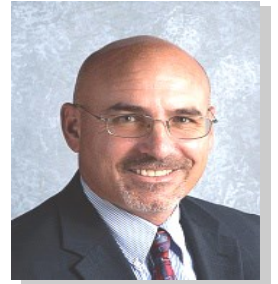




Special Points of Interest:

- ❖ Yearbook—Page 12
- ❖ Ski/Snowboard Club—Page 23
- ❖ Dates to Remember—Page 24

September 2019



Principal's Corner

A message from Thomas Einhorn, Principal, Newtown Middle School

Welcome to Newtown Middle School and the 2019-2020 school year! Our beginning has been exciting, yet smooth, and you can feel confident that all of us here at NMS are working together to make your child's learning experience this year the very best yet! We opened school with 686 students this year. We have 343 seventh graders and 343 eighth graders, spread among eight clusters. We are welcoming some new staff members this fall! Each is wonderfully capable and creative and will enrich the learning experiences of our students in all kinds of ways.

- Lisa Petrovich - School Counseling Secretary
- Sue Da Pra - Main Office Clerk
- Christina Chase- Math Teacher, 8 Green
- Marisa Underberger - School Counselor
- Marcie Rockwell - School Psychologist (Part time)
- Roxanne Buzinski - Art Substitute for Mrs. Ladue
- Mike Delvecchio - School Security Guard
- Elizabeth Coulter - Para Educator
- Paul Toaso- Para Educator
- Cheryl Romeo - Para Educator

• Francis Saraceni - Building Substitute

You will be learning about many opportunities to be involved in your child's education in the months ahead. We encourage you to read the Lion's Roar newsletter, published generally the first Friday of each month and available for reading on our website and sent directly to your email. Please plan to participate in our parent conferences, which will begin in late October, to volunteer in the school, and to join in PTA activities as they occur throughout the year. Our PTA meetings will begin with our first meeting on September 18th at 9:15 am in our Library Media Center. My first parent Roundtable will be Tuesday, October 22nd at 9:30a.m. You will hear more about Roundtable in next month's Lion's Roar. If you have any questions or if you would like to speak with me, please telephone me or make an appointment to come in. My telephone number is [203-426-7642](tel:203-426-7642), and my email address is einhornt@newtown.k12.ct.us. I look forward to seeing you and we are looking forward to a great school year.

All the best,

Tom Einhorn

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NEWTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Lion's Roar

Assistant Principal's Corner

By Jim Ross, Assistant Principal

Welcome back to school! I am looking forward to working with you and most importantly, your children, to make this the very best school year. The transition back to school is exciting, but also comes with its challenges. Below are some helpful insights that will help your children have a successful transition.

MANAGING BACK-TO-SCHOOL TRANSITIONS: TIPS FOR PARENTS

by Mark A. Lyon

In a National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) publication on “Back-to-School Transitions,” Feinberg and Cowan (2004) point out that getting a new school year off to a good start can influence children’s attitudes, confidence, adjustment to and performance in school, both academically and socially. The transition from summer fun and leisure to the more structured demands of school can be difficult for children and parents. They note that, “even children who are eager to return to class must adjust to the greater levels of activity, structure, and, for some, pressures associated with school life”. While some of the demands for adjusting to school fall on the child, parents can assist their children with this transition by planning ahead, anticipating potential problems, being realistic about what needs to be accomplished, and maintaining a positive attitude. Following are some of Feinberg and Cowan’s suggestions for easing the transition back to school and promoting a successful school experience:

.Before School Starts

- Be sure your child is in good physical and mental health.
- Review all of the information sent by the schools as soon as it arrives.
- Mark your calendar with important dates, such as Open House and Parent Conferences.
- Make copies of all health and emergency information for later reference.
- Buy school supplies early and fill backpacks a week or two before school starts.
- Plan to re-establish bedtime and mealtime (especially breakfast) routines at least one week before school starts.
- Encourage young children to play quiet games, do puzzles, flash cards, color or read as their early morning activities. This will help ease them back into the learning process and school regimen.
- Visit the school with your child.
- Designate and clear a place to do homework.

The First Week

- Clear your own schedule. Be ready to provide needed assistance to your child.
- Make lunches the night before school.
- Leave plenty of time to wake up, eat breakfast, and get to school.
- Review with your child what to do if they get home after school and you are not there.
- Review your child’s schoolbooks with them, and talk about what they will be learning this year in school.

Assistant Principal's Corner (cont'd)

By Jim Ross, Assistant Principal

- Familiarize yourself with all the professionals in the school building or district who can serve as a resource for your child.

Overcoming Anxiety

- Children absorb their parent's anxiety, so model optimism and confidence for your child.
- Don't over-react if the first few days are a little rough. Maintain a positive attitude.
- Acknowledge anxiety over a bad experience the previous year. Help your child with strategies for coping with difficult situations. Let them know there are people at school who can assist them with problems.
- Arrange get-togethers with some of your child's classmates before school starts and in the first week to re-establish social connections.

Extra Curricular Activities

- Go for quality, not quantity. Your child will benefit most from one or two activities that are fun, reinforce social development, and teach new skills.
- Consider your family schedule and personal energy level. Too many activities may result in increased family stress.
- Select activities where you have someone with whom you can carpool.
- Find out from the teacher which days will likely be heavy homework or test days and schedule extracurricular activities accordingly.
- If your child does not want to participate in extracurricular activities, consider other options like planned visits to the library, monthly reading programs, or scheduled play times with other children.

Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences



Communication amongst parents and teachers is a critical component for the success of our students. Parent/teacher conferences are one of the many opportunities that parents have to collaborate with the teachers to review and modify student success plans. Please contact your cluster teachers for more details.

Fall Conference Dates:

Fall Conference Dates:

Wednesday, October 23rd 12-4 pm
Thursday, October 24th 4-7 pm
Friday, October 25th 12-4 pm

During these days, students will have a 3-hour early dismissal day. The student day will end at 11:32 p.m. and lunch will be served.

Assistant Principal's Corner (cont'd)

By Jim Ross, Assistant Principal

Middle School Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Students should not arrive at school before 7:30 a.m., unless they have made prior arrangements with their teachers to receive extra help. If they arrive between 7:30 a.m. and 7:50 a.m., they will report to the cafeteria (A-Wing homerooms) or the B-Gym (C-Wing homerooms). The Library Media Center is open at 7:50 a.m. for student use.

Parents who drive children to school between 7:30 a.m. and 7:50 a.m. have two drop-off locations:

- The horseshoe area or

- The cafeteria entrance (If you are facing the building from the street, it is on the left side near the softball field).

The main parking lot is not a drop off point. REMINDER...THE HORSESHOE IS A "NO PARKING" ZONE. Also, please note the sign in the horseshoe area in the morning. Parents should pull as far forward as possible (the overhang extends the length of the building) to alleviate congestion on Queen Street.

Parents who pick up their children at the end of the day at the student pick-up area behind the school at the cafeteria should do so by 2:45 p.m. The horseshoe is not a designated pick-up area as this is designated for walkers only. After 2:45 p.m., students can wait in the main lobby be picked up at the school's main entrance.

A student who is being dismissed during the school day must bring in a note signed by a parent or guardian to the C-Wing office before school. The note should state the time and reason for the dismissal. **A student will NOT be dismissed until a parent or guardian signs out his/her child from the C-Wing office.**

We certainly value every child's safety and appreciate your cooperation.



Follow us @NMSHappenings

Assistant Principal's Corner (cont'd)

By Jim Ross, Assistant Principal

NMS Bus Pass Policy

If a student needs to ride a different bus, a student must bring in a parent/guardian signed note to Mrs. Frobey in the C Wing Office when he/she arrives at school. This note should state the child's name, homeroom teacher, date(s) of bus change, reason for bus change, and address to where the child should now be going (or different bus number). If approved, the child will be given a one-time bus pass.

Any questions can be directed to Mrs. Frobey at 203.426.7638 or frobeym@newtown.k12.ct.us



NEWTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

If your child is out sick, taking a day off for personal reasons, or will be late in getting to school, please call the NMS attendance line at 203.270.6145. Voicemail is available to take calls 24/7. If you prefer, you can also call the C Wing Office at 203.426.7638.

For your information, if you forget to call your child in by approximately 9:00 a.m., an automated voice message will call your home and cell phone numbers. You may also receive texts/emails or a Power School notification if that is how you signed up at the beginning of the school year.

If you have any questions on this automated system, please call Mrs. Frobey at 203.426.7638.

Assistant Principal's Corner (cont'd)

By Jim Ross, Assistant Principal

NYA BUS POLICY

NYA BUS POLICY

8.26.19

A bus will be provided Monday through Friday to the Newtown Youth Academy (NYA). The NYA bus will begin Tuesday, September 3rd (please see the NMS website for updated dates) and run through the school year.

The NYA bus procedures are as follows:

- Parent/legal guardian must send in a note giving permission for their child to ride the NYA bus. Parent(s) may send in a blanket note for the entire year (I give permission for _____ to ride the NYA bus whenever necessary for the 2019/2020 school year). This note should be addressed to Mrs. Frobey in the C Wing Office.
- The NMS student **MUST** sign up each day she/he wishes to ride the NYA bus by 9:00 each morning. A clipboard will be available in the C Wing Office. This timeframe will be strictly adhered to due to All-Star scheduling.
- Due to overcrowding, only the first 25 students to sign up will be allowed on any given day. If your child is not among the first 25, she/he will be instructed to call home to arrange alternative transportation.
- The NYA bus will be bus 27 - first wave - first bus in line (near Queen Street)
- The NYA bus will run on scheduled early dismissal days (not early dismissal days due to weather conditions when most afternoon activities are cancelled).
- Each student must keep their backpack, gym bag, sports equipment, etc. on their lap during the ride from NMS to NYA.

Any questions relating to the NYA bus should be directed to Mary Pat Frobey at 203-426-7638



Assistant Principal's Corner (cont'd)

By Jim Ross, Assistant Principal

SECURITY GUIDELINES for NMS

Upon entering Newtown Middle School, each person will be asked to show a form of photo identification to the security guard. The visitor will then sign-in and be given a pass. Upon leaving, each visitor is to sign-out and return the pass to the security guard.

The following is also in effect for items brought to school for students during the school day:

Please bring the item to the security guard. You will be asked to fill out and provide your child's name, homeroom teacher, and time dropped off. The timeframe in which your child will receive the item is as follows:

- given to the student during their lunch if item is brought to school prior to his/her lunch period
- given to the student at 1:00 p.m. if item is brought to the school after his/her lunch period
- given to the student after the end-of-school bell if item is brought to the school after 1:00 p.m.

Assistant Principal's Corner (cont'd)

By Jim Ross, Assistant Principal

SECURITY GUIDELINES for NMS (cont'd)

Under no circumstances will class be disrupted to get an item/message to a student nor will be parent/guardian be allowed passed the entrance vestibule to bring item to an office.

Your cooperation in the above is greatly appreciated for the safety of all students and staff.



Counseling Office

Welcome to a new year 8th graders!

8th grade will be filled with new opportunities to explore your futures! Mrs. Doeher and Miss Connelly will continue our lessons in Road Trip Nation this year with a focus on setting goals and making educated choices for high school classes. We are working along side all of your teachers, cluster AND unified arts, to help you become more aware of your strengths, interests, talents and skills. In December, we will be hosting our annual Career Day which you will hear more about soon.

In early Fall, Henry Abbott Tech HS and Shepaug Valley HS for Agriscience will both be coming to talk to all 8th graders about their programs. You can follow these links for more information online.

<http://abbott.cttech.org/programs.html>

<https://www.region-12.org/our-schools/shepaug-valley-school-6-12/academics>

Anyone interested in applying to these schools or any private high schools will need to be aware of the timelines and deadlines involved in applications. The counseling office processes all of the applications and we will have updated information on our webpage by mid-September as to our procedure.

8th grade is exciting and as you have already seen, is very different from 7th grade. Some tips to help you find/continue success this year are:

- Set aside time each day to organize your school materials at home- the pace is faster in 8th grade and staying organized is key
- Ask teachers for help if you are struggling with in class content. Practicing self advocacy skills is a good habit to get into for high school and beyond!
- Manage your time by setting a goal for yourself with how much time you expect to spend on each subject for homework. Then compare that to how much time it actually takes you. (This does not include the time you spend checking your social media BTW)
- Practice self discipline by keeping your phone away and off during HW time. We know, we know... THIS will be very challenging. But you may notice that HW gets done much faster and you are more efficient without the distraction.
- Use your planner or other means to keep track of homework assignments- both short term and long term.
- Get out of your comfort zone and try meeting new people, get involved in new activities, do something totally different even if it's just once! You may make a wonderful discovery about yourself or someone else!
- Get involved in after school clubs and activities including ones in our community- it's important to balance work and fun!

We look forward working with you this year and watching you grow!

Mrs. Hague-Doeher clusters 8 Purple and 8 Green and Miss Connelly clusters 8 Blue and 8 Red



Counseling Office (continued)



Greetings parents! The counseling department of NMS is proud to offer a series of Coffee Talks during the 2019-20 school year. These Coffee Talks are intended to be an informal gathering of parents and school counselors to provide information on topics that are relevant to families. The first Coffee Talk of the year will be held on Friday, October 11th from 7:30am-8:30am at Newtown Middle School Room B6.

The topic for this first session will be the "Transition Back to School". Parents of 7th and 8th grade student are all invited to attend. We'll cover the transition process from 6th grade to 7th grade and hear any feedback from parents on further supports they would like in the future. As well as, how did your 8th grader transition back from summer? We would like to hear about your experience of back to school and what were some things that really helped your student.

Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

We will have additional Coffee Talks scheduled throughout the year covering different topics. Please save the date and plan on attending our first Coffee Talk on October 11th. Please RSVP to Stacey Premus at 203-426-7645 or premuss@newtown.k12.ct.us. Hope to see you there!

Susan Connelly
Tanya Hague Doehr
8th Grade Counselors

Tina Broccolo
Marisa Underberger
7th Grade Counselors

Student Council News

By: Sue Musco and Shari Oliver



The Student Council Welcomes You to Newtown Middle School!

Student Council is a great way to get involved in our school's community! Student Council members work together to organize a number of school activities throughout the year with the goal of building a caring and supportive community. Here are just a few activities that NMS Student Council Members participated in during the 2018-2019 school year:

- planned student-led cafeteria games and activities that encourage students to interact and connect with their peers in a fun and engaging way
- collected over 40 boxes of food for our Thanksgiving Food Drive
- participated in school wide events such as the Veterans Breakfast and Assembly and the Senior Tea, among other events
- planned the 8th Grade Moving Up Dinner Dance
- Created school wide, surprise "kindness" events

All students are welcome to join Student Council. Only those who would like to hold a leadership position are required to give a speech. If you are interested in how you can get involved please attend our first meeting in room C9 on Monday, September 9th. If you are unable to attend you can email Mrs. Musco at: muscoss@newtown.k12.ct.us or Mrs. Oliver at: olivers@newtown.k12.ct.us We look forward to meeting you soon!

We hope you have an incredible start to the year!

Yearbook

By: Susan Lang

YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE NOW!

Take advantage of our Back to School offer for \$34.00, with \$6.00 personalization and free icons running until 9/27/2019! On 9/28, the price increases to \$36, and icons will cost \$4 each. Click [THIS LINK](#) to go directly to the NMS page at, enter your information, and you're done! Please be sure all information is complete and accurate [your child's homeroom teacher is especially important!], and that you save your confirmation email. If you have any questions, please email Miss Lang – langs@newtown.k12.ct.us.

YEARBOOK CLUB STARTING SOON!

The yearbook club will meet periodically on Wednesdays this year, beginning on 9/25 and running through March; the full schedule will be announced at a later day. We are hopeful that there will be a late bus beginning in October, but until then students must arrange a ride home at 3:45. Please fill out and return the permission slip below, and see or email Miss Lang with any questions.

_____ has my permission to participate in the Yearbook

Student name

Club for 2018-2019. Student is in cluster _____ student NPS email

_____.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent/ Emergency Contact: _____

Unified Sports

By: ken Kantor and Elizabeth Gallo

NEWTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIFIED SPORTS

Here at Newtown Middle School, we have a Unified Sports Program in which people with and without intellectual disabilities come together to form a team. There are three seasons in which we offer unified sports. The sports that we offer are soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter and track/volleyball in the spring.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, there will be a meeting TBD.

Please follow Newtown Middle School Athletics on Twitter

@NMSAthletics17 for all sports related announcements.

In this program for each season, the coaches try to match up partners with the athletes to allow for a successful partnership.

Below is some info taken from the CIAC website that explains in detail what Unified Sports is all about.

The CIAC/Special Olympics Unified Sports® Program provides a forum for positive social interaction between intellectually disabled and non-disabled students. As Unified® teammates train and compete together they foster ties that develop into friendships both on and off the athletic field.

Participation in Unified Sports® leads to new friendships, improved self-esteem and positive changes in attitude, behavior, and performance.



The CIAC/Special Olympics Unified Sports® Program helps to foster an inclusive school community where the values of tolerance, patience and sensitivity are cornerstones. Please visit this link to check out some videos http://ciacsports.com/site/?page_id=36

Click on videos and play the first video at the top

If you have any questions about the program, please email either Ken Kantor or Elizabeth Gallo (Unified Coaches) Kantork@newtown.k12.ct.us

galloe@newtown.k12.ct.us

Sports Programs

NEWTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAMS

Dear Parents and Guardians and Students,

Newtown Middle School offers some interscholastic sports in each of the three seasons. The sports offered are as follows:

Fall - 7th and 8th Boys and Girls Cross Country
7th and 8th Co-ed Unified Soccer

Winter - 7th grade girls basketball
7th grade boys basketball
8th grade girls basketball
8th grade boys basketball
7th and 8th Co-ed Unified Basketball

Spring - 7th and 8th girls softball
7th and 8th boys baseball
7th and 8th Co-ed Unified Track/Volleyball

In each season, all parents and guardians must sign up for FAMILYID to sign off on all documents needed in order to participate or tryout for any middle school team. Also, an up-to-date physical must be on file in the health office. A physical is good for 13 months from the date of the exam.

Directions for creating an account on FAMILYID

1. Go to FAMILYID.COM
2. Click find a program
3. Type Newtown Middle School Athletics
4. On the bottom of screen click register
5. Create an account
6. If you already have an account, you may be able to add a child

***Only Cross Country is available now on the website
The other sports will be added shortly

Parents - we encourage you to follow us on twitter to get notifications of upcoming meetings, practice/game/meet dates, times and locations

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Ken Kantor or Tom DeBenedetto
Kantork@newtown.k12.ct.us

debenedettot@newtown.k12.ct.us

Nurse's Office

By: Jocelyne Taweh, RN and Andrea Trager, RN

Backpack Basics for Healthier Kids

Used correctly, backpacks can be a good way to carry all the books, supplies and personal items needed for a typical school day. Backpacks are designed to distribute the weight of the load among some of the body's strongest muscles. However, backpacks that are too heavy or carried incorrectly can injure muscles or joints and contribute to back pain or other problems.

The Proper Backpack is:

- No wider than the user's chest
- Worn no higher than the base of the neck
- Worn no lower than 2 to 4 inches below the waist
- Supported by a waist or chest strap
- Made of lightweight material

A Good Backpack has:

- A padded back
- Several compartments
- Side compression strap
- A waist or chest strap
- Reflectors
- Two wide, padded shoulder straps

Nurse's Office

By: Jocelyne Taweh, RN and Andrea Trager, RN

How to Use a Backpack

To Wear It:

- Facing the backpack, bend your knees, hold the backpack with both hands, and straighten your knees to lift it to the waist.
- Apply one shoulder strap at a time.
- Be sure to always use both shoulder straps.

Snugly adjust it between your neck and the curve of your lower back using the shoulder straps .

To Load It:

- Keep it light—pack only what it needed for the day.
- Place the heaviest objects so they will be closest to your back.
- Use compartments to distribute the weight and keep things from sliding.
- Hand-carry heavy books to avoid excessive weight in the backpack.
- Clean it out daily.

If a backpack forces the wearer to lean forward, it's overloaded and some items should be removed. Carrying an overloaded backpack can cause discomfort and, over time, lead to back injuries and other problems. If the backpack weighs more than 15% of the carrier's weight, it's too heavy. To determine the proper maximum weight for a backpack, multiply the user's body weight by 0.15. If a heavier load is unavoidable, consider using a backpack with wheels.

Student Based Health Center

Two important things to ask
your kid after school each day:
Tell me about someone being
nice to you.
Tell me about you being nice to
someone else.

#kindnessmatters

PTA News



NMS PTA

Greetings Newtown Middle School Families and Friends,

We would like to welcome back returning students and families! We also extend a very heartfelt welcome to our new NMS families. To all of you, we look forward to making 2019/2020 a fun and productive year. We are honored to be elected as the NMS PTA CO-Presidents, along with our newly elected Executive Board. We are thankful for their commitment and dedication to the NMS PTA.

To the PTA Executive Board, committee chair leaders and all of our volunteers, We look forward to working with all of you this year, some for the first time. We know it will be a great year because of the amazing volunteers we have on the NMS PTA.

The purpose of the PTA is to first and foremost support our students. In addition, it supports the faculty, staff, parents and the local community. Your NMS PTA has been focused on preparing an enhanced educational environment for all of our students.

An effective and successful PTA requires support and involvement of the parents of our students. Your first opportunity to show support is to become a member of the NMS PTA. Our membership form has been sent home in your students back to school packet and will also be attached to this newsletter. We encourage each of you to join!

The second way to show your support will be to participate in the events and fundraisers that we have planned throughout the year. Whatever level of participation you choose, your time and involvement will be greatly appreciated. Please consider volunteering, it really does make a difference!

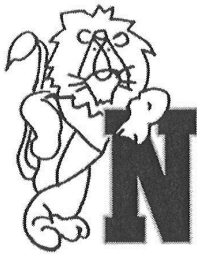
Our first NMS PTA General Meeting which will be September 18, 2019 at 9:15am in room B6. We will be discussing and voting on our 2019/2020 fundraising endeavors this year including our Ben's Bell Mural, and a NEW Makerspace in our Library Media Center! We are excited for the upcoming year. Please contact us at anytime with questions or suggestions at newtownmspta@gmail.com. We are here to assist you in any way we can. On behalf of the entire Executive Board, we look forward to meeting and working with each of you!

Warm regards,

Melissa Beylouni and Kristen Bonacci — NMS PTA CO- Presidents



newtownmspta@gmail.com



Newtown Middle School Parent Teacher Association

- **Membership/Directory Form**
- **Annual One-Time Fundraising Appeal**

Welcome back to school! The NMS PTA has a number of programs and events planned, and we need your help to make them happen. **In lieu of multiple fundraisers, the PTA is asking for your help to raise the funds needed to run the programs that support our staff and students each year.** These include cultural arts events, digital safety presentations, art contests, staff grants that fund equipment and services for students, high school scholarships, staff appreciation events, and more. **Annually, these programs require a budget of \$10,000.**

We are asking each family to make a one-time donation of \$25, or whatever you feel comfortable giving, to support the PTA and the programs we provide for our students and staff.

You can take your support one step further by joining the NMS PTA. Membership by September 30th secures your copy of the student directory. Directories are only available to PTA members.

Please use the back side of this form to indicate your contribution and membership preferences. Return this form with your check payable to NMS PTA via backpack mail to the NMS Main Office by September 30th in order to secure your directory. Your donation and membership help fund our programs throughout the year. Thank you for your support!

Newtown Middle School PTA

Melissa Beylouni & Kristen Bonacci, CO-Presidents
Jennifer Chaudhary, First Vice President
Dr. Monica Kwarcinski, Second Vice President
Brooke Heinen, Treasurer
Julia Crisci, Secretary

Questions or feedback? Please contact the NMS PTA at newtownmspta@gmail.com.

NMS PTA Membership and Donation Form

Name (1): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name (2): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Student(s): _____

Home Room Teacher(s): _____

NMS PTA Membership and Directory - Please indicate member name(s) in the section above. Membership is required in order to be eligible to vote during meetings. We welcome members throughout the year; forms must be returned by September 30th to secure your copy of the student directory. Membership fee is not tax-deductible.

Circle your choice: Family, Individual, or Staff membership

Family PTA membership (list two names above) \$ **25.00**

Includes 2 adult members & student directory if paid by September 30

Individual PTA membership (list one name above) \$ **15.00**

Includes 1 adult member & student directory if paid by September 30

Staff PTA membership (list one name above) \$ **6.00**

Student directory not included, unless requested

NMS PTA Donation - ***Please consider a one-time donation*** of \$25 or whatever you feel comfortable giving to defray the cost of annual programs while eliminating the need for fundraisers! Your donation is tax deductible to the PTA as a 501(c)(3) organization; consult your tax advisor for confirmation.

Suggested one-time PTA Donation \$ 25.00

Other Donation Amount: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed (Membership + Donation)

\$

Please make check payable to NMS PTA – one check combining donation and membership fee is fine.

NMS PTA Volunteer Opportunities

Circle your interests and we will contact you. Thank you for your help!

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| • Book Fair | • Cultural Arts | • Reflections Arts Program |
| • Staff Breakfasts/Luncheons | • 8 th Grade Moving Up Dance | • Call Me List |

NMS Art Department

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."

-Scott Adams



Temporary "F" Policy

Our main goal is to get your student ready for high school. Taking ownership of their work, time management and other essential life skills are important. This policy is intended to prompt students to start a dialogue with us about their work.

Any missing or unfinished work will have an "F" placed in PowerSchool until the work is turned in. Once it is turned in, the "F" will be removed and have NO impact on the students' grade. If the project is left unfinished, and the quarter is ending, the "F" will be removed, however, the project grade may result in something lower than what is expected.



Why Art Matters

Art is more than just painting, coloring, sculpting, printing, etc. Art is a visual language.

At this age, our goal is to subconsciously instill the use of visual arts language and knowledge in our students through the projects in our class.

These skills transcend our classroom, and are valuable to them in all aspects of life. When 98% of our day is visual, it is important to know how to navigate what we are seeing, and interpret what it means.

1

GRADING

50% - Projects
25% - Daily Effort Grade
25% - Art Activities

2

TECHNOLOGY

Students may use personal devices as a research & reference tool in art class.

3

PROJECTS

Students will always draw, paint, print and sculpt each year at NMS.

Art Club & Literary Arts Magazine

Stay involved in the visual arts after school! All club information will be made available to students at school through announcements, flyers, and Google Classroom.

ART CLUB

Art Club is being offered through 3 project-specific sessions this year. Sign-up is required. We will meet on Wednesday in room A1 from 2:40 - 3:40. The late bus will be running. You can join the Art Club Google Classroom: [a8kg8cl](#)

Session 1 - Paper Book Making:

- October 16th, October 30th
- November 6th, November 20th

Session 2 - Sculptural Birds:

- January 22nd, January 29th
- February 5th, February 12th

Session 3 - Observational Painting:

- April 22nd, April 29th
- May 6th, May 13th



"A spectacular compilation of student talent; writing, artwork and narration!"

LITERARY ARTS MAGAZINE - OPUS OPTIMA

NMS offers a unique opportunity for students to have their work published in our AWARD WINNING literary arts magazine. If your student is interested in writing, illustration/drawing, or narration (acting, speeches); this is a club for them.

Artists will start meeting every other Monday on October 14th, and will meet weekly on Monday starting January 6th. Announcements will be made at school. You can join the Lit Mag for Artists Google Classroom: [ec9qnv](#)

ANNUAL SCARECROW CHARITY CONTEST

This annual event is a long NMS tradition, going into its 27th year! The Scarecrow Contest is open to **ALL NMS 8th GRADE STUDENTS**. Students have 6 weeks to construct a larger-than-life "scarecrow" with a group of friends, install it on the front lawn of the school, and then it is open to the community to cast their votes for their favorite one! All proceeds raised go to the top 3 teams, who select a charity of their choice to donate their winnings. Students who participate in creating a scarecrow will earn **16 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE** as long as they collect ballots on one of our voting days (Sat. 10/19 or Sun. 10/20). **The one and only meeting for students about scarecrow will be held Wednesday 9/4 from 2:30-3:00pm in the auditorium. (No late bus available).**



SKI/SNOWBOARD CLUB

It may be 80 degrees, but it is time to start planning!!!



5 Trips (Friday evenings) to Mohawk Mountain
during January-February

Participation is Limited.

NEW Sign-up Procedure: Forms will be available on our website beginning October 1st. Completed paperwork and payment in full will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until Thursday, October 31st.

Monitor NMS Ski/Snowboard Club website for further information and forms (available October 1st).

Club Coordinators: Bonnie Hart, Bruce Moulthrop and Kerry McKeegan

Dates to Remember

Look for details in the Lion's Roar or on the NMS website <http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/nms/cal/>



September

September 5th

Labor Day
No School

Sept 11th

DC Parent Trip Meeting
8th grade only
6-7pm

September 18th

PTA General Meeting
9:15AM

September 30th

No School
Rosh Hashanah



October

October 4th

Staff Development
2 Hour Delay

October 9th

No School
Yom Kippur

October 16th

PTA General Meeting
9:15AM

October 19th-20th

Scarecrow Exhibit

October 23rd-25th

Student Conferences
Early Release Day
11:32PM



A+ REWARDS PROGRAM 9/6/19 – 3/14/20

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OUR ID#: 06665

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