

OCTOBER 2008 New Milford High School Monthly Report

Compiled by Eric Sheninger

1. Observations

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Observed by</u>
John Coviello	Sociology	10/6	1	Eric Sheninger
Joe Tusa	Hon. History	10/7	3	Eric Sheninger
Dave Wilson	Cont. Issues	10/10	8	Eric Sheninger
Thomas Carey	Chemistry	10/14, 10/15, 10/16	6	Eric Sheninger
Vikki Smith	Hon. Chem.	10/17	4	Eric Sheninger
Pete Torpie	Chemistry	10/20	2	Eric Sheninger
Adu Asa-Awuku	Chemistry	10/20	5	Eric Sheninger
Nicolette Perna	History	10/21, 10/22, 10/23	1	Eric Sheninger
April Millian	Geometry	10/28	1	Eric Sheninger
Joe Manzo	History	10/29, 10/30, 10/31	1	Eric Sheninger
Maria Grompone	Spanish 2	10/7	2	Lou Manuppelli
Amy Solimano	Spanish 4	10/10	3	Lou Manuppelli
Joyce Monroe	Spanish 2	10/10	4	Lou Manuppelli
Stephanie Digler	Culinary Arts	10/21, 10/22, 10/23	2	Lou Manuppelli
Colleen Tambuscio	Special Ed.	10/6	4	Jerry Perrone
Olivia Burten	Special Ed.	10/7	1	Jerry Perrone
Greg Kelly	Driver. Ed	10/10	1	Jerry Perrone
Debra Smith	Special Ed.	10/14, 10/15, 10/16	2	Jerry Perrone
Barbara O'Donnell	School Nurse	10/14	8	Jerry Perrone
Patricia Bernardo	Phys. Ed.	10/14	1	Jerry Perrone
Dana Buzzelli	Special Ed.	10/21, 10/22, 10/23	6	Jerry Perrone
Richard Arturi	Special Ed.	10/24	1	Jerry Perrone
Michael Coyne	Special Ed.	10/28, 10/29, 10/30	7	Jerry Perrone
Nicola Schneider	Special Ed.	10/30, 10/31, 11/3	3	Jerry Perrone

Summaries:

2. Guest lecturers

- Mrs. (Broomall) Smith collaborated with Mrs. Burten's American History II class in interpreting photographs as primary sources. The two teachers decided to work together because both share a passion for history and the fine arts. Mrs. Smith initiated the discussion by using optical illusions as a means of guided instruction. Students were asked, "What do you see?" and were often surprised when clues would illustrate alternate perspectives. Both teachers guided students through an exercise of interpreting the composition of the photograph using objects, clothing, signs, locations, and facial expressions to draw conclusions about the time period and context in which the picture was taken. Mrs. Burten and Mrs. Smith turned the classroom into the photographic museum and the students were able to view several photographs of child laborers at the turn of the century. It is said that, "A picture is worth a thousand words," and the impact on our students of seeing such small children forced to do adult labor was emotional and meaningful. The students were stunned when they were told that two of the primary sources were recent photographs of overworked, abused children in third world countries. The lesson concluded with having the students share a recent New York Times article illustrating the tragic abuse of children in unsafe working conditions and labor practices. The presentation was a great teaching and learning experience.

- For Red Ribbon Week (10/21-10/24) Detective Sergeant Hector Carter conducted a presentation on Gang Awareness through the Bergen County Prosecutors' Office. The assembly covered two class periods and all students were educated about the state of affairs in Bergen County as it pertains to gangs. The engaging speaker educated our students on what to look for and how to stay safe in these troubling times.
- Dr. Shin (professor from Hackensack Medical Center) presented a seminar on Testicular Cancer Screening to the Male Seniors. Dr. Shin shared his expertise on the subject with the Senior Men and provided an open forum to discuss their concerns and questions on the subject. During the same time, the Senior Women participated in an educational seminar on Breast Cancer Screening, which was presented by the Hassad Group. During this seminar the young women discussed Breast Cancer Screening, as well as questions and concerns on the subject. The students and participating faculty stated that this was an informative and educational program that answers many questions and concerns that the students would never had the opportunity to ask if not presented with these programs. The speakers also stated that this event was rewarding to them and that our school is a welcoming place; they look forward to continuing this event in the upcoming years.

3. Innovations:

- The HS Math Department administered a "Mock HSPA" exam to all 11th grade students on 10/30/08. The results of this exercise will be used by the math teachers to focus on areas of difficulty to further prepare our students prior to the March HSPA.
- Ms. Perna created an authentic learning activity on the Middle Passage (route taken during the Atlantic Slave Trade during the 1600's). This activity focused on students working in groups on three different tasks to create a simulation of the Middle Passage. The activity was set up for students as if they were working as crew members on a ship sailing from Africa to the Americas during the Atlantic Slave Trade. There were three different groups or "crews". The first crew was the navigation crew. This group worked to help navigate the trip by answering specific questions about the journey (how long it will take, what will conditions be like, how many slaves can fit on the ship, etc.). The second crew was the cargo crew. This group worked to measure out spaces for the cargo (slaves). They measured 5 ft by 1 ft spaces and used masking tape to outline the spaces on the floor. The spatial crew worked to measure the area of the room (which is referred to as the ship) and then how many 5 ft by 1 ft could fit in the room. After each group completed their tasks, the students came together as a group and the different parts were brought together. First volunteers laid on the ground and tried to fit their entire bodies into one 5 ft by 1 ft space. Students quickly realized it was nearly impossible and horribly uncomfortable. Students were told this is the amount of space each slave had during the Middle Passage journey. Students began to visualize and realize the terrible conditions of the Middle Passage. The work of the other groups was drawn upon to further explain more specifics of the Middle Passage, such as conditions on the ship. The spatial group brought to light how many slaves would be packed into the room if it this was a ship. This activity provided a way for students to visualize the Middle Passage and learn about the horrendous nature of this journey through a hands-on, engaging activity.
- On Wednesday, Oct. 22 the Future Educators Club, advised by Mrs. Rose De Poto and Mrs. Colleen Tambuscio, sponsored its first Teacher Shadow Day in the high school. Over 20 teachers and students were paired for a four-hour collaboration where students could observe first-hand the typical day of a teacher or administrator in the building. The Future Educators Club was started last year as a response to the ever-increasing need for teachers throughout the country as retirement and attrition of the present force is expected to seriously impact the profession in the coming years. Teacher Shadow Day gave students a real-life glimpse into the daily schedule of teachers. Students were given a journal to record

observations in and also a set of questions to be used later in an interview with the teacher they shadowed. A “biography” of the teacher will be presented at the next meeting of the Club on November 13. A highly successful venture, the first Shadow Day made students realize the many diverse jobs of a teacher other than preparation and delivery of content. Many students commented, “I never realized how busy teachers were all day!” Breakfast was provided for teachers and their shadows before the day began in the Guidance Conference Room. The first fundraiser the Future Educators Club will sponsor is a New Milford Cookbook. Members of the club, as well as faculty and staff, have been told about the fundraiser and asked to contribute recipes. The cookbook is scheduled to be published sometime in the spring.

- During the last week of October in Ms. Schlamp’s Humanities class, students worked together to re-write selections from epic poetry as children stories. For the past several weeks, the Humanities class had been studying the importance of the concept of *translation* in literature. When the year began, students were reading selections from the Sumerian epic poem, *The Epic of Gilgamesh* and the Persian epic poem, *The Shah-nama*. As a culminating activity and assessment, the class was assigned to re-write/translate, these adult stories to the reading level of a 7 or 8 year old child. This meant not only changing the language and sometimes the higher level plot line, but also including illustrations! Students took the task to heart and worked diligently on creating beautifully hand-made books with illustrations that are beautiful to look at, enjoyable and fun to read. It was a great way for them to show that they not only understood the stories, but that they were able to re-tell them in all their glory! Below is a “group” shot of their “books” reflecting incredible hard work and talent!



4. Student honors:

- The Challenge Academic Team traveled to Uniondale, Long Island to compete in the Long Island Fall Tournament VIII academic competition. The competition included teams from all over the Tri-State area. The students representing New Milford were seniors Kinjal Desai, Trisha Javaluyas, Angela Wan, and Kristi Saporito, and junior Filip Piasevoli.
- The following chorus students, after a rigorous audition process at Cresskill High School, were named to the prestigious Bergen County Chorus. They are Aimee George (10th), Lijin Joy (12th), Arthur Lipata (12th), and Azela Zarate (11th). They will perform at Bergenfield High School on Sunday January 18, 2009 at 2PM.

5. Field trips

- Students in AP History were treated to a historical walking tour of lower Manhattan by 1988 alumnus and 2008 NMHS Distinguished Alumnus Adam Leitman Bailey. This interactive experience began at Federal Hall where the First Congress of the United States of America did business and George Washington gave his first inaugural address on April 30, 1789. It

intersects with Wall Street and is parallel to the New York Stock Exchange (this building is also where the John Peter Zenger trial was held which was very important piece in obtaining First Amendment). Adam then discussed the American Revolution and focused on places of interest while intersecting them with 5 men's stories--John Adams, Aaron Burr, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. The stories of these historical figures were correlated with landmarks to provide visual aids (Hamilton's grave, Washington's Church, Burr-Hamilton duel, Jefferson v. Adams in Congress, the John Peter Zenger Trial, the original Wall that caused Wall Street to be named, and the Federal Reserve to explain the current crisis and the former World Trade Center to tie in hundreds of years of history and relate it to the student's lives). The students were then divided into Federalists and Anti-Federalists and were asked to make decisions about how they would proceed given the same facts as these five men. The tour concluded with lunch at Frauces Tavern, the oldest restaurant in the United States where George Washington gave his farewell address to his soldiers. For more information on Adam Leitman Bailey, please visit www.alblawfirm.com

- On October 2, Mr. Coviello and Mr. Devereaux took the sociology and forensics classes on an education field trip to the NMPD gun range for a joint study of ballistics testing. The students observed the process by which law enforcement officials study information about various firearms and how this data is applied to crime scene investigation. The sociology students had completed a study of how criminology and forensic information can be applied to crime scene investigation prior to this field experience. Mr. Devereaux's forensic students had received detailed instruction concerning the application of ballistic information to forensic studies. This field experience provided both classes with a real life experience that reinforced how law enforcement officers utilize both sociological information and forensic evidence to protect our community from deviant behavior.
- On Saturday, October 18, French students attended a special French presentation at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. The goal of the event was to acquaint interested students with the excellent French program at Rutgers, which is rated number six in the nation. After an introductory session, students and teachers were broken down into small groups led by Rutgers' students who are majoring in French. Our students attended a class on French literature taught by one of the French professors, visited the Zimmerli Art Museum to view their French Collection, toured the French Resource Center, which is sponsored by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, and attended a media presentation at the World Languages Institute. There, the stuents participated in a discussion session about special opportunities for advanced study and careers in French. Rutgers sponsors its own French study abroad program in Paris. A special conference was offered to teachers on the methodology of teaching French through music and the Rutgers study program at the Louvre in Paris. After the conference, the students and Mrs. Monroe had dinner together at Sophie's Bistro in New Brunswick.
- On Saturday, October 25, Mrs. Monroe, accompanied by three of her French students, presented at a conference on Quebec in New York City. The conference was held at the United Federation of Teachers Building, and was sponsored by the New York Foreign Language Teachers Association. The title of the presentation was, "Teaching Quebec history, culture and language through folksongs, video and poems". The New Milford students, Allison Ehrhart, Abigael Talla and Kate Jelaska assisted in the presentation of the media, and responded to questions about learning through songs and their trip to Quebec. Representatives from the French Embassy Cultural Services, the Quebec Government House, and a professor form the University of Montreal were in attendance. The presentation was a great success, and the breadth of media presented could not possibly have been accomplished without the expert help of our students.
- On Wednesday, October 29, 2008, the Student Council officers and members of the Peer Leadership Club attended a Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Leadership Conference at

Ramapo College in Mahwah, New Jersey. The conference was a day-long event that featured a series of interactive workshops highlighting the power youth have to create their own futures. Each student was able to select and attend three workshops that ranged from topics such as: “Street Mentalities to College Realities,” and, “Soul Secrets of Man,” to “Eye of the Tiger” among many others. In each workshop our students met with, and talked to, other students, grades 9-12, from neighboring Essex, Passaic and Hudson counties.

6. Guidance

- On October 21st, Mr. Carr, Mrs. Bilali, and Mrs. Porr attended a financial aid workshop at Bergen Community College that was hosted by the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA). The workshop served as a resource for updates on state and federal student aid. This workshop is always worthwhile but was especially relevant this year, because there have been changes to financial aid on both the federal and state levels and also to the FAFSA form. Parents and students will have the opportunity to learn about these changes when the Guidance Department hosts a Financial Aid Workshop on Thursday, December 4th at 7:00pm. There will be more details to follow in the next edition of the Guidance newsletter which will be sent with marking period one report cards.
- On Monday, November 17th, the Guidance Department will be hosting an Immediate Decision Day through New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) at New Milford High School. Qualified students were notified of their eligibility to participate and will have the opportunity to meet with a NJIT admissions counselor and receive their admissions decision on that day. This is a great opportunity for interested students to streamline the application process and have their application fee waived.

7. Professional Development:

- NMHS conducted a professional day on Monday, October 13, with the overriding theme being “Teachers Teaching Teachers”. There were nine different professional development sessions instructed by NMHS staff. They included Working with Difficult Students (Lou Manuppelli), Authentic Learning (Eric Sheninger), Adolescent Chemistry in Your Local Grocery Store (Dorene Zacher), What’s Your Baggage/Emotional Intelligence (Wendy Mackey & Nicola Schneider), Project Adventure (Greg Kelly & Patty Bernardo), Scan and Retrieve (Walt Pevny), The Use of Geometry Sketchpad in Math, Science and Art Classes (Pam Miller & Nora Aivars), and Vertical Team for AP English Literature (Sue Michels). In addition, Columbia University presented a training session for all staff on writing college letters of recommendation.
- On Monday, October 13, and Tuesday, October 14, eleven staff members received intensive training from Apple Inc. presenter Jane Keys on how to effectively utilize iPods for teaching and learning. This hands-on podcasting institute provided each staff member with the tools to produce their own original content using an ipod and macbook computers.
- On Tuesday, October 14 Mr. Manuppelli, Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Schuette, and Mrs. Leuffgen attended training on ASSA reporting. They attended a half-day seminar at Passaic County Technical School on ASSA changes. At this training session they were given information for state aid calculation per the School Funding Reform Act of 2008.
- Nora Aivars and Pam Miller attended the Association of Math Teachers of New Jersey annual two day conference on October 23rd and 24th. The conference was held in Somerset NJ at the Holiday Inn and the Crowne Plaza hotels. Over one hundred sessions were offered for math teachers. Topics ranged from using technology in the classroom (graphing calculator, n-spire, Geometry Sketchpad) to Algebra to Calculus. It has often been said that if you come away with one great tip, problem, strategy then the conference was worth while. We can honestly say that we came away with many great ideas. These ideas were shared with the rest of the math department at our department meeting on Monday, October 27th.

The geometry classes are working on designing the next year's winning button for AMTNJ math button contest. The winning design will be displayed at the 2009 conference. Mrs. Aivars is planning to use the graphing calculator to design posters and tee shirts. Each unique design will be constructed by graphing equations and inequalities. This is a great project to reinforce graphical analysis.

8. Facilities

9. Other

- Dorene Zacher, the new Student Assistance Coordinator is trying to bring innovating and preventative programs to the District to combat the negative consequences regarding the use of mind altering substances. Her active participation in the New Milford Drug Alliance has allowed her to utilize services which once were out of the school's grasp due to the financial cost. Since September the New Milford Drug Alliance has allotted \$1,600 to the Student Assistance Program to cover the cost of the PAS IV and an intense educational program scheduled for December 2, 2008, entitled "Charting Your Course". The PAS IV is a passive alcohol sensor which will be utilized at all Board sanctioned functions. All students will be subject to screening using the PAS IV passive alcohol sensor. The PAS IV is similar in size to a flashlight; however it measures the alcohol level of an individual who simply speaks into the instrument. Also the PAS IV can be placed directly over a container containing liquid and it can also determine if alcohol is present. The educational program, "Charting Your Course," will challenge the students to look at their decision making skills and long range goals. It will help them to resist the temptations and peer pressure regarding such destructive behaviors as adolescent substance abuse, internet use, and delinquency behaviors. This program is scheduled for December 2, 2008. The freshmen and sophomores will view this program from 9:00 –10:15 am, and the juniors and seniors from 10:30-11:30.
- The HS Marching band has been having an exciting season. They have some new unexpected members and have been proudly wearing their new uniforms while playing on some new equipment. The song "Apache" has been well received by the home crowd. Also on display in the crowd is the new shiny green mascot!
- The Guidance Department administered the PSAT/NMSQT on Wednesday, October 15th, to all 10th and 11th graders. The test was given during the school day with over 90% of the students participating. The PSAT/NMSQT is a reasoning test that indicates how a student will perform on the SAT and is a route of entry to the National Merit Scholarship Competition. The score report provides the students and their families the opportunity to prepare for the SAT in their junior year.
- The freshman class has started off the year with their first fundraiser selling "SMENCILS", scented pencils made from 100% recycled newspapers. Each pencil is being sold for \$1. The class of 2012 has also begun placing orders for T-shirts (\$15) and sweatshirts (\$50). The T-shirts will read New Milford High School Class of 2012. The sweatshirts will read New Milford Knights (distressed twill sewn on felt).
- Dorene Zacher is also in the beginning stages of scheduling a Mock Accident Assembly which is scheduled for Friday June 5th, 2009. The purpose of this assembly is to educate the students on the negative repercussions of driving a vehicle under the influence of a mind altering substance. There are also other educational and preventative activities in the beginning development stages regarding an Anti-Smoking Campaign (Rebel) and the implementation of SAFE HOUSES throughout New Milford.
- This year's fall production of The School Inspectors is shaping up to be a hysterical comedy. It is an original three act farce written and directed by our very own Mr. Lockhart. Mr. Coviello will once again be producing the fall show this year aided by such faculty

members as Ms. Perna, Mr. Pevny, Mrs. Beiner, Mrs. Vicari, Mr. Africano, Mr. Drew, Ms. Schneider, and Mr. Manzo. Over one hundred students are involved in the cast, crew, graphic design classes, art classes, and various other support groups that make this theatrical production possible. Over one hundred fifty students will have participated in this process in a variety of roles.

- Students from NMHS Community Service volunteered at the B.F. Gibbs School Spooktacular on Saturday October 25, 2008. Gibb's School PTO thanks these students for their time. The event could not have been successful without you!
- The annual NMHS Food Drive has begun, and will continue until Friday, November 21st. All items can be brought to student's homerooms, guidance office, or drop in the box in the main entrance to the high school. The donations will be given to the Church of the Ascension Food Pantry in New Milford, and will be distributed to residents of the New Milford Community on Sunday November 23rd during their yearly turkey give out.
- Mrs. Keesing was the faculty representative to the PTO meeting this month. Following the meeting, she offered a demonstration of some of the electronic resources that our students use. The parents were quite enthusiastic both about the quality of the resources and about how user-friendly they are. Mrs. Keesing enjoyed the opportunity to communicate with parents directly and to afford them the chance for hands-on use of some of our 21st century learning tools.
- On October 30, 2008, 165 juniors sat for a "mock HSPA" test. The test consisted of two sections: 35 multiple choice questions and 9 open ended questions. The tests will be scored by the math department using a rubric similar to the State of NJ HSPA rubric:

Advance proficient – above 80% on both sections

Proficient - above 50 % on both sections

Partially Proficient - below 50 % on both sections

Partially proficient students will be assigned to a zero period HSPA prep class. This class will be taught by a math teacher. The emphasis will be on writing open ended questions. The students that scored below 50% on the multiple choice questions will be assigned to a weekly Study Island in addition to the zero period class. Study Island is an interactive internet HSPA skills program. These students will be given an access code to Study Island. Students can access this program at any time through the internet. We expect each student to utilize this program a minimum of 30 minutes per week to reinforce and strengthen their basic math skills. Study Island generates individual student progress reports. These reports are emailed to the teacher each week. The reports tell how long the student was at the site, the drill and practice topics of the week by NJ Standard and difficulty level, number of problems attempted, percent correct and the individual student cumulative progress.

- The volleyball team has achieved a 20 win season and will play 11/04/08 at home versus Park Ridge at 5pm in the state tournament. The girl's and boys soccer teams have also qualified for the state tournament and will play on 11/7/08 at 2pm. The girls will play at Park Ridge and the boys will play at Wallington. Senior Anthony Crouchelli has set the NMHS boys soccer record for goals in a single season with 28. Senior football player A.J. Scoppa became the NMHS all-time leading yards rusher and touchdown leader in the game versus Bogota. Prior to the game, A.J. received a call from Ed Marinaro to wish him luck. The cross country team had a strong showing at the League Championships and will be competing in the State Sectional meet at Garrett Mountain on 11/8. The girl's tennis team completed their season by qualifying for the state tournament once again. Unfortunately, the team lost in the first round but is looking forward to another exciting season next fall.
- The Bergen County Boys Soccer Coaches Association has voted Athletic Director, Jerry Perrone, as their 2008 Athletic Director of the Year.