
TO: SYLVAN HERSHEY
FROM: HEATHER MATOS – ART CLUB ADVISOR
SUBJECT: ART CLUB SUMMARY
DATE: 9/10/2008



Art Club is an after school activity for students in grades first through eighth. The Art Club is made up of separate grade level clubs which meet an hour a week for four weeks. The club starts in September with eighth graders and end in June with first graders.

Due to high enrollment the 1st through 4th grade Art Clubs are divided up into two groups. For example one group would meet on Wednesday and the other group would meet on Thursday. During the 2006-2007 school year 1/3 of the student population participated in Art Club.

Art Club projects are ones which go beyond art class projects. For example the 8th grade Art Club tie-dyed t-shirts and panels and the 3rd grade Art Club created giant pencils. Additional photos can be seen on my school website at <http://fcserver.nvnet.org/~matos> .

GEPA Language Arts Remediation

Commencing January 22, 2008, before school Language Arts Literacy remediation was provided twice a week for three months to identified, eighth grade students. The 30 minute classes were structured to offer a review of previously taught material followed by a mini-lesson and guided practice. Each week of the remediation sessions focused on new GEPA content and/or test-taking strategies.

Writing instruction specific to persuasive and speculative prompts was provided and, following teacher modeling, students wrote responses within specific time periods. Students were then instructed on the NJ Holistic scoring rubric and used it to self/peer score and edit their responses.

In addition, specific strategy instruction was provided in the area of reading. This included skills such as inferring, drawing conclusions, and identifying literary elements such as plot, conflict and theme. Students were also taught to identify varied text structures such as compare/contrast and cause/effect as they worked with varying genres of literature (expository, narrative, poetry, etc.).

The final remediation session of the three month period was held on April 20, 2008.

Submitted by: Lisa M. Pitingolo
April 28, 2008

Soccer 2007

This year's 2007-2008 soccer team consisted of eighteen players ranging from sixth to eighth grade boys and girls. The Eagles had one of their best seasons in recent years with a final record of three wins and seven losses. The Northvale Eagles worked their way through the season right into the playoffs making it into the second round. They ended a hardworking season in fifth place.

Throughout the season the boys and girls gave it their all from day one. The children worked extremely hard during daily practices and even harder during games. The team, overall, stuck together and put in a great amount of effort to be the best they could be as both an individual and team player. Not only were soccer skills and rules learned and applied, but the team also learned that working together to achieve success was critical. Every member of the team respected each other, along with their opponents and coaches. The sportsmanship that the Northvale Eagles showed throughout the season was commendable.

Each player on the team showed great improvement on many levels by the end of the season. The Northvale Eagles were supported by parents, teachers, friends and family members, which truly helped to motivate these children and give them the encouragement that they needed to try their best and reach their goals. This team is a wonderful group of athletes and I look forward to seeing them play in the upcoming 2008-2009 soccer season!

Submitted by Nicole Colonna

--Accomplishments In Instrumental Music 2007-2008
Northvale Public Schools
Submitted by David Herndon
May 30, 2008

The goal of our instrumental music program is to provide an opportunity for all students to learn how to play an instrument and read musical notation, while making sure there is a high-quality ensemble for the more serious or gifted students. The 2007-08 school year has achieved both results in a more complete way than in any previous year. It is the opinion of the instructor that the musical aptitude of the average middle school student in Northvale is not as high as in past years. However, due to the unique scheduling advantages and differentiation strategies used in our district, the Wind Ensemble and Jr. Winds bands each equaled or surpassed the quality of our finest top ensembles of past years.

The stipend (along with the rotating pullout schedule) allows the Instrumental Music Instructor to schedule enough classes during the school day, along with before and after school band practices, to accommodate the number of students in our school, and their wide range of abilities. This year the Instrumental Music Instructor taught most of the year with only three preparatory periods per week, which is over and above the duties covered by the stipend. In addition, the instructor regularly schedules after school help for any student who requests a session. These sessions are offered every afternoon except Monday and often last until 4:00 PM.

Strategies are in place to raise the standards of achievement for Northvale's band students so the focus of the band population can be narrowed, especially in grades 6-8, to those students who are willing and able to complete their assignments and make regular progress on their instruments while fulfilling their academic responsibilities. This strategy has led to a slightly smaller overall band population and less disruption of middle school academic classes for pullout lessons.

Next year looks as though there may be a return to a very large band enrollment. This will require the instructor to continue to expect more of the average band student, which should help keep the number of students closer to a level where each student can receive a quality musical education, without adding too many more classes to the instructor's schedule.

BOYS BASKETBALL
2007 -- 2008

As for the 2007-08 boys basketball team, the Eagles had their best season in several years ending with a record of 6wins and 8 loses and finishing 4th overall. The boys also advanced to the second round of the playoffs before being defeated by the potential championship winning team. While starting the season as much as one month earlier than other towns, the boys needed and used the time wisely to improve skill and better understand team concepts.

With the past season being my third consecutive year coaching, I can truly admit that the boy's basketball program is growing in a positive way. With the effort put forth by the team, as well as the support of both parents and fans, Northvale has gained recognition throughout the valley as a hard-working, respectful program. Both coaches and referees throughout the league have commented on both the quality of play and sportsmanship demonstrated by the Northvale players. While improving skill level does remain a priority, sportsmanship and respect have become a critical part of the Northvale coaching mentality. By being a member of the basketball team, players will not only improve in skill areas, but learn how to present themselves as respectful young athletes who are representing not only themselves, but the their school and town as well.

Overall, I look forward to continuing my coaching career in Northvale. The 2008-09 team will have 9 players returning, including 1 starter. I have only the highest expectations for the boys growing as players as well as the team continuing in its path of achievement.

Submitted by: Michael Praysner

2007-2008 Girls' Basketball Season

The 2007-2008 girls' basketball season was filled with much success and excitement. As a team, we came together as one to accomplish goals that we had set from the start of our season. We came together as a team very quickly and became like a "family." The eighth grade girls were great role models to the sixth and seventh graders and as a coach, I easily observed that the younger girls looked up to the eighth graders.

Our season began with practices Monday through Thursday in which we worked on drills, strategies, and different plays. The season started out a little rough, but with more practice, commitment, and eagerness, we pulled through as a team and began improving our record. Once we started winning, the girls' confidence was built higher and higher and I noticed the girls' performance on the court was improving tremendously. Each and every team member attended both games and practices with heart and commitment.

Finally, our first team goal was met: our team record of 5 and 7. The Northvale girls' basketball team finished fifth seat for the playoffs. The most memorable moment of the season was winning the first round of the playoffs against Old Tappan. The team's second goal was accomplished: making it to the second round of the playoffs. When the girls' team made it this far, it was such an exciting moment. The girls deserved it because of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the basketball team. Even though we were defeated in the second round of the playoffs by Harrington Park, it was still rewarding to know that all of the hard work paid off.

As the girls' basketball coach, I was so proud of my team and could not have asked for anything more. The girls pulled together as a team to achieve the goals set in the very beginning of the season. I am looking forward to another exciting, rewarding, and successful girls' basketball season.

Submitted: Jessica Dimataris

International Club

2007-2008

The international club meets once or twice a month and discusses a different country and their culture celebration.

September: Students sign up for the international club

- Each student writes a paragraph about the importance of culture awareness.
- We review rules and expectations.
- We discuss the upcoming events for the year.

October: Columbus Day

- The club reads and discusses Christopher Columbus.
- Eat some Northern Italian pastries.

November: Thanksgiving

- Students illustrate and write about what they were thankful for then share with each other.
- We had a thanksgiving celebration, with food and music.

December: Christmas around the World

- Students watched a Video on different celebrations around the world.
- We then discuss and illustrate the different celebrations.
- We have a holiday celebration, with food and music.

January: Chinese New Year

- We discuss the Chinese New Year.
- Students read about the Chinese astrology and the year of the rat.
- We watch a video on the Chinese New Year celebration.
- We order Chinese Food.

February: Cheese Tasting

- Cheese Tasting Day.

March: St. Patrick's Day

- Students read about St. Patrick and the Irish Culture.
- We discuss the Irish immigrants to America and their impact on America.
- We celebrate with Irish Soda bread.

April: Greece

- Discuss the Greek culture and their celebrations.
- We watch a video on Greek mythology.
- Student's parents share their Greek heritage.
- We celebrate with a taste of Greek Food from the Greek Village.

May: Korean Children Day

- Mrs. Lee and the Korean PTO present typical Korean dishes for students to eat.
- She talks about the Korean culture and present traditional Korean items.

June: Flag Day

- All American meal and picnic.

Submitted by: Adviser Lucia Quarato

Intramurals Coordinator

The intramurals program has grown in participants over the past several years. Beginning last year, it was necessary to separate grade levels, which evolved into grades 7 and 8 participating on Mondays and grades 5 and 6 participating on Wednesdays. This school year, the program began in the middle of September and has continued through May. Intramurals is a great opportunity for even those students who feel less confident in their ability during physical education class, to come and enjoy many of the activities that are taught during their class times, with an emphasis on cooperative games and not on sport related activities. This year especially, there have been several days in which the participants themselves taught and played games during their intramural time.

I feel as though the intramurals program will continue to grow in strength as long as the students are actively participating and enjoying the activities. Intramurals has also given the participants a great opportunity to work and play with other people that they often do not interact with, giving it a great social aspect as well.

Submitted by: Sharon Vadovic

Athletic Coordinator

As athletic coordinator for Northvale Schools, I feel all the teams are well managed and organized for their seasons. After creating the new Athletics Packet for athletes and parents, I feel the expectations are clear. The coaches have been cooperative in supervision of locker rooms and equipment and players understand that they are responsible for their personal equipment as well as uniforms.

Schedule organization, as well as bus scheduling, has become increasingly easier with the help of Anne Colthart. Having much of the scheduling done several months in advance gives Anne the opportunity and time to schedule buses early. I have also found it easier to schedule officials several months in advance.

One of my goals for next year includes the distribution of the Athletic Packets, with a parental signature required, earlier in the school year and during each individual season. I also intend to raise money to purchase new uniforms for all the athletic teams.

Submitted by: Sharon Vadovic

NATHAN HALE NEWSPAPER

Mrs. Syre and Mrs. Cerbasi have worked together, once again, to successfully advise the Nathan Hale Newspaper reporters and photographers. This year, we received a great deal of interest from the fifth grade students, so we opened up the Newspaper to the fifth grade as well as grades 6,7&8. The response was overwhelming! Our newest team of reporters proved to be dedicated and enthusiastic. They brainstormed ideas for each issue, went into the field to track down the stories, and wrote interesting articles that appealed to the Nathan Hale population. This was definitely a building year for the newspaper! This group will certainly be the leaders of the publication for the next few years. We are currently working on our third and final issue for the 2007/2008 school year, which is dedicated to the graduating Class of 2008. This issue will be published and distributed in early June.

Submitted by: Lauren Syre and Joyce Cerbasi

Summary: Spring Track 2008

The 2008 spring track season has been a successful one. Practice was held throughout the season, beginning on April 14, Monday through Thursday from 3:00-4:00 p.m. During inclement weather the team practiced in the gymnasium when it was available or attended a brief meeting the purpose of which was to disseminate information concerning upcoming practices and meets. The members of the track team have worked diligently at practice and this was made evident by the athletes' performance on the track. Many of the participants have willingly stepped out of their comfort zones and tried new events. This has resulted in a more competitive team and has at the same time allowed individual team members to find success in events that they had not attempted in the past. Through their hard work and dedication the athletes were able to achieve personal best performances as well as score points for the Northvale team. All participants are commended for their efforts this season!

Submitted by Caroline Rich