

NEWFIELD NEWSLETTER



Newfield Central School District

November 2013

Newfield Middle School Drama presents....



Come explore the exciting world of Dr. Seuss! The Cat in the Hat (*Nolan Ruocco*), takes us on an adventure through the Jungle of Nool, where Horton the elephant (*Jake Brown*) discovers a speck of dust containing the tiny planet of Who.

Horton befriends JoJo (*Carson Miller*), a Who-child who gets in trouble for thinking too many "thinks." Horton must protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, while also guarding an abandoned egg that's been left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird (*Caitlin Howell*).

As Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping, and a trial, the shy Gertrude McFuzz (*Savanna Scott*) never loses faith in him. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, and community emerge triumphant!

Join us November 8th and 9th at 7:00pm in the High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 and will be on sale in the middle school office or at the door.

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents and Community Members:


Are we over-testing our students? While many parents and educators across the country are truthfully saying "YES" to that question, here in Newfield we can answer with a qualified "NO." With a revised APPR this year, we have eliminated testing that does not give valuable feedback about what our students know and are able to do and that does not help teachers adjust instruction accordingly.

Testing takes many forms. It can be as simple as a teacher asking a question aloud in class with students raising their hands eager to give an answer. Or, it can be very formal with students sitting for a two-hour written exam that is graded by people who have no personal interest in the outcome. It can also be a musical performance, or a PowerPoint presentation, or a conversation, or a project, or a product, or a single answer, or solving a puzzle, or an invention, etc. The purpose of testing is to find out what students know so we can build on that knowledge and help them discover and learn new things, or to help us adjust instruction so that our students are able to learn what they did not know before or were struggling to learn. Testing is not evil; it is good and helpful if used for the right reasons and in the right way.

Last year, we over-tested and had a very complicated APPR process. This year, it is greatly simplified. We needed to once again make teaching and learning the top priority and use testing merely to support those efforts. As a result, this year there are no "extra" tests. Elementary teachers use AimsWeb, which helps them monitor student progress throughout the year. Teachers in grades 3-8 use NYS Assessments, as they have for many years. Although these tests do not continually monitor student progress, they do give teachers information about areas of the curriculum that need to be given more focus or attention during the year and do help us design appropriate and effective remedial programs for individual students. Most secondary teachers will be creating their own tests ("final exams") this year, as well as using Regents Exams (if applicable) to determine if students have mastered the subject material.

We appreciate your support, cooperation, and assistance as we strive to use testing the "right" way; that is, to create a learning experience for each child that is appropriate and effective.


***Dr. Cheryl Thomas
Superintendent of Schools***



[search our site](#)

[CONTACT](#)
[SITE MAP](#)

[About Us](#)
[BOE](#)
[Departments](#)
[Athletics](#)
[Families](#)
[Schools](#)




Quick Links

- [Calendar](#)
- [Staff Resources](#)
- [Cafeteria](#)
- [Directions](#)
- [District Overview](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Public Information](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [Staff Directory](#)


Events

- MS Dance**
Fri, Oct 25, 2013 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm
The dance is hosted by the MS Student Council and will be housed in the Elementary Gymnasium.
- MS Red Ribbon Week**
Mon, Oct 28 to Fri, Nov 1, 2013
- Music Dept. Fruit Sale begins**
Fri, Nov 1, 2013
- National Honor Society Induction Ceremony**
Fri, Nov 1, 2013 from 8:05am - 9:00am
- Tompkins County Veterans Day Parade**
Sun, Nov 3, 2013 from 2:00pm - 3:00pm
- Board of Education Meeting**
Thu, Nov 7, 2013 at 6:30pm @ Weaver Room
- MS End of 10 weeks**
Fri, Nov 8, 2013


Welcome to the Newfield Central School District's new website!



Soccer Sectionals:
Congratulations to our varsity soccer teams (both boys and girls) for qualifying for the Section IV soccer tournament! Varsity Girls' Soccer, coached by Mr. ... [more >>](#)



CCR Labs in Session: The high school has College and Career Readiness (CCR) Labs every period of every day to help students complete work, learn study skills, and get prepared for work or college. ... [more >>](#)



Gym Dedication: The Sue France Gymnasium was dedicated on October 1, 2013 to honor long-time teacher, coach, athletic director and high school principal Sue France. A plaque was presented ... [more >>](#)

[More Stories >>](#)

Dr. Cheryl Thomas, Superintendent
Newfield School District
District Office
247 Main Street
Newfield, NY 14867

Phone: (607) 564-9955
Fax: (607) 564-0055

Our Schools
High School
Middle School
Elementary School

Departments
Superintendents Office
Business Office
Special Education
Food Service
Buildings & Grounds
Technology
Transportation
Human Resources

About Us
Staff Directory
Driving Directions
District Overview
District Newsletter

Families
PTA
Student Registration
Engage NY
Pre-K

Introducing the new and improved...

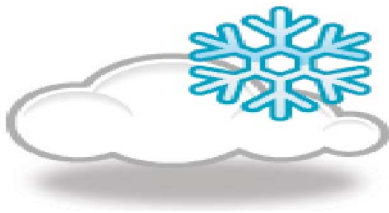
www.newfieldschools.org

Check out the new school district website!

Features include:

- an events calendar that can be filtered by category or location and will be updated on an on-going basis;
- current and archived news stories to highlight current happenings;
- quick links to make it easier to access the information you are looking for;
- a special area for links of interest to parents.

In addition to the professional look and feel of the new site, there is a lot of new content. Please check it out and let us know what you think!



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In the event that it is necessary to close school because of an emergency such as impassable roads, as many local radio and TV stations as possible will be called. ***The district will be using School Messenger, a phone contact system, in the event of a closing or emergency, but calls will not be made before 6:15 a.m.***

The decision to close will be made as early as possible. The Day Care and Before/After School Programs will not be open on snow days and will close early in the event of emergency closures. Please have plans in place for these situations. Trying to make arrangements at the last minute can be upsetting for everyone.

ALLERGY SUPPORT GROUP

Does your child have food allergies? Do you have questions about allergy safety in the school and community? If so please consider joining the Allergy Support Group. Contact Sarah White (swhite@newfield-schools.org phone: 331-8932) or Suzie Taylor (bugmarie21@aol.com phone: 564-6141) for more information.



WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THESE PEOPLE????????

They have experienced the
RONNY ROMM COMEDY HYPNOSIS SHOW

NEWFIELD High School's CLASS OF 2015 is excited to, once again, present THE AMAZING RONNY ROMM on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Newfield High School auditorium.

PRE-SALE tickets are ONLY \$8 for individuals and \$25 for a family of 4. Additional tickets for the family pack are \$5. AT THE DOOR tickets are priced slightly higher at \$10 and \$30 with additional family tickets \$7.

Come and volunteer to be hypnotized or simply watch those you know succumb to Ronny's hypnotic trance. You will be mesmerized by what the human mind can do. If you are not a believer, you will be after this show. The show is family friendly and promises to have you rolling in the aisles in laughter.

For more information or to get tickets, contact Jody McCoy-Woods at 546-9955 x 3227 or email at jmccoy-woods@newfieldschools.org.



A RECIPE FROM THE HEALTHY LIVING COMMITTEE

Fall is the Perfect Season to Make Applesauce. Below is a recipe that you can make in your crockpot. So easy!

Crockpot Applesauce

Ingredients:

6 large apples, cored and cut into slices (peeling optional)
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 cup water
pinch of salt



Directions:

Place the apple slices into the crockpot. Add water, cinnamon, and salt. Cover and cook on low for 4-6 hours. When the fruit is super tender, mash with a potato masher or a large fork. Serve warm or store in the refrigerator for about 5 days.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society has opened the 2013-2014 school year with an ambitious schedule. On November 1st our new members were inducted into the society after being invited to join based upon four main criteria: Character, Service, Leadership and Scholarship. Both the existing members and the new inductees will immediately be tasked with helping our local community by conducting the annual Food Drive. They are asking anyone who can to donate non-perishable food items, such as canned or boxed goods, which they will be collecting from the 4th to the 11th of November.

Later this year, honor society members may be seen in a host of other service activities both as individuals and as a group. The culminating activity for the year, held in May, is the famous "Points Picnic," which rewards members of the student body who have accumulated points awarded for such things as school participation, acts of citizenship, and scholarship. Last year we were able to host this activity through the generous donation of our local Parent Teachers Association (PTA), a great example of positively affecting students.

Currently, the local National Honor Society officers include Brianna Zichetella as President, Joshua Robbins as Vice-President, Emily Hatch as secretary, and Alex Fuller as treasurer. Mr. Peter Pfarrer and Mr. Mel Voorheis are our advisors. The NHS hopes to bring the fruits of their commitment to scholarship, service, leadership and character to the school in modeling our core beliefs.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Mikayla Myers graduated from Newfield High School in June 2011. She attended the University of Albany and is scheduled to graduate with a BA/MPA this year. This means she will earn her Bachelors of Arts in Political Science: American Politics as well as Public Policy: International Policy and her Master's in Public Administration for Homeland Security and Cyber Security all within four years of graduating from Newfield.

Mikayla's decision to attend the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany had a lot to do with the programming that she was passionate about. "They offered me everything I wanted regarding opportunities in the political and policy world," Mikayla said. While at Albany, she has been involved in many organizations including the Presidential Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor's Society), Rockefeller College Dean's Leadership Council and many other clubs on campus. Even more impressive, Mikayla has accepted an internship with the Department of State in Washington DC for the Spring 2014 semester.

Mikayla's advice to current Newfield students is to "dream big! There is a whole world out there waiting for you. Don't be afraid to go after your dreams and don't be afraid of failure...when one door closes another door opens. Always remember where you came from and in order to make your dreams become a reality, YOU need to put the effort in."

If you know of a former Newfield graduate interested in sharing their Blast from the Past, contact Rick Pawlewicz @ rpawlewicz@newfieldschools.org.



Senior Graduation Cap, Gown & Announcement Orders

If you have a senior who has yet to order graduation supplies, please contact Jostens, the company who takes our graduation cap, gown, and announcement orders. A Jostens' representative can be contacted at 201 W. Genesee Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066 or at (315) 458-3871.

High School Picture Day – Retakes

The high school will have picture retakes on Monday, November 4th. This service is available for high school students who missed having their picture taken earlier this year. Picture order forms are available with Mr. Wigsten or Mr. Voorheis.

BENEFITTING FROM THE COMMON CORE

Middle School English-Language Arts students are learning to be close readers and to reflect on their own progress.

ELA teachers Ms. Atkins and Ms. White gave a presentation to the Board of Education on October 17th about implementing the state's new curriculum for grades 6-8. They shared their experiences developing and teaching lessons tied to the new modules, writing Student Learning Targets to monitor progress, and eliciting student feedback on close reading strategies.

ELA 7

CLOSE READERS

NEWFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 7

Which Close Reading Strategy Helps You the Most?

The seventh grade English Language Arts students at Newfield Middle School were asked which close reading strategy helps them the most when they read a text to gather and select evidence to support their analysis. Once they identified the strategy, they explained why it was most helpful to them individually.

STUDENT VOICES

"One close reading strategy that helps me is rereading the text because it helps me get the gist or understand what the text says." -Kaitlyn


"For me, determining the vocabulary in context is most helpful. The reason why is because if I understand the meaning of hard words in the text, it's easier for me to fully understand the article." -Slavik


"Annotating the text helps me because then I can find the gist or the main idea." -Alaina

"Determining vocabulary in context helps me with my text analyzing, and it helps me get better at finding vocabulary words in the text." -Alex


"I like to use sticky notes to mark my thinking, and it makes it easy for me to go back to the important spots in the text." -Kylee

"The strategy that is most helpful to me is rereading the text because it gives me a better idea of which pieces of evidence I should gather, and it helps me make sense of the text itself." -Jillian






Jailyn and Hannah are collaborating on chapter five's reader's notes—a tool they use to identify the gist of the text—for the novel *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park.



Dylan and Cole are discussing how Salva's perspective in *A Long Walk to Water* connects to a nonfiction article from the Washington Post.



Ayden is gathering evidence from a nonfiction article to support his analysis of the similarities and differences between the perspectives of the Dinka and Nuer tribes in South Sudan.

Newfield Middle School

STUDENT VOICES

October 2013 ELA 7

Citing Evidence: What are the kids saying?

REFLECTIONS

FEEDBACK

Mastering the Modules: Student Reflection Is Student Progress

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

KAYLA

I actually think that finding evidence to support the analysis is kind of hard. It's kind of hard because some of the really good evidence I pick doesn't always support my analysis. I feel the more we work on it, the easier it gets for me to understand.

RAYIN

I feel that when we do sticky notes together, I make progress. I feel like I'm getting smarter every time I do it.

MORGAN

In order to be more successful, I think I need to read closer. I think I'm a close reader, but I also think I can improve on that skill in order to be able to write better inferences.

SLAVIK

I feel like I've grown a lot because at the beginning of the year, citing text-based evidence was a bit hard. In 6th grade, I didn't really know what it meant. I feel like I've made a lot of progress.

After beginning the first module in ELA 7 on September 9th, it has become clear that student feedback and reflection are integral in moving students forward this year.



Kayla (above) working on annotations in a nonfiction article about South Sudan



Slavik (above) gathering evidence for future writing



Rayin developing reader's notes

Newfield's middle schoolers are providing me with feedback that is essential in adapting, revamping, and redeveloping the modules.

Both teachers and Board Members were impressed with the students' thoughtful and serious responses. It was obvious that they had adopted the new strategies and were using the new vocabulary.

Congratulations to both teachers and students who are working hard to implement the Common Core. As one Board member put it, "You guys rock!"

FIND YOUR GROWING EDGE

--Barry Derfel, H.S. Principal

For a number of years I had the privilege of working with David Billings, an organizer from the *People's Institute for Survival and Beyond*. David taught me the concept of finding one's growing edge, that place just outside of one's comfort zone where we need to spend some time if we want to grow in new and meaningful ways. This year at Newfield High School, there are many opportunities for our students, staff, families, and community to find and push that growing edge.

♠**Free SAT Preparation:** All of our students have the opportunity to get free help studying for the SAT's, during all 9 periods of the school day, in our CCR labs. If a student wants to do this, she/he needs to go online to collegeboard.org and create a free account. Students should use their Newfield email address, so that they will be able to access the full range of practice options while here at school. All of our CCR teachers can help students set up their accounts, choose the specific tutorial options that are most likely to be helpful to each individual person, and help each student work through these tutorials at her/his own pace. As always, students in the National Honor Society can request placement in our CCR labs if they are interested in accessing this support.

♠**Industry and Youth Networking Night:** Newfield High School will be hosting a Tompkins County Youth Employment Council event that matches work-ready high school graduates with area employers. This event will create an opportunity for employers and future employees to connect. Scheduled for Thursday, November 21st, at 6pm in Newfield High School, the event will target youth (and their families) who are choosing to enter the workforce directly after graduation. High School Seniors, and their families, from all TST BOCES component schools are invited to attend. Students will learn more about what employers are expecting from entry-level employees, have a chance to meet hiring managers and Human Resource folks, and be able to take part in on-the-spot interviews. Families may attend a workshop focusing on how they can best support the growth of their youth into excellent entry-level employees who will secure a living wage job that offers opportunities for growth. Pre-registration is required and will enter students into a drawing for Smartyogurt and Yogurtland gift certificates! Students and parents must register for this event by November 15th. E-mail Heather Cooper at hcooper@tstboces.org or call 607-257-1555 x461.

♠**Upward Bound:** The Cornell Upward Bound Program is now a part of Newfield High School. We are looking for 3-4 motivated students in grade 9 to join the current group of Upward Bound students who want to go on to college and want resources, assistance and help making plans to get there. To join the program students must qualify as low-income (which usually means they qualify for the free & reduced priced lunch) and/or be the first in their family to go onto college (meaning that neither parent has a 4 year degree). If this sounds like you, or someone you know, email upwardbound@cornell.edu for more information OR ask about our program in the high school main office.

♠**Sources of Strength:** Our school is participating in the Sources of Strength Project, a research study conducted by the University of Rochester (funded by the National Institute of Mental Health). The goal of the study is to help all students become more resilient during times of distress, prevent problems such as feeling suicidal, and increase positive youth-adult communication. Sources of Strength works to create a school culture in which students use positive coping resources and seek assistance from caring adults. Approximately 20 students in our school will be trained as "Peer Leaders." This means that they will receive ongoing mentoring by adult advisors as they promote this type of positive school climate through school presentations and public messaging activities such as poster campaigns.

♠**Aesthetics Committee:** This committee is seeking your input about the painting projects we have been doing in our building over the last three years. We want to know what you like about the work we've done, what you would like to see changed, and what other types of work you would like

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE OFFICE

see us doing to promote a comfortable and inviting school atmosphere. Stop by our "input table" at upcoming school events, send me an email or a note with your thoughts, or stop in to school to talk to me. In addition, all students, staff, families, and community members are invited to help us with this work by joining our Aesthetics Committee.

♠**Unlearning Racism/Re-learning History:** Students, staff, families, and community members are invited to participate in this workshop series that I will be offering. This workshop is designed to help each of us become more culturally responsive as educators, students, and caregivers. We will unlearn myths, stereotypes, and misinformation that we have learned about African Americans, Indians (Native Americans), and White folks by reading and discussing two books: *Rebels Against Slavery* and *Custer Died for Your Sins*, and watching and discussing the film: *Kanehsatake: 250 years of Resistance*. Participants are expected to attend all five Tuesday sessions: November 12th; December 10th; January 28th; March 4th; March 25th. Each session will run from 3:15 – 4:45. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mr. Derfel by calling the high school office or sending an email.

I encourage you to join one of the initiatives above and help us achieve our school vision. **We are Newfield: Conscious, Consistent, Committed to what is best for our Community.**

The first marking period has come and gone and we are nearing the halfway point of the second marking period! If you have not seen your child's report card, drop me an email or a phone call and I will make sure you do! The year is moving right along and everyone seems to be constantly on the go. With that said, it is incredibly important to check in with your child and their teachers and make sure they are on track to complete each course and Regents Exam that is required for graduation. I am happy to facilitate meetings to develop improvement plans for your child. Early intervention increases the likelihood of success!

I find that my days are consumed with seniors and their parents talking about college search, applications and financial aid. It is an overwhelming experience for many. I am impressed with many of our seniors and parents who are ahead of the game. They have completed applications, resumes and essays and are well on their way to "life after Newfield." College acceptances are coming in every week. Stop by the High School College Acceptance board (outside the office) and check in on our success stories. It's not too late to get started...BUT...you need to get moving!

The after high school research should not be limited to the junior and senior years. In fact, I believe that students need to do some general planning and goal setting as soon as they enter their freshman year. They can visit colleges on breaks and vacations. Talk with students and do research to help them make a realistic plan to get where they want to go!

I invite everyone to check out my checklists, resources, links and presentations on my website. You will find this information helpful in your students' journey through high school. Enjoy!

Important Senior Information

- December ACT Registration Deadline is November 8, 2013
- January SAT Registration Deadline is December 27, 2013
- Meet with visiting college representatives (list is in the office)
- Complete college applications and research scholarships the financial aid process
- Financial Aid Night is scheduled for Thursday, December 12th at 7pm in the HS Library

Important Junior Information

- PSAT results will be in by the end of November.
- It's never too early to start your post secondary planning, in fact, you should! This means that it is time to do your research, visit colleges and talk to people about your options.

Important Parent Information

- Staying involved in your child's education is more important than ever. Meet with the teachers, talk with your child and encourage healthy routines with homework and studying.
- Keep current through email (email rpawlewicz@newfieldschools.org), the Newfield Schools website or by simply calling (564-9955 ext. 3131).

Newfield Central School
247 Main Street
Newfield, NY 14867

Non Profit Organization
Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Spencer, N.Y. Permit No. 194

**CARR-RT PRESORT
RESIDENT/BOXHOLDER
NEWFIELD, N.Y. 14867**

Newfield Central School students are involved in the community...

NEWFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

CHRYSLIS

The CHRYSLIS program (College Help for Rural Youth—Succeed with Assistance at LibrarieS) has kicked off another year of workshops at the library. This series of workshops is funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of Tompkins County and provides assistance to students in all aspects of the college search and application process. CHRYSLIS meets from 10AM-12PM and 12PM-2PM on selected Saturdays. Upcoming dates are October 26, November 9, November 16 and December 14. Topics to be covered include

- SAT/ACT preparation
- How to find financial aid
- College Applications
- Completing the FAFSA
- Writing College Essays

The program is free but space is limited. To register, contact Mr. Pawlewicz at the high school by calling 564-9955 ext. 3131 or emailing rpawlewicz@newfieldschools.org



Story Time

Caregivers and preschool age children are invited to join us at the library on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 10:30 to 11:00AM for story time. November story time dates are the 6th and 20th. There will be stories, songs and finger plays.

Election Day Bake Sale

Don't forget to stop by for a treat after voting on November 5th! Our wonderful bakers will supply an assortment of cookies, cakes, breads and more! Doors will be open early and the sale will go on while supplies last.



Trustees Needed

Do you love the library and want to become more involved? Ever considered becoming a trustee? More information and application materials are available at www.newfieldpubliclibrary.org/ and at the front desk.



Please be sure to follow traffic rules in the parking lot. Use the "drop and go" lane to safely drop your child off at the curb without getting out of your car. If you need to get out of your car for any reason (even for "just a second"), please park instead of using the "drop and go" lane. This will keep traffic flowing smoothly and make the parking lot safer for everyone!

**NEWFIELD TROJANS
CLOTHING SALE!**

Back by popular demand, the 8th grade class is again taking orders for Newfield short-sleeved t-shirts, sweatshirts, and sweatpants. The items can be ordered in forest green with white print OR black with forest green & white print. Order forms/money must be turned in to Jackie Brenon in the Middle School Office OR Pam Scott in the Elementary School Office by 3PM on Friday, November 15th. Pick up order forms from either office or an 8th grade student beginning Friday, November 1st. This fundraiser helps support the 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. that will take place in May 2014. Thank you for supporting our students!