



# High Point Regional High School

Gregory B. Youngman  
Principal

## “Principal’s Message” Fall Of 2009

As I begin my third year at HPRHS, I would like to review some of our many accomplishments and student achievements over the last year and our vision for the future. While there are many important issues that we continue to plan, orchestrate, and manage, I would like to focus your attention on our most important areas. They are our improved academic course offerings and their competitiveness, our quest for a technological vision that will reach well beyond the updates happening in our classrooms, new staffing, our emphasis on the physical plant and facilities, and, finally, our parental involvement at HPRHS.

We have continued our mission of improving our course offerings and implementing a more equitable weighted grading system. The Board of Education has approved our request to implement a more competitive grading system that went into effect this past September. Seniors will probably not be as affected as much as our freshmen, who will have four years under the new, weighted grading system. The Grading Committee has done an excellent job in both recommending the needed changes as well as developing the *weighted scales (multipliers)* used in computing the final grades in all levels of our course work. The objective is to genuinely encourage more of our students at an earlier age to take the more rigorous courses. They would then receive higher weighted grade points appropriate for the level of their course work and the academic competition within the classroom. If you would like more information on the new grading system, I would recommend you review our new course description catalog. Additionally, this year alone we have added two more Advanced Placement and an Honors course, while revamping our Language Arts curriculum and providing new initiatives in our elective areas. In the elective areas alone, we have added five new courses. As a high school, we genuinely feel our academic courses are providing each and every one of our students with not only a well rounded education, but also with the experiential education required to face the needs of our global world.

The technology audit that was provided last year by IDE Corporation (Innovative Designs for Education) has provided an assessment of our current technology use and classroom teaching techniques. The audit recommendations for improvement and integration of technological advances will enable us to truly set our academic compass on the needs for

the future. It can be a tremendous catalyst for self-improvement, transition, and developing a vision for the future. We have already begun to form a committee that is critically analyzing the results and making recommendations for improvement. Not only has the study taken a close look at what is currently in place, but, additionally, it looks at incorporating ways to differentiate our instruction in the classroom. The Mathematics Department in particular has developed a new innovative program that utilizes our existing technological initiatives; it focuses on revision of current teaching techniques and the detailed measurement of better skill performance of our students. It is an exciting new initiative that should enhance our students' mathematical performance on standardized testing, while increasing the daily use of technology in the classroom.

Additionally, over the past year we have replaced a number of critical directors and supervisors positions along with other staff vacancies. These critical leadership replacements were due in a large part to retirements and transfers out of district. We now have a new Director in the Athletic Department/Supervisor of Health and Physical Education, a Director of Special Services, a Director of Guidance, and a new Supervisor of Language Arts. The new directors and supervisors have brought a renewed sense of commitment and dedication that makes their transition even more exciting for our students and staff. Their leadership and innovativeness will be critical as we formulate an educational vision for the future. Finally, a total of nine new teaching staff members began this fall. Again, these were due to maternity leave replacements, retirements, and staff members moving into critical supervisory positions. It is both an exciting and challenging time with our staff, as we continue to provide the type of classroom ingenuity and creativity that have made the educational experience at HPRHS a very rewarding, rich, and successful one for our faculty and students.

Our facilities continue to receive attention with the refurbishment of our auditorium this past summer. We have completely replaced the seating, floor lighting, and repainting of the entire facility. The auditorium will serve as the cornerstone of many of our student theatrical productions, choral and musical concerts, community events, and serve as the primary location of our many assemblies and class meetings. It has been an excellent addition to the quality and beauty of our facilities.

While our outreach to our parents continues to be a high priority, we have attempted to provide a higher caliber of workshops and opportunities for parents to feel that they are a very important link in the educational experience of our students. Senior parents were involved in the final planning and orchestration of activities that led into graduation. A meeting was held in late April that specifically detailed the senior activities for the end of the year. We instituted a "Senior Scholarship Night" at Crystal Springs Resort, which involved community organizations and individuals who awarded scholarships. It was a great evening event that allowed our seniors and their parents and family members to share in their successes. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent and student academic planning workshop is also a great opportunity from the very beginning of the educational process for parents to share in the educational experience of their students. The administration and guidance staffs are planning many more evening and weekend events that will provide an enriched family setting for our students and their parents. They will continue to be an active member of academic, athletic, and scholarly events at HPRHS.

In closing, I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight my “**open door policy**” for your benefit. Not only will I respond to your e-mail and telephone calls, but I would encourage you to schedule an appointment to discuss any of your concerns or recommendations.

Sincerely,

*Gregory B. Youngman*

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