



January 2012

Gerald Rasler, Principal

As the spring semester begins, I am reminded that often I am asked by patrons about the school year starting down the "home stretch." Starting would be the key word to that statement. The administration and guidance counselors are glad to have the students all placed in classes and the building settled after the Christmas holidays. The guidance counselors are working with the 300+ senior students to double check to make sure each senior knows what must be accomplished for them to be successful in their quest to graduate from Northridge on June 3rd, 2012. Teachers are pointing out to students the need for keeping their eye on the goal and to make the most of the classes each day.

All of that being said, the NHS leadership team has already moved on to planning for the 2012/2013 school year. Plans have been developed to provide the correct staffing for student academic needs. There are teacher retirements and other staff vacancies to deal with that lead to consideration for new academic paths. The guidance department has worked hard to be prepared to begin the scheduling process on January 26th with current junior class students. The process will move on to underclassmen relatively soon.

This calls for planning and conversations in the homes of students. Parents are challenged to spend time now showing interest in their student's academic plans. Students will be bringing a copy of their class requests home for parents to look over and discuss academic choices. Parents should realize the importance of asking questions, and allow the students to explain their rationale for course choices. If a parent has concerns, a call to your student's guidance counselor is the first place to seek information.

Planning for a student's success in school cannot be left to chance. A parent knows the student better than any other adult. I support parental involvement in the academic training of the student. Also by asking questions about your student's school choices, you demonstrate another way you care and love your student.

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Dates to Remember

January

- 28 Band Solo and Ensemble
- 28 SAT Test Date
- 29 Career Center Open House 1:30-3:30
- 30 Financial Aid Meeting 7 PM Auditorium

February

- 4 District Solo and Ensemble
- 10 SAT Registration Deadline
- 11 ACT Test Date
- 16-18 Musical
- 20 No School - Snow Makeup Day
- 24-25 Choral Invitational
- 25 Band State Solo and Ensemble

March

- 6 School Board Meeting 4:00 PM
- 9 ACT Registration Deadline
- 13 End of 3rd Quarter
- 17 ISSMA State Show Choir
- 18 Booster Club Trivia Night
- 20 School Board Meeting 4:00 PM
- 22 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 23 No School

Reminder: School WILL be in session Monday, May 7th due to the Snow Cancellation Friday, January 13th.

German Club Give Back

Guten Tag! The NHS German Club and Mancino's of Middlebury are teaming up to hold a give-back night on Friday, January 27th. Present the flyer when picking up your pizza, and Mancino's will donate a percentage of each sale to the German Club. You may receive a flyer from any German Club member, or the NHS front office. Thanks in advance for your support!

Guidance Department News

Student Scheduling for 2012 - 2013

Scheduling began during the January homeroom period on January 19th. The guidance counselors explained the process and discussed course offerings with students. During the next several days teachers discussed their recommendation for the next level of course work for each student. The teachers wrote the recommendation for the next level of course work for each student. The teachers wrote the recommendations on the scheduling form and signed it. The students are to take the forms home and discuss the recommendations and their scheduling plan with their parents. Parents are to sign the form and students will turn the forms into the guidance office. The scheduling forms will be returned to the students to use when they meet with the counselors for small group scheduling. Scheduling groups begin with the current Juniors January 26th.

This process will allow teachers to further assist students in their course selection. The teachers know best what is ahead in the curriculum for the remainder of the semester. They also know the course content in the next level courses. Parent discussions will be enhanced as the student can share the discussion had with teachers. Students and parents are asked to take scheduling seriously as changing schedules has become very difficult due to the size of our school and teacher loads. Students not returning the forms signed by parents may delay their scheduling and choice of classes.

Please review the scheduling recommendations with your student, sign the form and remind them to return it to the guidance office.

From the Principal Continued:

The next Parent/Teacher conference date for Northridge High School is on March 22, 2012. I invite you to NHS and talk personally with your student's teachers. Also feel free to have a conversation about any school issue with one of the three principals at Northridge High School: Gerald Ralsler, Steve Troyer or Dan Hile.

Financial Aid Meeting

Reminder – A financial aid meeting will be held on Monday, January 30th at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. A representative will be here to help parents with the FAFSA form for 2012.

From the Attendance Office

Please remember that if a student needs to be absent from school, a parent or guardian is expected to call the attendance office at 825-2142 no later than 9:30 a.m. on the day of the absence so that it can be excused. Over the past few weeks, we have had several students miss school, and no call has been received to inform us of their whereabouts. Whenever a student is not in school, and has not been excused through the attendance office, that student is then considered truant. Truancy is a violation of the Indiana Compulsory Attendance law, and can result in consequences for both the student and parent/guardian.

Any questions regarding student attendance should be directed to the assistant principal, Mr. Hile. Thank you for your help in ensuring that our students are accounted for each day!

Career Center for 2012 – 2013

The Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC) provides a variety of courses for juniors and seniors who are interested in technical / vocational training. The Career Center will host its annual Open House Sunday, January 29, 2012, from 1:30 – 3:30 PM. Interested families are encouraged to attend together in order to get a good picture of what the Career Center is like. The EACC is located on California Road in Elkhart, next door to Elkhart Memorial High School. Applications for possible acceptance into EACC will be completed at NHS when students meet with Counselors to schedule next year's courses. Students accepted to attend the EACC will be required to commit to a full year's of attendance there, as Middlebury Schools pays approximately \$4500 per year per student. Also, students must either provide their own transportation to the EACC for morning classes or to Northridge in order to ride the bus which leaves from the parking lot daily at 7:15 AM. Students interested in Cosmetology must provide their own transportation both to and from the EACC due to the class meeting longer hours each day. All EACC students return to Northridge for PM classes.

International Baccalaureate Updates and Information

Thank you to those parents and students who attended our recent meetings pertaining to the International Baccalaureate Programme at Northridge High School. I hope that you found the meetings informative and useful, and that the information that was shared with you helped guide you and your students in their decisions and progress in IB.

Any Sophomore students who have decided to enroll in the IB Programme need to make contact with their guidance counselor to share this decision. If your Sophomore student is interested in enrolling in IB next year, but you were unable to attend the informational meeting (or if you simply have additional questions), please feel free to contact me.

Our current IB Diploma students are continuing to work on the requirements for their diploma. In the weeks ahead, many IB classes will be getting ready for their first round of assessments. As the end of the year approaches, please continue to give your student as much support at home as you can. With several deadlines approaching, the stress level may rise for your student. However, a good support system at home can truly make a difference. Always remind your student: this program is challenging, but the rewards can definitely outweigh the sacrifices! As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please let me know.

Have a great month,

Daniel G. Hile
Assistant Principal/IB Coordinator
hiled@mcsin-k12.org



German Karneval

Also, in February, we will be celebrating the German holiday of Karneval at NHS. There will be traditional foods, mask-making, games, dancing, and prizes. Pay attention to the announcements in the coming weeks for more information!

Athletics News

Fall and Winter Senior Pictures are on sale in the Athletic office for \$15.00



Winter Awards Program is scheduled on March 20, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

IHSAA Moratorium week is July 1-8th 2012 this year, mark your calendars.

Official Start Dates in for Spring Sports:

Girls and Boys Track	February 13, 2012
Girls Tennis	March 12, 2012
Boys Golf	March 12, 2012
Softball	March 5, 2012
Baseball	March 12, 2012

All Spring athletes must check into the athletic office before starting open play. You will confirm that your physical and code is in and stating what spring sport you will be involved in.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events for the Northridge Booster Club
Trivia Night - March 17, 2012

Northridge Athletics would like to thank the Northridge Pep Band for playing at the Basketball games. You are doing a great job and our fans love it!

Congratulations Alex Hochstetler

What is it like to peer into the world of genetics and use the same tools researchers have to better understand and develop treatments and cures of complex diseases? That is exactly what Northridge High School junior, Alex Hochstetler, will be finding out this spring.

Fifty high-school students from Indiana and neighboring states have been chosen and given an opportunity to participate at the Molecular Medicine In Action program at the Indiana University School of Medicine. Program director, Mark Kelley, Ph.D., associate director of the Wells Center, along with a selection committee, chose Alex based on her success as a student at Northridge as well as recommendations from her current IB chemistry teacher, Laura Simons.

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Music News

Northridge to hold Seminar *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*

Well...sort of. The high school music and theater students present this year's musical *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* On Friday, February 17 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, February 18 at 2:00pm both in the Northridge auditorium. Please note there are only 2 performances this year: one in the evening and one a matinee. Tickets are \$10 each and available in the front office of the high school.

This musical is a simple story of a young man who climbs to a position of great power and of the girl who loyally hangs on during the climb and eventually wins him. In this wonderful musical satire on the organizational man, his success is due neither to hard work nor any other ancient prescriptions for success. He gets ahead by following the simple rules in a book call "How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying."

Our hero, J. Pierrepont Finch, runs into many obstacles and overcomes them like a modern comic Siegfried. There's his rival who is the boss's nephew (Bud Frump), the mailroom trap, the office wolf (Gatch), the office party, the dangerous secretary (Hedy LaRue), the board meeting, jealous executives and, of course, the big boss himself (J. B. Biggley).

From the first coffee break to the final meeting with Wally Womper, Chairman of the Board, office life is never the same for the World Wide Wicket Company once "Ponty" Finch settles in for the trip to the top.



Purdue Glee Club

The Purdue Men's Glee Club and the Purdettes give only one joint concert each year. This year they have chosen to come to Northridge! Sunday, February 26th at 2pm the PMO Choirs will sing with our very own Northridge High School Lyric Lights Concert Choir and Chamber Lights Concert Choir! Tickets are available through the Elkhart County Alumni Association! It will be an afternoon with some great singing you won't want to miss!

Choral Invitational

The 3rd Annual Northridge Choral Invitational is February 24th and 25th. Choirs from around the Midwest will compete on our auditorium stage all day! On the evening of February 24th, middle school show choirs will compete and Northern Lights and Starlights will perform. All day Saturday, February 25th, high school show choirs and concert choirs will compete in what has become one of best contests in our state! Tickets will be available at the door, and feel free to try some of the great food that will be available!

Congratulations Continued:

Some of Alex's accomplishments as a student include being a vital component in earning the state championship title for the Northridge Science Olympiad team, and working towards completing the IB diploma program. These endeavors, along with her passion for medicine, helped Alex win one of the coveted positions in the program.

Alex will work alongside some of the nation's top researchers in the labs of the Herman B Wells Center for Pediatric Research. Under the supervision of IU scientists, Alex will be learning how DNA - the building blocks of life - is isolated and analyzed. She will observe how gene mutations are identified and how modified genes are used in therapy and what the latest microscopic imaging techniques are that enable researchers to study living cells.

"Our goal is to share the excitement of what genetic science promises," says Dr. Kelley, the Betty and Earl Herr Professor of Pediatric Oncology Research. "We merely loan the student participants the tools to learn - they provide the vision." Support for this year's program comes from the Herman B Wells Center for Pediatric Research, IU School of Medicine and Riley Children's Foundation.



Northridge High School PE Dept.
is hosting their first
RED OUT Event!

**THE EVENT IS TAKING PLACE FEBRUARY 9TH
AT THE **NORTHRIDGE VS CONCORD**
BOYS BASKETBALL GAME.**

HOW YOU CAN BE A BIG PART OF OUR EVENT:

- ♥ PURCHASE A **RED OUT** EVENT T-SHIRT FOR \$10 (DETAILS BELOW)
- ♥ BUY RAFFLE TICKETS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN GIFT CARDS/GIFT BASKETS FROM LOCAL SPONSORS – ESSENHAUS, DOLLAR DAZE, ACE HARDWARE, VARNS AND HOOVER, TASTE OF HEAVEN, MARGARITAS, THIRTY ONE/TASTEFULLY SIMPLE
- ♥ PURCHASE **RED BEADED NECKLACES** FOR \$1
- ♥ WEAR **RED** AND CHEER ON THE RAIDERS!



Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000.00

All money goes to the American Heart Association to help fund research and educational programs, create medical tools/procedures, and much more.

High school students can purchase the **RED OUT** t-shirts during their lunch periods starting February 1st through 9th. Community members can purchase t-shirts February 4th at the boys basketball game or February 9th the day of our **RED OUT** event. Shirts cost \$10.00 each and sizes range from Youth small through Adult XXL.

We all know someone who has been affected by heart disease. Please join us to support the American Heart Association's life saving mission.
Fight cardiovascular disease and help save lives.

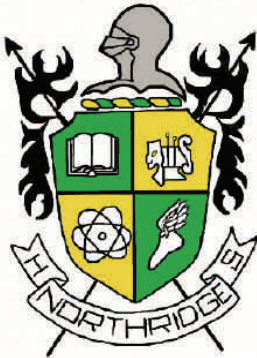
ON SLATE—On Line or On Paper

The *ON SLATE* is a communication tool from Northridge High School to the students, parents, and supporters of the school. The staff is instructed to provide information that the public needs and wants to know about the NHS students, their activities, and their successes. The goal of this publication is to provide current information so that the students and parents know what events are happening in the near future and who is likely to be involved. Also this is our opportunity to brag a little about the efforts and accomplishments of the students and staff of Northridge High School.

Until approximately two school years ago, each household with students in the high school was mailed a copy of the *ON SLATE*. Now the times have changed. Many of the parents prefer to receive this information electronically rather than as a paper copy. As a result, Northridge staff now produces the on line edition of the *ON SLATE* which is accessible to all who want to see the articles. However, if a parent wants to receive a paper copy of the *ON SLATE* monthly, please call Patti Miller, the Northridge High School building secretary, at 825-2142 and request that the school send a printed copy of the *ON SLATE* to your home whenever a new edition is available.

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Northridge H.S. Newsletter



January Issue



ON SLATE