



# Nighthawk News

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



MAY 7, 2018

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **PTSA Meeting:**  
June 7
- **Teacher Appreciation Week:**  
May 7-11
- **Final Exams:**  
June 12-20
- **Graduation:**  
June 18
- **Last Day of School:**  
June 20

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- PTSA News 2
- Science News 3
- Spring Performance Calendar 4
- World Languages 5
- Electrathon Competition 5
- Career Center 6-7
- Important Dates 8

## Principal's Message

It's hard to believe, but we are approaching the end of the 2017-2018 school year. That means senior prom, final exams, and we are only weeks away from our commencement ceremonies, which is both a joyous yet emotional finale for our seniors and their families.

Our graduation ceremony has been set for Monday, June 18 at West Conn O'Neill Center at 4:00 pm. Parents, please note that students will receive 6 tickets due to the capacity at the O'Neill Center and in compliance with

the Fire Marshall. Further details about our 2018 graduation will be forthcoming.



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 diminish, it is important that they remain focused and committed to finishing the year academically strong.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Interim Principal of Newtown High School this year. We look forward to seeing many of you at this year's graduation ceremony on June 18.

David Roach  
Interim Principal

## Final Exam Schedule

Day	Time	Period	Grade Level	Dismissal
Tuesday, June 12	10:00am - 12:00pm	2	Seniors Only	2:32pm
	12:30pm - 2:30pm	1		
Wednesday, June 13	10:00am - 12:00pm	4	Seniors Only	2:32pm
	12:30pm - 2:30pm	3		
Thursday, June 14	10:00am - 12:00pm	6	Seniors Only	2:32pm
	12:30pm - 2:30pm	5		
Friday, June 15	8:05am - 10:05am	8	All Students	12:32pm
	10:30am - 12:30pm	7		
Monday, June 18	8:05am - 10:05am	6	9-11	12:32pm
	10:30am - 12:30pm	5		
Tuesday, June 19	8:05am - 10:05am	4	9-11	12:32pm
	10:30am - 12:30pm	3		
Wednesday, June 20	8:05am - 10:05am	2	9-11	12:32pm
	10:30am - 12:30pm	1		

# From Your PTSA



## REMINDER!

Please join us for our last PTSA Meeting of the year:  
**June 7 at 9:00 am, room B140**

### Seeking Candidates for 2018-19 PTSA Board Members

The NHS PTSA Nominating Committee is reviewing candidates for the 2018-2019 PTSA Board. Open Board positions include:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

If you are interested, please submit your name to [ptsaofnhs@gmail.com](mailto:ptsaofnhs@gmail.com). We thank you for your support!

Kat Young, NHS PTSA President

### Senior “Buy Your Own Brick” Program Returns



This program celebrates our graduating Seniors post-graduation plans the week of Senior Awards Night (June 6) while raising funds to support the NHS PTSA Teacher/ Classroom Grant and Scholarships Programs.

These foam bricks have the NHS logo and will have a customized placard displaying the Graduating Senior's name and college or career they plan to pursue after graduation. The bricks will be on display in the NHS Lobby the week of Senior Awards Night – starting June 1- June 8. Seniors can take their bricks home the afternoon of June 8.

To purchase a brick for your Senior, you can purchase online at <https://nhs-senior-class-of-2018-brick-program.eventbrite.com> or complete this [downloadable form](#) (on NHS PTSA GoogleDrive at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Mk35cEOZHyoF53zCA6LcpL91qKkn94i> ) and submit to the Senior B.Y.O. Brick Collection box in the NHS Main Office.

Orders are due by May 25, 2018. What a special way to remember the foundation your Senior built at NHS while commemorating their future post-graduation.

### Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week Help Needed!

For Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, the NHS PTSA will be asking parents to help provide snacks/treats for the teachers during the week of May 7-11. Also, on May 18, a breakfast for the entire faculty/staff will be provided.

Please watch your email for donations and sign-ups to help show our awesome NHS faculty/staff our appreciation!

### Class of 2019 Incoming Seniors: VIP Parking Spot Give-Away Coming Soon!



Look for upcoming details on the VIP Parking Spot Give-away - a prime parking spot with a custom sign that will be exclusively used by the incoming senior whose name is randomly selected.

### Thanks to Our Volunteers!

A special THANK YOU to all parents who volunteered their time or donated items for the **Standardized Testing Day Light Breakfast for Students** on April 24. The event, feeding over 1,000 students, was a huge success because of support from NHS parents!

### Congratulations to our Reflections Contest Winners!

Two NHS students received “Awards of Merit” at the **National** level!

- **Karl Miller** won for a Literature entry entitled *Is a Just World Within Reach?*
- **Thomas Jensen** won for a Music composition, entitled *Circa Finem*.

Congratulations to these two young men for this wonderful accomplishment!

# Science Department News

## Forensics: Crime Scenes & Evidence Collection

Students in Dr. Berechid's Forensics classes were treated to a visit from Norwalk police officers Lt. Weisgerber and Sgt. Tolney. The officers gave an engaging and hands-on presentation about crime scenes and collecting evidence.



## India Trip: A Great Learning Experience!

NHS Biology teacher Mrs. McConnell led a group of seven remarkable students on a trip to India to stay with a community of underprivileged children & women who live together as families. They worked on a project about personal, social & political empowerment with peers from local school. The trip was a big success and a great learning experience. These students will never be the same. The motto of this group during their trip: Success is Self-Defined!



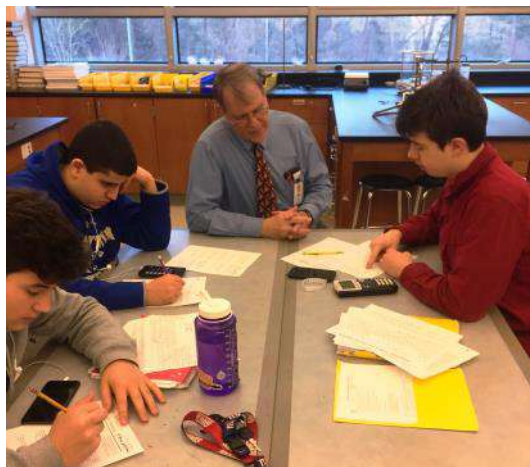
## Natural History Museum & Planetarium Field Trip

Mr. Dyer recently took his students on a field trip to New York City to visit the American Museum of Natural History and the Hayden Planetarium.



## Mr. Swanhall Retires

Longtime NHS science teacher Marty Swanhall will be retiring at the end of this year. Here is a picture of him doing what he does best: working with students at their tables, getting down to their level, to help them understand chemistry. We will miss him!



Chris Canfield  
Science Department Chair

# Farewell Wishes

We would like to extend our best wishes to the following members of our staff who are departing from NHS at the end of this school year:

- Ali Boa, *English*
- Michael Hoyt, *Custodian*
- Martha Parvis, *Social Studies*
- Marty Swanhall, *Science*
- Suzanne Von Oy, *Math*



We wish you the best of luck in your new endeavors and please know that you will be missed by all. For all that you have given to our community of Newtown High School, we sincerely thank you.



## Visual & Performing Arts Exhibit and Performance Calendar

Spring 2018

<b>May</b>	2	HOM 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.	HOM
	3	SH Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.	SH
	7	MG 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	8	Hawley Art Show, 5:30-7:00 p.m.	Hawley
	8	NMS 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Concert, 7:00 p.m.	NHS
	9	NMS 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Concert, 7:00 p.m.	NHS
	10	MG Art Show, 5:30-7:00 p.m.	MG
	10	Newtown Night of Jazz, 7:00 p.m.	NHS
	14	RIS Gr. 5 & Gr. 6 Orchestra, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	16	SH Art Show, 5:30-7:00 p.m.	SH
	16	RIS 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	17	RIS 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	19-20	Unified Theater Production (Sat @ 6:00 p.m. @ Sun @ 2:00 p.m.)	NHS
	21	NHS Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m.	NHS
	22	NHS Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.	NHS
	23	NHS Orchestra Concert, 7:00 p.m.	NHS
	24	RIS Gr. 5-6 Chorus, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
<b>June</b>	1	NHS Chorus – Senior Cabaret, 7:00 p.m.	NHS
	5	Hawley 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	12	Town-wide Band Festival, 7:00 p.m.	NHS



Michelle Hiscavich, Director of Visual and Performing Arts

# World Languages

The World Language Department is starting to get amped up as the school year begins to wind down! On May 17 at 6:00pm the department will celebrate the achievements of students at the World Language Honor Society Induction Ceremony. These are exceptional students who have not only earned an average of 90 or above in the world languages they are studying, but they have also shown themselves to be “global citizens” by extending their knowledge and skills of language and culture well beyond the classroom. Some students have tutored peers after school, others have volunteered their free periods to offer language support to peers, others have acted as teacher assistants in world language classrooms, and still others have used their language in the wider community. An exciting part of joining these language honor societies is that some of the national chapters offer scholarships and awards.

Seniors who are enrolled in world languages will also be attending field trips in May called “Immersion Days.” During these days, students will get to completely immerse in the language and culture for a day as though they were in a country where the language is spoken. Students will have competitions, play games, engage in an auction, win prizes, and eat a meal – all in the target language. This is truly an authentic experience for the experienced language learner.



Spanish 4 students will also be immersing themselves in the language and culture by being a part of Argentina Day. During this in-school field trip, students will learn to tango, eat typical foods of Argentina, and learn about historical figures and cultural phenomena that they will later present to their peers. The entire day affords student the chance to engage in the language and culture in a realistic context.

Italian students are delving into the language and culture through studying the history and geographical differences of Italy. Italian I students will be conducting research on Italian regions after a unit on geography; Italian III students are researching the Renaissance in collaboration with the Library Media Center. All projects include a PowerPoint, a research paper, and an oral presentation to exhibit their expertise on the topics.

In Latin, students have already demonstrated an extraordinary mastery of the language with stellar results on the National Latin Exam. 72% of Latin I students are award winners, 60% of Latin 2 students are award winners, 73% of Latin 3 students are award winners and 81% of the Latin 4 students scored above the national average. Congratulations to Ms. Huettner and the Latin scholars!

Elizabeth Ward  
World Language Department Chair

# Business Ed & Applied Technology



## Electrathon Comes To Newtown High School

On May 18, Steve George's Power Technology and Automotive Technology students will be competing in the Electrathon America contest at Lime Rock Park.

The Electrathon competition is an annual event in which students from CT and surrounding states build electric vehicles to see who can create the most efficient vehicle. Vehicles are go-kart size, and the name of the game is to see who can go the farthest on 2 lead-acid batteries.

There are rules that designate size and safety requirements including vehicle length height and width, as well as roll cage requirements. Each vehicle undergoes a safety inspection upon arrival to the track. Safety is paramount so each vehicle has all of its systems checked such as steering and suspension, batteries and wiring, braking, and frame.

Once the inspection process is over, drivers and removable ballast weights are checked in. Each driver needs to be 180lbs, and ballast weights must be removed and adjusted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> driver. The pit area

is reserved for a minimum of two drivers to change between 20 and 40 minutes time during the competition which adds an element of strategy.

Leading up to the competition, the students need to pay close attention to all of the details which allow every bit of energy to be squeezed out of the batteries. Roll testing to get optimal steering geometry/less friction is important as well as the ability to get batteries from top charge to 10.5 volts each within the 60 minute time frame. Students use a battery “fuel gauge” to monitor battery life. Batteries don't discharge in a linear fashion, but start strong with a sharp drop-off in energy. Knowing your batteries is the difference between a strong finish and having your vehicle die out within the hour time frame.

Wish us luck!

Erik Holst-Grubbe  
Business Ed & Applied Tech Chair

# Career Center Information

203-426-7679

Peg Ragaini - School to Career Coordinator [ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us)  
 Kitty Latowicki - College/Career Center Coordinator [latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us)

The Career Center is open from 7:30 am-3:00 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.

## Senior Experience 2I

Current sophomores interested in pursuing an independent project and developing that "STAND OUT" factor for their college applications may wish to consider signing up for the **Senior Experience 2I Advisory** in their junior year. This is a program that happens during junior and senior years. Students will earn a full credit over the course of two years and the class is graded Pass/Fail.

For more information or to discuss a project idea, please see Mrs. Ragaini in the Career Center or email [ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us).



## Career Interest Inventories

Freshmen and sophomore students have completed career interest inventories in their Counselor Workshops this year. They also identified careers of interest. To see what your student listed as career interests, please

log into [Naviance](#); click on the Careers Tab; and click on Favorite Careers or Clusters.

Additional career information can also be found on [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com). Please contact the Career Center for the username and password for Career Cruising.

The summer is a great time to talk with your student about career interests as they start thinking about post-secondary options. The fall semester is a good time for juniors and seniors to sign up for a career shadowing day and/or an internship to further explore careers.

## Barton Weller Scholarship



This \$14,000 scholarship is being offered by the Weller Foundation to those students who will be seniors in the 2018-19 school year. Students who attend Newtown, Trumbull, Joel Barlow, Shelton and Masuk High Schools are eligible to apply. All students must complete a five-month independent research or study project. You can choose any topic from behavioral science to computers, to writing a novel, play, etc., providing it is original.

A 1-2 page proposal is due to Mrs. Latowicki, in the Career Center by September 25, 2018. If selected as a finalist by the Weller Foundation, students receive \$200 to help defray expenses. The final project is due March 5, 2019.

For further details, please stop by the Career Center and see Mrs. Latowicki.

# Career Center Information

## Ten Qualities Standardized Tests Can't Measure

*Reprinted from StemJobs.com, 4/27/18*

When everyone is stressing the importance of doing well on standardized tests, the pressure of the SATs, ACTs, or state tests can become completely consuming and cause major anxiety. It almost feels like if you don't perform well, your future will be ruined.

But that's not the case at all! While the standardized tests measure your mastery of writing, language, and math, they don't define a person - not even close! Read on for a list of vital qualities and skills that don't show themselves in test scores.

### 1. Kindness

Many people believe that it's best to be cutthroat to get what you want, but a little bit of niceness can go a long way. There is no "generosity, love, and thoughtfulness" section on the SAT...but wouldn't the world be a better place if there was? You never know the difference simply being kind to someone will make.



### 2. Growth

Most standardized tests measure mastery of a subject, not improvement over time. But as you prepare to take standardized tests, take a moment to reflect on how much you've learned in the last year or more. Even Einstein started as a baby who didn't know how to talk, walk, or add. Given time and the right resources, he became one of the most recognizable geniuses of modern times. Who knows? You might just be a calculus genius...once you have the time and resources to study it fully.

### 3. Artistic Ability

Your ideal career may have nothing to do with writing a great essay or solving math problems. Creative people don't have a standardized test to measure to their artistic ability — and we're willing to bet that many who perform well on the SAT would be completely lost when it came to painting, sculpting, fashion, and other creative endeavors.

### 4. Positivity

Who wants a Negative Nancy around? (It's not even a rhetorical question: the answer is no one!) Having a sunny outlook on the world and an affirmative approach to your work often makes you an unstoppable force. Unfortunately, the makers of standardized tests don't care about this incredible quality.

### 5. Leadership

Your standardized test scores may not show it, but you could be captain of the football team or the president of the drama club. Being a leader is an important skill colleges look for in their admission candidates—and it's a skill that few candidates have, which means this one can really set you apart.

While standardized tests don't mean everything, they are an important task that can provide valuable data. If you're preparing to apply for college, you might find that one type of standardized test suits you better than the other. Check out our [comparison of the ACT and SAT tests](#) and pick which one will be better equipped to show off your knowledge.

Remember, the things that make you YOU probably won't show up on any test. Do your best, but know that you have incredible things to offer the world regardless of what your score says.

### 6. Responsibility

Maybe you're not getting top grades at school, but you're juggling a lot of important duties at home. From babysitting your younger siblings while your parents work to holding a part-time job on the weekends, your reliability when it comes to fulfilling your responsibilities is an important character trait that standardized tests can't measure.

### 7. Passion

It may sound like a cliché, but not everyone is passionate about their work — and sooner or later, it shows. Most bosses would rather have an employee who has enthusiasm for their job over someone who could accomplish it with their eyes closed but doesn't care about their work. It's not always the smarter people who come up with the better ideas and do things above and beyond the standard. People with passion do that.

### 8. Work Ethic

A person may not always have the right answers immediately, but their determination to find them will get them very far in life. Having a good work ethic isn't obvious from scores on a standardized test, but employers will notice it right away — and be happy to share a glowing recommendation when it comes to your next gig.

### 9. Athletic Ability

Are you gifted on the basketball court, baseball field, or in the swimming pool? Unfortunately, those talents won't be factored into your test score. However, you can rest assured that the lessons learned from being part of a team or while training for a sport will take you far.

### 10. Emotional Intelligence

Standardized tests aren't able to assess a person's important ability to control their emotions and to handle interactions with others with empathy. Not only does emotional intelligence help in many jobs, but it also helps you read situations in everyday life by keeping you level-headed. What boss doesn't want that in their employees?



**Newtown High School**  
**12 Berkshire Rd.**  
**Sandy Hook, CT 06482**

## Important Links

NHS Home Page	<a href="http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net/">http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net/</a>
NHS Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Newtown-High-School/158260014186649">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Newtown-High-School/158260014186649</a>
NHS PTSA Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Newtown-High-School-PTSA-143876075644439/">https://www.facebook.com/Newtown-High-School-PTSA-143876075644439/</a>
NHS PTSA: News, Events, Updates & Forms / Google Drive	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1fWLVpIZbITTVdIS0hMd3JoZWMM">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1fWLVpIZbITTVdIS0hMd3JoZWMM</a>
Guidance/Naviance	<a href="https://connection.naviance.com/newtown">https://connection.naviance.com/newtown</a>
PowerSchool Portal	<a href="https://ps.newtown.k12.ct.us/public/">https://ps.newtown.k12.ct.us/public/</a>
Athletics	<a href="http://www.nighthawkspports.com">www.nighthawkspports.com</a>
2017-2018 School Calendar	<a href="http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/Parents/SchoolCalendar2017-2018/tabid/108124/Default.aspx">http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/Parents/SchoolCalendar2017-2018/tabid/108124/Default.aspx</a>
NHS Schedule of Days Calendar	<a href="http://nhs.newtown.schooldesk.net/Portals/Newtown/NHS/docs/Nathalie/1718DAYS2.pdf">http://nhs.newtown.schooldesk.net/Portals/Newtown/NHS/docs/Nathalie/1718DAYS2.pdf</a>

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 .

May 7-18	AP Testing @ NHS
May 10	Newtown Night of Jazz - 7pm
May 18	2-Hour Delayed Start - Staff Development
May 19-20	NHS Unified Theater Production
May 21	NHS Chorus Concert - 7pm
May 22	NHS Band Concert - 7pm
May 23	NHS Orchestra Concert - 7pm
May 24	NHS Senior Dinner Dance
May 28	Schools Closed - Memorial Day
June 1	NHS Chorus-Senior Cabaret - 7pm
June 2	Best Buddies Prom
June 6	Senior Awards Night
June 7	NHS PTSA Meeting - 9:00am
June 7	9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Night
June 9	ACT Testing @ NHS
June 12	Town-wide Band Festival @ NHS - 7pm
June 12-14	Final Exams - Seniors Only
June 15	Final Exams - All Students
June 18-20	Final Exams - Grades 9-11
June 18	NHS Graduation Ceremony - O'Neill Center - 4pm