

October Board Meeting New Hampton Middle School

1. I have been working with Pathways on ways we can get Life Skills curriculum into our 7th and 8th grade classrooms. We have also established a plan with the high school SADD organization to have them come over and work with our students during Red Ribbon Week – October 21-25th.
2. Mike Donahue from R5 productions presented to the 7th and 8th grade on September 24. He worked with small groups. The focus of the presentation and group work was about decision-making, peer relationships and drug and alcohol abuse prevention.
3. MAP Testing was completed the last week of September. I have attached our results. Grade level PLC's will be using that data to make individual plans for targeted instruction with students.
4. Conference Scheduler. The secretaries will be using a new program to schedule parent-teacher conferences this fall. A letter went home to parents this past week. We will be doing scheduled conferences with the homeroom advisors this fall.
5. Four staff members will be attending ITEC in Des Moines this week. Ryan Gray, Erin Snyder, Jeannie Pfaffle, Jeanette Laures.
6. Jeannie Pfaffle, Nancy Edgar, and Jess Geerts attended the 2013 Iowa Council of Teachers of English on October 10 and 11th in Johnston.
7. Michelle Kipp, Dr. Updegraff, and Joanne Wickham are working on a plan on how we would like to view and discuss the movie "Bully" with our middle school students. We plan to use it as a large group at each grade level, and then have break out sessions in smaller groups with students.
8. The 8th grade students completed ditch clean-up last week. Seventh grade traveled to Fontana Nature Center the same day.
9. For the first time, Cornell College students, involved with Mock Trial at the college level, offered a clinic this year. The clinic was for middle school 'mockers'. Mrs. Burgart offered the clinic to the students and told them it was voluntary. We had 16 out of 23 New Hampton Middle School Mock Trial students and Mrs. Burgart attend the Cornell College clinic on Saturday, September 21. The clinic began at 8:45 a.m. and lasted until 5:00 p.m. Participants learned about the general principles of direct and cross examinations, from both attorney and witness perspective, the basics of the rules of evidence, openings and closings, witness roles, and courtroom skills and procedure. The day was full of so much information and the students walked away with so much information. The Cornell students did a remarkable job explaining things and connecting with the students.