



SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT NORTHSTAR STAFF MEMBERS

STAR STATUS | WWW.NOTTINGHAMNORTHSTARS.NET

Created by Caitlin Hill, Nico Merlo

Photos/Research By Emma Agliata, Paula Heineman, Clinton Ngo



FORMERLY A SPECIAL AGENT IN THE SECRET SERVICE



MR. MIKE KELLIHER

Mr. Kelliher was formerly a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service. He can't talk about it.



SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

Social Studies teacher Mr. Kelliher has taught US History at NHS for 24 years.





I WAS A RUNNING BACK FOR THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS

MR. ROBERT HARRIS

Mr. Harris went to Temple U., played in the NFL with the Pittsburgh Steelers as a running back. He is one of the all-time leading rushers at Hamilton West.

SECURITY OFFICER

Mr. Harris has been at NHS for over 10 years, serving as a security officer and assistant coach in football and track (throwers) .





PLAYS ACOUSTIC GUITAR IN A BAND



MR. ROBERT BANKA

Mr. Banka plays and sings in the acoustic duo called the Tiltin' Catz.



SCIENCE TEACHER

Science teacher Mr. Banka has taught at NHS for five years. He teaches Chemistry - AP, Honors, and A/B levels.





PLAYED IN THE LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES



MR. MIKE BRAENDER

His Nottingham Little League team advanced to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA in 1992. Mr. Braender played 2nd base.



PHYS ED TEACHER

Mr. Braender has been at NHS for over 14 years, teaching Physical Education and Health. He also coaches the golf team.





BEEN TO 11 COUNTRIES AND AUDITIONED TO BE A DANCER FOR BEYONCE'S TOUR



MS. LAUREN FLAHERTY

Ms. Flaherty has been to 11 countries and auditioned to be a dancer for Beyonce's tour. She was in the same room as Beyonce! OMG!



ENGLISH TEACHER

Ms. Flaherty has been a teacher at NHS for sixteen years and is a former Northstar! She's the Director and Choreographer of the school musical. She also helps out at Empower Hour and with Peer Leadership.



POLICE OFFICER FOR 25 YEARS BEFORE BECOMING A TEACHER



MR. JOE SHEDELBOWER

Mr. Shedelbower worked as a police officer for the Plainsboro Township Police Department. He retired in 2008.



TECHNOLOGY ED TEACHER

Woodshop teacher Mr. Shedelbower has been at NHS for 12 years. His daughter Kelly was a standout girls tennis player.





MEMBER OF THE SETON HALL PREP ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

MR. MICHAEL WALSH

Mr. Walsh went to Seton Hall Prep school in South Orange, NJ. He played football, basketball and baseball at SHP. His father was the AD at SHP.

VICE PRINCIPAL

Mr. Walsh began his career at Nottingham as a Social Studies teacher in 2004. He has coached cross country, basketball, and softball. Prior to becoming a VP, he was the school's data coach.



Michael Walsh



BORN IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SPEAKS FIVE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES



MS. GIULIA VALLUCCI

...is a citizen of the world! She has three citizenships: Italian, United States, and South Africa; and has lived on three continents.



WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHER

Ms. Valluci has been teaching Italian at NHS since 2019. She is also the Italian Club adviser and hopes to start a volleyball club.





SEMI-PROFESSIONAL ULTIMATE FRISBEE PLAYER



MR. JON SISTO

Mr. Sisto played for the New York Rumble of the Major League Ultimate in 2016.



MATH TEACHER

A nine year teaching veteran of Nottingham High School, Mr. Sisto teaches Algebra 2 and Computer Science.



PIZZA REVIEWER ON YOUTUBE



MR. MATT KOPPENHAVER

Mr. Koppenhaver has been reviewing pizza places on his YouTube channel for eight years.



TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

Mr. Koppenhaver has been at NHS for three years, teaching Photo Tech and Intro to Graphic Arts. He is the adviser to the Esports team and the Robotics team.





WENT TO SCHOOL IN ENGLAND AND HAS FOUR CHICKENS



MRS. DANA SCHWARTZ

Mrs. Schwartz has four chickens. One chicken's name is Attila the Hen.



SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

Mrs. Schwartz has taught World History and Medieval History for over 15 years and is also an adviser for the Environmental Club.





I RAISED \$100,000 FOR AUTISM SPEAKS AND WON AN AWARD



MRS. CATHY JACOBS

Mrs. Jacobs raised over \$100,000 with her husband for Autism Speaks and won the Gold Sponsor Award, which allowed her to ride on the Autism Speaks Columbus Day Parade float!



SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Mrs. Jacobs has been at NHS since 2005 and is a Special Education teacher. She has a Masters degree in Students With Disabilities.





I USED TO HAVE DREADLOCKS



MS. TRISH TAMMARO

Mr. Tamaro used to wear her hair in dreadlocks when she was 18 to 20 years old.



SCIENCE TEACHER

Ms. Tamaro teaches Environmental Science, Marine Biology, and Neuroscience at NHS for 14 years. She is the Producer of the school musical and the Step Team adviser.





I WAS A DIVISION I VOLLEYBALL PLAYER IN COLLEGE



MS. MICHELE DOOLEY

Ms. Dooley was a Division 1 volleyball player at Rider University.



BUSINESS TEACHER

Ms. Dooley has been teaching at NHS for twenty-one years and teaches Marketing and Computer Applications. She is also the FBLA adviser and Outreach for the Stars adviser.





I SWAM 66 LAPS IN COLLEGE WITHOUT SOMEONE COUNTING THE LAPS



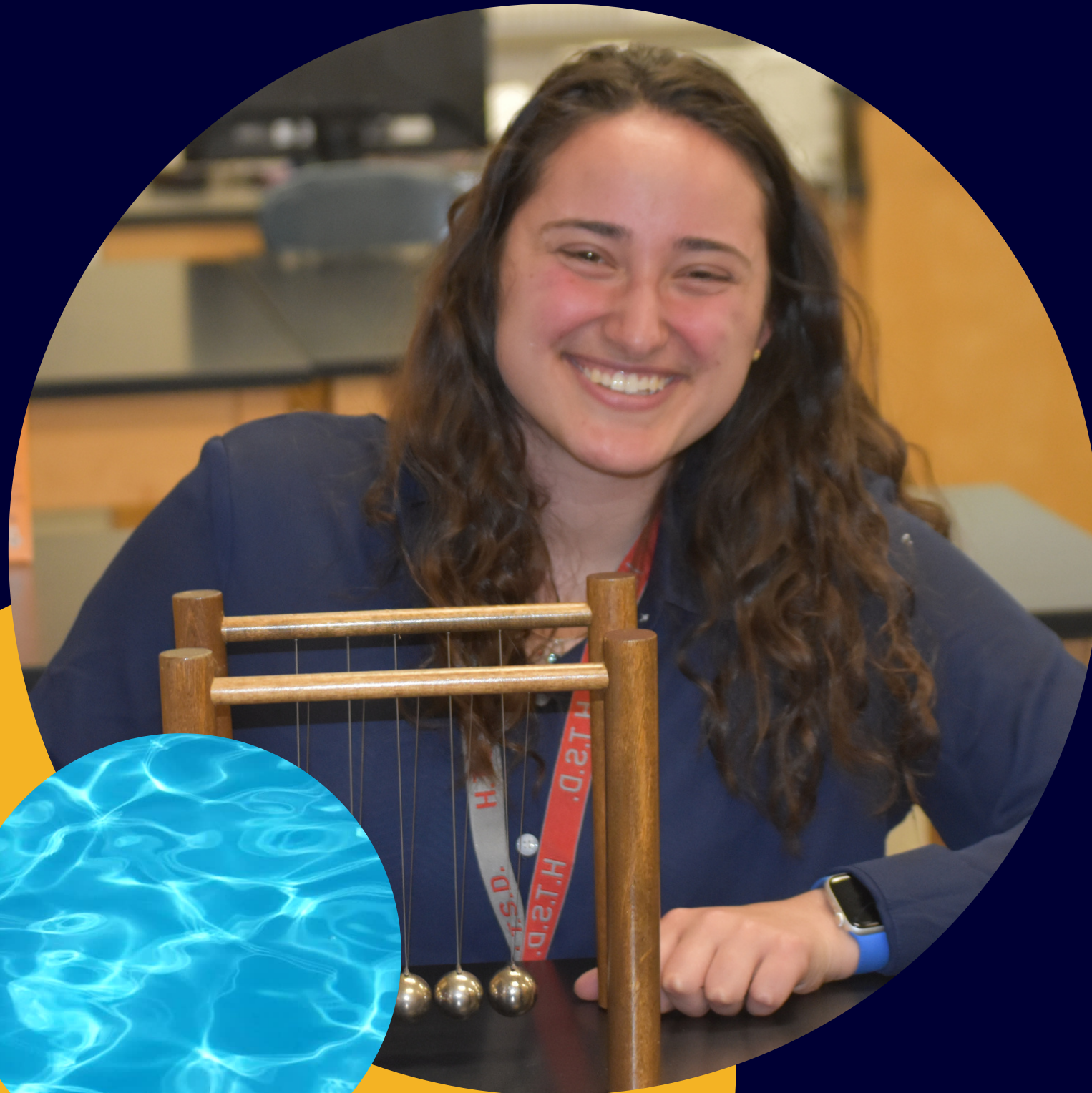
MS. NICOLE MESKIN

During high school, Ms. Meskin was on the swim and track team.



SCIENCE TEACHER

This year is her first year teaching at NHS. She teaches AP Physics, Honors Physics, Physics A, and Chemistry B.





I SAVED SOMEONE'S LIFE AS A FIREFIGHTER



MR. NICK DURANTE

Once saved someone's life while working as a firefighter in Monroe Township Station 51 on 5/27/2017.



BUSINESS TEACHER

Mr. Durante teaches Intro to Business, International Business, Honors Business Administration and Computer Applications. He is the JV/Freshman Boys Soccer coach, and Co-Head coach of the ESports Team. He loves teaching at NHS - the best students and teachers in the world!



I WENT TO NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL WHERE I WAS A CHEERLEADER! GO 'STARS!

MS. AMY HAYES

Only Mr. Capone has been at Nottingham for a longer period of time! As a student, she was a cheerleader!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ms. Hayes (Main Office) started working at NHS in 1989, she took over as Head Secretary in 2002.





I USED TO BE A DJ

MR. FRANK RAGAZZO



Mr. Ragazzo started out "DJ-ing" as a hobby making "mix tapes" for people in high school. In college, it became a side job where he played at weddings, dances, and birthday parties. He continued to DJ during his summers off when he was teaching.

PRINCIPAL



Mr. Ragazzo became the NHS VP starting in 2010 until becoming Principal at NHS since 2016. He was the English department Curriculum supervisor for the HTSD, a student at Hamilton West, and an English teacher at Steinert. Triple crown!





I WAS VALEDICTORIAN OF MY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS



MS. BETTY MANZANO

Ms. Manzano was the valedictorian of her graduating year at Union Hill High School.



MATH/COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER

She has been teaching at NHS for 18 years and advises the coding club.





FOR TWO YEARS, I COACHED CHEERLEADING AT NHS

MR. PETE CAPONE

in 1995 and 1996, Mr. Capone coached the girls cheerleading for two years.
Goooooooooooooooooooo 'Stars!



PHYS ED TEACHER

Mr. Capone has been working at NHS since 1984. He teaches the Simulator class, is the Safe Driving Club and Bible Club adviser, and coached/coaches Football, Wrestling, Baseball and Cheerleading.





I OWN TWELVE PAIRS OF EYEGLASSES



MR. DWAYNE WALKER

In addition to winning the "Most Fashionable" award from *Star Status*, he owns twelve pairs of eyeglasses.



VICE PRINCIPAL

Mr. Walker has been VP at NHS since 2016. Prior to his current position, he was the VP at Grice Middle School.





I HAD A FULL SCHOLARSHIP TO PLAY SOCCER AT TEMPLE U

MRS. MELISSA PERSICHETTI



Mrs. Persichetti played for the Northstar girls soccer team and received a full scholarship to play soccer at Temple University.

COMPUTER TECH TEACHER



Mrs. Persichetti has been teaching at NHS for about thirteen years. She teaches Computer Applications, Personal Finance, Web Design, and Multimedia Presentations. She also coached winter and spring track for ten years.





CAN SING THE ALPHABET BACKWARDS AS FAST AS I CAN SING IT FORWARD

MR. ANDREW PURSELL

While his brother was younger he was working on "Hooked on Phonics" at the dining room table. For whatever reason, that program went over it. It stuck in his head for some reason.

MATH TEACHER

Mr. Pursell has taught Math (Geometry, Calculus, and Statistics) at NHS for nineteen years. He also was a football coach for ten years and tennis coach for seventeen years.





I WAS NAMED 1ST TEAM ALL STATE IN SOCCER IN HIGH SCHOOL

MR. KEN KLEK

Mr. Klek was a soccer goaltender in high school and was named to the 1st Team All State team. His team also won a state championship.

ENGLISH TEACHER

Mr. Klek has worked at NHS since 1994 and teaches Telecommunications and Journalism. He is the adviser for the yearbook and newspaper club and also is the Tech Liaison for students and NHS staff.





I PERFORMED AS A STREET MIME IN NEW YORK CITY ONCE



MR. TODD SHULMAN

To raise money for a bus ride home from NYC, Mr. Shulman performed as a street mime. He is on the left. He can't talk about it.



SCIENCE TEACHER

Mr. Shulman has taught science (Biology, Anatomy and Physiology) at NHS for 19 years. He was the golf coach and is currently the Medical Career Club Adviser.





I KISSED THE BLARNEY STONE IN IRELAND

MS. KAREN BERNET

Ms. Bernet kissed the Blarney Stone in Ireland, which is set in the wall of Blarney Castle. It's said the person who kisses it will be given the gift of eloquence and persuasiveness.



WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHER

Ms Bernet has taught Spanish (levels 2, 4, and AP) at NHS for seventeen years. She is the co-advisor of both the Junior and Senior classes.





I WAS ONE OF THE CO-STARS (AND SOLOISTS) IN "WEST SIDE STORY"



MS. BARB NICHOLS

Ms. Nichols played Margarita in "West Side Story". She was the Assistant Producer of the musical. She was also on the Archery team.



GUIDANCE SECRETARY

She began working at NHS in 2005, but has been a member of the Northstar family since 1997. Her children went to NHS!





I WAS IN A COMMERCIAL FOR TOYOTA THAT WAS FILMED AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



MS. KATHY COSTELOW

Ms. Costelow was in a Toyota commercial filmed on the campus of Princeton University.



MATH TEACHER

She has taught math for twenty-five years at NHS. Her parents attended Nottingham as students!



I ENTERED MANY BEAUTY PAGEANTS AS A CHILD



MS. DAWN WHITE

Ms. White was entered into a number of beauty pageants as a child. She placed in the top three on numerous occasions.



VICE PRINCIPAL

Previously, Ms. White was Principal at HEP before becoming Vice Principal at Nottingham in 2016.





I AM A LEGALLY-ORDAINED MINISTER WHO CAN MARRY COUPLES

MRS. TINA HOGAN

Mrs. Hogan has been a legally-ordained minister for seven years and is able to marry couples. (Universal Life Church, non-denominational)



ENGLISH TEACHER

Mrs. Hogan has taught at NHS for seven years teaching English 9 and 11. She is also one of the student government advisors.





I HAVE AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN FASHION MERCHANDISING, MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT



MS. MICHELLE RYAN-KRZYKALSKI

Ms. Ryan-Krzakalski graduated from Tobe Coburn School of Fashion Careers in 1992 with an Associate's Degree in Fashion Merchandising, Marketing, and Management.



SCIENCE TEACHER

Ms. Ryan-Kryzkalski has been teaching at NHS for seventeen years. She teaches both AP and A-Level Environmental Science.





I EARNED A VARSITY LETTER FOR TENNIS IN HIGH SCHOOL

MRS. JENNIFER KLEK

Mrs. Klek earned the letter at Hamilton West. Currently, she ranks #5 on the Klek Family tennis ladder.



FINE ARTS TEACHER

Mrs. Klek has been at NHS for 27 years and teaches Band, Piano Lab, AP Music Theory/Harmony 1 and 2, Intro to Music in Film and Video. She is the Marching Unit director, Concert Band director and Pit Orchestra conductor.





IN HIGH SCHOOL, I PLAYED MOONBEAM MCSWINE IN "LI'L ABNER"



MS. ANN SCHIAVONI

When she was in high school, she played Moonshine McSwine in the play "Lil Abner".



GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Ms. Schiavoni has been at NHS for 18 years. She is the Guidance Department Chairperson.

