

# OCTOBER 2011 New Milford High School Monthly Report

Compiled by Eric Sheninger

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## 1. Observations

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Observed by</u>
Kanchan Chellani	Calculus	10-3-11	3	Eric Sheninger
Tahreen Chowdhury	Honors Physics	10-4-11	1	Eric Sheninger
Serge Nadeau	French 2	10-6-11	2	Eric Sheninger
Abigail Bergoffen	Physics	10-7-11	5	Eric Sheninger
Jeff Fiscina	Algebra 1B	10-11-11	1	Eric Sheninger
Carolyn Paulus	English 11	10-13-11	2	Eric Sheninger
Rebecca Millan	US History 2	10-14-11	4	Eric Sheninger
Craig Hawkins	Elements of Geometry	10-14-11	1	Eric Sheninger
Kanchan Chellani	Algebra 2	10-17-11	2	Eric Sheninger
Tahreen Chowdhury	Conceptual Physics	10-20-11	7	Eric Sheninger
Serge Nadeau	French 3	10-24-11	8	Eric Sheninger
Jennifer Levy	US History 1	10-25-11	2	Eric Sheninger
Abigail Bergoffen	Chemistry	10-27-11	3	Eric Sheninger
Rose DePoto	AP English	10-28-11	3	Eric Sheninger
Michael Widmer	Special Education	10-5-11	2	Jerry Perrone
Michael Coyne	Special Education	10-17-11	7	Jerry Perrone
Nicollette Perna	Social Studies	10-18-11	3	Jerry Perrone
Joseph Manzo	Social Studies	10-20-11	5	Jerry Perrone
Dana Aufiero	Special Education	10-21-11	3	Jerry Perrone
Olivia Burten	Special Education	10-24-11	6	Jerry Perrone
Wendy Mackey	Special Education	10-26-11	2	Jerry Perrone
Lisette Morel	Art Department	10-28-11	4	Jerry Perrone

Summaries:

## 2. Guest lecturers

- On Monday, October 24, Greg Toppo, the national education writer for USA Today, visited the school to speak with students in the Digital Journalism and Tomorrow's Teachers courses. Mr. Toppo spoke about journalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, major educational issues he covers, the impact of technology on print media, and the importance of being news literate. He also responded to numerous student questions in regards to educational reform, bias, role of gaming in education, teacher quality, use of social media to acquire sources, and personalized learning.
- On Monday, October 24, Ms. Kathryn English from the Foundation for Free Enterprise presented a business competition to all of Mrs. Vicari's Business Strategy classes. New Milford will enter twenty-two groups or created businesses (approximately 100 students will be involved.) Each group of students will create a business idea and write a business plan, which is part of the Business Strategy curriculum. The schools involved in the competition are Bergen Academy, Morris High School, Morris Catholic High School, Fort Lee High School, and Monmouth High School. Each group will present their business and business plan to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Free Enterprise. In addition, these students will be eligible to attend a three-day free Summer Business Camp at Ramapo College.

- On Tuesday, October 18, Ms. Sian Millard, *Case Manager for Domestic Violence Alternatives to Domestic Violence*, addressed the students on the physical, mental, emotional, and legal aspects of domestic violence during each Health class. The Alternative to Domestic Violence (A.D.V.) is a division of the Bergen County Department of Human Services, which is exclusively devoted to domestic violence intervention. A.D.V. offers a full range of specialized services including crisis intervention, counseling, legal advocacy and assistance, court preparation, individual, group and family counseling, and community education.
- On Thursday October 20, Mr. Sheninger educated the freshmen and sophomore classes on how the technological advances in our society play a key role in harassment, intimidation and bullying, as well as, strategies students can use to prevent harassment in the first place.
- On Thursday October 27, Mrs. Levy's 9<sup>th</sup> grade World History class had a special lecture by Aryeh Eisenberg, an Israeli Educator and Director of Education of Tomorrow's Genius, a company that creates online academic programs for schools and students throughout Israel, the Palestinian territories, and around the world. He spoke with our students about the recent Gilad Shalit swap deal and the Arab-Israeli Conflict. Students were able to ask questions as well. Students have been studying about the Middle East in history class looking at both its historical roots and the situation unfolding there today. Next week, students will hear from Susan Nour, an Arab Journalist from Egypt, about the situation unfolding in her country and the rest of the Muslim World today.
- Mr. Sam Petrocelli, a national science foundation fellow from Stevens Institute of Technology has begun working at New Milford High School. He will be supporting the STEM program, particularly the Engineering program. Sam is a doctoral candidate in the field of computer engineering. In a recent lesson, he discussed the importance of ratios in engineering with students using gears from an old printer. Sam will be working under the supervision of GK12 teachers Abigail Bergoffen and Adu Asa-Awuku.
- During "Violence Prevention Week" (October 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>), The Alternative to Domestic Violence (A.D.V.), a division of the Bergen County Department of Human Services, which is exclusively devoted to domestic violence intervention, visited Health classes to discuss the physical, mental, emotional and legal aspects of domestic violence. Additionally, during an assembly, Principal Eric Sheninger educated the freshmen and sophomore classes on how the technological advances in our society play a key role in harassment, intimidation and bullying.

### **3. Innovations:**

- Students in the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Behavior course will have the opportunity to participate in a research project that was designed around the concept of Citizen History. This concept utilizes historical data and allows individuals to research the data to find historical connections that historians would typically accomplish. This project is centered around the Lodz Ghetto in Poland, and inspired by an extraordinary artifact- an album of hand-drawn New Year's greetings presented by the ghetto schools to the Jewish Council chairman, Chaim Rumkowski, and signed by thousands of Lodz ghetto schoolchildren. The Museum has launched a worldwide collaborative volunteer project to find out what happened to the student signatories in this album. Students in the course will begin researching the fates of these children and become active researchers in a very important endeavor. The website can be found at <http://online.ushmm.org/lodzchildren>
- [The Edscape Conference](#) was held at New Milford High School on Saturday October 24. Over 300 educators from seven different states descended upon the school for a day of learning focused on innovation. For press coverage on the event visit the Record and [New Milford Patch](#). You can read another article at the [New Milford Patch](#) to hear a perspective from a BOE member on the conference.

- A district wide training program was held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the high school for all New Milford parents on the new Anti Bullying Bill of Rights Act. The purpose of this program was to discuss the mandates by the State regarding the law, and the new programs implemented by the New Milford School District to assure that our schools are in compliance with the law while celebrating the students for their diversity and assuring that our school is safe and conducive to learning.
- Mrs. Collentine's "The Student View" is back by popular demand. A group of students approached Mrs. Collentine and asked if she would be willing to oversee them if they brought "The Student View" back after school as a club. Mrs. Collentine found it hard to say no, so every Thursday after school she volunteers to oversee the students as they continue to debate topics from local, community, national to global. The first two meetings had fifteen students going back and forth with lively discussion. It promises to be a great year for this new club and its enthusiastic bunch of students! Mrs. Collentine is proud that "The Student View" format lives on!
- Over forty students showed up for the first session of Mrs. Levy's free after school SAT class. Students began learning strategies for taking the exam and received their first diagnostic test which they will be taking this week independently and entering their scores online.
- On October 28<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Millian and Mrs. Morel designed and implemented a cross curriculum lesson involving math, art and technology. Ms. Millian taught Mrs. Morel's 6<sup>th</sup> period advanced three dimensional and advanced media art class how to measure and construct isosceles and equilateral triangles. Later Mrs. Morel's students used this knowledge to create templates, which were applied to creating three dimensional domes out of paper. Miss Millian used her document camera to teach, which allowed all students in both classes to see step by step instructions and view images of the domes as reference.
- On October 3, thirty-two high school students participated in a full day training to be active members of the BUDDY Program. The BUDDY Program (Bullying Undermines Developing Diverse Youths) is a peer driven anti-bullying program offering intervention and prevention programs throughout the district. Under the watchful eye of Mrs. Dorene Zacher, a curriculum was developed to address the educational needs of the students per their grade level on key aspects of identifying, reporting, and resisting harassment, intimidation and bullying. The students are very eager to play an active role in this program and to be seen as positive role models throughout the district. Other developments related to the BUDDY program include:
  - o Sponsoring a fund raiser during all lunches where they are launching the program "Lend a Hand against Bullying". Hands will be sold for \$1.00 and each individual who purchases a hand will sign their name on it. All hands purchased will be displayed under a poster that Ms. Bettini is designing. All proceeds will benefit BUDDY regarding implementation of programs and the development of shirts that represent the true meaning of New Milford's Buddy Program.
  - o Sponsoring a "Random Day of Kindness". The overall purpose of this activity is to acknowledge an individual for showing compassion towards another person. When a B.U.D.D.Y Member witnesses a student performing a random act of kindness, they will receive a blue bracelet. These bracelets, which symbolize unification in the high school, has imprinted on them:
 

Band Against Bullying  
Recognize It \* Refuse It\* Report It

#### **4. Student honors**

- Mrs. Chellani has enthusiastically taken on the role of supervising the Math League for the 2011-2012 school year. The level of interest to partake in this Bergen County Math Competition this school year has been overwhelming with over thirty students signing up.

The first math competition, which was held on October 27<sup>th</sup>, illustrated the incredible level of talent of the group with 40% of the NMHS participants scoring in the top 50%. Mrs. Chellani and her math team are currently in the process of discussing and searching for math league apparel to manifest their team spirit and unity!

## **5. Field trips**

- Several Applied Music and Band students and parents attended the Led Zeppelin Experience Concert at Bergen PAC on October 27. The event was a multimedia masterpiece and a rewarding experience for any rock concert enthusiast.

## **6. Guidance**

## **7. Professional Development**

- Ms. Abigail Bergoffen and Dr. Adu Asa-Awuku attended the Panasonic Creative Design Challenge workshop for teachers. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the upcoming design challenge and to help teachers motivate the students who will participate in the challenge. Students will design and construct a model robot that can land on Mars and perform multiple functions including navigating a surface full of craters and carrying sample materials to a mother ship.
- Multiple teachers attended AP workshops on Monday October 10. Mr. Tusa attended a workshop on AP U.S. History. The presenter exposed the attendees to interesting and innovative pedagogical strategies and informed them of pending changes to the structure of the AP U. S. History exam. The workshop also afforded the attendees the opportunity to share information and establish contacts. Mrs. Aivars attended a workshop on AP Calculus AB. The workshop addressed the content of the AP exam and provided a great deal of materials and also websites as sources for materials that can be used in class. There were a few examples of ways to present certain topics as well as opportunities to exchange ideas with other teachers who also teach AP Calculus. Mrs. Michels attended a workshop on AP English Literature and Composition. This session served to present techniques used to enhance learning in an AP class setting. The training included how AP essays were read and how these essays should be approached by students. It included techniques used to develop close reading and cohesive writing. Dr. Asa-Awuku attended a workshop on AP Chemistry. The workshop informed teachers about current developments in AP Chemistry and assisted AP chemistry teachers in motivating and helping students understand the curriculum as well as prepare for the exam. The workshop also focused on methods of explaining chemistry concepts to students and suggested ways of encouraging students to think critically.
- Mr. Tusa attended a Mock Trial workshop on Thursday October 27. Mock trial teacher coaches and attorney coaches were informed of the 2011-2012 court case. Two teams performed the case for the benefit of all attendees. Competition rules were reviewed and county and state competition dates were confirmed.
- Mrs. Bergoffen attended an AP Physics C workshop in Waltham, MA on Monday October 26. The morning session included changes to the AP, physics test-specific information, and a Q&A. The afternoon included solving select problems, scoring information, and more Q&A.
- Mrs. Kanchan Chellani, along with her colleague, Miss April Millian, recently attended this year's National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) conference in Atlantic City. They attended a variety of seminars focused on differentiating instruction as well as the benefits of infusing the latest technology into the classroom. Additionally, to further optimize daily instruction, they attended workshops centered on the core curriculum content standards. Mrs. Chellani and Miss Millian also had the opportunity to network with teachers across the country to discuss the latest in mathematics education.

## 8. Facilities

- Project Adventure received an upgrade as new equipment was installed and an annual inspection completed on October 7, for the Physical Education classes.
- A new LCD screen, which was donated by Meadowlands Nissan, was installed in the athletic department wing, just before the stairs leading down to the main gym. It will display all new athletic events, as well as scores from the previous day's competitions.

## 9. Theatre Arts

## 10. Other

- A group of Polish teachers visited New Milford High School under the auspices of the US Department of Education to learn more about our school's efforts to teach the Holocaust and genocide. During their ten day long visit, as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program, the only school they visited was New Milford High School despite having travelled through Baltimore, Washington, DC, and New York. Ten teachers, teacher trainers, and consultants from Poland came to New Milford to learn more about our educational methods and programs that focus on practical aspects of educational projects on tolerance and the Holocaust. Students who have been involved in the Holocaust Study Tour program presented their reflections and learning to the group. In particular, the students focused an aspect of their presentation on the conditions encountered at the historical site of Plaszow Concentration Camp in Krakow. Annually, each group has witnessed how deplorable the condition the camp is in; the ground is littered upon, stone markers are desecrated, and the ruins are often subjected to graffiti. The group wanted to explain this to the teachers in hopes of gaining their support in resolving these issues. The teachers asked for a copy of our trip documentaries to bring back to their schools and promised to address this issue at governmental levels. Additionally, we invited Mrs. Irene Frank, our New Milford Holocaust survivor to speak to the group. Mrs. Frank was willing to share her story of survival from three camps during the Holocaust to these educators. The group was very moved by Mrs. Frank's story, and honored her with a beautiful chocolate heart from Poland. As a result of this meeting, students during this year's Holocaust Study Tour will be meeting with one of the teachers and his students at Krzysztof Kamil Baczynski High School in Krakow this April.
- The student's at NMHS have been actively involved volunteering their time here in the community of New Milford, as well as in neighboring towns. Some events that the students have volunteered at include: assisting teachers and administrators at the Edscape conference, unloading pumpkins for a pumpkin patch in River Edge on multiple occasions, assisting at the New Milford Public library, coaching New Milford recreation sport teams, working with the Media Specialist at Gibbs Elementary School, assisting at the Halloween Spooktacular at Gibbs elementary school, and assisting at the Halloween Trunk or Treat event at Berkley elementary school. Other exciting upcoming events include, painting the girls team room here at NMHS and kicking off our food/pantry drive for the holidays, to help those thousands in need around the county. Our student body at NMHS recognizes the importance of giving back to a community, which has given them so much throughout the years. In just two months our students have logged in well over 100 hours of community service, and we look forward to see what the rest of the year brings.
- Head Volleyball Coach Sheila Clancy recorded her 100<sup>th</sup> victory this month.
- The after school Dance Program began in October and is affiliated with the Bergen Performing Arts Center. It is open to all students interested in dance and yoga.
- Leading up to the Homecoming football game and dance, this year's Spirit Week was a huge success. With comments still coming in days later, teachers and students alike were

continually remarking how much fun and how truly “spirited” the week seemed. The friendly competition between the grades began on Monday with “Pajama Day”; it was followed by: Twin Day, Decade Day, Face Painting Day and T-shirt Color Day. Each day the percentage of class participants were neck and neck. “Deck” the Halls was a new idea brought to the Student Council by math teacher, Ms. April Millian. Ms. Millian suggested that each grade be assigned a hallway and ‘decorate’ it in such a way that when walking through the halls they no longer resembled a school. GAME ON! The kids and their advisors embraced the idea and Ms. Wendy Mackey’s Sophomore Class was deemed the winner with a spirited theme of “Candyland.” Mrs. Aufiero’s Seniors, who were great sports about it, came in second with a Knights’ Castle Theme. Friday of the week culminated in a Relay Race game. Grades selected ten participants and the four grades ran a relay race that almost blew the roof off the new gym! Chants ranged from SENIORS!, JUNIORS!, to individual student names. In the end, the seniors won the relay race component, and since the team scores going in were in a three-way tie between the seniors, juniors and sophomores; whoever won the relay would get the title of most spirited class. The Seniors won this year—what that actually means is that the same students who won last year’s most spirited award—the juniors—were the same kids who won it this year as the senior class. Congratulations to the Senior Class! The Homecoming Dance was a huge success with 150 students attending the event. Everyone danced all night—even some teachers were dragged onto the dance floor!—and Mary Costa and R.J. Spencer were crowned Homecoming Queen and King!

- The High School Marching Band played a big role in this year's Spirit Week. They performed outside the front circle every day as students and parents were arriving to school. Feedback was very positive from the staff and students as they all felt it gave everyone a morning boost! Also, the highlight was a parade down the incredibly decorated halls.
- The students in Mrs. Westervelt’s MD class practiced service learning this month as they donated cupcakes baked in their Independent Living Skills class to help raise money at the Environmental Club and the Sophomore Class Bake Sales.
- October also included “Red Ribbon Week” (October 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>). Students passed out bags of pretzels during lunch periods that contained a message, “Don’t Let Drugs Twist Your Mind”, and Smarties that said, “Smarties Don’t Use Drugs”. Mrs. Dorene Zacher also presented an assembly on the dangers of driving under the influence to all sophomore students, since they are beginning behind the wheel training. With the compliments of the Peer Leadership students, the trees in the front of the school were decorated with red ribbons, signifying drug and alcohol abuse awareness. On that Friday, staff members also showed their support by wearing the color red.