



# The School Sounding Board

## From the Principal's Desk

### Remember My First Newsletter and DOE "Fuzzy Math"?

Even though I knew it would eventually make headline news. I never expected it to be on the front page of the Louisville Courier Journal on the day more people pick up the paper than any other day! In the Thanksgiving Day edition of the paper, it was announced that NHHS was an under achieving school and was a candidate for state takeover.

Needless to say, on Thanksgiving Day that comment as well as the article, provided me with indigestion for the rest of that break. First it bothered me that the reporter didn't get all the information and secondly the timing.

What was neglected to be mentioned was that the grades given were for "improvement" from 8th grade to 10th grade and NOT for achievement. We had struggled for a couple of years in a row prior to receiving grades. A combination of things contributed to the lower grades, the wind storm, a new test, raised standards and the reality that students were expected to pass English 10 and Algebra I to graduate. Believe me when students get serious and graduation is in doubt, normally they perform better.

Anyway, the NHHS score overall was 78.1% and we received a D while many other high schools in the area scored lower but received higher grades because they improved more than we did but achieved much less. One school scored 58% and received an A while a couple of other schools scored in the low 70's and received C's all lower than us.

This isn't to say we cannot improve because like anything else, if you work hard and stay focused you can improve and we intend to do so. However, 78% isn't a failing school in anyone's book but the DOE. That isn't an excuse just the facts.

We are currently looking at different things that we might do to improve. Your trust is not misplaced. The high school is working hard to raise improvement percentages as well as achievement scores. We will do everything possible to give your student every chance to be successful in school as well as life.

This is our community high school and it will take everyone to assist our students to become all they can be!

Volume 3, Issue 5, Date  
December 15th, 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.

**North Harrison High School Drama Club presented "And Then There Were None", December 1st, 3rd and 4th in the high school auditoria.**

**This was the first production by Mrs. Stephanie Richardson and it was very good. Although not a huge cast of characters, the following students should be commended for their hard work.**

**Josh French, Sarah Davidson, Chace Avery, Hannah Bunnell, William George, Taylor Washer, Jamie Flock, Taihjeem Denney, William Cody Martin, Deanna Colins, Cheyenne Hill, Rachel Becher, Zac Jenkins, Jessica Scharrer, Justin Davis, Luke Shumaker, Brooklyn Sanders, Hannah Elliot and Josh Washer.**

**Plus the musical talents of the following students:**

**Megan McDaniel, Jerry Boyd, Olivia Davis and Allison Blesset, Derrick Roll, Christian Briscoe, Jazmyn Lowe, and Victoria Risley.**

**GREAT JOB!**



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**North Harrison High School Guidance Website:**  
[www.nhcs.k12.in.us/nhhs/guidance](http://www.nhcs.k12.in.us/nhhs/guidance)

[kstone@nhcs.k12.in.us](mailto:kstone@nhcs.k12.in.us)     [jhuffman@nhcs.k12.in.us](mailto:jhuffman@nhcs.k12.in.us)

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

Scholarship information can be found at [www.hccfindiana.org](http://www.hccfindiana.org), <http://www.nhcs.k12.in.us/nhhs/guidance/scholar/default.asp>, and the Paul Ogle at [www.cfsouthernindiana.com](http://www.cfsouthernindiana.com)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be accessed Jan. 1st at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Submission deadline is March 10th although some colleges have an earlier deadline.

### A defense of knowledge-Classic education creates versatility

The IU Dean of Arts and Sciences, Larry Singell, Jr. makes the following observations.

“When times are uncertain or when there is a significant amount of change, it’s the general human capital that allows you to respond to economic changes. If you look at the job market today, fifty percent of the jobs did not exist twenty years ago. It’s impossible to prepare for those types of jobs by going to get a trade. What you need to do is to learn how to think logically, communicate clearly, act creatively, and live ethically—all those things that a liberal arts education helps you to do,” explains the dean, who is an economist.

“Both trade schools and a broad-based education will serve you well and keep you comfortable in good times, but wide knowledge functions as ‘armour’ in bad times, because you can adapt and change to the changing situations. This armour is something that you don’t get if you specialize in a particular craft.”

A high school diploma on the low average will have a huge financial impact over a life time of earning power. Parents, you have to expect your student to graduate and don’t let the present impact their future.

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### People in our news!

Our winter activities are doing great. The swimming and basketball teams have all won some contests, Drumline and winter guard have been practicing. They will start their competition seasons after break. Come out and support all the activities. Thanks

### Did You Know?

**I am guessing but I will bet that most parents didn’t know that we have a problem with tobacco and alcohol usage in our 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grades. As a corporation we have our students take a survey so that we can compare statistics locally, statewide and nationally.**

**What we are finding is that between the 7th and 10th grade our students are experimenting with cigarettes and alcohol to excess in comparison to the rest of our state and nationally.**

Grade	Drug	Local %	State %
7th	tobacco	22%	13%
	alcohol	40%	26%
8th	tobacco	31%	20%
	alcohol	59%	38%
10th	tobacco	41%	32%
	alcohol	63%	55%

**Both of these drugs are bad for your health and well being. Parents are the anti-drug system that works. Ask who, when, where and what and don’t be hesitant to check breath or pockets. If we want a better life for our children, it starts at home.**

**Talk to your children about the dangers.**



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The end of the first semester is upon us. NHHS will be giving semester exams on Dec. 20th periods 2-4-6, and on Dec. 21st periods 1-3-5-7. The semester exam will count 20% of every students semester grade so they are important! Parents ask your student if they've studied, finished their study guides and prepared for the test.

So before starting Christmas break, check Harmony. See how your student is doing. Talk to them about how important semester exams are. Explain that eating properly and getting enough sleep will affect their mental alertness. Then, after they finished the exams, have a wonderful and safe holiday.

### Parental Information

#### PERTUSSIS (Whooping Cough)

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a very contagious and can cause serious illness in infants, children and adults.

Symptoms: The disease starts like the common cold, with runny nose or congestion, sneezing, and maybe a mild cough or fever. After 1-2 weeks, severe coughing can begin.

Unlike the common cold, pertussis can become a series of coughing fits that continues for weeks. Pertussis can cause violent and rapid coughing, over and over, until the air is gone from the lungs and you are forced to inhale with a loud "whooping" sound.

How Pertussis spreads: People with pertussis usually spread the disease by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others, who then breathe in the pertussis bacteria.

Preventing Pertussis: It is recommended you check the immunization status of all family members and make sure they are up-to-date for DTaP (a pertussis containing vaccine for persons less than 7 years of age) or Tdap (a pertussis booster vaccine for persons 10-64 years of age). Your healthcare provider or the Harrison County Health Department (phone 812-738-3237) should be able to assist you in determining if vaccination is needed for any of your family members.

On a side note: Flu shots are effective in most cases. If the vaccination doesn't prevent the flu it will make it a much milder episode than if you haven't had the vaccine. Prevention is best but having a milder form would be better than getting seriously sick. The flu is spread so easily in schools that once there is an out break it usually goes through a whole class. It isn't too late to get some prevention.

**The purpose of North Harrison High School is for every student to successfully complete their high school educational plan!**

## Condolences

On behalf of the entire high school, students and staff, our thoughts and prayers go out the families of Katie Nelson and Nick Mills.

Nick died early Sunday morning, December 11th. He was 17 years old and a junior at NHHS. He was the son of Jeffrey and Vashti Mills and sisters, Kirsten Hartman a freshman at NHHS and Lilly K. J. Mills.

Visitation is a Love Funeral Home in Palmyra on Thursday, Dec. 15th from 3-8 p.m. and after 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16th with the funeral at 5 p.m. on Friday.

Katie died around 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 11th, also, she was on her way to work. She was an 18 year old senior. Katie was the daughter of Scott and Suzanne Nelson, brother Ryan Nelson a middle school student at NHMS and a sister, Megan R. Dunn.

Visitation is at Swarens Funeral Home in Ramsey on Tuesday, Dec. 13th from 3-8 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 14th from noon—8 p.m. and after 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15th prior to her funeral at 11:00 a.m.

Students will be allowed to miss school for visitation or funeral with parent permission and notes signed accordingly. Please be thoughtful of the parents and families.