

District Newsletter



Update on District Projects

WINTER 2012

During the first semester of this school year, the North Hunterdon-Voorhees district has been busy working on several projects:

- The high school district embarked on developing a new five-year **Strategic Plan**. Over 50 volunteers helped in the planning process and in the end, 18 different goals were established. The Strategic Plan is on the agenda to be accepted by the Board of Education on February 28, 2012. Yearly updates on the progress towards meeting the new goals will be provided to the public. [Click here to view the final strategic plan.](#)
- In an effort to find alternative revenue sources, the district has contracted with UMB CardPartner to launch a **VISA® Platinum Rewards Credit Card Program**. There are two designs for the credit card, one representing each high school. For each credit card that is issued and activated by the user, the district will receive \$50 from the bank. In addition, the district will receive a percentage of purchases charged to the card. Cardholders will receive one reward point for every dollar spent. [Please click here to learn more or to apply for a VISA credit card.](#)
- In October 2011, the Board of Education had two of its members resign for personal reasons. Two candidates applied for the High Bridge/Lebanon Township open seat and four applied for the Clinton Township/Lebanon Borough open seat. After interviewing all of the candidates, the Board appointed Colleen Ingram to the High Bridge/Lebanon Township seat, and Marc Strauss to the Clinton Township/Lebanon Borough seat. Both new members will serve until the reorganization meeting in January and will have the opportunity to run for the remainder of the term they are filling.
- At the December 13, 2011 Board of Education meeting, the district's auditors from Suplee, Clooney & Co. reviewed the audit report for the 2010-2011 school year. The auditors made no recommendations.
- The Board of Education and administration are currently developing the budget for the 2012-2013 school year. The public budget hearing will be on March 27, 2012 at 7:00pm in the North Hunterdon High School library. Information on the budget will be posted on the district website when available.

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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](#)

Students Nationally Recognized

Students from both high schools have been recognized on the national level through the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Competition and as the College Board's Advanced Placement Scholars.

- For the National Merit Scholarship Competition, two seniors (Harrison Bergman from Voorhees and Ashley Weaver from North Hunterdon) have been selected as Finalists. About half of the students named as Finalists will be chosen to receive a \$2,500 scholarship. Twenty-six seniors from our district were selected as Commended Students. Students were selected based on their scores on the 2010 Preliminary SAT exam.
- Voorhees senior Harrison Bergman was also selected to apply for this year's competition to possibly become a U.S. Presidential Scholar. Students must be selected in order to apply. From the students that apply, approximately 500 are named as semi-finalists. A Commission reviews the semi-finalists' application materials and then chooses 141 students to be named as U.S. Presiden-

tial Scholars. Scholars are honored during National Recognition Weekend held in June in Washington, D.C., and will receive a medallion at a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

- The College Board has named 163 students at North Hunterdon and 64 students at Voorhees as Advanced Placement Scholars on a variety of levels. Students were selected based on scores from the Advanced Placement exams taken in May 2011.

*227 students
district-wide
recognized as
AP Scholars*

Most notably, 15 students from North Hunterdon and 5 students at Voorhees earned National AP Scholar Awards. To obtain this award, a student must have received an average score of 4 or 5 (on a five-point scale) on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or 5 on eight or more of these exams. Most four-year colleges in the U.S. provide college credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying exam scores (typically 3 or higher).

Congratulations to all of our students for their hard work!

Implementation of Energy Efficiency Upgrades

The Board of Education contracted with Honeywell International last year to create an Energy Savings Plan and to implement various upgrades to make our district more energy efficient. These upgrades will pay for themselves within fifteen years.

As of February 1, 2012, Honeywell has completed or has begun work on the following projects:

Voorhees High School

- Lighting Retrofit and Motion Sensors—30% complete
- Convert Multi-Zone Constant Volume Air Handler Units to VVT Control—45% complete
- Building Envelope Improvements—100% complete
- Transformer Replacements and Variable Frequency Drive Upgrades—90% complete

North Hunterdon High School

- Lighting Retrofit and Motion Sensors—93% complete
- Convert 1968 wing from electric to gas heating with cooling—20% complete
- Building Envelope Improvements—97% complete
- Transformer Replacements and Variable Frequency Drive Upgrades—100% complete

Installation of vending machine controllers, kitchen upgrades, and building management system upgrades will be started soon. In addition, roof top units and a chiller at North Hunterdon High School will be replaced. Projects are expected to be completed by the summer of 2012.

State Department of Education News

Please see the following information on state mandates from the Department of Education.

- Our high schools have instituted the new state mandated Financial Literacy course. This new half year course will teach students about personal finance and money management; students will develop skills that promote personal and financial responsibility related to financial planning, savings, investment and charitable giving in the global economy. Financial Literacy is a graduation requirement for those students who are graduating in 2014 or later.
- All members currently serving on a public school or charter school Board of Education must have completed a criminal background check in order to continue serving on the Board. All of the members on the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Board of Education have completed the criminal background checks and no one has been dismissed.
- All juniors will take the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) on March 6, 7, and 8 this year. On these dates, students taking the test will arrive at school at the normal time. Students NOT taking the test will arrive 2 1/2 hours after the normal time. More information on the HSPA testing has been sent out by each high school to parents.

Blood Drive Award Given to North Hunterdon High School

At the December 13, 2011 Board of Education meeting, Barbara Pearson from New Jersey Blood Services presented North Hunterdon High School with an award for collecting over 1,000 pints of blood at its drives during the 2010-2011 school year. The high school collected 1,065 pints to be exact. Steven DeLorenzo, North Hunterdon guidance counselor and blood drive coordinator, accepted the award on the school's behalf.

North Hunterdon High School continues to collect more pints of blood in one year than any other high school in the tri-state area, with Voorhees High School in a close second place. North Hunterdon is also participating in Club 25 International, which is a program that pairs blood-donating U.S. high schools with participating schools in South Africa and encourages students to donate 25 times before their 25th birthday (www.club25online.org/).

"I hope we continue to lead the way in educating and inspiring our youth to become life-long blood donors and, in turn, provide the gift of life for others in need," said DeLorenzo.



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 29 on Comcast Cable, News 12 New Jersey, or WFMZ - Allentown
- Listen to WLEV-100.7FM, WRNJ -92.7FM and 104.7FM

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.

Fall Sports Team Achievements

Both high schools had a busy and successful fall sports season. Here are some of the top highlights:

North Hunterdon High School:

- Boys Soccer team competed in the NJSIAA Sectional Semi-Finals
- Boys Cross Country team won the Skyland Conference-Delaware West Division Championship
- Girls Tennis team won the Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex County Tournament
- Girls Volleyball team won the Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex County Tournament and were the Skyland Conference Delaware West Division Champions

Voorhees High School:

- Girls Cross Country team was the NJSIAA Group 2 State Champions, Skyland Conference Champions, and won the Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex County Tournament
- Girls Tennis team was the runner-up in the Skyland Conference Raritan Division Championship

If you would like to attend an athletic event, please visit North Hunterdon's athletic webpage (<http://www.nhvweb.net/nhhs/athletics/>) to view the schedule, or on the Voorhees website (<http://www.nhvweb.net/vhs>) click on "Viking Schedule".

Upcoming Spring Concerts

Musical concerts will be performed in our district on the following dates:

At North Hunterdon High School:

- March 22—Prism Concert, 7pm
- May 10—Spring Concert I, 7pm
- May 17—Spring Concert II, 7pm

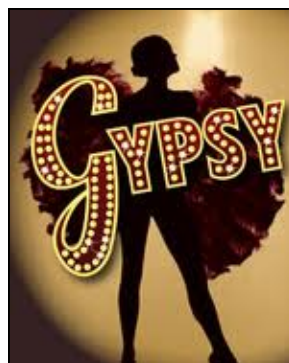
At Voorhees High School:

- February 29—Pops Concert, 7pm
- May 9—Spring Concert I, 7pm
- May 16—Spring Concert II, 7pm

Upcoming Musicals

Students at North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools are busy rehearsing for their upcoming musicals. Tickets are now on sale for both productions.

North Hunterdon's Theater Organization will be performing *Gypsy* on March 1, 2 and 3 at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. [Please click here for how to order tickets.](#)



Voorhees' Drama Club will be performing *How to Succeed in Business*

Without Really Trying

on March 29, 30 and 31 at 7:00pm and April 1 at 2:00pm.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. For ticket information, [please click here.](#)



Board of Education—Reapportionment

As per the education laws guiding regional public school districts, seats on a regional Board of Education are determined in large part by the population of the municipalities residing in that regional district. From the results of the 2010 Census, the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Board of Education will undergo some changes through reapportionment as population has changed in several areas.

The Board of Education currently consists of 13 members, and this will be reduced to 12 members beginning at the reorganization meeting the first week of January 2013. Changes to seats will be as follows:

- 2 seats for Bethlehem Twp/Glen Gardner/Hampton will become 1 seat for Bethlehem Twp/Hampton
- 1 seat for Clinton/Franklin Twp will become 2 seats for Clinton/Glen Gardner/Franklin Twp
- 2 seats for Union Twp will become 1 seat for

Union Twp

Seats for Clinton Twp/Lebanon Borough, Califon/Tewksbury Twp, and High Bridge/Lebanon Twp will remain as is.

The seats listed above will be up for election and placed on the ballot in November 2012. In addition, two seats with unexpired terms (currently held by appointed members) will be on the November ballot: High Bridge/Lebanon Twp - 1 year unexpired term, and Clinton Twp/Lebanon Borough - 2 year unexpired term.

Board of Education members who currently hold seats that will be affected by changes through reapportionment will have to run in the next school elections for the new seat (if they wish). Nominating petitions for Board candidates will be posted on the district website when available. As school elections have been moved to November, nominating petitions will be due by June 5, 2012 to the Hunterdon County Clerk's office.

Voorhees Awarded for Sportsmanship

In October 2011, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association awarded the Voorhees High School Athletic Department the Sportsmanship Banner for the Skyland Conference-Raritan Division for the 2010-2011 school year.

A school is chosen to receive this award based on the sportsmanship shown by the athletic department, coaches, athletes and fans. The school

also has to be disqualification free, meaning that no student athlete or coach was disqualified from an athletic event during the entire school year.

Congratulations to the Voorhees Athletic Department, Mr. Al Stumpf-Athletic Director, Voorhees coaches, and our student-athletes for their commitment to being courteous, fair and good tempered to other teams and athletes that they play!

Food Services Receives Gold Seal

The Hunterdon County Department of Health awarded the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Food Services Program a Gold Seal after a sanitary inspection was held in December 2011. This is the highest award given by the county for public school cafeterias.

Congratulations to District Food Services Manager Sandy Banks and her cafeteria staff for all of their hard work in providing fresh food and clean conditions for our students and staff members!

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/>.

→ October 18, 2011 Meeting:

- Board accepts resignations from two Board members, Carol Mates and Renay Zamloot. Board appoints two new members, Colleen Ingram and Marc Strauss, to fill the open seats.
- Board adopts its goals for 2011-2012 school year (*listed in minutes*)
- Board adopts 2012-2013 school year calendar (*posted on district website—click here*)

→ November 15, 2011 Meeting:

- Board receives an update from Honeywell on the Energy Savings Plan Implementation
- Board accepts additional Federal Education Jobs Funding in the amount of \$6,951
- Board approves multi-year Comprehensive Facilities Maintenance Plan Report

→ December 13, 2011 Meeting:

- Board hears review of 2010-2011 Audit from Suplee, Clooney & Co., and approves a motion to accept the audit. No recommendations were made in the audit.
- Presentation by English Supervisors concerning articulation with sending districts and between high schools.
- Review of Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) report (*this is a report due to the state every three years*)

→ January 24, 2012 Meeting:

- Presentation by Advantage3 LLC for potential advertising
- Presentation by Science Supervisors on articulation
- Board approves school elections to be held in November instead of April as per law P.L.2011, c.202
- Board approved U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance participation agreement

→ February 7, 2012 Meeting:

- Board reviews new five-year Strategic Plan
- Board approves extended Board meeting calendar through January 2013 (*click here*)

Upcoming Board Meetings:

February 28, 2012: Adopt Preliminary Budget, Regular Session, 7:00pm, Voorhees Cafeteria

March 27, 2012: Annual Budget Hearing, Regular Session, 7:00pm, North Hunterdon Library

April 24, 2012: Regular Session, 7:00pm, District Office

Board of Education

Members:

<u>District/Member</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Franklin Township/Town of Clinton	
Louis Pennucci	2014
Califon/Tewksbury	
Robert Becker	2014
Nicholas Nacamuli	2012
Union Township	
Monica Gondek	2012
John Kulick, Ph.D.	2013
Bethlehem/Glen Gardner/Hampton	
Francis Goger	2013
Debra Roosen	2014
Clinton Township/Lebanon Borough	
Sandra Seidorf	2014
Roger Straight	2013
Marc Strauss	2012
Beverly Thorne	2012
High Bridge/Lebanon Township	
Colleen Ingram	2012
Garry Peabody	2012

Voorhees Staff Members Selected for Special Programs

Two staff members from Voorhees High School will have the opportunity to participate in two unique college programs.

Social Studies teacher, Reid Kirby, has been selected to attend Princeton University's East Asian Studies Seminar for Teachers. This seminar is being held from November 2011 to May 2012.

The seminar focuses on the traditions, experiences and modern influences of East Asia through an interdisciplinary approach.

"The opportunity to study at such a prestigious institution, to gain a useful variety of classroom materials, to interact with other like-minded peers, and to pass this experience on to my students is an exciting opportunity that I am very much looking forward to," said Kirby.

Kirby hopes to gain a better understanding of the rich traditions rooted in the Far East, and believes the seminar materials will have an integral and consistent place in his World History classes.

During a workshop at Arcadia University on December 2, 2011, Voorhees Guidance Counselor, Jean DiSalvio, was randomly chosen from 160 names to participate in the university's 2012 China Preview for High School Educators.

DiSalvio will travel to China on June 19, 2012 with Arcadia faculty and students for a 10-day trip. The trip will include visits to Xi'an University, Xi'an Bell Tower, sites in Jiaozhou and the Great Wall in Beijing.

"I am extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity. In my daily work with high school students, I am expected to guide them toward making decisions that will have a positive impact on their lives and help them achieve their academic and career goals. I have no doubt that the China Preview experience will help me do just that. Everyone can derive some benefit from widening their horizons, facing obstacles, learning and growing through it all," said DiSalvio.

Professional Development Programs

Throughout each school year, our district provides eight in-service dates to allow for professional development for our staff. While students leave school at noon on these days, staff members stay to attend a variety of different workshops, many of which are state mandated. In addition to workshops, these half days also allow departments to meet together to discuss curriculum, common practices and new things they have learned in their discipline.

Some of the professional development training workshops that have been held this year include:

- Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
- Suicide Prevention and Awareness
- Crimes and Technology

- School Security
- Gang Awareness
- Blood Borne Pathogens
- Asthma
- Substance Abuse
- Right to Know/Hazcom

Many of these programs are mandated to be presented annually to all staff, which is typically done during the two days prior to freshmen orientation and the opening of school. This professional development time is valuable to our staff and we hope to combine programs in the future with our sending districts in an effort to improve articulation and shared services.

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