



Nighthawk News

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NOVEMBER 15, 2017

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **PTSA Meeting: November 15**
- **Early Dismissals: Nov 14-17**
- **Conferences: Nov 14-16**
- **Thanksgiving Recess: Nov 23-24**

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Principal's Message

Spirit week was an exciting week for our students as they celebrated the teamwork and collaborative efforts of athletes, cheer, dance, musicians, and student-members of our extracurricular programs. On Friday, November 10 we welcomed many Veterans from the community and a breakfast was held in their honor. It is always a special day for our Veterans, staff, and students as they celebrate those who have given so much for others.

This year we will continue to host Principal talks. The focus of these conversations is to listen to the voices of parents to find ways to improve our schools. Please note that the next PTSA General Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, November 15, at 7:00 pm in Room B140. This is another great venue for parents to discuss ideas and share thoughts.

If you cannot make it to the PTSA meeting, we do want to remind you that our parent teacher conferences will be held on November 14, 15, and 16. These



will give you an opportunity to meet directly with your son's or daughter's teachers to discuss the progress of your student.

As you may know the NHS Drama students have been working incredibly hard over the past few months to put on a wonderful comedy show "How to Get Away With Murder." We hope that you will consider

coming out to support the hard work of the many students involved. The show runs on November 16 through November 19. The first three shows will be evening performances and the show will conclude on Sunday with an afternoon show.

A reminder to all freshmen and parents of freshmen, the **WOW! Workshop of Wellness** is being held on Wednesday, November 29, beginning at 6:30pm. All freshman students are expected to attend.

We look forward to a productive and positive school year and hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season!

David Roach
Interim Principal

From Your PTSA



2017-2018 PTSA Meeting Schedule

November 15	7:00pm	General Meeting	<i>All meetings held in Room B140</i>
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	

New Algebra Course



In collaboration with the Special Education Department, the Mathematics Department is happy to be offering a new course called Algebra 1 Foundations 1.

This class is currently being taught by Mrs. Charlotte Cavaturo from the Math Department and Mrs. Lisa Reichin from the Special Education Department. Algebra 1 is the most essential math course students take, and, therefore time is being spent solidifying those skills needed for future courses. In previous years, we found that some of our students were unable to keep up with the pace of CPB Algebra 1. Algebra 1 Foundations 1 and Algebra 1 Foundations 2 will take the CPB Algebra 1 curriculum and spread it out over two years. The extra time will be used to embed a deeper explanation of foundational math concepts. Students who successfully complete Alg 1 Foundations 1 will be enrolled in Alg 1 Foundations 2.

Eugene Hall
Math Department Chair

Next Generation Science Standards

NGSS comes to NHS!

[The Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\)](#) are here. They are being implemented in our freshman classes this year, and our science teachers are spending most of their professional development time learning how to interpret the standards and how to design lessons that are aligned with NGSS. [The State of Connecticut implementation timeline](#) calls for the standards to be implemented next year in 10th grade and the following year in 11th grade, and a pilot of the NGSS assessment (which will replace the CAPT test) will be given this year to juniors.

Last May, science teachers Baumgartner, Canfield, DeJulio, Georgina, McConnell, and Paulsson attended *Teaching and Learning in 3D- An Orientation to the NGSS* at The Capitol Regional Education Council (CREC) in Hartford, three days over the course of three weeks. This workshop provided a good foundation for understanding how to use the standards.



Last month, Mr. Canfield joined a group of science teachers from the other Newtown schools to attend the National Science Teachers Association area conference in Baltimore, where they went to several sessions about various aspects of NGSS, particularly the identification of anchoring phenomena and storylines, NGSS elements around which science lessons and units are to be built.

On November 20 and 21, Mr. Canfield and Assistant Principal Kimberly Longobucco will attend the PLANS Workshop at the Connecticut Science Center where they hope to delve more deeply into the heart of NGSS.

Meanwhile, NHS science department meetings, and our science PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) will focus on NGSS throughout the year.



Also, Mr. Canfield, Mr. DeJulio, Mrs. Georgina, and Mrs. McConnell are part of the NGSS Leadership Team, a district committee of Newtown science leaders that meets monthly to address the schools' and district's needs as they work to implement NGSS in our science classrooms.

NGSS represents a big change in science education across the country and Newtown High School is part of it!

NGSS-style Student Work at NHS



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. To schedule an appointment with either Mrs. Ragaini or Mrs. Latowicki, please call 203-426-7679. Please contact us if you require further information on anything included below.

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.

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.

Unpaid Learning Experience Program

Formerly known as the NHS Internship Program

This program is open to juniors and seniors interested in exploring a career. The positions may be paid or unpaid. Students are placed in a position based on their interests, availability, and organization's schedule.

Students who meet the program requirements have the experience noted on their transcript. Students are asked to complete an application, work their scheduled thirty hours during the school year, attend a safety training, meet with me, and complete a simple reflection on their experience.

Examples of current placements include:

- *Threads Magazine*
- *The Avielle Foundation*
- *Head O' Meadow School*
- *Church Hill Physical Therapy*
- *Fairfield Equine*

Applications are available in the Career Center and the **deadline to submit an application for the current year is December 15.**



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. It is hard to find volunteers for certain careers, but Mrs. Latowicki will always exhaust all her options when searching for a volunteer. Students should see Mrs. Latowicki in the Career Center to discuss Career Shadow options. **The deadline to apply for a Career Shadow is March 31.**

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Regional Healthcare Shadowing Program

Applications are now available for the 2018-2019 school year. This program accepts juniors and seniors interested in exploring healthcare careers. Accepted students shadow healthcare professionals observing and learning about the daily tasks of the job. The goal is for students to learn about different aspects of the industry and to learn about the skills necessary to be successful.

Students are selected based on the date their application was submitted, attendance at an informational meeting in May of their sophomore or junior year, and school attendance (including Advisory). Applications are available in the Career Center. Please see Mrs. Ragaini if you have any questions.

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 on a regular basis. The list can be accessed in [Naviance](#) under the **colleges** tab and then scrolling to **scholarship list** on the bottom of the page. A listing of all scholarships with full descriptions can be found on Naviance. 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 likelier it is they are to receive a monetary award. As the school year moves into the winter and spring months, more local scholarships become available. Any student who needs assistance navigating the list in Naviance should stop into the Career Center to set up an appointment with Mrs. Latowicki. **Please remember to check the list regularly.**



Also, check the websites of the individual schools for their scholarships. Many colleges/technical schools offer scholarships. Their website will post the requirements to receive a scholarship and whether you need to apply for the scholarship or if it is awarded automatically.

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

- Scholarship Points
- Scholarship Spotlight
- Sallie Mae
- Fastweb
- College Week Live
- Unigo

Scholarship Workshop

Mrs. Latowicki is offering a scholarship workshop for **seniors only** in January (date, time and place to be determined). The workshop will take place during the school day. The workshop will cover:

- How to navigate the scholarship list in Naviance
- Scholarships that will be available between January and April
- The Do's and Don'ts when applying for scholarships
- Other sites to search for scholarships
- Any questions regarding scholarships
....and more!

Junior/Senior Projects

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. Examples of projects from past years include:

Spark Gap and Solid State Tesla Coils: *Building working Solid State Tesla Coils*

Character Design: *Concept Art for characters in an animated film*

Fahrenheit 451 Audiobook Soundtrack: *A soundtrack for the Fahrenheit 451 audiobook*

No One Will Ever Be as Funny as I Think I Am: *An Original Comedy Routine*

An Introduction to CrossFit: *Crossfit website and two week beginner's workout program*

Life Haven: *Rebuilding a Children's Center at a shelter in New Haven.*

Sandy Hook Memorial: *Scale model for Sandy Hook Memorial Park*

Students interested in signing up for this course should see Mrs. Ragaini, Mrs. McConnell, or Mrs. Hanna. The spring semester class will meet the last Monday of the month starting in January from 2:10 to 3:30 pm.

Career Center Information

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.

Enrichment Programs

These programs are available to students to enrich their lives. Many of the programs take place over the summer and some throughout the school year. Most of them have a fee associated with them and the occasional few are free but have a selection process. The majority of the programs are costly. All programs which are received in the Career Center can be accessed through [Naviance](#). Please check Naviance often for the active list of opportunities. We are not promoting any programs. We are only making this information available to you.

To access this information log onto [Naviance](#) and click on the **colleges** tab, scroll to the **college research** box and click on **enrichment programs**. You can search for programs by category or by the name of the program. Check with the specific program for exact details since the information in Naviance might not be correct.

Senior De-Stress Day

Senior De-Stress Day will take place all day, Wednesday, December 13 (*snow date of Friday, Dec. 15*). The Career Center will host Senior De-Stress Day, an entire day where **seniors only**, can spend relaxing time during free periods, and de-stress from the pressures of thinking about life after high school. Mrs. Latowicki and Mrs. Ragaini look forward to seniors joining us for coloring, treats and relaxing music.



Career Lesson for 9th Graders in Counselor Workshops



Your freshman student has just completed a Career Interest Inventory in Naviance called the Career Cluster Finder. The results can be found in [Naviance](#) under the **Careers** tab by clicking on the **Career Cluster Finder**. The students were asked to save two careers and two career clusters of interest in their student portfolio. This information can be accessed by clicking on **favorite careers and clusters** option on the left side of the page.



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/0B1fMVLvpIZblITTVdIS0hMd3JoZWMM
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 .



Nov 14-16	Early Dismissal - <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences</i>
Nov 15	PTSA Meeting - 7:00pm
Nov 16-19	NHS Fall Drama
Nov 17	Early Dismissal - <i>Professional Development</i>
Nov 22	Early Dismissal - <i>Thanksgiving Recess</i>
Nov 22-23	Schools Closed - <i>Thanksgiving Recess</i>
Nov 29	Freshman Workshop of Wellness
Dec 6	Early Dismissal - <i>Professional Development</i>
Dec 6	NHS Orchestra & Jazz Concert
Dec 13	Senior De-Stress Day
Dec 15	NHS Singers Holiday Show
Dec 22	Early Dismissal - <i>Holiday Recess</i>
Dec 25-29	Schools Closed - <i>Holiday Recess</i>
Jan 1	Schools Closed - <i>New Year's Day</i>
Jan 5	Gala Concert - NHS Auditorium Grand Opening