

# April 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>
Barbara O'Donnell	Health	4/13/11	7	Joe Ricciardelli

Summaries: End of year evaluations is currently being conducted for all staff.

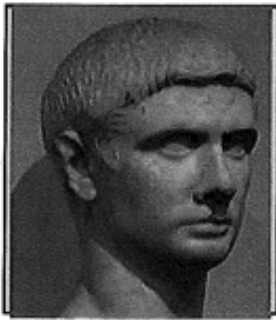
## 2. Guest lecturers

- A guest presenter discussed the danger of unsafe sun tanning and how to prevent skin cancer to the senior class. She presented a DVD and held a question and answer session. A display was prepared outside the nurse's office containing posters to prevent skin cancer and educate students how to enjoy the sun without harm to health.
- Mrs. Hall-Goldman invited Alana Staton from Y.E.S. (Youth Envisioning Success) which is a part of H.I.P (Heightened Independence and Progress) to come to NMHS to give a series of workshops to Mrs. Mackey and Mr. Coyne's English classes. The first workshop took place on April 27, 2011, and focused on self-advocacy in a variety of settings. The remainder of workshops will focus on learning styles, accommodations and assertiveness, goal setting, interviewing skills, and resume writing.

## 3. Innovations:

- On April 15, 2011, the New Milford School District's Anti Bullying Program, B.U.D.D.Y, supported a Day of Silence. The overall purpose of this youth driven program was to send a message nation wide that hatred and discrimination will not be tolerated. This event takes place at college, high school, and middle school campuses across America and allows the students to build a strong sense of solidarity.
- Mr. Engstrom's ninth grade College Preparatory English class worked together with Mr. Pevny's Intro to Graphics Class on April 10, 11, and 12, 2011 to create Facebook pages for a character of choice from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Mr. Engstrom had the students prepare for the project by researching the historical character. The students were not allowed to use Wikipedia, but instead had to compile their research from a site with an .edu extension to make sure the research was academic in nature. Additionally, Mr. Engstrom brought in several of his own books including Plutarch's Fall of the Roman Republic, and Makers of Rome, Suetonius' The Twelve Caesars, Livy's The Early History of Rome, and Christ's The Romans. The students then compiled the pertinent information for a Facebook page on to a google document, which they shared with their teacher electronically. Upon entering Mr. Pevny's class, Mr. Pevny's students facilitated the transfer of information and images from the prepared google document on to a prepared Facebook template. The finished products are proudly displayed in Mr. Engstrom's classroom and outside of his classroom and in the hallway outside of his classroom.

Two examples can be seen below:



View Photos of Me (1)  
Edit My Profile

"I love Rome"

Information

Born in Rome 85 BC

Friends



2 of 4 alltimes New All



Favorite Place

Notes

2 notes 300 All

Was made governor of Gaul

Cinna tagged you in a photo

### Marcus Brutus

Wall Info Photos Video Notes +

Update Status Share Link Add Photos Add Video Write Note

What are you doing right now?

All Posts Friends Events By Others

forget not Zeus, the author of these crimes.

By all means we fly; not with our feet, however but with our hands

Rome tagged you in a note  
All who conspired against Caesar must leave Rome.

Mark Antony is now friends with Marcus Brutus  
is married to Portia

Was kicked out of Rome for killing Caesar. Going to Crete

Casca tagged a photo of you  
Killed Caesar

Going to meet up with Brutus

Hate Pompey for killing my dad. Not over it  
was now made Praetor of Rome

Is going chariot racing

Congrats getting into senate



facebook Home Profile Friends Inbox Settings Logout

### Marcus Brutus

Wall Info Photos Video Notes +

Update Status Share Link Add Photos Add Video Write Note

What are you doing right now?  Post

**I feel upset because we just lost a war to pompey.**

**I served as a military commander in Cilicia and Macedonia**

7 other s and i planned to kill Pompey.

In 78, Vellius declared that I set up a plan to kill pompey along with 7 others. Pompey was not expecting this to happen, expecially because he thought that I was friends with him. We killed Pompey by stabbing him many times.

I went to battle with Marc Anthony's forces.

I am currently married to Portia

Caesar: My father-in-law has opened the testiment of the dead dictator.

**Mark Anthony**  
I am angry that i lost control in Rome. However, I am glad that we are now at peace with each other.

**Cassius:** We did it! We were able to join a large army in the east to try to restore the senate.

I was assigned to go to Crete.


**Contact information: Adress: The Capitol**

Sports: Charriot racing  
Arts/Entertainment: Music: soft music played with instruments  
Activities/Interests: reading, and becoming successful.

Calpurnia: How could you kill my husband?!? I am so angry at you,along with several others!

**I served as military commander in Cilicia and Macedonia.**

We killed pompey in 78. Tis was a day for us that was unforgettable.



- Mrs. Haskill's and Mrs. Burten's math classes completed a project called "Math and...." The most common complaint that students have about mathematics is "When am I ever going to use this?" The intent of the project was to demonstrate the relevance of mathematics in solving real-world challenges. Students picked an area or profession of interest and had to illustrate how math is used in everyday situations. They presented their projects to the class which included a visual component such as a power point, poster, or

other media. By connecting learning to the world of work helped our students see how knowledge is applied and acts as a motivation.

- Mr. Devereaux's biology classes and Mrs. Vicari's Computer Applications classes collaborated on a lesson in human genetics. Mr. Devereaux's classes learned the inheritance patterns for human traits during a laboratory exercise. After the students learned the characteristics, they created online forms using Google Forms in order to send a survey to family and friends in an effort to collect data on the frequencies of these traits. The data gave the students a real world look at how math, science, and technology are intertwined and used with one another.
- On April 14, 2011, Mrs. Keesing registered our twenty-five Virtual High School students for their online classes. Two students will take AP Psychology, and one will take AP Government & Politics. Among the other courses students selected are the following: Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Epidemics, Engineering for Sustainable Energy, Computational Science & Engineering Using Java, Screenwriting Fundamentals, Philosophy, Mythology, Genes & Disease, Poetry Writing, and Criminology.
- Mrs. Mackey and Mrs. Muratore are currently working with their ninth grade class on the NIGHT memoir written by Elie Weisel. Over the years, we recognize that students are unfamiliar with Holocaust, because genocide is a concept that is very difficult to relate to living in New Milford, NJ in 2011. We ask the question, "Who were these victims?" Our goal at the end of this unit is not to present our students with a multiple choice test, but to have these students make a connection between themselves and the victims of the Holocaust. Four years ago, Mrs. Mackey was working in a collaborative setting with Mrs. Collentine, and together they came up with a project to help their ninth grade students make this connection. Since then, the plan has been passed along and tweaked, and today Mrs. Mackey shares it with every ninth grade English class she collaborates in. The students are instructed to go through their personal photos at home, and to find three that mean something to them. The only requirements are that they must be photos with people and some kind of scenery. The second step is to go to the USHMM.org website. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum) On this site, they are to sift through the thousands of photo archives, using their photos as a guide and looking for photos of people in similar scenes or situations. For example, we have had students with photos of birthday celebrations, and they found photos of similar families in Germany or neighboring countries who were also enjoying a birthday celebration. There are moments when our current students locate photos on the USHMM website that seem to be mirror images of ones that they have from their own lives. The students then create a poster that simply states: We Are..., They Were..., and We Both... (<http://www.ushmm.org/education/foreducators/prodev/veli/2003/>). These sentence starters encourage the students to make a connection between their lives and their photos, to the lives and photographs of the victims of the Holocaust. Mrs. Mackey actually had a parent approach her regarding the project. The parent discussed how much interest her child showed on the website, and how she and he were perusing over photos for quite some time. She knew her son definitely made the connection. We will display the students work on the third floor English wing, for anyone interested in seeing the final products.
- In Mrs. Muratore's Public Speaking class, the students were asked to choose something they're good at and instruct their peers. Each student created a lesson plan including an objective, purpose, materials, process, and assessment. What the teacher and class learned were that they were amongst very talented people. Nizy Mariam Roy taught us how to make roses out of strawberries; beautiful and delicious! Matthew Berner and Vanessa Vargas instructed the class on how to properly use our feet and heads to hit a soccer ball. Ashley Aiello and Dylan Martello festively showed the class how to decorate Spring eggs. Andrew Bridge helped the class make friendship bracelets to either wear or give away as thoughtful tokens. Fabiola Loria demonstrated how to make the world's greatest fruit smoothie, and it was! Peter Thomsen aided everyone in creating knot bracelets, which were really cool.

Dylan Griffiths demonstrated and guided the class in a lesson on artistic graffiti drawing, for which everyone had a knack! Finally, Charlie Costa educated the class on cinquain poetry; what a poetic class this is! This experience taught the class how instruction is a very unique form of communication, as it requires knowledge, courage, compassion and patience. Each student did a phenomenal job!

- Mrs. Cabrera's ELL (English Language Learners) students have benefited from Rosetta Stone, a brand of language learning software published by Rosetta Stone Ltd., headquartered in Arlington county, Virginia. The Rosetta Stone language program was purchased by the New Milford School district; it correlates to state and national standards for both English as a Second Language (ESL) studies and world language studies. It was incorporated in the ELL curriculum as an additional learning tool to accelerate language learning and facilitate differentiated instruction. The ELL students are engaged in an interactive learning experience. The Rosetta Stone program simulates real-life conversations, grammar and spelling activities. Additionally, the software incorporates an advanced speech recognition technology to assist the students with pronunciation and contextual formation allowing the students to produce sentences from words and phrases they've learned. New Milford's high school ELLs students', grades 9-12 meet for instruction one or two periods per day. Within each period there is an array of proficiency levels in which Rosetta Stone is able to accommodate for. Students progress at their own pace building their English proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Consequently, the Rosetta Stone program has been used as an accompaniment to classroom instruction, allowing the students to work independently while the ELL teacher works with other ELL students one-on-one.
- Students in Miss Millan's eight period Sociology class have been undergoing some projects and experiments to promote awareness and help them experience the potential difficulties in getting married and raising children. While using the Mac Laptops, students were assigned as couples and provided with a budget to plan a Mock Wedding. Through the internet and the use of their cell phones, students' researched and called different venues and businesses to budget their wedding. The process proved difficult for some as they saw how stressful wedding planning can be and how much goes into the process. Currently, students are partaking in an experiment in which they are caring for an "egg baby" for six days, including the weekend. Students are to keep a daily log of how the student took care of the baby, what types of problems and encounters students faced as well as their reaction to these problems. Each day the egg is also checked by the teacher as well as the students own parents. This experience is proving enlightening for some and the teacher hopes it will help students understand the importance of all decisions and choices they make throughout their young adult lives.
- Students in Dr. Asa-Awuku's chemistry classes completed a series of nanotechnology experiments. They studied the properties of hydrogels - materials that are currently used for multiple applications such as an absorbent substance in diapers and soil, and as a biomaterial in contact lenses, drug delivery, and tissue engineering. The study was supported by the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) at Stevens Institute of Technology and the National Science Foundation.
- Students in Mr. Engstrom's twelfth grade classes are currently working in small groups preparing to stage their productions of the battle scene between Beowulf and Grendel from the epic poem, "Beowulf", which they have been studying in class for the last two weeks. The purpose of staging the battle scene is to demonstrate the students' abilities to VISUALIZE the epic poem. Mr. Engstrom and the class discussed, as an introduction to the epic poem, that such poems as "Beowulf" were told as a part of the oral tradition in a time where people of yore sat around telling stories to each other instead of watching prime-time television. As such, these people had to use their imagination and VISUALIZE the action of the story. As reading outside of school has been on a steady decline over the last few decades the skills associated with VISUALIZING a story are often lacking in people today.

The purpose of this project is to sharpen the students' abilities to VISUALIZE what they read. The productions will be videotaped using two cameras and edited by Mr. Engstrom. Anyone wishing to see the productions are welcome to stop by the auditorium during periods three and seven on Wednesday, May 4, and Thursday, May 5, 2011. Hopefully the fine set left over from "In to the Woods" will still be available as the backdrop, since it lends itself quite nicely to the story of "Beowulf".

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

- Several photographs of junior, Christine Almeda's artwork were featured in the New Milford Patch on April 15, 2011. To see these photographs taken during the New Milford District Open House, follow this link-<http://newmilford-nj.patch.com/articles/photo-gallery-new-milford-school-district-open-house#c>
- Czarina Viduya will represent NMHS at the 2011 Girls' Career Institute at Douglass College on June 13-16, 2011. Kailey Barszcz is our runner-up. Girls' Career Institute is an annual program held at Douglass College and sponsored by the NJSFWC for high school Junior girls to explore women's issues and encourage awareness to contemporary problems. Delegates are sponsored and the cost is underwritten by a local NJSFWC club. Delegates are selected on the basis of interest, community service and participation in school activities. GCI offers a "mini college experience" at Douglass College on the campus of the University of Rutgers. Delegates will experience a sample of college life by living in a dorm, eating in a cafeteria, attending lectures and workshops. They will learn about career choices from volunteer professional speakers and how to network with other delegates from all over the state of New Jersey. Many establish lasting friendships with one another.
- Greg Winkler and Anthony Whittaker will both represent NMHS at the Boys State Conference at Rider University on June 19-24, 2011. Boys State: American Legion Boys State is the premier program for teaching how government works, while developing leadership skills and an appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Successful completion of Boys State is recognized by employers, service academies and university admissions boards as an indicator of strong leadership and character traits. Many colleges and universities offer scholarships or admission preference to attendees of the Boys State program.
- Students participated in the finals of the Panasonic Creative Design Challenge on April 12, 2011 at the NJ Institute of Technology. The design, construction and operation of robots involve the application of multiple scientific, engineering and technology and mathematics concepts that students have learned, to solving real life problems. Students studied multiple robot designs. The NMHS team made an oral presentation of their project and operated their robot during the competition.

#### **5. Field trips**

- Students in The Business Practice Firm class attended the International Virtual Business Trade show in New York City on April 7, 2011. Students were able to meet and transact with other high school and college students that they do virtual business with on a daily basis. The students in the class started a virtual business "Wizard of Vase Florist" that transacts in the CSBS network which consists of other high schools and colleges around the world. The students were to visit the students in the trade booths that they have transacted virtually with as well as other trade booths. During the field trip their goal was to purchase products from other companies while also making (five) sales each for our company. The students made twenty-five sales at the trade show.
- Students from the Band "Skyline" performed at the Palisades Center Mall in New York on April 14, 2011. They performed an acoustic set of all original material in the center court to an accepting audience. On April 27, 2011, the Applied Music class attended a trip to Radio City Music Hall for a private behind the scenes stage door tour of the facility.

- The students in Mrs. Maureen Westervelt's MD class attended the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Options Day in Edison, NJ on April 14, 2011. They had the opportunity to speak personally with employers as they explored a wide array of available careers. The students also attended a workshop called "Life After High School."
- Members of the Engineering Club visited the 2011 Engineering Expo at White Plains High School on April 3, 2011. Students learned about all engineering fields including biochemical, electrical, civil, computers mechanical and materials.
- Students from New Milford High School attended the GK12 Research and Laboratory Tour Workshop on Saturday, April 2, 2011. The Workshop exposed students and teachers to engineering research at Stevens Institute and Technology and expanded their understanding of STEM principles and applications.

## **6. Guidance**

## **7. Professional Development**

- On April 15, 2011, Ms. Bettini attended the Teacher's Symposium at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in Summit. Artist Josette Urso, shared her artwork, creative process, and led a workshop in the style of her work. The symposium was based on the concept of re-using materials which can be later incorporated in student projects. A tour of the art center's gallery space was led by the curator. The gallery show highlights twelve emerging designers who take a fresh look at old materials.
- Wendy Mackey and Kellie Muratore attended a workshop on In-Class Resource Program Instruction, focusing on collaborative teaching pairs. The workshop objective was to provide general and special education teaching partners with the basic knowledge, skills, and tools needed to implement effective in-class resource program instruction. In addition to reviewing the foundational concepts of this type of program, Mrs. Mackey and Mrs. Muratore learned about different instructional arrangements, and were also given tools for mapping out a year, from initial planning, to daily and weekly planning. Two of the most important concepts given at the workshop were the need for common planning time, and the benefits of working with the same teacher over time to build the strongest possible relationship for both the teachers and the students. The workshop was over the course of two days, and both of the teachers received ten PD hours. This workshop also satisfied their PIP for their PLC requirements.
- It is not often that we are given the opportunity to visit and compare educational venues and cultures in other countries. Yet, Olivia Burten, a New Milford High School teacher, had the chance to do just that by visiting an impoverished school in Johannesburg, South Africa, on April 8, 2011, and spending several hours with students in a seventh grade, middle school classroom. The teacher of the class, Mr. Sylvester Msimanga and Ms. Burten took time to discuss the importance of preparing students for living independently and the challenges that they can expect. This is a universal goal for teachers throughout the world. They both agreed that the ultimate objective of education was to prepare students to become active and contributing participants in the community. The challenges that face students in New Milford differ greatly from the challenges facing the students in South Africa. Ms. Burten said, "The students that attend this school have no running water, indoor plumbing, or electricity in their homes. They have few or no textbooks, limited paper supplies, and an ever changing student population." Approximately twenty percent of the students are HIV positive and many of them are orphans. Yet, Mr. Msimanga has the same pride in his school, passion for education, and dedication to his students' achievement, as do the teachers in New Milford. Ms Burten spent quite some time answering questions from the students, who were curious and welcoming. She was told they had worked hard to prepare several songs for her visit. "School dismissal came and went, but the students asked to remain, clearly

eager to learn,” explained Ms. Burten. She continued with, “They asked questions about New Milford teachers and students, wanting to know what classes were taught and whether they played soccer, as the World Cup had just been held in Africa. They were fascinated with the concept of snow. “ A thought-provoking question was “Do white and black students go to school, together?” Just seventeen years since the end of Apartheid, cultural diversity is something that is unknown to them, and they wanted to learn as much as they could. They were hungry to learn about the world beyond their community. Ms. Burten brought gifts for the students. She described the gifts of a New Milford lanyard, pencils, and backpacks as giving them a simple joy. Ms. Burten ended her story with, “The students and I benefited equally from this visit. It was a memorable experience, and I am more appreciative of the opportunities available in New Milford.”

- Mrs. Torpie attended the SMART Board for Beginners workshop, presented on April 8, 2011, by Wendy Gill of the Bergen County ETTC. It provided step by step introduction to the basic functions of a SMART Board. She began by demonstrating types and parts of SMART Boards and how to turn on the projector and then introduced the software. Afterwards, participants were able to follow along at a slow pace as the features were introduced. By the end of the course, participants were conversant with the tools of the software, including various writing, highlighting and drawing tools. Participants practiced drawing objects, inserting text, capturing and importing images from websites, and linking the websites to the objects. There was ample time to familiarize ourselves with each task and the workshop provided a good basic introduction to incorporating technology to enhance lessons and increase student engagement.
- Mrs. Hall-Goldman attended a workshop entitled Testing and Instruction: Improving Academic Achievement on April 8, 2011 at Farleigh Dickenson University. Dr. Dumont and Dr. Willis discussed some problems faced by evaluators and some common mistakes made by even seasoned evaluators. Examples cited were the use of age vs. grade based norms among the same team members, whether math achievement tests are aligned with math curricular and the fact that some districts still rely on a severe discrepancy as the single criteria to classify students. Dr. Kibulsky then discussed the use of testing results to create interventions. She suggested the use of curriculum based measurement (CBM). Curriculum based analysis is more sensitive to incremental changes and lends itself more to item analysis than the traditional achievement tests used by child study team evaluators. Dr. Zibulsky also shared the names of some web sites which have curriculum based measures as well as interventions.

## **8. Facilities**

- On Wednesday, April 20, 2011, the high school weight room was reupholstered. Every bench and piece of equipment was changed over to green (equipment that required this due to wear and tear).
- A SMART Board was installed in the Health room (202) for use by the Physical Education and Health teachers.

## **9. Theatre Arts**

## **10. Other**

- Mrs. Dorene Zacher, New Milford School District’s Student Assistance Coordinator participated in an expert panel on Friday April 1, 2011, at Ramapo College. Over 300 teachers, counselors, administrators, students and concerned parents attended this educational seminar to receive an understanding on harassment, intimidation and bullying and to develop intervention and prevention programs to effectively address these negative behaviors in New Jersey public schools.

- On Saturday April 8, 2011, thirty students attended the review session for the AP U. S. History exam. Students met with Mr. Tusa at the High School from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. to review objective questions as well as document based and free format essay questions. Significant time was also dedicated to review test-taking strategies for both, the objective and the essay components of the exam. Mr. Tusa's AP U. S. History class will meet for its second review session for the AP U. S. History Exam Saturday April 30, 2011. Students will meet at the High School from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. They will review objective questions, essay questions (document based and free format), and test taking strategies.
- During the New Milford District Open House on April 14, Ms. Bettini held a printmaking workshop for parents and students of all age levels to participate in. All that attended were able to bring home prints of their original design. Several students from the art department assisted others, while their artwork was showcased throughout the art room.
- On April 6, 2011, Mrs. Keesing gave a presentation for parents of students who will participate in the Virtual High School program next year. Virtual High School is a rigorous, online learning environment which provides numerous course options that would otherwise not be available to our students. For next year, New Milford High School will have twenty-five students take such courses. Mrs. Keesing informed parents about the opportunities (stimulating classes, chance to interact with students from all over the world, good preparation for the demands of college) and the challenges (time-management, need to be self-motivated, need to take more responsibility for completing assignments) students will encounter through Virtual High School. Parents learned how they could access the Virtual High School website, viewed part of a sample Virtual High School course, and engaged in a question and answer session. Mrs. Keesing offered the meeting as a way to raise parents' awareness and comfort level about the exciting, but less familiar, educational experiences their students will have.
- Art students from Ms. Morel, Mr. Pevny and Ms. Bettini's classes created and donated art work to the Art for Japan campaign to lift up their spirits. This was organized by the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ