

Northern Highlands Regional High School

Allendale • Upper Saddle River • Ho-Ho-Kus • Saddle River • Fall 2019

www.northernhighlands.org



NH Welcomes Two New Student BOE Reps

Every year in May, the Northern Highlands administration begins the process of selecting two students that will represent the student body at Board of Education meetings for the following school year. This year, we are pleased to announce that seniors Katie Corren and Megan Cromie are our representatives.

Katie served as a Boomerang Project Student Ambassador. Ambassadors act as positive role models who help guide freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to high school. This year, Katie is a member of Highlands Heroes, serves as a student rep on the Board of the USR Historical Society and currently works at the health food store, Organico. She created a video last year, "It's Okay Not to Be Okay" to help promote a 'no stigma' environment in our school by addressing the mental health issues that exist in our society.

Megan is a member of the National Honor Society and has immersed herself in all aspects of school life. She is a writer for our school newspaper as well as a 3 and 4-year varsity athlete on the girls' field hockey and lacrosse teams respectively. Megan is a two-time All-County player in lacrosse. She also participates in DECA, the Spanish Club, and Highlands Cares, an organization that helps Highlanders give back to their local, national and international communities. Megan also served as a ball person at the 2019 US Open Tennis Championships held at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens, N.Y. this past summer.



Northern Highlands' New Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Robin Knutelsky joined the Northern Highlands Regional High School District this past July. She comes to Highlands as a career educator. She has many years' experience as both a high school English teacher and as a language arts supervisor. Most recently, Mrs. Knutelsky served as the Director of Teaching and Learning Supports and the Director of Strategic Alignment at the New Jersey Department of Education where she led curriculum and assessment work at the state level. Mrs. Knutelsky also serves as the English Department Supervisor at Highlands. When she is not at Highlands, Mrs. Knutelsky calls Sussex County her home with her husband, three sons, and her newly adopted puppy Darla.

BOE and DISTRICT GOALS

Each year during the summer the Board of Education and Administration meet to develop a list of goals for the new school year. These goals provide just a few of the many focal points that the board of education and district will be addressing during that year. For the 2019/2020 school year, the goals that were developed are as follows:

BOE GOAL #1: The BOE will complete a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Northern Highlands Supervisors Unit.

BOE GOAL #2: In an effort to increase communication, the Northern Highlands BOE will update their webpage on the district website to provide additional information to the public on their roles as board members.

BOE GOAL #3: In an effort to expand their knowledge on school security, the BOE will attend training sessions on various aspects of school security.

DISTRICT GOAL #1: Administration will evaluate the feasibility of creating an extension of Boomerang Project to include junior and sophomore students. As the Boomerang Project helps to foster a healthy, productive, supportive culture at Northern Highlands, extending it to sophomores and juniors would help to promote resiliency and self-awareness in our students.

DISTRICT GOAL #2: Northern Highlands will update our Vision and Mission Statements. These statements will be used to guide the district's vision moving forward.

DISTRICT GOAL #3: In an effort to continue our districts global competencies goal, administration will create and implement a minimum of 3 programs which may include opportunities such as a Multi-Cultural Week and Mix It Up day in the cafeteria. By adding these opportunities that enrich minds and prepare students to meet the challenges of a global society, Northern Highlands will increase opportunities that support students intellectually, academically, emotionally, and socially.

The full goals and action plans may be found on the website at: <https://www.northernhighlands.org/domain/283>

From the Superintendent



Highlanders,

I hope that everyone has been enjoying the 2019/2020 school year so far. As we move from fall to winter, the Board of Education and I want to make you aware of the wonderful happenings going on at Highlands. As always we continue to provide many new opportunities and upgrades to our program and I am honored to share some of that

information with you.

Although the summer seems a distant past, it's never too late to share with you some of the upgrades that were completed during those months. Two of our major projects were the installation of breezeway gates so that students can now pass safely through the breezeway entrances without the concern of visitors entering through those areas. The second major addition was the addition of 4 LED lighting towers which were donated by the Sports Association. The new light fixtures will add flexibility to our field scheduling and provide more opportunity for both school and town programs. Several other smaller projects included adding 14 air conditioners to rooms which are not on the central AC system, completing phase 2 of our re-keying project, completely refurbishing several student bathrooms and re-flooring some classrooms. All of these projects continue to enhance the environment for both our Highlander and local community.

Parents and students will also note the addition of a Class III police officer which will assist the district with security measures outside of the classroom while providing an additional resource to students and teachers on specified curriculum such as driver's education and health.

On the academic front, Northern Highlands offers several new courses this year. Courses such as American Sign Language and Science Fiction and Fantasy are being offered for the first time and have received wonderful reviews by the students so far. As always, we will continue to assess our courses and add opportunities to ensure that each of our students is receiving a world class educational experience.

Finally, 2019/2020 is now the second year that Northern Highlands will be running our Option II Program. With 33 students participating in a summer internship alone, it has proven to be a tremendously successful opportunity. The programs have now expanded to Internships, Community Service, Independent Studies and College Courses (both online and traditional). We are happy to announce that we are investigating addition programs and look to expand the program even further.

The 2019/2020 school year is off to a wonderful start thanks to our community, parents, teachers and most importantly our students. I wish all of my Highlanders the best school year yet.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scot Beckerman, Superintendent

Welcome to Northern Highlands Language Department

The Northern Highlands World Language Department currently has over 1,100 students enrolled in five separate language offerings. All students have the ability to take 1 or more languages throughout their high school careers. The five languages offered at Northern Highlands are Spanish, French, Italian, Mandarin Chinese and American Sign Language.

Spanish is the most popular choice among students with almost seven hundred students enrolled in ten separate courses. Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world with more than 400 million native speakers. It trails only Mandarin Chinese as a spoken language. The World Language Department has eight instructors who staff the classes which range from introductory to advanced placement. Four of the eight are native speakers who came to the United States from Colombia, Uruguay, Ecuador and Mexico.

French is second in popularity at Highlands. There are more than 200 million French speakers globally. Continued population growth will further expand the Francophone world. Northern Highlands has two native born French teachers. Mr. Frank Gilli, joined the Highlands faculty in 1981 and Mrs. Sidonie King who joined our staff this past summer. French courses at the high school range from the introductory to the AP level.

Italian is another option offered at Northern Highlands. More than four million Italians emigrated to the United States between 1890 and 1924 and today their descendants number in the tens of millions. Students are exposed to a rich culture and develop language skills through four levels of instruction. Northern Highlands has two Italian teachers. Mrs. Enza Sardella joined the Highlands faculty in 2003 and Ms. Celina Poggiogalle who joined our staff this past summer.

Mandarin Chinese has been offered at Highlands for more than ten years. There are four levels of instruction. The courses are taught by Mrs. Xiaoyan Liu who emigrated to the USA twenty years ago. More than 800 million people speak Mandarin. They are concentrated overwhelmingly in China. The study of Mandarin is growing in popularity and is part of many high school curriculum offerings in the tri-state area.

American Sign Language (ASL) is the most recent addition to the World Language Department's offerings. ASL is in its first year of offering at Northern Highlands this year. The course has been introduced to Northern Highlands by Mrs. Kristy Fuller who has taught sign for thirteen years. Mrs. Fuller was Faith Hill's sign interpreter at the 2009 Super Bowl and completed her Master's degree at Columbia University. She is teaching four sections of American Sign this school year to ninety students.

Varsity Football Plays at West Point

On Saturday, September 14, the Northern Highlands football team played at historic Michie Stadium at the Military Academy of West Point. The NH cheerleading squad and Regiment also performed. Playing Clifton High School, the Highlanders came away with a 27 to 14 victory. Thank you to West Point and all of those who made this once in a lifetime experience available to our students.



Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars Named

(Based on results of May 2019 AP Exams)

The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. Students enrolled in the 24 AP courses offered at Northern Highlands continue to perform extremely well on AP exams as indicated by the number of students who have been recognized as AP scholars. In all, there are 149 total scholars who averaged a 4.24 on their AP exams.

Congratulations to Present Students (Class of 2020 & 2021) and Alumni (Class of 2019)

AP Scholar – Fifty-four students at Northern Highlands Regional High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP Exams by earning scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams.

AP Scholar with Honors – Forty-two students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honors award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

AP Scholar with Distinction – Fifty-three students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams, the following students were recognized.

National AP Scholar – Eleven students received National AP Scholar distinction by receiving an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Light Donation

During the summer, the Northern Highlands Sports Association (NHSA) launched the Light the Dream Phase II – Light the Lower Field campaign! As a part of this campaign, the NHSA donated 4 additional led light poles which were installed on the lower baseball/softball fields. The total amount of the donation to Northern Highlands amounted to \$435,000. The lights will be used for athletics, band, special functions as well as youth community groups.



In order to assist with paying off the loan that the NHSA took out to pay for the poles, they are asking for donations. Interested parties can donate the following ways:

- A) NHSA GO FUND ME Link –
<https://www.gofundme.com/light-the-dream-phase-ii-light-the-lower-field>
- B) Make a check payable to: NH Sports Association c/o NHRHS,
298 Hillside Avenue. Allendale, NJ 07401

All contributions are tax-deductible

For More Information, please contact:
Chris Kunisch (201) 739-7479 (ckunisch@aol.com)

Piano Donation

Northern Highlands received a beautiful, fully restored, 1910 Steinway Model "B" grand piano for our auditorium the day before school started. The piano was made possible by the generosity of the MPAA and the Brad Post Memorial Fund set up by the Post family after his passing last May. Friends and family of Brad lovingly and generously donated over \$43,000 toward this amazing instrument. Thank you to everyone for their contributions. The music department is thrilled and extremely grateful! The piano was originally purchased by Mrs. E.H. Harriman, wife of the famous railroad tycoon, as a gift to her daughter-in-law. In 2006/2007, our Northern Highlands piano technician, James Karr, acquired it from a wholesale piano dealer and undertook to completely re-manufacture the piano, bringing it to its former glorious condition. We at Highlands now have a world class Steinway grand piano to write our own musical history. We look forward to hearing its beautiful music fill our school for years to come. The Steinway grand will have its concert debut at the Music Department Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 PM.



Anyone wishing to donate to the Brad Post Memorial Fund may send donations to: Lisa Monard, 43 Homewood Avenue, Allendale, NJ 07401 (payable to NH MPAA/Piano Fund). Thank you.



National Merit Semi-Finalists Announced

Northern Highlands is proud to announce that five of our students, Ashlynn Zheng, Mia DeAngelo, Kasey Pataki, Sandli Singh, and Yena Lim, have been named as National Merit Scholarship Program Semi-Finalists. These students (pictured left) are commended and recognized for their exceptional academic promise based on their performance on the 2018 PSAT/NMSQT taken in the fall of their junior year. To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, semifinalists must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards.

A Big Highlands Welcome To Our New Staff



Evan Baranowski (English - Leave Replacement) - Will be covering for Dr. Zucker's Honors Modern Fiction & Non-Fiction and Foundations of Literacy and Technology courses. A recent graduate from The College of New Jersey with a Masters in English Language Arts Education in 2018.

Katie Bellini (School Counselor) - Katie will be joining the NH Counseling Department. Before coming to Northern Highlands, she was a counselor in Summit for the past few years. She received an M.A in Counseling from Montclair State University in 2013 and B.A from Ramapo College of NJ in 2010.

Natasha Collova (Science) - Natasha is a first year educator. She graduated from Siena College with a B.S. in Physics with minors in Astrophysics and Math in 2018. As she planned to continue her career in academia and research, she embarked on a Physics PhD track at Drexel University in Fall 2018.

Philip DiMichele (Social Studies) - Philip will be joining the Social Studies Department. Philip graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with his Bachelor's and Master's degree in History and education. He has been teaching for 3 years, most recently at Bergenfield. Philip will be teaching World History and Honors U.S. History II.

Kristy Fuller (World Language) - Kristy will be teaching Sign Language. This is the first year that Northern Highlands offers Sign Language but Kristy has been teaching it for 13 years. Kristy attended William Paterson University and received her BA. Kristy also graduated from Union County College ASL/English Interpreter Education Program. She later enrolled in the Teachers College, Columbia University and graduated with an MA degree in Teacher of American Sign Language as a World Language.

Karla Iduate (World Language) - Originally from Durango, Mexico she has been teaching for 19 years. Her bachelor's degree is in International Business, but she became a Spanish teacher because she wanted students to not only learn a language as part of a curriculum, but have them enjoy a different culture, different accents, and provide them with the opportunity to know how to interact with people from other countries.

Anna Mazzocoli (Business) - Anna joins us as a business teacher. Since 2011, she served as a teacher and Program Manager of the Finance Academy at Academics@Englewood. She earned a BS in International Business and a MA in Educational Leadership from Ramapo College.

Justin Nadal (Media Studies) - Justin will serve Northern Highlands as our new TVP teacher. Justin most recently taught in southern Connecticut, but prior to that he was in Television Broadcasting (WNYW, Associated Press, ABC News and Time Warner Cable Six News). Justin also has experience in film, theater, as well commercial voiceover.

Jaelyn Nelson (Science-Leave Replacement) - Jaelyn comes to us from North Carolina. She graduated from Pascaek Valley in 2009 and attended NC State University for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. She has been teaching Chemistry for 3 years and this year she will be a leave replacement for Mrs. Volpe.

Celina Poggiogalle (World Language) - Celina comes to us with experience teaching three languages in two countries. Celina received her B.A. in Italian at Montclair State University. After graduating from Montclair she taught English in Florence, Italy to students from age 4 to 64.

Sidonie Vilquin-King (World Language) - Sidonie comes to Northern Highlands following a nine year tenure at Leonia High School. A native of France, Mrs. King is a "summa cum laude" graduate of Montclair State where she earned a B.A in French. Mrs. King will be teaching five courses including French Levels III, IV and AP.

Xiaoyan Liu (World Language) - Xiaoyan joined the Highlands faculty this summer. She emigrated to the United States from China in 1999. Mrs. Liu earned her B.A in Foreign Languages at Hebei University in China and holds an M.A degree in Teaching from Syracuse University. She will be teaching three levels of Mandarin.

AP Computer Science Year 2

Last year, AP Computer Science Principles was offered for the first time at Northern Highlands. It is an introductory college-level computing course where students develop their understanding of computer science through working with data, collaborating to solve problems and developing computer programs. Through rigorous tasks, students explore concepts like creativity, abstraction, data and information, algorithms, programming, the internet and the impact of computing in a global environment.

After the AP Exam, students were encouraged to explore an area of computer science that was interesting to them. Two students, Gia Marino and Natalia Ratner, share their experience of the final project:

Throughout our high school experience, when a teacher said "final exam" he or she was usually met with sighs, a series of complaints and stressed out faces. This picture was not the case in Mr. LaRocca's AP Computer Science Principles course. Our task was simple yet boundless - create something using what we learned. We tossed around apps, games and websites until we came up with something special - drones. We approached Mr. LaRocca with our idea expecting a response along the lines of "too expensive" or "too complicated." Instead, we were met with excitement and a DJI drone in our hands two days later. Throughout the final weeks of school, we continued iterating our code whenever the drone would crash into a chair or land on a backpack instead of a desk. On our final day of the project, our hard work proved to be worth it as we watched our drone seamlessly weave through hula hoops and glide under meter sticks. Through this project, we were able to take what we learned in the classroom and watch it come to life. It required creativity, precision and resilience and most importantly, we had fun during the process!

National Merit Commended Students

Congratulations to the following students from the Class of 2020 who earned recognition as Commended Students from the National Merit Program for their achievement on the 2018 PSAT/NMSQT in their junior year:



Elliot Weiner, Steven Licini, Lillian Gordon, Megan Cromie, Alexandra Neuendorf, Martha Deja, Stephanie Monard, Alakh Chauhan

Fall Play Dates Set for November 14-16

The Northern Highlands Theater Company's fall production will be Gogol's *The Government Inspector*. Although set in 19th century Russia, the circumstances transcend that time and locale. When small town leaders learn that an undercover government inspector is coming for a surprise visit, an unfortunate case of mistaken identity sends the local residents into a panic, fueled by their own confusion and their greed. *The Government Inspector* is considered to be Nikolai Gogol's masterpiece, a comedy of errors that provides incisive commentary on political corruption and of government altogether.

The Government Inspector will be presented Nov. 14, 15, 16 at 7 PM in Hopkins Hall. Tickets will go on sale at <https://nhct.booktix.com> October 15. We hope you will join us for the hilarious and enlightening show.



New Freshman Science Course: Geophysics

For nearly the last 15 years, Northern Highlands students have followed a physics first science sequence. Throughout the last year, our current science sequence (physics, chemistry, then biology) was reviewed to determine if the district would continue or adopt a new sequence. This was prompted by a drive to stay abreast of changes in science education while reviewing successes and challenges that we currently experience. Through research, site visits, and reflection on our current practices, we have decided to continue with our present sequence while adding a new freshman course to be offered alongside Physics. This new course will be called Geophysics and represent a more integrated model, using earth science phenomena to drive physics instruction. Therefore, science placement for incoming 9th graders (Class of 2024) will be contingent upon their math placement as both Physics and Geophysics will be academic opportunities available to them.

Further information will be provided in the spring newsletter on specifics of the new Geophysics Science Course.

Bringing LinkIt! To Northern Highlands

We are pleased to announce that we have recently purchased the data warehousing software platform LinkIt!. LinkIt will provide Northern Highlands with the ability to track academic data and student growth from grades k-12. This data will allow teachers to use growth points to better inform their teaching practices as well as increase their ability to monitor students' mastery of standards. As we roll this software out to teachers gradually and thoughtfully, educators will be thoroughly trained in how to understand the data, build reports and upload their own assessments. With this assessment data stored in one platform, educators can gain a multi-faceted understanding of student progress.



Out With TVP – in With Digital Media

There are many reasons to be excited about what's happening in the Northern Highlands Digital Media department. As part of the program updates, the already impressive facility at Northern Highlands will be getting a facelift. New industry-level technology will increase student engagement and elevate the student experience in broadcasting and film. The program will also be taking the classroom to the people, providing opportunities for students to develop programs that reach out to the community on cable and other platforms. The goals of the program will be to support local events, share local news and become a source for the public to get the most local coverage they can all while providing the students a real-world opportunity. With new leadership, an aggressive vision, great support and the tools to create, the New Northern Highlands Television Network is on the move. Be on the lookout this spring for our new and improved morning show!



Northern Highlands is proud to announce that we have recently been awarded a grant from the New Jersey Department of Education and Sandy Hook Promise. Northern Highlands is one of only ten schools statewide to be selected to implement the violence prevention programs.



Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) is a non-profit organization based in Newtown, CT, whose intent is to honor all victims of gun violence by turning our tragedy into a moment of

transformation by providing programs and practices that protect children from gun violence. Born out of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012, SHP's mission is to create a culture engaged in preventing shootings, violence, and other harmful acts in schools. By uniting people of all beliefs and backgrounds who value the protection of children to take meaningful actions in their homes and communities, we will prevent gun violence and stop the tragic loss of life.

Recently, SHP has been working in conjunction with the NJ Department of Education to bring programs to students, staff, and school communities at large in hopes of preventing harm to others, and harm to oneself. Northern Highlands Regional High School was selected to participate in the following Sandy Hook Promise Know the Signs programs:

Signs of Suicide (SOS) Curriculum

Signs of Suicide (SOS): Signs of Suicide® Prevention Program is recognized by SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. This implementer training is provided to school staff that can then in turn, incorporate this into their Health & Wellness curriculum.

Start with Hello Week

Start with Hello Week is a prevention based program that teaches students how to be more inclusive and connected to one another. This is scheduled to take place during the statewide Week of Respect (October 7-11).

Say Something

Say Something is a violence prevention and education program that teaches students how to recognize warning signs and signals before hurting themselves or others, and encourages them to report this to a trusted adult.

These programs will be provided at different points throughout the school year – by design we hope to continue implementing these programs for years to come. Thank you to Sandy Hook Promise and the NJDOE – we look forward to working with you to continue our progress toward maintaining an open and inclusive school climate at Northern Highlands.

Meet Highlands New Class III Officer

Northern Highlands continues to pride itself on providing a safe and secure school climate that is conducive to learning. To that end, Northern Highlands welcomes Special Law Enforcement Officer Bill Wright!

A former Sergeant, Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) Wright is the newest addition to our security staff, joining us this school year following over two decades of experience in law enforcement. SLEO Wright served the Waldwick Police Department for 26 years and since retiring, he has remained active in public service as a dispatcher for both the Waldwick and Ho-Ho-Kus Police Departments.

Utilizing a SLEO helps districts provide a proactive measure to better secure campuses. Class III SLEO must be a retired law enforcement officer, less than 65 years of age, who previously served as a fully-trained, full-time police officer in New Jersey. The officer must maintain the necessary training of a full time police officer. Furthermore, Class III SLEOs operate under the authority of the local police unit and have full police powers while providing an armed law enforcement presence within the school when school is in session.

Northern Highlands has partnered with the Borough of Allendale Police Department to help provide this proactive measure to help keep our school safe. We are looking forward to working with Special Law Enforcement Officer Wright and continuing our relationship with the Allendale Police Department.



STEM Partnership Article

Throughout the last two years, the staff, students, and community of Allendale, HoHoKus, Upper Saddle River, and Northern Highlands have worked together to develop a STEM vision for our schools. This year, the districts placed a focus on STEM career awareness. The goal is to connect elementary, middle school and high school students to STEM professionals. At each district's back to school/curriculum night, a video created by staff and students in the QUAD highlighted this goal. We ask for your assistance as we compile a database of professionals. If you or anyone else that you know is interested in supporting this work, please visit our district webpage for our STEM video and google form. Although this is a district STEM goal, we welcome experts in all fields. We look forward to future partnerships that aim to enhance our curriculum and give students additional real-world experiences.

Additional information on the districts STEM vision can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/a/northernhighlands.org/quad-curriculum/stem-connections>

Principal Hits Flapjack Milestone

On September 26, 2019 Northern Highlands held its annual pancake breakfast for all sophomore, junior and senior students who received honor roll for the previous school year. This year, Northern Highlands recognized 670 students at the breakfast. Principal Occhino who served as cook for the breakfast served over 1300 pancakes. Mr. Occhino, who has been flipping pancakes for this event for the past 17 years (since 2002), hit a milestone by serving over 25,000 pancakes over his illustrious pancake flipping career.



Summer Interns Thank Local Businesses for Their Support!

The Career & Academic Pathways Program (formerly Option II), launched its first summer internship program this year. A total of 24 students participated in the summer internship program. The following local businesses supported and mentored our rising seniors. We would like to thank the following businesses for donating their time to support our program and students:

- All is Well, Wyckoff
- Ask School, Palisades Park
- Bergen County Workforce Development, Hackensack
- Bergen Veterinary Hospital, Waldwick
- Berkshire Hathaway Abbott, Wyckoff
- Boswell Engineering, Hackensack
- Carcara Orthodontics, Allendale
- CharmIT!, Fair Lawn
- Fair Lawn Chamber of Commerce, Fair Lawn
- Freeman Public Relations, Fairfield
- Hartmann, Doherty, Rosa, Berman, Bulbulia Law Firm, Hackensack
- Hype Marketing, Ramsey
- Hytorc, Mahwah
- Minuteman Press, Ho-Ho-Kus
- New Bridge Medical Center, Paramus
- Valley Hospital, Ridgewood
- West Bergen Mental Health Care, Ridgewood
- Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center, Warwick, NY
- Wyckoff Christian Healthcare Center, Wyckoff

Our Summer Interns:
Thank You

If you are interested in mentoring a senior student, please contact Ms. Hayes at 201-327-8700 x544 or hayesk@northernhighlands.org.

Highlands Student Named #1 Trumpet in Country



During the 2018–19 school year, Ryan Yu (11th Grade) received multiple top ensemble placements at the County, Region, and All State Level. Ryan will now join the National Association for Music Education 2019 All National Honors Symphony Orchestra November 7–10, 2019, at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Ryan auditioned successfully and was named 1st Trumpet, the highest placing trumpet part in the entire country! Ryan is from Allendale and has been playing Trumpet since the 4th grade. Ryan is very involved with the Northern Highlands Music Department and has performed with the Symphonic Band, Honors Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Musical Pit Orchestra. Last year, Ryan was a featured soloist with the Northern Highlands Honors Wind Ensemble on the piece Bugler's Holiday, a piece which he performed in our concerts, at the Field Museum in Chicago, IL on the department trip, and with The Teaneck Community Band this past summer.

The All-National Honor Ensembles performers represent collaboration and creativity in its highest musical form. The All National Symphony Orchestra will be comprised of 121 instrumentalists respectively. Congratulations to Ryan on this prestigious accomplishment! Ryan is shown above with Northern Highlands Band Director Kyle Kubicki.

A New and Improved Option II . . . Introducing Career & Academic Pathways

We have a new name! Career & Academic Pathways or Pathways for short -- formerly known as Option II -- includes educational experiences not offered in a typical classroom. They include:

- Senior Internships (half-day, afternoons, summer) - grade 12
- Independent Study - grade 12
- Online College and Seated College Classes - grades 10-12
- Community Service - grades 9-12
- Wellness Education - grades 9-12

If interested in any of our programs, please visit our school website under Our School → Career & Academic Pathways or contact the Career & Academic Pathways Coordinator, Ms. Kim Hayes, at hayesk@northernhighlands.org; 201-327-8700 x544.



DECA Updates

In April 2019, the Northern Highlands DECA Chapter traveled to Orlando, Florida to compete at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC). Each year there are 5,000 to 10,000 students that compete at their local conferences. A limited number of students then advance to their respective state or national conferences. Only a select few are chosen for the International Conference. To be a First Place, Top 10, or Finalist (i.e., top 20) at this level of competition is truly remarkable!



Please join us in congratulating our students who received awards and top honors.

First Place OVERALL: (#1 among about 10,000 students):
Kevin McNerney and Mark Puig in Financial Services Team Decision Making.

Ranking in the Top 10 OVERALL:
Meghan Cornacchia in Principles of Business Management & Administration.

Ranking in the Top 20 OVERALL:
Serena Huang & Juliana Schmid in Financial Services Team Decision Making & Kiara Crasto in Human Resources Management.

The students who received highest scores in their divisions/flights for the written test portion of their respective events were: Alexander Bildner in Quick Serve Restaurant Management, Meghan Cornacchia in Principles of Business Management & Administration and Anatalia Sosinsky in Business Services Marketing.

The students who received highest scores in their divisions/flights for the role play portion of their respective events were: Kevin McNerney and Mark Puig in Financial Services Team Decision Making & Emily Bookstaver and Macie Moran in Integrated Marketing Campaign – Event.

Northern Highlands Website Updated

During the summer, Northern Highlands updated our website. In addition to making the website more user friendly, multiple areas were added to the site to ensure the public gets the most out of their experience.

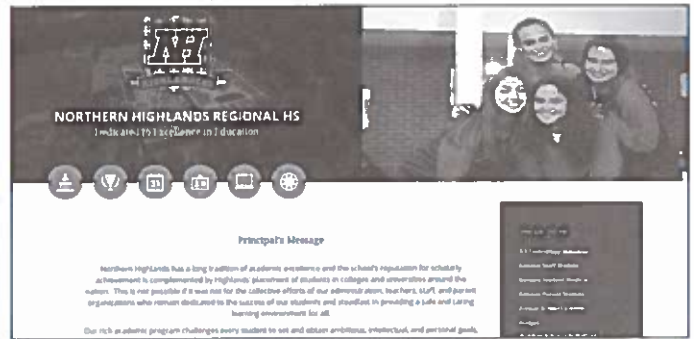
New information included in the new site includes:

A Potential Resident Page. In this section potential residents will find information on Northern Highlands and our 4 communities. Information includes areas such as multiple photo galleries of our programs and facilities, access to our school reports, enrollment forms (for both residents and tuition students), an archive of community newsletters and information about our communities.

An Alumni Page. In this section alumni can access information such as transcripts, submit alumni good news, view upcoming alumni events, view class photos, view graduation programs as well as view actual graduation footage.

In addition, access to student/parents portals for items such as Genesis, Canvas and Payforit were modified to make them more easily accessible.

Northern Highlands website may be accessed at NorthernHighlands.org



Building A Collective Vision & Mission

This year our District has set a goal to review our mission and vision statements. Our current mission and vision statement were last reviewed over two decades ago.

Our purpose for choosing this goal is to reinvigorate our school community by providing it with a renewed sense of purpose which will guide our practices for many years to come. To make this process a success, we need your help. Go to our school website at www.northernhighlands.org and click on the "Vision & Mission Statement" headline to access a short survey on your beliefs about our district so that we can consider your thoughts while developing this new vision and mission for our district.

Thank you in advance for your time and participation in this important initiative.



Local
Postal Customer

Secretary to the Board of Education

Business Administrator/

James Davis

Superintendent

Dr. Scot Beckerman

Emily Kaufman, Saddle River Representative

Dr. Sheila Yallowitz

Robert C. Wei

Ellen Marie Walsh

Carl Trumbetti

Ann Pagano

James Mulanaphy

Anne Coddard

Barbara Camand

Christine Ferraric, Vice President

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Board of Education

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Northern Highlands Regional High School District

the highlands report

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