



Nighthawk News

[HTTP://NEWTOWN.NHS.SCHOOLDESK.NET](http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net)



SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **NHS Open House: September 14**
- **PTSA Meeting: September 20**
- **No School: September 21**
- **October 11: School-wide Testing Day**

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Principal's Message

We are up to a great start at Newtown High School with only a few minor issues regarding morning bus drop-offs. We ask you to be patient as we work closely with transportation and central office to adjust bus routes and times. The later school start time has had a positive impact on both faculty and students with students more awake at the start of school day. Due to the new start time, Advisory meets for twenty minutes on Mondays. This keeps the integrity of the Advisory program and continues to benefit students as they built connections with classmates and teachers.

The NHS annual **Open House** will be taking place on Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 pm. There will be an introductory meeting at 6:30 pm in the gymnasium as our auditorium is still being renovated. The construction is near complete as the crews finalize the lighting and sound components of the auditorium. We wait in anticipation for this project to be complete and hope to have a full functioning auditorium by December just in time for our holiday performances.

Open House is an opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers and to get a glimpse at

the amazing education our staff provides to your children. Don't miss out on that opportunity. We hope that you will leave knowing how much we care about your son or daughter.



On September 26 at 11:00 am, our PTSA parents arranged for an assembly with **Anthony Ianni** for our 9th and 10th graders. Anthony's story is one that reaches everyone. Diagnosed with autism at a young age Anthony's parents were told he would never graduate, never play sports and likely have to live in a group home for his entire adult life. Anthony was bullied extensively as a child because of his autism. Anthony defied all of the odds and not only graduated from MSU with a degree in Sociology but went on to be the first known individual with autism to play college basketball.

The PTSA will also be having its first general meeting on September 20 at 9:30 am in Room B140 we hope that you will be able to join us.

The School Counseling Office would like to remind parents and students that the last day to drop a full year or semester I class without penalty is Friday, September 29, 2017.

October 11, 2017, is **School Wide Testing Day**, Newtown High School students will be provided with an opportunity to take a standardized test during the regular school day. The tests being offered provide post-secondary and career planning information as well as indications of academic achievement on a local and national level.

On October 25, 2017 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am we will continue our "**Principal's Talk**" in room B140. I have taken part in a few of them over the past few years as an Assistant Principal, but I am looking forward to meeting new parents as well as seeing a few familiar faces. This will be an opportunity for me to go over the start of the school year and hear your feedback.

I look forward to another successful year and your continued support.

David Roach
Principal

From Your PTSA



2017-2018 PTSA Meeting Schedule

September 20	9:30am	General Meeting	<i>All meetings held in Room B140</i>
November 8	7:00pm	General Meeting	
January 17	9:30am	General Meeting	
April 4	7:00pm	Special Budget General Meeting (<i>tentative</i>)	
June 6	9:30am	General Meeting; Vote for budget and elect new board	

Remember to Join NHS PTSA by October 15

It's time to join the NHS PTSA. Why? Our mission, along with all PTAs in the U.S. "Is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children." With that mission in mind, PTAs are important from kindergarten through high school, possibly even more critical at the high school level.

What does the NHS PTSA do? Check out a few initiatives made possible through PTSA Volunteers and Donations:

- Sponsor Collegiate Scholarships for Seniors
- Provide Classroom / Teacher Grants for Technology and Other Teaching Tool needs not met by the school budget
- Sponsor engaging and informative speakers for student assemblies and forums
- Breakfast for Students During Spring Standardized Testing Day

We made it easy to join with both online (**no transaction fee**) or paper form options. Please join by October 15 to guarantee your copy of the 2017-2018 Directory:

- **[NHS PTSA Online Membership Sign-up via MySchoolBucks](https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/stores/checkout/getproduct?clientKey=ZZHA5G0H5M033HF&buttonID=1e1a0414-329b-4482-87bd-27784afaa24f)**
https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/stores/checkout/getproduct?clientKey=ZZHA5G0H5M033HF&buttonID=1e1a0414-329b-4482-87bd-27784afaa24f
- **[NHS PTSA ONLINE DONATION via MySchoolBucks](https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/stores/catalog/getproduct?productKey=ZZJ5E4CX320ZPIZ&OPTZZJ5E4CX320ZPIZ=ZZJ5E4CX320ZQTG)**
https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/stores/catalog/getproduct?productKey=ZZJ5E4CX320ZPIZ&OPTZZJ5E4CX320ZPIZ=ZZJ5E4CX320ZQTG
- **[NHS PTSA Printable Form to send in to NHS Office](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1fWLVplZbITR1JKMllusIVqWIE/view?usp=sharing)**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1fWLVplZbITR1JKMllusIVqWIE/view?usp=sharing

And a HUGE thank you to all of the parents, teachers, and staff who have already joined the Newtown High School PTSA!

Senior Parking Spot Give-away

Congratulations to Kevin Reiss, lucky winner of the Incoming Senior VIP Parking Spot Giveaway.

Thank you to all of the NHS families that supported this fundraiser that is earmarked for the NHS PTSA Scholarship and Classroom Grant Programs.



Seeking Volunteers!

Reflections Chair

The NHS PTSA is seeking a volunteer to be 2017-18 Reflections Chair.

Program Timeframe: October to December

Commitment Level: ~ 10 hours

Chair will: Coordinate distribution of Reflections materials, establish program calendar, create and execute promotions plan, and select judges' panel with PTSA Board and school staff

Newtown has had many local students that have been recognized at the State and National levels. Please contact NHS PTSA at ptaofnhs@gmail.com

Student-Faculty Ninja Competition

In conjunction with NHS Staff, we are in planning stages for a fun Faculty-Student competition this spring. The competition will comprise a series of challenges/obstacles, ranging from physical fitness, team building, mental, technology, creativity, the arts, etc.

Volunteers needed for this Student-Faculty event, held at NHS; targeting a weekend in early Spring.

Email us at ptaofnhs@gmail.com



Parent Volunteer Reminder

For those parents interested in volunteering at Newtown High School, you must complete necessary forms and submit to a criminal background investigation. For complete details and forms regarding the Newtown Public School District, please visit the Parent volunteer tab under the District website, <http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/Parents/Volunteers/tabid/106264/Default.aspx>.

Any volunteer that works with students one-on-one without direct sight-line supervision by NHS Staff or public view, must be fingerprinted for a more thorough criminal background investigation. Please contact Meg Reilly at 203-426-7606 for a fingerprint card and further instructions.

Math Department

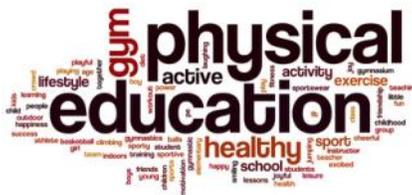
The Newtown Mathematics Department has appointed Eugene Hall as the Interim Department Coordinator for the 2017-2018 school year. Gene has been at the high school since 1995 and is very excited for his new role at a school he loves. Retired Department Chair Karen Sherman returns on a part-time basis as the formal evaluator for the department. Megan Carroll has returned to the High School after working at the middle school for two years. Finally, the math department is pleased to add Timothy Canty as a math teacher. Tim is a retired Assistant Superintendent, serving here in a one year position.



This year the Math Department has added a new course: College Math Topics. It replaced Intermediate Algebra. CMT is a senior level math course focusing on preparing students for college placement exams (SAT and ACT) and will also cover Financial Mathematics. We also added a class set of ChromeBooks to help the math teachers have greater access to technology in the classroom. We are using Desmos and Khan Academy, among other apps, across many different courses.

Eugene Hall
Math Department Chair

Physical Education/Health Department



The Newtown Physical Education and Health Department has added a new course elective open to all 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. Project Adventure is a physical education program that challenges people to go beyond their perceived boundaries to work with others to solve problems and experience success. The PA education concept is characterized by an atmosphere that is fun, supportive and challenging. This unique program offers both high ropes climbing elements and low element course activities as "catalysts" for personal and educational growth.

All 9th grade students will experience the PA low elements course during physical education and/or health this school year and will be introduced to our Project Adventure course.

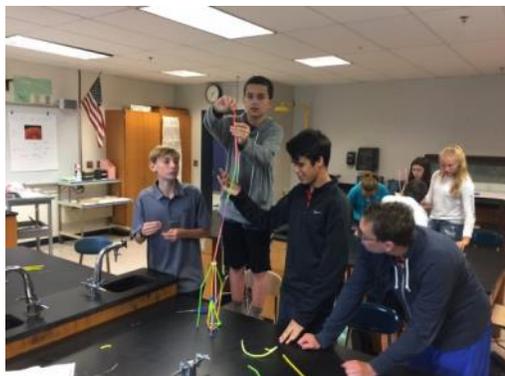
Mr. O'Connell teaches the elective class and he, along with the entire physical education and health staff at NHS, is excited to bring this opportunity to our school community.

Mark Gerace
PE Department Chair

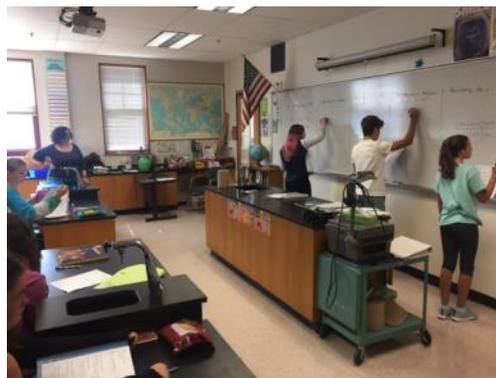
Science Department News

Here it is, the second week of the new school year, and the Newtown High School science department is up and running full-steam ahead.

For example, **Mr. Nicholson** had his freshmen students in Introduction to Engineering Design build a freestanding tower in 20 minutes using straws, pipe cleaners, and tape:

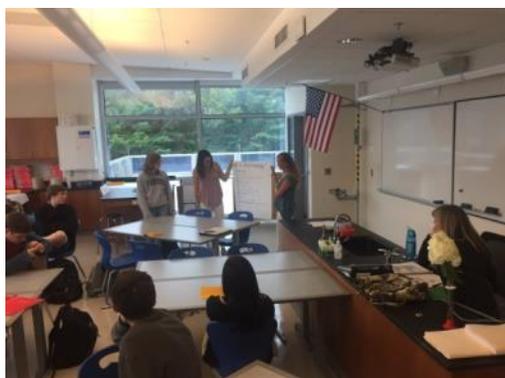


Mrs. Baumgartner had her freshmen demonstrate their proficiency with metric conversions:



Our **engineering students** designed and tested balloon-powered cable cars:

Dr. Berechid's students brainstormed about what they would learn in Biotechnology:



Some of our freshmen in **Integrated Physical & Earth Science** showed how their lab groups worked together while doing a classic air pressure demonstration:

Chemistry students learned the names of laboratory equipment during the Laboratory Equipment Silent Scavenger Hunt:



There are myriad other activities like this going on throughout our science classrooms. Come on by and see us some time!

Chris Canfield
Science Department Chair

Career Center Information

203-426-7679

Peg Ragaini - School to Career Coordinator

ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us

Kitty Latowicki - College/Career Center Coordinator

latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us

The Career Center is open from 7:30 am-3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The Career Center is a unique environment that has the resources to provide students with help in exploring their post high school options and careers. It is located in the rear of the Counseling Office. We are committed to working with students to promote self-discovery through real world experiences. Our goal is to aid students in developing a plan for their future.

The Career Center has up-to-date information on colleges and careers. We have college and career software to assist students with choices for post-graduate plans.

Students can access college, financial aid or career websites during their free periods or after school in the Career Center. Our computers are also accessible for students to use for schoolwork, during the day, as long as it is during a free period.

College Visits

During the months of September, October, and November, colleges from around the country visit the NHS Career Center. These visits are posted on Naviance. Students must sign up on Naviance and must have permission from their teacher prior to attending if the student has a class during said visit. This is an informative way of receiving specific details about a school that interests students. The visits to the Career Center also allow students to make a personal connection with the admissions representative.



Career Shadows

This program allows junior and seniors one excused day per semester to spend time in a career field of their interest, with a community volunteer. If we do not have a volunteer in a student's particular field of interest, we will attempt to find one. **The deadline to apply for a Career Shadow is March 31.**

Community Service Opportunities



Is your student interested in making a difference in our community or region of the state? Community service opportunities are communicated in the following ways:

- Through the Community Service NewsBrief which is sent out on the first Thursday of the month to the entire student population, parents who have an updated email in Naviance and the NHS staff
- Through a bulletin board in the Career Center

If you would like to post a community service opportunity for Newtown High School students, please either email or call Mrs. Latowicki or Mrs. Ragaini. If an opportunity is sent to us before the first Thursday of the month we will post it in our NewsBrief otherwise we will post it on our bulletin board.

Career Cruising

Career Cruising is a career exploration website through the Career Center. Please email ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us or latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us for the user name and password. The website can be accessed through the links listed in Naviance, on the home page.

Career Center Information

Scholarships

The scholarship list is updated weekly and can be accessed in Naviance under the *College* tab and then scrolling to *Scholarship List* on the bottom of the page. All newly added scholarships will be marked with an asterisk. Most scholarships are for seniors graduating from high school, but there are an occasional few for underclassmen. The more scholarships a student applies for, the more likely they are to receive a monetary award. As the school year moves into the winter months more local scholarships become available. PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK THE LIST WEEKLY.

Also, check the websites of the individual schools for their scholarships. Every college/technical school offers scholarships. The website will post the requirements to receive a scholarship and whether you need to apply for the scholarship or whether it is awarded automatically.

There are also links to other scholarship sites on the left side of the home page in Naviance.

- Sallie Mae
- Fastweb
- Unigo



Barton Weller Scholarship

Students interested in competing for this **\$14,000 award** must complete an original independent research or study project. All runners-up will receive \$500 for completion and timely submission of their projects. Seniors graduating in 2018 who attend Newtown, Joel Barlow, Masuk, Shelton or Trumbull High School on a full-time basis are eligible for this scholarship.

All students who plan to participate must first see Mrs. Latowicki in the Career Center before starting their project proposal. Submit all completed proposals including the Student Proposal cover page to Mrs. Latowicki by Tuesday, September 26, 2017. Students who are selected as finalists will receive \$200 to defray expenses incurred while working on this project. The rules and project calendar are contained in the Barton L. Weller pamphlet available in the Career Center. Please see Mrs. Latowicki for further details and any questions.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

On School-Wide Testing day on October 11, 2017, one option for juniors and seniors is the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). The ASVAB will be given in the Career Center. The ASVAB is the most widely used aptitude test in American schools today. It is offered free of charge to all public and private secondary and post-secondary schools by the Department of Defense. There are no military obligations of any kind connected with taking the test.

Taking the ASVAB and completing the workbook which accompanies the results will provide your son or daughter with

information that will help to determine a career direction. The ASVAB is not a pass/fail test. The ASVAB consists of eight short individual tests covering arithmetic reasoning, mathematics knowledge, paragraph comprehension, mechanical comprehension, general science, word knowledge, electronics information, and auto and shop information. The test permits students to compare their academic and occupation aptitude scores with those of other students throughout the United States. The ASVAB provides measures of general learning ability that are useful for predicting performance in

academic areas and can predict what a student could accomplish with training or further education. The ASVAB is designed especially to measure potential for success in occupations that require formal courses of instruction or on-the-job training.

Your son or daughter is under no obligation to join the military as a result of taking the ASVAB. Many students take the ASVAB for career exploration and have no interest in the Armed Services. Students interested in the military can use scores from the ASVAB to enlist in the military.

Career Center Information

Internships

Internships may be paid or unpaid and occur outside of the school day. Junior and senior students work for an employer usually one or more semesters to gain knowledge about a career. An unpaid internship asks for a thirty hour commitment from the student and employer/organization. Students are not allowed to continue an unpaid internship beyond the thirty hours under the school's program. An application is available in the Career Center, or on the School Career Center website.

If we do not have the opportunity you are seeking, I will do my best to locate an appropriate internship. Students that successfully complete the internship and the required paperwork will have the experience noted on their transcript. Students interested in the medical field are encouraged to apply in their sophomore year for EdAdvance's Regional Healthcare Shadowing Program. The following organizations are currently seeking high school interns:

Charter Communications

If you are thinking about a career in the Media Arts, Charter's local TV station is just a few miles away and provides free training to students who qualify. Right now, Charter has spaces available for students looking for work based learning experiences in a conveniently scheduled video training course. You can work on a project of your own design, or help with community shoots such as helping Dr Erardi produce his new show "Newtown Schools and You." *You must sign up by September 8.* Contact the CTV Studio (203) 304-4050 for more information.

NHS Athletic Department

The NHS athletic department is looking for students who are interested in the administrative side of high school athletics. Students will assist with day to day scheduling, organization, planning along with equipment duties and many other things. Please submit completed application to Mrs. Ragaini in the Career Center.

Teaching

The teachers of Newtown Public Schools have been very supportive of students seeking internships. Please see Mrs. Ragaini to discuss your interests and the opportunities available.

Avielle Foundation

The Avielle Foundation is seeking highly motivated students interested in helping us champion our mission to prevent violence through promoting neuroscience research, community engagement, and education. The foundation is primarily science based and looking to engage youth interested in understanding the neural basis of violence and compassion as well as educating communities about brain health. The Avielle Foundation has only a few intern spots available and as a result is quite selective. Only those very proactive and motivated candidates, that are familiar with The Avielle Foundation's mission and vision, that have an idea of what they would like to learn, and what they hope to contribute will be considered. To apply, please submit an internship application and cover letter to Mrs. Ragaini in the Career Center. The cover letter should discuss the connection between your area of interest and The Avielle Foundation's mission.

Sports Writing Internship at The Newtown Bee

The sports department of The Newtown Bee is looking for one intern to cover games. Students should have a writing background with the school newspaper or a short recommendation from a teacher about writing skills and work ethic. Applicants must have access to a car and a flexible schedule. This is a great opportunity to develop sports writing skills and have work published. Tuesdays and Fridays have the greatest need for coverage. Please submit internship application and writing sample to Mrs. Ragaini in the Career Center by September 11.

Newtown Savings Bank

Newtown Savings Bank is offering unpaid internships for juniors and seniors. Students must have an interest in banking and finance and have one free lunch period per rotation. Interns will work at the mobile teller station at Newtown High School; spend one day shadowing at the Main Street office; and complete their internship at one of the branches. This opportunity can lead to a paid full-time summer position. Priority will be given to students that are DECA members. *Application* deadline is Friday, September 15. For more information, see Mrs. Ragaini in the Career Center.

Career Center Information

Junior/Senior Project Class

This spring semester is the last semester the Junior/Senior Project class will be offered. The Junior and Senior Project class provides the motivated and responsible junior or senior learner an opportunity to distinguish themselves by developing a career-oriented relationship with a community professional in the student's area of chosen interest. Participants are expected to be motivated and self-directed.

The program requires that the Junior/Senior Project be an experience unavailable in the traditional classroom. This course counts as a fifth class for seniors and a sixth class for juniors. Please see your School Counselor or Mrs. Ragaini if you are interested in signing up for the spring.

Senior Experience 21

Newtown High School is pleased to announce the pilot of the Senior Experience 21 program. This program will be implemented with the class of 2021 and will ask a student to apply their learning through the development of a project and a presentation. Students will be able to determine their area of study.

Eighteen juniors are currently piloting the program. Over the course of their junior and senior year, students will earn one credit. For more information on the program please email Peg Ragaini at ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us or Ellie Hanna at hanna@newtown.k12.ct.us.

Newtown Savings Bank

Newtown Savings Bank will be opening their "mobile teller station" on Thursday, September 14. The teller station is located in a small room near the cafeteria. (Look for the Newtown Savings Bank banner and mural). The teller station will be open during the lunch wave on Thursdays. Newtown Savings Bank is at the high school to encourage students to integrate financial literacy in their lives and students are welcome to use their banking services.



Part-Time Jobs

The Career Center has a part-time job board for high school students. Employers are welcome to email their job openings to either ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us or latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us.

Students are welcome to come in and look at openings and contact employers directly. The Career Center does not place students in jobs. We are happy to assist students with the job search process.





Newtown High School
12 Berkshire Rd.
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Important Links

NHS Home Page	http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net/
NHS Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/pages/Newtown-High-School/158260014186649
NHS PTSA Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/Newtown-High-School-PTSA-
NHS PTSA: News, Events, Updates & Forms / Google Drive	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1fMVLvpIZbITTVdIS0hMd3JoZWMM
Guidance/Naviance	https://connection.naviance.com/newtown
PowerSchool Portal	https://ps.newtown.k12.ct.us/public/
Athletics	www.nighthawkspports.com
2017-2018 School Calendar	http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/Parents/SchoolCalendar2017-2018/tabid/108124/Default.aspx
NHS Schedule of Days Calendar	http://nhs.newtown.schooldesk.net/Portals/Newtown/NHS/docs/Nathalie/1718DAYS2.pdf

School Office:	203-426-7646
Fax:	203-426-6573
Attendance:	203-426-7656
Cafeteria:	203-426-7637
School Counseling Office:	203-426-7651
NHS Resource Officer:	203-426-7646, x6124
Nurse:	203-426-7649
Psychologist:	203-426-7651
Substance Abuse Counselor:	203-426-7646, x6125

Dates to Remember .

Sept 14	NHS Open House - 6:30 pm
Sept 20	PTSA Meeting - 9:30 am
Sept 21	Schools Closed - Rosh Hashanah
Oct 6	2-Hour Delayed Start - Professional Development
Oct 7	SAT @NHS
Oct 9	Financial Aid Night - 7:00 pm
Oct 11	School-wide Testing Day
Oct 28	ACT @ NHS
Oct 30-Nov 3	Spirit Week
Nov 6	Homecoming Dance
Nov 7	Schools Closed - Election Day
Nov 8	PTSA Meeting - 7:00 pm
Nov 14	Sophomore Night - 7:00 pm
Nov 14-16	Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov 17	Early Dismissal - Professional Development
Nov 22	Early Dismissal - Thanksgiving Recess
Nov 22-23	Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Recess