



# Nighthawk News

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



APRIL 24, 2017

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Budget Vote:**  
April 25
- **Final Exams:**  
June 9-14
- **NHS Graduation:**  
June 13
- **Last Day of School:**  
June 15

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## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hard to believe, but we are approaching the end of the 2016-17 school year. That means Senior prom, final exams, and a much anticipated summer break! It has been an extremely productive year, and our PTSA meetings, parent breakfasts, and evening parent forums have been extremely successful. Our recent Principal's breakfast welcomed some new faces – parents of incoming freshman students. Our dialogue was focused on how parents new to the high school could support their students during their four-year journey while continuing to encourage their independence as maturing adolescents.

As we near the close of another school year, the excitement for

seniors is that graduation is now on the horizon. Four years of effort and commitment will soon culminate into a major milestone for our students. Our graduation ceremony has been set for Tuesday, June 13, West Conn O'Neill Center at 4:00pm.



*Parents, please note that students will receive 6 tickets, which has been the norm for the past two years due to the capacity at the O'Neill Center and in compliance with the Fire Marshall. The event also gets streamed for other family and friends who may want access.*

Finally, I wanted to thank the membership of our PTSA for sending me positive sentiments after news that I was the recipient of the CAS/NASSP Principal of the Year award for Connecticut. It has been extremely humbling, but more importantly, it is a reflection of the caring and supportive staff, dedicated students, and innovative practices that make my role as leader so rewarding.

Thank you,

Dr. Lorrie Rodriguez  
Principal

## Final Exam Schedule\*

Friday, June 9	7:25-9:25 am	Period 1	Tuesday, June 13	7:25-9:25 am	Period 5
	9:50-11:50 am	Period 2		9:50-11:50 am	Period 6
Monday, June 12	7:25-9:25 am	Period 3	Wednesday, June 14	7:25-9:25 am	Period 7
	9:50-11:50 am	Period 4		9:50-11:50 am	Period 8

\*There will be a special exam schedule for seniors due to the June 13 graduation date

# From Your PTSA



- Congratulations to Dr. Rodrigue for earning the renowned 2017 Connecticut Association of School/NASSP High School Principal of the Year award! Wishing you good luck as you proceed to Nationals!
- Student-Faculty-Staff Newtown Ninja Race Fundraiser: Looking for parent volunteers to join us in initial planning session for Fall event. If interested, please reach out to [ptsaofnhs@gmail.com](mailto:ptsaofnhs@gmail.com) or call 203.364.7919
- Upcoming Senior "Buy Your Own Brick" Event commemorating college commitments by our graduating Seniors - look for details coming soon!
- A special THANK YOU to all parents who volunteered their time or donated items for the SAT/CAPT Testing Day Light Breakfast for Students. The event, feeding nearly 1100 students, was a huge success because of support from NHS parents!



Please join us for the last PTSA Meeting for this school year on June 7.  
Hope to see you there!

# Farewell Wishes



We would like to extend our best wishes to staff member **George Bachman**, our Greenhouse teacher, who will be retiring from NHS at the end of this school year.

We wish you the best of luck in your new endeavors and sincerely thank you for all that you have given to our community of Newtown High School.

# Math Department

Student registration for classes has just ended. One big change being made is the re-sequencing of Geometry and Algebra 2. Students will now take Algebra 1, followed by Algebra 2, followed by Geometry. Re-sequencing these classes will help students have a better transition from Algebra 1 to Algebra 2 as well as build stronger Algebra skills for future math classes. For more information about Newtown Math Pathways, click on the link under Quick Links on the Newtown High School website.



team qualified for States. To qualify, a team must be in the top 12 of 25 schools. Since the NHS math team ranked number 10, they competed at States and drove up to Storrs to see if they will qualify for New England Regionals. The Math Team welcomes students of all grade levels and abilities to do math while having a lot of fun. Many of the members are in other clubs and sports teams. If students would like to join they can come check it out after school on Wednesdays in F216.

The Math Team is an excellent club for students who enjoy mathematics and solving problems. This current school year, the

Lauren Dominick  
Math Department Chair

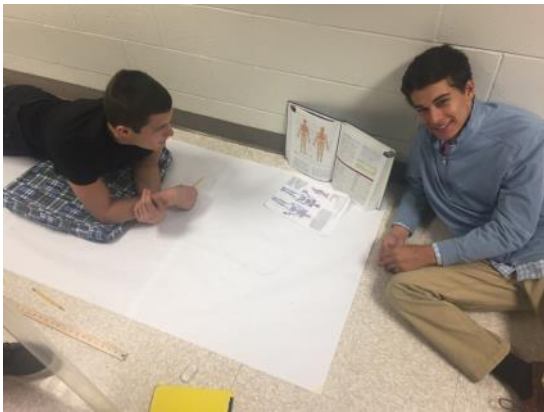
# Science Department News

## Spring Means... Skeletons?

Spring is in the air, and around the NHS Science Department, that means it is time for students in Mr. Kuroski's Anatomy & Physiology classes to start their life-sized skeleton poster! Over the next couple of weeks, students will produce a life-sized drawing of the human skeleton, showing and naming every bone. Not only that, each poster will have an entertaining theme. Past poster themes have included *The Rolling Bones*, *Bilbone Baggins* and *Edward Scapulahands*.

Finally, a vote will be held for faculty members to choose the best posters in a variety of categories.

Look for them to be displayed throughout the Main Lobby in early May.



## Renewable Energy with Wind Turbines

Mrs. Baumgartner's freshmen science students began their renewable energy unit by designing and building wind turbines.

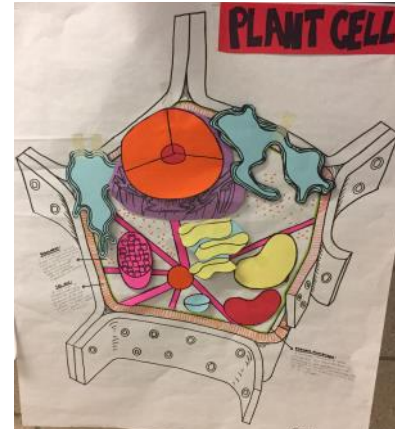
One of the classes was treated to a presentation by Bill Stevens, an executive with NJR Energy and the father of a student in the class. Mr. Stevens discussed how wind turbines are built, where wind turbines are most useful, and some of the pros and cons of using wind for energy. It was very informative and the students used their new knowledge to design and build wind turbines during their next lab class.

Once students had completed their turbines, they held them in front of a moving fan and connected them to a meter to see how much electricity they produced when the fan's breeze turned their turbines. There were many creative designs and they all produced electricity!



## Plant & Animals Cell Structures in 3D

Mrs. Merritt's Biology students demonstrated their knowledge of the structure of plant and animals cells by making 3D posters of each type of cell. They are on display in the F-Wing, across from room F210, so come check them out!



## Natural Resources Study by Maddy Albee

NHS senior Maddy Albee recently completed her study with the Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA) at UConn. Her study is entitled *Large Woody Debris: Influence on Water Quality & Bank Vegetation in the Pomperaug River* and can be found at this link:

[http://nrca.uconn.edu/students/\\_documents/posters2016/madelei\\_nealbee.pdf](http://nrca.uconn.edu/students/_documents/posters2016/madelei_nealbee.pdf)

This study was done through the NRCA **Conservation Ambassador Program**, which engages students (grades 9 -11) in a week-long environment-based field experience at UConn. Students then design a community conservation project to provide real solutions for their communities.

Great job, Maddy!!

# Visual & Performing Arts Department

## Exhibit and Performance Calendar Spring 2017

*Michelle Hiscavich, Director of Visual and Performing Arts*

<b>Apr.</b>	6	RIS Chamber Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	4-21	District Art Show	Newtown Municipal Ctr.
	19	NHS Composers Concert, 7:00 p.m.	NHS
	25	NMS Student Showcase, 6:00 p.m.	NMS
	28-29	Fairfield County String Festival (Gr. 6-9)	Trumbull HS
<b>May</b>	3	HOM 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.	HOM
	3	Hawley 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.	Hawley
	4	SH Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.	SH
	5-6	RIS Musical – <i>Bye, Bye Birdie</i> (Fri @ 7:00 p.m., Sat @ 6:00 p.m.)	RIS
	8	MG 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	9	NMS 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	10	NMS 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	11	Hawley Art Show, 5:30-7:00 p.m.	Hawley
	11	Newtown Night of Jazz, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	15	RIS Gr. 5-6 Chorus, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	17	RIS 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	18	MG Art Show, 5:30-7:00 p.m.	MG
	18	RIS 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	20-21	Unified Theater Production (Sat @ 6:00 p.m. @ Sun @ 2:00 p.m.)	NHS
	22	HOM Art Show, 5:30-7:00 p.m.	HOM
	22	NHS Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	23	NHS Orchestra Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	24	SH Art Show, 5:30-7:00 p.m.	SH
	24	NHS Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	25	RIS Gr. 5 & Gr. 6 Orchestra, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
<b>June</b>	2	Town-wide Band Festival (Gr. 5-12 Bands), 7:00 p.m.	NHS



All students will create, perform, respond and connect with understanding to all of the arts, including visual arts, music, theatre, and dance.

Students will develop in-depth skills in at least one art form, appreciate the importance of the arts in expressing human experiences,

and be prepared to apply their arts knowledge and skills throughout their lifetime.

# Career Center Information

203-426-7679

Kitty Latowicki - College/Career Center Coordinator [latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us)

Peg Ragaini - School to Career Coordinator [ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto: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, 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.

## Gap Year Programs



“A gap year is a period of time when students take a break from formal education to travel, volunteer, study, intern, or work. A gap year is also referred to as a deferred year, year out, year off, time off. A gap year experience can last for several weeks, a semester, or up to a year or more. Typically a gap year is taken between high school graduation and starting college, during college, or between college and starting graduate school or a career.”

*Taken from [planetgapyear](http://planetgapyear.com)*

Please refer to this website for more information on gap year programs. Other websites to refer to for more information on gap year programs are:

[http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/international/welcome/gap\\_year.html](http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/international/welcome/gap_year.html)

<http://www.collegebound.net/gapyear-programs/>

[www.wheretherebedragons.com](http://www.wheretherebedragons.com)

<http://teenlife.uberflip.com/i/227280>

## Enrichment Programs

Please take time to check out the Enrichment Programs in [Naviance](#). These programs are available to high school students, some during the school year, but mostly for summer enrichment. This information can be found in [Naviance](#) under the *Colleges* tab. There are programs available for students with all different types of interests.

Many enrichment programs give students the opportunity to have new experiences in subjects which interest them, as well as opportunities to get involved in areas they are passionate about. There are summer school opportunities as well.

NHS does not promote any program, we just provide the information. There are hundreds of programs listed in [Naviance](#). Please contact individual programs for detailed information and to ensure all the information in Naviance is correct.

### Education Connection's Regional Medical Internship Program

Selected junior and senior students participate in a one- or two-year program designed to explore health careers. Students may complete two nine-week paid internships per year. In addition students are required to attend a monthly class and utilize Moodle to complete assignments and as their web-based communication tool. This is the only opportunity for students to complete paid internships at one of the local hospitals. A parent/student orientation will be scheduled in late May for students having completed an application. Applications are available in the Career Center and students are encouraged to apply before May 15.

### Accuplacer

Students enrolling in Naugatuck Valley Community College in the fall 2017 have the opportunity to take the placement assessment for English and Math at the high school on June 2. Please see your school counselor or Mrs. Ragaini in the Career Center for more information.



# Career Center Information

## STEM Careers in Transportation

Retrieved from *StemJobs.com*, January 2017

Dig a little deeper into five of the top STEM jobs in the transportation field:

### 1. Transportation Attendant

**STEM Type:** Investigator

Check out this job if you enjoy helping others and traveling. STEM investigators are curious, excel at communication, and enjoy working with others. Working in the transportation world as an attendant would be a great way to apply STEM to a **job that most people don't realize involves it**. And if college isn't the right fit for you, this transportation job could be an exciting way to start working right after high school.

**Median Salary:** \$30,540

**Training Required:** High school diploma

**Companies Hiring:** AMTRAK

### 2. Civil Engineer

**STEM Type:** Designer

Check out this job if you're good with details and you want to help cities and transportation run more efficiently. STEM designers are able to take plans and ideas and transform them into tangible products. Civil engineers oversee construction projects by analyzing proposals, testing materials, performing soil tests, and setting up budgets, among many other things. Becoming a civil engineer can be difficult but you get to see the immediate impact of your work, making it a rewarding transportation job.

**Median Salary:** \$82,220

**Training Required:** A bachelor's degree in civil engineering or civil engineering technology is usually required. Boise State University, Carnegie Mellon University, and Clemson University all have programs that can train you.

**Companies Hiring:** Air Force

### 3. Transportation Analyst

**STEM Type:** Integrator

Check out this job if you are a problem solver. STEM integrators work with others to achieve their dreams, making communication and relationship building key skills. Transportation analysts identify problems and find solutions to help their company streamline supply and transportation. If you can always think of ways to do things better, this could be one of the best transportation jobs for you.

**Median Salary:** \$50,900

**Training Required:** Most companies look for a bachelor's degree in business, management, engineering, transportation, or other technical field. Arizona State University, Florida Institute of Technology, and Morgan State University can all get you started down the right path for this and other transportation jobs.

**Companies Hiring:** Amazon, BAE Systems, Schneider National

### 4. Survey Technician

**STEM Type:** Explorer

Check out this job if you have a mind for data and enjoy being outside. STEM explorers are experts in their field and use research to dig deeper and communicate their knowledge to others. Survey technicians examine geographical data and apply their research to help surveyors and cartographers. If you want to be involved in transportation in a very practical way, this transportation job could be a great fit.

**Median Salary:** \$42,010

**Training Required:** High school diploma

### 5. Environmental Engineer

**STEM Type:** Advisor

Check out this job if you care about the environment and have a mind for numbers. STEM advisors thrive when helping others and apply compassion to their job. Environmental engineers apply compassion and care to the environment through engineering. Environmental engineering offers a wide range of job opportunities, from waste management to pollution control, making this one of the most diverse transportation jobs.

**Median Salary:** \$84,560

**Training Required:** Employers are looking for a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering, but will also consider applicants with degrees in civil, chemical, or general engineering. Jackson State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, and National University all have degree programs to get you into this exciting career.



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

## Important Links

NHS Home Page	<a href="http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net/">http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net/</a>
NHS Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Newtown-High-School/158260014186649">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Newtown-High-School/158260014186649</a>
NHS PTSA Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Newtown-High-School-PTSA-143876075644439/">https://www.facebook.com/Newtown-High-School-PTSA-143876075644439/</a>
NHS PTSA: News, Events, Updates & Forms / Google Drive	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1fMVLvpIZbITTVdIS0hMd3JoZWm">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1fMVLvpIZbITTVdIS0hMd3JoZWm</a>
Guidance/Naviance	<a href="https://connection.naviance.com/newtown">https://connection.naviance.com/newtown</a>
PowerSchool Portal	<a href="https://ps.newtown.k12.ct.us/public/">https://ps.newtown.k12.ct.us/public/</a>
Athletics	<a href="http://www.nighthawkspports.com">www.nighthawkspports.com</a>
2016-2017 School Calendar	<a href="http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/Portals/Newtown/District/docs/District%20Information/calendar%20-%202016-2017%20final%20approved%20Jan.%2019.%202016.pdf">http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/Portals/Newtown/District/docs/District%20Information/calendar%20-%202016-2017%20final%20approved%20Jan.%2019.%202016.pdf</a>
NHS Schedule of Days Calendar	<a href="http://nhs.newtown.schooldesk.net/Portals/Newtown/NHS/docs/Nathalie/Copy%20of%201617DAYS_x.pdf">http://nhs.newtown.schooldesk.net/Portals/Newtown/NHS/docs/Nathalie/Copy%20of%201617DAYS_x.pdf</a>

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 . . .

April 25	Budget Vote!
April 28	NHS Senior Prom
May 6	SAT @ NHS
May 10	Principal's Breakfast
May 11	Newtown Night of Jazz
May 19	2-Hour Delayed Start - <i>Professional Development</i>
May 22	NHS Chorus Concert
May 23	NHS Orchestra Concert
May 24	NHS Band Concert
May 25	NHS Senior Dance
May 29	Schools Closed - <i>Memorial Day</i>
May 30	NHS Senior Trip
June 3	Best Buddies Prom
June 9-14	Final Exams
June 13	NHS Graduation - <i>West Conn O'Neill Center</i>
June 15	Last Day of School