

# May 2010 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>
Arthur Eves	Biology	5/10/10	5	Mr. Sheninger
Carolyn McGrory	English 9	5/13/10	1	Mr. Sheninger
Antonio Gaetano	Italian 1	5/18/10	7	Mr. Manuppelli

Summaries:

## 2. Guest lecturers

- On May 6, 2010, Mr. Dan Andriulli, from the Bergen County Prosecutors Office gave a presentation to Mr. Eves's Forensics class. He spoke to the class about computer forensics and criminal procedures. He gave a very polished presentation in twenty minutes that covered the topic along with covering a lot of internet safety issues and how police tracked criminals online. After the presentation, Mr. Andriulli engaged the students in Q&A period. Quite a number of students stayed after class to speak with him.
- Sara Derico from Y.E.S. (Youth Envisioning Success) which is an offshoot of H.I.P. (Heightened Independence & Progress) came in and put on workshops for a group of senior students. These workshops addressed post high school goal setting, face to face advocacy role-plays, and rights and responsibilities/accommodations in college. Emphasis was put on the change of responsibility for obtaining accommodations from the school (teachers, case managers, and guidance counselors) to the student.
- Through the Partnership 2000 Program of the Jewish Federation of Bergen County, Dr. Guy Lin visited New Milford High School on May 12, 2010, to address our students regarding his role as one of the first medical teams to arrive in Haiti after the earthquake this year. Guy P. Lin, MD, MA, is Head of the Trauma Unit of the Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya, Israel. He attended The Sackler School of Medicine of Tel Aviv University and did his surgical training at Assaf Harofeh, serving as chief resident at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa. He also graduated from the IDF Command and Staff Academy. After leaving the IDF, he was a Trauma and Critical Fellow at the Ryder Trauma Center at University of Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital. Dr. Lin specializes in trauma surgery. During his IDF career, which spanned twenty-three years, he served in combat and trauma units; he also held command positions. He was a combat surgeon for the paratroopers and the Special Forces, advancing to the rank of Chief Medical Officer of the Galilee Division. He assumed responsibility for planning and controlling medical support for northern Israel and Southern Lebanon. Dr. Lin commanded the Advanced Medical Corps Course in the School of Military Medicine and became Head of the IDF Trauma Branch; the program that prepares physicians for field duty meaning providing trauma care under combat conditions. Subsequently he was promoted to Chief Surgeon of the IDF Northern Command. Dr. Lin is a veteran of Israel's disaster relief team. He exemplifies the best qualities of the humane physician and personifies the Jewish concept of chesed and the physician's dedication to healing. Dr. Lin explains. ***"My whole life I have felt the urge to help people....when asked if I wanted to join the team in Haiti, my answer was immediately 'yes'"***. However, even his twenty-three years of mending the most horrific combat wounds did not prepare him for what he saw in Haiti...***"...I found hundreds of people in various stages of dying.***

*That was the worst sight I have ever seen in my life.”* When asked if he would do it again he responded, *“...I will return tomorrow.”*

Our students learned a great deal about trauma relief, humanitarian aid and the remarkable efforts by Dr. Lin and his colleagues to save lives. Because of this visit, Dr. Lin has connected us with an orphanage in Haiti that is in desperate need of financial assistance. Students in Peer Leadership will be working on an initiative to provide some relief to this orphanage.

- Dr. Adu Asa-Awuku invited Professor Frank Fisher from Stevens Institute of Technology to speak to his Period 6 Chemistry and Mr. Peter Torpie’s Physics students about innovative technologies in science and engineering on May 24, 2010. Professor Fisher spoke about the nanotechnology revolution that relies on properties of materials at the atomic level. One example of nanotechnology is the unusual high strength of carbon nanotubes, which will make possible the construction of extremely tall structures such as the space elevator. Other examples are extremely water- repellent and low friction surfaces that will practically halt corrosion and save energy. It was a lively discussion and students welcomed the opportunity to interact with the professor and continued the discussion a few minutes into the next period.

### **3. Innovations**

- Mr. Devereaux’s Integrated Science class used Google Sites to create a website all about electricity and magnetism. The website acted as half of the chapter assessment, and for the other half, the students took an “open-site” quiz which was taken via a Google Forms. Visit the site at <https://sites.google.com/site/nmhselectricityandmagnetism>
- New Milford High School is excited to join the Virtual High School (VHS) program. VHS is a provider of global, online courses. Its vision is “to be the leader in online education by working collaboratively with high schools to offer the highest quality courses for students and teachers”. VHS offers a wide range of courses not offered at NMHS, including AP courses. Mrs. Keesing will serve as the Site Coordinator, acting as a liaison between the VHS faculty and the NMHS participating students, Guidance Department, Administration, and parents. She completed twenty hours of online training for this critical role. In NMHS’s first year of participation, ten seniors will each take two semester-long online courses through VHS. Students have been registered for the following courses, that will begin in September: Anatomy & Physiology; Animation & Effects; Astronomy; Biotechnology; Employability Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; Music: Listening and Critique; Mythology around the World; Nuclear Physics; Philosophy; Psychology; and Statistics/Business Quality Management.
- Ms. Morel was a guest lecturer in Miss Millian’s first period Elements of Geometry class. Miss Millian had previously discussed with the class the influence that mathematics has had on art, specifically in the area of linear perspective. This lesson was to prepare for their upcoming cross-discipline field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to see how Geometry and Art are related. Ms. Morel utilized the AverMedia document camera to display works of art to the class. She then showed the class how to differentiate between one and two-point perspective as well as pieces that did not exhibit classic western perspective. To wrap up the lesson, Ms. Morel used the document camera to show the class how to create both a one and two-point perspective drawing of their own.
- On May 20, 2010, NMHS sent a team to compete in the Ethics Bowl at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ. Students were responsible to analyze the moral dimensions of four dilemmas, Experimental Therapies, Grade Inflation, Offshore Wind Parks, and Preventive Surgery. They articulated a specific thesis for each topic after diligently undertaking the pertinent research. At Stevens Institute of Technology, they defended their thesis against some of the best schools in New Jersey and New York City.

The Ethics Bowl was judged by two professors from Stevens Institute of Technology. Students were both pleased and proud to have reached the final round of competition.

- The Applied Music Class created their own ringtones using Mac software and the Macbooks. Read Mr. Sheninger's blog for more details and audio examples at <http://esheninger.blogspot.com/2010/05/creativity-lies-in-content-creation.html>

#### 4. Student honors

- Senior baseball player Filip Piasevoli has been selected to play in the Senior All-Star Classic at Diamond Nation in Flemington, NJ on June 10, 2010, at 6:30pm.
- The boys' tennis team was crowned both Bergen County Small Schools Co-Champions and BCSL Olympic Champions.
- Students work was entered into Bergen County Teen Arts Festival at Bergen County Community College. Students learned about critique and how to exhibit art. Their work was judged and hung for the day at the college.
- Seniors Katie Teets and Ray Morrissey will represent New Milford High School at the BCSL Olympic/National Sportsmanship Luncheon on May 26, 2010.
- Senior baseball player Sam Doran pitched a perfect game vs. Hawthorne Christian in a 14-0 win on May 14, 2010.
- Sophomore Kailey Barszcz won the Bergen County Group Championships long jump event held at Old Tappan High School on May 14-15, 2010.
- On May 27, 2010, fourteen French students were inducted into the National French Honor Society. During the ceremony the president and vice-president, Bo Blaine Gumalo and Filip Piasevoli, formally greeted the students, parents, and Mr. Manuppelli. The members of the activities committee explained the accomplishments for this year, which included the Quebec Trip, the French Kiss fundraiser for our Haitian foster child and Doctor's Without Borders, and the outstanding presentation to the Middle School. They then integrated one of the songs from Victor Hugo's Les Miserables, into the program. The two most outstanding seniors over four years, Filip Piasevoli and Bo Blaine Gumalo, were awarded the "Excellence in French Language" pin.
- The annual New Milford High School Art Show was held on May 19 and 20, 2010, in the Old Gym. Many senior and junior students' works were showcased on large panel walls, while sculptures were placed around tables. Other student work surrounded the show along the four walls. Students helped to hang the show and learned art installation techniques.
- Christine Almeda, Jacob Ramos, and Cara Walenza entered the 2010 Congressional Art Competition in Hackensack, NJ. Christine Almeda won 3rd place in the contest. Her art was chosen from high school students from all over Bergen County and is hanging in Congressman Steven R Rothman's office.
- On May 21, 2010, NMHS students entered artwork into the Bergen County Teen Arts Festival. Students Joey Carbone, Melissa Gavilanes, Vanessa Vargas, Christine Almeda, Kristian Montemar, Ricky Montero, Sara Akbulut, Jacob Ramos, Matt DeStefano, and Lani-Mae Lim all entered the competition. Matt DeStefano's, "Drawing of a House", and Melissa Gavilanes's sculpture, "Scream", were both given special recognition. Lani-Mae Lim's watercolor, "Bait", was chosen for the county show in the Bergen County Court House. Congratulations to those who displayed work.

#### 5. Field trips

- On May 7, 2010, Ms. Millian's Elements of Geometry class and Ms. Morel's drawing class embarked on a video scavenger hunt at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Equipped with iPod Nanos, the students headed out to find works of art that exhibited mathematical influence. Miss Millian and Ms. Morel created an iMovie with picture

prompts and verbal clues that the students viewed on the iPods. The students needed to find each work of art in the museum and answer several questions about the piece. The students really enjoyed the challenge of trying to find all the clues as well as competing to be the team with the fastest time and correct answers. It was a pleasure to see the students getting into examining the works of art and finding the linear perspective (or lack of) in each piece. Overall, it was an enjoyable trip by both students and teachers. Read about this experience on Mr. Sheninger's blog at

<http://esheninger.blogspot.com/2010/05/creativity-lies-in-content-creation.html>

- On May 13, 2010, Mr. Pevny took members of the Yearbook Club to River Dell High School. Designing the Yearbook cover and content for the yearbook (2011) was their main objective. Four students and Mr. Pevny brainstormed, sketched, designed and collaborated on ideas and themes that would benefit the yearbook and their personal knowledge of industry standard software.
- Mr. Tusa's AP American History classes returned to Wall Street on May 24, 2010 at the invitation of Mr. Adam Bailey. Mr. Bailey, a former New Milford High School student and now a successful Wall Street attorney guided our students in a historical tour of the Wall Street Area. The tour included Wall Street, the Stock Exchange, Federal Hall/site of the First Congress and the trial of John Peter Zenger, St. Paul's Church, the beautiful architecture of the atrium at 26 Broadway/former site of Alexander Hamilton's office, the graves of Hamilton and Robert Fulton, Battery park with its spectacular view of the Statue of Liberty, Frances Tavern and the site of the Twin Towers were among the sites of historical interest visited. The tour provided our students with a day of instructive and memorable historical experiences, spanning from the Colonial Era to 9/11. Mr. Bailey, with his detailed knowledge of the area and expertise as an attorney, proved to be an ideal guide. Students were particularly impressed by how he engaged them to "perform" the trial of John Peter Zenger, representing either the plaintiff or the defense, right there, in the very site where the actual trial took place - and they were just as attentive to hear Mr. Bailey's personal narrative of events on 9/11, as that morning he was by his office, just two of three blocks away from the Towers. Following past practice, in addition to all other generous contributions that Mr. Bailey has made to the High School, one of the students, Brittany Amoroso, will participate in an internship program during the summer in Mr. Bailey's law firm. To accompany the students was also Mrs. Lynda Keesing, the High School's librarian, whose help and assistance they greatly appreciated.
- The Choral Ensemble performed and was adjudicated at the Bergen County Teen Arts Festival on Friday, May 21, 2010. They received a sparkling adjudication and were rewarded for their expressions showing their true love of music while they performed.

## 6. Guidance

- On April 30, 2010, 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. Twenty 11<sup>th</sup> grade students received their score reports, which detailed their strengths and weaknesses in the areas of Math, Verbal, and Science/Technology. Students were encouraged to explore careers that will utilize their strengths, and to work to further develop any areas of weakness to broaden future career opportunities. Then, students combined these results with the results of a ninety-question personality inventory to create a personal profile. Students were instructed on how to use ASVAB's interactive website where students can research suggested occupations based on their skills and interests.
- On June 8, 2010, faculty and staff of New Milford High School will gather with students, families, and members of the community to celebrate New Milford High School's annual Senior Awards Night. Recognition, award, and scholarship recipients

will be announced during the banquet. This year, the awards night will be held in a different venue. The Colonial Inn, in Norwood, will be the new location. Already the home of the Varsity Sports Banquet, the Colonial Inn has a strong reputation for hosting memorable events. More than fifty individual scholarships will be awarded to members of the graduating class of 2010, including recognition of the "Top Ten Graduates". The Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be Mr. Dave Wilson, senior class advisor.

## **7. Professional Development**

- On May 11, 2010, Mrs. Zacher presented an informative seminar on the symptomatic behaviors of students who partake in self-injury behaviors to NMHS staff. Mrs. Zacher provided examples and causes of why these students engage in such behavior. She reviewed the policy on how to address a New Milford student in crisis and how to engage the team in order to assist.
- On May 18, 2010, Mr. Manuppelli attended a workshop at Montclair State University under the state educational leadership program. He worked with County Executives from throughout the state to review best practices for school leaders.
- Multiple staff members attended a hands-on workshop provided by Discovery Education in Times Square May 19-20, 2010. The participants learned about other tools to use on the Discovery Education website other than video streaming such as, Classroom Resources, Teacher Content, and how to download videos with closed caption to incorporate into documents or PowerPoint presentations for students. Web 2.0 fun tools to utilize with students such as Blabberize, Vokie, Plix, Photopeach, and Digital storybook were also discussed. Teachers also learned how to design class assignments, which can be monitored and graded online through Discovery Education based on lesson content that is developed.

## **8. Facilities**

- During the month, ten iPod Touch units were purchased and delivered to the high school. They are now connected to the school's wireless internet network and housed in the mobile iPod learning lab with twenty-eight Nano devices.

## **9. Theatre Arts**

## **10. Other**

- On May 19, 2010, Mr. Sheninger presented at the NJTESOL/NJBE 2010 Spring Conference, which was held at the Doubletree and Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ. The theme of the conference was 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning for English Language Learner's (ELL's). Mr. Sheninger's presentation focused on how teachers could integrate powerful Web 2.0 technology in order to improve instruction and engage all learners. A special emphasis was placed on effective use of Twitter as a collaborative and professional growth tool.
- The Boy's Track & Field Team competed in the BCSL Championship on May 5 and 6, 2010, and did extremely well. Cody Carlson took 4th in the pole vault, and Geno Lipata took 5th in the 400 Hurdles Steven Rodriquez took 6th. 200 meters John Follety took 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Andres Belliard took 5th. Dante Tobler jumped 20'5" in the long jump competition, and 41'8.25" in the tripple jump. Raphy Velasquez jumped 20'1" in his long jump, and 40'9.25" in the tripple jump. Nishant Patel took 5th in the 800 meter and Ryan Fernandez took 4th in the 400 meter. Brandon Matulac took 5th in the 110 meters hurdles, and John Follety kept his undefeated title in the 100 meter dash. Finally, the 4X400 Relay continued its success and finished in 1st place with a phenomenal final leg by John Follety, who was tripped, fell, got up, and still finished in first.

- Junior John Follety received 1<sup>st</sup> team all league honors in the 100 meter dash and 4x400 relay, while getting honorable mention in the 200 meter dash. Dante Tobler received 2<sup>nd</sup> team all league honors in the triple jump and honorable mention in the long jump. Raphael Velasquez also received honorable mention in the triple jump. The 4x400 Relay received 1<sup>st</sup> team all league honors. Nishant Patel, Andres Belliard, Ryan Fernandez, and John Follety.
- The Boy's Track & Field team competed in the Bergen County Championships May 14-15, 2010. John Follety placed in both the 100-Meter dash (5th) place and the 200-Meter dash (2nd) place; he is only .1 off the school record. Andres Belliard also place in the 100-Meter dash (6th). The 4 X 400 Relay consisting of Nishant Patel, Andres Belliard, Ryan Fernandez, and John Follety ran there best time (3:36.71) of the season placing 5th. Dante Tobler continues to impress not only the team, but also other coaches and teams around the league and county. He placed 4th in the long jump with a jump of 19'10.25" and took 2nd in the triple jump with a jump of 41'8.5" a personal best this season.
- The Boy's Track and Field team competed in the NJSIAA State Sectionals at Randolph High School on May 21-22, 2010. Mark Grossbard threw a personal best of 148'11" in his final meet of his career. Cody Carlson did an outstanding job in the Pole Vault making a height of 11'. John Follety qualified for the State Group Championship meet in both the 100 and 200 meters proving that he is one of the top sprinters in our group. Finally, the 4 X 400 Relay team qualified for the State Group Championship meet running their best time of the season of 3:34.15.
- Mr. Sheninger was invited to be part of an eLearning Focus group at the headquarters of Carolina Biological located in Burlington, NC. He was flow down for the meeting on May 24, 2010 and worked with leading science teachers, instructional technology specialists, and professors of higher education to assist the company in the development of an innovative eLearning solution. The product in development will combine web-based technology, videos, simulations, gaming, and inquiry-based learning strategies to assist students in their comprehension of specific topics in biology. The first phase of this project is expected to be field tested this fall. Mr. Sheninger enthusiastically requested that NMHS be one of the test sites.
- The High School Band performed at the Spring Concert on May 20, 2010. Selections included various fusion and hybrid songs that incorporated the bands' unique sound, strengths and abilities. A drum duo that utilized a live audio loop was a dynamic closing to the show. In addition, the Band is participating in this year's town Memorial Day Parade representing the school district in the community.
- On May 19, 2010, the auditorium came alive with the beautiful sounds of the Spring Concert. The concert began with the Orchestra who took the stage and blew the crowd away. A violin quintet featuring DelixJoseph T. Alex, Alvin George, Catherine Jang, Shanen Mulles, and Azela Zarate; Jennilyn Kate Robles followed shortly. The Choral Ensemble took the stage next. Some members of the ensemble were able to treat the crowd with their beautiful voices. Allstate member Melissa Milne and North Jersey Region 1 member Jessica Milne treated us to a duet called "Who Will Love Me As I Am." After their performance Allstate member Jennilyn Robles gave an emotional performance of "How Did We Come To This?" Azela Frances Zarate, who was also a member of the Allstate, entertained us with "For Good." The Ensemble then finished their performance with a slideshow of their year to the song "I Hope You Dance". When the Band took the stage, Matt Gonzalez, Cara Walenza, and Lani Mae Lim were soloists. Senior Kenny Van Sadars and junior Nick Novak entertained us with their percussion duet of "It Takes Two." The Concert Choir ended the evening with a number of wonderful songs. They started with an Italian aria, which they dedicated to Mr. Tusa. They also sang a Nigerian song with Delixjoseph Alex, Jennilyn Robles, Sabina Thomas

and Azela Zarate on percussion. County and Region 1 Members Aimee George, Alvin George, Anita George, Meredith McCann, and Leonard Perez had the solos for “Don’t Stop Believin.” To end off the evening the Graduating Seniors sang the solo parts for the senior song which they choose “Keep Holding On.”