



Special Points of Interest:

- ❖ NMS Drama Production - Page 8
- ❖ Yearbook Sales - Page 10
- ❖ Climbing Club - Pages 12-13



Principal's Corner

A message from Thomas Einhorn, Principal, Newtown Middle School

Could spring already be here? We are looking forward to uninterrupted school weeks and no additional days added to the end of the school year. The projected last day of school is currently June 15. Believe it or not, planning for next year has already begun, namely, our Grade 8 students will begin the course selection process for high school starting the week of March 1st.

This may be a good time to remind your students of the importance of using social media appropriately. As you know there are many websites, programs, and applications that can be inappropriate for young and developing minds. Setting expectations for internet usage with your child may be difficult to do but it is so very important. If you would like additional resources, you can do an internet search by keying in "internet safety for teens". As you may know, Anonymous Alerts is an application that students can use to report inappropriate behavior to our school administration. More information can be found on our school's webpage.

I also wanted to share that there are many great things happening in the classrooms and around the middle school community. Our Debate Club placed well in our first ever virtual debate competition, and several of our students participated and placed well in the National Middle School Science Bowl. Many of our clubs are meeting virtually, such as the Student Council, Gaming Club, STEAM Club, and Pinata Club, just to name a few! Plans for a Spring Musi-

cal for Drama club in the works! Stay tuned for more details!

All the best,

Tom Einhorn



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Assistant Principal News	Pages 2-3
Guidance Office	Page 4
Student Council	Page 9
SBHC	Pages 13

Assistant Principal's Corner

By James Ross, Assistant Principal

Standardized Testing

NWEA Testing:

Newtown Middle School utilizes NWEA Map testing; research-based computerized assessments that help educators answer a crucial question: Are my students learning? Measures of Academic Progress creates a personalized assessment experience by adapting to each student's learning level precisely measuring student progress and growth for each individual. Teachers will have essential information about what each student knows and is ready to learn within 24 hours. The winter administration for NWEA is scheduled for the month of March.

Testing Tips:

1. Get a good night sleep
2. Eat a balanced breakfast the morning of the test
3. Do your best and don't be anxious
4. Bring a water bottle
5. Remember your test taking strategies

NMS - Second Step SEL Program

For the month of March students will have the opportunity to participate in lessons on Managing Relationships & Social Conflict (Unit 4). NMS teachers will provide a rich discussion with our students addressing the topics below.

Unit 4 - Managing Relationships & Social Conflict

Students learn strategies for developing and maintaining healthy relationships, perspective-taking, and dealing with conflict.

The goals of this unit include students being able to:

- Recognize when a social conflict is escalating and identify what actions contribute to the escalation
- Describe the different perspectives of the people involved in a conflict
- Apply the four-step conflict resolution process
- Take responsibility for their actions and make things as right as possible

(cont.)

Assistant Principal's Corner

By James Ross, Assistant Principal

7th Grade Lessons:

3. Conflicts & Perspectives
4. Resolving Conflict Part 1
5. Resolving Conflict Part 2
6. Taking Responsibility for Your Actions
7. Tips for Resolving Conflicts

8th Grade Lessons:

3. Recognizing Other's Perspectives
4. Finding The Best Solution
5. Making Things Right
6. Unhealthy Relationships
7. Guide to Healthy Relationships



Guidance Office

Tina Broccolo, Sara Terry, Tanya Hague-Doehr, Marisa Underberger

Dear 8th Grade Students and Families,

We hope you're doing well and feeling excited about the thought of High School next year! On March 2nd, 8th grade students will begin their 10 minute pre-scheduled appointments with their high school counselors to discuss their electives and programming for next year. Appointments will be held virtually, and students should prepare by selecting five elective courses they would be interested in for 9th grade. Ms. Underberger and Mrs. Broccolo will be going into classes this week to help students prepare google docs with their electives so please ask them to share it with you! For their appointments, remote learners will log in from home, and students in the building will be asked to bring their computers to the cafeteria at their scheduled time and to return to class following their meeting. Students who are absent could still log in remotely, if they are able, or they will be rescheduled for a later date and time. Parents are welcome to join as well. The schedule for these appointments has been posted in each home-room and students will receive a pass that morning. Below, please find a chart listing the alphabetical breakdown of the high school counselors and the google meet links students should use to join their appointments. This chart will also be posted on the Newtown Middle School Counseling website so that students can easily find the link the day of their appointments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Tina Broccolo (clusters 8 Purple & 8 Green) or Marisa Underberger (clusters 8 Blue & 8 Red), or to your child's assigned high school counselor.

Counselor	Last Name Begins With:	Google Meet Link	Email Address:
Bret Nichols (Director)	A - Ame	meet.google.com/ivs-crce-pco	nicholsb@newtown.k12.ct.us
Lauren Marti	Amm - Clan	meet.google.com/fux-fwse-kja	martil@newtown.k12.ct.us
Cathy Ostar	Clar - E	meet.google.com/qbj-hhqq-enh	ostarc@newtown.k12.ct.us
Lisa Kapitan	F - I	meet.google.com/rsn-rpmy-xij	kapitanl@newtown.k12.ct.us
Jeff Tolson	J - Mars	meet.google.com/tsy-hiuu-jxy	tolsonj@newtown.k12.ct.us
Deidre Croce	Mart - Pl	meet.google.com/sek-ruxe-ytm	croced@newtown.k12.ct.us
Alexa Banchard	Po - So	meet.google.com/knf-xqpd-bqd	blancharda@newtown.k12.ct.us
Sara Brant	Sr - Z	meet.google.com/zzs-atfn-dgg	brants@newtown.k12.ct.us

PTA NEWS



The Newtown Middle School PTA has been busy planning for the rest of our year and we could not be more excited! We have the final total collected from our Shoe Fundraiser.... \$319.20! This was such a “feel good” fundraiser as well because we sent shoes to Haiti and Guatemala helping so many who do not have shoes.



Our first Fundraiser of 2021 has really been well received and we couldn't be happier! Jose Madrid Salsa sales are through the roof and we have already surpassed our goal of 100 jars and have sold 132 jars as of 2/24/2021. If you haven't already ordered yours, please consider placing an order before March 5th. Our flyer with the link to order online is attached for your convenience. <https://josemadridsalsafundraising.com/shop-1/>

Looking ahead to Spring we will be holding our first “Restaurant Night” with My Place on Thursday April 1st. We will make 25% of the sales that night simply by mentioning “NMS PTA” or providing them with a copy of our flyer. We are also looking forward to our “Mother’s Day” Brunch Kit fundraiser (April 5th-May5th) provided by Maple Craft Foods! Mom’s get your Mother's Day Brunch kit and have your family make you breakfast in bed while supporting NMS PTA! We will be providing additional information very soon with an easy order online option and free local delivery!



We would like you to invite you to join us for our next NMS PTA General Meeting on Wednesday March 24th, @ 6:30pm. Via Zoom. Superintendent Dr. Rodrigue will be joining us to go over the school budget for 2021/2022. This is always a very informative and well attended meeting. We hope to see you there!



meeting

PTA NEWS



Throughout this challenging year we are trying to think out of the box for some fundraising endeavors that will help us get through to the end of the year. Our shredding event was just recently scheduled for Saturday May 22nd from 9:00am-12:00pm and will be a great time for you to dispose of those sensitive documents in an incredibly affordable way while helping your PTA. We will follow up with more information and reminders in our April edition in the Lions Roar.



We will be putting together a Nominating Committee for new officers needed for our PTA for the 2021-2022 School year. Three of our current officers will be moving on to the High School. If you love to volunteer and get involved in your child's school community WE NEED YOU! Our PTA Executive Board will be looking to fill our Secretary and Treasurer positions. Please contact us @newtownmspta@gmail.com if you are interested in either of these positions.

Stay safe and well Newtown Middle School families!

Melissa Beylouni—President

Jennifer Chaudhary—First Vice President

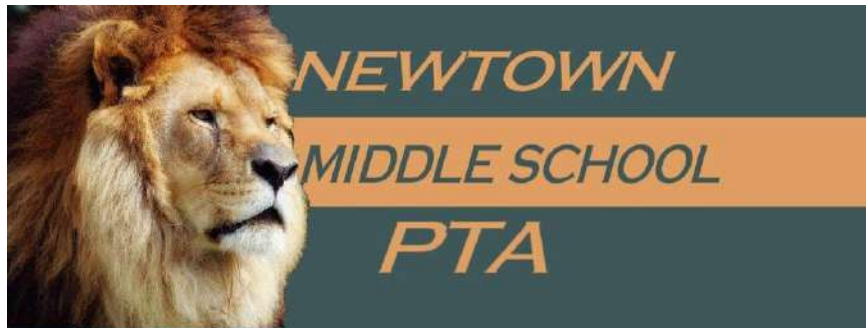
Monica Kwarcinski—Second Vice President

Brooke Heinen—Treasurer

Julia Crisci—Secretary



NMS PTA *needs YOUR HELP to support students and staff!*



**Jose Madrid Salsa is proud to work with
The Newtown Middle School PTA,
50% of your purchase supports the Students and Staff!**



Jose Madrid Salsa offers 25 flavors of hand-crafted, gourmet salsas. Whether you like hot and spicy, mild, or slightly sweet we have a flavor you will love! We have won national awards in The United States, Canada, and **Texas.**

How to order

- 1. Visit <https://josemadridsalsafundraising.com/>**
- 2. Click on "Shop" at the upper left corner to begin.**
- 3. Scroll through the flavors and add your desired choices to the cart.**
- 4. When placing the order, there is a drop-down box labeled "Fundraiser Group" in the shipping address section, be sure you select "Newtown Middle School PTA".**
- 5. Add the name of the individual who contacted you in the "Sales Person" box.**
- 6. Finish your checkout and the Kids and Teachers will receive \$3.50 for each jar purchased.**

Questions? Email: Fundraising@josemadridsalsa.com, Phone: 740-521-4304.

DRAMA CLUB



**The NMS Drama club is gearing
up for our spring musical!
Missed our info meeting last week?
You can still join us!
Please email Mr. Tammero:
tammeroa@newtown.k12.ct.us
or
Mrs. Talluto: tallutot@newtown.k12.ct.us**

Student Council News

Susan Musco and Shari Oliver



NMS Cutest Pet Photo Contest

The NMS Student Council rolled out our first school wide event, the NMS Cutest Pet Photo Contest! Students and faculty submitted over 40 different pets including dogs, cats, and bunnies! A slide show of all of the entries was created and will be posted on the NMS Student Council webpage starting March 1st.



Go on the Student Council website: <https://sites.google.com/newtown.k12.ct.us/newtownlions/home> and check out the adorable pets from our Newtown Middle School community. Vote for the pet who you think is the very cutest, and we will award a first, second, and third place winner who will all win a prize. Voting is open from March 1st to March 12th.

NMS T-shirts

Student Council will begin selling NMS t-shirts in March. Continue to listen for information on the morning announcements and look on our webpage for updates!



All Are Welcome!

Any student who is interested in joining Student Council can still participate. Email Mrs. Musco or Mrs. Oliver for information. We meet on Mondays throughout the year.



Yearbook Club

Susan Lang

Limited number of yearbooks left!

The yearbook order has been placed! About 100 extra were ordered, and can be reserved on the Josten's site by clicking [HERE](#). Once those books are sold, no more will be available and our on-line ordering will be closed. Thank you to all who have ordered already! If you have any questions, please email the advisor, Miss Lang, at langs@newtown.k12.ct.us.



Newtown Middle School Climbing Club B-Wing Gym/Outdoor Course



What: An opportunity for students who are interested in and love climbing to stay after school and engage in a positive and challenging activity.

When: Tuesdays 3:00 - 4:00. This program begins on March 9th and ends on May 18th.

Why: The latest research is showing that for your brain to function at its peak, your body needs to move. Climbing improves mood and attention, builds confidence, lowers stress and anxiety and helps students learn better. It is also a blast!

Where: N.M.S B-Gym/Outdoor Climbing Course.

You don't have to come every time to be a part of this program. Come when you can!

Please have a parent or guardian sign the permission slip on the back of this flyer and return to Ms. Fontaine, Mr. Michaud or any P.E. Teacher.

Newtown Middle School Climbing Club Permission Slip



Newtown Middle School is offering students an opportunity to participate in an after school climbing program. We will be utilizing both indoor and outdoor high and low elements. The club will meet in the B-Wing Gymnasium and the outdoor climbing course.

Please sign below to give permission for your child to participate in our Climbing Club. The program will run every Tuesday starting on March 9th and ending on May 18th. The hours are from 3:00-4:00.

My child _____ has permission to participate in the after school climbing club at Newtown Middle School.

Emergency Contact: _____ ***Phone:*** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ ***Date:*** _____

We are looking forward to having your child participate in this great program!

***Michelle Fontaine
Marc Michaud
Newtown Middle School***

Student Based Health Center



Be Kind to Your Mind



Several studies have found that many adolescents are suffering with mental health at an increased rate during the covid-19 pandemic.

Do a mental health check in with you child and ask how they are feeling or coping with their emotions.

Has your child recently lost interest in things they enjoy?

Does your child Have low energy?

Do they sleep too much or too little, or seem sleepy throughout the day?

Are they feeling lonely or isolated?

Do they feel sad?

Is there a change in academic performance?

Have you noticed a change in behavior that you are concerned about?

Do they have a fear of gaining weight, or diet or exercise excessively?

Do they engage in self-harm behaviors (e.g., cutting or burning their skin) ?

Do you have concerns they may be smoking, drinking, or using drugs?

Has your child expressed thoughts of suicide or wanting to harm themselves or that they would be better off dead?

If you answer yes to any of the above questions, please call the SBHC at 203-270-6114 and schedule an appointment for your child come and speak with our licensed clinical social worker Jennifer Sawyer at the School Based health Center. All services are provided to students at no out of pocket cost. If your child is expressing thoughts of wanting to harm themselves or others, please seek help immediately.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline :1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Spanish/Español: 1-888-628-9454

Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741-741

Dates to Remember

Look for details in the Lion's Roar or on the NMS website <http://nms.newtown.schooldesk.net/>

March

March 18th

3 hr. Early Release
Students Dismissed @ 11:32

March 19th

3 hr. Early Release
Students Dismissed @ 11:32



April

April 2nd

Good Friday
No school

April 12th-16th

Spring Break
No School

April 30th

No school for students
Staff development



