



# 88 MUSTANG MINUTES SUMMER 2013 ISSUE



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## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Superintendent's Corner
- Construction Projects
- ISAT Scores
- Registration
- Grants Received
- ...much more!

## **Dates to Remember**

- Wednesday, August 7  
— Registration 9:00 am—6:00 pm
- Monday, August 19 —  
First day of School for  
Students (1:30  
Dismissal)
- Wednesday, August 21  
— Board of Education  
Meeting — 7:00 pm
- Monday, August 26 —  
First Full Day of  
School
- Monday, September 2  
— No School in  
observance of Labor  
Day

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## **SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER**

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, relaxing and spending time with friends and family!

While there is still time left for last minute vacations, the beginning of another school year is right around the corner. This year will bring several changes to NH-M, including a new secure front entrance and a wireless intercom system. These improvements have been installed over the summer after NH-M was awarded \$50,000 in a School Maintenance Project Grant from the state of Illinois. In light of recent tragic events in schools across the nation, it has sadly become necessary to secure our school.

However, once inside the school, much has been done on behalf of making NH-M the best school district around! Google Chromebooks and Apple iPads have continued to arrive and anxiously await student use in the fall.

Teachers have begun to receive training from certified Google trainers in the Chicago suburbs, and the NH-MCSE group continues to plan community events that not only raise funds for this technology, but unite the two wonderful communities of New Holland and Middletown behind a stellar school system!

While there is much to do before school is ready for students, parents can get a jump start on the last-minute back to school rush by utilizing some of the information included in this newsletter.

I'm looking forward to another dynamic school year and hope everyone enjoys their last few weeks of summer vacation!

Take great care,

Todd Dugan  
Superintendent

## **MEET THE MUSTANGS**

Each issue, we will spotlight a member of the NH-M faculty/staff in this column. This month, we will meet **Miss Jill Park**. Jill was recently hired by the NH-M Board of Education and will be teaching 2nd grade this year. Originally from Logan County, she graduated from Western Illinois University in 2012 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Since then, she has completed two 2nd-grade maternity leaves in Normal Unit 5 Schools. She lives in rural Latham, and is very excited to join the NH-M family!

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

If you've driven by the school this summer, you've probably noticed our small construction projects, such as the creation of a more secure front entrance. NH-M was awarded a \$50 thousand School Maintenance Program Grant from the Illinois State Board of Education to complete this school safety project, along with others. The other approximate \$50,000 was paid for with Health/Life-Safety funds, which are levied annually for this purpose. Not only will this look appealing, but it keeps NH-M secure!



## STATE RAISES ISAT CUT SCORES

The Illinois State Board of Education recently decided to increase the grading scale for the ISAT, which is expected to cause the percentage of elementary and middle school students "meeting" or "exceeding" standards to drop substantially when scores are released this fall, even though students' actual scores may increase. ISBE's reasoning is to better align ISAT results with those of the Prairie State Achievement Exam administered to 11th graders as well as to align with the new Common Core State Standards. What impact will this have? By aligning last year's results to the new scale, math scores would have dropped from **86% to 60%** and reading scores from **79% to 60%**. A good analogy is a pole vaulter who clears the bar at 12 feet, improves his vault to 13 feet, but cannot clear the bar because it has been raised to 15 feet. His performance improved, but the bar was raised even higher. Rest assured, NH-M will analyze these new test results in order to continuously improve its instruction, but would also like for our supportive learning community to be aware that these lower scores do not represent a decreasing performance by our students or teachers.



## REGISTRATION 2013-2014

NH-M will hold registration for new and returning students on **Wednesday, August 7th from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm**. If you will be unable to attend this registration date, please call the office at 445-2421 in order to make an appointment to register. This year, registration fees have increased slightly in grades 5th thru 8th, as well as milk and breakfast.



## MORE GRANTS FOR NH-M

New Holland-Middletown was recently awarded more grants. NH-M once again received \$20,000 from the Woods Foundation for technological infrastructure upgrades (i.e., greater bandwidth) and another \$20,000 from Monsanto to "flip our Science lab." This is great news for the students at NH-M! Meanwhile, our community group, NH-MCSE has received \$25,000 from State Farm, bringing the total to \$51,000 of a \$80,000 initial goal.



## NEW & IMPROVED NH-M WEBSITE!

Effective July 1st, our new and improved website went live. It's the same website address, <http://www.nhm88.com> but it has a new look and layout. While not all of the links are live just yet, it is our hope that the new website will make it easier to learn about the great things happening at NH-M on a daily basis. Please check it out, and as always, please feel free to let us know of any suggestions to improve.



## BACK-TO-SCHOOL INFO

School begins for the 2013-2014 school year on **Monday, August 19, 2013**. This first week will run a heat schedule, with a 1:30 pm dismissal time. School begins full days on **Monday, August 26** (weather permitting). School supply lists have been distributed to Kroger, CVS and Wal-Mart in Lincoln. They are also available online at: <http://www.nhm88.com>. Also, please note that all early dismissal days this year will be at **1:30 pm** and breakfast and lunch will be served.



## INCOMING STUDENT MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

This year, the following requirements are in place from the Illinois State Board of Education for students entering grades K-8:

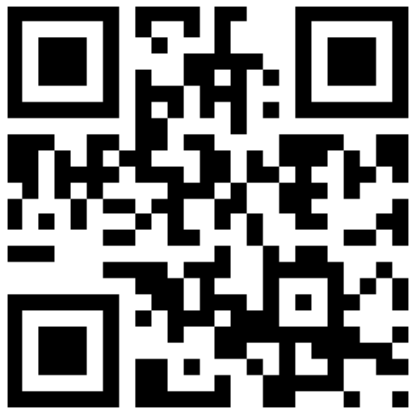
- **Kindergarten**—Dental exam, Physical and Eye Exam performed by an optometrist licensed to examine eyes, a current immunization record, and a certified copy of their birth certificate
- **2nd Grade**— Dental exam
- **6th Grade**— Physical and Dental Exam
- **7th and 8th**— Proof of receipt of one dose of Tdap vaccine (may already have received, but will need to provide documentation)

This year, *Miles of Smiles* will be visiting the school to provide free dental check-ups, which will meet the required examination needed for Illinois school compliance.



## COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

Last year, NH-M Superintendent Todd Dugan held a couple of informal Coffee with the Superintendent sessions in both New Holland and Middletown throughout the school year. Both events were well attended and well received. They offered residents a chance to ask questions and share compliments and concerns about the school district. Again this fall, Superintendent Dugan will hold these sessions at **Slacker's in New Holland at 5:00 on Tuesday, August 27** and **Stagecoach Bar & Grill in Middletown on Monday, August 26 also at 5:00 pm.**



# NH-M #88

*Learning Is Our #1 Priority!*

**BOXHOLDER  
MIDDLETOWN, IL 62666**

