

Barry Derfel
Newfield High School Principal
I welcome collaboration

Reflections on my first three months

After three months here as principal of Newfield High School, I can honestly say that I wouldn't trade this opportunity for anything in the world. It's been exciting, rewarding, challenging, and fun. One of the reasons I find Newfield High School to be such a great place to work has to do with the size of the school. With just under 300 students and about 30 staff, it's large enough to be diverse and vibrant, yet small enough to be comfortable and effective.

Vibrant and Diverse

Here at Newfield High School we have students on the honor roll, students in the play, students on sports teams, students who stay here all day and students who go to BOCES in the morning or the afternoon. We have students who are learning to be nurses, students who are learning to be scientists and students who are learning to be carpenters. We have students who excel at trigonometry, students who excel at Spanish, and students who excel at P.E. At Newfield High School we have writers, mathematicians, artists, and athletes. Students at Newfield High School plan to go to college, students at Newfield High School plan to join the military, and students at Newfield High School plan to begin careers. We even have students who aren't yet sure what they want to do when they graduate.

Comfortable and effective

Newfield High School is a comfortable place to be. People greet each other, people smile at each other, people help each other. Faculty knows students and students know faculty. Families know faculty and faculty knows families. Newfield High School is a school that works. Students learn, teachers teach, and families get involved. For the first marking period, we had 81 students on the High Honor Roll, 56 students on the Honor Roll, and 60 students who earned Student of Distinction Awards.

Newfield High School is small enough to allow students, faculty, and families to go below the surface and really get to know each other as people. When a school community knows each other in this way, it becomes possible to build on each other's strengths, to challenge each other to grow just a little bit more, and to support each other along the way. Newfield High School is vibrant, diverse, comfortable, and effective. Newfield High School – it's a great place to be.