

CLARKSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL NORTH

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024







HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

JANUARY CALENDAR

Monday, January 15th

• School Closed - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Scheduling

Students will soon begin to select courses for the 2024-25 academic year. The electronic version of the course catalog is available on the Clarkstown North home page and can be accessed under the "Quick Links" section 2024-25 Course Catalog

The course catalog represents a valuable source of information on graduation requirements and descriptions of all courses offered at Clarkstown North.

Our goal as educators is to make the high school experience one that is goal directed, meaningful, and fulfilling. For those students entering their junior and senior years, registering for courses that could offer college credit should be considered. Keep in mind the need to balance the academic challenges with the co-curricular and athletic commitments your child has made or will make. It is recommended that you carefully consider course selections in order to avoid being "closed out" of sections later. The choices your child makes and the energy they apply to being successful will help them acquire and refine knowledge and skills needed to advance education to the next level.

During the month of February, the School Counseling Center will begin to meet with students to discuss your child's academic choices for next year.

Senior Parking

ALL seniors who park on campus will be assigned a new parking lot assignment for the Spring 2024 semester starting Monday, January 22, 2024. Seniors who presently park in the Ballfield parking lot will be assigned to park in the Main lot. Seniors who presently park in the Main lot may be assigned to park in the Ballfield lot. Seniors who do not currently have a parking assignment may apply online through the senior parking google classroom link at Senior Parking. If seniors need to add or replace a vehicle, they must submit a copy of the new vehicle registration to the Senior Parking Google Classroom on or before January 12. Spring semester parking assignments will be posted on the Senior Parking Google Classroom on January 16 and seniors may pick up their new parking stickers from the Annex Office starting on January 17. Seniors are responsible for affixing their new parking stickers to their vehicles and parking in their assigned lot beginning on Monday, January 22, 2024. Juniors are NOT permitted to park on campus.

Yearbook Sales and Advertisements

Yearbook sales continue for the **2024 Clarkstown High School North Yearbook**. Join in this celebration of your student, the Class of 2024, and all of our Clarkstown North family! Last year's book sold out, so get yours early to guarantee you can get a copy.

Early Bird Special: The "early bird special" has been extended through January 31. This year's yearbook is just \$90 after this 10% discount.

Ads: What better way to commemorate your senior than with a full, 1/2, 1/4, or 1/8 page in the yearbook? There are options for every budget, starting at just \$75.

Ready to Order? Click here to buy the book. You can also access the order site through the North web page by clicking the link Saga Vearbook link in the Quick Links section. Click buy the book

and follow the directions.

For more information, contact Mrs. Darcy and Mr. Wolfson at kdarcy@ccsd.edu and rwolfson@ccsd.edu .

Department News: Science & Technology

APC Physics E&M-

Mr. Morris' students are experimenting with electric circuits using an energy ball that includes a battery, noise maker, and blinking light. They are testing whether connecting the two tabs on the energy ball is necessary for it to work and are finding innovative ways to do so.



Regents Chemistry-

Mr. Duffy and Mr. D'Amico conducted demonstrations for Regents Chemistry students to observe emission spectra of unknown compounds. Students made observations to identify mystery elements.



Principles of Engineering-

Students in Mr.Lofaro's Principles of Engineering class are working together to build a robot. The students will be able to utilize their coding skills to program the robot to perform automated tasks and movements.





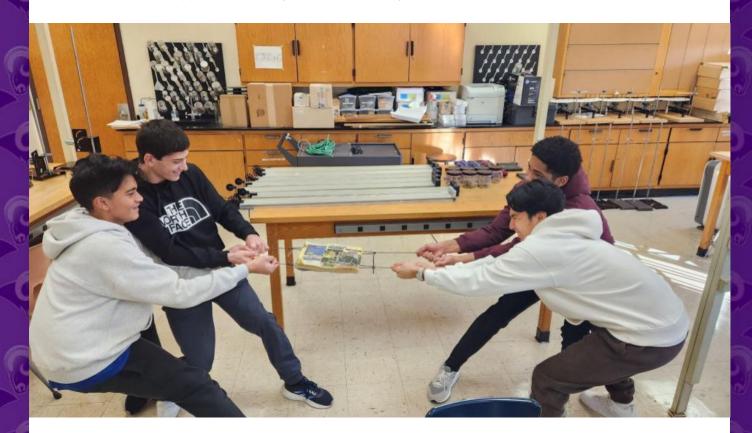
Regents Physics-

Students in Mr. Lofaro's Regents Physics class have collected data from their projectile launchers. Using this data, students will be able to accurately launch projectiles at targets located at specified distances.



AP Physics 1-

Mr. Richardson's students in AP Physics 1 learned about what factors affect the amount of static friction that will act between objects and the surfaces on which they sit. They then tried to work together to overcome the immense static friction force that exists between the pages of two phone books overlapped together. (without success!)



IB Sports Exercise and Health Science -

Students in Ms. Bernasconi's class used their knowledge of impulse and force to design a helmet fit for an egg. Rounds of increasing weight were dropped from a height onto the helmet-wearing egg to test which design protected the egg from the force of the weight.





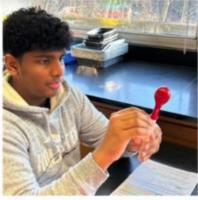
Biology-

Students in Ms. Zuccarelli's Biology classes have been unpacking Cellular Energetics concepts! Utilizing microscopy skills, they have determined the stomata density of varying plants. Students have also analyzed the effect of artificial sugars on anaerobic respiration rates of yeast.















Department News: English

CLUBS

Poetry Club:

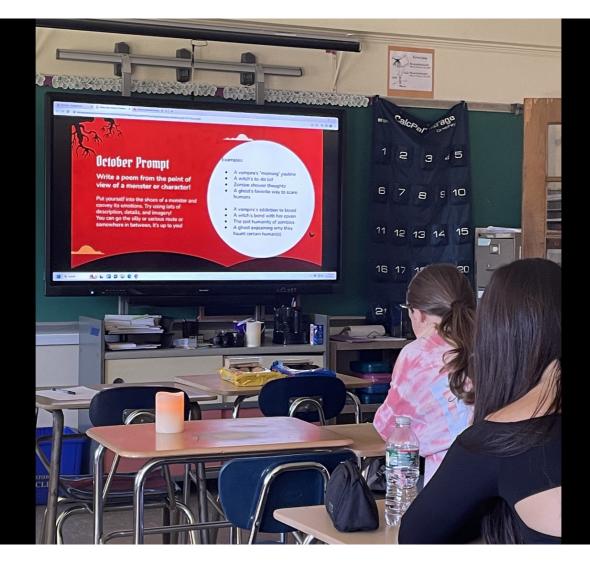
The Poetry Club is excited to share that the Fall Poetry Reading was a success. We gave voice to our poems in a cozy and supportive virtual format which allowed us to fill up the chat with all sorts of wonderful feedback. For the Spring Poetry Reading, we hope to go live in a new setting - we will be announcing this new format and location in the new year.



Our monthly meetings have been lots of fun: whether we are writing poetry based on our observations of the day, from the point of view of a monster, or inspired by a song – we are always having a good time together.

Noticing that some members don't feel quite ready to share their work, our co-presidents, Angela and Haseeb Haider, came up with a way for our club members to submit their poetry anonymously. At meetings we invite other club members to volunteer to read the anonymous poetry to the group – this practice has been a nice addition to our gatherings.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 20th, and our writing prompts will be on the topics of nostalgia and memories. We'll also share any new anonymous poem submissions!



Epiphany:

Epiphany, our school literary magazine, is proud to announce that this year's edition is going to be themed "Seasons." Students have been working hard on designing the magazine and selecting writing and art to be featured. Students are also brainstorming writing contests for features in this year's edition. We are always accepting submissions!

Ram's Horn:

Ram's Horn, our school newspaper, is posting regularly on our new, popular Instagram page—make sure you're following us at channamshorn to see what all the fuss is about! If you're not there, you're missing exclusive videos with our sports teams, music and theatre department, and more! Our online news site, accessible from North's home page, is thriving and regularly posts articles on pop culture, student activities, and all things North. Come check us out!

Cue and Curtain:

We completed auditions, had record turnout, and have a fantastic cast for The Addams Family Musical coming up in March. We look forward to the fun rehearsal process in the new year to ready this fun show for production.

Debate Team:

The Debate Team's season will kick off after the Winter Break. Tryouts are being held on January 9th and 10th, and we are looking forward to another exciting and successful season.

CLASSES

Ninth grade:

In the spirit of North High School's goal of student voice and choice, students in Ms. Rothstein's 9H classes are encouraged to explore John Steinbeck's novella *Of Mice and Men* through their unique talents and interests. They were offered choices from diverse project options, such as writing poems from character perspectives, researching the novella's thematic connections to current world and life related topics, crafting alternate endings, performing scenes, creating detailed digital collages with explanations, or designing character diaries and web pages. As a result, students had the freedom to express their ideas about Steinbeck's work creatively, allowing them to demonstrate comprehension in ways that resonate with them personally.

Ms. Sevastian and Ms. Leviton's ninth grade classes enjoyed presenting their independent-reading book projects in stations. Students created projects to reflect important internal/external conflicts, characterization, symbols, and themes in their fiction and nonfiction texts. Their creativity was showcased in amazing board games, children's books, talk shows, movie trailers, poster collages, maps with travel brochures, models, and dioramas. Sofia Aguila built a diorama depicting a climactic scene in Jenny Tan's novel *The Summer I Turned Pretty;* Joseph Calleja and Christian Chacko crafted a clay model of an original Nike sneaker design described in Phil Knight's memoir *Shoe Dog.* Both were exceptional projects!



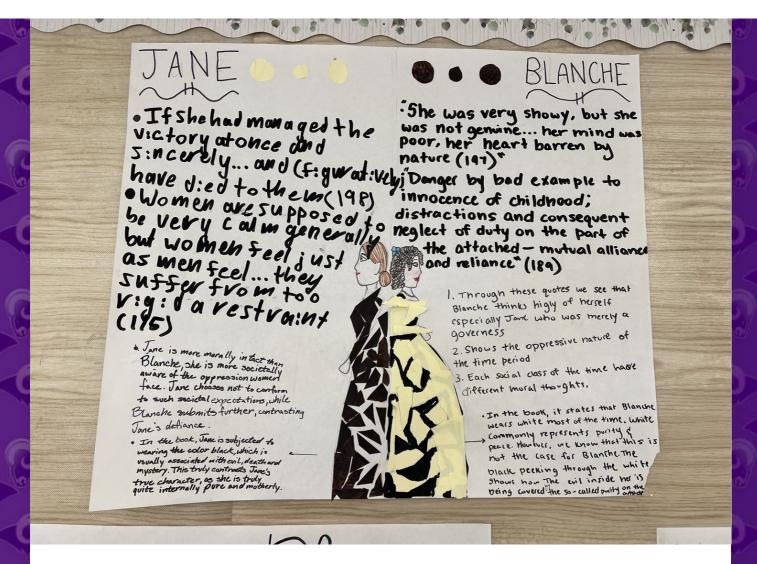




Tenth grade:

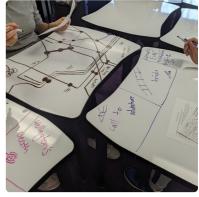
In Ms. Popkave's 10H classes, students created posters highlighting how Blanche is Jane's foil in *Jane Eyre*. The class had to visually depict the foil, extract textual evidence, and analyze how this contrast is meaningful from a Marxist, Freudian or Archetypal lens. Students had to consider Charlotte Brontë's purpose for including this foil in the story.





Eleventh grade:

In Ms. Herbst's 11R class, students created one pagers to analyze how the author of *the curious incident of the dog in the nighttime* used the hero's journey to show the main character's development. The class loved using the department's white board desks to plan out their designs. Next up, the students will be working on persuasive arguments and holding a Town Hall debate to practice developing claims and counterarguments.





In Mrs. Stein-Jackter and Mrs. Alvarenga's 11R co-taught classes, students demonstrated choice with an SEL activity focused on <u>The Crucible</u>. Students could choose Abigail Williams, John Proctor or Elizabeth Proctor, and then answer questions about what the character thinks, how the character feels, and what actions the character should take.

Twelfth grade:

In English 12R, Mr. Celini's class viewed the New York State Department of Education's definition of "culture" and discussed how the Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CRSE) framework could be used in class this year to diversify content and ensure we become more aware of a variety of stories, perspectives, and experiences. We then moved to Chimamanda Adichie's TED Talk, "The Danger of the Single Story," to understand how stories can "dispossess and malign," but can also be used to "empower and humanize."

AP/IB:

In AP Lang recently we started with Emerson's essay on education which says repeatedly, "Respect the child" and asked ourselves, What would this philosophy look like in the various aspects of today's schooling? Students worked in small groups to generate ideas, then rotated through the room to *star* the best ideas of other groups. This activity will end with groups writing an appeal (to teachers, principals, Bd of Ed, or NYS Regents) making an argument in favor of a change of policy.

In Ms. Rothstein's IB English class students were focusing on interpreting Polonius' advice to Laertes in Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*. Their task was to convert Polonius' guidance into attention-grabbing, contemporary forms, such as text messages, Twitter threads, voice mail recordings,

communication channels, students were asked to maintain the essence and relevance of Polonius' advice while making it relatable and engaging for a modern teenager heading to college. This exercise challenged students to creatively convey enduring wisdom in ways that resonate with today's youth culture, aligning with the IB program's emphasis on critical thinking and adaptation of classical texts to contemporary contexts.

In Ms. Czajkowski's AP Lit class, students dove into Jane Smiley's American novel *A Thousand Acres*, examining it through different literary lenses. Hot topics like "are you what you own-how does consumerism shape us" and "what does Smiley say about morality in American culture" woke up our first period class and provided lots of interesting discussion.

In Ms. Czajkowski's IB Theory of Knowledge class, students created powerful slideshows on Banksy's art and discussed ethics in art. Central questions included "what is the relationship between art and moral responsibility" and "how is the context surrounding art as important as the art itself." Students were fascinated by Banksy and his interpretation of our world.

Theater:

IB Theatre Year One Students did remarkable work interpreting simple dialogue in our Open Scenes Project. Students were given a short dialogue with simple lines and no situation and had to invent 2 unique situations to create scenes. They had to use the same dialogue for both. Students created some funny and powerful scenes using costumes and props. The situations ranged from roller coaster to crime scene to boxing ring and Frankenstein's lab.

Writer's Workshop 1:

Students are working on creating 3-5 page short stories from the few weeks of work we've done to design effective settings, characters, and conflicts. Students will end the year with a fun activity, the "found poem," where they will be digging through the classroom for pieces of text to use in a poem that they piece together from existing language. The results are always wonderful and really get the students thinking about all the ways they can create.

Creative Writing:

In creative writing, students recently completed their poetry portfolios. The students really enjoyed participating in readings where they snapped for each other's poems and in workshops where they first annotated everyone's poems and met one on one to share positive feedback and suggestions for editing. Up next, students are working on short stories.



Department News: Music

Band, Orchestra and Choirs: All North Performing Ensembles presented two performances in December. In School on December 5th and in the evening on December 13th and 19th. All students gave beautiful and memorable performances!

Music Technology: The classes are working on a film scoring project. Using a clip from Star Wars, the class has been tasked with creating their own musical underscore for the scene while also adding in their own sound effects.

All-County: Twenty-one North musicians were selected to take part in the RCMEA Senior All-County Music Festival at North Rockland High School on January 5th and 6th! Congratulations to the following North musicians:

Orchestra: Teresa Douce, Hajin Kim (Chloe), Angelina Zheng, Hsin-Ting Hsieh (Katherine), Tsung Chung Hsieh (Benjamin), Carolina Zhou, Alexandra Brewer, Ronie Sokolin-Mamion

Chorus: Pedro Aguilar, Elkin Frank, Alec Burstein, Melody Beron, Gianna Stedjan, Finnegan Thompson, Natalie Berkowitz

Band: Zachary Degen, Aaron Friedman, Samuel Rigney, Aaron Silverman, David Silverman, Angela Xu

Upcoming Performances:

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - Bandapalooza - 7pm - CHSN Main Gym

Department News: Math

The first meeting of GEM (Girls and boys exploring math) was a lot of fun! Students discussed Base 3 and learned the secrets behind the Base 3 Card Trick.

The fourth New York State Math League Contest will be held on Thursday, January 18. All are welcome to attend. No prior experience is necessary for this contest.

High scorers from contest #3 of the New York State Math League were Andrew Jaynes and Evan Agranoff.

The Math Department wishes you an enjoyable break.

Department News: World Language & ENL

On December 11th, the Italian and ENL Clubs went to Gio's Restaurant to try our hand at pizza making! We also heard an inspiring story of immigration and hard work from owner Gilberto Gonzalez, who shared his life's journey from Peru, through many years working in the restaurant industry, to owning his own business. It was an inspiring and delicious day!

In French class, 9th grade students have been enjoying vocabulary review choice board activities. Thomas Calabrese, Ethan Davius, Celeste Thompson and Herson Pleitez chose banagram to practice their French vocabulary during a choice board activity.







Department News: Art

Turkey Design Contest:

Design and Illustration classes participated in the art department's annual turkey design competition this past month. Inspired by the thematic portraits of Italian painter Giuseppe Arcimboldo, students created an illustration reimagining the form of a turkey based on a theme of their choice. All of the Art teachers then participated in judging by voting on the strongest work based on Concept, Technique, Form and Style. The winners have the honor of receiving golden chocolate turkeys and bragging rights for the year!

This year's winners are: Eli Berman, Siah Giji, Brenda Guzman, Chloe Kim, Briana Anahi Once Rocano and Celeste Thompson





Watercolor Workshop:

On November 30th, Art Honor Society students held a Holiday Card themed workshop. Executive board members demonstrated various watercolor techniques and interested students created many fun cards to take home and share with friends and family. If you walked by room 606 that afternoon, you would have heard the holiday cheer and spirit wafting through the halls!







Art College Fair:

On November 30th and December 1st, the Art Department hosted our annual Art College Fair. This year we held this event in the library and welcomed reps from the School of Visual Arts, Pratt MWP, and Maine College of Art & Design. Approximately 175 students were able to participate in presentations from these schools on their art programs and learn about possible career paths beyond college. 30 students also had the invaluable opportunity to have their individual portfolio's reviewed. We look forward to this event every year!













Department News: Social Studies

The students in Mr. Detota and Ms. Kalmeta's 9th grade global studies class got to explore the world of journalism and Ancient China by creating a newspaper. Working in groups they had a lot of fun crafting their newspaper while also working on publishing and layout skills with programs like canva.

In AP Government the students delved into the often hidden world of the Federal Bureaucracy by creating a brochure for one of the Federal Agencies, ranging from the well known cabinet offices to some of the more obscure ones like the Congressional Budget Office. The classes then got to take a deep dive into the different agencies by reading each other's brochures.

Department News: Family and Consumer Sciences

Gourmet Cooking - The month of December was all about International and Cultural Foods! The student groups researched a country's food traditions and had to choose a traditional dish to cook for the class. We had Welsh Cakes (Wales), Empanadas (Dominican Republic), Shakshuka (Israel), Liege Waffles (Belgium), Menemen (Turkey), Plov (Ukraine) and Atol de Elote (Guatemala).

Child Development - This month's theme lessons included Art week, where the students learned about Plcasso, Van Gogh and Seurat. To celebrate the holiday season we also had lessons on Hanukkah and Christmas.













New From: The School Counseling Center

The School Counseling Center is excited to announce RCC Application Day on January 18th, taking place throughout periods 2-8 in the school counseling conference room. Admissions counselors will be present to provide guidance on the application process and address inquiries regarding college programs and majors. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to explore information about the Sam Draper Honors program.

News From: The Library Media Center

The library sponsored another successful Ugly/Funny Sweater Contest in December. We had 24 creative entries in both the student and staff categories. The student winner was Ian Hung.and the staff winners were Allison Reiss, Tara Horowitz and Joe Stefania. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who participated.

In other news, North students have just completed their 7th 1000 piece crossword puzzle in the library! Previous completed puzzles are on display in the reference section. All puzzles have been donated by staff and parents and we welcome new donations.

More new furniture has arrived for the renovated upper library and the space should be ready by the end of January. New look, new year!

News From: The PTSA

The **2024 Clarkstown North PTSA Scholarship** application is now available on Naviance. Twelve \$600 scholarships will be awarded this June. If you are a graduating senior or a parent /guardian of a graduating senior, please be sure to obtain an application and apply. The scholarship requires CHSN PTSA membership **both junior and senior years**, and the student must be graduating from Clarkstown North High School. The membership deadline for senior year is 1/31/24. Any questions, please contact CNPTSASCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM

Our next PTSA meeting is Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the CHSN library.

CALLING ALL SENIOR PARENTS: Are you interested in being a part of the **GRAD NIGHT** planning committee? We need your help to make this a fun, safe night for all our graduating seniors. Please come to the January meeting for more information or email CHSNorthPTSA@gmail.com to let us know you can volunteer.

We are actively looking for volunteers for the **Staff Appreciation Brunch** on Friday, March 15th. Come help us organize a special thank you to our own North teachers and staff. Please email CHSNorthPTSA@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Thank you to **CANDLE of Rockland** for their informative presentation at The New City Library on Monday, December 18th on marijuana edibles, "What You Need To Know As A Parent." Stay tuned for the next CANDLE presentation in the Spring on the dangers of vaping marijuana.

CHSN Athletics

North Winter Athletes in action for the 2023-2024 season! LET'S GO RAMS

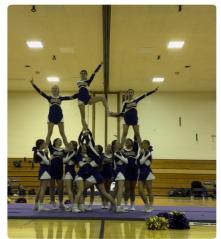
#ramsrock #purplepride #ramtastic















































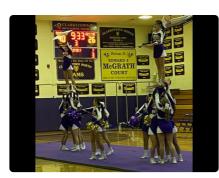




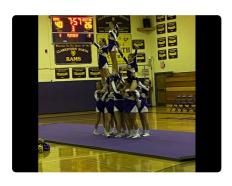




































Happy New Year

School is closed December 25th through January 1st. School reopens on January 2, 2024 with a Day 2 schedule.