

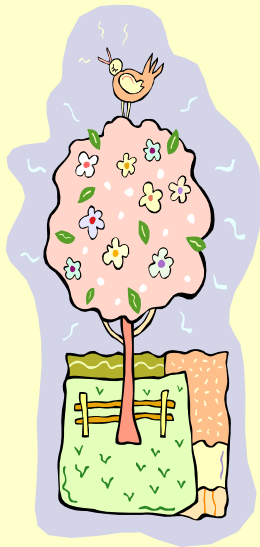
New Dimensions High School Newsletter

January 2008
Spring Newsletter

Dr. Cafiero,
Director

Dr. Dodge-Grimm,
Director of Operations

Dr. Shamsid-Deen,
Assistant Director



Principal's News

Happy 2008! The second semester begins January 22, 2008 and the school year is flying by! A very important part of this second semester is the state standardized testing program, the FCAT.

Teachers spent the first semester, and are still continuing, to ready your children for this test. The FCAT is such a high stakes test. At the high school level it is used to determine student graduation, and the student scores and their improvement shown on the test are used for determining the school grade.

Parents can be a very important part of their child's FCAT experience by working with them at home to gain extra practice on the skills tested. We recommend that you have your child practice FCAT questions on the FCAT Explorer. This can be accessed by visiting our website and clicking on the FCAT Explorer link.

FCAT Tutoring:

Mr. Surko is offering free math FCAT preparation tutoring after school. This is open to all students. Please take advantage of this wonderful free opportunity to get that extra help.

In addition to this after school tutoring, all students are being given FCAT preparation during a weekly homeroom session focused on the FCAT Benchmarks.

FCAT Dates

Please see the following schedule of FCAT testing so that you may ensure that your child is present on the scheduled days.

February 12, 2008

Grade 10 - FCAT Writing+

March 11, 2008

Grade 9, 10, and retakes -
FCAT Sunshine Standards
Reading

March 12, 2008

Grade 9, 10, and retakes -
FCAT Sunshine Standards Math

March 13, 2008

Grade 11 - FCAT Science

March 20, 2008

Grades 9 & 10 - NRT Reading
and Math

I M P O R T A N T

FL Department of Ed. security policies state that cellular phones, pagers, and other electronic equipment will be prohibited in test rooms during the testing period. Please see that your child leaves those items at home. Having them in testing areas will result in test invalidation. Violations will also result in sever out of school suspension.

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Scholarship Information on our website:

Students and parents that are interested in finding out about the scholarships that are available for graduating seniors, please visit our website. Each scholarship opportunity that the school receives is put onto the website so that you may access the information and applications at your convenience.

Please watch deadline dates!

Dear Parents:

Financial Aid Workshop!!!

The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a wonderful avenue for you to become involved in your student's academic life. The SAC invites parents and community members to attend monthly meetings and voice their opinions on pertinent issues that pertain to many areas of the school.

Get involved in the NDHS SAC. It meets on the last Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM in the school media center. The next SAC meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008. This meeting will be dedicated to College Financial Aid. It is being presented by The Education Foundation of Osceola County. This particular session will be held in the NDHS Auditorium. If you would like more information on the SAC, please call Mr. Shamsid-Deen at 407-870-9949.

SACS Accreditation Visit:

Accreditation is a voluntary method of quality assurance developed over 100 years ago by American Universities and secondary schools. The goal of accreditation is evaluate, verify and improve an institution's quality.

The organization that accredits schools in Florida is The Southern Association of Colleges and School and the Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). This organization is part of the world's largest education community, representing 23,000 public and private schools and districts in 30 states and 65 countries and serving nearly 15 million students.

The accreditation visit will take place April 14-15, 2008. A team of professional educators will visit the school and interview students, teachers, and other stakeholders.

Currently NDHS has SACS CASI Accreditation. This visitation is to continue to hold on to the status of being an accredited school. We know it will be a great visit and the visiting team will learn a lot about what a great school NDHS really is!

If you would like to have additional information on the accreditation visit, please call Dr. Cafiero at 407-870-9949.

New At NDHS: Congratulations...

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Pasta for pennies Fundraiser - Jan. 22, 2008- - Feb. 22, 2008 - Send in your coins!
 - ◆ SACS Accreditation Visit
 - ◆ Spring Break - March 31 - April 4, 2008
 - ◆ Prom:
 - ◆ Spring Project Fair - April 24, 2008 - 6pm - 8pm
 - ◆ Graduation: Friday June 6, 2008 7:00 pm - Location to be Announced

Spring 2008 NDHS Staff

Teacher's Full Name	Areas of Certification	Teaching Assignment	Out of Field Areas	NCLB Highly Qualified Status
Michelle Alford	Language Arts 6-12	English 2, English 3	ESOL*	Yes
Marguerite Cashen	Soc. Science 6-12, ESE	Soc. Science/ESE		Yes
Emory Sims	Math 6-12	Algebra, Geometry, Informal Geometry		Yes
Benjamin Griffith	Soc. Science 6-12	Social Science		Yes
Sonia Albaladejo	Language Arts 6-12,	Language Arts/ Reading	ESOL*, Reading**	Yes
Euniz Lochte	Math 6-12	Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Algebra II		Yes
Fitzgerald Edwards	Biology 6-12	Biology, Marine Science, Zoology		Yes
John Timmerman	Social Science 6-12	World Geography, Career Research, American Govt/Economics		Yes
Jaimie Toland	Language Arts 6-12	Language Arts, Reading	ESOL*, Reading**	Yes
Bickramjit Oodhican	Technology Education	Technology Studies		NA
Paul Surko	Math 6-12, Chemistry 6-12	Math, Earth Science, Physical Science		Yes
Ralph Barrett	Educational Leadership, Biology, Physical Education	Curriculum Specialist		NA
Ryan Adams	Physical Education K-12	PE, Health		NA
Phyllis Hill	Business Education	Business Ed		NA
Lionel Landuyt	Latin, French, Spanish	Latin, French, Spanish		NA
Nicole Aquilano	Dance	Dance		NA
Vasilica Margarit	Soc. Science 6-12	Law Studies		Yes
Theresa Barrett	Media Specialist Reading, Language Arts 6-12	Media Specialist, Intensive reading		Yes
Christian Soto	Music K-12	Chorus, Band, Musical Theater		Yes

* Indicates that teacher is in process of completing ESOL Requirements

** Indicates that teacher is in process of completing Reading Endorsement Requirements

NDHS Teacher of the Year - Ms. Nicole Acquilano

NDHS First year Teacher of the Year - Mrs. Michelle Alford

Congratulations to these fine ladies for their outstanding professionalism and dedication to the students of New Dimensions. We are thrilled to have them as part of the NDHS family!

Great things happening....

The holiday season brought about many wonderful events at NDHS. Mr. Soto, the NDHS Music Director, hosted a wonderful choral and band holiday concert. The level of music presented that evening was extraordinary. Ms. Nicole Acquilano's Dance program also hosted a wonderful dance recital in December. There were 27 unique dance numbers presented. The dance talent was a real treat to watch. Both shows were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks you Mr. Soto, Ms. Acquilano, and students for your hard work and talent.

NDHS Book Fairs

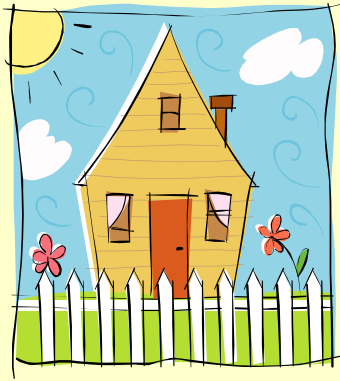
The NDHS Media Specialist, Mrs. Barrett hosted a very successful Scholastic Book Fair this November that resulted in profits of \$1,200.00. NDHS received almost \$700 worth of free books for the media center. Thank you to all the parents and students who supported the book fair.

Beginning Sunday Jan. 13 through Sat. Jan. 19, 2008, NDHS will be having another book fair at the Barnes and Noble Book Store on Orange Blossom Trail near the Florida Mall. A percentage of all sale made by customers who mention NDHS will go to the school. We look forward to a very successful week at Barnes and Noble. Support your NDHS Media Center - visit the fair!!!

School Wide Shared Reading Program

Last year the entire school participated in a school-wide read aloud program. All teachers at New Dimensions read aloud the novel, "My Sister's Keeper," to all of their students during every class on Wednesdays. The novel dealt with a family's trials and tribulations as one child is diagnosed with leukemia and a subsequent child is brought into the world specifically to help save the older sibling's life, through genetic engineering. NDHS tied the shared reading into its annual *Pasta for Pennies* fundraising event, and collected \$1800. In addition, guest speakers spoke of the challenges faced by families when members are diagnosed with cancer. Speakers from Give Kids the World and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society spoke to our students. Through this school-wide event, we expected NDHS student to become better readers, better listeners, and more compassionate towards the need to help those less fortunate than themselves. Indeed, we hope all of our students understand that we truly are "keepers" of our families and friends. The program was so successful, school staff members were asked to present the program during the *Just Read Florida Conference* during the summer of 2007.

We will continue the program this year, reading aloud another book during the spring semester.



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**Celebrating
Success, Creating
Pride**