



Welcome Letter 2023

August 2023

Dear Eighth Graders and Parents/Guardians,

Summer is a special time for families and friends to spend quality time together, to exercise our bodies and minds, and to experience new adventures while creating memories that will last forever. As summer begins to wind down and the focus turns to the new school year, I want to extend a warm welcome back to all eighth grade students and families as we continue our journey together at Newtown Middle School. During this school year, you will have the opportunity to meet new friends, engage in meaningful learning experiences, and equip yourselves for future successes in an exciting and thriving learning community. Below you will find some important information to prepare for the start of the school year.

- *The first day of school is on Wednesday, August 30. Students should arrive at school no earlier than 7:30 AM, as homeroom begins at 7:50 AM.*
- **Parent Drop offs for A-Wing Students (8-Purple and 8-Gold):** Please use the horseshoe in the front of the building. Students will wait in the A-Gym until dismissed to their homerooms.
- **Parent Drop offs for C-Wing Students (8-Blue):** Please access the cafeteria entrance by using the driveway on the West Side of the building (as you face the building, the driveway all the way to the left closest to Caraluzzi's shopping center). Students will wait in the cafeteria until dismissed to their homerooms.
- **Walkers:** All walkers must have parent permission. If you wish to allow your child to walk home from school, please be sure to check the box in your [PowerSchool portal account](#) (under the Signatures and Opt-Outs page). In the event of an emergency necessitating your child to walk home, and if you have not given this permission in PowerSchool, please call **203.426.7642** to make arrangements.

We expect all students to be safe and represent the values of Newtown Middle School in our community. This includes being respectful to each other and to the local merchants. Students unable to conduct themselves accordingly may jeopardize their future walking privileges and in serious situations will be referred to Newtown Police Department.

- **Bus Riders:** If you take a bus to school, please refer to the Newtown Bee school supplement for bus routes and times, or contact the **All Star Transportation Office** directly at **203.304.9779**.
- **Early Pick Up Policy:** If a parent must pick up a child early from school, please complete the attendance form in PowerSchool (under bulletins) or email NMSAttendance@newtown.k12.ct.us. If the request to pick up is after 9AM on the pick up day, please call 203.426.7638 to let us know the student name and time of pick-up. Parents will pick up their child in the C-Wing Office.

During the first three days of school, students will have an opportunity to participate in engaging activities to build the foundation for a successful school year. This includes introduction of pertinent staff members, team building activities, distribution of resources and logistical information, and communication of school values and their alignment to academic and behavioral expectations.

Students, your new schedules will be posted on the [PowerSchool Portal](#) beginning Monday, August 21; please bookmark the provided link for your use. You can access the Parent/Student Portal by using the same password you were assigned last school year. If you need assistance, please call Mrs. Lisa Petrovich in our School Counseling Office at **203.426.7644**. Our staff is so excited to welcome you to NMS and will be ready in the hallways to help you find your homeroom and to answer any questions during the first few days of school.

If you have an opportunity, please visit our [NMS](#) and [Newtown Public School District](#) websites, as they provide a wealth of helpful information, including our Parent and Student Handbook. In the handbook, you will find pertinent information about our school community, as well as school rules and policies. To help us begin this exceptional year, I would like to highlight and communicate a few important policies ahead of our start:

- **Cell Phone:** Cell phones/electronic devices, including bluetooth/wireless earbuds, must be kept in student lockers from 8:00-2:32 and are brought to school at students' own risk. Exceptions will be made for students that have a medical diagnosis requiring them to be in the students' possession. Students can use phones located in the offices if they need to contact home. Students that are unable to follow this policy will face disciplinary consequences.
- **School Issued Chromebook:** All students received a school Chromebook in 7th grade and the expectation is that this is their device that is utilized. Please refer to the Board of Education's policy concerning the [Use of Private Technology Devices by Students](#).
- **Dress Code:** Students shall dress in professional clothing appropriate to the school setting. Restrictions on freedom of student dress may be applied whenever the mode of dress in question:
 - is unsafe either for the student or those around the student;
 - is counterintuitive to school operations and the education process in general; and
 - is contrary to law.

Middle school years are exciting and invigorating. Sometimes it can be challenging, and maybe a bit overwhelming. Newtown Middle School strives for each student and family to have a wonderful middle school experience. To that end, I want to communicate about the support services available at NMS. In addition to our three school counselors, our support staff includes two school psychologists, three social workers, and a Teen Talk Counselor .

I am looking forward to a positive working relationship between the home and school in order to provide your child with the best opportunity to be a successful student at Newtown Middle School. If you ever need to talk to me, please call me directly at **203.270.6101** or schedule an appointment to visit with me.

Sincerely,



Jim Ross, Principal

P.S. Parents, please see the following attachments:

- Invitation to our [Grade 8 Open House](#), which is scheduled for **Thursday, August 31st, from 6PM to 8PM.**
- [Summer Reading Reminders](#)
- [PTA Parent Membership Flier](#)
- [School Supply List](#)
- **Please like us on Facebook:** [Newtown Middle School](#)