additional \$20,000 scholarships are awarded by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, including the Crawford T. Johnson III Scholarship, the Coca-Cola Emory Scholarship, and the Sandy Williams Alumni Legacy Scholarship.



The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, a joint effort of Coca-Cola Bottlers across America and The Coca-Cola Company, is one of the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship programs of its kind in the United States. The program recognizes a diverse group of extraordinary high school seniors who have demonstrated academic and civic excellence in their schools and communities.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation was created 25 years ago in 1986 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Coca-Cola and to establish a legacy for the education of tomorrow's leaders through college scholarships.

Making Gingerbread Houses for the Holiday Season

Each year, the International Foods classes at North Hunterdon High School make gingerbread houses to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. On December 16, students grabbed their frosting bags, gumdrops, candy canes, and other sugary candy treats to decorate their own gingerbread house. Here are some photos:



Pictures to right: April Lauyer (in red) and Tom Fitzpatrick concentrate on applying their frosting, while Michael Foster (gray sweatshirt) checks his edges and decorations.



District Improves Rankings in Comparative Spending Guide

Every year, the New Jersey Department of Education compares each school district with other districts that are similar across the state. The North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District was compared this year against 46 other 7-12 or 9-12 grade school districts. A district's budget information is ranked against other similar districts across a variety of categories. Those budget figures are also ranked against the median amount in each category.

The North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District is at or below the median in half of the categories examined by the Education Department in its Comparative Spending Guide, including:

- Total classroom instruction
- Classroom salaries and benefits
- Classroom general supplies and textbooks
- Classroom purchased services and other
- Total administrative cost
- Salaries and benefits for administration
- Employee benefits
- Student/teacher ratio
- Median teacher salary
- Median support services personnel salary
- Median administrator salary

We share this list with you because a perception exists in the minds of some citizens that our district spends too much money on salaries, particularly for administrators and teachers. Based on the 2010 Comparative Spending Guide from the Education Department, our district spends less money on total administrative costs and salaries than about 20 out of 47 similar districts across the state, depending on the specific category. The 2010 Comparative Spending Guide is based on figures from 2009-2010 school budgets.

State aid cuts and a reduction of \$1.4 million by the Education Department from our 2010-2011 budget has caused the North Hunterdon-Voorhees high school district to make even further cuts in its spending, which will keep us ranked similarly to other 9-12 grade districts in the state.

However, while ranking at or near the median is noteworthy, too many cuts in spending can lead to a deterioration of what makes a school district great. A district can only cut so much out of non-instructional areas, such as facilities and co-curricular activities. It is important to remember that aging buildings need to be cared for as much as a student's curriculum.

Our district has begun discussions on the development of the 2011-2012 budget. We will release budget information to the public in the coming months. Please stay tuned to our district website for further information.

Cost Savings & Budget Info

With cuts to state aid and additional financial constraints being placed on school districts each year, the North Hunterdon-Voorhees high school district has doubled its efforts to find ways to reduce costs. A list of our cost savings initiatives over the last couple of years has been posted online for the public's review - [click here](#). In addition, we will be posting information on the school budget as it becomes available.

School Elections Day is Wednesday, April 27, 2011. Please educate yourself on the budgets for which you will be voting prior to heading to the polls. Polling hours to be determined.

Important Contact Numbers:

District Office - 908-735-2846

Transportation - 908-713-4116

NHHS Main Office - 908-713-4110

NHHS Guidance - 908-713-4130

NHHS Health Office - 908-713-4171

VHS Main Office - 908-638-6116

VHS Guidance - 908-638-2124

VHS Health Office - 908-638-2148

*Have a wonderful
holiday season and a
Happy New Year!*



*School re-opens on
January 3, 2011*