

Summary of Middle States Report

Dr. Gorman and the evaluation team reported the following to the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Secondary Schools:

INTRODUCTION notes –

- NHS is largest school in district and growing
- Building well maintained and more renovations continue
- School practices its credo “excellence expectation”
- Program meets needs of population
- Faculty are dedicated
- Delaware’s stringent funding regulations translates to staffing restrictions
- But, class size was found to be within standards
- Positive atmosphere with regards to communication
- Student body is the greatest resource for NHS
- Reputation benefits school with over 200 choice students
- Greatest strength is in character of leadership
- Strong academic program, energetic faculty, durable administrators, and involved parents

MEETS THE STANDARD rating of the visiting team on each standard

GRANTED FULL ACCREDITATION Unanimous, 8-0 vote.

SUMMARY STATEMENT, “Newark High School warrants full accreditation. This is an institution which is reaching the needs of a diverse student body in a college community. While there are restrictions on funding due to state regulations, there is a fiscal prudence which permeates all that is done within this school community to foster academic excellence. As part of a large district with three high schools, Newark is the flagship of the district. NHS is a great source of pride for the area and more than exceeds the standards established by the Commission on Secondary Schools. There was no doubt on the part of all visiting Committee members that Newark High School deserved full accreditation.”

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

The profile provides an adequate illustration of the many facets incorporated within the Newark High School. The success of curricular and extra-curricular programs is attributable to the parental, administrative, and staff support of the entire school community.

PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION

The Mission Statement is based on previously constructed mission statements, which have origins in the Middle States process. All stakeholders find the mission, philosophy, and objectives to be in keeping with the school community. It is recommended that we periodically review and revise the mission to reflect current standards of the progressive educational community.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

As a large and diverse environment, Newark offers an appropriate spectrum of learning opportunities to its students. It is recommended that we establish a program of study that attends to the needs of incoming freshman class to reduce retention rate.

FINANCE

In creating the budget, the principal includes all department heads and site council members. Recommends that we develop a long-range financial plan.

FACILITIES

The building provides well-designed instructional areas that can be easily used for regular classes, and small group activities. It is recommended that consistency in heating and air conditioning should be expedited and develop a comprehensive five year maintenance and repair plan.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

There is a major transition taking place in student assessment in NHS. This has had a pronounced effect on all aspects of curriculum development and instruction. It is recommended that we institute consistency in assessment within departments and within the school.

LEARNING MEDIA CENTER

The library at NHS is inspiring clean, large and open environment. Several classes can use the facility simultaneously. Resources are easily accessed through the Follett Inventory Service. It is recommended that we attend to security issues regarding materials by making the library ADA compliant.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

All parties of the leadership structure conduct themselves in an ethical manner when dealing with parents, staff, and community. Administrators ensure that all statements and representations related to school programs are clear, accurate and current. It is recommended that consequences of new policies must be considered prior to implementation of new programs that will affect funding and enforcement.

SCHOOL STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

All staff members, parents, and students have access to clearly defined written policies and procedures through the use of the school's website and assorted print materials. It is recommended that we continue to think "out of the box" in utilizing alternate route candidates to provide students with quality instructional personnel.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Diversity and abundance are found in the student activities of NHS. The school hosts an extensive athletic program, a championship caliber marching band, a highly talented orchestra, a full range of choral groups, and cultural and hobby groups. It is recommended that we establish a baseline for parent involvement prior to moving into the goal of increasing parent participation in school events.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services are uniquely organized at NHS, including advisor/guidance personnel, nurses, administrators, and a Wellness Center. It is recommended that we centralize career and academic information into logical locations for maximum student use and provide attendance information to instructional staff in a timely fashion.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The department assists students in their personal and social existence. They provide a highly structured and effective venue for students to develop character, self-esteem, self-confidence, self-respect and direction as they support academic excellence. It is recommended that we examine the evolution of the department to focus the mission as necessary to the NHS community.

DIVERSIFIED OCCUPATIONS

The school, in conjunction with the instructor and parents, work together to offer students the opportunity to gain first hand work experience with community business partners. It is recommended that we develop a structured program for retaining students in the DO program, as well as create an advisory committee to assist in marketing the concept.

ENGLISH

The English curriculum incorporates classic traditional and contemporary literature, a broad spectrum of communications skills, and a diverse range of concepts at all levels. It is recommended that we horizontally articulate curricula on a thematic basis with other departments.

FINE ARTS

The Fine Arts Department provides an impressive and culturally diverse set of course offerings for the Newark High School student. It is recommended that we focus on professional opportunities specific to the Fine Arts.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Although World Language is an elective program, 62% of the student population is enrolled in Spanish, French, German, or Latin. Teachers communicate almost exclusively in the target language. It is recommended that we provide additional in-service for the purpose of sharing strategies and develop and improve existing programs.

PERSONAL STUDIES

The Physical Education, Health, and Drivers' Education teachers are utilizing the limited space and facilities in an efficient and effective manner. It is recommended that we revise the Health Curriculum to reflect contemporary standards.

SCIENCE

The Science Department strongly encourages hands-on experimentation with the students. Technology has been integrated throughout the program and presentation is an essential component of instruction and demonstration of learning. It is recommended that we develop written course guides for every offering which are well detailed, consistent with state standards, reflective of contemporary thinking in the field, and available to all personnel.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education at NHS is a combination of five separate programs including TAM, LRE, CBIP, REACH and Resource. "Teamworks" provides necessary life skills for students. It is recommended that we provide defined and productive vocational and job training for TAM, Resource and LRE programs.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The department is currently in the process of preparing advanced placement offerings in US History, and World Civilizations. They are moving forward with a standards based curriculum in advance of the state test. It is recommended that we vertically articulate the program within the department and horizontally articulate the program with the English department.

TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

The evolution of the Business department includes state of the art computer technology in the labs that are available for students and staff. It is recommended that we continue to pursue and look to expand the Business Advisory Council.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Encompassing the areas of Horticulture, Computer Assisted Drafting and Design, and Industrial Technology, the department provides students the opportunity to develop skills and attitudes necessary to transition into the world of work. It is recommended that we create a Technology Student Association, promoting student participation in competitions and learning experiences.

IN CONCLUSION

The school will be assessed in approximately two and one half years following this evaluation visit. At that point, the school must demonstrate that it is making or has made successful strides in implementing its Phase I school improvement goals. The visiting committee would like to acknowledge the integrity of the staff throughout, and the courtesy of the student body, particularly the JROTC escort which assisted in touring the complex the first day.