



Nighthawk News

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



MAY 26, 2015

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Final Exams:**
June 11-16
- **Graduation!**
June 16
- **Early Dismissal:**
June 17

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

As we move closer to the end of the year, it is important to reflect on all that has been accomplished, both by students and faculty. Coming back to Newtown Public Schools as Principal has given me the privilege of working with the dedicated staff, talented students, and committed parents that are a part of this community. All work diligently each day to ensure our high school students are afforded the opportunities they need to be successful.

Throughout the year, we have focused on building a positive culture, a place of learning where everyone feels safe, welcomed, and valued. As part of our school improvement plan, teachers and administrators have made a concerted effort to communicate more effectively with parents regarding academic progress and student success. The Principal's

monthly breakfast meetings provided a consistent venue for parents to share concerns and learn about ongoing programs and services that support our high school students.



We are only weeks away from our 2015 commencement, which is both a joyous yet sentimental finale for our seniors and their families. After 25 years in the field of education, it has been a pleasure to work with this group of seniors. They are bright, thoughtful, kind, and incredibly talented. Having been to sporting events, concerts, plays, and community service activities throughout the year, it is clear to

me why I chose to come back to a place I love. The commitment and passion that exists here among students, faculty, and parents is highly visible across the landscape of the school community. Thank you for your ongoing support of our work at the high school and your positive involvement in the academic lives of each of our students. We are confident that our graduates are fully prepared to move on to the challenges of college and career, and we are equally certain they will become highly successful and productive citizens in the future.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Principal of Newtown High School this year. We look forward to seeing many of you at this year's graduation ceremony on June 16.

Enjoy the summer!

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue
Principal

Final Exam Schedule

Thursday, June 11	7:25-9:25 am	Period 1	Monday, June 15	7:25-9:25 am	Period 5
	9:50-11:50 am	Period 2		9:50-11:50 am	Period 6
Friday, June 12	7:25-9:25 am	Period 3	Tuesday, June 16*	7:25-9:25 am	Period 7
	9:50-11:50 am	Period 4		9:50-11:50 am	Period 8

**With the last day of final exams coinciding with our commencement ceremony, seniors scheduled to take an exam on Tuesday, June 16 (Periods 7 and 8), may consult with their teachers to reschedule those exams at an alternate time.*

PTSA News

Dear NHS Parents and Guardians,

As the 2014/2015 school year comes to an end, the NHS PTSA board would like to thank all those who became members this year. Currently we have a total of 615 members (580 family/individual, 23 staff and 12 student memberships) and we have received recognition from the Connecticut PTSA for increasing membership by 10% this year. Thank you!

During the past three years, the PTSA has funded the following initiatives:

2012-2015 School Years:

- \$7,200 To support student assemblies
- \$7,200 Allocated towards staff grants
- \$3,500 Granted towards student scholarships
- \$3,000 To support Freshman Forum
- \$50 Granted to Junior/Senior projects
- \$225 Allocated to nurse's office for juice, water, etc.
- \$270 Allocated to the NICE library

In addition, each year we have provided:

- 1) A breakfast in September and an appreciation luncheon in May for 150 NHS staff members
- 2) Dinner for senior citizens in March
- 3) Bagels and water for all students during the multi-day CAPT testing in March
- 4) Pretzels for all students during the multi-day SBAC testing period in April/May.

It doesn't stop there – we supported many other programs and activities as they have come up throughout each year.

We appreciate your generosity since without your donations and volunteer hours none of these initiatives, grants or programs could be possible. We also thank our Principal, Lorrie Rodrigue, our PTSA Teacher representative, Karen Sherman, our three Assistant Principals, Kathy

Boettner, Jaime Rivera and David Roach, our Newsletter Editor, Evelyn Hufziger and the rest of the NHS staff for all of their support throughout the year.

Finally, a special word of thanks to my fellow dedicated board members: Rachelle Kahn, Vice President, Alpana Dholakia, Secretary, and Angela Thill, Treasurer, all of whom work many hours throughout the year to make sure your donations have the largest impact and our children are able to enjoy a better experience at Newtown High School. We look forward to your continued support and to even more of you becoming members next year!

Have a great summer!

Maggie Conway
PTSA President



Just a reminder....

Please join us for our last PTSA meeting of the year on June 2 at 9:30 am at NHS. In addition to regular business we will be voting for the incoming PTSA President and the 2015-2016 PTSA budget. See you then!



We would like to extend our greatest thanks and best wishes to Maggie Conway, President of the PTSA as she moves on at the end of the school year. Maggie has tirelessly led efforts for the NHS PTSA since 2011. Maggie has also been an active Board member with the Reed and the Middle School PTSA committees. Her leadership, commitment and dedication to the organization have been critical to the PTSA efforts over the years and she will greatly be missed.

On behalf of the PTSA, a special thank you to everyone who contributed to the NHS Staff Appreciation Luncheon, as well as everyone who volunteered at the event. We appreciate your support in celebrating our wonderful and dedicated staff.

The NHS Student Government and the PTSA would also like to thank everyone who volunteered and contributed to the Senior Citizen Outreach dinner in March. The senior citizens enjoyed a delicious dinner and a showing of our amazing Spring musical, *City of Angels*. Thank you again for making this evening a success!

English Department News

English Teachers Earn Graduate Degrees



Congratulations to English Department members Kate Dimoulas and Tressa Lima who recently earned graduate degrees! Mrs. Dimoulas completed her Master of Arts in Teaching of

English at Columbia Teachers College, which included her thesis, entitled "*The Impact of Implementing a Workshop Model on the Identity and Achievement of a Teacher and her Students.*" Mrs. Lima completed her 6th year certification in Reading at Southern Connecticut State University. This month she presented a workshop entitled "*Movie, Short Clips, Supplemental Fiction and Non-Fiction Galore! Engaging students in argumentative writing through digital and print resources*" at SCSU's Annual Literacy Conference. Both teachers continue to use their growing expertise to enrich the experience of both students and teachers at NHS.

Poetry Slam!

On Friday, May 1, 2015, NHS hosted its annual Poetry Slam. The celebration, emceed by seniors Katie Wolff and Kelsea Morshuk-Allen, featured 15 poets who shared original work, three musical acts and stand-up comedy by Astrid Sundberg. Over 40 students attended the event, and snacks provided by the Leo Club raised money for Best Buddies prom. The event was recorded by the NHS Tech Club and an audio CD will be available in the Roast Literary Magazine coming out in June!

Roast Literary Magazine

Newtown High School's Literary Magazine, *Roast*, announces the publication of their 2014-2015 edition. The editorial staff, comprised of students from all grades and led by editor, Hannah Delia, has met throughout the year to read over 150 submissions ranging from college essays to short stories and poetry. The *Roast* staff and advisor, Sayward Parsons, are extremely proud of the quality of writing selected for

this year's magazine. Magazines will be available in early June during school lunches and at a variety of local businesses for a suggested donation of \$5.

Bringing Shakespeare to the 21st Century

After reading *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare, students in Jacob Thomas, Michelle Toby and Katie Knapp's junior classes created reality TV-based confessional videos for characters from the play. Groups of three to four students wrote, filmed, and edited multiple two-minute confessional videos showing how a character reacted to the events in the play. The confessionals, which required fidelity to the play and a deep and nuanced understanding of how one character evolves during the course of the play, allowed students to actively and independently make an in-depth character analysis through nontraditional media.

Abigail Marks
English Dept. Chair

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:

Kathy Boettner, *Assistant Principal*
Megan Carroll, *Math*
Tiffany Cotroneo, *Library Media Specialist*
Paula Greenfield, *World Language Department Chair*
Tressa Lima, *English*
Linda Sykes, *Special Ed*



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.

Social Studies Department News

After 14 years as the Chair of the Social Studies department Mrs. Candace Dietter will be stepping down effective 30 June 2015. She plans to return full time to the classroom and spend more time at the hockey rink watching her two boys play. It is with great enthusiasm that we announce that Mr. Gary Franklin will be stepping into the role of Social Studies Department Chair beginning 1 July 2015.

Mr. Franklin has been with the high school staff since August of 2012. Previously he taught and coached at Thomaston High School. Since joining our staff, Mr. Franklin has been involved in the NHS community through his work on the NEASC Steering Committee, the Advisory Committee, as the Class of 2015

Faculty Co-Advisor, and working as a Dean during his duty periods. Mr. Franklin has taught AP Psychology, Western Studies, and US History while at NHS. Gary is married with 2 children and lives in Torrington. Gary currently holds a Masters degree in Educational Leadership and is working to complete his 6th Year in Ed Leadership from CCSU, go Blue Devils!

Gary is "excited about the opportunity to [. . .] serve as an advocate for the department and contribute to teacher growth."

Candace Dietter
Social Studies Dept. Chair



Fine Arts Department Spring Events

The Fine Arts Department presents a number of events to showcase the talents of our students.

Music

Spring Concerts:

The month of May found us celebrating our Spring Concert series. Over 300 students performed repertoire that represented a wide variety of cultures, styles and genres, and time periods. These performances represented the culmination of a lot of practice, discipline, problem-solving, and collaboration.

Students demonstrated their understanding of musical skills such as intonation and note accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, tempo and steady beat, tone, articulation, ensemble balance and blend, and expression and interpretation. We also took the opportunity to acknowledge our seniors and thank them for their contributions to the music program.

Theater

We are very excited to premiere an original play written by the NHS Unified Theater students. This is a new program funded through a grant from the State of Connecticut. Students of all abilities have been collaborating to write, direct, produce and perform an original play. The performances are on May 30 at 6:00pm and May 31 at 2:00pm. Please join us for a reception that will immediately follow the May 30 show.



Michelle Hiscavich
Fine Arts Dept. Chair

Science Department News

Climate Change

Freshmen science students consolidated their knowledge of climate change by making concept maps in groups and then critiquing other groups maps. Connections between climate change, humans, rising sea levels, burning fossil fuels, and more could be seen on the maps.



Fire Extinguisher Lab



Freshmen science students investigate chemical reactions and acids and bases through an inquiry lab we call the Fire Extinguisher Lab. Carbon dioxide is collected from the reaction between sodium bicarbonate and acetic acid.

Thermal Solar Collector

AP environmental students test various liquids to see which would be best to use in a thermal solar collector.



Tweets from the Science Department



Breaking onion cell walls (with the help of salt & detergent) to extract DNA in Mr. Ekman's [#Biology](#) class [#NewtownHS](#).



Cattle bone trabeculae revealed by [#Anatomy](#) & Physiology student [#NewtownHS](#).



Mr. DeJulio's [#biology](#) students load and run gels in [#forensic](#) DNA fingerprinting lab to ID a "suspect" [#NewtownHS](#).



Mr. Nicholson decomposes hydrogen peroxide for students in Integrated [#PhysicalScience](#) [#NewtownHS](#)
<http://youtu.be/59yJL8ea8pU>



Micropipettor Challenge in Ms. Manfredonia's [#NewtownHS](#) [#Biology](#) class. Authentically assess accurate use.



Chris Canfield
Science Department Chair

College/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 7:00 am-2:30 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), after school or in the evenings until 6 pm. She is available to discuss careers, colleges, technical schools, life after high school, etc. Please call or email her to set up an appointment.

Websites for Summer Job Searches



- [www.Coolworks.com:](http://www.Coolworks.com)** Features seasonal jobs in camps, resorts, and other adventurous places.
- [www.Servenet.org:](http://www.Servenet.org)** Lists volunteer opportunities across the U.S. (Search opportunities by age groups.)
- [www.useajobs.gov/studentjobs:](http://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:](http://www.Groovejob.com)** Focuses on summer and part-time work for teens. You can search by zip code.
- [www.Snagajob.com:](http://www.Snagajob.com)** Many retail positions and a section entitled "Advice for Teen Job Seekers."

And, stop into the Career Center to check the Jobs board!

Enrichment Programs For the Summer & 2015-16 School Year

Please visit the *Enrichment Programs* under the Colleges tab in [Naviance](#).

There are exciting and interesting programs available to high school students which can help develop that "stand out" factor so valued on college applications and/or provide technical and career training. Contact the individual programs for details since there the information entered into Naviance regarding these programs may differ slightly.

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. 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.



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 link is through the [high school website](#) utilizing the appropriate tab for students or parents.

Senior Exit Survey 2015



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 menu.

- 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 in the School Counseling Office.

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 icon to get to the pull-down menu.

Other:

If you need assistance with any of the tasks above, see your counselor. Remember your final transcript cannot be sent to the college you are attending unless this information is complete in Naviance.

The Barton Weller Scholarship

This \$14000 scholarship is open to rising seniors (2016 graduates) at NHS as well as seniors at four other area schools. The scholarship is based on a five month original independent research project. The finalist is selected by a panel of judges from the Weller Foundation. You can pursue any topic, "...from art to behavioral science to computers to zithers - providing it involves original, independent study or creative endeavor." You have from now until the beginning of October to formulate a proposal. Five finalists will be selected from all proposals received from all area schools.



For more information and details, please stop by the Career Center for a Barton Weller Scholarship brochure and to glance through the binder with projects submitted by NHS students.

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.



Junior/Senior Projects

The Junior and Senior Project class provides the motivated and responsible junior or senior learner an opportunity to develop 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.

If you are interested in learning more, please see Mrs. Ragini in the Career Center or email her at ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us. Interested students should stop by the Career Center to pick up a packet and sign up for the course with their School Counselor. Students take this course for the "stand-out" factor in college applications/interviews and to apply for scholarships.

2015-2016 Newtown Schools Calendar

The [calendar](#) for the 2015-2016 school year is now available on the Parents' Page on the [Newtown District website](#).

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

Sandy Hook School End of Year Picnic

Attention Sandy Hook School Alumni Parents and Students!!

Two of Sandy Hook School's beloved staff members, Mrs. Di donato and Mrs. Gunn, are retiring at the end of the school year. Please join us at our End-of-Year School Picnic to wish them well. They would love to see you!

Sunday, May 31, 2015
3:00-6:00pm
Treadwell Park Pavilion
(Rain date June 9, 5:30-7:30pm)

Bring a picnic meal for your family as well as some chairs and a blanket - the tables will fill up fast! If you have any great pictures or memories of Mrs. Didonato and Mrs. Gunn to share, please send them to sandyhookpta@gmail.com or bring them with you to the picnic. Please note these items will not be returned.

We hope to see you at the picnic!



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
2015-2016 School Calendar	http://newtown.k12.ct.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=7rQE_8F_W5w%3d&tabid=27635
NHS Schedule of Days Calendar	http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=06deoCSYm5E%3d&tabid=12312

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 . . .



May 18-20	Spring Concerts
May 25	Schools Closed - <i>Memorial Day</i>
May 28	Senior Dance
May 29	Senior Trip
June 11-12	Final Exams, <i>Early Dismissal</i>
June 13	ACT @ NHS
June 15-16	Final Exams, <i>Early Dismissal</i>
June 16	Graduation - <i>O'Neill Center, 4 pm</i>
June 17	Last Day of School, <i>Early Dismissal</i>
August 19	Freshman Orientation
August 27	School Begins - Students Report
September 7	Schools Closed - <i>Labor Day</i>