



Horizon Parent Meeting
September 9, 2008
www.horizonmagnet.com

Meeting notes from J. Eberlin, magnet director
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- **Welcome!**

- **Introduction of Faculty**

Freshmen Teachers—Ginger Belka (Honors Biology), Kim Johnston (Pre-AP English 1), and Stephen Stokes (AP/Honors World History); Sophomores—Ginger Belka (Honors Biology), Susan Boozer (Pre-AP English 2), Lindsay Rabin (AP European History and Research), Virginia Tate (Research); Juniors—Dr. Susan Baumann (AP US History) and Virginia Tate (AP Language and Composition), and Seniors—Dr. Dean Roof (AP Literature and Composition).

- **Horizon Summer Bridge Program—big success!**

The second annual Summer Bridge Program was attended by nearly all of the 43 incoming freshmen. The week-long venture, which culminated in the 2-day trip to the Nantahala Outdoor Center for whitewater rafting, tower climbing, and hike along the Appalachian Trail, helped to build community and *esprit de corps!* and to prepare the freshmen for the transition to high school and the challenges and rewards of the Horizon program.

- **Horizon Writing Lab to open first to freshmen**

The Horizon English teachers (Boozer, Tate, and Roof) will begin offering their time at lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays in A-212 (Dr. Roof's room) to assist students with their writing and revisions. The initial focus will be the freshmen class, but the sophomores will soon be added. The writing lab will also work with upperclassmen, especially on college applications and essays. Ms. Johnston will continue to offer the freshmen time at lunch on Wednesdays as well. There will be 1-3 English teachers in the lab each day its open. As a former English teacher, I will drop in periodically to assist students also.

- **Senior Project Completion—September 6 & 9, 2008**

The 2009 Horizon Class completed the more than 2-year senior project only a few days ago as they each presented their research. The diverse topics ranged from Canine Intelligence to the Impact of the Rapidly Expanding Chinese Economy to the Influence of Percussion on the Development of Musical Genres to the Psychology of Baseball and Pitching to Food Art to the Fall of the Templar Knights and many, many others. The seniors are breathing a short sigh of relief as they now turn their focus on college applications and scholarships. The seniors greatly appreciated the now traditional “doughnut de-briefing.” Additionally, as part of the Senior Project grade, all seniors are expected to turn in a CD with their project paper, presentation (be it Power Point or Keynote), and their presentation script to Dr. Roof by Friday, September 26. The project focus now turns to the junior class—mandatory parent/junior meeting on **Tuesday, September 23**, for details on the project. Meeting will be held in the Media Center at 6:30pm.

- **2008 Horizon Class—to colleges across the nation and even across the globe**

The 2008 Horizon Graduates are merrily off to their new schools and are literally across the country from as far north as Columbia University in New York City to as far west as Washington University in St. Louis all along the east coast at American University in Washington, DC and the College of William and Mary, the University of Virginia, and Washington and Lee University all in Virginia, Duke University and Appalachian State University in North Carolina and as far south as Georgia Tech and Emory University in Atlanta and Auburn University in Alabama as well as many who stayed in South Carolina at Clemson University, Winthrop University, Wofford College, and the University of South Carolina. One student even braved deferring college for one year to participate in a study abroad in Germany. I have heard from many, and each seems to be doing well.

- **2007-2008 AP scores were fabulous!**

AP scores among all four of our Horizon classes were phenomenal. The four Horizon classes combined for better than a 90% pass rate on the AP exams, including non-Horizon AP classes. Well done! Expectations are high for this year’s four classes—no pressure!

- **Senior help for college applications and essays—Kim Sanders is a tremendous resource!**

Horizon teachers will continue to help the students write college and scholarship essays. We, also, are fortunate to have Kim Sanders, the school’s junior / senior class college liaison, to help our students and all Northeast students find information on the various schools and scholarships available. She can be found in E-109 daily and is responsible for such things as college representatives coming to visit students at Northeast, arranging trips to college campuses, helping students find financial aid, and setting up test preparation seminars. Mrs. Sanders is more than willing to help. Do not be shy about asking.

- **College applications are due earlier and earlier—suggested completion by October 31**

Horizon Letters are underway. Kim Johnston is writing the letters and all are expected to be completed by early October. The seniors are to complete their Senior Résumés so that Ms. Johnston may write the letters. The résumés are part of the Senior Project grade and are due to Dr. Roof by Friday, September 19.

- **Larry Mills PSAT / SAT Workshop, September 15, at RNHS, focus on seniors and juniors (then sophomores)**

See Mrs. Sanders in E-109 to sign-up. The workshop, from 8:30-3:15 on Monday, September 15, is free; however, all participants are to have the Official Collegeboard SAT Prep Manual. The book costs \$18. The importance of this workshop is to help prepare the juniors, particularly, for the PSAT. The only year that the PSAT counts is the junior year. High scoring students may qualify for numerous scholarships, including the National Merit Scholarship. This year's RNHS senior class boasts 3 students who are finalists for the NMS.

- **Trips—UK, Atlanta in the spring and a college tour**

Kim Johnston has organized a trip in the spring to the United Kingdom. More spaces are available but time is limited. Contact Ms. Johnston with questions and interest. In the spring, the freshmen students will travel to Atlanta for multiple cultural events. Details are forthcoming from the freshmen teachers. In conjunction with Mrs. Sanders, a college tour is being planned. The proposed colleges are the North Carolina schools—Wake Forest, Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and NC State. Details forthcoming.

- **Magnet Football Tailgate, September 26 at Parone Stadium (Cavaliers vs. White Knoll Timberwolves), magnet students only (sorry no families this time)**

All magnet students are invited to come join us on September 26 to watch our Cavaliers take on the White Knoll Timberwolves at Harry Parone Stadium. The tailgate tent will be in the parking lot outside the stadium gates at Spring Valley. We will have pizza, cookies, and drinks for the magnet students. Students will be able to purchase tickets for the game at the tent for \$5 (this is a \$1 discount). Students who purchase tickets through us will have their names entered into a drawing for prizes, to include two season passes for entrance into the remaining football home games (does not apply to home playoff games). See you at the tailgate!

- **Communication—BB, website, Connect-Ed, students**

Increasing communication is tops of my list for things to work on for this year. We continue to enhance the use of the website, Blackboard, and Connect-Ed phone calling. Students are key as well. We will try to use as many forms of communication as possible in order to keep our program together and to promote our Horizon family within the Cavalier Family.

- **Parent feedback—contact us, e-mail**

If you have questions, comments, concerns, even compliments, please do not hesitate to contact me or the teachers. We are here for you. If there something we can help your student with or if there is an idea you'd like to share, please let us know.