



THE NORTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MESSAGE December 2014

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

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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 *count-less* hours of planning. Our Co-Chairmen this year totally ROCKED the organizing, planning and execution - a very big thank you to Sarah Combs & Betsy Harvey for their leadership. 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 Skyward. 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 and entering the student information, Cynthia Weiner for finding advertisers, Leigh Lazon for updating the handbook portion, 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. KEEP ON ROCKING NC!

Stacy Lozer & Christie Call
PTO Presidents

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From the Principal . . .

Dear Parents,

I'd like to take a moment and thank the Washington Township Schools Foundation (WTSF) for their continued support of North Central. Many of our efforts to support teaching and learning go beyond traditional funding sources and the WTSF has with fidelity assisted in ensuring our students innovative and creative opportunities. Additionally, the WTSF assists in providing support for continued teacher training and field experiences. Most recently, the WTSF provided the fiscal resources necessary for several members of the math department to attend the National Council of Mathematics Teachers convention hosted in Indianapolis on October 29. North Central math teachers were able to attend breakout sessions that supported taking inquiry off the IB posters and putting it into the classrooms. Thank you WTSF for your continued support.

December means the end of the semester and final exams. It's not too late to put the finishing academic touch on a successful year. The Learning Center continues to be open during and after school. Teachers are still providing support before school on Tuesdays and after school on Thursdays. Be sure to talk to your child about taking advantage of the supports available at school. That extra time spent could be the difference between an end-of-the-year celebration or an end-of-the-semester frustration.

As December creeps into January, Mother Nature may not always be our friend. If November weather was any indication, anything could happen over the next few months. Don't be the last to know about a school delay, closing, or event cancellation. Be sure to follow me on Twitter @ NC_Principal and on Facebook @ North Central High School. You'll know before your children know when you follow me on social media.

As we begin looking toward Winter Break, I want to remind you that school will reconvene on January 5. Students will report to homeroom where they will receive updated class schedules. It is possible that schedules will have to be modified and students may find themselves with classes at different times of the day or even new teachers. It is imperative that students follow their new schedules once school reconvenes.

As this is my last time to share with you before break, thank you for a great first semester. You've been an outstanding community to work with and every day you've shared your best and brightest with us. From the faculty and staff at North Central, have a safe, relaxing, and fulfilling Winter Break. We look forward to a great rest of the year. Have a good break.

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 am. The high school day will begin at 9:25 am. 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 closures or delays. 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...



2014 Advanced Placement Scholars

North Central is proud to announce the results for this year's Advanced Placement Scholars. One hundred seventy-six North Central 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.

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

33 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.

66 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.

14 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.



*Looking Ahead.....Grade 8 Curriculum Night
at North Central,*

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 - 7 pm - Auditorium

Performing Arts Events

Holiday Band Concert & Silent Auction: On **Wednesday, December 3**, the North Central concert bands and jazz bands will present their annual Holiday Band Concert at 7:00 pm in the North Central Auditorium. Prior to the event, please visit the NCHS Student Center to view the variety of items available at the NC Band Parent Organization "12th Annual" Silent Auction.

Congratulations to the NC Band members that were selected to be in the Indiana Bandmaster All Region Honor Band.

Rebecca Smollen - Oboe
Elise Granlund - Clarinet
Eli Goldstein - Trumpet
Conner Nicoson - Tuba
Eric Feeney - Percussion

Choral Winter Concert: Ten choirs, along with the bell choir, will perform on **Monday, December 8 at 7 pm** in the Auditorium. Admission is free to the public; our gift to the community!

North Central's Symphony Orchestra & Performing Arts Choirs will be performing choruses and solos from the Handel's Messiah and Haydn's Creation on **Tuesday, December 9 at 7 pm** in the Auditorium. The Symphony Orchestra will also be playing works by Rimsky-Korsakov and Respighi. Admission is free to the public.

Orchestra Concert, North Central's Concert, Philharmonic, and Festival Orchestras, will be performing in the North Central Auditorium on **Thursday, December 11 at 7 pm**. Admission is free to the public.

More Joyful Sounds of the Season, featuring the Counterpoints, will be on **Sunday, December 14 at 3 pm** at the St. Luke's Methodist Church, 100 W 86th St., Indianapolis. 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: Ben Sparrow, Aquarius Durden, Caroline Short, Emma Nickel, Gabriel McGill, Matthias Murphy, Davon Graham, William Blakely, Richard Dunn, Dylan Williams, Isaac Weber, Tommy Nguyen, and Chris Giden. They will be performing at the IMEA Convention in Ft. Wayne in late January. Congratulations!



From Ms. Sisson.....

As I have indicated in my past messages, last spring we were very excited to be authorized as an International Baccalaureate district grades K-12. The culminating experience for all students in year 5 (grade 10) is the *Personal Project*.

The Personal Project is a student-directed investigation into a topic of personal interest. Involving a cycle of inquiry, action, and reflection, the Personal Project allows students to demonstrate the academic skills learned and learner profile attributes developed over the course of the five-year MYP. Full implementation of the project will begin in the school year 2016-2017.

Beginning in January of 2015, we are launching a Personal Project Pilot to ensure that when the entire 10th grade class is involved in 2016-2017, all goes smoothly. Approximately 15 students and 15 teachers have volunteered to participate in the Pilot. In MYP terms, Washington Township staff are considered the students' *supervisors*. If a student has a project that requires an expert in a particular field, that expert would be considered the student's mentor. Mentors are individuals in the community who have the expertise the student needs and who are willing to offer their time in helping students pursue their interests. Both community and parent support will be needed once the Personal Project is fully launched.

Those of us currently involved in the Personal Project are excited to see what our students can achieve given the opportunity to investigate a personal interest and given the opportunity to produce a final project based on their investigations. We are in the process of creating a handbook to guide both students and supervisors. In March, we look forward to an exhibition in which the student volunteers will showcase the products they have produced.

First Semester Examinations Schedule December 15 - 18, 2014

Monday, December 15

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

Buses depart at 2:50 pm

Tuesday, December 16

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 17

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 18

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 2014



SUN

MON











TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

<p>Need a holiday gift for your student? Visit the NC Bookstore! NC Water Bottles are \$9, Magnetic Panther Paws are just \$3.</p>	<p>1  </p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 7 pm, Band Holiday Concert & Silent Auction (Auditorium) </p>	<p>4 7 pm, College Cost Estimator Work-Shop (L249)</p>	<p>5 6:15 pm, Madrigal Dinner (Knights of Columbus) </p>	<p>6 7:30 am, SAT Test (Upper H Hall, NC) 6:15 pm, Madrigal Dinner (Knights of Columbus)</p>
<p>CANNED FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION ENDS DECEMBER 5</p>						
<p>7 2 pm, National Honor Society Induction Ceremony (PAC)</p>	<p>8 7 pm, Winter Choir Concert (Auditorium)</p>	<p>9 7 pm, Messiah Concert (Auditorium)</p>	<p>10 7 pm, Sophomore College Night (Auditorium)</p>	<p>11 7 pm, Orchestra Holiday Concert (Auditorium)</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 7:30 am, ACT Test (Upper H Hall, NC)</p>
<p>Algebra & Biology ECA's Re-Takes Dec. 9 - 13</p>						
<p>14 3 pm, Counterpoints Show (St. Luke's United Methodist Church)</p>	<p>15 First Semester Exams - P. 2</p>	<p>16 First Semester Exams - P. 1 & 3 Hanukkah begins at sundown </p>	<p>17 First Semester Exams - P. 6/7/8 & 9</p>	<p>18 First Semester Exams, P. - 4/5/6 & 10, End of 1st Semester 2:50 - 4:15 pm, King's Court Concerts (CEC, Hilltop & Forum)</p>	<p>19 No School for Students Teacher Report Day</p>	<p>20</p>
<p> Textbooks for one-semester-only courses returned to teachers on day of final.</p>						
<p>21 First Day of Winter 5 pm, King's Court (Highland Country Club)</p>	<p>22 7 pm, King's Court sings National Anthem (Banker's Life) Winter Break - Dec. 22 - Jan. 2</p>	<p>23 </p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day </p>	<p>26 Kwanzaa Begins </p>	<p>27</p>
<p>Save the date: FAFSA Day is February 3, 2015!</p>						
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve </p>			

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.

Happy Holidays

Please visit the Spirit Shop at North Central during lunch hours, 10:20 am - 12:50 pm to purchase your holiday presents.

You can also visit the website www.bsnsports.com. Click on "My Team Shop" and enter code ncspr5UU.

Best Wishes,
The Spirit Shop Volunteers



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 processing 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 2014-15 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 **Thursday, December 4**.

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 2014 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 3
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. Laurie Stroke, with any questions. Also, you can register with such sites as cappex.com, collegeboard.org/scholarships, zinch.com and findaid.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 2015

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 24	December 29	January 13
ACT	February 7	January 9	January 16



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.