

Wingspan

September 2006
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Athletes and coaches have been preparing for the fall season since August 2nd. Volleyball, football, and the cross-country teams at the freshman, junior varsity, and varsity levels will compete throughout the coming months. In addition, our band, dance, and drama programs are gearing up for another year of wonderful performances. One upcoming highlight certainly has to be the Band, Color Guard, and Dance Company tour of Italy during Spring Break. What a great learning experience that will be for over 175 students! Students can also expect many fun activities in clubs and events hosted by our Associated Student Body government. The high school learning experience is REALLY enhanced when students participate in athletics, activities, or the performing arts.

I look forward to seeing you at the Night of the Condor (Back to School Night) on Wednesday, September 13th. Please know that our excellent staff is committed to working with you in the education and development of your child!

Sincerely,

Steven Hirt

Principal

From the Principal's Desk

Dear North County Parents and Community,

The first few days of school are always exciting at North County High. We are off to a great start!

School began on Wednesday, August 16th with our thrilling "Opening Day Rally" in the gym. It is a great tradition and a rite of passage for our students to sit in their new class section at the rally. The Class of 2007 took particular joy in sitting in the "Senior Section" for the first time. Over 1400 students began their classes on that day!

I am really looking forward to a terrific year. NMCHS will continue to offer a wide selection of college preparatory classes and college level advanced placement classes along with a strong variety of vocational and career tech courses. We are continuing to work hard to meet the needs of all of our students, whether they aspire to attend a prestigious four year college or desire a career in a skilled trade.

Inside this Issue

- 1** Free and Reduced Lunch information
- 2** Notices for this school year calendar!
- 3** Yearbook Information

Whitney Grummon
School Improvement Program
North Monterey County High School
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Visit us on the web! www.nmchs.com

School Site Council Members:

- Martin Aguilar
- Julie Carriere
- Francisco Cornejo
- Cathy Crume
- Michelle Edwards
- Laurel Gast
- Whitney Grummon
- Joanne Hellwig
- Steve Hirt
- Lori Lowenson
- Danielle Murphy
- Charlie Paull
- Scarlett Redmoon
- Laurie Tennis
- George Wright
- Liz Yezek

Career Center Calendar

Drop by the Career Center in the Library Loft or call Mrs. Yezek at 633-5221 x210.

9/10/06

Get to Know MIT, Double Tree Hotel, San Jose, 7pm

9/12/06

Registration deadline for the October SAT

9/13/06

Jesuit College Fairs Fall 2006, Sacred Heart Schools, 150 Valpariso Ave, Atherton, CA 7-9pm

9/16/06

ACT Administration

9/20/06

Late registration deadline for the October SAT

9/22/06

Registration deadline for the October ACT

9/28/06

ASVAB Administration

9/29/06

Registration deadline for the November SAT

Scholarships Available Now!!

Horatio Alger, 2007 SAE Engineering Scholarships, and Washington University in St. Louis

Pick up the applications in the Career Center!

NMCHS takes part in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

If you now receive Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-Gap, or FDPIR benefits, your child may receive free meals.

If your total household income is the same or less than the amounts on the income eligibility scale below, your child may receive meals free or at a reduced price.

A foster care child who is the legal responsibility of the welfare agency or ward of the court may be eligible to receive meals free or at a reduced price regardless of your income.

If you think that your household qualifies, please consider applying for the Free and Reduced-Price Meals. Eligibility can also mean:

- Fee waivers for SAT and ACT tests
- Fee waivers for Advanced Placement exams
- Fee waivers for college applications

Pick up application forms in the cafeteria, in the Main Office, or in the Coordinator's Office and return no later than Tuesday, September 12th.

Step Up to the Challenge

Don't let your student miss the first step. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program can help your student take steps now toward finding a career that's right for them. Have your student take advantage of this opportunity by signing up for the ASVAB Test to be administered on September 28th at 7:00 am in the Library. Call Mrs. Yezek at 633-5221 x210 for details.

PSAT/NMSQT

The PSAT measures critical thinking skills, including critical reading, math problem-solving, and writing skills, that are important for success in college. Taking the PSAT enables students to get feedback about academic skills, seek information from colleges, enter scholarship competitions, practice for the SAT Reasoning Test and initiate the college-planning process. Have your student sign up for the PSAT in the Career Center. The cost is \$15.

CSF

The California Scholarship Federation (CSF) is a statewide organization to honor students for their outstanding academic performance in a rigorous and challenging course of study. Life (Sealbearer) Members of CSF are honored and visibly recognized during the graduation ceremony by their gold-colored stoles. To qualify for Sealbearer status, students must earn sufficient grade points based on A's and B's in specific academic courses approved by the CSF organization. If you have questions regarding eligibility for CSF Life Membership, contact Jim O'Neil at 633-5221 x228.



IMPORTANT NOTICES FOR 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR:

Two very big changes are in place for next year that NMCHS believes will enhance our students' education. These changes will require some careful planning for many North County families.

1. For the first time, Term 2 will end before Winter Break. Semester Final Exams will end on Wednesday, December 20th and that day will be the final day of the term. In years past, Term 2 ended after Winter Break and the students would return from a three week vacation to have eight days to complete all work and pass their finals. After years of trying to remedy this unsound educational schedule, the district, teachers, and classified staff have created a calendar that best supports student learning.

Parents: Please do not plan to take family trips or vacations before December 20th or after January 10th. Your student will not pass classes if they do not finish Term 2 on December 20th. Any absences for family trips are, by law, unexcused.

2. North Monterey County High School will no longer offer the 5 to 20 day short term Independent Study Contracts. The work that teachers compile for such contracts can not replicate the educational experience that students receive in the classroom. In addition, very few students actually complete the work and submit it on time, and therefore jeopardize their high school diploma.

The 2007 Yearbook

Seniors:

In order to produce a beautiful, high quality yearbook, we require all photos included in the senior portrait section to be taken by the same photographer. Our contract is with Cook's Photography in Old Town Salinas because of their professionalism and reliability. Most seniors have already been photographed (hooray Class of 2007!) but if you have not yet done so, please call Cook's at 424-5486 to make an appointment as soon as possible. After your sitting, your proofs will be online and you will be able to select your pose and also be able to purchase photos. Cook's will send the school a CD with the photo you choose. It is that simple. Due to the deadline for a full color book, we will only be able to include photos selected by September 15th.

Everyone:

We are now able to accept credit card payment through the finance office for yearbooks, senior dedication pages, and ads. Also, due to high incidences of bad checks, we will no longer accept checks for anything related to the yearbook after May 1st.

If you have a photo to share or ideas for aspects of Condor life that you would like to see in the 2007 yearbook, please contact us in Room 57 or call ext302 between 1:45 and 3:15. Digital photos must be 300dpi at the size at which they are printed. We can scan analog photos and return them to you the same day.

Condor thanks go to...

Gary DeAmaral, of Crop Booster Distributing and a North County parent, for his kind donation of time and product to improve the turf of the school's football field.

Steve and Marie Edwards, Condor parents and Athletic Booster Club members, who hosted a silent auction dinner on August 11th and raised \$1,100 for North County High athletics. Twenty North County parents and friends purchased the evening at the school's Athletic Gala last March and enjoyed a tremendous feast and a great time. Several other parents contributed a delicious assortment of dishes to go with the Tri-Tip main course. **Athletic Director Al Ferreira, Assistant Superintendent Don Pedroni, Principal Steve Hirt, and Assistant Principal John Simpson** served as waiters and chefs. This 4th annual silent auction dinner hosted by the Edwards may have been the best yet! North Monterey County High School greatly appreciates the time, energy, expense, and effort Steve and Marie Edwards and their parent assistants put into this great event for our Condor athletes.

Omar Mercado, Lori Lowenson, Lupe Sanchez, and Al Ferreira who will be honored as the North Monterey County USD Support Team for **Fernando Moreno**. Fernando, an NC student, will be honored at the ACSA's Annual Conference in November. The ACSA recognizes students who have overcome great obstacles to succeed in school and the educators who helped them. Congratulations to Fernando and the team and thanks for making us very proud Condors.

Alumni Corner

News and Notes on Condor Grads

By Steve Hirt, Principal

Amy (Briley) Broadley (NC Class of 1999; BA Kinesiology Fresno State 2004; CA Teaching Credential PE 2005) just finished her first year of teaching at Hoover High School in Fresno. She coaches cross-country and track, and she gets rave reviews from her students at Hoover. Amy is married and lives in Fresno.

Frank Kinnaman (NC Class of 1992; BS Chemistry UC Santa Barbara 2003) is a graduate student at UCSB in the Department of Marine Sciences. He studies the biogeochemical cycling of various greenhouse gases. Frank's advice to NC students: "Study hard, because you can always change your attitude but your GPA sticks with you forever!"

Amber Tanner (NC Class of 1995; BS Construction Management Cal Poly San Luis Obispo 2004) is living in Kimberley, ID with her husband Sgt. Philip Steen of the U.S. Marine Corps. Amber is working on a degree in Registered Nursing.

Kandas Nesbitt-Rodarte (NC Class of 1988) manages the family business. Her husband, Shane, is a master furniture maker. Kandas and Shane live in Texas and have a seven year old daughter, Dorothy.

Calling all Condors!

The Class of 1986 will host its 20th year reunion on Friday, October 6, 2006. Alumni are invited to attend dinner and dancing at Club Octane in Monterey on Friday evening starting at 8pm. A deposit of \$25 a person is required. All checks should be made out to Lori Lowenson and mailed to 1681 Granada St, Seaside, CA 93955.

On Saturday, all alumni and their families are invited to attend a barbeque at the homecoming football game. If interested in either event, contact Lori Lowenson and Jodie Kaminskis at 633-5221 x348.

North Monterey County High School
13990 Castroville Blvd.
Castroville, CA 95012
USA

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