



# Welcome Back!

Newtown Public Schools

August 2019

*A Culture of Care*

*...caudale di cura*

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/wyLr>

*A **visible** commitment...*

*to **safe and inclusive schools**, student-centered practices and authentic assessment opportunities, and academic pathways that meet students' interests and prepare them for the work of the future.*

Each student will develop and consistently demonstrate college, career, and global readiness skills in...

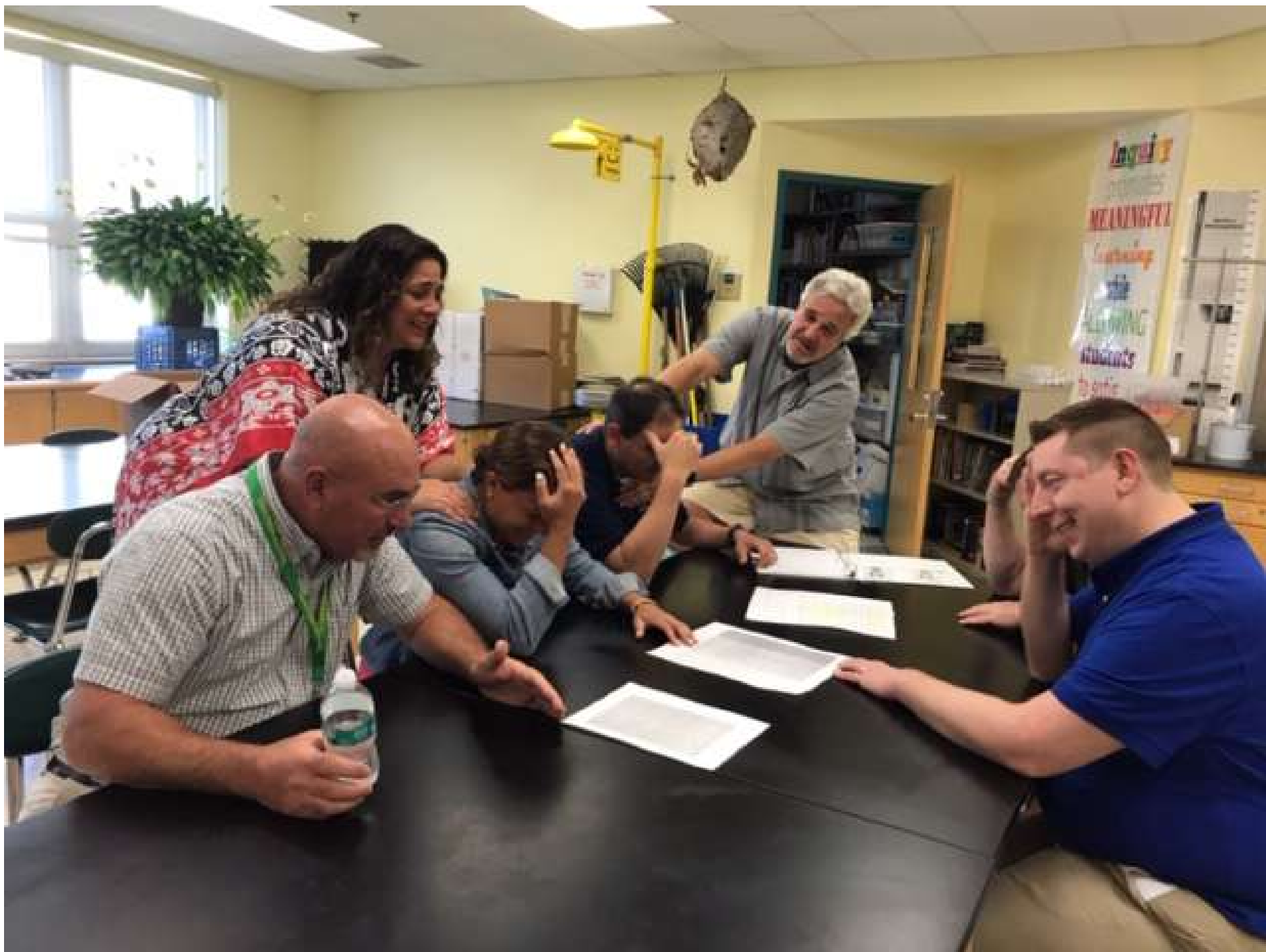
- problem-solving, • critical and **creative thinking**, • **collaboration**, and • written and verbal communication.

## VISION

Each student will develop and demonstrate necessary character attributes for personal well-being and to become contributing members of the local and global communities.

- **social emotional wellness**, • positive behaviors, • **respect for diversity**, and • responsible digital citizenship.

Each student will set and achieve **personally challenging goals** and demonstrate their learning through multiple modes in addition to **formative and summative assessments of learning**.



## **Relationships**

- Establish and sustain meaningful connections with stakeholders in order to build trust.
- Enhance collaboration and promote open and consistent communication.
- Raise awareness for social emotional wellness including a structure to identify and support students.
- Utilize school-wide resources and staff to promote positive behaviors at every level.

## **Diversity**

- Value individual differences in others' beliefs, intellectual ideas, and backgrounds.
- Recognize and celebrate the academic, social, and civic contributions of individuals within the school community.
- Promote an appreciation of diverse cultures, people, and perspectives.

## **Safety**

- Establish an environment where students and staff feel physically and emotionally safe.
- Communicate safety protocols and procedures with staff, students, and families throughout the year.

## **Continuous Improvement**

- Strive to create an environment that encourages challenging and engaging learning opportunities.
- Foster risk taking, inquiry, and self direction in adult and student learners.
- Provide opportunities for teacher collaboration in which assessment data and the review of student work informs instruction.
- Ensure vertical alignment within K-12 concept-based curriculum and consistency of instructional practices.
- Strengthen and expand district science, technology, engineering, arts, humanities, and mathematics pathways.

## **Creativity**

- Develop academic and artistic outlets that encourage students' self expression, choice, and voice.
- Recognize individual talents, passions and aspirations.
- Foster opportunities for interdisciplinary connections.
- Provide a broad and comprehensive range of academic, technical, visual and performing arts opportunities to encourage, excite, and ignite student achievement.

## **Kindness**

- Demonstrate caring and support by modeling behaviors that emulate respect, support, and empathy.
- Practice intentional concern for others, expressing compassion and forgiveness.



physically  
appreciation throughout diverse  
cultures stakeholders intellectual  
consistent humanities resources Raise  
celebrate aspirations interdisciplinary build  
comprehensive instruction technical  
order learners Ensure Develop  
mathematics environment expand review civic  
awareness year others expressing caring  
beliefs Establish curriculum  
procedures Practice engineering academic  
trust Strive connections K-12 concern Provide  
Continuous technology students within  
differences identify behaviors open arts  
perspectives engaging respect opportunities  
sustain ignite  
Safety well-being idiom broad range  
people Kindness data self support Foster  
meaningful choice individual staff social  
emulate encourage vertical expression  
passions concept-based student strengthen visual structure  
talents direction Recognize achievement contributions  
positive informs Creativity forgiveness compassion performing including emotionally  
backgrounds excite alignment performing including emotionally  
Demonstrate empathy Enhance safety  
school-wide encourages individuals  
learning emotional communication  
Improvement Relationships  
inquiry Communicate

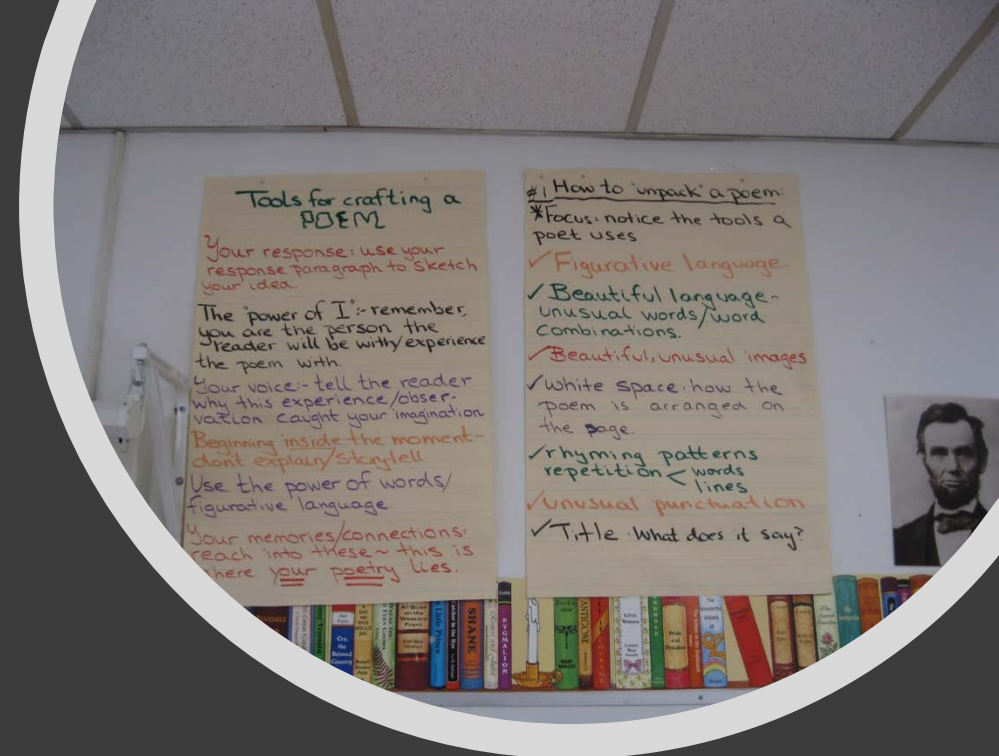


# WHERE ARE THE ARTIFACTS?

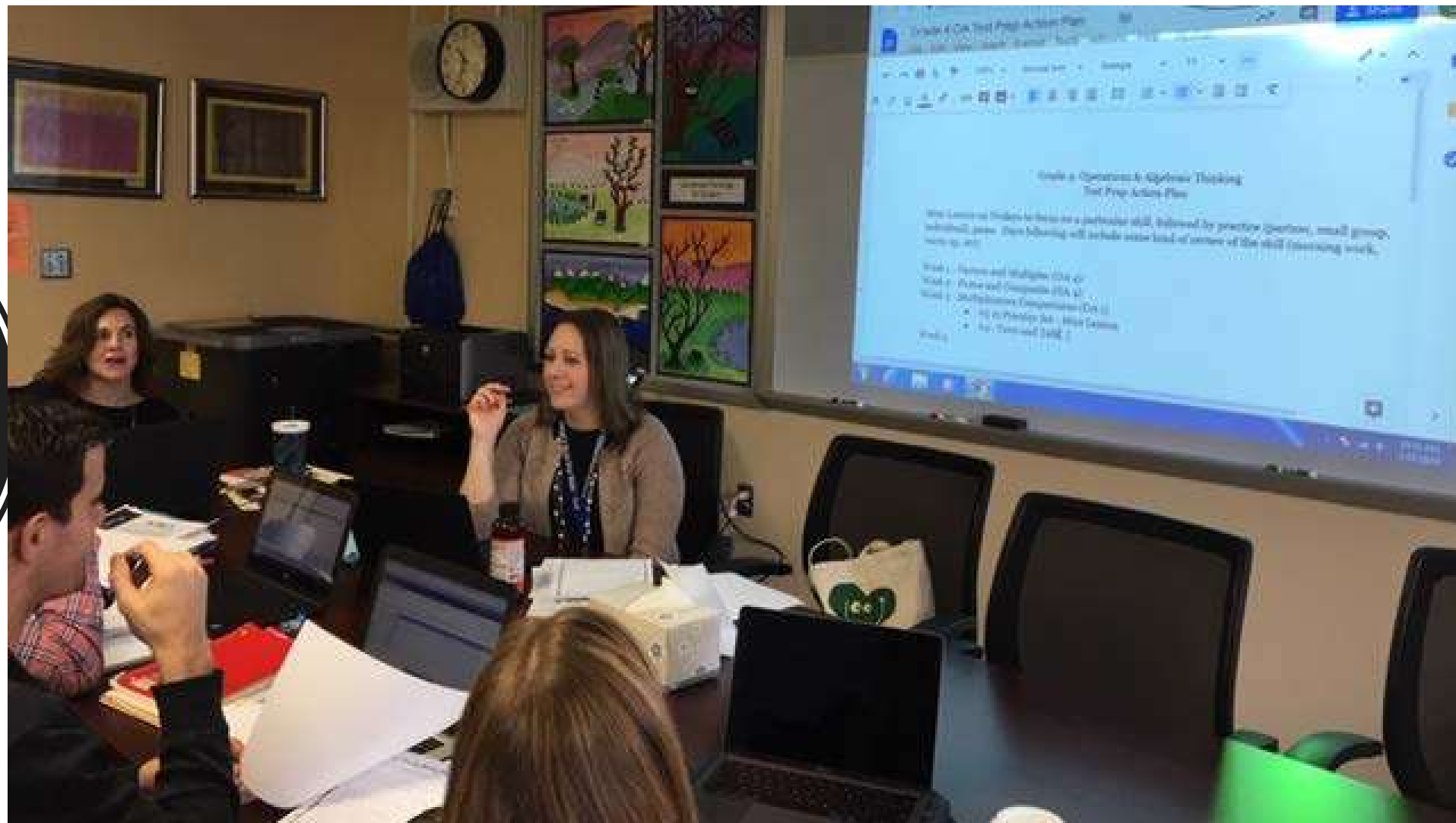
In the practices and processes and products evident in our classrooms K-12

In our after school programs, enrichment opportunities, and celebrations

We have to take notice of these – every day.



Preparing for  
New  
Challenges...



# Beyond the Bell...



Learning and Supporting Other Cultures



Showing Teamwork and Empathy Outside the Classroom







Written by: Alison Powers  
Illustrated by: Kimora Campbell  
Narrated by: Grace Lynch



I am a **stunning** piece of glass,  
catching the sunlight.

I am a **stunning** piece of glass,  
smooth, but sharp on the sides.

I am a piece of glass,  
When you break my **heart**.

I am a piece of glass.  
My pieces will fall apart.

So don't treat me like I don't matter,  
because when you break me,  
I will **shatter**.

You can try  
to put me  
back together  
again,

But no matter  
what I'll **never**  
be the same.

I am a piece of glass broken  
and trying to heal.

I am a piece of glass known  
and a bit unusual.

I am a piece of glass fragile, sharp, yet I  
am still *Beautiful*.

## Not A Single Sound

*Written by: Allie Kost*

*Illustrated by: Sean Kaufmann*

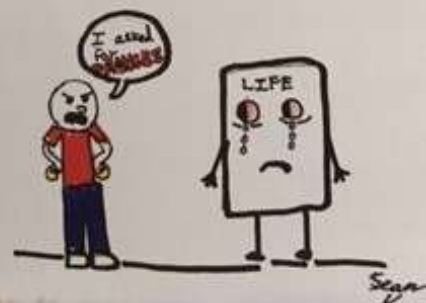
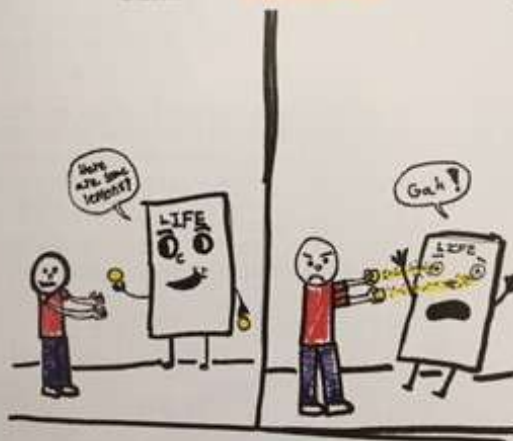
Above me is a constellation of stars.  
Below me is a city of lights.  
The city is filled with scars.  
Scars that cannot be detected from these heights.  
We descend getting closer to the city..  
The lights are so bright; they are almost blinding..  
The city is now a maze.  
No longer a flea in the night sky,  
But, a place full of life,  
With buildings so high..  
We gracefully land on the ground.  
I am now part of the city that I soared above..  
It is silent, not a single sound.  
Everyone else is lost in their own dreams.  
It is only me.  
Alone,  
Watching the city.



## The Eyes of Life

Written by: Rebecca Markowsky  
Illustrated by: Sean Kaufmann

When life gives you **LEMONS**;  
You *squeeze* them back into the eyes of life,  
And say,  
"I asked for **ORANGES!**"





## **Our Values Make a Difference...**

- In the students' lives we touch,
- In teaching and learning that inspires creativity and innovation
- In the social and emotional practices that support all students
- In the academic pathways that ensure students have a broad range of possibilities and opportunities
- In giving students voice and choice

<https://www.edutopia.org/video/how-strong-relationships-improve-school-outcomes>

