I am truly excited that our high school is being featured exclusively in this edition of Soundings. During my tenure as principal we have made many changes to our high school in an effort to enhance what we do well in addition to adjusting those areas where improvement was necessary.

Our work has been comprehensive, ranging from instructional to the arts, to athletics using our school districts’ Strategic Plan as our guiding beacon. The results of this body of work are reflected to some degree in this edition of Soundings. When putting together a publication such as this, we attempted to showcase our main priority, instruction, while demonstrating that we offer our students tremendous opportunity to explore their interests and eventually craft a plan for their post-secondary lives.

I spoke earlier about our Strategic Plan and the framework it has provided for our continuous improvement as a high school and more globally as a district. Many action plans have been developed and implemented by our staff and some have yet to have been rolled out.

I would also like to mention the transformation to our physical plant at the high school. Significant upgrades to building security have been made to make our building an even safer place to learn. In addition to a state of the art camera and key entry system, we have revamped our security team with two new individuals. These individuals have been charged with being highly visible to our entire building community and have had a tremendous impact thus far.

Moving toward the future, our goal will remain to continuously improve as well as provide each of our students with the best opportunities available to them. This continued improvement would not be possible without a dedicated and caring staff of professionals who always put students first.

As you read this edition of Soundings you should all take great pride in the accomplishments of our high school, I know I do!

Always a Sailor
James L. Mackin Jr.
Imagination Takes over in AP Literature

Why do people read? That is the essential question that students in Melissa Barthelmes 12th grade AP Literature class examine. Designed to be a college level course, rich in higher level thinking, AP English Literature and Composition challenges, inspires, and enriches the eager literature student.

Through a thorough examination of literary masterpieces this course gives students a “chance to seek meaning in their lives through literature”. The course pays specific attention to making what students read come alive. “Whether they are acting out King Lear raging against the tempest, dressing up for the short story “Clothes”, or traveling down the Congo with Marlow in an operatic duet for “Heart of Darkness”, AP Students literally take over and drive their own learning process” said Mrs. Barthelmes.

AP Literature is not just about examining literary works. It is about learning in a student driven learning community. Students have the opportunity to lead class discussions about the readings and talk about what the literary works mean and its relevance to them. AP Literature is about making connections and giving the students the opportunities to do just that!

Freshman Honors Classes Now Available

As more students are taking advantage of post-secondary education opportunities, colleges are becoming more competitive and selective in their admissions process. It is becoming increasingly difficult for students to stand out amongst their peers and, as a result, students and schools are constantly seeking ways to ensure their students stand out.

Recognizing the need to offer students a more challenging and competitive education, Hendrick Hudson began offering full scale Freshman Honors classes this past fall in both English and World History. In years past, these classes would meet once every other day and supplement the students traditional English or World History classes. This year, students up to the challenge can opt to take the Honors and AP class exclusively.

The English 9 Honors curriculum provides students with a program that requires them to think deeply about literature at a higher level of complexity and depth than your traditional 9th grade English class.

The AP World History course focuses on developing a greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts in interaction with different types of human societies. There is additional emphasis placed on the historical development of the world over the past millennium up until the Age of Absolutism.

Both classes offer students an opportunity to go beyond the normal curriculum to enhance the learning experience and to broaden their understanding of the world and its inter-connectivity.

“I am exhilarated and excited by the challenge the course and the students have given me. I am looking forward to seeing how the students respond to the remaining texts in the curriculum.” said 9th grade English Honors teacher Suzanne Schneider.

Reaction from the school and community to the new program has been tremendous. Students, staff and parents alike are excited about the programs. “I feel that it is important that we provide every opportunity to challenge our students and model the inherent value of seeking knowledge for its own sake”, said Andrew Lupien, AP World History teacher.

Infinite Campus

Many people reading this probably remember their teacher taking attendance on oversized index cards or keeping track of student work in a green or black grade book. Today, grade books and red pens have given way to the computer and a mouse. Since July, the Hendrick Hudson School District has been changing the way it tracks and stores student information. Infinite Campus is the district’s state of the art student information system-capable of doing in moments what used to take teachers hours.

Infinite Campus brings together every major piece of student information into one easily manageable, accessible and navigable database. From student attendance, to grades, to transcripts and discipline, it is only a click away for the teacher and eventually the student’s parents.

Teachers are able to enter any number of information pieces into the system. They can track and post anything from homework grades and class participation grades to test scores and report cards. The greatest part though, is that everything is in real time. Students, staff and even other teachers can see almost immediately trends in student work and attendance. This allows teachers and staff to intervene before serious problems develop.
**Starboard Stars Shine at Hendrick Hudson**

Hendrick Hudson High School has a talented and active cadre of fine and performing arts students. These burgeoning actors, actresses, singers and dancers, even painters and musicians are able to showcase their passion through Starboard Stars.

Starboard Stars produces three unique shows each year that showcase students’ talents in a variety of thematic settings. From the fall drama, to the spring musical and cabaret there is something for everyone.

Through an open audition process, students are cast in the roles uniquely suited to them and their talents.

While not everyone who auditions will be given a role, students are encouraged to participate in the productions in other ways. “We try to emphasize that each role in a production is critical to its success, from the stage crew, to the lighting technicians and the set designers, we all play an integral part” said faculty advisor, Suzanne Schneider.

Starboard Stars is currently in rehearsals for this year’s spring musical, “Grease”. As shows go, this year’s production of Grease has all the potential to be a smash. Excitement has abounded this production since it was announced. “More students auditioned than ever before and the talent was exceptional this year” said Ms. Schneider. “Its great to see so many people getting involved and discovering the excitement and fun of theatre.”

Students and staff are hoping for a repeat of last year’s box office success; Performing for a SOLD OUT crowd in each of their shows! “Its really an amazing feeling to walk on the stage and see a packed house filled with your friends, family and the community” said Paula Correale.

**Hendrick Hudson Music**

They say music is what feelings sound like. If that’s the case then Hendrick Hudson High School’s Music Department is where feelings come from. With 3 choral groups, there is something for everyone who has a desire and passion to sing.

Just five short years ago, Choral Director Erica Denler arrived at Hendrick Hudson to find a small but talented group of students in chorus. Now, five years later, over 125 students are actively involved in one of three choir groups, chorus, which is open to all students, Concert Choir and Treble Chorus in which students are selected through an audition process.

The award winning Treble Chorus, also known as The Treble Makers, is the most competitive group for a girl at the HS to get into. The Treble Makers are ambassadors to the community. You can often hear them sing throughout the area at holiday time and at restaurants and malls throughout the year.

The slightly less competitive by equally prestigious Concert Choir is comprised of both male and female students. This award winning group took 1st place in the Mixed Choir Division at the Music in the Park Festival and will be participating in NYSSMA majors this year as well!

In addition to the group ensembles, Mrs. Denler also works with a select group of students who will perform solos at the NYSSMA Solo festival. For the first time ever, this ultra competitive group, made of the very best high school singers from around the state, will feature three Hendrick Hudson students! These three young ladies will represent Hendrick Hudson at the All State Chorus festival in Rochester this Spring.

“With so many kids involved and truly enjoying the experience they are having it has really become a positive activity for kids to be involved in” said Denler.

Sophomore, Claire Leyden said, “Being in chorus is like having a family at school. Knowing you have such a solid group of friends who love to make music is something I feel so lucky to be a part of”.

You can catch the Choral groups on May 27, 2010, at 7:30 PM in the HS Auditorium.

---

**Don’t Miss**

Grease

at Hendrick Hudson High School

March 19th, 20th & 21st
Co-Teaching: Wave of the Future?

It has long been understood that people, students in particular, learn at different rates and through different methodologies. In an ideal world teachers would be able to reach all students and engage them in a learning environment that best suits them. While we don’t live in such a world, Hendrick Hudson High School’s, Integrated Co-Teaching program comes pretty close.

“Technology plays an important role in student success.”

The ICT Program pairs a general education teacher and a special education teacher together to teach a mixed level class of students both with and without disabilities. “The program allows for opportunities to differentiate instruction to a diverse group of learners. The added resources allow the co-teachers to challenge some students, while re-teaching struggling students” said ICT and Math Teacher, Debbie Cruikshank.

Teachers involved in the ICT program go through a district level training process in the six recognized approaches to co-teaching. Each pair of ICT teachers will use multiple teaching strategies throughout a period in their lessons.

Luckily, the teaching methods are as varied as the students learning styles. In a given period, a pairing can start out teaching the class, where they deliver the same content at the same time. If some students are struggling, one teacher can take the smaller group aside and work with them, while the other teacher continues with the larger group.

Co-teaching also allows one of the teachers to deliver instruction while the other observes the lesson and gathers data such as student engagement, interest and comprehension. The teachers then use this information to refine strategies, improve instruction and ultimately student understanding. The learning process is augmented each day by the latest technology including Smartboards and overhead projectors with graphing calculators as well as TI-Smartview (graphing calculator on the Smartboard). “The integration of technology into our classroom has been instrumental in differentiating instruction and motivating our students” said ICT teacher Debbie Cruikshank.

“The ICT Program has proved to be a valuable tool in raising student achievement and diversifying learning to reach all students” said Dr. Gottlieb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Personnel.

Navigating the future with Naviance

Anyone who has gone through the college application process or knows someone who has surely knows about the vast amounts of paperwork and time that each application requires. Hendrick Hudson High School’s guidance office has been utilizing Naviance, a web based application, to help streamline that process.

Since the fall of 2006, Hendrick Hudson students and staff have been able to use the Naviance system to keep track of college applications.

As more students and staff became acquainted with the system, new features were brought online. In the fall of 2008, the senior class was the first group of students who were granted access to Family Connection, the student window into Naviance. The following spring the remainder of the students in the high school were given access to the site to research careers and colleges. Parents have also been given access to the system with workshops planned to help parents navigate the system and take full advantage of its features.

As the integration of Naviance into the a natural part of the students’ day takes place, students will have an increased awareness and understanding of the college application process as well as their options for post-secondary careers and education.

As historical data of the Hendrick Hudson graduates is gathered, guidance counselors are able to guide students to colleges that most closely match their interests and academic level.

College Planner lets counselors manage all aspects of the college admissions process with leading-edge tools for electronic transcripts and recommendation forms. With College Planner students and their families can research colleges, enrichment programs and scholarships. Students can even directly submit applications and supporting materials to over 1,000 colleges.

Next years students will have even more access to the features in College Planner. The guidance department is excited about next year’s upgrades which will include eDocs, electronic upload, submission and confirmation of transcript and teacher letters of recommendation. “The entire counseling office is excited and looking forward to submitting our first round of “Paperless” applications” said Heather McGowan, Guidance Department Educational Leader on the pending upgrade.

continued on page 7
The New Look of Soundings: A message from Dr. McCann, Superintendent of Schools

By now you have noticed a decidedly new look and feel to our district newsletter, Soundings. We have incorporated Hendrick Hudson High School’s iconic design into the header against the backdrop of the magnificent Bear Mountain Bridge and rolling mountains to the banks of the Hudson River.

With the new design prominently featuring our High School, we thought this would be a great opportunity to showcase the tremendous academic programs available to our students at Hendrick Hudson High School. All too often, people outside the business of academia aren’t able to see the amount of work and effort put forth to design academic programs that raise standards and provide students with increased opportunity to explore new subjects and discover their true passions.

This edition of Soundings, attempts to do just that. Though only a small glimpse into the High School, this edition captures the true essence of our High School and our District. We continually seek ways to improve student learning and achievement through new and innovative programs. These programs not only enhance the students education, but also the district’s ability to attract high caliber professionals eager to be part of a district with such an emphasis on expanding student opportunity.

As you read about our many academic programs and extra-curricular activities, please know that each of you have played a role in creating this educational environment. Your support of the district’s budgets and administration have allowed us to grow at sustainable rates with a focus and educating our children and community. We should all be proud of the work we have done, and will continue to do, to make the Hendrick Hudson School District a place of Academic Excellence.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>High School PTA Meeting*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Frank G. Lindsey PTA Meeting*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Furnace Woods PTA Meeting*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19, 20 &amp; 21</td>
<td>Spring Musical: Grease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Blue Mountain PTA Meeting*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Orchestra Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29- April 2</td>
<td>No School- Spring Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Buchanan-Verplanck PTA Meeting*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Hispanic Honor Society Inductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Orchestra Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Beatles Bash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Italian Honor Society Induction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>Senior Citizens Prom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Budget presentation meetings

Dates and times are subject to change. Please check www.henhudschools.org for updated events, dates and times.

Infinite Campus

With Infinite Campus there are no more academic surprises come report card time.

Since Infinite Campus is web based, each parent will soon be able to track their student’s progress in school. Parents will be able to regularly check their child’s report card and progress report grades too. Teachers have the ability, if they choose, to post everything from homework assignments to test grades, allowing parents real time access to their students progress. This real time access allows both students, and parents to see their progress and alerts them to potential problems before they exist. If parents can see their child is not handing in math homework, they can address the issue right away, rather than having to wait until report card time, when the damage has already been done. Keep in mind the basic information of report cards and progress reports will be available to all parents. Posting of classroom grades is still at the discretion of the teacher, and will vary by teacher and grade level.

The system is not yet accessible to parents but we plan to implement the parent portion, the aptly named “Parent Portal”, this spring. Please look for a notification letter and agreement form soon.

Infinite Campus is also providing valuable cost savings to the district. As more parents become computer savvy and become comfortable with the system, the district will begin to phase out paper report cards and progress reports and provide them exclusively via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. The savings in paper and labor to produce the paper records is in line with the district goals to save money wherever possible. Infinite Campus has also helped us realize other savings in terms of productivity. Instead of teachers spending time calling parents about attendance and discipline issues, Infinite Campus will do this through email, freeing up teacher time for classroom work and work more directly related to learning and student achievement.

“Infinite Campus has been instrumental in streamlining student information tracking and storage” said District Technology Director Mathew Swerdloff. “Our staff have embraced this system and appreciate the time and energy it saves on the administrative side of teaching. It really just allows them more time to engage in learning with their class and that’s great” he concluded.
**Unique Opportunities in Science Research Program**

Did you ever wonder who the next great mind in science would be, or even how a scientist studies something? You need not look any further than Hendrick Hudson High School’s Christine Roger’s science lab for the answer.

The Science Research Program, under the direction of Dr. Roger’s is a three year course, accredited by SUNY at Albany and part of the University in the High School Program.

At a time when students from around the globe are routinely surpassing US students in the math and science fields, this program is an introduction to scientific research, as it is practiced in academic institutions around the world. Students develop and learn the skills necessary to conduct independent scientific research in college and beyond.

The course requires students to undertake a collegiate level original research project on a topic of their choosing. Once they choose a topic to study, students work closely with a mentor from the scientific community that most closely relates to their topic. Working alongside their mentors, students will learn everything from designing a research proposal to the extensive research necessary to be able to present their project at competitions and symposiums. By graduation, program participants will have an in-depth understanding of the research process and what it takes to develop, execute and report on scientific research.

While the program requires an extensive commitment from the students, (often including two summers) it also provides students with an unprecedented opportunity to engage in meaningful and thoughtful research well before most of their peers will even consider such projects.

“As with anything in life, students are not guaranteed to have the results they thought they would and as a result they experience all the frustrations and excitement of real research.” said Dr. Rogers.

Recently, Allison Gofman, a senior in the program, was selected as one of 300 semifinalists in the Intel Science Talent Search for her project “Preference for Goal-Directed Action in Infancy and at Four Years Old”.

“My research and internship were life changing, and the program definitely made it possible. It’s great that the school is supporting nonstandard opportunities, because it gives us the chance to go beyond what students usually learn in high school to something that is 100% unique” said Allison.

**Speaking of Debate**

Hendrick Hudson High School has a long and proud tradition of Speech and Debate. From hosting one of the longest running tournaments, “The Malcolm A. Bump Memorial Tournament” to winning awards at competitions from Harvard to Yale students in Speech and Debate continue that tradition today.

Speech and Debate covers a number of different activities. The Speech side is primarily for those with either a literary or a dramatic bent. Students present distillations of plays, novels and stories in performance, or deliver speeches they have written on a particular facet of modern society that they find interesting. Student’s looking for an even greater challenge can participate in an extemporaneous speaking event, where students select topics out of a hat and have a half hour to research, write and memorize a seven-minute speech on that topic.

Imagination Comes Alive...

**Continued from page 2**

Therein lies AP Literature’s practical applications, which makes AP Literature so valuable. Regardless of what field students may pursue, it is integral to be creative problem solvers, critical thinkers, and articulate users of language, written and spoken.

Beyond the real world applications of the AP English Literature, students also have the opportunity to earn college credit for taking the class. The class culminates in May with the AP English and Literature Exam. Students earning a 4 or higher will be awarded college credit at most colleges and universities.

“AP Literature was without a doubt one of the most valuable classes of my high school experience...it introduced me to the rigors of college level classes, it helped refine my analytical techniques, and it allowed me to explore authors not covered in other English classes” stated Evan Bernadin a former AP student and Hendrick Hudson graduate.
Students Compete in Cablevision Challenge

Do you have what it takes to be on a quiz show?

We have all seen quiz shows and trivia challenges on television. We have all wondered if we had the stamina, intelligence and wealth of random information and facts to be successful on Jeopardy.

This past year, 5 Hendrick Hudson students found out they had what it takes when they joined the Cablevision Challenge Team. Working with the High School Administration, faculty advisor Andrew Lupien was tasked with selecting students who would rise to the challenge that this team presented. He needed to find students with not only a broad base of knowledge, but also students who had niche expertise in fields like science, math and pop culture.

After selecting Rebecca Theodore as the team captain, Ali Gofman was selected because of her extensive science background, Luke Murphey for his sports knowledge and Naimah Hakim had a remarkable ability to recollect all things pop culture. With one spot still available, Mr. Lupien reflected back on his students who expressed an impressive "Jeopardy knowledge". One student, Mike Spinelli stuck out in his mind. Mike would routinely get difficult bonus questions correct on tests. These questions were just the type found on Cablevision Challenge. Being impressed with his trivia knowledge, Mike was invited to join the team.

In preparation for the competition, the team reviewed trivia and learned important strategies to be successful. The day of the competition found the team generally calm and composed. Hendrick Hudson dominated the first round and still had the lead as the third round begun. Unfortunately, third year returning school Nyack beat them in the final round.

"Our team did great for our first year in the competition" said Lupien. "When looking at the questions we got right, our students did very well. It was impressive and we learned a lot of strategies which will help lead the team to success next year. I could not be prouder of our team and their performance. We’ll get them next year.” concluded Lupien.

Mac Lab

Hendrick Hudson High School has taken a lead on preparing its students for the 21st century with its state of the art, Mac Lab. The Mac Lab is a technologically advanced creative wonderland, specifically designed to meet the needs of our districts’ aspiring filmmakers, editors, and computer graphics students.

The lab boasts 24 IMAC computers loaded with the newest and best software offerings from Apple. The lab is also home to a 47 inch LCD flat screen TV and a state-of-the-art surround sound system. In addition, the lab houses other important equipment essential to creating films including cameras, microphones and lights.

Under the direction of Tom Oliva, students in the Digital Editing course have used the lab to create original films for submission to the Hendrick Hudson Film Festival (among others) as well as to fulfill portfolio requirements for university level study. Some of the projects students work on throughout the year include photo collages, music videos and setting poems and stories to images and music.

Since its inception, that Mac Lab has helped students realize their artistic and creative potential and “to meld success with [that] creativity...students are using the latest technology to present their ideas effectively and evocatively” said Mr. Oliva about the program.

In part, the success of the film production program is due to the support the High School has received from the community. From day one, community members have come forward to offer their expertise and assistance. In the early stages parent Rick Broat, a video editor for Sony, provided free training and other relevant insights while more recently another parent, John Milecetic, who works in the film industry, has guest lectured on topics relevant to the industry. “We have also been fortunate to have Hendrick Hudson Alumnus Andrew Jenks, return to provide countless hours of expertise and time to aide in the development of the program” said Oliva.

Naviance

Research college and applying for admissions is not all Naviance will help students with. New this year is SAT/ACT test prep. SAT Method and ACT Method are comprehensive on-line preparation courses that help students improve their performance. These courses also include detailed reports for counselors and teachers to monitor student activity and achievement.

“There are so many powerful and useful features in Naviance, we are all excited about continuing to take full advantage of this program to help our students and their parents make such important decisions related to school and careers” concluded McGowan.

continued from page 4
The Mission of Hendrick Hudson School District, recognized as a bold and innovative home for learning, is to ensure each student is a committed and passionate learner who achieves his or her maximum potential and contributes to society. This is accomplished by a system characterized by:

- A culture of highest expectations for all
  - An exemplary staff
- Diverse instructional strategies that meet the individual interest and abilities of all students
- Optimal technology embedded in teaching and learning
- A fully engaged, supportive community dedicated to common goals

Visit us on the web at www.henhudschools.org for the latest news and information