



Nighthawk News

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



MAY 30, 2014

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Final Exams
June 12-17
- Graduation!
June 17

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PTSA News	2
Science Department	3
Career Center	4-6
2014-2015 School Calendar	7
Nutrition News	7
Important Dates	8



Principal's Message

My last message for this newsletter will be a brief and personal one.

As I enter the final weeks of my time as interim principal, I continue to be struck by the talent, the positive energy, and the generosity of spirit that characterize so much of our community.

I am increasingly impressed with the faculty, administrators and staff who clearly take joy in their work with students and work assiduously on their be-

half. And one would be hard-pressed to find more energetic and capable advocates for the high school than PTSA president Maggie Conway and the rest of the PTSA Board who work tirelessly to help ensure that NHS students get a premium education in a safe and comfortable environment.

Surpassing all, though, is my appreciation for and admiration of our wonderful students. I have not ceased to be awed by their talents, their good work, their enthusiasm for learning and their

everyday kindnesses. It has been my consistent observation that in the classroom, on the athletic field, on the stage, and out in the community, NHS students represent themselves and their school with distinction and pride.

Newtown High School truly is a special place, and I am most happy to have been a part of it. I will always look back on my time here with warmth and gratitude. Thank you all for your support; I wish you all the best.

Mr. Jeff Jaslow
Interim Principal

Final Exam Schedule

Thursday, June 12	7:25-9:25 am	Period 8	Monday, June 16	7:25-9:25 am	Period 4
	9:50-11:50 am	Period 7		9:50-11:50 am	Period 3
Friday, June 13	7:25-9:25 am	Period 6	Tuesday, June 17	7:25-9:25 am	Period 2*
	9:50-11:50 am	Period 5		9:50-11:50 am	Period 1*

* So that seniors do not have to take an exam on graduation day, any senior scheduled to take an exam on Tuesday, June 17 (Class 1 and 2 exams), should consult with their teachers to reschedule those exams for an alternate time.

PTSA News

Please join us for our final PTSA meeting of the year on June 3 at 9:30 am.

On behalf of the Newtown High School PTSA Board we would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers for all your help this year. We would not be able to do and provide all we do without all your help and support. We look forward to seeing you again next year. Have a wonderful and safe summer!



A special thanks to Lisa Floros, our outgoing First Vice President. Lisa, it has truly been a pleasure having you as part of our Board. Your help, work and dedication to our NHS students is truly appreciated - you will be missed! Good luck to you and your family.



NHS PTSA Board 2013-2014

President	Maggie Conway
Vice-President	Lisa Floros
Vice President	Rachele Kahn
Treasurer	Angela Thill
Secretary	Alpana Dholakia
PTSA Staff Liaison	Karen Sherman

Contact us at:

PTSA Board: newtownptsa@yahoo.com
Volunteer Coordinator,
Lisa Chaloux: newtownptsa@gmail.com

Farewell Wishes

We would like to extend our best wishes to the following members of our staff who are departing from NHS at the end of this school year:

- Jeffrey Jaslow, *Interim Principal*
- Anastasia Brooks, *English Department Chair*
- Heidi Burkhardt, *Math*
- Anne Catlin, *Special Ed*
- Diane Dutchick, *Art*
- John Gearty, *World Language*
- Lee Keylock, *English*
- Rose Marie Mikasauskas, *World Language*
- Mike O'Connor, *Physical Education*
- Angela Pennucci, *Math*
- Thomas Swetts, *Applied Technology*
- Xiafei Wang, *World Language*



We wish you the best of luck in your new endeavors and please know that you will be missed by all. For all that you have given to our community of Newtown High School, we sincerely thank you.

Science Department News

Teachers Recognized

Science teacher **Susan McConnell** was recognized in a publication by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) for the great work her students have been doing in Public Health, a course offered at NHS this year for the first time.

Please take a moment and read the [CABE Newsletter](#) that praises the student accomplishments in Mrs. McConnell's Public Health class.

NHS physics teacher **Kim Lowell** was recognized by former NHS student, and current student at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Matthew Douglas, as a high school teacher he would like to honor as a role model who had a profound influence on him. Mrs. Lowell received a certificate of recognition for this honor.

As stated by Jeremy Haefner, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at RIT, "We congratulate Mrs. Lowell and we congratulate your school's contribution to the advancement of our society. We cannot progress, advance or compete without an effective system of learning."

Kudos to our fabulous Mrs. Lowell!

NHS science teacher **Bridget Berechid** was recognized by former NHS student, and current freshman at St. Michael's College, Jane Sclafani, as a teacher who made a difference in her life and inspired her to pursue higher education.

Jane wrote, "Dr. Berechid deserves recognition because she really cares about her students and loves them as if they were her own. She is passionate about teaching and always keeps her students' best interests in mind. She inspires them to do their best and to do what they love." Dr. Berechid received an "Unsung Hero" mug in recognition for this honor.

As stated by Sarah M. Kelly, Vice President for Admission and Enrollment Management at St. Michael's, "I am pleased to tell you that you were among those recommended to us as an 'Unsung Hero.' Thank you for your important work. We hope this recognition will remind you that your work is valuable and is affirmed by those students who pass through your classes every year."

It certainly is. Way to go, Dr. B.!

The Skeletons are Back!

Students in **Mr. Kuroski's** CPA and Honors Anatomy and Physiology classes participated in the annual Skeleton Poster Project.

Working in pairs, students were assigned the task of creating a unique free-hand drawing of the human skeleton that included all of the major bones in the body. They had to personalize their skeleton with a theme (and a clever bone-related name such as BONE-ah Hill, Ra-BONE-zel, and MARROW-Lin Monroe) that made each poster unique.



A comprehensive rubric was used to make sure each poster met a variety of strict requirements for both accuracy and presentation.

Using the rubric, students will evaluate each of the posters and chose the one



in each class that they feel was the "BEST IN THE CLASS." Not only that, but the faculty voted on their favorites as well.

So say hello to Nicholas RIB-Cage, Ozzy os-BONE, Jekyll and HYOID, and many others.

The students worked with great focus and passion on these skeleton displays, and though they learned a lot, they also found the whole project quite HUMERUS!

Two students in Mr. Kuroski's Anatomy & Physiology class, Avery Black and Lidia DiPilato, even penned a song inspired by their recent work on the skeletal system. Listen and learn: <http://youtu.be/uhsEbdOjmfA>



Physics & Music

Students in Honors Physics created musical instruments as part of their unit on waves and sound. They were required to make a string or wind instrument, ideally using recycled products from home, and it needed to be able to play six notes. They also needed to hand in an explanation of the physics behind changing the pitch.



Chris Canfield
Science Department Chair

Career Center Information

203-426-7679

Kitty Latowicki - College/Career Center Coordinator latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us

Peg Ragaini - School to Career Coordinator ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us

The Career Center is open from 7:30 am-3:00 pm, Monday-Friday. There are eight computers available for student use and a table and chairs for schoolwork and studying. We welcome all students in all grades. If the Career Center is not open due to appointments, college visits, speakers, etc. a sign will be posted on both doors alerting students of the closure. Mrs. Latowicki is available to meet with a student and/or parents, after school and in the evening until 6 pm, by appointment only. She is available to discuss careers, colleges, technical schools, life after high school, etc. Please call or email to set up an appointment.

Websites for Summer Job Searches



www.Coolworks.com:

Features seasonal jobs in camps, resorts, and other adventurous places.

www.Servenet.org:

Lists volunteer opportunities across the U.S. (Search opportunities by age groups.)

www.useajobs.gov/studentjobs:

Finds government jobs. Use the site's search engine and click on "summer" or "intern" to find appropriate positions. The "Agency Info" tab explains each different government office.

www.Groovejob.com:

Focuses on summer and part-time work for teens. You can search by zip code.

www.Snagajob.com:

Many retail positions and a section entitled "Advice for Teen Job Seekers."

Careers in Science, Technology Engineering & Math

Did you know that overall, jobseekers outnumber online job postings 3.8 to one, while in STEM, job postings outnumber unemployed people by 1.9 to one! (Retrieved from www.stemjobs.com on 3/21/14) For more information on STEM jobs, please go to www.stemjobs.com.

Understanding WHY a Summer Position is So Valuable to Your Future

You are young and now is the time to make mistakes, take risks and try different industries and corporate cultures to see what you like and dislike. Sometimes what you think may be a good choice for you may not actually be the case once you get there. It is one thing to study the theoretical knowledge and it is another to apply it and experience hands-on what it takes to succeed in a specific industry or corporate culture.

We are a society that does not allow for mistakes and failure. However, every successful person I know will tell you it is their mistakes and failures that brought them to where they are now.

Whether you are volunteering, interning or doing paid work, you are beginning to create a network of people who want to support, guide and perhaps mentor you. These relationships are invaluable and can open up so many doors (especially when you graduate). You will have one leg up on those graduating with these connections in your back pocket. (Retrieved from an article written by Sandra Finklestein at www.public.careercruising.com on 3/14/14.)

Community Service



Community service opportunities received by the Career Center will be listed and sent out in an email on the first Thursday of every month during the school year. (Weather permitting!) Opportunities that come in after the email is sent will continue to be posted in the Career Center and kept in the community service binder. Students are responsible for contacting the agencies/individuals directly for more information. Organizations interested in posting community service opportunities should email ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us or latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us. Please include a brief description of the community service opportunity and contact information.

Enrichment Programs

For the Summer & 2014-15 School Year

Please visit the *Enrichment Programs* under the Colleges tab in [Naviance](#). There are amazing programs available to high school students which can help develop that “stand out” factor so valued in college applications and/or provide technical and career training.

Forgot Your Naviance Password?

All you need to do is click on the “Forgot my Password” link on the [Family Connection](#) homepage. A temporary password will be sent to your email account and you will be prompted to change your password the first time you log in using the temporary password. Remember the easiest way to reach the Naviance is through the [high school website](#) utilizing the appropriate tab for students or parents

Emergency Medical Responder Class

An Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Summer Class will be held starting July 1, 2014 at Trumbull EMS.



The Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course, formerly MRT (Medical Response Technician), is designed for anyone interested in learning more about Emergency Medical Services and in being a first responder. The EMR is usually the first trained individual who arrives at the scene of an emergency. Many Police Officers, Firefighters, Public Safety Officers, and Athletic Trainers take this class so they can provide emergency care to a patient until ambulance resources arrive. The Emergency Medical Responder could work as a driver or third crew member on an ambulance. This class is also great for those students who wish to

pursue a career in the field of Nursing, Physician Assistants, Medical Physicians Personal/Athletic Trainers, Police Officer or Firefighting.

Successful completion of this class will allow students to volunteer at Trumbull EMS or many other ambulance services in the area. Each student upon successful completion of the class will be eligible to take the state certification exam. As an EMR, you will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to provide basic lifesaving interventions to those who are sick or injured. You will also assist higher level providers on scene and during transport.

The class is offered to those interested over the age of 14. This class is intensive so all students should be mature and capable of

keeping up with a college level course curriculum. Sensitive topics such as OB/GYN, traumatic injuries, and death will be discussed. For parents with any questions, please do not hesitate to contact EMS Instructor and Chief of EMS, Joseph Laucella at 203-452-5146. Seating is limited to the first 20 students. All registrations and payment should be received by June 13, 2014.

Class tuition is \$400 which includes the book. Class will be held July 1-July 30, 2014 (more classes may be scheduled if instructor feels students could use additional time to prepare for exam). Class will meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8am-12pm at the headquarters located at 250 Middlebrooks Avenue.

To register for this class, please call 203-452-5146.

Internships

Internships are open to junior and senior students during the school year. Placements are selected based on the student interest. Positions may be paid or unpaid. The internship experience is noted on the student's transcript once thirty hours are completed and the student submits a reflection on the internship experience. There is a regional medical internship program as well that provides internships in regional hospitals through Education Connection. Applications are available in the College/Career Center for both programs. Please read your Naviance email to be notified as new internships become available.



Laurie Klein Photography

Internationally acclaimed photographer and teacher, Laurie Klein, is again offering a 10-week photography mentoring group. Students will produce a personal portfolio that reflects their individuality and is often of college-level quality. The program is open to 10 students from regional high schools. Students must have a digital camera and be willing to work outside scheduled program hours. The cost of the program is \$375.

Healing Newtown will contribute \$125 towards the tuition of every Newtown student (Thank You!). To apply, submit resume, cover letter, letter of recommendation, and 10 pictures directly to Laurie Klein. Please contact her directly if you have any questions. Contact information: Laurie Klein, laurie@laurieklein.com, 203.740.1110, <http://www.laurieklein.com>.

Senior Exit Survey 2014



Seniors: **It is important that the senior exit survey be filled out in NAVIANCE.** All you have to do is go to your home page in [Naviance](#) and click on the link which will take you to the survey below. The survey must be complete to ensure your final transcript is sent to the school you are attending in the fall. All outstanding transcript fees must be paid and your community service hours posted. Below is an example of what the survey looks like in Naviance.

1. **HOW MANY HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE HAVE YOU PERFORMED WHILE AT NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL?** Please note that these hours must be listed on your resume in Naviance, as this will be checked to confirm all information. This is not a graduation requirement; however, those who have performed at least 150 hours of community service will receive a pin to wear at graduation to acknowledge this accomplishment. In order to record, go to "About Me" and click on "Resume" under "Interesting Things About Me" and enter information under "Volunteer Service" from the pull-down.

2. **HAVE YOU PAID YOUR FEES FOR TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS?** It is absolutely mandatory that all fees be paid by June 1; otherwise, notification will be submitted to the assistant principal's office which may affect the distribution of your graduation cap and gown. In order to verify the status of your account and the amount owed, go to Colleges; click on 'transcripts' on the left then to "View status of transcript request." Scroll to the bottom of the page. Please make all checks payable to "NHS - Guidance" and submit to Mrs. Korotash.

Yes No

3. **IT IS MANDATORY TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING POST-SECONDARY INFORMATION PRIOR TO GRADUATION.** Please add all other information, i.e., name of college/university you will be attending; the specific branch of military, etc. The name of the college/university and all other post-secondary institutions **MUST** be entered, as this is where your final transcript will be sent. Also, please make certain that the status of all other applications is updated in Naviance. This can be done by going to "Colleges I am Applying To" and clicking on the pencil to get to the pull-down.

Other:

College/University Affordability Audit

Studies have shown that **college graduates earn more over a lifetime** and are less likely to be unemployed than those with only a high school diploma. While pursuing higher education has projected financial advantage, the cost of attending college has risen dramatically, and the amount of aid available for low-income students has decreased. These two facts together underscore the importance of helping students make a strong college match by supporting their ability to evaluate higher education institutions and make informed decisions about the financial, academic and social fit each can offer.

Essential Question: What questions should my family and I ask about colleges and universities prior to applying?

- ✓ What is the institution's six-year graduation rate?
- ✓ How does its six-year graduation rate break down by racial and socio-economic demographics?
- ✓ How does its six-year graduation rate compare to similar colleges and universities (i.e., schools of similar selectivity levels, student body sizes and admission rates).
- ✓ What is the total cost of attendance, including tuition, room and board and fees?
- ✓ What is the average "net price" (average price that students pay after grants or scholarships) of attendance?
- ✓ How much institutional scholarship money does the college or university award? What percent goes to need-based aid? What percent goes to merit-based aid?
- ✓ What is the average financial aid package awarded by the institution?

- ✓ Do the college's or university's financial aid packages completely cover student need?
- ✓ If not, what is the average gap in students' financial aid funding (i.e., money a student owes over the Estimated Family Contribution [EFC] that is not covered by federal loans, grants and scholarships)?
- ✓ What percentage of students enrolled in the institution receive Pell grants?
- ✓ What is the graduation rate for Pell grant recipients?
- ✓ What is the average amount of debt students carry upon graduation?
- ✓ What percentage of graduates are employed within one year of graduation?
- ✓ What percentage of graduates are accepted into graduate school?

Where to Begin

Look up graduation rates broken down by different demographics, average financial aid awarded, total cost of attendance and compare to similar institutions in the same state.

- [The Chronicle of Higher Education's College Completion website](#)
- [The Education Trust's College Results website](#)

Students can also look at the websites of each college and university to find answers to the above questions.

(Retrieved from <http://www.tolerance.org/college-university-audit> on 4/2/2014)



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>
- Guidance/Naviance <https://connection.naviance.com/newtown>
- PowerSchool Portal <https://ps.newtown.k12.ct.us/public/>
- Athletics www.nighthawksports.com
- 2013-2014 School Calendar <http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=OxiuRWc5-3g%3d&tabid=19680>
- NHS Schedule of Days Calendar <http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=S3y|TRzbHpU%3d&tabid=12312>

School Office:	203-426-7646
Fax:	203-426-6573
Attendance Non-illness: Illness (Nurse):	203-426-7656 203-426-7649
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



- | | |
|--------------|--|
| June 12-13 | Final Exams, <i>Early Dismissal</i> |
| June 14 | ACT @ NHS |
| June 16-17 | Final Exams, <i>Early Dismissal</i> |
| June 17 | Graduation - <i>O'Neill Center, 4 pm</i> |
| June 18 | Last Day of School |
| August 20 | Freshman Orientation |
| August 26 | School Begins - Students Report |
| September 11 | Open House |
| September 17 | Open House |