

New Dimensions High School Newsletter



Dr. Tina Cafiero
Director

Dr. Jackie Grimm
Director of Operations

September
2008

Visit us on line at
www.newdimensionshs.com

Contents

Principal's News	1
Dear Parents	1
FCAT News	1
Second Chance Academy	1
Upcoming Events	2
Around Campus	2
Staff Certification	4
Athletics	3
NDHS Board members	5

Principal's News

A new school year has begun, and thus far it has been a very smooth and wonderful year. We look forward to the rest of the year being just as great.

In sharp contrast to last year, we have experienced an enrollment increase. We currently are at 330 outstanding students. Parents also add a very important richness to their child's education and we look forward to your involvement in your child's experience here at NDHS.

There are many important and exciting events coming up in the near future so please check our website regularly and mark them on your calendars!

Dear Parents

The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a wonderful avenue for you to become involved in your student's academic life. All schools need constructive input and assistance from parents to make the educational experience for students the best it can be. 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. The SAC members are also the driving force in school improvement initiatives.

Get involved in the NDHS SAC. We meet on the first Friday of every month at 7:45 AM in the school cafeteria. The next SAC meeting will be held Friday October 3, 2008. If you would like more information on the SAC, please call 407-870-9949.

***** **PLEASE NOTE** *****
The Department of Education has released additional FCAT tests that you as a parent can view to gain a better understanding of the rigorous content tested on the FCAT. Please visit www.fl DOE.org and click on the FCAT Home Page. These are great for student practice!!

FCAT News

Eleventh and 12th grade students who have not yet passed the FCAT, and 11th and 12th grade students new to the state of Florida, will have an additional opportunity to take the test this October.

The FCAT Reading test will be given Monday, Oct. 6, 2008 and the FCAT Math will be given Tuesday Oct. 7, 2008. Both tests will begin promptly at 9:15 a.m. in the Auditorium. Make sure that you have a no. 2 pencil for testing. Mechanical pencils can not be used. It is also important to get a good night's sleep the night before testing and eat a good breakfast the morning of the test. A very strict state testing security rule is that Cell Phones and other electronic devices can not be in the testing areas. Please leave your cell phones home on test days!

New Dimensions to Address Dropout/Graduation Rate with New Program

New Dimensions High School opened the **Second Chance Academy (SCA)** this August to help address the increasing high school dropout rate and the declining graduation rate in Osceola County. The Second Chance Academy has been set up to address the needs of students who have dropped out of high school or are still in high school but have fallen way behind in credits. This is an opportunity for young adults to finish up what they started and get that high school diploma through a non-traditional track.

To qualify for the SAC, students must have dropped out of school or be at least a year behind in credits, must have a job where they work an average of 24 hours per week, and have their own transportation. Classes are held in the evening so students can continue to work during the day so that they may earn credit for the on-the-job training. Courses are computer-based. Call 407-870-9949 for more information.



Upcoming Events

- ◆ FCAT Retakes for 11th and 12th graders only: Oct. 6-7, 2008
- ◆ Senior Ring and Graduation announcement orders: Sept 30, 08 during the school day for students and from 4-6pm for parents to stop by and place orders.
- ◆ PSAT Testing for 10 grade students: Oct. 15, 2008
- ◆ Scholastic Book Fair: 11-10-08 through 11-21-08 in the school media center
- ◆ Book Fair for NDHS at Barnes and Noble (on OBT near Florida Mall) 11-22-08 - 11-30-08
- ◆ Fall Project Night is Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008 6-8pm
- ◆ Band Concert and Chorus Holiday Concert: 12-4-08, Musical Theater Production 12-12-08

Around Campus...

Dance News...

Make sure you visit your child's teachers and check their progress by clicking on the ENGRADE link on our school website.

Ms. Acquilano is pleased to announce that the 2008-2009 Dance Department season is in full swing! Dance Tech I has already learned the original choreography of their first piece. It is, as is tradition, a "Disco" number and set to be the big opening number for the recital on December 18, 2008 at 6:00pm.

The students of the Dance Tech II class have been learning a great deal of Pilates and Power Yoga, in addition to the choreography of an 80's dance routine complete with the "shopping cart", "sprinkler" and the "running man" from days of yore.

And finally, Ms. Acquilano wishes to announce the truly wonderful study of lyrical dance that the students of dance Tech III are embracing. These advanced students are discovering expression of emotion through movement that has its origins in ballet and modern dance.

The recital is Thursday, December 18, 2008, at 6PM sharp, in the New Dimensions High School auditorium. Tickets are \$2 for adults. \$1 for children 6 and up. Children under the age of 6 are admitted free.

FALL BLOOD DRIVE

New Dimensions High School students will soon be participating in the fall Blood Drive to be held at NDHS on October 17th as part of Florida Blood Centers to maintain an adequate local blood supply. Students at NDHS showed their community spirit and activism last year by donating over 17 gallons of blood. We look to do even better this year. Students who are 16 or 17 years old may participate with parent permission. Students who are already 18 may donate blood without any extra paperwork. All students need photo identification which indicates their age. NDHS students, Henry Malave, Doris Melendez, Kristen Futch, and Jose Rodriguez recently attended a special Leadership Conference hosted by FBC so they can play the lead role in coordinating this year's Fall and Spring blood drives. We are in need of food donations to use with students before and after giving blood and for students who will be assisting. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Students may contact any of the students mentioned above for more information. Students and parents, especially those that are willing to donate food and drink items, may contact Mr. Timmerman for any additional information at timmermanj@newdimensionsHS.com. Parents are also welcome to sign up to donate blood.



New Dimensions High School
4900 Old Pleasant Hill Rd.
Kissimmee, FL 34759

Phone:
(407) 870-9949

Fax:
(407) 870-8976

Celebrating
Success, Creating
Pride

Around Campus, continued:

Adopt-A-Freshman

Teen Summit, another committee of involved youth at NDHS, has initiated a new program called Adopt-a-Freshman, to assist new incoming students with their transition through one of the most important periods of their life. Student mentors will be selected who are committed to making NDHS a safe, friendly and successful place to be.

Mentors will assist our new students in every way possible to have a successful first year at NDHS. The mentors will help with such things as school related issues and in school areas including, but not limited to: sharing study tips; social situation suggestions; giving more information about school events, involvement in sports, participating in clubs, and the importance of getting a great start to keep a high GPA. These mentors will draw on their own talents and also recommend other members to find answers and solutions for freshman and other new students who wish to participate.

Holiday Canned Food Drives

Recent economic hard times for some have taken a tremendous toll on our area food banks. NDHS students will be collecting canned foods and other non-perishables to help those in need for the upcoming holidays in November and December. For the November canned food drive, we will be putting together gift boxes for those families within our own NDHS family who have been identified as in need due to the impact of recent events or the current economic climate. Our December canned food drive will be in coordination and is to benefit the Osceola Council for Aging. When the collection periods start, please offer your support and show our NDHS generosity by sending in whatever canned food items you can spare.

UNICEF

InterAct, a new service club at NDHS, will be collecting and raising money for UNICEF (also known as the United Nations Children's Fund) during the week of October 27-31. Please be generous as we think of those children around the world who are not as fortunate as we are. Please go to www.unicef.com if you would like more information about UNICEF.

Athletics...

From the Athletic Director, Ryan Adams:

Athletics play an important part in the life of New Dimensions High School. Young people learn a great deal from participation in interscholastic athletics. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and how to win and lose gracefully are integral parts of our athletic program. Athletic participation also plays an important part in helping students develop a healthy self-concept as well as a healthy body. Athletic competition also improves school spirit and helps students develop pride in their school. If you would like to contact our Athletic Director, please call Ryan Adams at 407-870-9949.

Tigers Coed Soccer Team Off To Great Start!

Playing against teams composed only of boys, the NDHS Coed Soccer Team is off to a great start. The team currently holds a 4 – 1 record. This is a great record for the NDHS co-ed Tigers in only their second season of play! Our boys and girls are making us proud with their outstanding efforts!

Athletics Fundraiser

The athletics department is raising funds for its various teams through the sales of the Food and Fun Card. This card offers discounts that can be used repeatedly through out the school year at 24 local restaurants. The card can be purchased for \$10 and the school will receive \$5 for every card sold. Please support your Tigers and call Coach Adams for information on purchasing the card.

New Dimensions High School Fall 2008 Staff:

Teacher	Area(s) of Certification	Endorsement(s)	Teaching Assignment(s)	Out of Field Teaching Assignment	Deemed Highly Qualified
Paul Surko	Math 6-12, Chemistry 6-12		Environmental Sci, Physical Science, Earth Space Science		Yes
Sonia Albaladejo	Language Arts 6-12	Reading Endorsement	Language Arts, Intensive Reading	ESOL*	Yes
Michelle Alford	Language Arts 6-12		Language Arts	ESOL*	Yes
Jaimie Toland	Language Arts 6-12	Reading Endorsement In Progress	Language Arts, Intensive Reading	ESOL*, Reading**	Language Arts – Yes Reading - No
Scott Engel	Chemistry		Biology, Marine Sci, Environmental Sci.	Marine Science, Biology	Marine Science, Biology – No, Environmental Science - Yes
Ralph Barrett	Middle Grades Math, Biology, PE, Health, Ed. Leadership	CAR-PD in progress	Biology, Anatomy, Lifestyle Fitness		Yes
Marguerite Cashen	Social Science 6-12, ESE K-12	Reading Endorsement In Progress	DE Sociology, DE Psychology, American History, American Gov., Economics, DE Student Success		Yes
Bickramjit Oodhican	Technology Education 6-12		Technology Studies 1, 2, 3		NA
Benjamin Griffith	Social Science 6-12	Reading Endorsement In Progress	World History, American History		Yes
Phyllis Hill	Business Ed 6-12		Digital Design 1,2, 3		NA
Ramon Cruz	Math 6-12		Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus		Yes
Ryan Adams	Physical Education, Health	Reading Endorsement In Progress	Personal Fitness, Health, Team Sports, Weight Training		NA
Sarah Friedenberger	Math 6-12		SAT Prep, Algebra 1, Algebra 1 honors		Yes
Christian Soto	Music 6-12		Chorus, Band, Musical Theater		NA
Lionel Landuyt	Spanish, Latin, French		Spanish, Latin, French		NA
Nicole Aquilano	Dance K-12	Reading Endorsement In Progress	Dance Technology 1-3, Ethnic Dance, Dance Repertory 1		NA
Vasilica Margarit	Social Science 6-12		Law Studies, Leadership Sills		Yes
Theresa Barrett	English 6-12, ESOL, Media Specialist	Reading Endorsement	Intensive Reading, Media Specialist		Yes
John Timmerman	Social Science 6-12, Ed Leadership, Elementary Ed 1-6		World Geography, World History, American Government, Economics, Career Research/Voluntary Public Service		Yes
Leslie Dubin	Math 6-12, Educational Leadership	Reading Endorsement In Progress	Algebra 2, Geometry, Algebra 1, Intensive Math		Yes

* ESOL Endorsement in progress

** Reading Endorsement in Progress

If you have any questions concerning any of the dedicated NDHS staff please call Dr. Cafiero at 407-870-9949.

THINK TWICE

New Community Service Club forms at New Dimensions High School

By Miss Leslie Dubin

Think once.....and you will find a new community service club forming at New Dimensions High School. The name of the club is the InterAct Club. It is dedicated to helping others in the school, the community, and the world.

Most InterAct Clubs have one sponsoring club, but, **THINK TWICE!!** This new club has the honor of having two sponsoring clubs; The Rotary Clubs of Celebration and Kissimmee West. Typically, clubs have only one advisor, but, **THINK TWICE!!** This club has two advisors, Mr. Timmerman and Miss Dubin; and they are both Rotarians and are members of the sponsoring clubs.

Think once.....and you will wonder in which types of activities the club will engage. On September 20th the club members will form mentoring relationships with one of the sponsoring clubs, the Rotary Club of Celebration, as they shadow the Rotarians in their annual event at the Celebration Fire Station. This is the Pancake Breakfast, Fun Run and Silent Auction starting at 8AM until noon.

THINK TWICE.....because there will be plenty of exciting opportunities in which to join!! The Rotary Club of Kissimmee West hosts a Golf Tournament and Charity Fund Raiser.

Think once.....and you will learn about the opportunities to serve ice cream at Give Kids the World on Saturday evenings alongside a Rotarian from the Celebration Club. **THINK TWICE** and you will realize that you can also serve dinner on the last Wednesday night of each month.

Think once.....and you might join this club because it gives you the opportunity to earn community service hours, but, **THINK TWICE** and you will realize that it is all about helping others less fortunate than you.

For more information on how to become a member of this prestigious community service and leadership club, contact Mr. John Timmerman in Room 101 or Miss Dubin in Room 203.

New Dimensions High School Board of Directors:

As a charter school, New Dimensions is a separate school from the rest of the Osceola County public schools. The School Board of Osceola County is our sponsoring agency; however we are run independently and have our own governing school board. Should a parent or member of the community have a concern or complaint that they would like to present before the NDHS Board, feel free to contact our Board Chairman listed below. In addition, our board members are all listed below and you may attend any of our public board meetings. Dates for these meetings are posted on our website.

Karen Butler-Miller - Board Chair	407-498-7013	millerat2901@aol.com
Lynn Sparrock	407-498-7013	letaylorsp@aol.com
Al Torres	407-933-0307	davintorr@aol.com
Michael Magruder	407-870-8900	cmmtuna@aol.com
Carmen Torres	407-343-2412	ctadct1@ocnjcc.org
Tommy Tate	407-855-9243	t_tate@hotmail.com
Jonathan Harrell	407-791-3768	brookeinsurance388@yahoo.com
Loomes Wheeler	407-847-4343	loomes43@aol.com

Founding members:

Tina Cafiero	407-870-9949	testani@hotmail.com
Jackie Dodge-Grimm	407-870-9949	jacquelinedodge@hotmail.com
Larry Shamsid-Deen	407-870-9949	shamsiddeen@yahoo.com