

NORTHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2017

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A point of focus for us this year at Northfield High School is, believe it or not, *attendance*. I realize this may be no surprise to you at all, but we really feel compelled to be public with our emphasis on the importance of both *being here*, and being *on time*. The research is clear on the relationship between good attendance and high academic achievement. And yet, we struggle at times convincing students and parents of the importance of students being in classes every day, and getting to class on time.

We consider attendance to be an “essential” skill, and that message has been reinforced for us by our local business community recently. Our school staff has had the great opportunity to interact with leaders of our business community over the last year, and a message we’ve heard loud and clear in those interactions has been the need for workers to develop their essential skills: communicating face to face, following through, meeting deadlines, and yes, being at work (and getting there on time!). One employer told of a conversation they had recently with a young new hire, and after hearing the expectations for attendance and promptness, the new employee replied incredulously, “On time *every day!*?”

We firmly believe that our students will eventually perform as they have practiced, so we see emphasizing attendance and timeliness as a way of providing practice for them that will serve them well in all their future endeavors. Thank you for any help you can provide in impressing on your student the importance of these concepts. And as always, thank you for your continued partnership in educating our young people!

Please take a moment to peruse this month’s newsletter to make sure you are staying current and informed about all that is going on at Northfield High School. Have a great October!

Joel Leer
Principal

IMPORTANT
Levy/Bond Referendum

November 7, 2017
northfieldschools.org/referendum



Referendum
Importante
de Impuestos Imponibles y Bonos

ACTIVITIES NEWS

Fall Sports are rapidly coming to a conclusion, with some teams entering or preparing to enter post-season play. Congratulations to all teams for competing with class and character, and having a successful fall, 2017.

Our fall musical this year is, "The Drowsy Chaperone." The director is Bob Gregory-Bjorklund. Performances for the musical will be November 3, 4, 10, and 11 at 7:30, with a matinee on November 12th beginning at 2:00. All performances will take place in the High School Auditorium.

Concerts: The High School Choir/Orchestra Concert will be on October 27th, in the NMS Auditorium (7:30 PM). Admission is - \$3 for adults and \$1 for students. The District Band Concert is scheduled for October 30th, at 7:00 PM, and the performance will be in the High School gym; there will be no admission fee.

Winter Sports to Begin: Dance Team practice begins on October 23rd and Girls' Hockey begins practice on October 30th. Girls' Basketball, Boys' Hockey, Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing and Gymnastics will start practices on Monday, November 13th while Boys' Basketball, Weight Lifting Team, and Wrestling will begin on November 20th. Boys Swimming & Diving will begin on November 27th.

ONLINE Registration: Everyone must register for all Co-Curricular Activities online. To access: Please log-on to the School District website (www.northfieldschools.org). **To log-in, (For First time users) -- use your child's Skyward log-in ID and your child's password (their lunch number). If you have registered previously for other sports/activities you have created your own log-in and your own password.** If you do not have access to a computer, you may come to the Northfield High School (Activities Office) from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM (Monday-Friday), to use an office computer. Also payment will be done online as well. **To be eligible to practice Day One, online registration must be complete along with the fees paid. This includes athletic medical physicals, for those who haven't had one within the past three years. A HARD COPY of a medical athletic physical must be submitted to the High School Activities Office. The deadline to complete all registration is 3:30 PM the Friday before your season begins (at the latest). Parents and students are greatly encouraged to complete all registration well before this deadline.**

Policy on Scholarship/fee waivers: The following guidelines are for the use of scholarship/fee waivers for co-curricular programs offered through Northfield High School and Northfield Middle School. All students in items a & b below must qualify under the current school year's Free or Reduced Meal Program guidelines administered by the school district Food Service Department.

- Students who qualify for the Reduced Meal Program are required to pay 40% of the total cost of the activity.
- Students who qualify for the Free Meal Program are required to pay 20% of the total cost of the activity for which they are enrolling.
- Students who do not qualify for a Free or Reduced Meal Program, but who have a financial hardship must submit an application for a scholarship, and if granted, are required to pay at least 20% toward the activity fee. A waiver form must be submitted for each activity, each season. Waiver Forms can be found as part of the online registration.

Winter Sports Online Registration continued: Students, remember the great price to purchase an athletic game pass for only \$5. This allows you into all home "regular season" Raider's sporting events. You may purchase this pass at the Activities Office.

Winter Sport Parent Meetings: There will be an individual sport parent meeting for all parents and athletes, conducted by each head coach of winter sports. Each coach will schedule a meeting time for parents and athletes of their sport only. All winter athletes and parents are expected to attend. More specific information will be distributed to winter sport athletes by their coaches.

Academic and Fine Arts Activities have or will be starting soon. The Chess Team coached by Rebecca Messer is having another very successful fall season. Also, off and running is our Music Listening team (coached by Karen Madson). Math Team (coach, Rachel Hoffelt) is just getting underway. Speech (coach, Jody Saxton-West), Knowledge Bowl (coach, Michelle Sonnega), Science Olympiad (Coach TBD), and Mock Trial (coach, Steve Cade), will start in November or December. Again this year there will be a one-act play festival that will include one-act plays directed by students. Auditions will be held in December, practices in January, and performances in early February. **Students are reminded that registration for all our activities are to be completed ONLINE** and are encouraged to take advantage of these many opportunities! You may also connect directly with advisors through the school district web site email system.

Schedules: The Northfield High School Activities Department continues to utilize an online scheduling program. All game/meet schedules are, or will be entered into this scheduling program. The program is web-based so parents are able to access the schedule and see exact sites, times (including bus times), updates, maps, etc. The program is linked to the Northfield High School website. The program address is: www.Big9.org -- click on "Northfield" One of the many handy features of the program is that anyone can receive notification of changes/cancellations/etc. by clicking on "Notify me." and setting yourself up to be notified. Another way to check on changes and/or cancellations is calling the **Raider Activities Line at 645-3456.**

NEWS FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE



Parents of Seniors:

“How do I get my ACT scores sent to my colleges?” “When is the deadline to submit my application to the University of Minnesota?” “What other options do I have besides college?” “How are we going to pay for this?!” “How do I get letters of recommendation from my teachers?” “How do I log into my Naviance account?” “What am I going to do with the rest of my life?”

If you’re the parent of a senior, chances are good that you’re hearing questions like these from your student. NHS Counselors are excited to assist seniors with **ANY** and **ALL** of these types of questions related to their post-secondary planning. Over the past two weeks, counselors met with seniors in small groups during their social studies classes to discuss many of the procedures and tasks related to planning for life after high school. As the year goes on, counselors will continue to share updated information with seniors via schoology: test registration deadlines, links to useful web sites, procedures for sending high school records to colleges of choice, etc. Seniors and their parents are also encouraged to talk with their counselor to address any individual questions or concerns.

Parents of Juniors:

“Which tests (PSAT, ACT, SAT, Accuplacer, etc.) should I take and when?” “When should I visit colleges?” “How will we pay for this?” “What other options are out there besides four year college?” “What is a gap year?” “I know what I want to do, but how do I get there?” “What am I going to do with the rest of my life?”

If you’re the parent or guardian of a junior, chances are you will hear questions like these from your student. Let’s start with sorting out the testing options and information. First, click [HERE](#) to link to a portion of the Student Support/Counseling Office webpage that identifies and explains all the college admission exams, identifies when they are offered, and provides some resources for preparation. Students can access a comprehensive ACT prep tool through their Naviance account FOR FREE, so please encourage your student to explore that option. Next, click [HERE](#) to link to a document that identifies all assessments administered within the school calendar and school schedule throughout the district. Within that document, there are links to explanations for each of the assessments identified on the timeline. Specifically, this leads to some great resources for the ACT. There are lots of ways to plan for testing, visiting colleges, finding potential career-related experiences, and paying for whichever path might be best. Juniors and their parents are encouraged to talk with their counselor to address any individual questions or concerns.

Contact information is below:

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Junior PSAT Information

The PSAT exam will be offered at NHS the morning of Oct. 11. Students should arrive by 7:30 a.m. despite the late start time of school that Wednesday. The cost of the exam is \$16 and sign up is in the counseling office.

Taking the PSAT gives students the opportunity to practice a timed exam in preparation for similar exams in their future. The score report will give comprehensive feedback on test performance. Students will be able to see which questions were answered incorrectly and which academic skills should be focused on. Juniors will be entered in the National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions for possible recognition and scholarships

Attendance Reminder to Parents:

If your student needs to leave the building for any reason during the school day, they must check out in the office and have a pass to leave. If they are ill, they need to see the school nurse. She will notify a parent and excuse the student once permission has been given. Leaving the building without permission, sign out, or a pass will result in an unexcused absence. Thanks for your help with this attendance concern.

Yearbook Information!

Yearbooks are on sale online for \$68.00 plus tax from now until November 10. Go to Jostens.com to order. You can also add personalization to your cover, including a monogram this year. Last year we sold out, so be sure to order your book today!



Senior photos can be emailed to yearbook@northfieldschools.org or uploaded to the Replayit app. Due date is Dec. 15.

Senior baby ads can also be purchased from now until February 16. They are made online, and really easy to do. You can use multiple photos and write a personalized message to send your senior off with your love and support. Go to Jostensadservices.com and create a special ad for your seniors.

All of this information can also be found on the NHS website – follow the links for Yearbook.

The Norhian Staff

MTSS News....

We are pleased this year to again offer a variety of supports at NHS! Every day, every hour, there are Academic Student Coaches and tutors ready to help you in S120. We are also available before school at 7:30 and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 to 3:30 or 4:00, depending on the need. We assist students with a variety of academic tasks from helping with homework in any subject, assisting in paper writing and editing, to partnering in test preparation. Additionally, students can come to S120 to find a quiet place to work on independent study courses, make up tests, (our teachers are wonderful about helping to coordinate this) have extended time for a test or have a test read aloud if permitted and prearranged. We LOVE helping students find ways to be successful in school.

AND watch for upcoming information about additional supports specifically geared toward mental wellness and that are currently in development: Peer Helpers, visiting dogs, and meditation. All of these should be up and running yet this fall - stay tuned!

Speech Team Update:

On October 24th, the Speech Team will do a service project, assisting the Northfield Fine Arts Boosters with their fall mailing. This is in appreciation of all of the ways NFAB invests in and supports our team! All current speech team members, potential speech team members, or non-speech team students seeking a volunteer opportunity are invited to come and help. We'll be in NHS room S106 from 2:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. (come when you can, leave when you must). Snacks will be provided.

Any student interested in joining the Speech Team can join our Schoology course (it is a course, not a group) using the access code ZS5ZT-RJT7R. We will hold a no-strings-attached informational meeting on Nov. 8th at 2:45 in room S106. At this meeting we will share information about the thirteen competitive speech categories, our practice and tournament schedules, and the activity as a whole. Students who decide that Speech might be a great fit for them will then participate in interviews the following week.

Speech is an activity with something to offer EVERYONE — and ALL are welcome! If you have any questions, feel free to contact head coach Saxton West at jsaxtonwest@northfieldschools.org.

See you on October 24th,
Coach Saxton West and Captains Audrey Battiste, Courtney Nelson and Elisabeth Peterson

NOW ON DISPLAY: NHS Healthy Living Mural!

The Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use sponsored a NHS Healthy Living Mural contest in the Spring of 2017. Katie Brust was chosen as the winner by a panel of judges. She completed the mural over the summer.

Design criteria was to convey a message that answers the question: "What does healthy living look like to you?"

When asked what the design means to her, Katie replied, "To me, healthy living is all about balance. Here at NHS, we are incredibly lucky to have a balance of athletics, activities, arts, and academics. It made sense to include each in the mural. The design is meant to represent the student body as a unified and successful group, regardless of personal interests and involvement!"

The mural is on display in the lower cafeteria. Thank you to all contestants who participated!



Business Education Student of the Month:

Abby Rezac is being recognized this month for her efforts in the Business Management course. On a daily basis, Abby demonstrates her commitment to doing well in school through thoughtful and conscientious work. Abby works hard every day and is a true asset to the classroom. Thank you, Abby, for being such a great student and congratulations!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

October

4	Picture Retake Day	7:30-12:00 p.m. - Auditorium
6	Homecoming	
11	PSAT (Juniors)	7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
19-20	MEA Break	
24	Pre-ACT (Sophomores)	
27	Orchestra/Choir Concert	7:30 p.m. - MS Auditorium
30	District Band Concert	7:00 p.m. - HS Gym



November

3-4	Fall Play	7:30 p.m. - HS Auditorium
8	Senior Class Photo	8:15 a.m. - HS Gym
9	Conferences	4:30-8:30 p.m. - Cafeterias
10-11	Fall Play	7:30 p.m. - HS Auditorium
12	Fall Play	2:00 p.m. - HS Auditorium
13	National Merit Reception	6:00 p.m. - Media Center
16	Conferences	4:30-8:30 p.m. - Classrooms
17	Freshmen Fun Night	
23-24	No School - Thanksgiving Break	
30	All District Jazz Band Concert	7:00 p.m. - HS Auditorium



Navigating the College Process: 7 Insider Tips to Save Money & Stress

The Northfield Public Library is sponsoring this **FREE** program on **Thursday, October 5th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm.**

College is now the second biggest purchase people make in their lives, yet most know more about buying a television. Planning ahead and developing a strategy for the college process is crucial to finding the right fit and avoiding unmanageable debt. **Learn from a national expert how to navigate the complicated college process.** A must for parents and grandparents of college bound students. This event is free and open to the public. *For further information contact the library at 507-645-1802*

Parent/Student Transition Forum:

On October 24th from 6:30-8:30 p.m., the Rice County CTIC is sponsoring a Transition Forum for students with disabilities and their parents. The forum will be held in the Northfield High School Media Center. A panel of representatives from local service agencies will share about their respective programs and address questions you may have about the process of transitioning to life after high school. Join us for this FREE informative evening! Go to www.ricecountycitic.com for more information
