

Newton Public Schools

57 Trinity Street ♦ Newton, NJ 07860-1831

973-383-7392 phone ♦ 973-383-5378 fax

www.newtonnj.org

Dr. G. Kennedy Greene
Superintendent

Dr. Alfred Savio
Business Administrator

Principals' Reports

Newton High School - Jeff Waldron

Provide regular opportunities for teacher collaboration

- The scheduling committee has recommended that we increase the club schedule time from 25 to 60 minutes as a means to create teacher collaborative time. As a result, we will reduce the number of club days scheduled throughout the year (currently 24). For those who are unaware, we run what we call a "club period" that is a 25 minute block of time we insert into our regular day for a variety of reasons. To maintain a seven hour school day, we reduce the time of the other nine periods. I shared the recommendation with the high school staff yesterday and received insightful feedback that will be considered when building next year's schedule.
- Our plan is to run two such meetings per month. During those meetings, certain staff will be assigned to collaboration time while others will be working with students. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities we currently manage through the club schedule (standardized test gridding, club meetings, assemblies, extra help with teachers not assigned to collaboration, etc.).

Implement a research based academic intervention system to support at risk students

- We piloted an academic support system based on the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports model. Our results were encouraging with significantly less failing grades recorded in MP's 1-3 than were recorded during the same time period in past years. Please refer to previous reports for specific data. Our administrative and guidance teams worked together to implement the program this year. Moving forward, our plan is to combine three support programs to streamline services. Next year, we plan to implement our tiered support system in conjunction with our I&RS and 504 programs.

Other School News

- You may recall from the March board meeting at NHS, I outlined plans to address growing student mental wellness needs. As part of that initiative, we will be designating a classroom (perhaps room B1) as a Wellness Room beginning in September 2019. The Wellness Room will be a place for group and individual counseling meetings. In addition, classes will be able to use the room as an instructional space when working on collaborative projects.
- As you know, we have been focused on increasing the number of students engaged in concurrent course offerings. Concurrent courses allow students to earn college credits while taking courses here being taught by our teachers. Next year we will expand our concurrent course offerings to 19. On May 21st, Michelle Herring (in charge of concurrent courses) hosted our first annual parent presentation designed to explain how students can earn college credits while in high school. About 50 attendees learned about concurrent and dual course offerings as well as the Jump Start program at SCCC. Michelle's efforts have paid off in that our enrollment has increased from 46 students in 2018-19 to 129 students projected for 2019-20. Please follow the link to [specific courses and projected enrollment](#).
- Thank you to Jenn Coffey, Erin Marmara, and Alexa Cuzzo for planning our centennial yearbook celebration and thanks to Ray for attending. About 40 guests joined us in the library for a trip back into NHS history. We had all 100 yearbooks on display (except for the 1953 edition) with student representatives turning the pages for interested guests. Special guest Jennie Switzer (pictured below) NHS class of 1935 was the star of the show. Jennie recently celebrated her 102 birthday and we have

determined (unofficially) she is the oldest living NHS graduate.



Merriam Avenue School - Kevin Stanton

- We continue to investigate assessment platforms that will assist teachers in developing high quality, standards based assessments.
- Staff participated with me in a follow-up meeting with PowerSchool representatives to review Performance Matters, a data management site that is able to collect and analyze student assessment data. The site allows teachers and administrators to analyze student test, demographic and other data. Standards-aligned assessments can be constructed, archived, and edited on the site, and reports of individual student assessment results as well as school-wide results can be produced.
- The roll-out of the Eureka math program is continuing. Use of Eureka Math materials and learning sequences is expanding from ten classrooms to fifteen classrooms next school year.
- The i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment for Language Arts and Math will be used in all classes from first grade through fourth grade next year.
- Professional Development regarding the i-Ready assessment and learning tools and Eureka Math are scheduled for early next school year.
- New Jersey Student Learning Assessment testing is complete.
- Fourth grade students are continuing to learn and improve their swimming skills every Friday at the YMCA.
- The fourth grade concert was on May 21st.
- On May 30th, second grade students met their second grade pen pals from the Lopatcong schools. They met to share their letters and have a picnic.
- The fourth grade Bon Voyage is scheduled for June 7th.
- The fourth grade Move Up & Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, June 14 at 11:00am in the gym.

Halsted Middle School - Kristi Greene

Increase student achievement in English Language Arts and Math as shown by lexile/quantile growth.

- Specific Targets: Students with disabilities and students who meet the requirements to receive ELA/Math support/ intervention, and students at risk of failure.
- Progress: Week of May 6th - Professional Development/Block Daily Agenda Rollout

Implement research-based behavioral and social-emotional multi-tiered interventions to improve climate and culture and increase academic achievement.

- Specific Targets: Implement Tier II and Tier III behavioral interventions
 - Private individual counseling continues for students, made possible with funding from Thorlabs
 - Meeting with Lakeside Counseling to discuss the following: individual counseling; group counseling; and schoolwide diagnostic assessment
- Progress:

- May's focus is our Halsted 5 pillars (respect, responsibility, pride, prepared and listening). The grade level with the most Halsted 5 tickets will earn an additional recess.
 - Week 1 Winner - 6th Grade
 - Week 2 Winner - 6th Grade
 - Week 3 Winner - 7th Grade
- During teacher appreciation week, students provided staff with recognition/appreciation tickets
- May 23 - Universal Team Meeting with Sharon Lohrmann: planning for June 7th Halsted Games; changes for next year

Other News

- Dorney Park/High Notes Festival
 - Jazz Band & Choral received superior ratings
 - Symphonic Band received excellent ratings
- 8 students completed the Safe Sitter Course offered after school by Newton Medical Center

Directors' Reports

Facilities Services - Joe Van Kirk

- The district radio repeater project was completed on 5/14, and new radios were distributed to all four schools.
- The fire alarm wire was installed on 6/7 in the Halsted nurse's office. There is a small abatement job to remove pipe installation to continue the plumbing for the office work, scheduled for 6/11. I met with the town inspectors for the rough inspection on electrical and framing.
- Attended pre-bid meeting for security upgrades at Halsted
- Attended pre-construction meeting for masonry and column repairs at the high school. Contractor to start project week of 6/10.
- Met with contractor to get pricing on installing flooring and air conditioning in the playroom between cabins 1 and 2 at Camp Auxilium.
- On 5/31 I attended Integrated Pest Management Coordinator Training at Warren Tech.

Preschool & Special Education - Jennifer Pasquali

- Total CST students
 - PSD: 35
 - MAS: 92
 - HMS: 72
 - NHS: 96
 - OOD: 15
- Students currently being evaluated
 - PSD: 1
 - MAS: 1
 - HMS: 2
 - NHS: 0
- Special education students moved into or out of the district:
 - MAS: 0 In, 0 Out
 - HMS: 1 In, 1 Out
 - NHS: 0 In, 2 Out
 - OOD: 0 In, 0 Out
- Homeless: There are a total of 35 homeless students; 12 of the students are Newton residents; 1 student is at East Mt. School, 1 is attending their home district, 1 is at First Impressions and the rest are attending Newton Schools.
- Preschool: We currently have 42 GE preschoolers on our roster for the 2019-20 school year with 6 spots remaining. First Impressions has 15 students enrolled for next year. A preschool "move up" celebration was held on June 10th ([off to Kindergarten](#)). Little Sprouts Preschool at PSS has indicated they are on

board with partnering with us, pending their board approval of contract. A special thanks goes out to Ray Morris for the wonderful donation of preschool big books and materials ([thank you for the Big Books](#)).

- High School MD: The end of year has been a busy time for the students in the MD program. Students enjoyed a Miners game at Skylands Stadium on May 22, the Unified Track meet, and the annual Swartswood State Park picnic. Students and staff attended the Newton Police annual Special Olympic Torch run on June 7. ([Group Photo](#)) ([Keeping up with the Crowd](#))
- ESY programs will run in all three buildings (PSD, LLD, and MD Programs) Monday through Thursday from July 1st through August 1st.
- New Program: Halsted will be implementing a Behavior Disabilities Program.

Security & Character Education - Samantha Castro

Merriam

- Pride Ambassadors have been working on their community projects. Through our connection with SnapEd, we have been focusing on making healthier food choices and learning about planting fresh produce.
- All grade levels are finished with classroom guidance lessons. We focused on mindfulness and relaxation techniques. Our Tier II small counseling groups and Tier III individual counseling sessions will be ending for the year.
- Field Day was a success on May 31th. The event included a whole school dance party with the DJ
- Fourth grade has been participating in their swim program at the Sussex YMCA. This 5 week program teaches the students the importance of swim safety and provide basic swim instruction.
- The EMS/First Aid Squad will be coming in on June 13th for a presentation and demonstration for all grade levels. Students will learn about first aid safety and have a tour of an ambulance.

High School

- Mrs. Fusco and others fundraised for Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. On June 7th the whole group took off from the Newton Green to run the 7.5 mile event, with Mrs. Fusco's students holding the Olympic torch.
- Several Peer Leaders assisted Mrs. Waldron at the Merriam Field Day on May 31st.
- Peer Leaders and Peer Mentors met on May 29th to write postcards to the incoming 8th grade students.
- The guidance department is preparing for the annual Senior Awards on June 13th.
- Noelle Casperson and Joe Lotruglio are the new student representatives of the NHS SSCT for the 2019-2010 school year.
- Dr. Castro attended a seminar, "Don't Get Vaped In" presented by David Nash and Tina Aue. The event discussed policy and on-line behavior modification plans.
- In August, Dr. Castro will attend NJDOE School Safety Specialist training.

Halsted

- On June 11th we celebrated the graduating class of 2019 with their parents by hosting the Eighth Grade Awards Presentation.
- On June 4th, we opened our doors to the current 4th graders. The students had a fun filled day getting to meet the teachers they will have next year as well as getting to know their way around Halsted.
- In order to create a seamless transition the guidance department of Halsted and the High School held several meetings.
- The entire student body as well as the staff participated in the annual end of the year celebration known as "Halsted Games" on June 7th.
- We hosted the Altitude Rally Day on June 5th, which focused on celebrating the achievements of the year and to plan for new and exciting events next school year.

Information Services - Mary Decker

- Data Submissions due:
 - June 30 - NJSMART submissions for the month are SID and SMID management.
 - August 1 - CTE, Course, Staff, Student and Evaluation, School Register Summary

- Staff laptops are being collected for summer maintenance. Desktops are being removed from classrooms as they are obsolete and no longer supported by Microsoft.
- As the third year of the 1:1 chromebook rollout concludes, 194 work orders were generated compared to 76 last year with 2 fewer grades having chromebooks last year. Power issues and cracked screens were the vast majority of issues.
- Jim Hofmann and Mary Decker have met with Freeholder Petrillo about increasing bandwidth for residents of Newton. Senator Oroho, along with Congressman Gottheimer, have also agreed that Sussex County residents deserve better access to the internet and have resolved to make this a priority.
- Planet Networks will be taking over from Affinity Networks as our internet provider starting July 1. Affinity is no longer doing business in NJ. Planet Networks will be doubling our speed for the same price we are currently paying Affinity.
- The new RFP phone system is scheduled to be installed on June 19. RFP will have representatives here to train staff on this day and again in September.
- Atlantic Office has installed fax cards in selected copy machines. This will enable us to remove fax machines and use the copiers to send fax messages.

Assessment & Bilingual Education - Kenney Lutz

Assessment

- The NJSLA State Assessment has been completed with no issues to report. The testing committee did an excellent job in following all guidelines and making sure all the students had what they needed to make this year a complete success. All materials have been returned on time and we are awaiting the scores to see how our students performed.

Bilingual Education

- We have completed the state bilingual waiver. This waiver provides us the opportunity to continue to offer both an ESL program and a high intensity ESL program to our student population in addition to offering small group instruction, such as reading and math intervention. Also, the scores for the Access Tests will be made available to our district early next week. We will be able to see how our bilingual population performed on this assessment. An update will follow once the data has been reviewed.

Athletics & Student Activities - Ryan Hashway

- Best Buds Club had its second successful season competing in the Unified Track Meet. Ms. Fusco, with the assistance of Ms. Brunelle, organized the unified track team and attended the meet at Jefferson.
- The athletic program piloted an end-of-season student-athlete survey in two of its programs. The information obtained by the survey is intended to act as a reflection tool for the coaches and serve as a student-wellness check.
- After a slow start to the season due to injuries and inexperience, the Baseball team fought back to qualify for the state tournament. They earned a home game in the first round and recorded an exciting win against a local foe. Their season ended against the top twenty Pascack Hills team in the second round.
- Aurora yearbook celebrated its 100th publication.
- Peer Leaders wrote postcards to all the incoming freshmen this past week.
- Peer Leaders were a big help to Mrs. Waldron as they assisted with the Merriam Avenue School field day on May 31st.
- Peer Leaders assisted the guidance department in planning Senior Awards Night on June 13.
- High school football players will be assisting several coaches with a free youth football clinic on June 8th.
- Over the past two months, there were four FBLA members invited to the National Competition in San Antonio in July. These students placed highly enough in the NJ state level competition in March to be eligible.
- Boys and Girls Track had five athletes qualify for the Group II state championship.
- Girls Track had two qualifiers for the NJSIAA Meet of Champions.
- Newton spring sports had twenty-seven athletes named first team all-league, seventeen named second team all-conference, and twenty-six named academic all-conference by maintaining a 3.5 GPA.
- Spring Sports:

- o Baseball – 8-12
- o Softball – 7-10
- o Girls Track – 5-0 /League Champions
- o Boys Track – 1-4
- o Boys Tennis – 2-11
- o Boys Lacrosse – 1-13
- o Golf – 12-4 /League Champions

Curriculum & Professional Development - Angela Dunbar

Professional Development

- Dyslexia training is 100% complete

Curriculum

Goal: Develop curriculum that strengthens student-centered learning to increase student achievement.

- On June 18th three curriculum leadership members will meet with the director of curriculum. The tentative agenda is listed below:
 - o Feedback regarding the roll out and completion of Phase II
 - o How to identify and address curriculum gaps
 - o Training on Atlas reporting features
 - o Provide input for the Phase III roll out plan
- High School
 - Teachers and the curriculum leadership members have updated Phase II of their curriculum.
 - June curriculum writing: Dance*, Science, Social Studies
- Halsted
 - Phase II is complete for all content areas with the exception of Art as the curriculum is being revised.
 - June curriculum writing: Dance and Theater*, Financial Literacy
- Merriam
 - The principal is leading the work with teachers on the completion of Phase II for all content areas
 - June curriculum writing: Dance and Theater*

*NJDOE requires a curriculum for these courses even though they are not being offered

C2C - Elysia Ochs

Goals

- To provide high-quality education and enrichment programs that will enable students to improve academic achievement and promote positive behavior and appropriate social interaction with peers and adults.
- To establish collaborative relationships that offer opportunities for literacy and related educational activities to the families of participating students.
- To measure participants' progress and program effectiveness through monitoring and evaluating.

Enrollment and Attendance

- Merriam: 140 students registered, average daily attendance = 130
- Halsted: 227 students registered, average daily attendance = 101
- Total Level of Service: 231

Community

- 35 parents came to our End of the Year Barbeque on June 4th. [Photos from the Day](#)
- Registration for C2C Summer Enrichment is open. There are currently just over 60 students enrolled. All eligible families received the registration in the mail. Both Merriam and Halsted have registration forms in their respective main offices. Parents and guardians can also at our website.
 - o Summer field trips that are confirmed: July 17th the Bronx Zoo in Partnership with the Newton Recreation Department; July 29th [NJ Sea Grant Consortium at Sandy Hook](#)