

Northern Highlands Regional High School

Allendale • Upper Saddle River • Ho-Ho-Kus • Saddle River • Fall 2015

www.northernhighlands.org



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



On Saturday September 26, Northern Highlands kicked off its 50th Anniversary celebration with an Alumni Open House. Former students, staff and parents gathered on campus to reminisce, tour the facility, and honor the institution and school community that they have been a part of for some time. From Hopkins Hall to the Planetarium; from Sunshine Hallway to the new Science Wing, each decade that the school has been in existence was represented with former graduates as people toured the grounds and took a stroll down memory lane.



Those who attended were treated to some opening remarks by Elaine Hopkins '69 and Karen Kreckel '68 (daughters of our founding Superintendent Gerald Hopkins) and distinguished alumni Dr. Greg DiFelice '85 and FBI Director James Comey '78, as well as contributions in the fine and performing arts by current students.



In addition, Highlanders past and present were also able to view archived student publications on display in the Library. Old yearbooks, commencement ceremony programs, school profiles, and issues of *The Highland Fling* were among the artifacts. Others include a 1966 *New York Times* article dubbing Northern Highlands a "space age" school, as well as assorted original documents. Those interested viewed the planetarium which has recently been updated to meet the needs of the 21st century.



The day was capped off by a varsity football game and marching band halftime show. There is no doubt that Highlands' original goal to "make the school the cultural center of its community," has lived on and sprung new life on this day. Thank you to our 50th Anniversary Committee for your careful planning of this event.

This was the first event of a yearlong celebration. Northern Highlands plans to continue celebrating 50 years of academic excellence and co-curricular achievement in future events. To stay abreast of these events and see more of what our Alumni Open House had to offer, please follow us on Facebook at "Northern Highlands Golden Anniversary" or visit our district website at www.NorthernHighlands.org.



From the Superintendent

Highlander Community,

As the weather has cooled down, the school year has heated up. We are now several months into the 50th Anniversary year at Northern Highlands. Our classes are in full swing and we have seen a great academic start to the year. In addition, fall sports are having a wonderful season and clubs are actively engaged in their individual areas of interest.

Now that I have had the opportunity to be a part of the Highlands community for several months now, I have begun to appreciate the level of engagement and expectations by all of our stakeholders. Living locally, I have always been aware of the tremendous reputation that precedes Northern Highlands. With the opportunity to work within the district, I am thrilled to say that as lofty as my expectations were coming in, the students and staff in this tremendous district have exceeded them. As remarkable as the system is, my goal as superintendent, is to work with all stakeholders to ensure that the district continues to provide an even greater opportunity for all of our students, present and future.

My first step in this process is to solicit feedback from the parents and students at Northern Highlands over the next few months. First, we will be completing a full district audit of our electives. This audit's purpose is to ensure that our course elective offerings remain the most current and useful for our students. Throughout this process we will be holding student focus groups and conducting a parent survey. In addition, Northern Highlands will be conducting a strategic plan. A strategic plan will provide the district with an updated vision, set our priorities moving forward and ensure that our stakeholders have input into the overall school operations. In this process, we will again be soliciting parent and community feedback and participation. As both of these items are essential to the continued success of the NHRHS district, I strongly urge you to participate when you are notified that they are available.

Another goal during the 2015/2016 school year will be to increase communication with the stakeholders of Northern Highlands. Therefore, we invite you to join us for regular district updates on our website at www.northernhighlands.org, updates on our 50th anniversary at Northern Highlands Golden Anniversary on Facebook, guidance updates on Twitter at @NHGuidance, guidance updates on Instagram at NHGuidance and building principal updates including school closures at @OcchinoJ on Twitter.

As the winter approaches us, I wish all of my Highlanders continued success. Northern Highlands has seen a wonderful start to the 15/16 school year and the remainder of the year is certain to be even better. As always, if any Northern Highlands community stakeholder has any suggestions or feedback, I am always available and may be reached at BeckermanS@NorthernHighlands.org

Sincerely,

Dr. Scot Beckerman, Superintendent

From the Board of Education

Dear Members of the Community,

The school year is off to a good start under the leadership of Dr. Scot Beckerman, our new superintendent as of July 1. He is quickly becoming part of the Highlands' community. Dr. Beckerman has expressed an interest in getting to know as many members of the community as possible.

We are excited by the current status of our 1:1 technology initiative. Microsoft Surface 3's are now in the hands of all our faculty and administrators. Currently they are engaged in Professional Development, learning more about the devices and their potential for use in the classroom so that next year, when all students will be issued Surface 3's, they will be able to seamlessly incorporate technology into the curriculum.

And, lastly we want to remind you that the Board of Education holds its public meetings on the first and the third Mondays of each month at 8 PM in the school library. Our Board agenda is posted on the school website prior to every meeting and Board members' emails are posted on the school website as well.

Sincerely,

The Northern Highlands Regional High School
Board of Education



Back row left to right: Gail Trumbetti, Jill Webb, Ann Pagano
Sheila Yallowitz, Anne Goddard, Barbara Garand
Henry Senger, Ellen Marie Walsh
Robert Wei, James Mulanaphy
Not pictured: Robert Hands Jr.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMING IN JANUARY

During the 2015/2016 school year Northern Highlands will be going through the 3D model (Dream, Determination and Destiny by Design) of strategic planning. This strategic plan process is an opportunity for members of our sending communities to envision the districts' future and create the necessary steps to realize that vision.

The strategic plan process is open to all stakeholders of the Northern Highlands sending communities. The 3D strategic plan will occur over 3 sessions and will be led by NJ School Boards Association (NJSBA). The first of the three (3) dates is scheduled for January 20, 2016, where we will meet to determine the state of the school, as well as determine our strengths and challenges. The second meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2016. The topic of that meeting is "determining the vision and dreams"

of the district. The final session is scheduled for March 23, 2016 and will be used to determine the "goals and destiny" of Northern Highlands. In case any nights are lost to a school closure, we will also be reserving 2 make-up days (February 24th and 25th). All sessions will start at 7pm in the school auditorium.

The strategic plan process is extremely important, as its goal is to create the direction of the district for the next 3 to 5 years. Therefore, if you have any questions or would like to be involved in the process please contact the district superintendent, Dr. Scot Beckerman at beckermans@northernhighlands.org. You do not need to be present at all 3 sessions to participate.

Technology Initiative

NHRHS is excited to announce that it has completed the initial planning and preparation phases for its 1-to-1 computer initiative, where every student will be issued a computer in September 2016. During the 2014-15 school year, the Technology Action Committee (TAC) reviewed the technology vision for the district. The TAC, comprised of students, staff, and administrators, unanimously recommended moving to a 1-to-1 computer environment with the MS Surface Pro 3 tablet as the hardware of choice.

To support this initiative, the district has invested in its physical infrastructure by conducting a wireless site review, upgrading hardware and running new network wiring. During the summer of 2015, staff were issued their MS Surface Pros and provided training. As Northern Highlands moves through the 2015-16 school year, the district will continue to focus on preparing staff for the 1-to-1 initiative in preparation for all students receiving the same device at the start of the 2016/2017 school year.

Tweet from the Guidance Department

The Northern Highlands School Counseling Department invites you to join us on social media this year. You can follow us on both Twitter (@NHguidance) and Instagram (NHguidance). Not only will we be informing current students and parents of upcoming events, but we will also be sharing informative articles on careers, post-secondary planning and wellness. In addition, our guidance department is continually travelling to college campuses to form relationships with them in an effort to better serve our students. When any one of the members of the department is on a college campus, you can be sure to find some campus photos on Instagram. For more information, look for our monthly Student Services Bulletin on the school counseling web page, as well. We are continually updating our web site, so please make it a favorite!

Community Survey

During the 2015/2016 school year, Northern Highlands will be conducting a number of surveys to gauge what we have been doing well, what we may need to change and what new initiatives we should undertake. The first and one of the more important surveys will be our Community Survey which will be distributed in early December, 2015. This survey will solicit feedback on all aspects of the Northern Highlands School District.

As everyone's voice is important to us, please take some time to provide us feedback on our strengths and weaknesses. It is through this honest and genuine feedback that we will be able to continue to enhance our programs and offerings for our community members both present and future.

A link to the survey will be posted on the school website at www.NorthernHighlands.org

Honors Business Seminar

This year the Business Education department is offering a new course called Honors Business Seminar. This collaborative project-based business course will allow juniors and seniors to more deeply integrate previously learned content. In this course, students will develop their leadership and communication skills through a range of business opportunities including case studies, professional business speakers and lectures.

Working in teams, students will develop a summative project that incorporates all facets of business learned throughout the program. In addition, each student will have the opportunity to work with an outside business mentor to gain insight on their projects, provide innovative solutions for the business and even have an opportunity to present their summative project upon completion.

DARE Program

During the week of November 9-13, the DARE police officers from sending districts (Allendale, HoHoKus, Saddle River, Upper Saddle River) will be presenting the following topics relevant to tenth grade students in Northern Highlands Driver Education Program:

1. Graduated Driver License: This portion will include a question and answers open forum on areas such as drivers licenses' and consequences.
 2. Home Party Liability: Areas covered under this portion will include discussions on Law, Underage drinking, host liability and consequences.
 3. Synthetic Marijuana / Heroin: This portion of the program will cover the current state of drug use in the area, addiction and consequences.
 4. Stone Cold video presentation which will present various scenarios and consequences for driving under the influence.
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NHRHS Receives Environmental Awareness Grant

Northern Highlands has received a \$1,000 grant for an environmental awareness project. The grant submitted by Jamie Atchison the district Director of Facilities, was received through the Bergen County Utilities Authority. The grant was a part of the 2015 Environmental Awareness Challenge and will be used for district recycling.

Pomptonian Food Service "News and Notes"

From the Chef!

The Pomptonian food service is proud once again to serve the students of Northern Highlands and welcomes them back to the 2015-16 school year!

Chef David Pretino along with his #1 assistant and cook Anna Hardish and the Northern Highland's cafeteria staff are proud to have been voted #3 for best Cafeteria in New Jersey. This is a testament to their hard work and quality of service to Northern Highlands. Chef Pretino and the rest of the Pomptonian family look forward to another great year of serving the Northern Highlands community!

From the Kitchen!

For the 2015/2016 school year, Pomptonian will be offering an expanded "Boar's Head" deli selection that includes "Hot & Toasty" sandwiches with new fixings. Every Wednesday, student lunches will feature an "action station." Action stations feature "Made to Order" foods such as homemade Cheese Steaks, Stir-Fry's & Burrito Bowls. In addition, Pomptonian is excited to incorporate "theme days" into its yearly lunch schedule where students will be treated to lunches such as "Southern Hospitality" and "Smoothie Day." Fun is sure to be had by all on these special event days.

Next Generation Science Standards Update

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) were adopted by New Jersey in July of 2014 and grades 6-12 implementation begins September 2016. Standards have been replaced with performance expectations in areas of earth, life, and physical science along with integration of engineering throughout all grade levels. The goal is a 3-dimensional learning approach where progressions are in place for students to understand concepts, apply them to explain scientific phenomena, and engage in science rather than memorize facts. In an effort for students to study and design solutions for real world issues, the NGSS has integrated and placed great emphasis on engineering and technology. A presentation to all 4 Boards of Education's will be held on November 16th at 7:30 in the Northern Highlands Regional High School auditorium. This presentation is open to the public and will provide the parents and community members an opportunity to experience the Next Generation Science Standards firsthand.

Columbia University joins NHRHS for Reading Workshop

On September 28, the entire English department participated in an all-day workshop at Northern Highlands on reading skills following the Teachers College (Columbia University) Reading Workshop model. Dr. Gravity Goldberg, who has worked as a literacy consultant through the Quad Districts, did hands-on activities with all English teachers as well as special education teachers who serve in collaborative or stand-alone basic English classes. Dr. Goldberg modeled her approaches by going out into two English classes and demonstrating her strategies with students as the Highlands teachers observed and later debriefed.

NHRHS Girls Soccer

Northern Highlands girls' soccer team hosted nationally ranked Maria Carrillo from California on September 5, 2015. After an impressive 3-1 victory, Northern Highlands overtook the top spot as the number 1 ranked girls soccer team in the country. Congratulations to the entire team as they continue their impressive run as one of the best teams in the nation.



National Merit Commended Students

Congratulations to the following students from the Class of 2016 who earned recognition as Commended Students from the National Merit program for their achievement on the 2014 PSAT/NMSQT in their junior year:

Allison Ben-Mayor, Alexandra Berndt, Mary Hope Clark, John Clover, Madison Cullinan, Justin Hadler, Thomas Hebner, Robbie Kresch, Anthony Lutri, Pierce McCaffrey, Sofia Mirante, Michael Novak, Carolyn Pontoriero, Medha Potluri, Andrew Scotti, Jack Shin, Jonathan Song, Nicole Steinberg, Alexander Wiener, and Ryan Zambrotta.



The three students in the photo are our National Merit Semi-Finalists:
(L to R) James Ding, Elizabeth Menten, Shlok Goyal

National Merit Semi-Finalists

Northern Highlands is proud to announce that three of our students have been named as National Merit Scholarship Program Semi-Finalists. Our students pictured above are commended and recognized for their exceptional academic promise based on their performance on the 2014 PSAT/NMSQT taken in the fall of their junior year. Semifinalists will advance in the competition for National Merit Scholarships

Northern Highlands Regional High School Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars Named (Based on results of May 2015 AP Exams)

The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. Students enrolled in the 21 AP courses offered at Northern Highlands continue to perform extremely well on AP exams as indicated by the number of students who have been recognized as AP scholars. In all, there are 138 total scholars who averaged a 4.26 on their AP exams.

Congratulations to Present Students (Class of 2016 & 2017) and Alumni (Class of 2015)

AP Scholar – Fifty-nine students at Northern Highlands Regional High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP Exams

by earning scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams.

AP Scholar with Honor – Thirty-three students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honors award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

AP Scholar with Distinction – Forty-six students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

National AP Scholar – Five students received National AP Scholar distinction by receiving an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

The Loch and Quay

Northern Highlands' Art and literary Magazine, *The Loch and Quay*, showcases some of the best of our students' writing and art every year. A student staff reads submitted work, chooses their favorites to be published, designs and produces the entire magazine themselves. The one and only issue a year comes out in June, and it has garnered many awards and honors.

The last two magazines received NSPA's (The National Scholastic Press Association) highest rating of All American, with five out of a possible five Marks of Distinction. The same two magazines also received a rating of Excellent and Superior from the NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English).

Student Artists from last year's book alone have won awards and had exhibits in the Teen Arts Festival, The Ringwood Manor Art Show, The Scholastic Art Awards, and the Congressional Art Competition, among others.

Northern Highlands Regional High School Recognized for Yearbook Excellence

The Northern Highlands Regional High School yearbook staff (both advisors and students) has been recognized by Balfour Yearbooks with a featured recognition for its outstanding contribution to scholastic journalism. The Northern Highlands Regional High School yearbook is showcased in the 2015 *Yearbook Yearbook*. The yearbook advisers are Doreen Albano & Mary Lardiere.

Balfour Yearbooks stated, "Congratulations on capturing the moments of the year in words and pictures. Your yearbook is a mirror that reflects yours students' lives. Because of your commitment to telling their stories, the yearbook you have created defines the school year and your school community. By being recognized in this

29th edition of *Yearbook Yearbook*, your designs, coverage, copy and photography will be studied by staffs across the nation. Kudos to every staff whose book is showcased. It is an extraordinary accomplishment to be celebrated as the best of the best."

Yearbooks published by Balfour for the 2013-14 school year were evaluated in one or more of the following areas: theme development, layout design, photo content, secondary packages and cover design. The 2015 *Yearbook Yearbook* showcases 2014 yearbooks. Northern Highlands Regional High School's outstanding work earned a featured recognition in *Yearbook Yearbook*. Balfour honors three percent of yearbook staffs with this distinction.

Robotics added to Course Offerings

This course is an exciting and engaging class where students have fun exploring the diverse world of robotics, while building upon their skills in areas such as science, technology, engineering, and math. Students will be utilizing Lego Mindstorm kits and various Lego Robotics materials to guide lessons and design challenges throughout this course. From learning the fundamentals of how to program and engineer their robots, students will be given the opportunity to further develop their design innovations for various challenges with the use of sensors, advanced programming, and 3D printing. They will develop their designs in an environment that promotes constant collaboration and teamwork making for an extremely dynamic environment that truly makes learning robotics exciting.



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Northern Highlands Regional High School District

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