



THE NORTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

MESSAGE December 2013

North Central High School
MSD of Washington Township
1801 East 86th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46240
www.nchs.cc

Phone: 259-5301 Attendance: 259-5355 Fax: 259-5369 Guidance: 259-5346 Athletics: 259-5359

From the PTO . . .

There is nothing better than Open House to re-ignite the pride in our school. Few events combine students, teachers, administrators, coaches, staff and parents, all working together for a common cause. The result was an afternoon that could not help but fill you with Panther Pride! The school was teeming with over 100 students giving tours, while others proudly represented their clubs, sports, or performance groups. Teachers, administrators and coaches filled the gym, touting all the wonderful opportunities North Central has to offer, while parents voluntarily stepped up to help wherever they could. **NORTH CENTRAL ROCKED!**

PTO volunteers deserve a huge "Thank You!" for contributing so much to the day's success with their *countless* hours of planning. A heartfelt "Thanks" to every parent who devoted time before, during or after Open House to make our school shine. And a special "YOU ROCK!" to the front line - Peggy Conaway and Susan James - who helped make sure everything got done!

The online version of the "Panther Particulars" will be available soon. Watch for an email with directions on when and how to access it through ARKNET. If you ordered a printed copy, your eldest NCHS child will be receiving it. Creating a directory is a painstaking process, requiring lots of steps. Many thanks to Natalie Pearce for gathering the information, Amy Issacs for finding advertisers, and to the volunteer team who will be sorting, labeling and distributing the bound copies. Once distributed, extra copies of the directory will be available at the NCHS Bookstore for \$5.00 each while supplies last.

Thanks for all you do to support North Central High School. **ROCK ON NC!**

Sarah Combs and Stacy Lozer
PTO Presidents
sarah.combs@att.net, 250-2012
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From the Principal . . .

Dear Parents,

This school year is moving along quickly, and when a rare pause emerges and I have time to reflect, I am deeply thankful for the collective talents and energy of our students, faculty, staff, and our supportive community.

There has been much to celebrate over the past semester! We learned that our very own, Mr. Perkins, was recognized as the Indiana State Teacher of the Year; we saw our Boys' Tennis Team win our first state title of the year; the Performing Arts Department outdid itself (once again!) with performing three spectacular nights of the fall musical, *Seussical*; and on November 18, we successfully concluded our authorization visit for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. Our school is uncommon in its breadth of interests and range of talents and for mirroring a complex blend of culture, background, and experiences that are increasingly the hallmarks of our local and global communities. North Central is truly one of the greatest high schools in not only Indiana, but the country. Having said that, earning the right to call ourselves a great school requires a continuous determination and commitment to see that all students, regardless of who they are and how they come to us, leave us better prepared to meet the next set of life's challenges. Our commitment to educating the whole child is still our cause and our mission. Let us all remember that the mission of Washington Township Schools is to develop lifelong learners and globally-minded citizens by fostering the academic, creative, and social skills needed to achieve excellence in a multicultural environment.

My wish for everyone during the upcoming winter break is to find time to step back and focus on the important topics in your professional and personal lives. Don't let the urgent overshadow the important, and never miss an opportunity to count your blessings each and every day. North Central, stay safe, stay warm, and be prepared to return to school at 7:25 AM, on Monday, January 6, ready to tackle the second chapter of the 2013-2014 school year!

Respectfully Yours,

Evans Branigan III
Principal

School Dismissal/Delay Procedures

If Washington Township schools have to be dismissed because of a mechanical breakdown or adverse weather conditions, and we know before school begins in the morning, this information will be broadcast over several of the Indianapolis television and radio stations. On rare occasions, the start of school may be delayed 2 hours. On such days, if a high school student is normally picked up by a bus at 7 a.m., the 2-hour delay would move the pick-up time to 9 a.m. The high school day will begin at 9:25 a.m. If school has to be dismissed during the day, the local media will be notified. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, all activities are automatically cancelled. Local radio and TV stations will be notified of any closure or delay. We will also make use of our automated calling system in an attempt to notify families in a timely manner of unexpected changes to the school day.

In the News...

2013 Advanced Placement Scholars

North Central is proud to announce the results for this year's Advanced Placement Scholars. 175 students have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP exams. The number of scholars illustrates the strength of our AP Program at North Central.

78 Students - Qualified for the **AP Scholar Award** by completing three or more AP exams with grades of 3 or higher.

34 Students - Qualified for the **AP Scholars with Honor Award** by earning an average grade of 3.25 on all AP exams, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more exams.

48 Students - Qualified for the **AP Scholars with Distinction Award** by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

8 Students - Qualified for the **National AP Scholars Award** by earning an average of 4 or higher on all AP exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

168 Students - Earned **AP Scholar Awards** in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP exams.

North Central offers 28 Advanced Placement courses for grades 9 - 12. For more information about the AP/IB program, contact William Gulde at 317-259-5345 or by email at wgulde@msdwt.k12.in.us.

NORTH CENTRAL BANDS HOLIDAY CONCERT



AND
Silent Auction
SOLD

DECEMBER 4, 2013
NORTH CENTRAL AUDITORIUM
7PM

*Looking Ahead....Grade 8 Curriculum Night at North Central,
Tuesday, January 14, 2014 - 7 pm - Auditorium*

Congratulations to NC juniors: Yassmin Fashir, Ashley Duran, Vanessa Marquez, and Alejandra Sanchez, who traveled with the Women Like Us Foundation to Costa Rica where they served as good-will ambassadors helping impoverished children.

Performing Arts Events

Choral Holiday Concert: Ten choirs, along with the bell choir, will perform on **December 9**, 7 pm, in the Auditorium. Admission is free to the public; our gift to the community!

Symphonic Orchestra & Performing Arts Choirs, will be performing choruses and solos from the **Messiah** on **December 10**, 7 pm, in the Auditorium. Admission is free to the public.

Wind Orchestra Concert, The Concert and Philharmonic Orchestras will be performing in the North Central Auditorium on Thursday, **December 12**, at 7 pm. Admission is free to the public.

Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Lab Band, On **December 14**, NC Jazz Bands will travel to Bloomington, IN, to perform at the Bloomington Jazz Festival. Students will attend concerts, participate in clinics and perform for judges. The festival will take place at Bloomington High School South.

More Joyful Sounds of the Season, featuring the Counterpoints, will be on Sunday, **December 15**, 3 p.m. at the Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 3850 W 106th Street, Carmel. There will be a reception following the concert and a free-will offering. Come join us and get into the holiday spirit with the Counterpoints. For more information contact Mike Raunick by email at mraunick@msdwt.k12.in.us.

Choir students who made **All-State Choir** are: Kat Jones, Ben Sparrow, Will McKinney, Ryan Malone, Aquarius Durden, Ethan Smith, Grace Haines-Gallagher, Dylan Williams, Ryan Cook and Chris Giden. They will be performing at the IMEA Convention in Ft. Wayne late January. Congratulations!

The following students were selected to participate in the Indiana Butler Vocal Jazz Festival in November: Shania Phillips, Richard Dunn, Allie Yelenik and Chris Giden. Congratulations to these students!

Looking ahead....The Annual Northernaires Praise Fest—1/10/14 in the North Central auditorium. There will be many wonderful community and high school gospel choirs performing which includes the Harris Sisters, graduates of NC, and many more exciting groups. Admission is \$5.00 and the proceeds will go to a local charity chosen by the students. You don't want to miss it!



First Semester Examinations Schedule December 16 - 19, 2013

Monday, December 16

| | | | |
|------|----------|----------|---------------|
| Pd 2 | 7:25 am | 8:39 am | Study/Break |
| | 8:39 am | 10:23 am | Exam |
| Pd 4 | 10:29 am | 2:40 pm | Reg. Schedule |

Buses depart at 2:50 pm

Tuesday, December 17

| | | | |
|------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Pd 1 | 7:25 am | 8:30 am | Study/Break |
| | 8:30 am | 10:15 am | Exam |
| Pd 3 | 10:25 am | 11:45 am | Study/Snack |
| | 11:45 am | 1:30 pm | Exam |

Buses depart at 1:40 pm

Wednesday, December 18

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Pds 6, 7, 8 | 7:25 am | 8:30 am | Study/Break |
| | 8:30 am | 10:15 am | Exam |
| Pd 9 | 10:25 am | 11:45 am | Study/Snack |
| | 11:45 am | 1:30 pm | Exam |

Buses depart at 1:40 pm

Thursday, December 19

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Pds 4, 5, 6 | 7:25 am | 8:30 am | Study/Break |
| | 8:30 am | 10:15 am | Exam |
| Pd 10 | 10:25 am | 11:45 am | Study/Snack |
| | 11:45 am | 1:30 pm | Exam |

Buses depart at 1:40 pm

NOTICE

Policy regarding changes in examination schedule if there is an unforeseen closing of school: If school is closed during semester examinations, the following policy will be in effect: The examinations scheduled for the first missed day will be administered on the first day school is reopened. A decision regarding the remainder of the examination schedule will be made as needed. This may mean some courses or some periods will not have a final examination. Teachers would have to figure grades without including the final examination in said courses.



December 2013



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 7 pm, College Cost Estimator Workshop (L249) | 4 7 pm, Band Holiday Concert & Silent Auction (Auditorium) | 5 | 6 6:15 pm, Madrigal Dinner (Pilgrim Lutheran Church) | 7 SAT Test (Upper H Hall, NC) 6:15 pm, Madrigal Dinner (Pilgrim Lutheran Church) |
| CANNED FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION ENDS DECEMBER 6 | | | | | | |
| 8 7 - 9 pm, Counterpoints Performance (Waterford Association) | 9 7 pm, Choir Holiday Concert (Auditorium) | 10 7 pm, Messiah Concert (Auditorium) | 11 7 pm, Sophomore College Night (Auditorium) | 12 7 pm, Orchestra Holiday Concert (Auditorium) | 13 | 14 ACT Test (Upper H Hall, NC) Bloomington Jazz Festival |
| Algebra & Biology ECA's Re-Takes Dec. 9 - 13 | | | | | | |
| 15 3 pm, Counterpoints Show, (Pilgrim Lutheran Church) | 16 First Semester Exams | 17 First Semester Exams | 18 First Semester Exams | 19 First Semester Exams, End of 1st Semester 2:50 - 4:30 pm, King's Court Concerts (CEC, Hilltop & Forum) | 20 No School for Students Teacher Report Day | 21 |
| Textbooks for first-semester-only courses returned to teachers on day of final. | | | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Christmas Day | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Save the date: FAFSA Day is February 4, 2014! | | | | | | |

Communicating With Students During School

To avoid the interruption of classes, **the receptionist cannot send a pass to a student** to let him/her know an item has been delivered to the front desk. If a student is expecting something to be delivered, **it is the student's responsibility to come to the front desk** either during their lunch period or between classes to collect any delivered items. Also, any food brought to the front desk will be disposed of at the end of the school day if it has not been picked up by the student.

The school cannot accept faxed homework assignments for students. Students expecting homework assignments delivered to school should plan to stop by the front desk either during their lunch period or between classes to see if anything has arrived.

Messages will be delivered to students only in **emergency situations**. If an emergency arises, the parent must communicate with an assistant principal or the student's counselor to have the message delivered.

If it is necessary for a parent to see a student during the school day, the parent should go to the Attendance Office (or the Dean's Office in some cases) and explain the situation. An attendance officer can then locate the student and send a pass for him/her to come to the Attendance Office. Passes are sent during the first ten minutes of class, not during class time to avoid class interruptions.

In order to keep our school safe and free from distractions, your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**A more detailed and up-to-date calendar can be found on our school website: <http://www.nchs.cc>
Events are subject to change.**

GUIDANCE, Other Info . . .

Applying to College – North Central Forms Required

North Central's college application processing forms are stocked on the wall inside the Guidance Department, near the Student Center entrance. Students must personally hand these materials to their guidance counselors for processing.

- The **PINK Application Cover Sheet** must be completed for **EACH** application submitted, including applications filed online. Complete the **Blanket Release Form** on the back of the first Pink Sheet you submit. (There's a \$1 fee for each pink sheet.)
- The **YELLOW Counselor Recommendation Worksheet** helps your counselor write about you.
- The **WHITE Student Information Sheet** includes your activities, honors, & volunteerism.
- The **GREEN Teacher Recommendation Sheet** is given to teachers who are writing your recommendation letters.

PLUS: Request electronic copies of your North Central transcript for college through www.parchment.com.

College Campus Visits

Students are strongly encouraged to visit colleges of interest before deciding to enroll. Visits should be made prior to **May 1**, the National Candidate Reply Date, when college enrollment deposits are due. Seniors are entitled to two excused absences for college visits, but visits can also be made on Saturdays and when North Central is not in session.

Procedure for excused absences:

- ⇒ Pick up the green College Campus Visit Form in the Attendance Office.
- ⇒ Get signatures on the form from your parents, Mrs. Payne and all of your teachers.
- ⇒ Have a parent notify the Attendance Office **prior to your visit**.
- ⇒ Obtain a letter from the college's admission office on official letterhead verifying your visit (the date of your visit and with whom.)
- ⇒ Return the green form and letter to the Attendance Office the following day. **Both documents must be received for the college visit to be considered an excused absence.**

Please refer to North Central High School's Student Handbook 2013-14 for more detailed information.

College Resource Room, L258B See your counselor first!

College-bound students and their parents are invited to take advantage of the college resources available in the Guidance Department. Flip through helpful college guides and help yourselves to college information, filed by state, in the file cabinets. The College Resource Room is accessible throughout the school day and after school until 4:00 p.m., but you will need a pass from your counselor for access to the room.

College Cost Estimator Workshop

Remember the \$5 Financial Plan fee you paid as a Freshman? At no additional cost you can attend this workshop sponsored by the National Center for College Costs (NCCC). NCCC will be at North Central for a general presentation on paying for college, followed by individual reviews of your worksheet if you filed a cost estimator. The workshop will be located in room L249 at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, December 3**.

Once you have received a report from NCCC, you will have their ongoing advice at no cost. You may contact them at info@collegecosts.com or by calling 1-877-687-7291.

Take advantage of this opportunity to plan for college.

FINANCIAL AID

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Parents of seniors: You cannot file the FAFSA prior to January 1, but you can get ready for it! Review the process at www.fafsa.ed.gov and register for your PINs now (one for you and another for your student). Prepare your 2013 taxes as soon as possible. Complete the FREE College Cost Estimator with the **National Center for College Costs** at www.collegecosts.com to get an early idea of what you may be expected to pay for a year of college.

Other useful websites include: www.studentaid.ed.gov

**Get expert help filing your FAFSA at
NORTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
Sponsored by the PTO and the
Washington Township Schools Foundation**



**FAFSA DAY
at North Central
Tuesday, February 4
8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
PC Lab**



Finding College Scholarships

Stop by the Guidance Department to learn about outside scholarship opportunities offered by various institutions, corporations and community groups. Scholarship listings will be updated on **Naviance** as they become available. Contact our scholarship liaison, Mrs. Tracy Gilbert, with any questions. Also, you can register with such sites as fastweb.com, zinch.com, cappex.com and finaid.com for additional scholarship opportunities.

SAT & ACT Tests - Try Both!

North Central High School encourages students to take *both* the SAT Reasoning & Subject Tests AND the ACT assessment with Writing. Colleges will accept the results of either test, and will use the higher scores if both tests are taken. Register for the SAT at www.collegeboard.org and the ACT at www.actstudent.org.

21st Century Scholars - Class of 2014

If your child signed up for the 21st Century Scholars program in the 7th or 8th grade, and you have not yet been contacted about signing the Affirmation form for students graduating this year, please see your counselor.

College Entrance Exam Test Registration Deadlines:

| Test | Test Date | Regular Deadline | Late Registration |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|
| SAT Reasoning & Subject Tests | January 25 | December 27 | January 10 |
| ACT | February 8 | January 10 | January 24 |



For students who cannot test on Saturdays for religious reasons, testing is available on Sundays after these national testing dates at the Hasten Hebrew Academy.

Seating is available on a first come, first served basis.