



Nighthawk News

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NOVEMBER 1, 2014

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Principal Talk:**
Nov 12, 7:00 am
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:**
Nov 18-20

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Principal's Message

Now that a successful Spirit Week is behind us, we look ahead to a productive and positive school year. This year is an exciting one for Newtown High School as we work on our self-study reports in preparation for our school accreditation. NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges), the commission responsible for accrediting high schools, colleges, and universities in the New England area, will be conducting its site visit to the school in the fall of 2015. Faculty, staff, students, and parents have been working to review our academic and extra-curricular programming, school and community resources, culture, and assessment practices as evidence of our school's successes and areas for future improvement. This self-study is important as it ensures the continuous growth of our school and our ability to provide an

outstanding learning environment for all students.

As we look to improve our practices, we continue to use School Messenger and a variety of social media venues to communicate more effectively with parents and guardians. In alignment with our School Improvement Plan, teachers and administrators have made it one of their primary goals to *develop and implement communication practices that build trust, improve relationships, and support students in their learning.* While our Facebook, blog, and twitter accounts celebrate school-wide events and student accomplishments, we further seek meaningful venues for gaining parent feedback and soliciting valuable input on important topics related to the high school.

On **November 12 from 7:00-8:00 am**, we will be hosting our first *Principal Talk* in the Main Office Conference Room. Subsequent meetings will take place on

the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The focus of these conversations will be to listen to the "voices" of parents as we develop a clear vision for the future of Newtown High School. Light breakfast treats will be served.

If you cannot make it to future PTSA or Principal Talks, we do want to remind you that our parent teacher conferences will be held on November 18, 19, and 20th. These will give you an opportunity to meet directly with our teachers to discuss the progress of your student. While we hope you continue to monitor the progress of your child through our school's parent portal, it is equally important to stay connected to faculty and staff. Ask questions, seek clarification when necessary, and most importantly, celebrate the accomplishments of your children every day!

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue
Principal

Parent-Teacher
CONFERENCES

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, November 18:	1:00-3:00 pm
Wednesday, November 19:	1:00-3:00 pm
Thursday, November 20:	4:00-7:00 pm

Early Dismissal will be at 11:32 am each day

Math Department News

The Math Department is happy to present four new colleagues. Ms. Joanna Barry comes to us after teaching in Milford at Foran High School last year. She is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University with a BS in Mathematics and is currently working on her Master's degree at WCSU. Now that she is "home" (an NHS graduate), Joanna is coaching the freshman girls soccer team. She has easily transitioned to life within our Math department family collaborating and offering extra help regularly.



Kathy Bremer comes to us from our Middle School. She taught there for 4 years after changing careers. Graduating from University of Buffalo with a degree in Industrial Engineering, Kathy worked as a Managing Information Consultant before returning to school, graduating from WCSU with a Masters in Secondary Math Education. Kathy is active in Newtown's N.I.C.E. program and teaches math in the high school's TAP (The Afternoon Program).

Charlotte Manos comes to us by way of Massachusetts. Graduating from Stone Hill College majoring in Mathematics with a minor in Secondary Education. Charlotte earned her Master's degree from Bridgewater State and taught at Oliver Ames High School after graduation. She has returned home to Newtown and immediately volunteered by helping the Cross Country team. She quickly became part of our Math department family and collaborates with colleagues regularly.

Megan Carroll is a 2014 graduate of SCSU with a degree in Secondary Mathematics Education and completed her student teaching at Warren Harding High School. Megan is working on her TEAM Modules and works well within our department, sharing ideas with colleagues and in PLC's. Currently living in Shelton, she likes to spend any free time enjoying the outdoors.

Karen Sherman
Math Department Chair

From the English Department

On September 23, members of the NHS English Department participated in a Narrative 4 professional development workshop hosted at the high school. Former NHS English teacher Lee Keylock, who now serves as Director of Global Programs for Narrative 4, facilitated the workshop, which brought together educators from across Connecticut.

Narrative 4 is a global organization that fosters empathy by breaking down barriers and shattering stereotypes through the exchange of stories. Headed by the world's most influential artists, educators, students and community advocates, N4 commits to develop the next generation of empathetic leaders and citizens.

During the workshop, teachers participated in a story exchange and discussed a variety of opportunities and potential models for implementing such an exchange in



our classrooms. Teachers were joined by four NHS seniors who participated this past June in N4's Leadership Summit at Yale University. The students offered valuable insights into the benefits of the story exchange both within classrooms and across borders, having participated in several exchanges, including with students from Chicago and Tampico, Mexico last spring. This fall, several junior English teachers have modeled and incorporated the N4 story exchange in their classrooms as part of their unit on narrative writing.

The department looks forward to sharing best practices with their colleagues across the state as they consider how to build students' understanding of the power of story. They hope to pursue exchanges with other schools this spring for interested students. For more information on Narrative 4, visit narrative4.com.

Abigail Marks
English Department Chair

Science Department News

Biology Careers

How often have we heard students in a class ask "When will we ever need to know this...?"

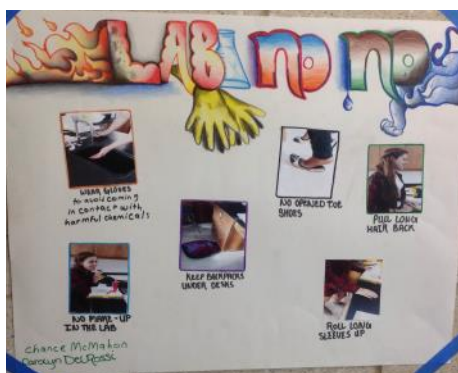
Well, for NHS Biology students, the answers were plastered across the walls of upper A-Wing.

Each Biology student was asked to research a career that had a connection to the biology content they will learn this year in class. Pediatrician, wildlife biologist, farmer, pharmacist, nutritionist ... the list goes on and on. A visit to A-Wing showed some wonderful examples of careers that are awaiting these young science students.



Laboratory Safe Practices

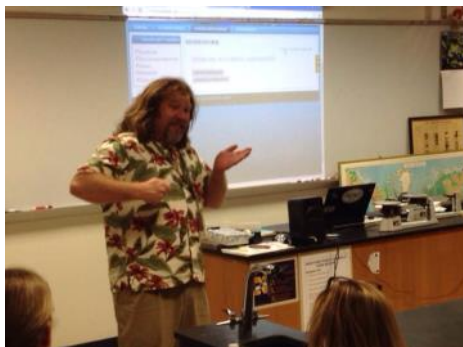
Students in Mr. Tallcouch's Chemistry class investigated safe practices in the chemistry laboratory. Then they worked with a partner to act out (safely, of course) and photograph the opposite of these practices, so-called Lab No-Nos.



The walls around Mr. Tallcouch's classroom were festooned with the results, the Lab No-No posters - a great way to learn what NOT to do in the chemistry laboratory!

Science & Language Connection

Science teacher Trent Harrison visited French teacher Paula Greenfield's AP French class to listen to the students make presentations, in French, on environmental issues. Mr. Harrison, who evidently speaks a bit of French, gave students feedback *en Francais* on the science aspects of their work.



Mrs. Greenfield was most appreciative and afterward wrote the following to Mr. Harrison:

Bonjour Trent,

Merci beaucoup pour etre un membre de la classe aujourd'hui. Thank you for coming to the AP French class as they presented some of the environmental problems facing the earth. You were a welcome addition as you were able to speak to the students in French (after several years away from the language!) and you were able to explain some of the problems and solutions to them in French.

A nice cross-discipline moment at Newtown High School!

Velocity Lab Activity

Students in Mrs. Torrance's Honors Physics class explored velocity over time using their own movement in a recent lab activity. The lab entailed using one's own body to create position/time graphs and velocity/time graphs, as well as coming up with a series of motions to match speed/velocity time graphs given to them. To do this, students moved at varying speeds and velocities in front of a motion detector attached to a computer program which graphed the data. Students were to sketch the graphs, record the equa-

tion of the trend lines, and list the steps they took to recreate the required graphs. This lab gave students hands on experience with velocity, allowing them to form a better connection between the word and its actual meaning in their minds.



Moving forward in the class, this will be very important, especially in the one-dimensional and two-dimensional motion units, where velocity and acceleration make their way into almost every formula and problem.

Lung Dissections

In September, Mr. Kuroski's Anatomy & Physiology students performed a lung dissection. Fortunately, the lung was no longer attached to its original owner!



Chris Canfield
Science Department Chair

Spotlight on Safe School Climate



CT Public Act 11-232: To create truly physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe and positive learning environments for every single school community member – student and adult alike.

Jo Ann Freiberg, PhD., from the State Department of Education, notes that “bully” and “bullying” are out.... “Mean” is a better concept. No one knows what “bullying” looks, feels, and sounds like; but everyone knows what “mean” looks, feels, and sounds like. So, if it’s mean ... intervene. When adults report mean behaviors, they describe the **behavior** – and do not give the **label**.

For students who would like to anonymously report instances of mean/cruel behaviors, “**Because I Care...**” boxes are located in the Media Center and in the School Counseling Office.

Please visit our [Safe School Climate](#) website on our home page under the Parents tab for additional information on promoting a positive school climate.

Kathy Boettner
Asst. Principal

Nutrition News



Chartwells School Dining Services would like to update you on our menu planning strategies for the school year.

Expanded Food Choices

Chartwells remains committed to serving nutritious meals to students in the 2014-15 school year. The following menu planning strategies will be implemented across all Newtown schools:

- An abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables will be made available daily.
- Low-fat white, skim white and skim chocolate milk will be offered daily.
- Flavorful entrees utilizing lean beef, chicken, turkey, low-fat cheese, or beans will be served on a regular basis.
- At least half of the grains offered in the school cafeteria will be whole grain.

For our high school students, we understand their more sophisticated palates, so we’ve planned appropriate enhancements to meet their needs. We are very excited to be featuring several new food stations such as a **So Deli delicious!**, **2mato**, **Create Exhibition**, **Grill’d Express**, and a special **Outtakes Quick Serve** station. Be sure to see menus for details on these delicious offerings. Please note that while our \$3.10 complete meal is still available at all of our concept stations, we will also be offering daily a la carte specials that will be priced between \$3.75 and \$6.00 on average.

The Newtown Board of Education has decided to remove the

high school from the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) for the 2014-15 school year. This change will give us more flexibility in food portioning and offerings for our students and reduce food waste. This change will not affect any of the wellness and nutrition initiatives and it will not affect the free and reduced mealtime program for eligible students.

Nutrition Education

Chartwells is pleased to introduce our new **Simply Good** program, a year-long schedule of special events that are intended to encourage students to select complete, well-balanced meals. The Simply Good program continues to have a culinary emphasis that focuses on healthier meal options, especially ones with fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins. This year’s annual Simply Good theme will consist of four main promotions, with many individual promotional events and activities included in each, to build excitement in the cafeteria for elementary, middle and high school students throughout the school year. These exciting promotions aim to educate elementary, middle and high school students about the importance of eating healthful and balanced meals.

All parents are welcome to join us at any time to experience our food stations and nutrition programs. If you are interested in joining us for a meal, or should you have additional questions, please visit our district website at www.newtown.k12.ct.us or contact your foodservice director, Dan Shields at Dan.Shields@compass-usa.com, 203-426-7637.

Dan Shields
Foodservice Director
Dan.Shields@compass-usa.com
203-426-7637

Jill Patterson, RD
Jill.Patterson@compass-usa.com
203-270-6117

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. To schedule an appointment with either Mrs. Ragaini or Mrs. Latowicki, please call 203-426-7679. Mrs. Latowicki has evening appointments, twice a month, until 6:00 pm, **by appointment only**. Please contact us if you require further information on anything written 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.

The Career Center has up-to-date information on colleges and careers. We have college and career software to assist students with choices for post-graduate plans.

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.)

We have current college catalogs, college view books, and college reference books available to students during the day. Our current reference books may not be checked out, but any reference material one year or older may be checked out.



Internships

Junior and senior students work for an employer usually one or more semesters to gain knowledge about a career. Internships occur outside of the school day and may be paid or unpaid. The deadline to apply for an internship for the current year is December 15. Internships are set up during the school year. Students that complete their internship and required paperwork through the Career Center will have the experience noted on their transcript.

Career Shadows

This program allows juniors and seniors one excused day per semester to spend time in a career field of their interest with a community volunteer. If we do not have a volunteer in a student's particular field of interest, we will attempt to find one. The deadline to apply for a Career Shadow is March 31.

Scholarships

The scholarship list is updated weekly. The scholarship list can be accessed in [Naviance](#) under the *College* tab and then scrolling to *Scholarship List* on the bottom of the page.

A listing of all scholarships can be found in the Career Center, but 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 more likely they are to receive a monetary award. As the school year moves into the winter months, more local scholarships become available. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK THE LIST WEEKLY.**

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 if 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

Here is a sampling of a few scholarships available now for seniors:

- ✓ Weller Education Scholarship
- ✓ Weller Medical/Health Sciences Scholarship
- ✓ Weller Engineering Scholarship
- ✓ Big Y Scholarship

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.

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.

Senior De-Stress Day

SENIORS: A date for Senior De-Stress will be announced in November. Senior De-Stress Day will take place sometime in December. The Career Center will host Senior De-Stress Day, a day where seniors only can spend relaxing time, during free periods, and de-stress from the pressures of the college application process.



Quinnipiac University On-Site Decision Day

Thursday, November 13

Seniors, if you are considering applying to Quinnipiac University, an admissions representative will be at NHS for an on-site decision day. This means, you will know immediately, after an interview, if you are accepted to Quinnipiac University. Below is the information needed to prepare for this day.

- You must apply online, pay the fee and submit your essay online, by Thursday, November 6.
- You need to submit your original SAT/ACT scores to me by Thursday, November 6.
- Please advise your teacher or counselor to upload their recommendation into Naviance and I will download it and submit it to the rep the day of the interview. Remember to give them enough time to write your recommendation.
- I will submit all the necessary documents to the admissions rep the day of the interview: transcript, report card, essay, test scores and 1 recommendation.
- You should have a minimum GPA of 2.8 and a minimum SAT score of 950 for reading and math or a minimum score of 20 on the ACT.
- The criteria for any health science program, excluding PT and PA, is a minimum GPA of 3.3, a minimum SAT score of 1100 for reading and math or a minimum score of 24 on the ACT.
- You may participate in on-site decision day, if you are applying to Nursing and OT. You may not participate in Quinnipiac on site decision day if you are planning on applying to Quinnipiac for their PA or PT program.
- Do not forget to stop by the Career Center to let Mrs. Latowicki know if you are interested in participating in on-site decision day.

Using a Resume to Find a Part-Time Job

A *Career or Job Objective* sets the tone for your resume and clarifies the type of position you seek. Job Objective usually refers to an interim or relatively temporary role, whereas Career Objective refers to a longer-term position. Listing an objective on a resume for part-time employment is optional.

If the resume is for an advertised position, include the job title in the statement. If the resume is for an unadvertised position, state an area or field of interest. Be careful not to be overly specific; this may eliminate some employment opportunities.

Examples:

To secure a customer service position with a dynamic and growing company where there is the opportunity for personal growth and professional development.

To obtain a building maintenance position where my construction experience and strong interpersonal skills may be fully utilized.

Username and password are available in the Career Center

(Retrieved from Career Cruising, www.careercruising.com)

Career Center Information, *continued*

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. Many of the programs can be pricey. All programs which are received in the Career Center can be accessed through [Naviance](#). Please check Naviance often for the active list of programs. 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 and scroll to the *College Research* box and click on *Enrichment Programs*.

Newtown Police Explorers



The Newtown Police Explorers Post is open to high school students aged 14 and above that maintain a "B" average. Students must be able to successfully complete a background investigation, be of good moral character, and never involved in any criminal activity. Students under 18 must have parental approval and be in good standing within the community.

The basic objectives of the Explorer program is character building, leadership development, and to develop an appreciation for community services and good citizenship. The Post also serves as a recruitment tool for students interested in law enforcement, and is part of a community relations effort between the police, youth, and community. Students interested in volunteering through the Explorer Post should call the Newtown Police Department's main number at 203.270.4255 and ask for information about the Police Explorers.

PTSA News

PTSA Meetings

Please join us for our next PTSA meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2014.

Listed below are the meeting dates for 2014-2015 - please mark your calendars!

Tuesday, December 2	Tuesday, April 7
Tuesday, February 3	Tuesday, June 2



Special Thank You

The PTSA sends a big thank you to all the volunteers who made the "Welcome Back Breakfast" such a success. The teachers and staff appreciated all the wonderful food!





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
- 2014-2015 School Calendar <http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1rc4r0dxeVU%3d&tabid=20009>
- 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



- November 4 Schools Closed - *Election Day*
- November 12 Principal Talk - *7 am*
- November 17 Early Dismissal
- November 18-20 Parent-Teacher Conferences - *Early Dismissal*
- November 26 Early Dismissal
- November 27-28 Schools Closed - *Thanksgiving*
- December 2 PTSA Meeting
- December 5 Early Dismissal
- December 8-10 Winter Concerts
- December 24-31 Schools Closed - *Holiday Recess*
- January 1 Schools Closed - *New Year's Day*
- January 13-16 Mid-Term Exams - *Early Dismissal*
- January 17 Schools Closed - *MLK Day*