

Northern Highlands Regional High School

Allendale • Upper Saddle River • Ho-Ho-Kus • Saddle River • Fall 2018

www.northernhighlands.org



Northern Highlands Selected To Participate In School Climate Transformation Project

Northern Highlands is proud to announce that we have been selected to participate in the School Climate Transformation Project (SCTP), a three-year initiative sponsored by the NJ Department of Education in collaboration with Rutgers University. School climate is often described as the feeling or experience of being a member of a school community, and a strong school climate is connected to a range of positive outcomes for students, staff, and parents. The SCTP is an opportunity for our school to use data to explore the quality of those school experiences for different members of our community. We will use this data to enhance our efforts to maintain and improve upon supportive learning environments for all students. Northern Highlands was selected from a very competitive pool of applicants; we are one of 15 schools statewide that have been chosen to participate in this initiative.

Please know that throughout this process, everyone's voice matters in school climate transformation work. This is why we will be asking all students, staff, and parents to take the New Jersey School Climate Survey at different points during our three-year participation in the SCTP. We are counting on everyone's support in this work and look forward to sharing updates and opportunities about how to get involved. Be on the lookout for more detailed instructions regarding this initiative in the near future. In the event you wish to learn more or if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Occhino or Mr. Koth.

New Staff and Faculty

Northern Highlands would like to welcome the following staff and faculty to our district.

Teaching Staff

Maggie Ely- School Counselor
Allison Faasse- LDTC/ Special Education Teacher
Kimberly Markus- Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Catherine Hitchen- Science Teacher
Kyle Kubicki- Music Teacher
Jennifer Simone- Social Studies Teacher
Zachary Stephens- English Teacher
Shaina Strang-Wolf- English Teacher
Kyle Wengerter- Social Studies Teacher

Support Staff

Nick Casasanta- Campus Security
Alison Crowley- Secretary
Mariann Gardner- Receptionist
Ami Shah- Secretary
Clifford Singer- Special Education Aide
Christine Turanchik- Special Education Aide



NH Welcomes Two New BOE Reps

Each year two students are chosen to represent the student body at Board of Education meetings. This year, we are honored to have two senior students, Caroline Ryan and Katherine Murray as our representatives.

Caroline Ryan is the 2019 class council president, a member of Highlands Heroes, the president of Girls Up, writer for the school newspaper and a 3-year varsity field hockey player.

Katherine Murray is a member of the National Honor Society, a student ambassador, member of Highlands Heroes and Relay for Life as well as 3-year varsity athlete on both the girls' soccer and lacrosse teams.



the highlands report

From the Superintendent



Highlanders,

In typical fashion the summer went way too fast and we find ourselves preparing for another fall and winter. The good news is that the fall brings us another year of school and it is a pleasure to welcome everyone back as we anticipate a tremendous 2018/2019 school year.

Over the summer, we worked on numerous projects to prepare this beautiful campus for our staff and students. This year, visitors will find that we refurbished several rooms including room 100, the school store and several classrooms. In addition, we continue to refurbish restrooms and common areas in the building. One of the most noticeable differences is the main gym which was completely refurbished. Finally, we will be replacing a significant number of the buildings windows during the fall which will include adding air conditioning wall units to many of the classrooms that do not presently have it. Outside of the building, the track and turf field projects were completed as well as the completion of an additional light stanchion by the softball/baseball fields to increase ability for our student athletes to practice at night. The solar panel project has also recently been finished and the school is now producing 40% of its electricity through solar.

On the security front, we have spent numerous hours with law enforcement and security experts assessing our school and we continue to make improvements to our procedures and campus. This year students will note the addition of more security cameras, the completion of our classroom lock project which allows teachers to quickly lock classrooms from the interior of the class without having to open the door, as well as the upcoming vestibule installation which should be completed by the end of November. Another major change was of the traffic flow on campus to limit the number of entrances in which cars may access the campus. Finally, we are happy to welcome a 20+ year retired Passaic County Sheriff Officer to our security staff.

As academics are always a focus at Highlands, we are happy to be offering over a dozen new courses this year. In addition, we have instituted our Option 2 program which includes opportunity for senior students to participate in internships as well as opportunity for all students to obtain credit for community service. These additions are very exciting and we are working closely with our new Option 2 Coordinator to add even more educational programs for students such as Independent Studies and Online courses.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our parents and students for their assistance with the student pickup procedures. As everyone is aware, we modified our procedures to separate bus pickup from car pickup. This change was intended to increase student safety during pickup time and this transition has gone smoother than we could have hoped. The ease of this transition is due to the wonderful parents and students we have. Because of this change, we have seen increased safety during dismissal time while also seeing a decrease in pickup time.

The 2018/2019 school year is off to a wonderful start thanks to our community, parents, teachers and most importantly our students. I wish all of my Highlanders the best school year yet.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scot Beckerman, Superintendent

An Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment's First Day of School Jitters

It was the night before I started my new job in Northern Highlands. I showed my husband and sons (21 and 15) a picture of me headed off to my first day of Kindergarten. They got a kick out of my new outfit and lunchbox which represented the 70's with pride but what they didn't see was the bundle of nerves fluttering in my stomach. I was feeling just like this younger version of myself as I got ready to start my new position as Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for the Quad. Will I make friends? Who will eat lunch with me? How will I find my way around the school? Where will I park? ... and on the questions go ...

Little did I know the warmth I would be met with on the first day and each subsequent day after it. The staff, students, members of the board of education and the community have been warm and gracious making me feel right at home. I have had the privilege to work with teachers planning units of study for the year ahead, meeting in articulation meetings to ensure alignment with the three sending districts in the quad, and small groups sharing their perspective with me and suggestions of how I can serve them best. I have met with board of education members in committee meetings, formal board meetings and at the end of summer social. I have become part of a team of administrators who care deeply about students and work tirelessly to make sure they are in the forefront of the conversation. Lastly, and most importantly, I was honored to be a guest speaker in the newly-formed public speaking course where I was able to share my story and hear the critical voices of our students which I believe is an essential ingredient in all education conversations.

This is my 25th year in education and I could not be prouder to be beginning it with all of you! I have served children as a classroom teacher, a school administrator, a state leader and now find myself back in the oxygen of walking among students and continuing to advocate on their behalf to ensure they are growing academically, physically and socially. I look forward to getting to know everyone better and learning how we can work together in support of each and every student attending Northern Highlands Regional High School. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns, and/or thoughts you might have about your child's curricular journey.

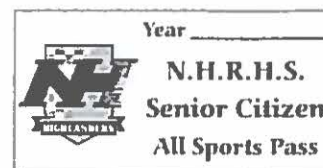
With gratitude.

Kimberley Markus

Quad Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction

Senior Citizen Card Reminder

A reminder to all senior citizens that senior passes are available for the 2018/2019 school year. These passes allow our local seniors to attend all home school sports for free. Passes may be picked up at the HS or by emailing WilliamsR@northernhighlands.org



Northern Highlands Regional High School Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars Named (Based on results of May 2018 AP Exams)

The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. Students enrolled in the 22 AP courses offered at Northern Highlands continue to perform extremely well on AP exams as indicated by the number of students who have been recognized as AP scholars. In all, there are 140 total scholars who averaged a 4.20 on their AP exams.

Congratulations to Present Students (Class of 2019* & 2020**) and Alumni (Class of 2018)

National AP Scholar – Thirteen students received National AP Scholar distinction by receiving an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Alexander Bildner	Evan Casalino	Victor Chan	Rachel Griep	Amaan Tobaccowalla
Sean Johnson	Isabella Kalarickal	Catherine Lenihan	Dawn Lu	
Jacob Mendel	Jeremy Paton	Rhee Zhin Pyoung	Riccardo Santoni	

AP International Diploma – One student received AP International distinction by receiving scores of 3 or higher on five or more AP exams in three or more subject areas.

Pereira, Laura

AP Scholar – Fifty-three students at Northern Highlands Regional High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP Exams by earning scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams.

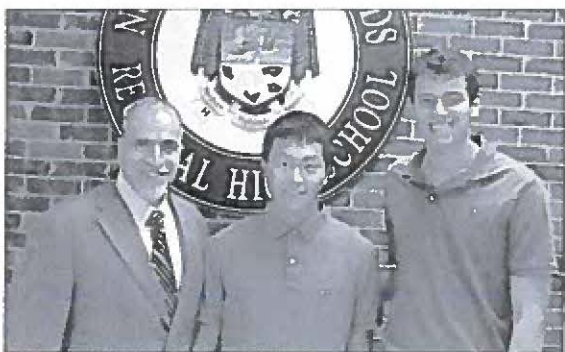
AP Scholar with Honor – Twenty-two students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honors award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

AP Scholar with Distinction – Sixty-seven students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

National Merit Commended Students

Congratulations to the following students from the Class of 2019 who earned recognition as Commended Students from the National Merit Program for their achievement on the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT in their junior year:

David Ahn, Rishi Bachani, Robert Bakal, Connor Courtney, Trevor Hintz, Erika Kluge, Jacob Levin, Chloe Levy, Kevin McNerney, Thomas Menten, Allen Park, Alexander Shen, Emily Spence, Tiffany Tong, and Melissa Yu



National Merit Semi-Finalists

Pictured with Northern Highlands Principal Joseph Occhino (to the left) are our National Merit Semi-Finalists: (L to R) Eric Ding and Alex Bildner.

Northern Highlands is proud to announce that two of our students, Alex Bildner and Eric Ding, have been named as National Merit Scholarship Program Semi-Finalists. These students are commended and recognized for their exceptional academic promise based on their performance on the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT taken in the fall of their junior year. To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, semifinalists must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards.



News from The Leo Club...

On Sunday, September 9, the Leo Club participated in *Center for Food Action's 9/11 National Day of Service & Remembrance*. Nine Leo Club members and Co-Advisers, Kim Kender, Bernice Reesbeck and Kim Hayes, volunteered to assemble snack packs. The weekend snack packs were distributed to our young neighbors in need who face weekend food insecurity. The Leo Club is a youth organization of Lions Clubs International. The word "Leo" stands for Leadership, Experience, Opportunity. Leo Clubs encourage youths to develop leadership qualities by participating in social service activities.



Highlands Observes Week of Respect

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L.2010, c.122) requires that the week beginning with the first Monday in October (October 1-5, 2018) be designated as a "Week of Respect" in New Jersey. School districts across the state are required to observe the week in order to recognize the importance of character education. In recognition of this week, Northern Highlands conducted many programs and activities. Two of our headline programs included a visit from Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Mrs. Jane Clementi, founder of the Clementi Foundation.

On Friday, October 5, students in US History I and AP Government classes attended an assembly program with the Congressman in which he shared his firsthand experience as a representative of New Jersey, a member of the House of Representatives, as well as the inner workings of the Legislative Branch. Rep. Gottheimer also spoke to how he serves as Co-Chair of the Problem Solver Caucus, a bi-partisan group which meets regularly to resolve issues between party, form partnerships across the aisle, and develop compromises between



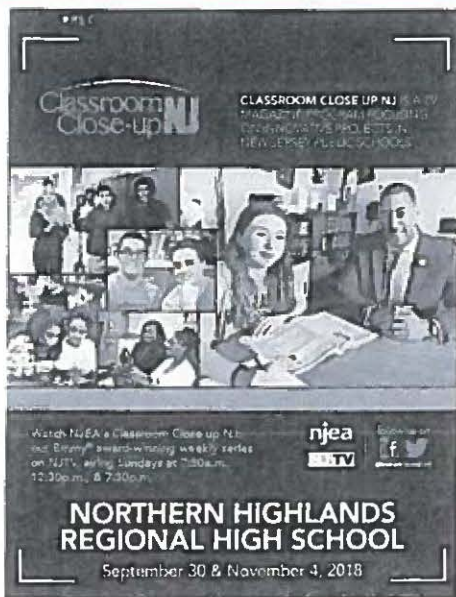
Democrats and Republicans. Rep. Gottheimer elaborated on the role of this group and how to achieve compromise and set aside differences in order to achieve goals. The presence of mutual respect exuded by the Congressman is a refreshing change to the partisanship that has recently dominated national politics and a model for students to follow.

In addition, NH hosted an Anti-Bullying Evening Program, facilitated by Junior Melissa Reifman on Tuesday, October 16. She conducted a program to educate parents and students on the dangers of bullying and was joined by Mrs. Jane Clementi, mother of former Ridgewood student, Tyler Clementi. Mrs. Clementi lost her son to death by suicide as a result of being cyberbullied and is the founder of the Clementi Foundation. She was also joined by YouTube sensation, Jenna Rose. Both participants discussed bullying, cyberbullying, its impact on the subject and family, the role of bystanders and how to go about using positive alternatives to build healthy relationships.

Honor Roll Breakfast

Congratulations to the 594 students who were recognized at an honor roll pancake breakfast on September 27. Northern Highlands is proud of all of their accomplishments.





CLASSROOM CLOSE-UP

Classroom Close-up filmed the Northern Highlands Robotics class engaging in the Stevens Institute of Technology's Waterbotics challenges. They captured our students' problem solving & collaborating to solve the above and underwater missions.

Students created two separate designs with a goal for their vessels to float or dive successfully. Our students had a blast working together to maneuver their bots to complete the various missions in our very own robotics pool! It was a surprising cold day, but that did not deter them from getting their bots in the pool and having fun!

During the interviews students talked about the design process of their robots, working through the missions by evaluating and pre-testing, working in a group and collaborating, and spoke about their interest in the course.

You can watch our students design, collaborate, and test their robots on www.classroomcloseup.org.



Spring DECA Results

Northern Highlands DECA competed at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) held in Atlanta, Georgia from April 21 - 24, 2018. NH DECA members came home with not just trophies, but incredible accomplishments! First Place Overall (#1 among about 10,000 students) was earned by Jacob Mendel in Entrepreneurship Series Event. This was quite the accomplishment as Jacob also placed first overall in his event the year prior at the ICDC in Anaheim, CA. It should be noted that this is the first time in Northern Highlands DECA history that a student has earned first place honors in his/her respective event two years in a row at this level of competition. Congratulations are in order for Jacob for this unprecedented achievement!

In addition, Second Place Overall (#2 among about 10,000 students) was earned by Anatalia Sosinsky in Sports and Entertainment Marketing. Among those ranking in the Top 10 Overall were Samantha Mulvey and Phoebe Schmid in Financial Services Team Decision Making and Evan Casalino, Mark Puig and Emma Vingan in Learn and Earn Project.

Keep in mind that in each event category there are some 5,000 to 10,000 students that first compete at their local conference. A limited number of them advance to their respective state or national conferences, and then only a handful of them get to this International Conference. To be a First Place, Top 10, or Finalist (Top 20) at this level of competition is truly remarkable. Congratulations to all!



Science Department Receives Anonymous Donations

Last year, Northern Highlands received two generous anonymous donations for a total of \$16,000. The plan was to use these funds to further advance STEM education by redesigning one of our applied technology classrooms. Applied technology teachers and students designed the new learning space. With help from teachers, administration, and our custodial staff, the learning space is now equipped with two think tank areas that will better foster collaboration and brainstorming. In addition to these new areas, the existing furniture was rearranged and electrical conduit was re-wired to better meet the learning needs of our students. Northern Highlands would like to thank the two anonymous families for their generous and much-appreciated donations.

FLT: A Students Perspective

Foundations in Literacy and Technology (FLT) is a required multidisciplinary course for all ninth grade students. The goals of FLT are to cultivate 21st century skills, such as inquiry, research, collaboration, problem solving and citizenship through an interdisciplinary lens.

As part of their culminating project, students participate in a 21-day Challenge self-directed project where they collect data and reflect on their experiences which they document on a personal website. In addition, they upload artifacts including videos, photos, journal reflections, data and infographics.

One student, Vivien Jones, shared her experience of her 21-day Challenge.

My challenge for my freshman year FLT project was to not wear makeup for 21 days. For anyone who didn't know me last year, I practically wore a mask of makeup to school every day. I would rise at the crack of dawn to roll on globs of foundation and paint my lashes. My morning routine was a sacred part of my day that calmed me down before school and relieved some of my stress.

The overall main goal of my project was not to take away something I loved, but to make myself someone I loved. I have always dealt with self-confidence issues throughout my entire life, so stripping away my safety blanket with no transition was a rude awakening. The night before the first day of the challenge, I laid in bed until 1 AM with no desire to sleep. My fear of being seen consumed me.

After the first day of the "makeup-cleanse", long hours turned to days, and weeks slowly trudged by. My sleep schedule was unaligned because I was getting an hour more of sleep than usual. These three weeks of self-assessment were the hardest days out of the entire school year, in terms of emotion. Since there was a lack of effort put into my face, my jeans slowly turned from jeans to sweatpants. I had no motivation and I was convinced that I would be switching back to my old routine after the challenge was over.

At the beginning of the third week, I had made a promise to myself to not let my inner-voices get the best of me, like in previous weeks. This is probably my best advice for freshman: Don't let your mind trick you into thinking you can't do it. If your heart is in a good place, you will have the will to do anything.

I ended up having a quiet third week with the negative voices, which ultimately impacted my decision for future years, which is to cut down on the makeup and to let my raw light shine through.

News from Kim Hayes, NH's New Option II Coordinator

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) recognizes and acknowledges that all students will not achieve required NJDOE approved learning standards in the same manner and/or with the same level of success. Option II serves as an alternative to traditional high school courses and involves experiential learning outside of the classroom environment. Through these offerings, students will gain real-world experiences that are meaningful and relevant.

Option II may include, but is not limited to the following educational opportunities:

- Internships
- Community service and volunteering
- Structured learning experiences
- On-campus college programs
- Dual enrollment programs
- Independent study
- Magnet programs
- Student exchange programs
- Distance learning
- Co-curricular or extra-curricular programs

This fall, Northern Highlands is launching its Senior Internship program. Career experiences from this inaugural group of students consist of the following areas:

Dance, Law/Paralegal, Veterinarian Medicine, Construction/Fine Carpentry, Photography/Social Media Marketing, Cybersecurity, Social Work, Childcare, Medicine, Aviation, Music Industry, Graphic Arts/Design, Mechanics, Exercise Physiology/Nutrition

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or desire more information about our program, please contact Ms. Hayes at 201-327-8700 x544 or hayesk@northernhighlands.org. You also can find more information by visiting our NH Option II website at : <https://www.northernhighlands.org/Page/6326>

Girls Who Code Club is Coming to Highlands!

By Natalia Ratner and Isabel Fiato

We are very excited to be introducing the Girls Who Code club to Highlands this year! Girls Who Code is an organization that provides free curriculum for new coders and emphasizes the importance of women in STEM. The club will enable students who cannot fit a coding class into their schedule, or those who want to add to their coding knowledge, to do so as an extra-curricular.



Natalia and Isabel were motivated to start this club because both are passionate about computer science and believe that technology is the future. It is the hope that this club will give girls at Northern Highlands the opportunity to solve problems within the community, empower their friends and eventually shape the future through coding. We are looking forward to a great year!

Any student who wishes to join Girls Who Code can find additional information on the school website at www.northernhighlands.org or by contacting Natalia or Isabel through district email.

Fall Play Neil Simon's **Fools**

Looking for a good family night out?

The Northern Highlands Fall play, Neil Simon's "Fools," will be presented by Highlands students on the evenings of November 15, 16 and 17, at 7 p.m. in Hopkins Hall.

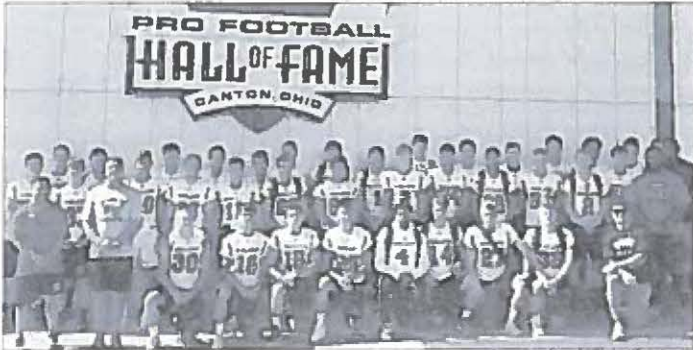
A cast of ten will perform, supported by one student producer and one student director.

One of the most successful playwrights of all time, Neil Simon wrote "Fools," in the 1980s. The story follows a schoolteacher who takes a new job educating a young girl only to soon learn that there is a curse on the village that makes everyone "stupid." Hilarity!

Tickets are on sale now by going to <http://nhc.booktix.com/>. For additional information, or to order complimentary senior citizen tickets, please call Laura Rokoszak at 201-327-8700 x654

NH Adds AP Human Geography to Curriculum

The Social Studies Department spent much of the summer preparing a new course. Advanced Placement Human Geography (APHG) introduces students to the study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. APHG students examine population growth and migration, political organization of space, agriculture, urbanization, industry and culture. Mr. Gornell, who will be teaching the course, spent a week with other educators at an Advanced Placement Summer Institute learning how to develop the course. He is excited to bring this new class to Northern Highlands.



Highlands Football Plays In Canton Ohio

Northern Highlands Varsity Football traveled to Canton, Ohio, home of the NFL Hall of Fame, to play Clifton High School on September 7. This opportunity provided the Highlands Football team a chance to play a once in a lifetime game at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium. Although the Highlanders lost a hard fought game, the experience was one that they will never forget.



2017/2018 Spring Track

Congratulations to the 2018 Northern Highlands Girls Spring Track team on its 6th consecutive State Sectional Championship this past spring season.

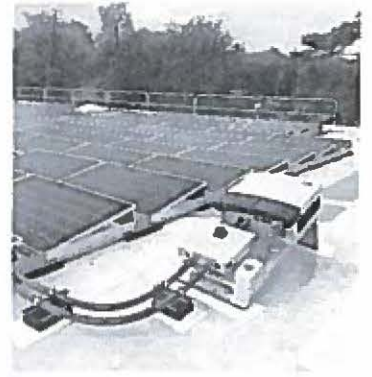
Athletic Upgrades

Each year Northern Highlands upgrades several aspects of our athletic facilities to ensure the most modern opportunity for our students and community members. This summer's projects included a resurfacing of both the track and field, the addition of a light stanchion to the baseball/softball fields as well as a complete refurbishment of the main gym. To the right, are some pictures of the finished projects.



Solar Project Completed

The Northern Highlands School District is happy to announce that the Solar project that we have been working on for the past year is finally completed. These panels were installed at no cost to the taxpayers and as of October 13, 2018 the panels are now producing 40% of the districts energy. The district is projected to save approximately \$1,500,000 over the next 15 years.



Actual picture of the system installed on the roof of Northern Highlands High School.



Girls Soccer Travels to Tennessee

The Northern Highlands Girls Soccer Team travelled to Tennessee to play nationally ranked teams St. Agnes and Houston. Northern Highlands came away with well-played victories in both games and made a strong case to be labelled as the top team in the nation.

In addition to playing their two games, the team had an opportunity to see the sights and spend time volunteering with local preschoolers through the Porter-Leath program. The sightseeing included visiting Graceland, Beale Street and the National Civil Rights Museum, which provided the team a well-deserved break from soccer.



Congratulations to the 2017/2018 Boys Lacrosse team

Congratulations to the Northern Highlands Boys Lacrosse Team for winning the school's first sectional and group 3 state championship.

NH School Security Update

See Something – Say Something

Northern Highlands prides itself on providing a safe and secure school environment for all students and staff. To that end, we continue to evaluate and improve upon our current security measures and emergency plans. Some recent security upgrades to our facility include the installation of all new classroom door locks. These new locks allow teachers to lock the class door from the inside, limiting exposure to the hallway in the event of an emergency. Also, a new visitor vestibule is in the process of being installed in our Main Lobby. All visitors to Northern Highlands must go through our revamped visitor procedures in order to gain access to the school. Furthermore, commitment to staff training for an emergency has also increased.

Our staff and students continue to benefit from the most up-to-date and recent tactics on how to respond to an active shooter event in an educational facility. These efforts are thanks to our partners in law enforcement, which include, but are not limited to our four local police departments, the Bergen County Regional SWAT Team, and the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office. The school has also been used as a training facility for the Bergen County Regional SWAT Team, and will continue to be used in this capacity for our local police in the future.

Lastly, to help assess our current state of school security, the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office has conducted a formal threat assessment of our campus and made formal recommendations for improvement. We will continue to make every effort to modify our policies, procedures, and facility with respect to security. Members of our administrative team will also conduct visits to nearby schools, as well as consult with our local first responders, in an effort to better prepare and better prevent an emergency.

In spite of all of the steps we continue to take, the most important resource we can draw upon when it comes to school security is people. That's why if you ever see, hear, learn of, or witness any suspicious activity, please report this to our administration or your local police department. You may also call the NH Confidential Hotline at (201)327-8700, ext. 333 to make an anonymous report. We all play a part in keeping Northern Highlands safe – thank you for your support and assistance to do so!



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