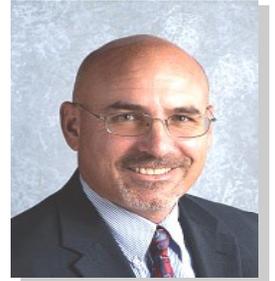




Special Points of Interest:

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October 2020



Principal's Corner

A message from Thomas Einhorn, Principal, Newtown Middle School

It is hard to believe that fall is already here! We have had a great first month of school. The credit goes to our wonderful students, staff and our supportive parents. We continue to be proud of our young women and men who demonstrate respect and responsibility on a daily basis. As I visit classrooms, I see our students (in person and remotely) along with our staff hard at work. The creative lessons are a reflection of the time and dedication of our teachers. This is truly a great learning community.

During our morning announcements, we insert a positive "Thought of the Day" and we finish our morning announcements with a 'Joke of the Day'. Ask your child about the positive thought, and the joke as well!

We prefer that students ride the school bus home, but if your student must walk, please remind them to cross streets only at the signaled crosswalks. Students must exercise caution when walking in town, especially on Fridays. For safety's sake, please review safe walking procedures with your students. Please also remind your students to continue to wear their masks when they are out and about in the town. At this time, we are not accepting notes for walkers, however, we ask that you give your permission in your Powerschool account! If your child is going to be a

pick up, either at dismissal time or any time during the school day, please send an email to nmsattendance@newtown.k12.ct.us stating the time and days/dates for pick up. Your cooperation is truly appreciated.

All the best,

Tom Einhorn



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NEWTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Lion's Roar

Assistant Principal's Corner

By Jim Ross, Assistant Principal

Welcome back to school!

I am looking forward to working with you and most importantly, your children, to make this the very best school year. The transition back to school is exciting, but also comes with its challenges. This year in particular, will have some added obstacles that will need a strong home-school partnership for success. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of assistance to you or your child.

One of my recommendations for all students is to engage in the school community. Shared experiences foster strong relationships and positive school experiences for your child. This is extremely important this year, given the social limitations due to Covid-19.

Extra Curricular Activities

- Go for quality, not quantity. Your child will benefit most from one or two activities that are fun, reinforce social development, and teach new skills.
- Consider your family schedule and personal energy level. Too many activities may result in increased family stress.
- Find out from the teacher which days will likely be heavy homework or test days and schedule extracurricular activities accordingly.
- All extra-curricular activities will follow district safety guidelines for Covid-19 and social

FALL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES



Communication amongst parents and teachers is a critical component for the success of our students. Parent/teacher conferences are one of the many opportunities that parents have to collaborate with the teachers to review and modify student success plans. We will be holding our conferences **virtually/remotely** this year through Google Meet. Below is the link you can use to schedule your student's conferences. Please refer to the 9/29 email sent by Mr. Einhorn for complete details.

<https://www.canyoncreeksoftware.com/scheduler/ct/newtown/index.cfm>

FALL CONFERENCES DATES AND TIMES

Wednesday, October 21st (12pm -4pm)
 Thursday, October 22nd (4pm-7pm)
 Friday, October 23rd (12pm-4pm)

NMS will have a 3 hour early dismissal during conference days. Wednesday, 10/21 is still a remote learning day but will follow a 3 hour early dismissal schedule.

PICTURE RETAKE DAY



Picture retakes are scheduled for **Monday, November 9th** and **Friday, November 13th**.

Assistant Principal's Corner (cont'd)

By Jim Ross, Assistant Principal

SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE



Mean Behavior versus Caring Behavior

Safe school climate focuses on the quality of relationships between and among students and adults. We also want to support every student to become an UPSTANDER which is a bystander who actively tries to stop mean behavior in the moment that it is occurring or to help a student who has been the target of mean behavior.

Role playing with your child can also be an effective strategy – even for young adolescents! Please review the following information with your child/children:

What is mean behavior?

When someone says or does something with the intent to make you feel bad or to feel sad

- When someone does something with the intent to hurt you physically.
- When someone does something with the intent to hurt your friendship.

Someone can also hurt you “unintentionally” or “by accident” which is not mean behavior, but it may be due to poor physical or social skills. For example, someone may accidentally trip in the hallway and fall into the person in front of him/her which would not be mean behavior; however, someone may “purposefully” or “on purpose” fall into the person in front of him/her which WOULD be mean behavior and subject to consequences.

Sometimes it's hard to tell if a behavior is unintentional or mean. This is why it is critical for your child to TELL AN ADULT if he/she is unable to solve the problem on his/her own. Here are some tips for problem solving:

What should I do if I witness someone being mean?

- You can say, “Please stop, I don't like what you are doing.”
- You can invite the person who might be getting picked on...
 - ...to walk or talk with you,
 - ...to be your partner, or
 - ...to sit with you at lunch.
- You should tell an adult when someone is being mean because we want everyone to feel safe at school. Telling someone means you are a problem solver; tattling on someone is very different and is mean as described below. Like the saying goes, “If you see something, then say something!” Every school also has an anonymous reporting procedure that students can use anytime. At the middle school, we call it the **iCARE** box located in the main lobby next to the water fountain across from the guidance office.

Assistant Principal's Corner (cont'd)

By Jim Ross, Assistant Principal

Tattling versus Telling...	
Tattling	Telling
The intention is to get someone in trouble.	The intention is to get someone help.
Same as spreading a rumor, gossip, or untrue story about someone in order to create a problem.	Same as being a problem solver.
Is mean behavior 	Is caring behavior 

SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE ANONYMOUS REPORTING PROCEDURE

STUDENTS:

1. May anonymously report acts of bullying to any school employee including teachers, counselors, adult staff members and school administrators.
2. Will be notified annually how to make such anonymous reports in each school Building.
3. Will find language concerning bullying included in codes of conduct.

PARENT/GUARDIAN:

1. May file written reports of suspected bullying to his/her child's safe school climate Specialist.
2. Will be notified by the school through personal communication (ex., phone call, letter) not later than forty-eight hours after the completion of the investigation and invited to meet with school staff if his/her child commits a verified act of bullying in order to communicate to such parents or guardians the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the student against whom such act was directed and to prevent further acts of bullying
3. Will be notified by the school through personal communication (ex., phone call, letter) not later than forty-eight hours after the completion of the investigation and invited to meet with school staff if a verified act of bullying was directed against his/her child in order to communicate to such parents or guardians the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the student against whom such act was directed and to prevent further acts of bullying.

Counseling Office

From the Counseling Office

Welcome back 7th and 8th graders! We are ready for an adventurous year learning new things every day, especially when it comes to hybrid and remote learning. Here are a few tips to help you/your student to be successful in middle school and with remote learning.

1. Write your homework in your planner or electronic calendar every day.
2. Check your calendar when you get home/after school and review all of your Google Classrooms for the directions.
3. Email your teachers or counselor if you need help. Self-advocacy is always respected and admired.
4. Charge your computer/device every night.
5. When you're learning from home, work in a quiet, but public space in your home.
6. Have your schedule out so you know where to go. Keep the bell schedule handy too.
7. Take a break when you classmates in school take their breaks, but be sure to sign into class on time.
8. Ask questions and engage in the lesson.
9. Be sure to eat breakfast and lunch, you need to fuel your body and mind.
10. Last but not least, have a positive attitude and ask for help when you need it. We love to help!

Your Friendly NMS School Counselors,

Mrs Broccolo, Miss Underberger, Miss Connelly/Mrs. Terry and Mrs. Doehr

Student Council News

By: Sue Musco and Shari Oliver



The Student Council Welcomes You to Newtown Middle School!

Welcome students and families to the 2020-2021 school year! Newtown Middle School Student Council works towards making our school community more inclusive and strives to foster a sense of belonging for all students. One of our functions is to plan activities to build community spirit in our school.

At Newtown Middle School we have a new Student Council model that has been successful. We have moved away from the traditional Student Council structural organization (President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer), and instead created a Student Council Board of Directors. As was done in the past, students will volunteer to be representatives for their homeroom and regularly attend the Student Council meetings. Instead of asking students to run for a particular office, they can choose to run for a seat on the Student Council Board of Directors. Students interested in a leadership role will prepare a brief speech, but will only need to share it with their fellow Student Council members during one of the first meetings. After listening to the speeches, Student Council members will vote for their Board of Directors. We have found this new organizational structure to be a more inclusive and inviting way to get students involved.

This year we are facing new challenges and are seeking to overcome them in the best way possible. As a result, we will be meeting virtually to begin the year. Meetings will be held on Monday and the dates will be posted on the NMS website. Information will be forthcoming via announcements and email.

Here is where we need your help! We are asking that you encourage your child(ren) to participate in Student Council this year. Now more than ever, we need our young people to make connections and feel a part of our school community. We would like at least 2 members from each homeroom to join our group. Our first meeting is an informational meeting that will be held on Monday, 10/19/2020.

We are looking forward to welcoming members from last year and hoping to meet many new Student Council members!

Thank you for your support!

We hope you have an incredible start to the year!

Nurse's Office

By: Kim Carino, RN and Andrea Trager, RN

Backpack Basics for Healthier Kids

Used correctly, backpacks can be a good way to carry all the books, supplies and personal items needed for a typical school day. Backpacks are designed to distribute the weight of the load among some of the body's strongest muscles. However, backpacks that are too heavy or carried incorrectly can injure muscles or joints and contribute to back pain or other problems.

The Proper Backpack is:

- No wider than the user's chest
- Worn no higher than the base of the neck
- Worn no lower than 2 to 4 inches below the waist
- Supported by a waist or chest strap
- Made of lightweight material

A Good Backpack has:

- A padded back
- Several compartments
- Side compression strap
- A waist or chest strap
- Reflectors
- Two wide, padded shoulder straps

Nurse's Office

By: Kim Carino, RN and Andrea Trager, RN

How to Use a Backpack

To Wear It:

- Facing the backpack, bend your knees, hold the backpack with both hands, and straighten your knees to lift it to the waist.
- Apply one shoulder strap at a time.
- Be sure to always use both shoulder straps.

Snugly adjust it between your neck and the curve of your lower back using the shoulder straps .

To Load It:

- Keep it light—pack only what it needed for the day.
- Place the heaviest objects so they will be closest to your back.
- Use compartments to distribute the weight and keep things from sliding.
- Hand-carry heavy books to avoid excessive weight in the backpack.
- Clean it out daily.

If a backpack forces the wearer to lean forward, it's overloaded and some items should be removed. Carrying an overloaded backpack can cause discomfort and, over time, lead to back injuries and other problems. If the backpack weighs more than 15% of the carrier's weight, it's too heavy. To determine the proper maximum weight for a backpack, multiply the user's body weight by 0.15. If a heavier load is unavoidable, consider using a backpack with wheels.

Student Based Health Center

School Based Health Center News

What is a school-based health center?



A school-based health center (SBHC) brings the healthcare provider into a school. This helps students avoid health related absences and receive the support they need to succeed in the classroom. SBHCs are staffed by a Nurse Practitioner (Ariel Belek), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (Jennifer Sawyer) and Medical Administrator (Nancy Kettner). They provide assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of medical and behavioral health complaints. Both the SBHC and the nurse's office are in the school building. The SBHC is separate from the health office, but we work collaboratively together to care for your child.

You might want your child to see a provider in the SBHC if...

- they are feeling ill or unwell for example: stomachache, headache, menstrual cramps, ear pain, sore throat, allergies, asthma treatment, rash.
- they need a vaccine
- they have an injury or sprain
- frequent trips to the school nurse or frequent absences from school
- concerns about weight or nutrition
- they are anxious, depressed, feeling stressed, or if you are concerned about them
- they are being bullied or are having difficulty with peer relationships
- if they have exposure to trauma or loss
- if they have Behavior problems
- if they have a history of self-harm or suicidal ideation
- if you are noticing poor academic performance or drastic negative change in academic performance
- if they are having Covid-19 symptoms a telehealth visit can be arranged
- if they need a physical and do not have a PCP
- if you have any concern that you would like them seen for

FAQ's

- If my child is in cohort D or distance learning on off days, can they still use SBHC services? *Yes, services are available via tele health for all students weather they are on distance learning plan or in-school.*
- If my child has a primary care doctor can I still use SBHC services? *Yes, we can send information to your primary care doctor at your request. We are here to work with your child's provider to care for your child.*
- What is the cost? *We provide services at no cost to you. If your child has insurance, it will be billed but you will not be responsible for any co pay. If your child does not have insurance services are offered free of charge.*

How to get started?

Call us at 203-270-6114 or email KettnerN@ct-institute.org we will help you fill out our registration form and schedule your child's first appointment.

Check out the SBHC page on NMS website under the "about NMS" tab.

PTA News



NMS PTA

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! Dear NMS parents, families and friends; Welcome back to returning families and a big WELCOME to our new 7th Grade families. I am so proud and honored to volunteer as your PTA President this year with an amazing and dedicated Executive Board.



The Newtown Middle School PTA is striving to meet the needs of our school, students and staff during this current school year. We believe that a large part of student success is a direct result of a strong relationship between the parent and the school. Participating in and supporting the NMS PTA is a great way to get involved. Involvement can be as simple as joining the PTA through your membership. Your membership also entitles you to a school directory. For your convenience we have attached a copy of our membership form to this Newsletter! We held our first General Meeting on September 23rd via Zoom. It was wonderful to see all of you, although we do prefer to see you in person. Our next General Meeting will be on Wednesday October 28th @ 6:30pm via Zoom. This is a great way to connect with other parents, administrators, teachers and friends. We hope you will join us.



The NMS PTA is currently soliciting advertising for our Directory. If you have a local business or know of someone who may be interested in advertising this year please let us know. This is a great way for you to promote your business across our Newtown Middle School community while supporting education. We offer full and half page ads. Please contact us @newtownmspta@gmail.com if you have any questions!



We are looking forward to our Tile Painting Event @ Ben's Bells Studio on Saturday October 3rd. The NMS will be getting our own Mural this Fall and we need to paint tiles that have been made by our students in February 2020. Our flier is attached to this Newsletter. The NMS PTA is also kicking off our Fall Fundraiser Funds2Orgs Shoe Drive. This is new to our school and a wonderful way to support your PTA. We will be collecting gently used and new shoes from our families and community. These shoes are then kept out of landfills, and donated to developing nations to aid people living in poverty. Our October "Drive-Thru" shoe collection will be Saturday 10/10 2:00-4:00pm and Saturday 10/17 2:00-4:00pm at NMS! Also this October we will be holding our Fall Book Fair (Follett Books) online and it will start Monday October 19th...more details to follow!



On behalf of the entire Executive Board, I would like to thank you in advance for your support. Although this year has started off very different for us all, we wish you a wonderful and productive school year. Don't forget to like our Newtown Middle School PTA Facebook Page for updates and important information!!

Melissa Beylouni — NMS PTA President
 Jennifer Chaudhary — First Vice President
 Monica Kwarcinski — Second Vice President
 Brooke Heinen — Treasurer
 Julia Crisci – Secretary



Newtown Middle School Parent Teacher Association

- **Membership/Directory Form**
- **Annual One-Time Fundraising Appeal**

Welcome back to school! COVID-19 has caused a sea of change in our community, and many of us may be working with some new realities and limitations in the coming year. This also means that the way we normally approach PTA business, events, fundraisers, and programs will need to be adapted. We will be looking into alternatives that better fit our current reality. **The NMS PTA will strive to look for the possibilities within our NEW normal!**

We are asking each family to make a one-time donation of \$25, or whatever you feel comfortable giving, to support the PTA and the programs and support we provide for our students and staff.

You can take your support one step further by joining the NMS PTA. Membership by October 2nd secures your copy of the student directory. Directories are only available to PTA members.

Please use the back side of this form to indicate your contribution and membership preferences. Return this form with your check payable to NMS PTA via backpack mail to the NMS Main Office by October 2nd in order to secure your directory. Your donation and membership help fund our PTA and programs throughout the year. Thank you for your support!

Newtown Middle School PTA Executive Board

Melissa Beylouni, President
Jennifer Chaudhary, First Vice President
Monica Kwarcinski, Second Vice President
Brooke Heinen, Treasurer
Julia Crisci, Secretary

Questions or feedback? Please contact the NMS PTA at newtownmspta@gmail.com.

NMS PTA Membership and Donation Form

Name (1): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name (2): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Student(s): _____

Home Room Teacher(s): _____

NMS PTA Membership and Directory - *Please indicate member name(s) in the section above. Membership is required in order to be eligible to vote during meetings. We welcome members throughout the year; forms must be returned by October 2nd to secure your copy of the student directory. Membership fee is not tax-deductible.*

Circle your choice: Family, Individual, or Staff membership

Family PTA membership (list two names above) \$ **25.00**
Includes 2 adult members & student directory if paid by October 2nd

Individual PTA membership (list one name above) \$ **15.00**
Includes 1 adult member & student directory if paid by October 2nd

Staff PTA membership (list one name above) \$ **6.00**
Student directory not included, unless requested

NMS PTA Donation - *Please consider a one-time donation of \$25 or whatever you feel comfortable giving to defray the cost of annual programs while eliminating the need for fundraisers! Your donation is tax deductible to the PTA as a 501(c)(3) organization; consult your tax advisor for confirmation.*

Suggested one-time PTA Donation \$ 25.00

Other Donation Amount: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed (Membership + Donation)

\$

Please make check payable to NMS PTA – one check combining donation and membership fee is fine.

NMS PTA Volunteer Opportunities

Circle your interests and we will contact you. Thank you for your help!

Teacher/Staff Appreciation

8th Grade Dance (June)

Reflections Arts Program

NMS PTA Needs Your Help

We are asking NMS families to join
the PTA and help paint tiles for
NMS Ben's Bells Mural

Only 30 minutes



Fun & Easy

Our goal is to install the mural at NMS by the end of October. We have 250 tiles to paint in order to make this happen. This activity is easy and fun!

Saturday, October 3, 2020



10 AM – 4 PM

Ben's Bells Studio



32 Stony Hill Road, Bethel, CT

Click the link below and sign-up for a 30-minute slot

[Mural Tile Sign-up](#)

This is not a drop off event. Parents are required to stay. Masks required.

Misc. News



Lions Library
NEWTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lions' Library NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020

“Brave New World”

Welcome back to school. As we begin this school year, the Lions' Library will be operating differently for the foreseeable future. The library is closed to student browsing. However, students can access library books and materials through “curbside” ordering, pickup, and returning library materials. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the library's website and see all that is offered.



Struggling financially to make ends meet?
Struggling on a regular basis to get enough food for your child when they are not at school?
There are helpful resources available to help you have enough food for your child.

For further information, please contact:
Christen Cowden
Newtown Middle School Social Worker
(203) 270-6188
cowdenc@newtown.k12.ct.us

SOCKTOBER

Small socks.

Big socks.

Even in between socks.

Orange socks.

Blue socks.

As long as they are

new socks.



Socks are the most requested clothing item in homeless shelters. With colder temperatures here, there is a growing need for **NEW** socks in shelters.

For the entire month of October, please donate socks by putting them in your homeroom teacher's bags located in your cafeteria area.

If you would rather send in a monetary contribution, we will gladly purchase the socks on your behalf. Please send cash or check (payable to NMS) in an envelope marked with your name and homeroom prior to October 30th.

Envelopes can be dropped off in the C-Wing or Guidance office.

The homeroom with the highest number of total socks collected will be in for a real treat!

Dates to Remember

Look for details in the Lion's Roar or on the NMS website <http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/nms/cal/>

October

October 2nd
Staff Development
2 Hour Delay

October 12th
Columbus Day
Full Day for students

October 21st-23rd
Student Conferences
Early Release Day
11:32PM

October 30th
School Spirit Wear Day



November

November 3rd
Election Day
No school for students

November 9th
Picture Retake 1

November 11th
Veteran's Day
Full Day for students

November 13th
Picture Retake 2

November 25th
Thanksgiving break
3 Hour Early Dismissal

November 26th-27th
Thanksgiving break
No school for students



