



# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

North Branford High School

September, 2011

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you to the NBHS 2011-12 school year and thank you for your cooperation at the onset of the school year with hurricane Irene causing many adjustments in all of our schedules.

This past summer, many improvements have occurred at NBHS regarding upgrades to the facility and the classrooms. Thirteen Smartboards were installed in classrooms. With these additional boards installed, nearly every classroom at NBHS has a Smartboard, including our library. A Smartboard is a wall-mounted, multi-media, interactive board that is connected to the teachers' computers. As a teaching tool, teachers can present information and material to the students in an interactive format. Material and information such as graphs, documents, charts, maps, and video can be displayed on the board. Also in the area of technology, NBHS will include two information boards, similar to the ones used at Jerome Harrison School, to communicate information to students, to display student work and to use as a means to recognize students, clubs and teams. One information board will be located in the main lobby and the other in the café – during the summer, prep work was completed with the monitors to be delivered and mounted early this fall.

New programming and courses at NBHS have begun this fall including: The Project Lead the Way Program, a nationally recognized pre-engineering program, Automotive Introductory Class, Latin, and Future Problem Solvers, a nationally recognized program for Gifted and Talented students. Additionally, some of our most talented and driven students are now taking courses at Yale University during or after school.

The NBHS Greenhouse continues to be used as a teaching station for our Environmental Science classes for lab experiments, along with our Life Skills program completing learning activities within the greenhouse and our field adjacent to the campus. The NBHS Interact Club and members of the senior class who are completing senior Independent Performance Projects staff the green house and field as needed with planting season and harvest time the busiest times of the fall, winter and spring.

PBIS, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support is a framework we introduced during the 2010-11 school year with much success. PBIS focuses on positive school culture with specific behavior expectations outlined for students for all areas of the building including classrooms, hallways, and the café. Staff may submit recognition slips when observing students meeting the outlined expectations and acknowledge the students with brief conversation reinforcing the expected behavior. PBIS strengthens the rapport that exists between staff and students.

The Advisory Meeting Program has continued this school year at NBHS. Advisory meets on Fridays in place of homeroom with students assigned to one faculty member in groups of 12-15 by grade level. The purpose of Advisory is to provide students with another adult at school who they may connect with and to provide students with school-related information in small groups. An example of this is our efforts in introducing and continuing with PBIS, the aforementioned program. The PBIS framework was introduced to the students during Advisory meetings as well as follow-up agendas that reinforce the concepts associated with PBIS. Some Advisory meeting agendas are grade specific such as the Grade 10 Advisory meeting agendas during February focusing on CAPT testing information. As you may know, all grade 10 students in the state of Connecticut complete CAPT testing during March, annually. Thus, some agendas for Advisory are common to all grades, while other agendas are designed based upon the needs of each grade level.

Todd Stoeffler, NBHS Principal

## News from the Guidance Department

### **Important Information for Seniors**

- **College Planning Night** was held on September 14<sup>th</sup> in the Auditorium for all seniors and their parents to kick off the college application process. In addition, Senior Conferences are being held throughout October with students and parents to discuss individual plans and timelines. If you did not sign up or receive a letter with your student's conference time, please make sure you contact your child's counselor to schedule an appointment. Any senior who has not yet picked up their "purple folder" filled with important information regarding the college application process is reminded to come to the Guidance Office to pick it up.
- **Letters of Recommendation & Transcripts** – If your college applications require you to submit **letters of recommendation** from teachers and/or your school counselor, please remember to request your recommendations at least one month before the application deadline. It is important that you request that your **transcripts** be mailed to your colleges *at least* two weeks prior to the application deadline to ensure that they arrive on time.
- **Upcoming Dates to Remember**
  - December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00PM – Financial Aid Night
  - January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 & 7:00PM – FAFSA preparation workshop

### **PSAT & SAT**

This year, the PSAT will be administered during the school day on October 12<sup>th</sup> during the first two blocks of the day, from 7:35 – 10:35. All Sophomores and Juniors will be required to take the PSAT, at no cost to the student. Studies repeatedly show that students who have taken the PSAT at least one time prior to taking the SAT score higher on the SAT than those who have had no exposure to the test.

Students planning to take the SATs or ACTs this fall are reminded to be aware of registration deadlines. Go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to register, or pick up a paper copy of the registration form in the Guidance Office.

### **College Representatives**

Juniors and Seniors are encouraged to come down to Guidance to meet with visiting College Representatives. A calendar listing the colleges coming to NBHS is posted in the Guidance Office and is available on the NBHS Guidance Department website. Students must get a pass ahead of time if they would like to attend a college visit. Passes can be obtained from Mrs. Bognar.



## *Happenings at NBHS*



- Freshmen Orientation occurred on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the students started the day in the NB Auditorium. A motivational speaker addressed the class regarding character education topics and shared insightful reflections connected to teens' present day decisions. The students then met in small groups with upper classmen and reviewed their schedules, discussed PBIS, and processed the assembly. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Freshmen traveled to Deer Lake Outdoor Camp via bus and participated in various team building activities with facilitators at Deer Lake.
- Fall Sports meetings with student-athletes, parents, and coaches took place the opening week of school. The meetings were scheduled the prior week but were rescheduled due to the storm. The meetings focused on policies regarding eligibility and participation expectations for student-athletes. Student-athletes and their parents were required to sign forms that outlined the aforementioned information. We thank our parents for their flexibility with the multiple changes to the date of these meeting due to the storm.
- Homeroom News on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> included a segment on 9/11 that outlined the events occurring 10 years ago. Fire Chief William Seward III visited the school on this day and performed a musical selection dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives on 9/11.
- Homecoming is scheduled for 10/28 with a home football game scheduled vs Cromwell on 10/28 and the Homecoming Dance scheduled for 10/29.
- Term One at NBHS will close on 11/3 with report cards issued in Advisory on 11/11. Parent Conferences are scheduled on 11/15 from 7:00-9:00 pm and on 11/16 from 2:00 - 3:30 pm.