



Nighthawk News

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



MARCH 5, 2018

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Spring Conferences: March 15
- School-wide Testing Day: March 21
- NHS Musical: March 22-25
- College Fair: March 27
- Auditorium Gala: April 2

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Principal's Message

Dear NHS Families,

March is upon us and is a busy month for staff and students with teacher recommendations and scheduling for 2018-2019.

The following are upcoming events and ongoing initiatives that I would like to remind you of:

Parent Conferences: Parent Conferences will take place on March 15, from 1:30-3:30 pm with early dismissal time at 12:32 pm on this day.

Junior Prom: On Friday, March 16, from 7-11pm, Newtown High School will be hosting the Junior Prom at the Amber Room. Tickets are on sale during all lunch waves.

Testing Day: On Wednesday, March 21 we will administer the PreACT and SAT tests to sophomores and Juniors.

PreACT Testing Information

PreACT test offers sophomores an early experience with ACT test items and offers a wealth of information to help students get the start they need to be college ready. The

PreACT test encompasses paper-based, multiple-choice tests in English, Math, Reading, and Science. On March 21, we will administer the PreACT to all 10th graders without accommodations. If you would like to request accommodations for this PreACT you must notify your student's School Counselor by March 1.

SAT Testing Information

- There are three parts to the SAT: Reading, Writing & Language, and Mathematics.
- The essay portion of the SAT **will not** be administered as part of the Connecticut school-day SAT assessment.
- 400-1600 score scale.
- Four answer choices and **no penalty for guessing.**

On that day **all freshmen** will take the school-wide Safe School Climate survey followed by an assembly with Dr. Matt Bellace. **Seniors** will arrive late and follow a modified class schedule when testing con-

cludes. Regular bus schedules will be maintained throughout testing. ECA bus will leave NHS at 12:30 pm. RCA bus will leave NHS at 1:00 pm. NHS will operate on regular hours: 8:00 am to 2:32 pm.

Les Misérables: Newtown High School proudly presents the



musical "Les Misérables" from March 22 - 25. Evening shows will be performed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:00 pm. Two afternoon shows will be on Saturday and Sunday of that weekend at 2:00 pm. The staff and students welcome you to relax and enjoy the show in the new auditorium.

David Roach
Interim Principal

From Your PTSA



Newtown Nighthawks Challenge

March 11

12:00-2:00 pm

Watch, Volunteer and Support NHS Students & Teachers Across the District

Watch 14 teams of Newtown **teachers, students** and Board of Education **faculty** compete in 12 must-see Challenges. The Nighthawks Challenge is a unique combination of indoor obstacles that is a mash-up of Ninja Warrior, the Spartan Race and the Minute-to-Win-It Game Show.

The NHS PTSA, in partnership with the NHS Administration, present the First Annual Nighthawks Challenge. Come cheer on participants: NHS students, Newtown Public School teachers & faculty, and the Board of Education Administration who will compete in teams of 4 to 8 members. This Challenge consists of 12 obstacles designed to challenge participants' mental, physical and creative abilities and entertain spectators.

All obstacles will be able to be viewed by spectators. Spectators will have the opportunity to vote for winners for a subset of the obstacles. All proceeds from the 1st Annual Nighthawks Challenge will be split between the Newtown High School PTSA Senior College Scholarship Fund and Teacher Grant Programs and a cause determined by the Newtown High School student body by March 30.

We are in need of families to volunteer their time or donate food items. Sign up is available at: <http://signup.com/go/ssQeWQO>

Nighthawks Challenge event details and schedule:

- 11:00 am Team Check-In, Review of Obstacles and Distribution of Challenge T-Shirts
- 12:00 pm Challenge begins
- 1:45-2:15pm Post-competition celebration and awards.

The 12 Challenges include: Inflatable Obstacle Course, Cupcake War, Kazoo Music Challenge, Project Adventure Tire Swing Platform, Dance Off, Crazy Trivia, Row Relay, Team Theme/Costume, Build Tallest Structure, Pie Throwing Contest (Thanks to our 2 brave teacher targets!), Blind-folded Word Scramble and Three-Point Throw Finale!

Food and refreshments will be available for purchase. There is a suggested minimum donation of \$1 for adults and students aged 7 and older. Children 6 and under are free. RSVP on Eventbrite.com: <https://nighthawks-challenge-event-tickets.eventbrite.com> or pay-at-the-door.

Seeking Candidates for PTSA 2018-19 Board Members

The NHS PTSA Board is preparing for the candidate application process for open Board positions for the 2018-2019 school year. The Committee is seeking candidates for open PTSA board positions of President, up to two Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. We encourage you to consider volunteering for one of these truly rewarding roles soon as the current Board would like candidates to shadow us in our positions through the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year.

If you would like to be considered for any of these positions, please email ptsaof-nhs@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support.

Kat Young, NHS PTSA President

Senior Citizen Spring Musical Event Volunteers Needed!

PTSA and Student Government are hosting the annual Senior Citizen Dinner and Musical on Wednesday, March 21. The seniors will have dinner in the cafetorium and then view the dress rehearsal of *Les Misérables*. We will be requesting volunteers to help with set up and clean up, as well as food donations. Be on the lookout for an email with a Perfect Potluck sign-up for the event.

School-Wide Testing Day

Wednesday, March 21 is school-wide testing day for sophomores and juniors. The PTSA will be providing bagels, apples and water to help these students get a good start to their day. We are looking for volunteers to help with set-up that morning, so please look for an email sign up coming soon. Students who are seniors are welcome to help for community service hours!

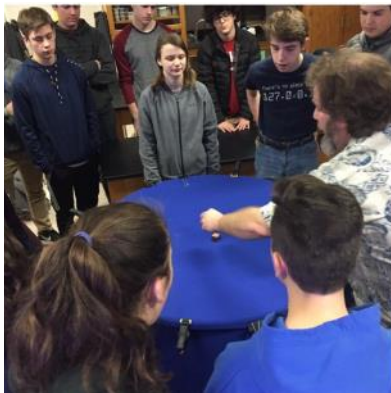
SAT Bootcamp March 10-11

In preparation for the March 21 in-school SAT for juniors, PTSA is sponsoring an SAT Bootcamp by Catalyst on the weekend of March 10-11. To enroll visit www.CatalystPrep.com and click on the Bootcamp Sign-Up tab on the website's menu bar or call us at 800.235.0056. The deadline to enroll in this special prep opportunity is **Wednesday, March 7.**

Science Department News

Integrated Physical & Earth Science

The freshmen in our Integrated Physical & Earth Science (IPES) course have been the first to experience learning under the new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).



One activity they recently did as part of the NGSS Earth and Space Sciences unit was using a Lycra sheet stretched over a circular frame to represent the space-time that comprises the fabric of our universe. Using marbles, ping pong balls and weights, they could simulate gravity, orbits, and the warping of space-time.

Weights placed in the middle of the spandex sheet could act as black holes while they slowly devoured unsuspecting marbles. Add another weight, and now you have a binary star system, significantly changing the marble and ping pong ball orbits.

In the accompanying pictures, students in Mr. Harrison's and Mrs. Baumgartner's IPES classes have fun exploring the "fabric" of the universe!

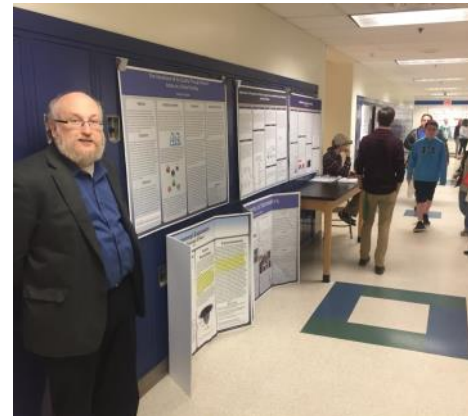


Science Electives Explained at Open House

During Newtown High School's Incoming 9th Grade Parent Night on February 12, the NHS Science Department held an Open House for parents to learn about three of the electives they offer.

Two of them, Applied Science Research and Introduction to Engineering Design, are currently being offered at NHS. The third, Principles of Biomedical Science, is a course we will offer next year for the first time.

Science teachers Tim DeJulio, DJ Nicholson, and Susan McConnell welcomed parents into their classrooms and, with a little help from their students, showed them some of the many engaging learning opportunities we offer in science!





The Fine Arts Department has much to celebrate as students continue to build the skills and capacity to create and perform. Here are examples of the stellar work that is happening.

Visual Art

2017-18 Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards

These pieces were juried from over 1200 entries from throughout the state and were exhibited in the Silpe Gallery at the Hartford Art School, January 14- Feb. 1, 2018.



Gold Key: **Jenna Visca**, Drawing
"Hiding in Plain Sight"



Silver Key: **Rachel Phillips**, Drawing
"Jacob"



Honorable Mention: **Alix Lewis**, Ceramics
"Wired"

2017-18 Teen Vision

Congratulations to these Newtown High School award-winning artists for being selected to participate in this year's Teen Vision Art Exhibit at Sacred Heart University.



"Self-Portrait"
Teresa Forlenzo
1st Place Drawing Pen & Ink



"Cuddle Kitten"
Charlie Condon
2nd Place Drawing Graphite



"Untitled"
Noelle Carbone
2nd Place Watercolor



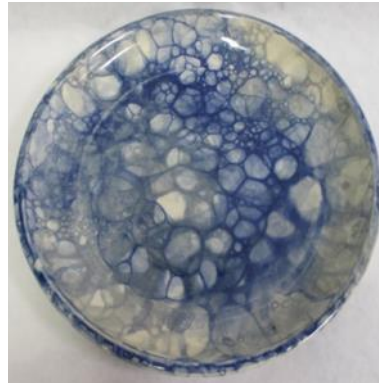
"Octopus' Garden"
Paige Galanis
2nd Place Drawing Pen & Ink,
Pastel



Visual Art, continued

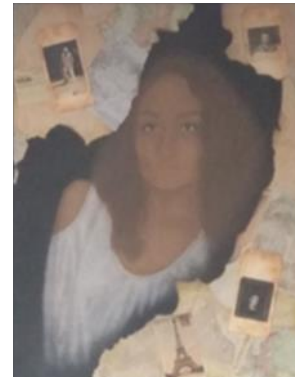
The National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition

Congratulations to Kylie Giroux. She was selected by the jurors for inclusion in this year's Annual National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition (selected from 1203 entries from around the nation). Her piece is titled, "Bubble Plate."



Art Portfolio

Art Portfolio is a more individualized and intensive program in which college-bound students prep and finalize their work for college admissions or a job-related field. Through this process, these artists had the opportunity to work with local artists at SCAN, participate in regional and state art shows, and exhibit their work at the Booth Public Library. Congratulations to our artists for a job well done – Noelle Carbone, Laura Carson, Paige Galanis, Danielle Wassmer and Brian Rice.



*Newtown Cultural Arts Commission
Scholarship Award for 2018*



The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission will provide three \$1,000 awards to assist three deserving students in acquiring a higher education in an arts-related field of study. The scholarship recipient must be a graduating senior, Newtown resident, and entering a four-year college or university or two-year community college. The student must be majoring or minoring in an arts related field.

The application deadline is March 23, 2018 and can be submitted to Mrs. Latowicki in the NHS Career Center. Incomplete, late, or emailed submissions will not be considered. Scholarship application forms are available from the Art, Music and Theater teachers and posted on the Music Department bulletin boards. The application is also available online at:

<http://newtownartscommission.org/arts-community/grants-scholarships/>



Music

Congratulations to our music students! Several students in the Music Department auditioned for regional and state music festivals in the fall. They had to prepare scales and repertoire specific to their instrument and voice. In addition, all were asked to sight-read, demonstrating their ability to apply their reading skills and musical knowledge. Many hours and days of practice paid off for these students when they

found out they were accepted to participate this year's festivals.

All-State Music Festival

- Hayden Fletcher - Trombone
- Bryan Ingwersen - Trumpet
- Kevin Gong - Oboe
- Greta Loesel - Oboe
- Jane Shearin - Chorus
- Bryce Doherty - Jazz Bass Trombone

Western Region Music Festival

- Greta Loesel - Oboe
- Kevin Gong - Oboe
- Bryan Ingwersen - Trumpet
- Hayden Fletcher - Trombone
- Aidan Almeter - Tuba
- Thomas Hasselberger - Jazz Tenor Sax
- Thomas Jensen - Jazz Trombone
- Bryce Doherty - Jazz Bass Trombone
- Jane Shearin - Choir

Fairfield County String Festival

- Jessica Zhang - Cello

Music Department Visits RIS

On Friday, February 16 the NHS Chamber Choir, Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and Jazz Band performed for the Reed Intermediate School. 5th and 6th graders were given the opportunity to hear these advanced ensembles and see where their music will take them as they progress through the K-12 music program. Newtown High School students spoke about the importance of music in their lives and the comradeship that has developed as a result. They were magnificent role models and provided a great deal of joy to RIS students and staff alike.



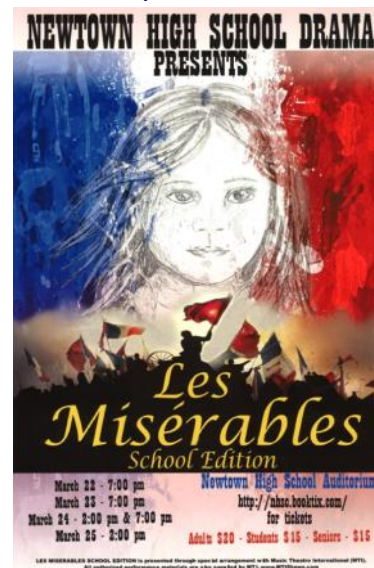
Auditorium Renovation



The auditorium renovation project is complete!! We were sad that Mother Nature snowed out our Gala Opening in January, but the show must go on and is going on. Our theater classes have moved back into their new home and students are thrilled to have all the learning tools they need at their fingertips. We have hosted 8th Grade Orientation and

one dance recital already and the cast and crew of *Les Misérables* are busy prepping for their opening night on March 22. We will celebrate our new auditorium with a Dedication Ceremony on April 2 – mark your calendars and join us for the festivities.

Theater



Michelle Hiscavich
Fine Arts 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. 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 parent(s), during the day or immediately after school, by appointment only. She is available to discuss careers, colleges, technical schools, scholarships, life after high school, etc. Please call or email to set up an appointment.

Newtown High School's Not Your Typical Career Day

The Career Center at Newtown High School is hosting a career day event and before anyone gets hives thinking of giving a speech about your job to a crowd of restless teens, let me reassure you, this isn't your typical career day.

What is this event, and how is it different from other career days?

Forget memorizing a monologue. We're transforming career day from a one-person show into a two-way conversation between students and professionals. Who will lead this conversation? Students! They'll ask you what you do, but more importantly, they'll ask *why you enjoy doing it*, as well as inquiring about the obstacles and successes on the journey to where you are today. By focusing on your life—and not just your living—students will be able to look beyond your job title and see you as a real human they can relate to!

So, what do you have to do to prepare?

Just show up, be yourself, and be ready to have authentic conversations about your road in life!

Here are the videos we'll be playing at career day so you can better prepare for the event:

Career Day Video 1: <https://vimeo.com/232695373>
 Password: CareerDayExperience2018

Career Day Video 2: <https://vimeo.com/232695660>
 Password: CareerDayExperience2018



We will be holding the event in the Lecture Hall at the high school. I am picturing having two interviews every class period. Interviews will be conducted by students from either Student Government or the National Honor Society. I have attached the description of the event structure and sample questions you may be asked by the students. Ideally, each speaker would be able to volunteer for two class periods. Our schedule would look like this:

1st Session: 8:00-8:56 am and 9:01-9:55 am

2nd Session: 10:00-10:54 am and 10:59-11:53 am

3rd Session: 12:31-1:35 pm and 1:39-2:32 pm

After School Session for TAP: 2:50-3:40 pm

Our career day is planned for Thursday, April 5. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in participating, my email is ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us.

Senior Experience 21

The Newtown High School **Senior Experience 21** is seeking current sophomores to sign up for the program in their junior year. The **Senior Experience 21** program occurs during Advisory in a student's junior year and opposite Counselor Workshop (one class per rotation) during your senior year. Students earn .25 credit in their junior year and .75 credit in their senior year.

The **Senior Experience 21** is designed to provide the motivated and responsible junior an opportunity to

design a project that reflects who they are and what they have learned in high school. The program provides students the opportunity for further study not available within the confines of the traditional classroom environment. Students research and formulate a project plan in their junior year and implement and present that project during their senior year. Each student has a teacher advisor at the high school. The **Senior Experience 21** is graded pass/fail/pass with distinction. Please speak to or email any of the following teachers or staff for more information:

Peg Ragaini	ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us
Ellie Hanna	hannaee@newtown.k12.ct.us
Carol Skolas	skolasc@newtown.k12.ct.us
DJ Nicholson	nicholsond@newtown.k12.ct.us
J Edwards	edwardsj@newtown.k12.ct.us
Melissa Torrance	torrancem@newtown.k12.ct.us
Lori Hoagland	hoaglandl@newtown.k12.ct.us
Erik Holst-Grubbe	holst-grubbee@newtown.k12.ct.us
David Roach	roachd@newtown.k12.ct.us

Career Center Information

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the

NHS College & Post-Secondary Options Fair



Enthusiastic student volunteers are needed for the upcoming College Fair on Tuesday, March 27. Student volunteers help make the fair a successful event. Without your help the Fair cannot be as successful as it has been in previous years. Volunteers are needed for the following time slots:

- 2:35-2:45 Set Up
- 4:45-7:00 Meet & Greet the College Reps
- 7:00-8:30 Assistance During the Fair
- 8:30-9:30 Clean Up

Interested students should stop by the Career Center to speak with Mrs. Latowicki to sign up and volunteer. Students will receive community service hours for time spent at the Fair.

Do You Wonder What the Police Do All Day?

Do You Want to Know More About Different Careers in Law Enforcement?

(Local Police, State Police, FBI, SWAT, K9)

The Newtown Police Department will be starting its annual Student Police Academy on March 29. The Student Police Academy is open to Newtown High School students. The Academy is 9 weeks long. It starts on Thursday, March 29 and will be held once a week on Thursdays from 6:00-8pm.



During the 9 weeks, the students will be exposed to a variety of topics. Some of the topics include becoming a police officer, motor vehicle laws, drinking and driving, accident reconstruction, as well as many other topics. Topics will be taught by Newtown Police Officers as well as other law enforcement agencies.

The academy coordinator is Officer Chapman. The class is limited to 25 participants and preference will be given by grade level seniority.

Any questions can be directed to Officer Chapman. Pick up an application in the career center or from Officer Chapman if you are interested. Spots will fill fast so don't wait!

Scholarships

Seniors should continue to look at the scholarship list in Naviance. There is a wide assortment of scholarships available. As discussed at the Scholarship Workshop in January, there is now a common application for 5 of our scholarships being offered. This means one application for five different scholarships and one essay for all the scholarships. You can apply for all the scholarships if you meet the criteria or just one. The application, with the criteria, can be found in Naviance under the following scholarships:

- Big Y Community Scholarship
- Ernest Badillo
- Frederick DeLuca
- Hiram #18 Masonic Lodge Scholarship
- Pay it Forward Scholarship





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/0B1fMVLvpIZbITTVdIS0hMd3JoZWm
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 .

March 14	Early Dismissal - <i>Staff Development</i>
March 15	Parent-Teacher Conferences - Early Dismissal
March 16	Early Dismissal - <i>Staff Development</i>
March 16	Junior Prom @ Amber Room
March 21	School-Wide Testing Day; CT School-Day SAT
March 22-25	NHS Musical - <i>Les Misérables</i>
March 27	NHS College Fair
March 30	Schools Closed - <i>Good Friday</i>
April 2	NHS Auditorium Gala/Dedication Ceremony
April 4	2-Hour Delay - <i>Staff Development</i>
April 4	PTSA Meeting - <i>7pm</i>
April 16-20	Schools Closed - <i>Spring Break</i>
May 4	Senior Prom
May 5	SAT @ NHS
May 7-18	AP Testing @ NHS