

June 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>
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Summaries:

2. Guest lecturers

- Back by popular demand, Vince August, an actor, a stand-up comedian, an attorney, a sitting judge in Hackensack, and friend of Mrs. Burten's, came to New Milford on June 2, 2011, to speak to the Holocaust and Sociology classes. Mr. August regularly appears on the ABC program, *What Would You Do*. The program is often used in class to promote discussion on how and why people react as they do when faced with a moral dilemma. Mr. August graciously and humorously spoke of how the production works the reactions of people and the editing process. He spoke of his legal career and how acting is his true passion. The students asked thoughtful and meaningful questions. He encouraged the students to submit ideas of their own to the show. Mr. August also encouraged the students to follow their passions along with learning and studying everything they need to know to make their dreams come true.
- On June 7, 2011, Dr. James Bardes, a Trauma Surgeon at the University of West Virginia, came in to talk with Mr. Devereaux's AP Biology students. As a recent graduate of the University of West Virginia Medical School, Dr. Bardes discussed the process of undergraduate pre-med work, building a resume, the application process, med-school, the MCATs and everything else that goes into becoming a doctor. Dr. Bardes infused his talk with interesting stories and shared experiences with the students along the way. The students found it informative and entertaining.

3. Innovations:

- Ten members of the Environmental Club became certified to conduct visual and biological assessments of stream health and submit their data to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Jillian Agnello, a Watershed Ambassador associated with the Hackensack Riverkeeper organization, provided training on two occasions. On May 26, 2011, she showed students a PowerPoint presentation giving general information about our watershed area and instructions on how to assess various stream components. She also provided preserved insect specimens for students to identify. On June 1, 2011, students assessed the health of the Hackensack River behind the high school. They conducted a visual survey of stream characteristics, nearby land uses, structures and vegetation surrounding the water. Then they went into the water, turned over rocks and collected invertebrates. Back on the bank, the students identified all of the invertebrates and sorted them according to whether they were pollution sensitive, neutral or tolerant. They tallied the variety of invertebrates and found a numerical rating of stream health. All participants received certificates and are now able to join assessment teams and send data to the NJDEP.
- As the culminating activity for the Probability and Statistics class, the students had to create a statistical study. They chose a topic of interest, concerning the NMHS students. They then created a survey and chose a simple random sample of NMHS students to complete the survey. When they got the results, they had to tabulate all of them, decide on the best way to

graphically display them, do statistical analysis to answer various questions about their results, write a written report and do an oral presentation to the class, incorporating their graphs in a Power Point presentation. Some of the topics chosen this year were music downloads, sports, social networking sites, video game consoles and exercising. The students learned how studies are done, what kinds of problems are encountered and that not all data provides you with statistically significant results.

4. Student honors

- Students participated in the Ethics Bowl competition sponsored by Stevens Institute of Technology. In the weeks prior to the competition, generally working from 3 to 4:30 P.M., students prepared for the competition under the guidance of coaches Mr. Tusa and Dr. Asa-Awuku. Students were responsible to analyze and discuss the pros and cons of the following four topics: Nuclear Energy, Wikileaks, Full Body Scans, and Doctor-Patient Disclosure. Students' outstanding performance in reaching the semifinals attests to their commitment and effort in performing to the best of their abilities.

5. Field trips

- The students in Mrs. Maureen Westervelt's MD Class participated in a geocaching hunt in the NMHS neighborhood with BF Gibbs Elementary Enrichment Program students from Mrs. Barbara Norton's class. On their hunt, the students visited various places of importance in the community including two historical sites that they had studied as part of a History of New Milford unit with Mrs. Robin Shugg. These sites were the Art Center of Northern NJ and the California Avenue house. The students also learned how to use a GPS to program given coordinates to locate sites.

6. Guidance

- On Tuesday, May 17, 2011, a representative from the ASVAB Career Exploration Program visited New Milford High School to assist students in the interpretation of their ASVAB results. The ASVAB combines a student's skills and interests to help provide them with comprehensive career exploration information. Forty 11th grade students received their score reports, which detailed their strengths and weaknesses in the areas of Math, Verbal, and Science/Technology. They were encouraged to explore careers that will utilize their strengths, but to also work to develop any areas of weakness to broaden future career opportunities. Students were then able to combine these results with the results of a ninety-question personality inventory to create a personal profile. They were instructed on how to use ASVAB's interactive website where students can research suggested occupations based on their skills and interests.
- On Tuesday, June 14, 2011, New Milford High School's Senior Awards Night was held at the Colonial Inn in Norwood. Over 250 guests attended including faculty, presenters, family, friends, and students. The fifty-three seniors honored at the banquet received over seventy scholarship and recognition awards. NMHS is thankful to all of the generous scholarship contributors and very proud of our outstanding scholarship and award recipients.

7. Professional Development

8. Facilities

9. Theatre Arts

10. Other

- The Athletic Awards dinner was a great success on June 7, 2011, at the Colonial Inn. Ten scholarships sponsored by the Athletic Boosters were given out to graduating seniors. Coaches from each season handed out Coach's Awards to athletes in their respective sports.
- The Sportsmanship luncheon took place on June 1. Rachael Magro and Peter Martin were honored by the NJIC at the Chart House.
- Mrs. Keesing wanted to share news about the Virtual High School (VHS) program. The ten students who participated this year, NMHS's first year in the program, did exceedingly well grade-wise (many students received a grade of A or A+ in one or both semesters), and they were happy that they enrolled in the program. Some of their comments included the sentiment that they felt better prepared for the work they will face in college, both in terms of having more confidence in their ability to work independently and in terms of getting a jump on developing essential time management skills. They shared that their courses were demanding and required significant effort and time. Most were very pleased with the content of the courses and what they were able to learn from them.
- For the next school year, New Milford High School will have twenty-five students enrolled in Virtual High School. Three of those students have chosen AP courses, two in Psychology and one in Government and Politics. Students selected their courses from an extensive catalog, and they are quite enthusiastic about getting started. Among their choices are the following semester-long courses: Screenwriting Fundamentals, Oceanography, Pre-veterinary Medicine, Psychology of Crime, Investing in the Stock Market, Creating Art History, Epidemics, and Engineering for Sustainable Energy. Mrs. Keesing hopes that students will have fantastic experiences in their online courses. She believes that they have made some fantastic choices.
- On June 9, 2011, the Early Childhood Development students from New Milford High School ran a graduation ceremony for the preschool students. The program began with a slide show of various pictures the students and Mrs. Messina took through out the year. All students (big and small) wore shirts screen-printed by Mr. Pevny with the help of students particularly Tim Haas who is enrolled in the ECD class. Diplomas and special honor pins custom made for each preschooler were handed out. Deanne Millo and Rachael Whippo made a surprise speech and presentation on behalf on Mrs. Messina's retirement. The ceremony concluded with refreshments and pictures.
- On behalf of the 50th Anniversary committee, we would like to thank "Town & Country Rentals" for the set-up and donation of the large tent for the alumni on June 3, 2011.