



The School Sounding Board

From the Principal's Desk

Guess what? Bet you didn't realize that the summer vacation is over. School has started again. Summer vacation once upon a time started in mid-May and lasted until the very end of August or first of September. This year the whole break was from June 4th through until August 17th (74 days).

Our fall sports have all started and practices have begun. I would encourage any student to find something that you like and join. Research tells us that students who are actively involved in school are better students and have fewer problems. The students learn to manage their time, prioritize issues and they are associated with peers who will be friends for life. Whether it be sports or band or another organization involvement is important.

Another critical component is parents. Just because a student is now in high school does not make them independent or able to make all their own decisions. If parents are actively involved with their children research findings will tell you that the student is far more likely to graduate and be successful academically.

Here is to having a GREAT 2011-2012 school year. Hope to see you often. Kelly Simpson

Random Drug Testing at North Harrison High School

We started Random Drug Testing spring of 2010 at North Harrison High School. Our pilot test group was our spring athletes. Of the 37 students tested and 4 staff members only two tested positive. The two positive tests were for tobacco and both students admitted to smokeless tobacco usage. Both students served their consequences and tested negative two weeks later. A 95% success rate was achieved.

This past year we expanded the pool to include our student drivers, extracurricular activity participants and athletes. We tested 4-16 students during any one testing sample. The students were very cooperative and there was only one student who refused to take a test. The results were encouraging. We've tested 154 students and 150 came back to us negative for any signs of drug usage. Of the 4 students who have returned positive results, three were for tobacco and one was marijuana. The one for marijuana had tested positive twice. That is 97% rate of abstinence among our current pool of students.

Last year the testing was funded by Harrison County Community Foundation. This year the Harrison County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition has agreed to fund our program. At this point, it appears that the program is working as a deterrent and that was the goal. This success is not a destination but a journey so we want this trend to continue.

Volume 3, Issue 1, Date August 26th, 2011

Newsletter Spotlight

The newsletter is being designed to give parents information, timelines and deadlines of events and scheduled activities. We hope to highlight an organization each month and still be informative and helpful.

The Harrison County Chamber of Commerce sponsors a program to honor educators from Harrison County. This past summer Mr. Simpson was named the Harrison County Administrator of the Year. This honor really goes to the school as a whole, students, teachers and staff. People do not notice when good things happen.



The School Sounding Board

North Harrison High School Guidance Website:
www.nhcs.k12.in.us/nhhs/guidance

kstone@nhcs.k12.in.us jhuffman@nhcs.k12.in.us

[Counselor students M-Z](#) [Counselor students A-L](#)

FAFSA forms must be received by March 10, 2011 to qualify for state aid.

There are numerous scholarship applications on the counseling website. It would be advisable to check them out and see which ones your student might be eligible to apply.

Introducing our New Staff

Mr. Greg Burton arrived late last spring to coach football and to teach in our special education department. His experience coaching includes stops at Edinburgh, Madison and Bourbon County, Ky.

Mrs. Martha Maeir-Tillquist comes to North Harrison High School by way of New Albany High School where she taught German. Although she is licensed to teach German; she is currently teaching Geometry and Algebra II which she taught as an associate professor in college in Arizona. She lives in our school district and her two children attend Morgan Elementary. Her husband is a professor at IUS.

Mrs. Stephanie Richardson joins NHHS from Charlestown where she taught English and directed the drama department. Stephanie replaces Mr. Hal Pearson who has become our Athletic Director. I am sure all four of these individuals will enhance our school.

Volume 3, Issue 1, Date
 August 12, 2011

People in our news!

Mr. John Malone has returned to school this year. His physical therapy was completed in late June. In coming back to school, John wanted to express his sincere thanks to everyone and especially his students. He looking forward to a great school year.

Overcome Test Anxiety

Nobody likes to take tests. And some students get what is called "test anxiety." They are so worried about taking the test that they can't show what they know.

Telling your student, "Just relax" won't work. Instead, share these tips:

1. **Don't cram.** A good night's sleep is more important than an extra hour of studying. Studies show that last minute cramming doesn't work.
2. **Read the directions carefully.**
3. **Look the test over quickly.** Before answering any questions, skim quickly through the test. Figure out how much time to spend on each section.
4. **Don't be afraid to skip a question.** Don't waste time worrying about a question you can't answer. Instead, go ahead to the questions you know you can answer. If there is time, go back to the items you skipped.
5. **Remember past tests** where you did well. You can do well again!



The School Sounding Board

**Volume 3, Issue 1, Date
August 26, 2011**

A Schoolwide, Proactive Approach to Discipline

Just the Facts

- “Behavior support is connected to the broader concern of improving academic success. There is more time to teach when the frequency and intensity of discipline problems are reduced.
- The approach used by these schools to maintain high standards of behavior can be described by two words- - - schoolwide and proactive.
- Schools that take a schoolwide approach invest time and attention in developing expectations for behavior— - - as well as consequences for misbehavior that apply in every classroom and in all public settings. NHHS has very few public incidents because our students understand our expectations.
- “A proactive approach can be summarized in three words: structure for success.” To build a proactive approach, we look at what we are asking of our students and how we ask them to do what we want. We try to solve problems before they foster misbehavior. Positive approach involves constructive, encouraging, and affirming interactions between students and staff members..... Overall, the message we want to give our students is, “We really like you guys, but you don’t run the place.”
- Acknowledging appropriate behavior and student recognition help develop traits that are wanted. Consequences alone will not change the problem behavior.
- “The defining feature of a proactive schoolwide discipline plan is the focus on schoolwide behavior expectations.
- “Well—disciplined schools tend to be those in which there is a schoolwide emphasis on the importance of learning and an intolerance of conditions which inhibit learning.
- We know the schoolwide discipline requires sustained use of effective classroom and behavior management practices by teachers, staff members and families. NHHS has terrific teachers, staff members and families that want their students to learn and be successful. A student’s education can only be achieved when all those factors are working together for the good of all.
- That is why NHHS is a great school.