



Norwalk High School

Fact Finder

Newsletter for Parents



23 Calvin Murphy Dr., Norwalk, CT 06851
 Phone: (203) 838-4481 Fax: (203) 899-2815

February 2012

From the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,



May this New Year bring you as much hope, joy and excitement as the first half of this year has brought me...State Field Hockey finals, State semifinals in Football and Boys Soccer, impressive results from our Girls Swimming Team and with quite a few individual coaches and athletes garnering All FCIAC and All-State recognition. Yes, it has been great.

What is the end of the year without a few words about Candlelight? If anyone needs to see evidence of mastery teaching, they should just view Candlelight, where 70 students play in the pit, while over 300 students move on and off the stage seamlessly and perform at such high performance levels. Placing talented, hard-working students in the hands of good teachers is a formula for wonderful things to happen. It is also a treat to see so many alumnae return to see the show. It is truly a special event; one I have been proud to view the past five years.

On the academic front, I should remind you that the scheduling process for the 2012 – 2013 school year begins soon. The individualized, formal scheduling process will not begin with guidance counselors and students until February, but you may view the *Guide to Subject Offerings*, on the Norwalk Public School District and NHS websites. During the last week of January, the formal scheduling process begins with class meetings. Much more is to follow.

Meanwhile, I thank you for your support and encourage you to continue being involved in the lives of your children.

Lenny Mecca

February 2012 Calendar*

Thurs. 2		Universal Tech. Inst. visiting the Career Center
Fri. 3	12:45pm	AP Registration Ends Completely
	7:30pm	Senior Class Talent Show—Auditorium
Sat. 4		Open Guard performs at Brookfield MAC competition.
Mon. 6		Report Cards distributed
Tues. 7	7:00pm	Play College Sports: The Key to Being Recruited—Cafeteria
Wed. 8	6:30pm	Hispanic Parent Group Mtg.—Library
Thurs. 9	6:00pm	The Art Institute visiting the Career Center
	7:00pm	Ms. Foster/Parent Meeting for Spain Trip—Library
	7:00pm	PGP Meeting—Library
Sat. 11		Open Guard at WGI regional competition in Trumbull
	9:00am	MBI Can & Bottle Drive—Andrews Field till 1:00pm
Mon. 13	6:30pm	AP Night Cafeteria —Snow date
	7:00pm	PNHS Meeting—Library
Tues. 14		Eastside Band Festival at N.H.S.
Wed. 15		Eastside Orchestra Festival at N.H.S.
Fri. 17		No School—Winter Recess
Mon. 20		No School—Winter Recess
Tues. 21		No School—Winter Recess
Wed. 22	7:00pm	African American Parent Outreach Meeting—Career Center
Feb. 24		Brien McMahon Jazz Festival
Feb. 25		Open Guard competes at Bethel MAC show
Sun. 26	12:45pm	Norwalk Girl Scouts – Gymnasium until 4:15pm
Tues. 28	2:15pm	Pizza Sale
	7:00pm	Fathers Club Meeting—Library

*Calendar dates are subject to change, please check the weekly email for the most up-to-date information.

Guidance Department

SAT Information

Juniors should consider taking the SAT in May and SAT Subject Test in June. Some sophomores should also consider taking the SAT Subject Test in June. Please contact the appropriate counselor to discuss standardized testing.

SAT I, II Test Dates	Regular Reg. Fee (\$49)	Late Reg. Fee (\$49 + \$26)
March 10	Feb. 10	Feb. 24
May 5 (NHS)	April 6	April 20
May 8	May 22	June 2 (BMHS)

Online registration for SAT Programs is available at: www.collegeboard.com. Paper/mail-in registration materials are free and can be picked up in the Career Center, Room 209C. Registration must be completed by the deadline and sent/mailed to the College Board. The NHS Code is 070580 and the NHS Test Center Code is 07-460. On Test Day, please be sure to bring the proper picture I.D., Admission Ticket, calculator, and #2 pencils.

PSAT Review

During the week of December 19, the Guidance Department met with sophomores and juniors in a Developmental Guidance Lesson to return to PSATs and interpret the test results with students. Students were given a paper copy of their PSAT results and on that sheet is an access code for College Board's My College Quick Start, a helpful tool to prepare for their college search.

2012 AP Exam Registration Process

The 2012 AP exams will be administered from Monday, May 7, through Friday, May 18. Students must register online using a customized NHS form; there will be no paper forms. NHS will have our own web address for AP registrants that will be accessible through the school website. The three-week registration period is Monday, January 9, beginning at 7:30a.m. through Friday, January 27, ending at 12:45p.m. The extended registration period will last one week past the regular deadline from Friday, January 27, beginning at 12:46 p.m., through Friday, February 3, ending at 12:45p.m. During the extended registration period a \$5, late fee per exam will be incurred. **It is imperative that students adhere to these deadlines as they will be locked out from the registration page after the time limit has passed.** There will be no exceptions.

Although students must register online, they must

pay in person during any of the three lunch shifts. There is no longer an option to pay online with a credit card. Once students have registered, they must bring a printed copy of their registration confirmation to Ms. Chelsey Docimo in A-House during the time of registration. One check or a money order should be made payable to NHS and the student's name should be written on the check or money order. Cash will also be accepted. College Board's administration fee for 2012 is \$87 per exam. Fee reductions are available for students meeting the free or reduced lunch guidelines and who have filled out the necessary paperwork. Those students who meet the free or reduced lunch guidelines should acquire the necessary paperwork from the secretary in E-House and fill it out prior to AP exam registration. Students will be required to sign-up for a mandatory pre-administration session on Thursday, April 12 beginning Time Block Two.

The AP experience is rich and rewarding and it is expected that all AP students will register and sit for the AP exam in May. There are no make-up exams, therefore it is important for all students to be on time and bring the necessary materials. **The 2012 Bulletin for AP Students and Parents was given to students in December and they are encouraged to read the bulletin carefully in order to prepare for the exams.**

Financial Aid

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be sent out after January 1, 2012. You are encouraged to apply online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov or pick up a registration form in the Career Center, Room 209C.

The CSS Profile is a Financial Aid Application Form from the College Board that some colleges and universities use to collect additional information to help award non-federal student aid. The profile is available in the Career Center, Room 209C.

Our Financial Aid Counselor, Mrs. Laura Blackwell is available to meet with students and their families every other Wednesday from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the school's library. Students can register for an appointment with Mrs. Blackwell directly in the Career Center.



Norwalk Public Schools do not discriminate in educational programs or practices on the basis of race, color, handicap, national origin, sex, or religion, in compliance with state and federal law.

Course Selection for Academic year 2012-2013

Course selection sheets will be distributed to students during the month of February. They should be completely filled out and signed by a parent/guardian. Counselors will meet individually with freshman, sophomores and juniors throughout the month. This is an important process. The courses your child selects can have an impact on decisions after high school. Parent/guardian's signature is required on the subject selection sheet indicating that you reviewed course information with your son or daughter.

Scholarships

All scholarship information is updated on a regular basis. Scholarship applications are available in the Career Center, Room 209C or online at: <http://portal.norwalkps.org/schools/nhs/guidance/default.aspx>. Click on Guidance and scroll down the menu to School Scholarships.

Additional Scholarship information can also be found on Naviance site: <http://connection.naviance.com/norwalkhs>.

The Common Scholarship application is now available to seniors. The deadline to return this application to their respective counselors is March 1, 2012. This one application allows seniors with a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0 to be eligible for many scholarships, available only to Norwalk High School students. A signed 2011 Income Tax Return must accompany this application. Seniors are recognized and receive awards based upon the following: class rank, leadership, good citizenship in school and community, contribution to their class, school and community, financial need, and a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0.

Student Recognition

On the Norwalk High School website, there is a link to Student Recognitions. These students have been nominated and recognized by staff members for that month regarding their progress, leadership, achievements, hard work, etc.

Go to <http://portal.norwalkps.org/schools/nhs/guidance/default.aspx>, then go to student recognition OR click News and scroll down to Students of the Month Recognition.

School to Career Calendar

Thurs., Feb.2: Universal Technical Institute will be visiting the Career Center for students interested in automotive, motorcycle, marine, diesel and collision repair.

Thurs., Feb 9: The Art Institute will be visiting the Career Center.

Wed., April 4: Citywide College Fair at Brien McMahon High School; 6:00-8:00pm in cafeteria.



Music
Department
News

Approximately twenty NHS music students from the band, orchestra and choir participated in the CMEA Western Regional Festival on January 16 and 17, at Darien High School. Congratulations to those who were awarded an opportunity to perform.

The NHS Spring Musical

The NHS Spring Musical this year is "Bye, Bye Birdie," and casting is now underway! The musical will be performed on: April 27, 28, 29, May 4, 5, and 6. Ticket information will soon be posted on our website www.norwalkhighmusicdept.com.



We are only performing over two weekends, so be sure to check our website soon for details!

News from the NHS Band Room

Happy New Year to all! It's hard to believe that 2012 is already well underway, and that our fond memories of Candlelight and the holidays are slowly fading as we look ahead to a busy winter season!

Students involved in winter guard and jazz have already been busy rehearsing, and there are quite a few opportunities to see them perform over the next several weeks:

- Feb. 4 Open Guard performs at Brookfield MAC competition.
- Feb. 11 Open Guard at WGI regional competition in Trumbull. Visit: www.wgi.org for more information on all WGI events.
- Feb. 14 Eastside Band Festival at Norwalk High
- Feb. 24 Brien McMahon Jazz Festival
- Feb. 25 Open Guard competes at Bethel MAC show
- Mar. 2 Wilton High School Jazz Symposium
- Mar. 3 Open Guard at Newtown MAC competition
Winter Percussion competes at WGI regional in Trumbull
- Mar. 10 Open Guard at Shelton MAC competition
Winter Percussion show in Shelton
- Mar. 16 Norwalk High Jazz Festival
- Mar. 17 Norwalk High Jazz Winter Guard and Winter Percussion Home Show
- Mar. 24 Winter Guard WGI regional, South Brunswick NJ
Winter Percussion WGI regional competition, Norristown PA
- Mar. 31 Open Guard MAC Championships, Trumbull HS
Winter Percussion show in Naugatuck (tentative).

For the latest NHS band schedule, please visit: www.nhsband.com and click on the Online Calendar.

Even if you can't make it to one of the shows or competitions, the band appreciates your support in other ways:

Can & Bottle Drive is held at Andrews Field on the second Saturday of each month, year round. Help support the musicians and guard by bringing your returnable containers down to the field!

Grocery & Restaurant Certificates. Use a certificate shop at Stew Leonard's, Shop Rite or Stop & Shop or to dine at Ash Creek Saloon and the band gets up to 10% back! Visit www.nhsband.com and click on "About MBI" for a list of certificate distributors.

The band also collects non-perishable food items at all NHS music department events. Please remember our school and community members in need!



Athletic Department News

Bear Pack T-Shirts and Drawstring Bags

Bear Pack T-shirts are in stock in all sizes. Order forms for the T-shirts along with the Drawstring Bags are available in the front office. Turn in your order form with payment to Ms. DeMiglio in the main office.

Basketball Game Concession

The Fathers Club will run a mini-concession in the main lobby of the school during the boys' varsity basketball home games on Feb. 10, 15. All games will start at 7:00p.m. Concessions will be open beginning with halftime during the JV game at 6.

All-Seasons Passes

All-Seasons Passes are still available for the winter and spring seasons.

NHS Football Sports Wear

Sweatpants, sweatshirts, short and long sleeve t-shirts, hats, umbrellas and blankets are available by downloading the order form at: www.norwalkhighsports.org. Put the order form and payment (cash or check) in a sealed envelope marked "FOOTBALL SPORTS WEAR ORDERS" and deliver to the front office at Norwalk High. Please make checks payable to: "Touchdown Club/ Football Sports-Wear." Orders will be delivered to the house offices and students will be called down to pick up their orders. Any questions, please contact Deb Opdahl via email at: opdahl@optimum.net.

College Sports Recruiting

On Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00p.m. in the NHS Cafeteria, guest speaker Hans Hanson, from the College Sports Track, will present "Play College Sports: The Key to Being Recruited." This presentation is open to all student athletes, boys and girls, grades 9-12. (see flier on page 11 of this Fact Finder.)

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to field hockey coach Kyle Seaburg, football coach Sean Ireland, and Swimming coach Rebecca Rubin for being named "**Coach of the Year**" in their respective sports.

Nurse's Office



Sports Physicals

Sports physicals are now good for one year from the date of the physical. If you have a physical between now and the end of the school year, have your doctor fill out the new blue form. Bring it to the nurse's office as soon as you get it. Once we have your form, you will be covered for fall sports and you'll be cleared until 2013. Please remember parents need to fill out the first page.

Ninth Grade Physicals

If you have an eighth grader who will be entering Norwalk High School in September 2012, and had a physical after September 1, 2011, have your doctor fill out the blue form and bring it to your middle school nurse. This physical will be sufficient for ninth grade.

Class of 2012

Senior Dues were due on December 15, 2012. If you have not yet paid your dues, please contact Angela Wax or Jay Hariton immediately. Believe it or not, cap and gowns have already been ordered for Graduation 2012!

The Class of 2012 Fundraiser is a Talent Show. Our very own Norwalk High graduate and Broadway Star, Robin De Jesus, will be one of the judges. The show will take place on Friday February 3, 7:30p.m. Admission is: Pre-Sale \$7 and \$10 at the door.

Save the Date!

Senior Prom is Saturday, June 2, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Greenwich, Ct. from 7:00p.m. - 12:00midnite.

Your Class of 2012 Advisors,

Mr. Hariton & Ms. Wax



Post Graduation Party (PGP)

PGP planning is in full swing as we count down the days to graduation! PGP will be held the night of graduation from 10:00p.m. to 5:00a.m. Parents interested in volunteering the night of PGP should contact Angela Bagnara at: Aje071@gmail.com. For security reasons, parents **MUST** register as a volunteer in order to attend.

The next PGP planning meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9, at 7:00p.m. in the library. Interested in helping with a particular committee? Please contact the Chairperson listed below for further information:

Fashion Show:

Debbie Taiyanides DebbiesDesign@aol.com
Natalie Tobias ntobias@oponline.net

Decorating:

Missy Robinson jrobinson@snet.net
Kerrin Cole kerrindcole@optonline.net

Auction/Raffle:

Tara Whalen kfwhalen@optonline.net
Hildegard Noonan han313@optonline.net
Beth Blake bblondeblue@aol.com

Hospitality:

Diane Hatchman ctonthebeach@hotmail.com
Angela Araujo pagui@aol.com

Memorabilia:

Amy Sornatale asornata@bridgeport.edu
Kathleen Slutz kcslutz@optimum.net

Games/Equipment

Trish McCormack jtw012423@aol.com

Food/Kitchen:

Debra & Kevin Poruban kevin.poruban@sbcglobal.net
Sue Greene shorty214@optonline.net
Lisa Henderson lhendersn@aol.com
Marylou Buswell ptanor@att.net

Security:

Jill Dube jdube@genre.com

Clean-up:

OPEN

Webmaster:

OPEN

Every Senior family is encouraged to make a donation to PGP. To download a donation form go to: http://www.nhspgp.org/Donation_Form.html or contact Diane Hatchman at ctonthebeach@hotmail.com for further information.

If you would like to receive PGP email updates, contact info@nhspgp.org. Please include your name, your child's name and your phone number. You can also check out our website at: www.nhspgp.org for periodic updates.

PGP Fashion Show 2012 – Save the Date!

On Friday, March 23, the Post Graduation Party Committee will be hosting a Fashion Show at the Norwalk Inn from 7:00 - 10:00p.m. The cost of the admission tickets will be \$10.00 for students/seniors and \$15.00 for adults. Tickets will be on sale the week of March 5 and 12.



Come see the latest fashion trends for the upcoming season! Senior students will be modeling prom fashions from *Camillos* and *A Step Ahead*. Junior students will be modeling casual fashions.

Class of 2013

Hello Juniors!

Junior class dues are due by February 1, 2012 in order to receive a discount on junior prom tickets. Junior dues must be paid in full in order to receive a discount. Dues are \$40/year, or you can pay \$140 if you want to pay for all 4 years at once (you will receive a \$20 discount if you choose this option). If you have any questions about dues, please see Ms. Elkas (205D) or Ms. Stamos (212E).

The Junior Prom is Friday, May 25, 2012 at the Stamford Italian Center.

Please be on the lookout for a junior class fundraiser!

Thank you,

Your 2013 Class Advisors,

Ms. Elkas & Ms. Stamos

Class of 2014

Hello All! Happy 2012!

Please remember that class dues are \$40 per year. Please send in your dues in cash or by checks made payable to the "NHS Class of 2014." Submit checks to one of the class advisors: Ms. Dellon in 203A or Mr. Gaspar in 201A. When you pay your class dues, you will receive your cap & gown for free and reduced ticket prices for the Junior & Senior Prom. With the remaining funds, the Class of 2014 will be able to "make its mark" for all future Bears to see, with a gift to NHS!

Your 2014 Class Advisors

Ms. Dellon & Mr. Gaspar

Class of 2015

We hope you all had a joyous holiday season and are ready for what 2012 has to offer!

We would like to thank those who have already paid their freshman class dues. If you have not already done so, we will be collecting class dues to help offset the cost of class activities. Class dues are \$50 per year. Any student who pays their class dues in full by June 15, 2012 will receive a \$20 discount (for a total of \$180 instead of \$200 over 4 years). Checks can be made payable to "Norwalk High School Class of 2015". Feel free to email us with any questions: ritchj@norwalkps.org or magazinek@norwalkps.org.

Your 2015 Class Advisors
Ms. Ritch & Mrs. Magazine



The Paw Print

The Paw Print would like to thank all of the parents who have subscribed to our mailing list. If you are interested in receiving the paper at home please contact us at: nhspawprint@gmail.com. A ten dollar fee will get you the remaining issues.

We would love to hear back from parents regarding the December issue, and would like any ideas from you for the February issue. Starting January 17, we will be selling Valentine's greetings that will be published in our February issue.

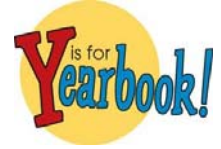
In other exciting news, we will be launching our new website. We look forward to making this website an integral part of NHS life. This final piece of the Journalism program will put NHS on the same page as other competitive Journalism programs in area schools.

Thank you again for your support.
The Paw Print Staff



Yearbook News & Notes:

The 2012 yearbooks are now on sale. Order your yearbook no later than February 14, 2012, to receive the early-order discounted price of \$70. To pay by credit card, go to: www.jostensyearbooks.com.



To pay by check, pick up an order form from Mr. Smith (Room 209D), and bring it back to him with a check made out to "Norwalk HS Yearbook." See our advertisement on page 9 in this Fact Finder issue.

The Yearbook Staff

News from the Earth Club



It may be winter but Norwalk High has never looked so **GREEN!**

We are very excited and moving ahead with our Edible School Yard Garden Project. We are in the planning stages for our garden this coming year. Last year was a grand success and we plan to involve as many students, parents and teachers as possible in planning, planting and growing our organic vegetables and fruits. The plan this year is to plant berry bushes and expand our garden and our harvest. We invite everyone who would like to get involved to contact us at: verelm@norwalkps.org or Mary Verel 203-838-4481 ext. 13252. We are working with Naramake school and the Norwalk Children's Foundation as well as the nursery school that is housed at Norwalk High School. There are so many opportunities available to incorporate the garden into our everyday lives and use it as a learning experience for all of our Norwalk Community.

We are planning to use the vegetables we grow for the Culinary Arts Department at Norwalk High and perhaps even have a Salad Day in the Cafeteria or a Farmers Market at Norwalk High School. The possibilities are endless. The need for volunteers is great and the rewards are even greater for our students, our community, and our planet. We are continuing our recycling projects and encourage everyone to reduce, reuse, and recycle. In this time of belt-tightening-budgets for the schools, everyone can easily do their part by making a concerted effort to recycle paper and plastic. We could as a school system, remove at least 75% of our waste stream and divert at least half of the \$200,000 we spend on garbage removal in our school system. This savings would go a long way towards educating our children instead of sending our hard earned money to the Garbage Dump.

Think Green Thoughts,
Norwalk Earth Club



NHS Fathers Club News

Thanks to the success of both the girls and boys varsity teams, our basketball concession stand is feeding lots of hungry fans. People **LOVE** our all beef hot dogs and still call them the best dogs in the FCIAC! We have 12 more home games left in the season, so we need volunteers to help work and manage the concession stand until the end of February. Please check the Norwalk High Sports site and let us know which games you can help out with and contact us at: info@nhsfathersclub.org with your availability. Remember we contribute all profits from Fathers Club concessions to academic, social and athletic programs for our Norwalk High School students and faculty, just as we have since 1945!

The NHS Fathers Club

Parents for Norwalk High

Parents for Norwalk High School held our first meeting of the New Year on January 9. Highlights included:

A presentation from Revolution Testing on how to interpret scores and prepare for PSAT, SAT and ACT test taking. Revolution will also offer test prep classes at NHS, look for flyers in the mail.

Dr. Marks and Mr. Daddona gave an update on the NHS principal search. Time frame is as follows:

- Jan. 10 External posting for 30 days
- Jan. 17 - 30 Focus groups will be solicited and formed by Dr. Marks looking to identify what the critical leadership qualities the NHS community needs in our principal. Look for an on-line or possible paper survey from the Superintendent's office regarding leadership qualities.
- Feb. 16 Paper screening of all candidates by the HR Dept.

Candidate interviews begin

- Feb. 27 **Central Office Interviews** (committee composed of Assistant Superintendent, Norwalk High School Principals, Middle School Principal's, Curriculum and Special Ed Specialists).
- March 6 - 7 **School Site Interviews** (committee composed of House Masters, Dept Heads, Teachers, Support Staff, Parents and Students)
- March 14 - 15 Superintendent Interview
- March 16 - 19 Board of Education Interview and final approval expected to be completed by March 20

As each candidate moves forward to the next interview group they move on an equal plain.

The pool of potential candidates who meet all criteria has grown over the last several years. Dr. Marks expects that we will have a very competitive selection process.

PNHS Open Positions

PHNS is looking for someone to step up to fill the role of Co-President for next year. If interested in being more involved please contact Cathy Power-Mulford at: mulford@optonline.net.

It's never too late to sign up to receive weekly emails from Parents for Norwalk High. Just send your email address to info@parentsforNorwalkHigh.org, and you'll be kept up to date on what is happening at the school. You can also visit our website: www.ParentsforNorwalkHigh.org. The next PNHS meeting will be held on Monday, February 13 at 7:00p.m. in the Library. We hope to have someone from the Mayor's Youth Program speaking about summer jobs for teenagers. Hope to see you then!

PNHS Spirit Wear for Valentines Day

Thinking of what to get that special someone for Valentine's Day...try some NHS spirit wear! Maybe something cozy like a hooded sweatshirt, or maybe gym shorts or soffe shorts. Whatever you give them they are sure to like it! For more information email Carmen Ashton at: cvelash9@optonline.net, to place an order/get an order form. Or go to: http://www.parentsforNorwalkHigh.org/Spirit_Wear/NHS_Spirit_wear_2010_1.xcl-97-2003, for Spirit Wear order forms. Forms are also available in the school main office.



Please note much of the OLD STOCK has run out and is no longer available for special pricing. Call to make sure if your request for old stock is available.

African American Parents Outreach

Our February monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, at 7:00p.m. in the Career Center. Please come out and join us.



NHS Weather Information

Storm Emergency Procedures

When the weather is unusually severe and traveling conditions appear to be hazardous, pupils and parents/guardians are urged to listen to news broadcasts to determine whether the schools will be open, be delayed or remain closed. Radio broadcasts will begin between 6:0a.m. and 6:30a.m. over the following radio or TV stations:

- WICC - 600 AM WEFX - 95.9 FM
- WLAD - 800 AM WKHL - 96.7 FM
- WFAS - 1230 AM WDAQ - 98.3 FM
- WNLK - 1350 AM WEZN - 99.9 FM
- WSTC -1400 AM WFAS - 103.9 FM
- On television - WTNH (Channel 8) and
- On television - CABLEVISION News 12.

Closings and delays will also be announced on the Norwalk Schools Information Line 203-854-4123 and on the Norwalk Public School website <http://portal.norwalkps.org/default.aspx> For more information on policies and delayed opening and early dismissal schedules, please visit <http://portal.norwalkps.org/default.aspx> the weather link is: <http://portal.norwalkps.org/info/Pages/Weather%20Information.aspx>.

Please Sign up for the Norwalk Public School District Email System

Norwalk Public Schools is setting up an email blast system in order to enhance parent communication. Administrators and principals will have the ability to send letters electronically to parents. The system will eventually become a way for parents to access their student information, such as student attendance, through the district student information system (Genesis). Accuracy will be dependent on parents updating their email information when it changes.

Parents, to sign up for district/school communications, please use the official NPS Connect website at: <http://tinyurl.com/npsconnect> and follow the instructions. You will need your student's ID#.

Stop & Shop Bonus Bucks Program

Please sign up now to participate in Stop & Shop's A+ Bonus Bucks program. Every time you use your Stop and Shop card, Norwalk High will accrue points which will determine our cash total. This includes Peapod purchases, but not gift cards, pharmacy, alcohol and/or cigarette purchases. Please go to: <http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus> to learn more and to register. Thank you for your support!



Donors Choose

Interested in helping fund a teacher grant? Check out: www.donorschoose.org to learn more. There is a link that connects you directly to the grants requested by Norwalk teachers. Donors Choose is piloted by the Norwalk Education Foundation. If you would like more information, please visit: www.norwalkeducation.org.

Attendance Notes

Students are required to produce a note whenever they are absent from school. Failure to bring a note to the attendance clerk, Mrs. Morgan, within 24 hours of your return to school, will result in an unexcused absence for the day. This unexcused absence will register as a cut in all classes (AU) for that day. Three unexcused absences will result in an (H), Denial of Credit.

Please be responsible and return to school with a note when absent for any reason. Your note needs to include your name, the date of the absence, reason for the absence, and parent, guardian, or other authorized signature.

Hispanic Parent Group of NHS

We meet the second Wednesday of the month.

The next meeting of the Hispanic Parent Group of NHS will be on **Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 6:30p.m. in the library.** For more information, please contact: Annette Esposito, Bilingual Parent Coordinator, 203-854-4091 or Yvonne Berrios, Guidance Counselor at NHS, 203-838-4481 ext. 13232.

Grupo de Padres Hispanos de NHS

La primera reunión del Grupo de Padres Hispanos de Norwalk High School será **el miércoles, 8 de febrero de 2012 a las 6:30 p.m.** en la biblioteca. Temas: Variados Para Más Información
Llame: Annette Esposito, Coordinadora de Padres Bilingüe, 854-4091
o Yvonne Berrios, Consejera en NHS, 838-4481 ext.13232
Refrigerios Serán Servidos

Our True Colors

Norwalk High's 2011-2012 Yearbook



ON SALE NOW!

Order your yearbook before February 14
to receive the early-order discounted price of \$70.

To pay by credit card, go to www.jostensyearbooks.com

To pay by check, get an order form from Russell Smith
(e-mail him at smithr@norwalkps.org)

CAPT

CAPT is Coming! Connecticut Academic Proficiency Test

CAPT

Why is CAPT important?

All students in the Norwalk Public Schools must pass CAPT in order to graduate from high school. The score range for CAPT is 1-5. To pass, a student must get 3 or above. The score of 3 indicates proficiency.

How many tests are there?

CAPT has 4 parts - Reading, Writing, Math, and Science. But it gets even more complicated. There are two sessions of Math; two sessions of Science; two parts of Reading (Reading for Information and Response to Literature) and three parts of Writing (2 Interdisciplinary essays and 1 part of Editing and Revising).

What happens if my child misses any part of the CAPT?

Your child will receive no score for that entire section of the test. For example, if your child misses the Reading for Information test, he will receive no score in Reading. If he misses Editing & Revising, he will receive no score for Writing. If your child receives no score, your child cannot graduate.

Who must take CAPT?

All 10th graders in the state of Connecticut are required to take CAPT. Also, any 11th grader who did not score at least 3 on any section of the test must retake it.

How will I know if my 11th grader has to retake a section of the CAPT?

You will receive a letter in the mail telling you which test or tests your child must retake. Your child will also receive notice in homeroom. If you are unsure, call your child's counselor.

When will I find out if my child passed?

We will receive the scores in late summer. We hope to have the scores before school starts in September.

Why is there a special schedule for CAPT?

The test is long and challenging. Therefore, the Board of Education decided that 10th grade students should concentrate on the test and come to school at 10:30, eat a quick lunch, and then take the test. All other students arrive at school at the normal time, and they are dismissed at 11:00 a.m.

Do 11th grade students follow the special schedule?

No, they do not. All 11th graders are expected to be in class and then take the portion of the test they did not pass.

What happens if my child is sick and can't come to school on the day of the test?

You must send in an absence note with your child the next day. Your child will be given the opportunity to make up the missed test.

Why will I receive a phone call from the school if my child is absent for testing?

We want to make sure that all students are in school, taking the test on the testing day. We also want to be sure that parents are aware when their children are absent from school. Finally, we want to remind you to send in an absence note; without a note, your child will be considered cutting school.

What happens if my child simply cannot pass the CAPT?

In 12th grade, students will be offered the chance to take a Graduation Prep course for the subject they did not pass. This course is one quarter long, and each student is expected to submit a portfolio of required work. A panel of scorers will decide if the portfolio meets the graduation standard. If not, students are allowed to take Grad Prep one more time to try to pass.

How is my child getting prepared for CAPT?

Teachers in all subjects have been working on CAPT skills since 9th grade. Some students are enrolled in Enhancement classes to strengthen their skills so they can perform better on the test.

**CAPT will be administered in early March;
the official schedule will be published in the March edition of the Fact Finder.**



THE COLLEGE SPORTS TRACK

Play College Sports- The Keys to Being Recruited

Norwalk H.S., Feb 7th, 7:00pm

Guest Speaker: Hans Hanson

How important is it to have sports a part of your college experience? _____

How important is it to maximize your scholarship potential? _____

When would you like to begin calling and meeting college coaches? _____

To turn in after the seminar:

Player name- _____ GPA- ____ M / F Sport- _____ Grad. yr- ____ High School- _____

Parents name- _____ Add'l children- _____

Address- _____

Phone #'s: home- _____ Mom- _____ Dad- _____

Emails: Mom _____ Dad _____

What every Mom and Dad should know about college recruiting:

- The reality check, know what you're up against, know the timeline for college recruiting
- March Madness, win the recruiting game, leave losing to others
- Camps, showcases, travel teams? Learn the keys to get coaches attention
- Building a list of colleges, getting started, know how to begin, why people don't
- Unlock the secrets to college recruiting, know how to land a roster spot
- VLTO = BE RECRUITED, know how to build value with coaches, and generate options
- CST College Sports Scholarship Strategy, learn how to maximize your scholarship potential

Email to hans@collegesportstrack.com if you have a specific topic you would like addressed.

Regarding our presentation, please let us know how we did: scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the most

Hans Hanson: How informative ____ How helpful ____ comments- _____

Would you like to speak with a CST recruiting expert to discuss how to better **land your college roster spot**? y / n

*** **Your preference for a family call-** day _____ time _____ phone # _____

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

The College Sports Track- www.collegesportstrack.com, hans@collegesportstrack.com, office 203.529.3358, cell 623-237-1172



Norwalk
High
School

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NORWALK, CT
PERMIT No. 12

Fact Finder Newsletter - February 2012
Norwalk High Schools' Newsletter for Parents
23 Calvin Murphy Drive, Norwalk, CT 06851
Phone: 203-838-4481, Fax: 203-899-2815
<http://portal.norwalkps.org/schools/nhs/default.aspx>

Communication is Key



Dated Material - Please open now.

Norwalk High School *Fact Finder*

If you have news or would like to contribute information for the next newsletter, please send an email to the editor of the newsletter, Ms. Jackie Kelly at kellyj@norwalkps.org and send a copy to FactFinder@ParentsforNorwalkHigh.org. Submissions deadline dates can be found at www.parentsfornorwalkhigh.org.

If you want your name added to the email reminder list, please send an email to FactFinder@parentsfornorwalkhigh.org.

Your comments and contributions are appreciated.

SAVING MADE SIMPLE
with a TruSavings Account from Mutual Security.

4.55% APY*
IT'S AS EASY AS TEA!



*APY = Annual Percentage Yield - Maximum Opening Deposit \$25. Max weekly deposit \$55. This account will pay 4.55% APY on balances up to \$1,000. Balances over \$1,000 will earn 3.75% APY. Rates effective 01/01/2012 and may be subject to change thereafter. There is a limit of 4 withdrawals per year; a 5th withdrawal may result in closing of the account. Offer may be withdrawn at anytime without notice. Students in Norwalk School District only. Membership in MFCU is required with a \$5 deposit into a Membership account. Limit - one TruSavings account per social security number.

NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL BRANCH
THURSDAYS 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
VISIT OUR 295 WESTPORT AVENUE BRANCH*

295 WESTPORT AVENUE BRANCH

LOBBY HOURS

Monday, Wednesday	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Tuesday	10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Thursday, Friday	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

DRIVE-UP TELLER HOURS

Monday, Wednesday	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday, Friday	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

* 24 Hour Drive-Through ATM with Deposit Capabilities

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Your Community Credit Union
We Work for You!
800.761.2400 www.mscu.net

SIX \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 2012



Mutual Security is pleased to announce that once again we will be offering six \$1,000 Scholarships.

The Scholarships are awarded in honor of Berry Klaus and Joseph G. Fernandes, former Mutual Security Board Members who devoted much of their time to the community and public service.

Applicants will be evaluated on community service, financial need, grades, essay, and honors/awards.

Applications can be found in your high school guidance office or online at www.mscu.net.

Computer Loan Special

Rate as low as
1.99% APR*

Borrow up to \$3,500 with Repayment Terms Up to 36 Months



*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are based on credit scores. Rates and terms are subject to change. Payment example: at 1.99% on a \$2,000 loan with a 24 month term, monthly payments would be \$85.67. Receipt copy required. Subject to credit approval. Membership in Mutual Security Credit Union is required with a \$5 deposit into a Membership Account. Offer effective 01/01/12.



MUTUAL SECURITY
Your Community Credit Union
We Work for You!
800.761.2400 www.mscu.net

**Our Mission Spells
SUCCESS!**

- Skills to acquire, access, and apply information
- Universally high expectations
- Community partnership
- Citizenship
- Environment that is safe for all
- Self-directed learning
- Success after graduation



Norwalk High School Mission Statement

In a supportive partnership with the Norwalk community, our mission is to teach skills that will enable students to acquire, access, and apply information. The teachers will foster self-directed learning and good citizenship in a safe environment. All students will be held to high expectations, so they will be successful after graduation.