



Nighthawk News

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



APRIL 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Graduation date set for Saturday, June 11, 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Science Department	2
Career Center	3-5
Important Dates	6

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Spring is upon us – and we are nearing the end of another successful school year at Newtown High School. We are so proud of our students and the work that they continue to accomplish, not only in the classroom but as athletes, musicians, actors, and as members of school activities. Students have been celebrated throughout the year and there is much more to come.

As we move into the final months of the year, we ask for you to remind students that they need to stay committed to their studies. While student attention

might wane, especially as the weather changes, it is important that they remain focused and committed to finishing the year academically strong. This is especially important for seniors who are almost at the finish line! Please continue to have positive discussions with your sons and daughters. The encouragement they receive at home will undoubtedly have a significant impact on how they end their year.

To parents and guardians of seniors – we have a tentative graduation date of Saturday, June 11. Graduation will be held at the O'Neill Center at WestConn



at 9:30 am. Further details about our 2016 graduation will be forthcoming. Please continue to check our website for updates.

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue
Principal

From Your PTSA

The nominating committee has concluded their interviews for the PTSA Board positions available for 2016-2018. The positions available are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you would like to nominate yourself for any of these positions there is still time and you may do so by running from the floor. However, you must notify the PTSA Board by May 1 since our elections will be on June 1. Please email us at: nhsptsa1@gmail.com.

We thank you for your support!

Maggie Conway
PTSA President



Find us on:
facebook

NHS PTSA Board 2015-2016

President	Maggie Conway
Vice-President	Rachelle Kahn
Secretary	Alpana Dholakia
Treasurer	Angela Thill
NHS Principal	Lorrie Rodrigue
Teacher Representative	Karen Sherman

Contact us at:
PTSA Board: nhsptsa1@gmail.com

Science Department News

Next Generation Science Standards

NHS Science teachers Fawn Georgina and Emily Neff will attend an April workshop on the new *Next Generation Science Standards* (NGSS) that were adopted by Connecticut on November 4, 2015. Specifically, it will focus on using the EQulP rubric to evaluate activities, assignments, and assessments for alignment with NGSS. This will aid Newtown's science teachers, at the high school and across the district, in their efforts to implement the new standards when they go into effect, starting with grades K-3, 6 and 9 in the 2017-2018 school year.



Integrated Physical & Earth Science

Freshmen science students in IPES (Integrated Physical & Earth Science) demonstrated different types of chemical reactions: synthesis, decomposition, replacement, acid base neutralization reactions.

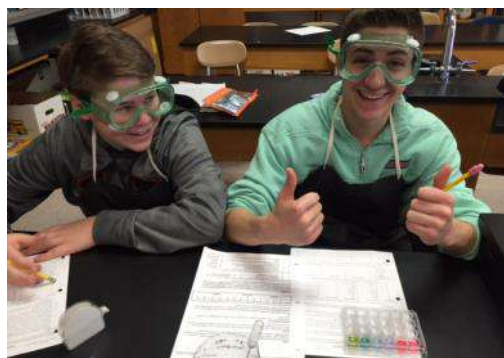


Science is fun!!



Acids & Bases

Freshmen scientists study acids and bases by testing the pH of substances using a cabbage indicator they made and pH paper. After testing standard solutions, they made predictions for common household solutions and mixtures of different solutions.



DNA Studies in AP Biology



Mrs. Allegretto's AP Biology students used model kits to explore DNA structure and semi-conservative replication (that is, one strand is copied from and paired with an original (conserved) strand).

Chris Canfield
Science Department Chair

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. 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:

- http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/international/welcome/gap_year.html
- www.collegebound.net/gapyear
- www.wheretherebedragons.com
- <http://teenlife.uberflip.com/i/227280>

Enrichment Programs

Please take time to check out the Enrichment Programs in [Naviance](#), under the *Colleges* tab. These programs are available to high school students, some during the school year, but mostly for summer enrichment. 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 they are interested in, 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. Students should also check the bulletin board outside the Career Center. Please contact individual programs for detailed information and to ensure all the information in Naviance is correct.

Examples of Summer Enrichment Programs:

- UConn Natural Resources Conservation Academy
- UConn Explore Engineering E2 Program
- Yale Young Global Scholars Program for Outstanding High School Students
- Western Connecticut Summer Steam Program
- American Legion CT State Police Week
 - Sunday, July 24 - Saturday, July 30
 - Must be a rising senior for fall 2016
 - This program offers insight into the training, duties and expectation of Law Enforcement Officers
 - Cost: \$125
 - Deadline: June 3
 - Applications in the Career Center
- American Legion Boys State Leadership Program
 - Sunday, June 19 – Friday, June 24
 - Eastern Connecticut State University
 - Must be a rising senior for fall 2016
 - This is a hands on, learn-by-doing program which will immerse rising senior boys in government and politics
 - This must be coordinated with your American Legion Post.
 - Applications and information may be found at <http://www.ctlegion.org> or <http://ctboysstate.com>

Career Center Information

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 both 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.



Campus Tour for Sophomores & Juniors

Ms. Violette and Mr. DeFeo have arranged an information session and campus tour of Southern Connecticut State University on April 21, 2016. The bus will leave NHS at 8:30am and return by 2:00pm.

Students are asked to buy their own lunch on campus or bring a lunch. The cost of the bus is covered by a grant so there is no charge for the trip. The field trip is open to the first 15 students that complete and return a signed field trip form. Forms are available in the Career Center.

High School Partnership Program

Naugatuck Valley Community College is now offering to cover the cost of tuition and fees for a single class for three students who will be junior or senior students in the fall 2016. Here are the details:

- Students will be responsible for books, supplies and transportation.
- Right now all courses, but science, are eligible, but NVCC has the right to approve the course.
- Students must take the Accuplacer and test into college level Math and English to participate. (For new students, NVCC waives the Accuplacer if they score a 500 or above on their SAT Math and English.)
- Students will come to campus to register for their selected course on one of two days reserved for High School Partnership students. Registration is on a space available basis and takes place on the two days before the semester begins. Students will be notified of registration dates by email.
- College credits earned may be transferred.

Copies of the student application and counselor recommendation form are available in the Career Center and Mrs. Ragaini is happy to assist you in getting your counselor form completed and with the course selection. This program is open to the first three students submitting a completed application and the student section of the Counselor Recommendation form. Applications will be accepted for two alternates. If the program is available in the spring 2017 semester, the alternates will have the first opportunity to participate. For more information email ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us or call 203.426.7679.

Scholarships



Our scholarship list is updated weekly. In the coming weeks and months many of the local scholarships will arrive in the Career Center. Some paper applications for the scholarships are available in the Career Center but most are available online. Please check [Naviance](#) for the available scholarships. When applying for scholarships, be mindful of deadlines. Do not wait until the last minute to gather the documentation you need to complete a scholarship application, i.e. recommendations, transcripts, SAT/ACT scores.

Many of the scholarships are for seniors only. There are a few in the list that are available for underclassmen. A legend (included here) is available to help differentiate which scholarships are for which grades and which scholarships are new for the week. If you have any questions regarding scholarships, contact Mrs. Latowicki.

Legend

- * **NEW Scholarships for the week**
- ◆ **Seniors only apply**
- ▶ **Juniors only apply**
- ▣ **Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors Eligible**
- ⚙ **All Grades Eligible**

Scholarship Tips for Seniors

- Scholarships are for those seniors who are planning on continuing their education at either a 4-year or 2-year college, or technical school.
- Each scholarship is different and reading for details is important. Be mindful of deadlines. There are rarely extensions or excuses accepted if an application is late. You do not have to wait until the due date to submit or mail a scholarship application. Waiting until the due date may be problematic if you are sick, or there is a storm, etc.
- Transcript and report card requests must be made at least 24 hours in advance through Mrs. Latowicki or a School Counseling secretary. Again, do not wait until the last minute to request these documents.
- There are scholarships based on interests, religion, ethnicity, a disability, community service, GPA's, majors, etc.
- Check for scholarships through your parents' and/or grandparents' employers or organizations they are involved with.
- Check the website of the school you plan on attending since many schools offer scholarships which go unanswered since many students are unaware that scholarships are being offered.
- Scholarships may reduce your financial aid. If this causes a problem, a call to the financial aid office at the school you are attending to explain your situation may be helpful.
- Never fill out an application in pencil.
- Most applications may be downloaded from [Naviance](#) unless otherwise noted. Paper applications are available in the Career Center as specified. Some applications are through specific websites, also noted in [Naviance](#).
- Check other scholarship websites listed on your [Naviance](#) home page, i.e. Cappex, Sallie Mae, College Week Live, Fast Web, etc.
- **PLEASE remember to write thank you note/s to the individual/organization who offered the scholarship. This is a very important step in the scholarship process.**

Local & Regional Scholarships Available Now or Coming Soon

- | | |
|---|---|
| 26 Angels Foundation Scholarship | NHS PTSA Scholarship |
| Bill Lauf Memorial – journalism or environmental science | Newtown Junior Women's Club Scholarship |
| Church Hill Physical Therapy | Newtown Scholarship Association |
| Education Connection Scholarship | Newtown School Nurses Scholarship |
| Ernest Badillo - \$1000 in memory of an NHS alum, participation in multiple sports and nice all around student | Newtown VNA Scholarship |
| Frederick A. DeLuca - \$5000, 2- or 4-year school, academic achievement, participation in extra-curricular activities, financial need, and employment while attending high school | Newtown Youth Basketball Association Scholarship |
| Hawley School PTA – Hawley School graduate | Newtown Youth Football & Cheerleading Scholarship |
| Head O' Meadow PTA Scholarship | Newtown Youth Lacrosse Scholarship |
| Horticulture Club of Newtown | Pay it Forward Scholarship |
| Middle Gate PTA Scholarship | Reed School PTA Scholarship |
| Newtown Babe Ruth Softball Scholarship | Robert Glander Memorial Scholarship |
| Newtown Cultural Arts Scholarship | Sandy Hook School PTA Scholarship |
| Newtown Federation of Teachers Scholarship | UNICO – Italian, academic achievements, extra-curriculars & community service, \$1000 with opportunity for \$6000 on national level |
| NHS Choral Parents Scholarship | USBC Bowling – member, parent or grandparent |
| NHS Orchestra Scholarship | Waterbury Credit Union |
| | Working Women's Forum Scholarship |

.... and more! Check Naviance.



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
- 2015-2016 School Calendar http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=7rQE_8F_W5w%3d&tabid=27635
- NHS Schedule of Days Calendar http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=UCh-Pz_x_ms%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



- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| April 6 | 2-hour Delay |
| April 11-15 | Schools Closed - <i>Spring Break</i> |
| April 29 | Senior Prom |
| May 4 | 2-hour Delay |
| May 23, 25-26 | Spring Concerts |
| May 30 | Schools Closed - <i>Memorial Day</i> |
| June 1 | Awards Night - <i>Seniors</i> |
| June 2 | Awards Night - <i>Underclassmen</i> |
| June 11 | Graduation |
| June | Last Day of School |