

## February 2014

### ***Gerald Rasler, Principal***

#### Minimum or Maximize

While the winter is making a strong statement by leaving our area with what most of us think is way more than our share of snow and far below freezing temperatures, right now is the time for our students at NHS to be thinking of the hot days of August 2014. The reason: students are in the process of selecting courses for the 2014/2015 school year and once they have submitted their choices, they are committed to these classes come August and for the school year.

NO CHANGES IN COURSE SELECTION WILL BE ALLOWED FOR NEXT FALL. It is important for students to discuss the course choices with their parents now for planning. NHS administration and guidance staff will plan teacher schedules and material needs based on the current student course requests. Now is the only chance for students and parents to guide the course choices for the 2014/2015 school year.

So why is the principal using the title "Minimum or Maximize" for this article. I am addressing this issue because too often students and parents look at course offerings with the mind set of "what is the least I have to do to get by." I want to remind students and parents that high school is the last opportunity to take classes for very little cost. (I wish I could say no cost.) Why not try something new in addition to the required curriculum? There are many choices: Nutrition, Music, Art, Personal Fitness, Industrial Tech, and more. Sometimes interests are found once a student begins to experiment in a new area. Also in the next couple of years, new opportunities will become available in Early College courses right here at NHS with more opportunities for college credit at little or no cost.

So as your principal, I challenge you to broaden your vision for course opportunities. Do not dismiss trying other opportunities that are available without some serious consideration.

As your principal, I welcome your comments concerning Northridge High School and its programs. Suggestions for improvements are always welcome. Call me at 825-2142 or email me at [raslerg@mcsin-k12.org](mailto:raslerg@mcsin-k12.org)



### **Dates to Remember**

#### **February**

- 15 Choral Invitational
- 17 Presidents Day - School IS in session
- 18 School Board Meeting 4:00 PM
- 18-20 Dollars for Scholars Phone-a-thon

#### **March**

- 1 Semi-Formal 8:00 PM
- 4 School Board Meeting 4:00 PM
- 7 ACT Registration Date
- 8 SAT Test Date
- 14 Optimist's Trivia Night
- 18 School Board Meeting 4:00 PM
- 19 Winter Sports Awards 7:00 PM
- 20 End of 3rd Quarter
- 21 No School
- 26 Book Rental Due
- 29 Band Pancake Breakfast

#### **April**

- 7-11 Spring Break
- 12 ACT Test Date
- 15 School Board Meeting 4:00 PM
- 18 Good Friday - No School
- 22 Academic Super Bowl - Area
- 25 NR Hosts Band ISSMA Contest
- 26 Prom

### **STAY UP TO DATE**



us at: [www.facebook.com/nhsraiders](http://www.facebook.com/nhsraiders)

## Guidance Department News

### Juniors Taking College Entrance Tests

It is time for all Juniors to make plans to register and take either the ACT or the SAT test by the end of this school year. These tests are administered on designated Saturdays throughout the winter and spring. Juniors, and their parents, should check their personal schedules alongside the testing schedules to try to find an appropriate date. It is very important to have these test scores as the student begins to apply to colleges next fall. If the student is dissatisfied with the scores this spring, the student will then have an opportunity to retest early next year. Test dates and registration deadlines are listed in student handbooks, the Guidance Office, and On Slate publications.

### College Visits

For students and parents, Spring Break is a great time to complete a college visit. If planning a vacation perhaps on the way to or from the vacation site the family could stop and chat with the college representatives.

It is always best to call ahead and schedule an appointment. For those staying in the Middlebury area for the week, arrangements could be made for a visit throughout the week. The guidance department would recommend a campus tour, visiting with both admissions and financial aid representatives.

### Graduation to Stay as Planned Rehearsal to be Moved

Attention all seniors and family members / friends of those participating in graduation - - Despite the numerous snow days that we have had during this very extraordinary winter, graduation will remain on June 8th at 3:30 as planned. However, the graduation rehearsal will be moved from Thursday, June 5th to Friday, June 6th at 9:30 AM. All seniors participating in the graduation ceremony must attend the rehearsal.

### Senior Happenings

Each senior will receive 8 tickets for graduation. These will be dispersed in May.

Graduation rehearsal has been re-scheduled for Friday, June 6th at 9:30. Make sure you have this day open and available. It is MANDATORY for participation in graduation.

Any questions regarding graduation should be sent to Mrs. Smeltzer-the senior class sponsor [smeltzera@mcsin-k12.org](mailto:smeltzera@mcsin-k12.org)

### Junior Class of 2015 Fundraiser

The Junior Class is selling "discount cards" as their fundraiser for Prom and future graduation. The cards are sponsored by ten different area businesses, offering various discounts. Cards are reusable and will cost \$10. Please consider purchasing one of our \$10 cards to enjoy, while supporting the Class of 2015.

**WHO CALLS GOSHEN COLLEGE HOME?**

**KAYLA AND 950+ DIVERSE STUDENTS**

An American Sign Language interpreting major from Monroe, Ind., Kayla is a natural communicator. At Goshen College, she's gaining more and more experience every day, and using her hands to change the world.

**MAKE IT YOUR HOME, TOO**

Great financial aid is still available! Schedule your visit and learn more about Kayla and your future classmates at [www.goshen.edu](http://www.goshen.edu).

**GOSHEN COLLEGE**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Student Emails</b></p> <p>Starting this semester, NHS students have an active MCS email. This is an exciting change for our school and many advantages have already been realized in the short time students have had them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students receive the daily announcements by email each day; this is something students have requested. Even if they are absent or not present in the building at the time of the televised announcements (such as with career center students), they will still be able to keep up with important information and events.</li> <li>- Teachers have been able to communicate with their students in a more unified manner. It is much easier for teachers to email their students – especially those who have a course on Moodle. Teachers report communicating with their students is much easier and more effective now.</li> <li>- Collaboration using Google Docs is much easier and useful for classroom activities with the school managed emails.</li> <li>- With all the delays and snow days this winter teachers have been able to keep their students informed of classroom activity changes. Students receive an email when their laptop is ready to pick up after a repair.</li> <li>- Counselors, Principals, and other staff can much more efficiently communicate with students and keeping them up-to-date with important information.</li> </ul> <p>For those students who don't have an MCS email, it is important that they share that information with their teachers who will work them to keep them on alternative communication methods. In addition, there are other ways for students without and MCS email to stay current with information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be sure to pay attention to announcements at school.</li> <li>- Check your Moodle courses regularly for any announcements shown on that page when you are absent.</li> <li>- Find an e-mail buddy who will let you know when a special announcement comes via email. Having a fellow classmate that does have email agree to let you know about special announcements is much</li> </ul>	<p>like what students/friends already do with and for each other when one misses a class (“can I borrow your notes?”, or “what did we do today in class?” or “when is that project due again?”). This is a great way to develop the skill of resourcefulness.</p> <p>It is important for students to learn that they need to use their MCS email. By providing and utilizing a school generated email for students NHS is able to teach our students about other important life skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Having a “professional” email account separate from their personal account. In a 24/7 society, the line between professional and personal business can often be blurred. The student MCS account is for their professional school business and should not be used for personal message exchanges. And, as with professional accounts, the student MCS accounts are monitored for appropriateness and archived by MCS. As a reminder, the following message is attached automatically to the end of every email sent by students: <i>By pressing "send" on this email, I acknowledge that this is not my personal email account, and that any emails I send or receive belong in whole or in part to Middlebury Community Schools, and that I am expected to conform to the behavioral standards of Northridge High School. This includes emails that engage in activity recognized as cyberbullying.</i></li> <li>- Being responsible for checking their “professional” email and staying informed. Students are expected to check their NHS email on a regular basis. Just as an employer would not be expected to send an email, text, or tweet to the personal account of an employee (rather than to their work email), neither will the NHS staff to our students. Communication is a partnership and it is important for students to be responsible receptors of information.</li> <li>- Professional communication skills. Commonly, the manner in which we communicate with our friends and family in personal emails is much different than how we communicate professionally; our word choice, syntax, and even the use of color and/or images may be much more casual (LOL, BTW, ... need I say more?). These school emails allow us to module and educate students on how to communicate both informally and formally depending on the situation.</li> </ul> <p>As with the implementation of such a large scale program, giving everyone time to become accustomed to using this new avenue of communication takes time, training and encouragement. Although</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued on P.4</i></p>
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most students have already accessed their email account some are still struggling. Student emails are managed through the MCS Google Apps for Education account. There is a quick link on the NHS student links homepage to be able to login.

Additionally, directions for adding the MCS account to an existing personal gmail account (so they can toggle back and forth) will be on the student links site as well (under FAQs). Also, announcement tips and other on-site assistance are offered to students who need help getting started with their email. Another component is working with the teachers and staff on accessing, managing, and using student emails efficiently and effectively. Finally, as we find technical issues they are addressed and resolved.

Student emails have already proven to be a positive asset to our high school curriculum and we look forward to maximizing their use in the future.

### **Semi-Formal Rescheduled**

The high school semi-formal Fire and Ice has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 1 in the high school cafeteria. Tickets will go on sale February 17th during all lunch periods. Tickets are \$10 each and must be purchased in advance of the dance.

Out of school guests must be approved before tickets may be purchased. Students should listen to announcements for further details.

### **2013-2014 Yearbooks for Sale**

Order your 2013-2014 yearbook now! As of February 28th, the price of the 2013-2014 yearbook will increase to \$70.00. Be sure to order now during this limited time prior to the price increase. You may order the yearbook for the current school year, 2013-2014, by either picking up an order form available in the front office and returning it with payment or going online to the Northridge High School website and clicking on Jostens.

Do you have a special senior student? Honor their accomplishments by placing a senior baby ad in the 2013-14 yearbook. For further information or any questions, contact Amy Miller, Yearbook Advisor, at 825-2142 or [schnicka@mcsin-k12.org](mailto:schnicka@mcsin-k12.org). Order now and save!

### **Optimist's Trivia Night**

The Middlebury Breakfast Optimist club is sponsoring a Trivia Night Fundraiser March 14 from 6-9 pm in the NHS cafeteria.

\$10 per person to play. The winning team wins \$250. Concessions will be available. Money will be donated to Dollars for Scholars and other projects to support Middlebury kids. Registration forms are available in the front office of NHS or call 825-2142 ext. 5217 and request an email copy. Registration forms and money are due by March 10th. Let's have some fun while supporting Dollars for Scholars and other projects for kids. See insert for more information.

### **NHS Hosts Choral Invitational**

The Northridge High School Choral Department hosted their 5th Annual Northridge Choral Invitational this past Saturday, February 15th in the Northridge Performing Arts Center. Twenty choirs throughout Indiana competed and the event came off as a huge success! Middle school and high school show choirs along with high school concert choirs performed in addition to a Solo Competition held in the Library with the Grand Champion Soloist performing at the Finals competition in the evening. Show Choirs performed to qualify for the ISSMA State Show Choir Finals held in Indianapolis on March 22nd.

Over 500 students performed on Saturday with around 3,000 people in attendance participating, helping with, and watching the event. These students have spent countless hours in rehearsal perfecting vocal and visual skills! Best of luck to the NHS choirs as they continue in their competition season!



## Northridge Athletics

For all the latest up-to-date Northridge Athletic Information please visit our website:

<http://www.NorthridgeAthletics.com>

### Northridge Boys and Girls Basketball...along with Boys Swimming and Diving are NLC Champions!

For the 1st time in Northridge basketball history the boys and girls are NLC Champions. The boys finished with a perfect 7-0 record and the girls with a 6-1 record. This was our 1st ever conference championship for the girls. Boys swimming and diving finished with a perfect 7-0 record and victory in the NLC conference meet. Great job all-around for all our winter sport teams. Good luck in the post season.

Spring Sport Parent Meeting – March 6 in the NHS Auditorium @ 7pm.

#### Winter Sport Senior Nights:

Boys Basketball- Sat., Feb. 21, 2014

Winter Sport Award Night- Tuesday, March 18, 2014 7pm in the NHS Auditorium.

#### Upcoming Events Hosted by Northridge:

Boys Sectional Swimming on Feb. 20 & Feb. 22.

#### Spring Official Practice Start Dates:

B/G Track & Field- February 24

Softball- March 10

Girls Tennis- March 17

Boys Golf- March 17

Baseball- March 17



## Pennies for Patients Raffle

Pennies for Patients is a program sponsored by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and partners with Riley Hospital in Indianapolis. For the 5th year National Honor Society will be supporting this cause with a raffle to be held at the Lakeland boys' basketball game on Friday, February 21 in the Middle School Varsity Gym. Items to be raffled off have been donated by local merchants. All proceeds will be donated to Pennies for Patients. If there are merchants that have not been contacted and wish to donate an item for the raffle, please contact Ellen Augustine at the high school. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

### Raider Band Students Flying High

Sam Meier and Andrew Berkey have been selected to perform with the Indiana All-State Band on Sunday, March 16 at Purdue University. Over 750 musicians auditioned for the 88 spots available in this top ensemble.

High school band school solo and ensemble results.

#### Group I Solos earning a "Gold" rating and qualifying for State.

Libby Grossman, Sam Meier, Mark Stringfellow, Abbie French, Sam Meier, Andrew Berkey, Tristan Swihart

#### Solos earning a "Gold" rating

Kaitlin Stephens, Alia Alailima, Laura Black, Sydney Fogel, Kassidy Farley, Nick Tibbs, Bradley Swank, Nick Blough, Tristan Swihart, Andrew Maas

#### Ensembles earning a "Gold" rating.

- PERCUSSION: Jonathan Black, Logan Berkey, Nathan Story, Austin Abrams, Davison Emery, Cheyenne Petty  
- FLUTE: Libby Grossman, Madison Smucker, Kaitlin Stephens, Allison Lantz  
- PERCUSSION: Abigail Bache, Lauren Jennings, Tristan Swihart  
- CLARINET: Kayla Perrine, Wendy Weaver, Aria Salisbury, Imani Warner  
- TROMBONE: Nick Blough, JJ Webber, Bradley Swank

The Northridge Winter Guard finished 3rd place out of 17 schools competing at the Heritage Winter Guard Invitational.

## **Science Olympiad**

### **Changing the Face of Science at NHS**

Science Olympiad has been changing the face of science education for 30 years. What began as a competition between science teachers and their students and has blossomed into a national competition that competes across the country. Science Olympiad provides standard based challenges to nearly 7,000 teams in 50 states. The events directly relate to the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiatives that have been created to better our students.

The events range from building activities where participants create a vehicle that would have to perform certain tasks to creating a Rube Goldberg device. Other events include astronomy, anatomy, earth and science activities, and forensics. Almost every field of science is represented in Science Olympiad. Each team can have up to 15 participants and they compete in 23 different events. The scoring system is simple; those who do the best in the competition get 1<sup>st</sup> place. Once all events have been completed, the rankings are added up and lowest number wins the competition.

Northridge High School currently has three teams and the middle school has two. Our teams have traveled to invitationals in Indiana and Michigan with the objective of competing against other schools. Northridge High School won the Kellogg Thornapple Invitational in Middleville, Michigan, on February 8<sup>th</sup>. They competed against some of the top schools in Michigan. The teams will be traveling to West Liberty Salem High school in Ohio on March 1 where some of the best teams in the nation will compete. Northridge High School and Northridge Middle school have already have had their regional tournament to qualify for state. The middle school came in second in the Goshen College Regional tournament earning a place at the state tournament at IU Bloomington on March 22. The high school competed at the IPFW Regional tournament and came in first place, also qualifying for the state tournament.

The students, coaches, and volunteers put long hours of studying and preparation to become the best that they can be. The best part is that the students truly enjoy the competition knowing that they can be the best in the state.

The top two teams in the state will move on to the National Competition at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. In 2011, the Northridge High School won the state tournament and traveled to the University of Wisconsin to take on the best of the nation. The team came in 22nd, which was great achievement! Best of luck to all the students and coaches participating in upcoming Science Olympiad tournaments, you represent our school and community well!



# The Middlebury Breakfast Optimist's Club Presents:

## *Trivia Night*

**To Benefit Dollars for Scholars, Boys and Girls Club of Middlebury  
And Several Other Programs for the Youth of Our Community**

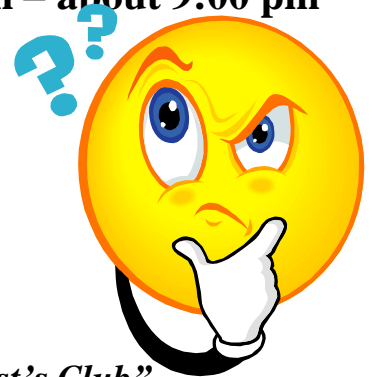
**WIN \$250 cash**

**When: Friday, March 14, 2013 From: 6:00 pm – about 9:00 pm**

**Where: Northridge High School Cafeteria**

**Cost : \$10 per person to play trivia, or  
\$100 per table for a team of 10\*\***

*~\*\*There are 40 Tables Available on a  
"First Come/First Serve Basis"*



### **Register As Follows:**

1. Complete the Registration Form below,
2. Make check(s) payable to **"Middlebury Breakfast Optimist's Club"**,
3. Return Completed Registration Form (along with a check(s) for full payment)  
To the Northridge High School Front office in an envelope labeled:  
***"Trivia Night c/o Dawn Jones"***

**Or**

**Mail Completed Registration Form (along with full payment check) to:**

**Optimist Trivia Night**

**Attn: Dawn Jones**

**56779 Northridge Drive**

**Middlebury, IN 46540**

**Questions: Please Call Dawn: 825-2142 Ext 5217**

**\*\*\*\*Please Note: Deadline: March 14, 2014**

**Concession Will Be Available for Purchase-**

**~\*~OUTSIDE FOOD OR BEVERAGES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED!!!~\*~**

~~~~~ Cut Here ~~~~~

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Spots for the Trivia Night, (@\$10 per person) Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Table(s) for the Trivia Night, (@\$100 per table) Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am **NOT** able to attend, but enclosed is my donation for: Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Email for confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



### ***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.

Northridge High School  
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## **Northridge H.S. Newsletter**



**February Issue**



# **ON SLATE**