



North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District

“Providing Success for all Students”

Summer 2012

Congratulations to the Class of 2012!

With a little luck from Mother Nature, a week that began with rain ended with clear skies just in time for the graduation ceremonies of North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools, which were once again held outside on the football fields. Spirits were high on Friday, June 8, 2012 as 261 students received their diplomas from Voorhees High School and 430 students graduated from North Hunterdon High School.

The Voorhees ceremony began at 5:00pm with a welcome address by Senior Class President Erin Knabe.

At the end of her address, Erin shared with the crowd an interesting series of events that had transpired earlier that day for which she could not be more thankful.

Erin and fellow graduates Harrison Brakewood and Bhavin Gala were to compete for state titles in track and field at the Meet of Champions on June 7. The competition was cancelled due to weather and moved to June 8 at 5:00pm—same time as graduation. “Both graduating and competing for a state title is something the three of us have worked to achieve for the past four years.

Both are once in a lifetime opportunities. The three of us were torn,” said Erin. To help make their decision easier, Principal Ron Peterson quickly began making arrangements for a second ceremony to take place that morning for Erin, Harrison and Bhavin. The track team sent out mass text messages and Facebook posts to their classmates and the custodians began making arrangements.

Luckily in the end, the Meet of Champions was moved to Monday, June 11 so Erin, Harrison and Bhavin could join their fellow graduates at the ceremony.

“I am so grateful to be here graduating with my

class. But what I am truly thankful for is how hard all these people worked just to make sure me, Harry and Bhavin could have a special day...I can’t describe to you how moved I was to see everyone coming together so fast. It goes to show you how strong of a community we have and I have never been more proud to call myself a Viking,” said Erin.

After the loud applause from the crowd died down, Mr. Peterson announced the

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Throwing their caps in the air, the Voorhees Class of 2012 says goodbye to high school!

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Congratulations to the Class of 2012, continued

salutatorian and valedictorian for the Class of 2012. Nicole Ortega was named the salutatorian, and she will be attending Johns Hopkins University. Ashley Batson was named valedictorian, and she will be attending Brown University. During Ashley's speech to her fellow graduates, she said, "On Wednesday, Mr. Baumann joked about the valedictorian coming up here and using fancy vocabulary. As I am guessing you can tell, I haven't exactly been doing that. Those who know me best would agree, that isn't me. I believe that is one of life's most important lessons: remain true to yourself."

North Hunterdon High School's graduation ceremony echoed many of the same sentiments. Once the 430 graduates had entered Singley Field, smiling and waving



NHHS Senior Kathryn Brightly receives her diploma from Superintendent Dr. Charles M. Shaddow.

to their families on the way, the Senior Class President Samir Singhal gave the welcome address. "High school is a winding road, and we have all certainly hit some rough patches. But let's not forget the good times as well. Let's not forget the friends and family members who have supported and guided us



Salutatorian Nicole Ortega addresses her fellow Voorhees graduates and the crowd during the ceremony on June 8th.

when things got bad, like when you got in trouble for wearing a tank top or you couldn't buy a prom ticket because you had forty cents in late dues."

Following Samir, Principal Michael Hughes announced the valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2012. James (Yang) Li was the valedictorian and Anne Kuster was the salutatorian. Both graduates will be attending the University of Notre Dame.

The top 10 students of the class gave a group speech about remembering. They and their classmates will always remember the 10th anniversary of September 11th, Michael Phelps winning eight Olympic gold medals in Beijing in 2008, witnessing the election of the first African-American President, growing up with the Rugrats, Backstreet Boys, Twilight and Harry Potter, being a part of the technology revolution, and Hurricane Irene opening the 2011-2012 school year.



NHHS Senior Class Secretary Lori Anne Owusu-Dapaah gives a big smile to her family as she walks on to Singley Field.

Many things from their high school years will be remembered by these graduates, but probably none as good as how it felt to receive that high school diploma. ■

Graduates Attend Top Colleges

Over 95% of students in the Class of 2012 from North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools will be attending a two or four-year university or college this fall or entering the military. Each year, our high school students attend the top universities or colleges in the country. This year is no exception as we have six graduates attending Ivy League schools. Here are the universities and colleges recent graduates will be attending:

Alvernia University	Drew University	Marist College	ogy
American International College	Drexel University	Maryland Institute College of Art	Roger Williams University
American University	Duke University	Massachusetts Bay Community College	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Appalachian State University	East Carolina University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Rowan University
Arcadia University	East Tennessee State Univ.	Mercer County Community College	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Arizona State University	Elizabethtown College	Miami University, Oxford	Sacred Heart University
Ashland University	Elmira College	Michigan State University	Saint Joseph's University
Auburn University	Elon University	Middlesex County College	Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Babson College	Emerson College	Misericordia University	Salisbury University
Bard College	Fairfield University	Monmouth University	Savannah College of Art and Design
Baylor University	Fairleigh Dickinson University	Montana State University, Bozeman	Seton Hall University
Berklee College of Music	Fashion Institute of Technology	Montclair State University	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Binghamton University	Felician College	Moravian College	State University of New York at Albany
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	Fordham University	Mount Ida College	State University of New York at New Paltz
Boston College	Franklin and Marshall College	Muhlenberg College	Stetson University
Boston University	Full Sail University	New Jersey Institute of Technology	Stevens Institute of Technology
Bowdoin College	Georgia Institute of Technology	New York University	Stony Brook University
Brookdale Community College	Gettysburg College	North Carolina State Univ.	SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Brown University	Goucher College	Northampton Community College	Susquehanna University
Bucknell University	High Point University	Northeastern University	Syracuse University
Burlington College	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Northwestern University	Temple University
California Institute of the Arts	Howard University	Ohio University	Texas A&M University
Calvin College	Hunter College of the CUNY	Old Dominion University	The Art Institute of Philadelphia
Carnegie Mellon University	Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Palm Beach Atlantic Univ.	The Art Institute of York - Pennsylvania
Cazenovia College	Iona College	Paul Smith's College	The Catholic University of America
Centenary College	Ithaca College	Pennsylvania College of Technology	The College of New Jersey
Champlain College	James Madison University	Pennsylvania State University	The College of Saint Rose
Christopher Newport Univ.	Johns Hopkins University	Philadelphia Biblical Univ.	The Culinary Institute of America
Clemson University	Kean University	Philadelphia University	The George Washington University
Coastal Carolina University	Keystone College	Plymouth State University	The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts-School of Film & Television
Colby College	King's College	Portland State University	The Ohio State University
Colby-Sawyer College	Kutztown University	Pratt Institute	
College of Charleston	Lafayette College	Quinnipiac University	
College of Saint Elizabeth	Lebanon Valley College	Radford University	
College of the Atlantic	Lehigh University	Ramapo College of N.J.	
Colorado College	Lipscomb University	Raritan Valley Community College	
Colorado State University	Long Island University	Richard Stockton College of New Jersey	
Columbia University	Louisiana State University	Rider University	
Columbus College of Art and Design	Loyola University Maryland	Rochester Institute of Technol-	
Cornell University	Lycoming College		
County College of Morris	Lynchburg College		
Delaware Valley College	Manhattan School of Music		
Denison University	Mansfield University of Pennsylvania		
Dickinson College	Marion Military Institute		
Dowling College			

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Graduates Attend Top Colleges, continued

Union College United States Air Force Academy United States Marine Corps United States Naval Academy University of Alabama University of Arizona University of Bridgeport University of California at Berkeley University of Chicago University of Colorado at Boulder University of Connecticut University of Delaware University of King's College University of Maine	University of Mary Washington University of Maryland, College Park University of Massachusetts, Amherst University of Miami University of Michigan University of Montana, Missoula University of New Hampshire University of North Carolina at Charlotte University of North Carolina at Wilmington University of Notre Dame University of Pennsylvania	University of Pittsburgh University of Rhode Island University of Richmond University of Rio Grande University of Scranton University of South Carolina University of Tampa University of Vermont University of Virginia Ursinus College Vanderbilt University Villanova University Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Virginia Union University	Virginia Wesleyan College Wake Forest University Warren County Community College Washington College Wentworth Institute of Technology West Chester University of Pennsylvania West Virginia University Western Michigan University Wheaton College Wilkes University William Paterson University Wyotech Institute Yale University York College of Pennsylvania
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Teachers of the Year

For the 2011-2012 school year, the faculty and staff at North Hunterdon High School selected Perry Andrews as the Teacher of the Year, and at Voorhees High School, Jennifer O'Steen was chosen as Teacher of the Year. Both teachers were honored at a luncheon for the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program on June 1, 2012.

Perry Andrews has been a music teacher at North Hunterdon for 25 years. He has served as both Head and Assistant Marching Band Director throughout his tenure. His expertise as Jazz Ensemble Director provides students access to highly challenging literature and affords them the opportunity of learning jazz styling from a master of the craft. Mr. Andrews has developed and led two popular music elective programs for North



Hunterdon: Guitar and Electronic Music. Winner of a "Best Practices" Award, the four levels of Electronic Music present cutting-edge programs designed to meet the needs of both serious music students, and those seeking to dabble in the content. His expertise in technology aids his students to compose, arrange and explore the world of contemporary music. He has been equally successful at building the two levels of Guitar classes. Mr. Andrew's ease with students is reflected in his ability to work with beginners and advanced students alike. He has helped to

produce a generation of knowledgeable musicians comprehensively prepared to take their place in both professional and informal settings.

Jennifer O'Steen has been at Voorhees High School for 11 years teaching social studies. During her tenure, she has taught almost every course in the Social Studies Department, with the exception of psychology. Mrs. O'Steen has been the driving force behind the impressive Memorial Day program. The program brings veterans into the high school to talk with students about their service to our country. In its first year, five veterans came to the high school, but now over thirty attend the program. Mrs. O'Steen is also the Academic Team Advisor for the Model United Nations Competition at Yale University. She has been the Head Coach for Girls Soccer at Voorhees for the past seven years, and she assisted in the implementation of the Girls Lacrosse program at Voorhees in 2003, for which she was Head Coach for five years. Mrs. O'Steen also recently took on organizing the Relay for Life event at Voorhees High School for the American Cancer Society. Mrs. O'Steen is a high performing teacher who devotes much time to her students and personifies the best qualities of a professional educator.



Congratulations to Perry and Jennifer! ■

"Providing Success for all Students"

Every 15 Minutes Program Sends Clear Message to Students

If you drink and drive, this could happen to you. That was the message sent to juniors and seniors at North Hunterdon High School on May 21, 2012 as they watched the aftermath unfold from a mock head-on collision.

Students played the survivors and the victims of the accident. Senior Jessica Parker played the passenger who was thrown through the windshield of one car and pronounced “dead” at the scene. Her parents, Jeffrey and Amanda Parker, were on hand to grieve over their daughter’s “death,” helping to make the scene as real as possible for students. Clinton Township Police, Annandale Hose Co., and Clinton First Aid and Rescue Squad responded and treated the scene as if the accident had just happened, even using the jaws of life to extract junior Toni Adams, one of the victims who was “paralyzed,” from the backseat of the white car.

Senior Taylor Maleski played the drunk driver and was “arrested” by the police. Her passenger, played



Senior Taylor Maleski, left, “the drunk driver”, cries with senior Hope Detoro when they discover that senior Jessica Parker (lying on the hood) might be “dead”.

by junior Jillian Belofatto, was pronounced “dead” at the hospital. Students watched for an hour as victims were extracted from the cars, realizing that if this scene were real, some of their classmates did not make it.

The accident scene was just one part of a two-day program. During school on May 21st, students were pulled out of class every 15 min-

utes by the grim reaper and declared as “deceased.” Following the accident scene that afternoon, the “arrested drunk driver” was brought to the Clinton Township Municipal Court to face a judge. The mock hearing included

statements by the families of the accident “victims” and a sentence given by the judge. The second day of the Every 15 Minutes program on May 22nd included a funeral in the gymnasium for the victims of the car accident attended by all juniors and seniors.

The Every 15 Minutes program is sponsored by North Hunterdon High School’s SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club and held every two years at North Hunterdon High School prior to the senior prom. For more information about the Every 15 Minutes program, please visit: <http://www.every15minutes.com>.



Jessica Parker’s parents join in on the acting to say their final goodbyes to their daughter.



Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad takes junior Toni Adams to the waiting ambulance; she was “paralyzed” in the accident.

Touching the Future Through a Transit *(by Teri Bellows, VHS teacher)*

This surpasses Einstein's time travel: here's how a 10% chance of clear skies has managed to change the future.

The Voorhees High School Astronomy Club planned for months to see the Transit of Venus. This special alignment, when from Earth we can see the planet Venus move across the disc of the Sun, takes place only twice in over 100 years (most recently in 2004 and 2012). Astronomy Club Officer, Rachel Jones, designed beautiful blue and yellow transit shirts to celebrate this once in lifetime moment. Club President Lauren Pepperman designed a children's handout, organized tasks and ran meetings.

The mental images of June 5, 2012 were of sunny days, blue skies and the last week of school. So when the weather report called for overcast skies, showers and only a 10% chance of some clearing, Club Advisor and Voorhees Teacher, Ms. Teri Bellows, suggested the students all watch a transit simulcast. That afternoon, however, a small group of students came to ask if they could go to the county Mountain Farm field at Teetertown Ravine as planned and hope for that 10% break in the clouds. They loaded a 12" Dob, a dedicated H-alpha, and a sunspotter into a SUV along with a box of brochures and transit shirts. Three students called the rest of the members and everyone met at the field at 5:45pm - in the rain.

By 6:00pm, the rain had stopped and a clear patch seemed to be moving closer, so the students unpacked and set up the telescopes on tarps with the professional help of club alumnus, and NJ Astronomical Association Qualified Observer, Mitchell Revalski. Mitch surprised everyone by showing up even though it was his 21st birthday! Eighteen VHS Astronomy Club members, all wearing matching blue transit shirts and huge smiles, dispersed among the telescopes as the clear blue patch grew closer and larger.

At second contact, with Venus just inside the edge of the Sun, there were woops and cheers as the club

members finally witnessed the historic event they had been waiting for. More cars started arriving and within 30 minutes the Astronomy Club was joined by guests, including over a dozen children that were wide-eyed and smiling. Three NJAA members came with telescopes and several more arrived to observe and interact with the crowd. At one point, 55 people of all ages were present for the event, and everyone was animated and impressed, looking through all the telescopes, and usually more than once. It was easy to take pictures of the transit through the telescopes and the sunspotter, and everyone with a camera had a perfect souvenir. Nine-year old Joseph

Speidel of High Bridge Elementary School was glowing with excitement and his photo even made it to the space weather website!

The Astronomy Club members hosted children and adults with a sincere enthusiasm that enhanced the transit experience for all. As the sun set, club member Lauren Olsen brought everyone's attention to a beautiful rainbow appearing in the east; a perfect close to the celebration.

The future children of Hope Bavier, Chuck Caikoski, Glen

Groben, Kristina Hahn, Susannah Indyk, Andrea Jindracek, Rachel Jones, Gianna Leach, Sim Berlene Mariano, Mariana Guzman-Marquez, Annie Monaco, Hope Murray, Lauren Olsen, Tess Pecina, Lauren Pepperman, Mitch Revalski, Dylan Vuz, and Veronica Zutic will not see a Transit of Venus as the next sighting will be in 2117; but you can bet that their grandchildren will hear about a very special two hours when an astronomical event was celebrated in the best way imaginable, with good friends and families. And those grandchildren will be inspired, generations from now, to continue that tradition in 2117 when they are in their sixties, bringing *their* children and grandchildren to the next Transit of Venus.

On a personal note from Ms. Bellows - *Thank you, Astronomy Club, you are truly astronomers at heart; that 10% chance you chose to take is helping so many to touch the future.* ■



VHS Astronomy Club show off their Transit T-shirts with faculty advisor, Ms. Bellows (kneeling, left).

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/>.

→ March 27, 2012 Meeting:

- Board approved the budget for the 2012-2013 school year. The budget includes no increase to the local tax levy.
- Board recognized NHHS music teacher, Perry Andrews, as the district’s nomination for Teacher of the Year to be considered in the state selection.
- Board’s attorney reviewed reapportionment of the Board caused by 2010 Census, including changes to seats and terms and who would need to run in next school election.

→ April 24, 2012 Meeting:

- Board accepted a donation of 10,000 pedometers from Linda Szych, employed by Sanofi US, to be used by students in physical education classes.
- Board approved an application to NJ Dept. of Education for available funding for anti-bullying expenses.
- Board accepted \$500 donation from Exxon in support of annual Science Expo.

→ May 15, 2012 Meeting:

- Board appointed school officials and professional consultants for 2012-2013 school year.
- Board approved revised meeting calendar with dates through January 2013 (due to school elections being moved to November)

→ June 19, 2012 Meeting:

- Board accepted final approval from NJDOE regarding capital projects (roof replacement at NHHS and generator and HVAC replacements at VHS). Projects to begin in summer 2012.
- Board approved proposal from NHHS Booster Club to renovate JV softball and baseball fields at NHHS.
- Board accepted a \$50,000 donation from NHHS Booster Club to replace scoreboard on Singley football field.
- Board accepted sponsorship by U.S. Coast Guard for the VHS Girls Soccer program, which includes donation of logo t-shirts for practice, logo soccer balls and water bottles.
- Board accepted a Safety Grant from NJSBAIG/Eric West in the amount of \$41,100 to be used for security upgrades.
- Board approved visit by up to nine high school students from Germany to attend Voorhees in October 2012. ■

Upcoming Board Meetings:

August 21—7:00pm, Regular Session in District Administration Office

September 18—7:00pm, Regular Session in District Administration Office

October 16—7:00pm, Regular Session in District Administration Office

Board Meeting Calendar can be viewed at: <http://www.nhvweb.net/index.php/boe-district-services/boe-meetings-calendar/>

Board of Education Members:

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

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 Says Goodbye to Retirees

Students returning in August will not see some familiar faces in the hallways as six staff members retired during the 2011-2012 school year. We thank them for their years of service and commitment to the education of our students. We wish the following retirees an enjoyable and relaxing retirement—you will be missed!



Irene Dolan
Assistant Principal
North Hunterdon
High School
16 Years



Alice Oswald
Special Education
Teacher
North Hunterdon
High School
18 Years



Robin Scheier
Physical Education/
Health Teacher
North Hunterdon
High School
35 Years



Susan Gafford
Special Education
Teacher
Voorhees High
School
10 Years



Barbara Romero
Special Education
Teacher
Voorhees High
School
25 Years



Mary Umhoefer
Secretary
North Hunterdon
High School
25 1/2 Years

“Providing Success for all Students”