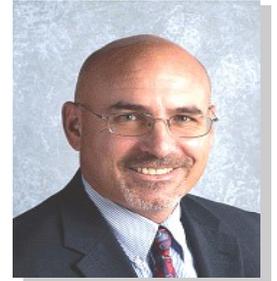




**Special Points of Interest:**

- ❖ 8th Grade Student News—Page 3-4
- ❖ Career Presentations; Volunteers Needed—Page 5
- ❖ Artsonia—Page 12



## Principal's Corner

*A message from Thomas Einhorn, Principal, Newtown Middle School*

NEW TOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

# The Lion's Roar

I hope all is well with you and your family. We continue to be incredibly proud of our NMS Students and Staff. These are certainly challenging times and we are impressed with the efforts put forth by our students, keep up the great work.

This year our Veteran's Day Celebration was different than in years past but it was still a special event. We invited our community to share with us photos and Military Service information of loved ones that serve/served our country so honorably. We were humbled by more than 40 veterans photos that are displayed in the hallway outside of our Library Media Center. A special thank you to Andrew San Angelo for organizing the event, and creating a poignant slide show that was shared with our NMS community. We continue to thank our brave local heroes for their service.

During the months of November & December, there are many events that have/will

allow our school to give back to the community. These events include, but are certainly not limited to Food Drives and Clothing Drives and daily kindness messages to staff and students. Kindness comes in many different packages and we always encourage our school community to share in any way we can.

As a reminder, we encourage you and your students to visit our school [website](#) as it has many resources that may be of interest to you. Please also know if we can be of any assistance, you need only contact us.

Best wishes for a restful December break and all the best for the New Year.

Tom Einhorn  
Principal



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# Assistant Principal's Corner

By James Ross, Assistant Principal

## Assistant Principal's Message

By Jim Ross, Assistant Principal

### NMS - Second Step SEL Program

For the months of December & January students will have the opportunity to participate in lessons on bullying and harassment. NMS staff will provide a rich discussion with our students addressing the topics below.

#### Bullying and Harassment

Understanding the various roles of incidents of bullying can help students prevent or avoid these situations. Students will learn specific strategies on how to respond to mean behaviors and identify trusted adults that can assist when these incidents occur.

#### **7th Grade Lessons:**

1. What is Harassment?
2. What is Sexual Harassment?
3. The Effects of Sexual Harassment
4. Gender-Based Harassment
5. Our Rights and Responsibilities
6. Preventing Harassment

#### **8th Grade Lessons:**

1. Understanding Bullying
2. Social Factors that Contribute to Bullying
3. Environmental Factors that Contribute to Bullying
4. Speak Up and Start a Movement
5. Be Inclusive and Change Policies
6. Stand Up for Change!

#### Dates to Know

	Date	Classes Rotating
Semester 1	Ends 1/20/22	Project Adventure & Cooking Science
Quarter 2	Ends 1/20/22	
Trimester 2	Begins 11/30/21	Computer Integration, Health & Tech Ed

**Note:** Dates subject to change due to school closings.

# Counseling Office News



## Attention All 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Parents of 8<sup>th</sup> Graders!

The fall and winter are very exciting times for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. It's a time to be on the look-out for special announcements and deadlines pertaining to your youth's high school plans. All students will have an opportunity to learn more about Magnet High Schools and the opportunities available to them.

Here are a few tidbits to keep in mind as we transition into high school planning:

### Henry Abbott Technical High School

- The new electronic application is available and can be found [here](#). Applications must be submitted online.
- For the Class of 2026, the "Priority Deadline" for 8th grade students to have the best chance for being offered an initial acceptance is **December 15, 2021**.

### Regional Center for the Arts (RCA)

- The electronic application is available and can be found on the [RCA Website](#)
- Another **Open House and Tour** will be offered on **February 10, 2022**
- RCA has Early Action Priority enrollment as well as General Enrollment. The Early Action Priority deadline is **January 8, 2022**

# Counseling Office News

## Educational Center for the Arts (ECA)

- The electronic application is available and can be found on the [ECA Website](#)
- The application must be completed by **February 11, 2022**. See the application for additional information on what is required for each focus

## Shepaug Agriscience

- Shepaug Valley School 8th Grade Parent Night - TBD
- To learn more about Shepaug, click [here](#)
- **Application Deadline: January 7, 2022.** The application is posted on the website.
- Students may type their application but must print it when it is completed and **give it to their school counselor**. The application **cannot** be submitted digitally. Your child's school counselor will send the completed application to Shepaug.
- Click [here](#) to see a breakdown of counselor and student application responsibilities

\*Please keep in mind that when you are applying to private, performing arts, agriscience, or technical high schools there are forms and application materials that must be processed through the School Counseling office 2 weeks prior to the application deadline. This form can be found in the **8th grade School Counseling Google Classroom**. Please have your child stop by the counseling office for more information or contact our office at (203) 426-7644.

# Counseling Office News



## Calling All Parent Volunteers: Career Presentations

We are well underway with the school year and Miss Underberger and I are in the process of revamping our career exploration activities here at Newtown Middle School. In the past, we were able to create a unique and exciting Career Day, but for health and safety reasons we are unable to conduct Career Day in the same manner. We are currently exploring new ways to educate our students about future plans and careers. For this reason, we are seeking parent volunteers who would consider sharing their career path, skills and abilities needed for their career and the educational background required. Volunteers would present either in person or virtually to a small group during their lunch/Learning Lab block for two 30 minute sessions. The timeframe would be approximately 11:35am-12:05pm and 12:10pm-12:35pm on the day selected.

These sessions provide our students with direct and meaningful information as they begin considering their future plans and what electives they would like to take in high school. Presenters are asked to share information as well as a demonstration or experiential learning that would enhance students' engagement and curiosity about the field. Current student feedback suggests high interest in the following fields:

- Medical (doctor, nurse, PT/OT, sports medicine, EMT)
- Animal Science/Service
- Engineering
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Sports - athletics, sport announcing, coaching, training
- Entrepreneurship - small business owners
- Architecture/Design
- Construction
- Law Enforcement and Lawyers
- Political Science

All fields are welcome and appreciated and we cannot wait to hear from you. We are disseminating information to your student via the School Counseling Google Classroom. Thank you for considering this valuable opportunity for our 8th graders.

Sincerely,  
Marisa Underberger and Tanya Hague-Doehr  
School Counselors

# PAWS

DEC 1ST - DEC 23

PLEASE

DONATE:

- Wet & dry dog and cat food

- Paper towels

- Bleach (no perfume)

- Poop bags

- Laundry detergent

- Large rawhide chews

- Nylabone chews

- Pill pockets

- Garbage bags

- Tooth brushes

- Kitty litter (clay, non-clumping)

- Hand soap & sanitizer

- Dog toys

- Small litter pans (basic rectangular)

- Leashes (no chains)

- Blankets (w/o filling)

- Pillow cases

- Small blankets

- Gift cards





# **Fitness Club**

## **B-Wing Gymnasium**



**What:** An opportunity for students to participate in physical activity and fitness.

**When:** Tuesday & Thursday, 2:45 - 3:45 P.M. begins Tuesday December 14<sup>th</sup> and ends Thursday February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Why:** The latest research is showing that for your brain to function at its peak, your body needs to move. Aerobic exercise and fitness activities prepare your brain to learn. Physical activity improves mood and attention, lowers stress and anxiety and helps you to learn better!

**Where:** N.M.S. B-Gym

**Activities Include:** weight lifting, treadmill, elliptical machines, bikes, basketball, handball, four square and more!

**\*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 or any P.E. Teacher.**

# **Fitness Club**

## ***Intramural Program Permission Slip***

Newtown Middle School is offering students an opportunity to participate in physical activity at the end of the school day. Research shows that increased physical activity can lead to improved academic performance.

Please sign below to give your child permission to participate in our Fitness Club Intramural Program. The program runs every Tuesday and Thursday from December 14<sup>th</sup> to February 24<sup>th</sup>. The hours are from 2:45-7:45 and the program is located in the B-wing gymnasium.

My child \_\_\_\_\_ has permission to participate in the Fitness Club Intramural Program.

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

***I am looking forward to having your child participate in this great program!***

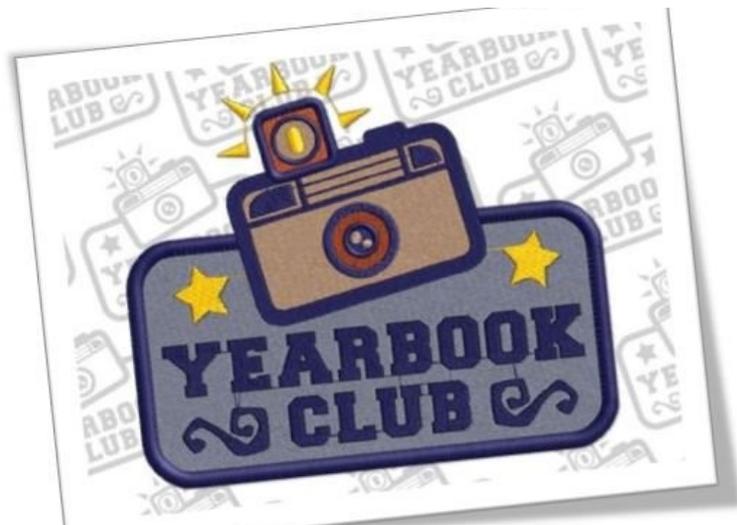
***Michelle Fontaine, M.S.  
Physical Education Teacher  
Newtown Middle School***

## **YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE NOW!**

**Yearbooks are on sale for just \$38.00! Click [THIS LINK](#) to go directly to our Josten's page, enter your information, and you're done! You can also call 877-767-5217 during regular business hours. Please be sure all information is complete and accurate [your child's homeroom teacher is especially important!], and that you save your confirmation email. If you have any questions, please email Miss Lang - [langs@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:langs@newtown.k12.ct.us).**

### **YEARBOOK CLUB MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER**

**The Yearbook Club will meet on December 8 and December 22 until 3:30. Please be sure to arrange a ride home.**



## Food and Drink Donations Needed for Staff Holiday Celebration

We will thank our wonderful NMS staff with a  
Holiday Appetizer and Dessert Buffet  
Tuesday, December 21st, 2021

Please sign up to contribute at

<https://www.perfectpotluck.com/ANGM5641>

Goodies should be dropped off by 9:30AM on December 21st at the front door security station. Non-perishable items that don't need to be refrigerated can also be brought in the day before until 3:30PM.

Please label any serving dishes you would like returned, and then plan to pick them up after the event in the main lobby. Details can be found in the Perfect Potluck link above.

Thank you for helping us show our gratitude to our staff!

~NMS PTA





**The Lions Library is  
challenging students to...  
“Read Different”**

Step out of your reading comfort zone!  
Try a different genre, setting or author than you usually read.

December's Theme:

## Mystery

Stop by the Lions Library to browse our collection of mystery books on display.

Need a great book suggestion? Talk to us about how YOU can read differently in the coming months.

## READING CHALLENGE



**"Read" with your ears...**

Listen to audiobooks anywhere, anytime with Sora, the student reading app.

Listen before the bell rings and after the bell rings.

Go to sleep with audiobooks.

Or listen to audiobooks anytime.

**Sora**  
The student reading app

### Don't Forget Audiobooks!

Thanks to the Sora reading app, students can read anytime, anywhere. Each day more and more students are trying audiobooks.

Lions Library is pleased to have more than 200 audiobooks available for listening.

Check one out today!

The logo for Artsonia, featuring the word "artsonia" in a lowercase, rounded font. Each letter is a different color: 'a' is red, 'r' is orange, 't' is green, 's' is blue, 'o' is purple, 'n' is pink, and 'i' is light blue. The letters are slightly shadowed and have a hand-drawn feel. Below the text is a thin, dark horizontal line.

artsonia

Did you know you can turn your child's artwork into a unique custom gift on Artsonia?

The holidays are right around the corner, so don't forget to check out the Giftshop feature on their website ([www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com)). You can use the artwork they have uploaded, or add your own.

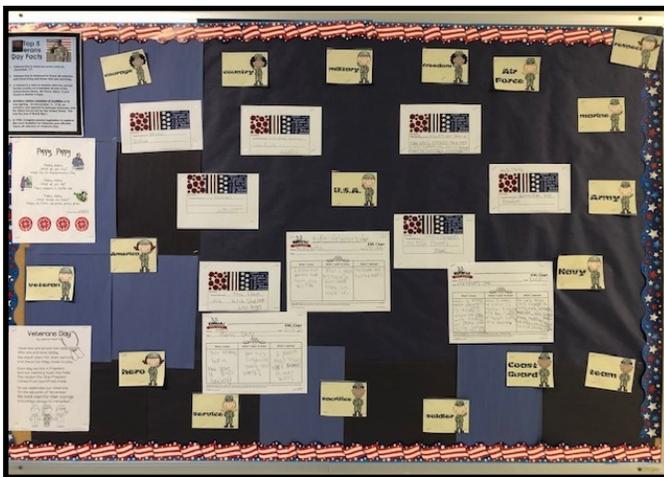
20% of your purchase comes directly back to the NMS Art Department, so we can continue to purchase supplies to use with your student(s) in class.

# RISE

*Kerry Begin, RISE Teacher*



The RISE class has been super busy trotting and clucking along this month. The students began the month learning about election day and how to vote. They went into Veteran's day, displaying and honoring how thankful they are for their Veterans and their services to our country. The entire month was dedicated to learning all about their backgrounds, heritages, and where they came from to get ready for Thanksgiving and in order to learn about the true First Thanksgiving with the truths and myths behind the day we celebrate. The students took the time to share their families traditions and favorite dishes and recipes. The students continue their community outings working on their shopping and money skills in order to brew up their Friendship soup for their Friendsgiving feast. We move into December looking forward to learning about the different Holidays around the world, and having our own Holiday outing.

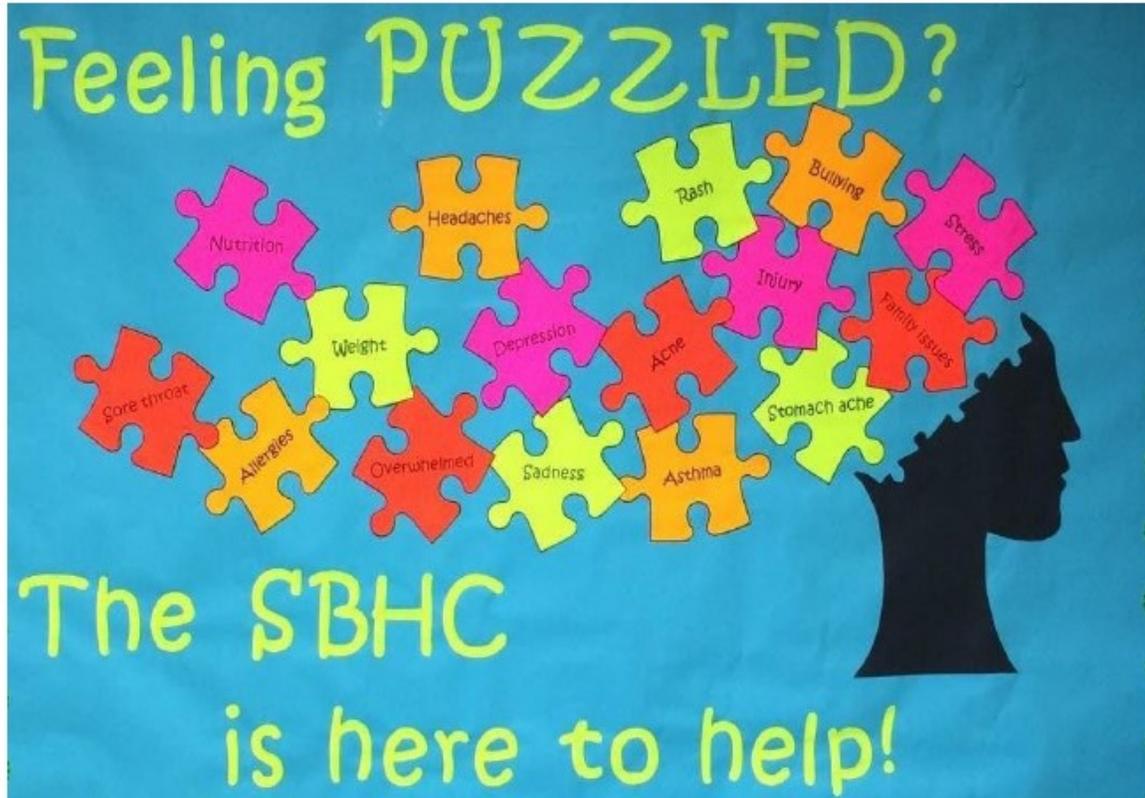


Honoring our Veterans

Thanksgiving activities



# School Based Health Center



*The School Based Health Center Staff wishes you a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!*

**Jennifer Sawyer, LCSW and Ariel Belek, APRN**

**Nancy Kettner, MA**

203-270-6114 [kettner@CT-Institute.org](mailto:kettner@CT-Institute.org)

<https://nms.newtown.k12.ct.us/SchoolBasedHealthCenter>



## Lost and Found

Is your student missing a lunch box, sweatshirt, sneakers, books, etc.? Please have them check the back of the cafeteria. Items that have not been claimed by the Christmas break will be donated.

# Winterfest Door Decorating Contest

***Ready for winter? Let's make the hallways of NMS festive this December!***

***NMS is having a door decorating contest!***

***All students and staff members are encouraged to enter a decorated door. You will be supplied a 3'x7' piece of white paper to use your imagination and creativity to create a winter themed door. There will be 4 workshops held after school next week until 3:30 to give you time to create your door. You must use your own supplies/decorations and arrange a ride home. Or pick up a door to take home and decorate. All entries must be received by Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be prizes awarded to the top 3 doors.***

# Dates to Remember

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

## December

**December 23rd**  
3 hr. Early Dismissal

**December 24th-December 31st**  
No School  
Holiday Recess



## January

**January 3rd**  
Students return to school

**January 14th**  
3 hr. Early Dismissal

**January 17th**  
No School  
Martin Luther King Day

