

Summer 2012

Now offering 40  
online summer  
courses for  
students in  
grades 7 ~ 12



Russian &  
Japanese  
Course  
Offerings

-Page 10



Teen  
Transitions and  
Computer  
Applications  
Courses

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Classes begin  
June 25th, 2012

Call today:  
412.318.1017

# The Online Academy @ North Hills



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# The Online Academy @ North Hills

The Online Academy @ North Hills provides students with online learning opportunities designed to increase their engagement and achievement. The Online Academy offers 35 online summer classes for credit recovery in math, English, science, social studies, and health, as well as many enrichment courses. Credit recovery courses are intended for students who were not able to achieve a passing grade during the school year. In addition, the Online

Academy provides full-credit enrichment courses in health, language arts, mathematics, art history, flash animation, strategies for academic success, teen transitions, computer applications, and our new dual enrollment courses in Russian and Japanese ~ which provide students with college credit that can be transferred to other universities.

All courses are taught by highly qualified high school teachers from partnering school districts and organizations. The curricula for each course is aligned to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content. PSSA instructional strategies have been embedded throughout each course.

Courses are available to students from school districts throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. Interested students are encouraged to talk with their guidance counselor before applying. Applications are available in high school guidance offices and can be downloaded at [www.nhsd.net](http://www.nhsd.net).

<b>Tuition:</b>	<b>1 Credit Recovery Course (6 weeks):</b>	<b>\$225</b>
	<b>0.5 Credit Recovery Course (3 weeks):</b>	<b>\$115</b>
	<b>0.5 For Credit Course (9 weeks):</b>	<b>\$275 to \$339</b>
	<b>Dual Enrollment Courses (for college credit through Seton Hill University)</b>	<b>\$450 to \$660</b>

## Classes begin June 25th, 2012

# Credit Recovery Courses

## English/Language Arts Courses

### English 7

**1 credit**

The seventh grade credit-recovery curriculum is designed to enhance the student's communication skills in a variety of areas. The student will develop an understanding for language and literature and improve his/her skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking. The student will be exposed to a variety of literary genres, points-of-view, and writing styles. Students will also write and gain experience in a variety of formats.

### English 8

**1 credit**

The English 8 credit recovery course emphasizes the connection between reading and writing to promote the development of thinking skills. This course provides the student with a study of the short story, novel, and poetry. Students will reflect on the literature and develop written pieces in the narrative, informative and persuasive modes. Composing on a computer and language skills will be taught in conjunction with reading and the writing process. In addition, the course will reinforce the skills identified in the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening.

### English 9

**1 credit**

English 9 integrates reading literature and the writing process. Students will read poetry, short stories, nonfiction, drama, and novels. This course provides a sequenced study of composition, language skills, and literature. Writing assignments will be developed in the narrative, informative, and persuasive modes. Research and grammar will also be studied. In addition, the course will reinforce the skills identified in the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening in preparation for the PSSA.





### **English 10**

**1 credit**

English 10 emphasizes preparation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills for college. A sequential writing program, including the writing of a research paper, strongly emphasizes the writing process and modes of writing. Focus is placed on writing paragraphs, compositions, and responding to prompts. Literary analysis is sequenced through thematic units, which include vocabulary study. Another component of the course is preparation for the PSAT through a study of testing strategies. In addition, the course will develop the skills identified in the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening in preparation for 11<sup>th</sup> grade PSSA writing and reading assessments.

### **English 11 / American Literature**

**1 credit**

American Literature offers students a study in the history, development and various genres of this country's literature. Students will develop skills in language (grammar and usage), vocabulary, and effective communication. The writing process and the various modes of writing are emphasized to enable the students to perform well on 11<sup>th</sup> grade PSSA writing and reading assessments.

### **English 12 / World Literature**

**1 credit**

World Literature emphasizes a multicultural approach to literature. Students study literary forms of classical, traditional, and modern writing from a collection of world literature. Students study language (grammar and usage), vocabulary, effective communication, the writing process, and the various modes of writing. This course offers preparation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Another component of this course is a personal narrative that mirrors the requirements for the college application essay.

# Credit Recovery Courses, cont.

## Social Studies Courses

### Social Studies 7

1 credit

This course is a comprehensive approach to all areas of a social studies curriculum as mandated by Pennsylvania standards. The course contains geography, history, economics and government components and also will place a major emphasis on critical thinking skills. The course is designed to provide students with introductory knowledge and skills within the social studies curriculum, which will allow for mastery of content in subsequent courses

### Social Studies 8

1 credit

Social Studies 8 is a Pennsylvania State Standards-Based Course. The course will include and incorporate the required standards for geography, civics and government, economics, Pennsylvania history and U.S. history. It includes the chronological survey of the history and culture of the United States. The primary goal of this course is to acquaint students with the major characters, events, trends, concepts, and themes running through our nation's history from the Colonial time period to the early 1900's Industrial time period.

### Social Studies 9 / American Studies

1 credit

Ninth grade Social Studies is a Pennsylvania State Standards-Based Course. The course will include and incorporate the required standards for geography, civics and government, economics, Pennsylvania history and U.S. history. It includes the chronological survey of the history and culture of the United States. The primary goal of this course is to acquaint students with the major characters, events, trends, concepts, and themes running through our nation's history from the late 1800s through the 1950s.





### **Social Studies 10 / World History**

**1 credit**

This survey of world history and cultures from 1500 A.D. to the present emphasizes European history. World History integrates a chronological approach with investigations of selected trends in European history and examines their relationship to various cultures of the world. This course stresses the development of critical thinking, research and other social studies skills. A chronological approach integrates investigations of certain trends in the various cultures of the world and examines their relationship to developments in Western Europe.

### **Social Studies 11 / American Government**

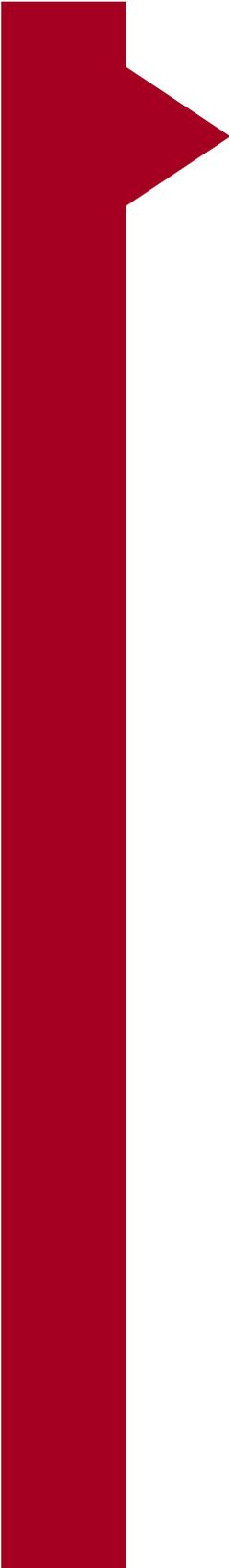
**1 credit**

American Government 11 stresses basic skill development through the examination of the structure, function, and operation of the United States government. Special attention is given to understanding the rights and responsibilities of individuals in our society. This course builds basic social studies skills and is supported by a reading component.

### **Social Studies 12 / Contemporary History**

**1 credit**

Contemporary History examines the post-World War II period to the present and emphasizes American domestic history and foreign policy. Students will gain an understanding of major domestic movements and events, and the role of the United States in more complex world affairs.



## Credit Recovery Courses, cont.

### Mathematics Courses

#### Math 7

**1 credit**

Math 7 – Credit Recovery is a standards-based, interactive, hands-on curriculum that utilizes computer hardware and software technology to present 7th grade mathematical topics on an individualized student basis. Concepts taught in this course will introduce the Pennsylvania Standards for 7th Grade. Use of a graphing calculator is encouraged in this class.

#### Math 8

**1 credit**

Math 8 – Credit Recovery is a standards-based, interactive, hands-on curriculum that utilizes computer hardware and software technology to present pre-algebra topics on an individualized student basis. Concepts taught in this course will introduce the Pennsylvania Standards for 8th Grade – Pre-Algebra. A graphics calculator will be used during problem solving activities.

#### Algebra 1

**1 credit**

Algebra is a standards-based, interactive, hands-on curriculum that utilizes computer hardware and software technology to present mathematical topics on an individualized student basis. Concepts taught in this course will introduce the Pennsylvania standards in algebra, statistics, probability, and logical reasoning. A graphics calculator will be used during problem solving activities.

#### Geometry

**1 credit**

In Geometry, students will develop reasoning and problem solving skills as they study topics such as congruence and similarity, and apply properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. Students will also develop problem solving skills by using length, perimeter, area, circumference, surface area, and volume to solve real world problems. Students will use a graphics calculator in this course.

#### Algebra 2

**1 credit**

In Algebra 2, students will continue the study of math concepts including linear and quadratic equations, inequalities, relations, functions, radicals, imaginary and complex numbers. Emphasis is placed upon development of math skills through study of exponential and logarithmic functions, probability, statistics and elements of trigonometry.



## Science Courses

### Science 7

**1 credit**

The Science 7 Credit Recovery course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of topics such as motion, energy, forces, matter, cells, heredity, and classification.

### Earth, Space Science –Gr. 8 or 9

**1 credit**

In this course, students are introduced to, and develop proficiency in, the basic earth science principles that will be assessed on the PSSA examination in grade 11. The topics that will be studied include astronomy, plate tectonics, topographic maps, rocks and minerals, geologic history, geologic hazards, and meteorology. Each of these topics has specific state-mandated benchmarks that all students must reach by the end of grade 10.

### Biology

**1 credit**

Biology examines patterns of life through the integrated study of biochemistry, cell theory, genetics, evolution, biodiversity and environmental science. Emphasis will be placed on the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Science and Technology and selected standards of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology.

**Class size is limited. In order to reserve a seat,  
download the registration form online at  
[www.nhsd.net](http://www.nhsd.net)**

## Credit Recovery Courses, cont.

### Conceptual Chemistry

1 credit

The Conceptual Chemistry course aims to develop a basic understanding of chemistry, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills related to chemistry; apply chemistry knowledge to decision-making about scientific issues; recognize the importance of chemistry in daily life; and understand the benefits as well as the limitations of science and technology. Emphasis will be placed on the Pennsylvania Science and Technology standards.

### Conceptual Physics

1 credit

Conceptual Physics will provide an overview of introductory physics, focusing on conceptual understanding and critical thinking. Emphasis will be placed on the Pennsylvania Science and Technology standards.

### Health (9th/ 10th grade)

0.5 credit

Students will have the opportunity to evaluate their own health behaviors and understand the importance of improving and maintaining positive, healthy habits. Physical, mental, and emotional health topics will be explored in order to prepare students to make healthy choices in everyday life.



# Enrichment/For Credit Courses



## 9-week courses: June 25th ~ Aug. 24, 2012

The following four courses are not for credit recovery. Rather, these are full 18-week courses condensed into a 9-week period. Students should expect to spend 90 minutes per day on coursework. By successfully completing a For Credit Course during the summer, students can fulfill a graduation requirement while creating the opportunity to explore additional electives during the school year.

### Health (9th/ 10th grade)

**0.5 credit**

This Health course increases student knowledge about healthy living through a variety of classroom activities focusing on personal and environmental health, consumer and community health, substance abuse, first aid and safety, injury prevention, nutrition, disease, human growth and fitness.

### Overview of Art History

**0.5 credit**

This enrichment course is designed to introduce students in grades 7-12 to the world of art from various perspectives; including, but not limited to: historical, social, geographical, political, and religious contexts. Students will gain a fundamental understanding of art and architecture in engaging and interesting ways.

### Standards of Mathematics—PSSA Math

**0.5 credit**

This course is intended for 12th grade students designated as basic or below basic on the 11th grade PSSA mathematics assessment. Completion of this course will bring students to proficiency of the basic skills required by No Child Left Behind and the Pennsylvania Department of Education mathematics standards.

### Standards of Language Arts—PSSA Reading

**0.5 credit**

This course is intended for 12th grade students designated as basic or below basic on the 11th grade PSSA reading assessment. Completion of this course will bring students to proficiency of the basic skills required by No Child Left Behind and the Pennsylvania Department of Education language arts standards.

## Enrichment/For Credit Courses, cont.

### Strategies for Academic Success

**0.5 credit**

This is a comprehensive study skills and strategies course designed for both high school and middle school students. The course covers important study skills topics such as time management, note taking, online learning environment skills, and strategies for remembering key information. Within the course, students will receive real-world activities to further enhance learning, while utilizing newly learned skills and strategies in the online environment. Students in this course do not need to meet for face-to-face testing dates.

### Teen Transitions

**0.5 credit**

This course prepares students for teen and adult life by exploring issues teenagers often face and discussing consequences for their choices and actions. Students will explore interpersonal communication skills, school success strategies, college life preparation, part time job work skills, and issues surrounding teen overall well-being and safety. Through practical, hands-on experiences and simulations, students will work towards increasing their own self worth and confidence as they interact and succeed in the 21st century.

### Computer Applications

**0.5 credit**

This is a semester course where students will develop computer skills using Microsoft Office 2007-Word, Excel, and PowerPoint software. Through hands-on experience, students will learn business formats which will aid them in their future endeavors-two-year, four-year or technical colleges, and the workplace. Formats to be learned will include: personal and business style letters, memos, MLA style reports, tables, spreadsheets, slides, presentation hand-outs, and office style correspondence. Additionally, extensive and effective use of the Internet will be used for research, and information retrieval for projects.

### Drivers Education (*Theory Portion Only*)

**0.5 credit**

This is a Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation approved, 30 hour, on-line, instructional course for Driver Education. This on-line course helps qualify new drivers for discounts with some insurance companies. To receive the maximum discounts available to you, please contact your insurance provider. Behind the wheel instruction may also be needed to qualify for further discounts.



**Great Opportunities  
for Gifted &  
High Achieving  
Students**

## Enrichment/For Credit Courses, cont.

### Flash Animation

**0.5 credit**

This class is designed to give students experience with Adobe Flash. Students will learn how to create interesting motion graphics by learning about the aesthetics of design, motion, and sound. They will use Flash to create dynamic media and animation for web pages. Students learn how to create and then translate vector and raster imagery into animation and web applications. Usability and design issues are also emphasized in the end of the unit projects.

### Russian Language and Culture I

**(Dual Enrollment with Seton Hill University)**

**0.5 credit**

Elementary Russian Language and Culture I introduces the fundamentals of conversational and grammatical patterns of Russian language. This course provides Russian language learning mainly in authentic, real-life social interactions. Students will begin to develop a functional competency in the four primary language areas: speaking, reading, listening and writing while establishing a solid grammatical base and exploration into Russian culture.

This course will meet live, online from June 25th to August 8th Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.. This course will be offered either for high school credit only for \$450 or for 3 college credits for \$699. Students in this course do not need to meet for face-to-face testing dates.

### Japanese Language and Culture I

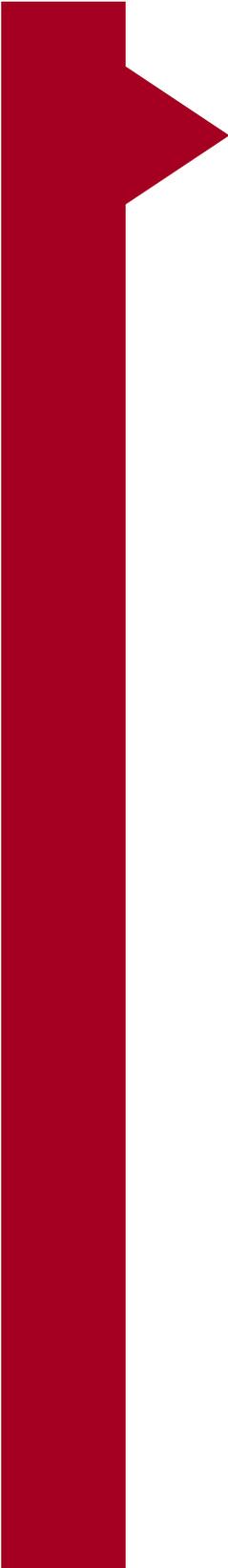
**(Dual Enrollment with Seton Hill University)**

**0.5 credit**

**Offered for College Credit**

This is a beginning college course in Japanese language and culture. Students will learn conversational basics, including greetings and classroom phrases, and cover topics of family, daily routines, leisure activities, physical description, and weekend plans. Students will also learn to read and write the phonetic Japanese syllabaries hiragana and katakana, and about 25 Chinese characters or kanji. Information about Japanese culture is integrated throughout the course.

This course will meet live, online from June 18th to August 2nd Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.. This course will be offered either for high school credit only for \$450 or for 3 college credits for \$699. Students in this course do not need to meet for face-to-face testing dates.



## Orientation

Students must attend one of the scheduled introductory meetings. Course expectations, syllabi and all textbooks and materials will be distributed at this time. In addition, an introduction to Blackboard, the course management software, will be presented.

Orientation will be held from 9 a.m. ~ noon on June 20 and June 21, 2011. Students must attend one session.

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

**North Hills Senior High School**

53 Rochester Road

Pittsburgh, Pa. 15229

412.318.1402

Thursday, June 21, 2012

**Peters Township High School**

264 East McMurray Road

McMurray, Pa. 15317

724.941.6250

## Testing Dates

Students must report to one of 9 testing sites to complete periodic assessments to monitor achievement in the online course. Assessments, which will be given from 9 ~ 11:30 a.m., are scheduled for the followings dates:

- 0.5 Credit Recovery Courses: July 9, July 23
- 1.0 Credit Recovery Courses: July 9, July 23, Aug. 6
- 0.5 For Credit Courses: July 9, July 23, Aug. 6, and Aug. 20

In the case of extenuating circumstances, a student may arrange an alternative testing date with his/her teacher.

## Testing Sites

- North Hills Senior High School
- Northgate High School
- Peters Township High School
- Bethel Park High School
- Quaker Valley High School
- South Fayette High School

# System Requirements

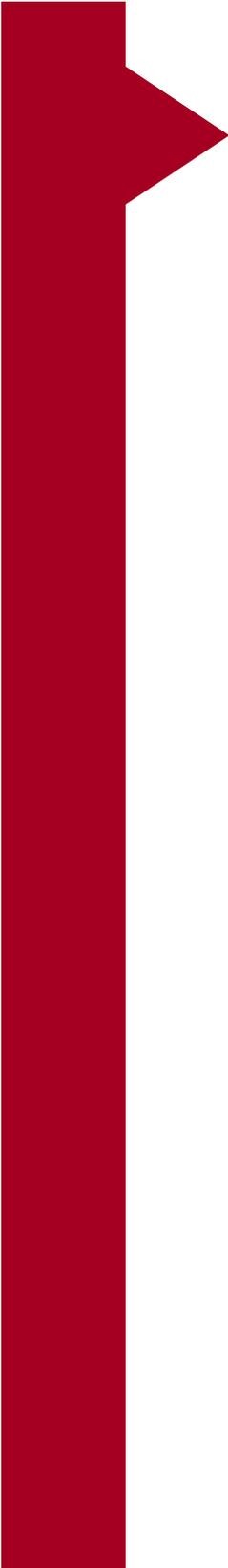
Students enrolled in the Online Academy @ North Hills are required to have access to a computer and the Internet.

- Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.5 (or higher) or Safari 4
- Microsoft Windows XP or higher
- 1 Gb RAM
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet Connection ~ DSL or cable
- Working email address
- If students do not have Internet capabilities at home, most local libraries offer

## Is online learning right for you?

- Are you able to easily access the Internet as needed for your studies?
- Are you comfortable communicating electronically?
- Are you willing/able to dedicate four to 5 hours per week to your course?
- Are you comfortable with written communication?
- When it comes to learning and studying, are you a self-directed person?
- Are you able to manage your time effectively and easily complete assignments on time?
- As a student, do you enjoy working independently?
- In your studies, do you set goals and have a high degree of initiative?
- Are you comfortable initiating communication with an instructor when you have a problem or a question?
- Do you have access to a quiet workspace free of interruptions for homework and study time?





# Frequently Asked Questions

## ***How do I register?***

1. Enrollment for all courses opens May 1st and closes on June 30th.
2. Download the registration form from our website at [www.nhsd.net](http://www.nhsd.net)
3. Review the registration form with either your guidance counselor or principal. Your home school must agree to accept credit for the course in which you are registering.
4. A representative from your home school (principal, assistant principals, guidance counselor) must sign your registration form indicating that they will award credit.
5. Submit your signed registration form and a check made payable to “North Hills School District” to the address listed on the registration form.
6. Once your registration is processed, you will receive a welcome email with important information about your course.
7. Attend a student orientation session to receive your login/password, and receive an overview of your course and how to navigate our online learning management system, Blackboard. Although the majority of our courses are textbook-free, textbooks will be distributed to students at the orientation center when applicable.

## ***Are teachers available for assistance?***

- Yes. All Online Academy @North Hills courses are taught by certified, highly-qualified teachers who are available via weekly online office hours, online chats, discussion boards, email, and telephone.

## ***How will my school get my grades?***

- Students are provided with an end of the course overall percentage grade. A preliminary final course grade will be faxed to your school two to three days after your course closes. A formal transcript letter including the final course percentage grade will be mailed to both the student and the student’s home school via an Online Academy @North Hills official transcript. Letter grades may be assigned by the home school in accordance with their grading policy. No student will receive credit for a score less than a 65%. No grade will be reported if either money or a textbook is owed.

## ***How many courses may I take?***

- Students may take up to two credit recovery courses during the summer.
- Students may take up to three full-credit courses during the summer



### ***What happens at the orientation?***

- A parent or guardian must accompany the student to the orientation
- The student's username and password are given out
- An introduction to the online software is provided in order to ensure students are comfortable navigating the course.
- The Online Academy @North Hills student handbook is distributed and reviewed
- A digital photo is taken to provide identification when taking the exams on the testing dates. Students must provide a photo ID or have the accompanying adult provide their photo ID and verify the student's identity.
- Textbooks are issued as needed. (most of the courses are textbook free)
- Students meet members of the Online Academy @North Hills teaching and administrative staff.
- Students and the accompanying adult must complete the property usage agreement if they are borrowing textbooks or equipment.

### ***How do I know if I am ready to take an online course?***

- In order to determine if you are ready to take an online course, complete the student online readiness assessment at <http://www.alt.usg.edu/sort>. This tool will ask you questions and provide you with feedback in order to determine your readiness for taking an online course. Additionally, you will be provided with a personalized online learning readiness profile including suggested strategies for success in online coursework.

# Contact Us

## Registration

**Mrs. Denise Haberman,**  
**Registration, Summer School**  
Phone: 412.318.1017  
Fax: 412.318.1084  
Email: haberland@nhsd.net



## Administration

**Mr. Jeff Taylor,**  
**Director of Curriculum and Assessment**  
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Fax: 412.318.1084  
Email: taylorj@nhsd.net



**Mr. John Kreider,**  
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Phone: 412.318.1402  
Fax: 412.318.1403  
Email: kreiderj@nhsd.net



**Mrs. Beth Williams,**  
**Principal, North Hills Junior High**  
Phone: 412.318.1452  
Fax: 412.318.1453  
Email: williamsb@nhsd.net



# The Online Academy @ North Hills

Visit us online at:  
[www.nhsd.net](http://www.nhsd.net)

The screenshot shows the North Hills School District website. A yellow arrow points to the 'Online Academy @North Hills' link in the navigation menu. The website features a header with the school district logo and the slogan '...Tradition.....Excellence'. The navigation menu includes links for 'About us', 'Schools', 'School Board', 'Admin Office', 'Academics', 'Athletics', 'Activities', and 'Parents'. The 'Academics' menu is expanded, showing options like 'Elementary Education', 'Pupil Services', 'Title I / Reading Reinforcement', 'Libraries', 'Art Department', 'Music Department', 'Technology Education', 'Student Digital Dropbox', 'Student Web', and 'Online Academy @North Hills'. The 'Online Academy @North Hills' link is circled in yellow. The main content area includes 'QUICK LINKS', 'IN THE NEWS', and 'UPCOMING EVENTS'.

## Deadlines for registration:

-dual enrollment courses:

June 13

-credit recovery & enrichment courses:

June 20

