



# Nighthawk News

HTTP://NEWTOWN.NHS.SCHOOLDESK.NET



JANUARY 30, 2017

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **PTSA Meeting:** Feb 1
- **2-Hour Delay:** Feb 3
- **Principal's Breakfast:** Feb 8
- **Winter Break:** Feb 20-21

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## Principal's Message

As we work on creating a personalized learning environment for all of our students, the staff and administration at Newtown High School are currently developing a **Senior Year Experience** in alignment with State legislation around high school reform efforts. As part of this culminating experience, students in the graduating class of 2020 (incoming freshmen) will be asked to complete an inquiry-based senior "capstone" project that demonstrates mastery of school-wide learning expectations in written performance, spoken communication, critical thinking, and information literacy. In addition, this project may take the place of some final exams during students' senior year.

The **Senior Year Experience** is

becoming more common for high schools as authentic assessments of what students should know and be able to do in order for success in college, career, and beyond. As students enter the High School, we encourage them to reflect on the "pathways" that interest them as they make their course selections (such as engineering, culinary, science, or technology). The senior project will allow students to explore an area they are passionate about, conduct research on a given topic, and create a presentation in a style of their choice.

### Pilot Program

We are looking for current sophomore students to take part in a pilot of the **Senior Year Experience** mentioned above. This would be voluntary, and

student participation would result in an additional elective credit on their high school transcripts, as well as the possibility of the senior project becoming an alternative for some final exams during senior year. This experience would be notated only as a Pass/Fail on the transcript. Students would not be adding any additional coursework to their current load. All information, timelines, and checkpoints would be reviewed through their morning advisory period only. Information regarding the pilot program will be available during students' current morning advisory in the next week, along with further details about voluntary participation.

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue  
Principal

## District Calendar Survey

The Newtown PTSA/PTAs are collecting opinions from district parents and guardians about their preferred timing of district staff development days to share with Superintendent Erardi before the 2017-19 calendars are finalized.

Please take the two-question **Newtown District Calendar Survey** which can be found at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JWK69JH>. If you can complete this brief survey by 5pm on Wednesday, February 1, it would be greatly appreciated.

If you have children enrolled in more than one school., you will only need to complete the survey once.

In advance, thank you for your feedback.

Newtown High School PTSA



# From Your PTSA



## Don't Miss Out! PTSA General Meeting

Please join us for the next PTSA General Meeting  
February 1 at 10:30am in Rm BI40

Meet our two student representatives. Hear from Superintendent Dr. Erardi and John Vouros from the BOE regarding the 2018 Newtown Education budget. They, along with Dr. Rodrigue, will also field questions you may have.

Mark your calendars for our future meetings:

March 29, 2017

June 7, 2017

## Budget Season has Arrived!

The annual budget process has commenced for the Town of Newtown. Upcoming Board of Education meetings have already begun with a Public Hearing & Discussion scheduled for January 31 and Budget Adoption scheduled for February 2.

\*\*All meetings begin at 7:30pm and are held in the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose St.

(\*\*Time and location may be subject to change so visit <http://www.newtown-ct.gov/> for any updates.)

Dr. Rodrigue's budget was submitted to Newtown Public School Superintendent Dr. Erardi last month and Dr. Erardi has submitted the district's complete proposed budget to the Board of Education. NHS families should be informed and involved with this process to understand proposed decreases and increases in our school budget. The details of the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget Plan can be found here: <http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/DistrictInformation/BoardofEducation/BOEBudgets/tabid/98551/Default.aspx>.

We will provide periodic updates through our Facebook Page, newsletters, emails and General Meetings. In fact, at our February 1 General Meeting (starting at 10:30am), our Superintendent Dr. Erardi and John Vouros, our Board of Education representative, will be in attendance to provide some budget commentary and address questions parents may have.



### Here are some key dates to keep in mind:

Jan 31	Board of Education PUBLIC HEARING
Feb 2	Board of Education ADOPTS THE BUDGET
Feb 16	Board of Finance PUBLIC HEARING
Mar 8	Board of Finance TO Legislative Council
Mar 22	Legislative Council PUBLIC HEARING
April 5	Legislative Council ADOPTS THE BUDGET

# PTA Reflections Winners

The National PTA Reflections program is a nationally acclaimed student recognition arts program, supporting creativity of a wide range of arts categories within the classroom and at home. This year's theme was **"What Is Your Story?"** The NHS PTSA received 15 student submissions. We are proud to announce the 2016-2017 Newtown High School PTSA Reflection winners below.

All first place local winning entries have been submitted to CT State PTA for another round of judging against other PTA/PTSA school districts throughout the state. Top entries from the State PTA Reflections program advance to National PTA for the final round of judging.

The PTSA at NHS would like to thank all of the participants and wish the best of luck to those advancing to the next round of judging.

## Music Composition

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Thomas Jensen Walking with Vectors
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Julie Hess Tell Me
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Jermane Anyoha To Belong

## Special Artist Division

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Matthew Vigneau Special Rock Band
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Jessa Vista My Story
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Jackie Mahon The Boat
- Maddie Rose Jeweled Butterflies

## Literature

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Carly Swierbut The Stitching of a Story
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Kiera O'Sullivan Wish & Hope: Where Earth's Melody Dwells

# SAT Bootcamp

## Outsmart the SAT

LEARN A STRATEGY FOR EVERY QUESTION YOU'LL FACE ON THE NEW SAT

Catalyst's SAT Bootcamp is a momentum-boosting two-day seminar that arms students with go-to strategies for every question they'll face on the day of the test. Topics include:

- ✓ How to shortcut math problems that stump more than 90% of test-takers
- ✓ How to spot hidden clues that instantly reveal the main idea in long reading passages
- ✓ How to avoid the three sneaky ways SAT Writing & Language questions try to trick students
- ✓ How to manage your time so that the stress of the test doesn't cloud your judgment, an indispensable skill for anyone tackling the new 3-hour and 50-minute SAT

### OUR UNIQUE GUARANTEE

Catalyst's SAT Bootcamp is not a "mock" SAT or an infomercial for our services. Catalyst's SAT Bootcamp is a two-day seminar that ignites confidence and momentum by teaching students proven, step-by-step methods for cracking every type of question they're going to encounter on the redesigned SAT. Catalyst's SAT Bootcamp is uniquely poised to help students succeed because it is the only prep class designed by instructors who have earned over 20 perfect scores on the actual SAT - including the new SAT. Students receive Catalyst's SAT prep book, bonus online prep, diagnostic tests, and copies of essays that earned perfect scores on the actual new SAT.

#### LOCATION

Newtown High School

#### COST

Just \$175 to enroll by Wednesday, March 29 at 6pm. We unfortunately cannot accommodate walk-in students.

#### SCHEDULE

9am - 1pm on Saturday, April 1 & Sunday, April 2

#### TO ENROLL

To enroll, visit [www.CatalystPrep.com](http://www.CatalystPrep.com) and click on "Bootcamp Sign-Up" on the website menu bar. For more information email [info@CatalystPrep.com](mailto:info@CatalystPrep.com) or call 800.235.0056

**CATALYST**

Private Tutoring / Two-Day Bootcamps / Small In-Home Classes  
800.235.0056 / [www.CatalystPrep.com](http://www.CatalystPrep.com)

Sponsored by the Newtown High School PTSA!

# Math Department

The math department is helping students gear up for their registration for the upcoming school year. One big change being made is the re-sequencing of Geometry and Algebra 2. Students will now take Algebra 1, followed by Algebra 2, followed by Geometry. Re-sequencing these classes will help students have a better transition from Algebra 1 to Algebra 2 as well as build stronger Algebra skills for future math classes.

The Math Team is an excellent club for students who enjoy mathematics and solving problems. Last year the team qualified for States and drove up to Massachusetts to compete at New England Regionals. The Math Team welcomes students of all grade



levels and abilities to do math while having a lot of fun. Many of the members are in other clubs and sports teams. If students would like to join they can come check it out after school on Wednesdays in F216.

Currently, the Math Department is reminding students of the American Mathematics Competition on Wednesday, February 15. This is an opportunity for all students to think outside the box to solve some very complex problems. Please remind students to sign up with their math teacher.

Lauren Dominick  
Math Department Chair

# What's Happening in World Language

World Language has a number of exciting events happening in the second semester to help students learn by immersing themselves in the language and culture.

The World Language Department has been greatly supported by the Newtown International Center for Education (NICE) club with a week of activities during Advisory that will promote and celebrate language and culture February 13-17. On the first day of the week-long celebration students will be filling in word bubbles in different languages to post around the school as a reminder of the simple joys of speaking another language. During the other days of the week the NICE club will also be providing international music, has organized for the cafeteria to have themed lunches, will have a competitive language game for the entire school, and has worked with language teachers to encourage their students to wear clothes that show their pride in their language class. International Week will surely be a lively celebration for everyone!

Ambitious and interactive activities are also taking place in the classrooms throughout all the language levels. Chinese students in all the levels have been preparing for the Chinese New Year with posters and culture lessons in class. The students will be celebrating with food and fun on February 2. The Italian students recently had a fashion show to demonstrate their savvy sense of fashion and their skills with the Italian language to describe clothing. The activity even included a lit up runway and the students listening participated as fashion critics! Latin 1 students can look forward to creating an edible roman road to see their Latin skills put to a delicious application. Meanwhile, all Latin levels



are gearing up for the National Latin Exam that will take place in mid-March. French students in level 2 have been enjoying "book club" once every two weeks where they get to delve into some deep learning and conversations by engaging in story analysis in groups. French 4 students will be researching a political party in

France and will be applying their new found knowledge by giving campaign speeches in the target language.

In both Spanish and French, students in level 3 will be writing original fairy tales and the French students will be filming their stories around school to bring their language skills to life. Spanish 4 students have been preparing for life outside of high school with a focus on something everyone loves – vacation! Students in Spanish 4CP have been working on having conversations with a focus on the ability to communicate naturally. Spanish students in level 4 Honors are also applying their skills by reading and writing authentic Yelp reviews in Spanish and can look forward to creating videos to advertise a restaurant. AP Spanish students are preparing for life beyond the academic world by composing résumés and cover letters in the target language with the hope that they can someday use these professional documents to land the job of their dreams.

As always, World Language continues to encourage our students' success by using their language in a realistic context while having fun!

Elizabeth Ward  
World Language Department Chair



# Science Department News

## AP Environmental Science

Mrs. Baumgartner's AP Environmental Science students did a co-teaching project. Half the class researched endangered species and half researched invasive species. They then presented to each other in groups. Many scientists say we are in the midst of a sixth major extinction. Causes of endangerment include habitat destruction, pollution, over hunting, invasive species.



## UConn Field Trip

Students in the Mr. Carley's Introduction to Engineering class and Mr. DeJulio's Biology class at NHS enjoyed a field trip to the UConn School of Engineering. The trip was organized by Mr. Nicholson.



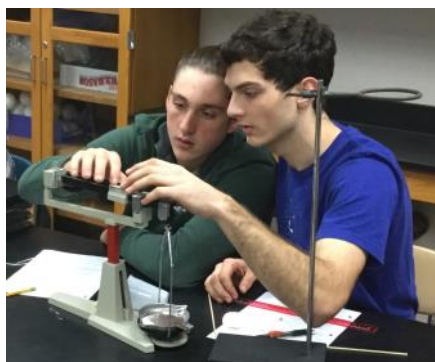
## The Greenery

NHS Greenery students held herb sales recently in the main lobby. Herbs such as basil were available in 4" pots and oval planters. Greenery students earn half a science credit for their work, which requires sound knowledge of plant growth and development.



## Physics: Understanding Torque

Mr. Dyer's physics students demonstrated their understanding of torque (the rotational analog to force) by making mobiles composed of wooden skewers and candies. They had to calculate center of mass and length of lever arm for each skewer so they would be balanced.



# Career Center Information

203-426-7679

Kitty Latowicki - College/Career Center Coordinator [latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us)

Peg Ragaini - School to Career Coordinator [ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us)

**The Career Center** is open from 7:00 am-2:30 pm, Monday through Friday. To schedule an appointment with either Mrs. Ragaini or Mrs. Latowicki, please call 203-426-7679. Please contact us if you require further information on anything written below.

The Career Center is a unique environment that has the resources to provide students with help in exploring their post-high school options and careers. It is located in the rear of the Counseling Office. We are committed to working with students to promote self-discovery through real world experiences. Our goal is to aid students in developing a plan for their future.

Students can access college, financial aid or career websites during their free periods or after school in the Career Center. Our computers are also accessible for students to use for schoolwork, during the day, as long as it is during a free period.

## What are Colleges Looking for in a Prospective Student?

While colleges might seek to make you a well-rounded person once you are on campus, they aren't necessarily looking for a membership to every high school club and sport on your resume. While every student differs some on their ideal student, most colleges now want to see passion, motivation, and experience for a specific field or interest. Here are some tips for investing your time well in high school.

**Choose quality over quantity:** In an article for College Board, the dean of admission for the University of Tulsa shares what he's looking for in a college application. He doesn't mention being well-rounded, rather he starts off by talking about the importance of quality over quantity. Colleges don't care if you joined every activity your school of community offered. They would rather see that you chose a few activities where you truly invested your time and energy.

**Stick with it:** Once you pick an extracurricular activity, stick with it. It's OK if you don't do the same thing all four years of high school, but do try to stay involved for at least a year or two to show you really care and were involved. It looks better to have been involved in one activity for all of high school than six activities for only a few months each. While being a well-rounded person is an excellent pursuit, don't let it come at the cost of genuine interest and involvement.



**Do what you love:** Building a resume doesn't have to- and shouldn't - be a chore. Pick activities that you enjoy and love doing. If you love what you're doing, you will be more motivated to participate and invest yourself fully. Also don't be afraid to get involved with activities that are a little out of the box. If sports aren't

your thing or your hate being onstage, do something else. Colleges aren't looking to see that you check off stereotypical activity boxes; they want to see the real, unique you. Your college application is where you can go all out bragging on yourself, so give yourself opportunities to show them what you love.

**Seek out leadership opportunities:** Anyone can join a club, participate in an activity, or attend meetings. Colleges want to see that you stand out, that you are a leader who will continue to lead on campus. If you want to lead well, you can't spread yourself thin. Good leaders are fully committed with their time, passion, and talents. Lead in your areas of expertise and talent rather than trying to be the most well-rounded leader.

Retrieved from [www.stemjobs.com](http://www.stemjobs.com) on November 10, 2016

# Career Center Information

## Junior/Senior Project Class

As you consider your classes for next year, please read the following information on the Junior/Senior Project class.

The Junior/Senior Project Program is designed to enable the student to build on existing strengths and to provide an opportunity for further study not available in the traditional classroom. The program provides motivated and responsible high school Juniors and Seniors the opportunity to explore a subject/career that they are passionate about and develop a career-oriented relationship with a community professional (mentor) in the student's area of chosen interest. The highlights of the Program are:

- The Junior/Senior Project course is open to all students. Each student is required to spend a minimum of ten hours with a mentor and develop a project related to the student's field of study.
- Students receive one-half credit and a Pass/Fail grade. Exceptional work will have a Pass with Distinction noted.
- Students may take the class more than once as long as they have a different project for each session.
- The Junior/Senior Project class will count as a fifth class for seniors or as a sixth class for juniors. It is required that students attend all class sessions and the school attendance policy will apply.
- Transportation to the worksite of the mentor is the responsibility of the student.
- The Junior/Senior Project is a semester class.
- Students meet regularly with instructors and five times as a group. The class meetings are tentatively scheduled on Tuesdays and begin in early September and late January. Fall semester meets from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Spring semester meets from 2:10 to 3:30 pm.

Students participate in this course in order to distinguish themselves in the college application process, to access scholarships (particularly the \$14,000 Barton Weller scholarship open to seniors in the fall), and/or to practice the time management and self-directed learning skills necessary to succeed in college. If you would like more information on this course, please contact your School Counselor or Peg Ragaini at 203-426-7679 or [ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us).

## Student Presentations in 2015-17

- Spark Gap and Solid State Tesla Coils
- Poetry from the Heart
- Fahrenheit 451 Audiobook Soundtrack
- Soundtrack for a Book
- Healing Powers of Animals
- No One Will Ever Be as Funny as I Think I Am
- New England Will Kill Me
- Fundraising for Honrar las Vida
- Project Omega
- Character Design
- Lituo Gier Kirkja (The Stained Glass Church)
- Hydrophobic Dog Toy
- Pulse Points: A Photo Journal Blog
- The Effects of Stretching on Health
- Within the Woods: A Film
- Mobile Feeding the Need
- Unified Sports Student-Leader Guidebook
- Screenwriting
- Writing a Novella
- Animation
- I'm Not Bobby Flay
- Finding My Tribe: Goats, Farms, and Goat Cheese
- The Rooster's Canvas
- Kiosk and Trail
- Human Trafficking in CT
- What is Brain Health?

# Career Center Information

## Internships

If you are thinking about completing an internship in your junior or senior year, now is the time to apply for 2017-2018. The internship deadline for the current year was December 15.

This is particularly true for students interested in medical careers. Students interested in internships in a hospital have the opportunity to intern through EdAdvance's Regional Medical Internship Program. This program requires students to participate in a single internship during the school year, attend monthly classes, and complete on-line assignments. Internships can be paid or unpaid and students are required to complete a minimum of thirty hours outside of the school day.

Internships through the Career Center are during the school year and students that successfully complete the internship will have it noted on their transcript. Internship applications are available in the Career Center. Please contact Peg Ragaini if you have any questions at [ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us) or 203.426.7679.

## 2017-2018 High School Partnership Program through Naugatuck Valley Community College



We have openings for three junior or senior students to take a course in the 2017 fall semester at either the Waterbury or Danbury campus of Naugatuck Valley Community College. The College will waive the cost of tuition and fees. Participating students are responsible for the costs of books, supplies, and transportation. Students must meet the prerequisites of a selected course and it must be approved by the College. Students may only take one class. Applications are available in the Career Center and the deadline to submit a completed application for the 2017 fall semester is April 1.

There is also an opportunity for one student to participate in the Principal to President Scholarship Program through Naugatuck Valley Community College. This program will cover the cost of tuition, fees, and books. Applications are available in the Career Center and completed applications are due by April 1.

Selected students will be notified by NHS by April 17 and will be contacted by Naugatuck Valley Community College in late August.

## Community Service



The monthly community service NewsBrief is emailed to every student and family on the first Thursday of every month. Please note the following:

- It is emailed through Naviance so if you are not receiving the emails, please check your Naviance email to ensure it is correct.
- If you would like to have a volunteer opportunity included in the email, please email us no later than the day prior to "publication." [ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us) or [latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us)
- Volunteer opportunities not included in the NewsBrief will be posted on the bulletin board in the Career Center and, if appropriate, included in the following month's email.
- The Community Service NewsBrief is only emailed during the school year. Our last email for 2016-2017 will be in early June and it will return in September 2017.

## Part-time Jobs for High School Students

The Career Center has a bulletin board where it posts all part-time jobs. If you are interested in posting a position, please email either Peg Ragaini, [ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:ragainip@newtown.k12.ct.us), or Kitty Latowicki, [latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:latowickik@newtown.k12.ct.us). Please describe the position, hours and how you would like to be contacted by students.

Students are welcome to come into the Career Center any time to view the job postings. Students are responsible for contacting the potential employers and we are happy to speak to students about making a good impression when they contact prospective employers.

Students interested in summer jobs through the Newtown Parks and Recreation Department are asked to apply on-line. The application deadline is March 9 and no applications will be accepted after that date. To apply, go to [www.newtown-ct.gov](http://www.newtown-ct.gov), click on Government and go to Parks and Recreation. The link for the application is on the left side of the page under Summer Jobs. Please remember to follow directions and read for detail.





# NUTRITION NEWS



Newsletter

January 2016

## Whitsons Clean Initiative

As part of Whitsons Clean Initiative, these vertical gardens were donated to all Newtown schools in an effort to help promote organic gardening and to serve as an important lesson for students. The vertical gardens are made from aromatic and naturally decay resistant cedar. They feature a chalkboard picture frame for fun and easy labelling for students. The vertical gardens are a great tool to help educate students about growing plants and the importance of eating fresh vegetables.



## Spice Up Your Fooditude

Adding fresh herbs to your food is a great way to flavor your meal without having to use salt. By following a heart-healthy, low-sodium diet you can decrease your chance of developing high blood pressure. Reducing salt doesn't mean reducing flavor! Herbs are great salt substitutes and add intense flavor to all kinds of dishes.

## How can you use what's in your Garden?

Basil– Sauces, Pastas, Soups, Pizza, Salads

Thyme– Sauces, Grilled Meat and Fish, Potatoes, Stews

Swiss Chard–Vegetarian dishes, Soups, Quiches, Pasta, Rice dishes

Mesclun Lettuce– Salads, Sandwiches, Stir Fries, Vegetable side dishes



Find Tasty Herb Recipes at <http://www.bonappetit.com/recipes/slideshow/herb-recipes#10>



**Newtown High School**  
**12 Berkshire Rd.**  
**Sandy Hook, CT 06482**

## Important Links

NHS Home Page	<a href="http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net/">http://newtown.nhs.schooldesk.net/</a>
NHS Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Newtown-High-School/158260014186649">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Newtown-High-School/158260014186649</a>
NHS PTSA Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Newtown-High-School-PTSA-143876075644439/">https://www.facebook.com/Newtown-High-School-PTSA-143876075644439/</a>
NHS PTSA: News, Events, Updates & Forms / Google Drive	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1fMVLvplZblTTVdIS0hMd3JoZWm">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1fMVLvplZblTTVdIS0hMd3JoZWm</a>
Guidance/Naviance	<a href="https://connection.naviance.com/newtown">https://connection.naviance.com/newtown</a>
PowerSchool Portal	<a href="https://ps.newtown.k12.ct.us/public/">https://ps.newtown.k12.ct.us/public/</a>
Athletics	<a href="http://www.nighthawkspports.com">www.nighthawkspports.com</a>
2016-2017 School Calendar	<a href="http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/Portals/Newtown/District/docs/District%20Information/calendar%20-%202016-2017%20final%20approved%20Jan.%2019.%202016.pdf">http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/Portals/Newtown/District/docs/District%20Information/calendar%20-%202016-2017%20final%20approved%20Jan.%2019.%202016.pdf</a>
NHS Schedule of Days Calendar	<a href="http://nhs.newtown.schooldesk.net/Portals/Newtown/NHS/docs/Nathalie/Copy%20of%201617DAYS_x.pdf">http://nhs.newtown.schooldesk.net/Portals/Newtown/NHS/docs/Nathalie/Copy%20of%201617DAYS_x.pdf</a>

School Office:	203-426-7646
Fax:	203-426-6573
Attendance:	203-426-7656
Cafeteria:	203-426-7637
School Counseling Office:	203-426-7651
NHS Resource Officer:	203-426-7646, x6124
Nurse:	203-426-7649
Psychologist:	203-426-7651
Substance Abuse Counselor:	203-426-7646, x6125

# Dates to Remember . . .



February 1	PTSA Meeting
February 1	Mid-year Graduation
February 3	2-Hour Delay
February 6	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation
February 8	Principal's Breakfast
February 10	Snowball Dance
February 20-21	Schools Closed - <i>Winter Break</i>
March 8	Principal's Breakfast
March 14	Early Dismissal - <i>Professional Development</i>
March 15	Early Dismissal - <i>Conferences</i>
March 16	Early Dismissal - <i>Professional Development</i>
March 23-26	NHS Musical
March 29	NHS College Fair
March 31	Junior Prom