

Watertown High School
By P. Michael Noftsker

Watertown High School completed its one hundred sixtieth year of operation in 2009-2010. Punctuating the academic year, one hundred and forty-two students celebrated their graduation at the commencement ceremony in the Kelley gymnasium on Friday, June 5, 2009. P. Michael Noftsker served his sixth year as Headmaster of Watertown High School. He and his leadership team of housemasters, Katherine DiNardo and Michael McDermott, continued to guide the high school through the fifth year of NEASC recommendations and coordinated the district and school professional development programs. Under the direction of Dr. Ann Koufman, Superintendent of Schools, the high school continues to expand its use of educational technologies with major equipment deployments. Because of resources made available through the technology plan, every classroom teacher at WHS has a laptop and LCD projector. These devices are used daily within the curriculum for the teaching and learning process.

As a result of this growth, teachers are integrating technology more seamlessly into their curriculum, submitting period by period attendance electronically, and continuing to increase the functionality and effectiveness of their classroom websites. Parents now have online access to their child's attendance / biographical records, progress reports and report cards via iPARENT. Through the vision of our administrative team, the assistance of a task force, and the technical expertise of Webmaster Dan Dressler, the High School website was redesigned and is updated regularly to keep parents, community, staff and students better informed about high school initiatives and classroom curriculum. Training is also underway with the teaching staff to institute electronic grading through iRANKBOOK. This process will begin in the fall of 2010.

The four core Curriculum Coordinators (English, math, social studies and science) streamline the curriculum in grades 6-12. This initiative is part of the system wide-effort to align curriculum across grades K-12 and to continue to facilitate the smooth transition from Watertown Middle School to Watertown High School.

Watertown High School continued to provide students with opportunities beyond the school day with a wide array of extracurricular activities through 2009. The drama department presented the musical "Anything Goes"; the Robotics Team competed in its second season in the First Robotics arena; the girls' field hockey team became Division 2 State Champions; and the boys' basketball team was Division 3 State champions. Expanding online courses and extracurricular offerings, Watertown High School offered more Virtual High School opportunities in courses ranging from AP Economics to Genetics. Additionally, Rosetta Stone, a language-learning program, has been added in both Italian and Spanish for several of the students.

Watertown High School is actively committed to expanding technology use in the classrooms and beyond. In order to serve the students of Watertown, we offer a curriculum that provides the rigorous education needed to foster content-rich 21st century learning.

