

Northern Highlands Regional High School

Allendale • Upper Saddle River • Ho-Ho-Kus • Saddle River • December 2010



Share In Our Pride

Northern Highlands continues to be one of the premiere high schools in New Jersey, consistently ranked high in all publications. Our students continue to achieve, perform, contribute and experience success following graduation. This issue of the Highlands Report will feature just a few of our recent student accomplishments, for no newsletter can fully showcase all of our successes.

Academically, our National Merit students and AP scholars are recognized in this bulletin. So many more of our students challenge themselves every day with rigorous course offerings. In addition to our Advanced Placement classes, we have partnered with Syracuse University for several courses in which our seniors receive college credit and a Syracuse University transcript without ever leaving Northern Highlands. We are expanding these "Dual Enrollment" opportunities next year by adding Fairleigh Dickinson University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry to our list of college partners. As you read and hear reports that changes in education are necessary, rest assured that your high school is leading the way.

Our district also remains committed to our co-curricular program. We believe our students should

participate in a full range of activities from ninth grade through senior year when they begin to consider life after high school. We had a wonderful fall athletic season with over 400 student athletes competing in nine sports on three levels. Our fall production of *The Taming of the Shrew* was masterful. Our DECA program with 305 students is preparing for business-oriented competitions in early January. Mock Trial is poised for tryouts, our JV Debate Team is undefeated, our Marching Band are State Champions, we're rehearsing our Spring musical, *Seussical* . . . and the list goes on and on.

Two years ago, our students traveled to Tanzania for a service-oriented trip. This year our students and faculty advisors in our *World Challenge Expedition Program* are preparing their second excursion, to Peru! Your Highlanders are on the move, carrying our name, reputation and traditions throughout the state, nation and world.

And to recognize the outstanding contributions of the many Highlanders who came before us, keep an eye out for our inaugural class of inductees into our brand new Hall of Fame.

Stephanie Lerch Named National Merit Semi-Finalist

Northern Highlands is most proud to announce that Stephanie Lerch has been named a *National Merit Semi-finalist*. Semi-finalists are the highest scorers on the PSATs in each of the 50 states and represent less than one percent of high school seniors. Stephanie is still eligible to become a Finalist and will compete for one of 2,500 single-payment National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships. Congratulations, Stephanie!



And Congratulations to . . . the following students who have earned the recognition of the *National Merit Program* as Commended Scholars for their achievement on the 2009 PSAT in junior year:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Alexandra Austin | Evan Lam |
| Jacqueline Benoit | Michelle Schecter |
| Kelli Faust | Kassandra Topp |
| Ja Young Kim | Jeremy Yeaton |
| Joan S. Jim | |

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL A.P. SCHOLARS NAMED

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging, college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced college placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement, based upon students' performance on AP Exams described below. A total of 89 Highlanders have been recognized for outstanding performance.

Congratulations to ***Present Seniors (Class of 2011)**, ****Present Juniors (Class of 2012)**,
and **Alumni (Class of 2010)**.

AP Scholar

Thirty-seven 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 Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams by earning grades of 3 or higher on three or more exams.

*Jade Bonacolta	John Hite	*Michelle Lee	*Patrick Routh
*David Boyajian	Alexandra Hubelbank	Olivia Licata	Catherlien Salerno
*Caroline Broder	*Young Seok Jeong	Bridgit Mahoney	Hadiya Skakeel
Lee Anne Carluccio	*Jaclyn Kahn	Hannah Mayer	Edward Song
*Gawoon Chung	*Ja Young Kim	Christopher Morris	*Sarah Stettin
Ian Dulmage	*Jimin Kim	*Andrew Palella	*Shelley Tong
*Kelli Faust	*Paul Kim	Charles Palella	Rachel Vinciguerra
Chelsea Flynn	Alexandra Klein	Andra Portnoy	Erich Zinnssmeister
*Yula Go	Kayleigh Kobovitch	Zachary Riecker	
*Amanda Gonzalez	*Tara Kohli		

AP Scholar With Honors

Twenty students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honors Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Tara Alvarez	*Nuria Frances	*Kenny Lee	Jessica Parker
Jacob Becker	Samir Hussaini	Sarah Masters	Sarah Pfund
Kelsie Corrison	*Margaret Hylas	William McEntee	Adam Schoem
Anne Crabill	Cody Kester	Hillary Mulder	Kristy Sidor
Emily Davidowitz	*Evan Lam	Lyle Nolasco	*Jimmy Zhang

AP Scholar With Distinction

Thirty-two students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Kyle Baer	Melanie Green	Thomas Lodge	Monica Santos
Yoon Kyoung Choi	Christopher Hewitt	Yadavan Mahendraraj	Adam Schwartz
Reena Chojar	Robert Kagan	John Marshall	Michael Simpson
Michele Corrison	Hye Wan Kim	Marina Naydenov	**Alexandra Solomon
Macgill Davis	*Joan Kim	Ryan O'Keefe	Alexander Sonageri
Connor Funsch	Harrison Klein	Noah Putter	Thomas Webb
Robert Garrett	Samuel Lee	Catherine Ramirez	Daniel White
Jamie Gebhardt	Jaclyn Lefkowitz	Brett Rosenbluth	Alexa Widawsky



Taming of the Shrew

The Northern Highlands Theatre Company presented Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" on November 11, 12 and 13. Congratulations to the entire cast and Director Mrs. Laura Rokoszak for an outstanding production.



A Regional Effort for Mutual Benefit



Dr. Jill Mortimer, the K-12 Regional Director of Curriculum and Instruction, is overseeing several projects for the school year that involve more than 175 Allendale, Ho-Ho-Kus, Upper Saddle River, and Northern Highlands teachers. The office was established more than a decade ago as a way of promoting and supporting articulation and common curriculum development in the quad-districts. The goal is in part to ensure equity in opportunity and educational experiences so that students from all three sending districts are equally successful. An overview of each project follows.

Common Algebra I Benchmark Assessments

All regional 8th and 9th grade Algebra I students took the same benchmark assessment during the week of Thanksgiving to see if they are on track for being successful on the NJDOE's End-of-Course Algebra I assessment, which will be administered the week of May 23. The quad-district teachers created the test, under the guidance of esteemed Math Consultant Nancy Schultz. Another benchmark test will be given in March for the same purpose.

These formative assessments will provide feedback for both students and teachers on which skills are strong and which need additional work. It is not a high stakes test in the sense that it is not one of the new multiple criteria being used for identifying which 8th grade students are eligible for Honors Algebra II in 9th grade. The quad-districts have moved away from the high stakes model that the former 8th Grade Algebra Proficiency Test created. Instead, 8th grade teachers will consider the following multiple criteria when determining 9th grade Math placements this winter:

- ✓ Regional Checklist for Teacher Recommendation
- ✓ Math ASK 7 Score
- ✓ 7th Grade Math Final Grade
- ✓ 8th Grade Average as of March 1

If a student meets the criteria for honors, yet does not pass the NJDOE's Algebra I End-of-Course Assessment, the student's placement will be reevaluated. Data on the implementation of this new identification method is being analyzed so that we are confident students are being placed in appropriate levels.

Data for the November assessment is being collected so that each district can compare its average to the regional average to see how well the scores align. The goal is to ensure an equitable program (i.e. percentage of students in Algebra in 8th grade, similar student achievement levels) so that students in all districts have the same opportunities for success. Using data to inform our practices will enable us to provide an Algebra program that is rooted in evidence of success on a district, quad-district, and national basis. The Algebra I EOC is given in multiple states.

On a related note, Math Specialist Nancy Schultz is also working with grades 8 and 9 Algebra teachers in their classrooms by engaging in peer coaching and demonstration lessons. Schultz is working with teachers on the conceptual aspects of instruction and is focusing on the process of math and getting students to understand what they are doing. The role of the teacher is not to just "show how it goes," she said.

K- 12 Curriculum 21 Global Committee

Teachers on this regional committee are acting as staff developers in their districts by working with classroom teachers to upgrade instruction and assessments to better reflect 21st century practices. The focus is on incorporating 21st century skills and global connections in the existing regional curricula. These skills, as outlined by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, include critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity and innovation. One avenue for upgrading curricula is including the *meaningful* use of technology. Dr. Mortimer has created a blog for teachers to help them access and comment on highly-regarded websites, such as Google Earth, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Thinkfinity. Over time, the goal is to establish a 21st century upgrade for each unit in all of the K-12 curricula. We are committed to continually refining the curricula to encourage high student engagement and achievement.

Examining Criteria for Admission into Honors Level Courses

Dr. Mortimer will work with the Northern Highlands department supervisors to examine the criteria for being placed in honors-level courses to ensure they are research-based and equitable. Samples of criteria used in similar districts will be evaluated, and there will be an audit of our practices to ensure variables such as gender and classroom behavior do not inadvertently affect placement. The criteria used for K-8 regional enrichment identification, which is based on Joseph Renzulli's *Scales for Rating Characteristics of Superior Students*, will also be consulted so that we have a K-12 continuum for identifying gifted students.

Health, Technology, Art, and Music Curriculum Articulation

The Regional Curriculum Office is focusing this year's articulation efforts on Art, Music, Technology and Health. Dr. Mortimer has brought Northern Highlands department supervisors to the regional middle schools to see classes in these areas in action and to dialogue with the respective principals about those content areas. In turn, the middle school teachers of those subjects areas will visit classes at Northern Highlands to get the high school perspective. The travel will be followed by an articulation meeting at which teachers will identify possible areas of repetition between middle school and high school, possible gaps in learning, or areas in which the ninth grade curricula can be enhanced as a result of having better knowledge about what goes on in the middle schools.



Thank you to our Home & School Association for contributing to the cost of this publication.

Northern Highlands Regional High School

UPCOMING DATES



*Season's
Greetings
and
Happy
New Year!*

- December 8 Fall Sports Awards - 7:00 PM - Hopkins Hall
- December 9..... Holiday Concert - Hopkins Hall - 7:00 PM
- December 11..... ACT Testing
- December 20 2011-2012 Curriculum Guides posted online
- December 24-31 Holiday Recess (School re-opens on January 3rd)
- January 6 Guidance Evening/Financial Aid presented by Educational Funding Associates - Hopkins Hall - 7:00 PM
- January 17 Martin Luther King Day - School Closed
- January 22..... SAT and Subject Tests
- January 25 . . . PASTA MANIA . . . 4:00 - 10:00 pm - 4 Basketball Games, 2 Wrestling Matches and a Fabulous Pasta Dinner all for \$10.00 (Seniors and Students \$6.00)
- January 28 Marking Period 2 report cards available on line
- Early February Dates**
- February 10..... Curriculum Overview for Eighth Grade Parents - 7:00 PM - Hopkins Hall
- February 12..... ACT Test
- March 10, 11, 12 & 13..... Spring Musical "Seussical"



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the highlands report

The K-8 teachers are mapping these content areas on our Atlas Curriculum Mapping software this school year. In line with our efforts to promote 21st century learning, the emphasis of the *Health* curriculum will be on the following vision put forth by the NJDOE:

- ✓ The contemporary view of health and physical education focuses on taking personal responsibility for one's health through an active, healthy lifestyle that fosters a lifelong commitment to wellness.
- ✓ Students should be advocates for personal, family, community, and global wellness and be knowledgeable about national and international public health and safety issues.

As per the guidelines of the NJDOE, the *Visual Arts* curricula will call for students to:

- ✓ Create, reshape, and fully participate in the enhancement of the quality of life, globally.
- ✓ Participate in social, cultural, and intellectual interplay among people of different ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds through a focus on the humanities.
- ✓ Possess essential technical skills and abilities significant to many aspects of life and work in the 21st century.
- ✓ Understand and impact the increasingly complex technological environment.

The *Technology* curriculum will feature the systemic use of technological skills across content areas. Students will be able to engage in the following:

- ✓ Apply information-literacy skills to access, manage, and communicate information using a range of emerging technological tools.
- ✓ Think critically and creatively to solve problems, synthesize and create new knowledge, and make informed decisions that affect individuals, the world community, and the environment.
- ✓ Gain enhanced understanding of global interdependencies as well as multiple cultural perspectives, differing points of view, and diverse values.
- ✓ Employ a systemic approach to understand the design process, the designed world, and the interrelationship and impact of technologies.
- ✓ Model digital citizenship.

Standards Alignment

In order to ensure we are teaching the most up-to-date content, K-12 regional teachers will update all existing curriculum maps so that they include the most recent version of the State standards and the new common core standards for Language Arts and Math. The common core standards are being used in all but 11 states. To learn more, go to <http://www.corestandards.org>. Assessments for the common standards are being developed, and they are expected to be operational in the 2014-2015 school year. The tests will be online, and the scores will be available within two weeks.

K-12 Regional Principals

The regional principals are visiting middle school classrooms in Allendale, HoHoKus and Upper Saddle River this year to look at differentiation, rigor, and student engagement. Debriefing sessions will follow so that each principal can receive feedback regarding others' perceptions of the extent to which these valued elements are in place. Additional work will be done as needs arise. You can learn more about the office and the regional curricula by visiting <http://www.northernhighlands.org/7124601319267/site/default.asp>.

CONGRATULATIONS



Boys' Soccer: County Champions!



Girls' Field Hockey: County Champions! (Three-Peat)



**MARCHING
BAND:
State
Champs!**



FACILITY UPGRADES



Thank you for your support of our much needed replacement of our 45-year-old boilers and generator. The project management and installation moved forward on schedule and with no cost overruns. We have already realized a savings because our seven new high efficiency boilers are outperforming our three original titanic boilers. Similarly, in the past our old generator only provided power for emergency lighting. Now, in the event of a power outage, the new generator will operate not just



emergency lighting, but lighting for our gymnasiums and cafeterias in the event these large areas would be used for students or community members in an emergency. In addition, our phone system, technology infrastructure, refrigeration units and toilets will now continue operating so that the building will be safe for use in any emergency situation. Once again, thank you for your continued support of our ongoing efforts to provide an optimum facility to serve the needs of our students and community.



Once again our students have focused their efforts towards helping those less fortunate. We will have our yearly food drive during the week of December



13 - 17 and would like to

recruit all community members to join our efforts. Please feel free to use the Northern Highlands front lobby to drop off non-perishable food items. Members of the Northern Highlands Marching Band and National Honor Society will load our truck on December 18 and deliver the entire collection to the Mahwah Center for Food Action. No donation is too small...and it's a really big truck! ***Thank you for your help!***


