

# **Newburyport High School**

## **Organizations, Clubs, and Activities**



### **Student Life**

**N**ewburyport High School provides a wide variety of organizations and activities for student involvement. The purpose of these activities varies but fundamentally, they all exist in order to provide an opportunity for the application of the diverse talents and interests of the student body. Activities may be added as students indicate a serious interest in new ideas. All activities and organizations are faculty-sponsored and supervised. Some extra-curricular activities may incur fees.

Many opportunities for student participation are listed below:

**Class Officers** (Grades 9-12):

There are five elected class officers. Their duties encompass all parts of class business, recordkeeping, and general leadership in class activities.



**President:** The President of each class oversees all the activities of the class. He/she works closely with the Class Advisor, and both the President and the Class Advisor are responsible for providing the leadership necessary for the success of class activities. The President is responsible for all groups under his/her jurisdiction. S/he must ensure that the class officers do their jobs diligently. S/he is also a member of the Student Council.

**Vice President:** The Vice-President assists the President in the performance of the duties of his or her office; the Vice-President shares the responsibility for providing class leadership. In addition, the Vice-President may attend Student Council meetings.

**Secretary:** The Secretary keeps accurate records of all meetings of the class officers and/or class.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer keeps accurate records of class dues payments, class expenses, and projects. This responsibility is the Treasurer's under the supervision of the Class Advisor and the School Finance Manager. It is essential that the Treasurer keep accurate records in dealing with financial matters.

**Historian:** The Historian keeps an accurate history of the class. He/she keeps a written account of everything the class or members of the class have done within a given year. At the end of the class's years at Newburyport High School, the Historian's records are compiled into a class history. This becomes a chapter in the long history of Newburyport High School.

## Art Club

## Astronomy Club



This Club is free and open to all students and faculty. The objective is to introduce as many people as possible to the astronomical events of the night sky. Techniques of observing with binoculars and various telescopes are taught. Most times the club will meet on the football field after sunset from the beginning of fall until the end of winter, twice monthly, weather permitting, and are typically announced twenty-four to forty-eight hours before meeting times. Students who gain proficiency with the astronomical equipment are encouraged to post photographs and their findings on the Astronomy Club website.

## Building Bridges



Building Bridges is an interdisciplinary project which raises awareness about social issues through creative writing, art, and photography. In years past we have joined forces with Opportunity Works, a local organization that supports people with developmental disabilities; Pettengill House, a non-profit organization which provides services to families in need; and the Kellerher Learning Center, which provides educational services to students in Newburyport. Students use their writing, photography, and art to express what they learn about the people they meet through these organizations. Through this, students are able to produce a remarkable final product in the form of a book and an exhibit which focuses on the similarities, rather than the differences of all people. Proceeds from the sale of books fund a scholarship and other social needs. Students in Building Bridges will have a real world learning experience making connections with people outside their normal scope of friends. . There is a direct, empowering impact on

the individuals and organizations featured in the book as evidenced through their stories and as told by the student writers, artists, and photographers. An exhibit in the community gives people a chance to learn more about a non-profit activity in this area.

## Best Buddies



An international non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships.

## Community Service Program



At Newburyport High School, we believe that service to others is a noble cause and expect that students and teachers will become involved in activities that foster and demonstrate this commitment. We offer a wide range of opportunities for students to become involved in service to others. A student may receive one credit for each 32 hours of service accrued. A maximum of 4 credits may be accepted toward graduation requirements.

## Dances



As a general rule, only Newburyport High School students will be allowed to attend school-sponsored dances. The only exception to this is formally scheduled proms, when guests will be allowed to attend provided they are registered with the appropriate administrator in advance of the prom. If a student leaves the dance, he/she will not be readmitted and must also leave the premises. All school rules are in effect at dances. Students who are absent from school or who are dismissed from school because of illness are not permitted to attend extra-curricular activities on the same day. A student too ill to be in school is presumed to be too ill for recreation as well.

## Interact



Interact is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young people ages 14-18. Interact gives young people an opportunity to participate in fun, meaningful projects. Interactors develop their leadership skills and initiative while meeting with friends.

## Intramurals



An intramural program is run periodically during the year by the Wellness Department. There is a fee for individuals and/or teams entering the competitions. Some of the sports in intramurals are badminton, volleyball, floor hockey, and ultimate Frisbee.

## **Jazz Ensemble**

## **Marshal Staff**



The Marshal Staff of Newburyport High School is a group of upper-class men and women, who provide leadership in the organizational structure of the school. Students volunteer to be considered for the staff, are reviewed, interviewed, and selected by the Administration. This group represents some of the most responsible young men and women who are charged with key duties throughout the school: serving as guides and hosts during parents' nights, managing and conducting an orderly passage of students to and from assemblies, and monitoring student behavior in the cafeteria and restrooms.

## **National Honor Society**



The National Honor Society is an organization that recognizes students who reflect and demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in scholarship, leadership, service, and character. It is an honor for any candidate to be considered and selected to the National Honor Society. Responsibilities are most visible by the service projects performed by the group. Most notable activities are the Halloween Fun Fair, Letters from Santa, and blood drives. Other responsibilities not so clearly visible are the varying and diverse forms of

individual service projects, continued academic success, and a continued presence of positive leadership and character exhibited by each member. In order to be considered for selection, candidates must have an unweighted GPA of a 3.6 or higher. The selection process typically occurs in the junior year and candidates will be judged in all four areas. When selected, the inducted member exhibits excellence in all four areas without exception.

Incoming students should aspire to the National Honor Society as they consider their academic and personal goals. As soon as students enter our high school the record of their academic and personal achievements begin. During junior and senior years candidates are asked to reflect on their previous high school experiences prior to being selected.

## **Newburyport High School Theatre**



Each year we present several productions - usually including a classic or literary play, a student-directed festival of short plays, the state-wide high school drama festival, and a musical. In the fall and spring of each year, dramatic selections are presented. Auditions are open to all students in both the fall and spring plays.

## **Peer Mediation**



Peer mediation is a form of conflict resolution in which trained students, under adult supervision, help their peers talk out and resolve interpersonal conflicts. Student mediators do not take sides or make decisions for their peers; instead, they help them create their own resolution to conflicts. Peer mediation is a safe, effective program that has been implemented in thousands of schools across the country.

## Poetry Soup



*Dickinson*



*Whitman*

Poetry Soup meets one or two times a month in Jabberwocky Bookstore (usually) from 7 to 9 pm. Students who attend eight out of the twelve sessions receive one credit; however, students who cannot come that often are welcome to attend whenever they can, just for the fun of it. Each session includes a visit from a published poet, who gives a short reading followed by a question and answer period. Often the evening ends with some acoustic music provided by students.

## **P.R.O.T.E.C.T** (Peers Reaching Out to Encourage Complete Tolerance)



Funded by a grant from the Newburyport Commission on Diversity and Tolerance, P.R.O.T.E.C.T. is a student club open to any student at NHS. Members of P.R.O.T.E.C.T. “seek to educate ourselves, our peers, and members of the wider community about issues of injustice and intolerance in order to promote change, both locally and globally.” This club meets twice a month to discuss issues of injustice and

plan fundraisers and events designed to increase awareness of issues of intolerance. Issues discussed include global poverty, racism, classism, heterosexism and any other topic members of the club feel moved to investigate further.

## **Publications**



**En-Aitch-Ess:** The N.H.S. yearbook, otherwise phonetically known as "En-Aitch-Ess" was first published by the Class of 1919. Although the staff comprises only seniors, the book consists of photographs of activities and students from all classes.

**Masthead:** The Masthead is our award-winning student newspaper that is published periodically during the school year. All interested students may take part in its publication.

**Record:** The Record, Newburyport High School's historical, literary and art magazine, was first published in 1891. It is the **second oldest high school magazine** of its kind and contains short stories, essays, poems, editorials, commentaries, and drawings, all produced by members of the student body.

## **School Council Representative**



The School Council is an advisory board to the principal made up of teachers, parents, a community member, and students. In monthly meetings, the School Council looks at the School Improvement Plan, the budget, the student handbook, and other topics that may come up about policies and practices at the high school. Student input is a crucially important factor in the work and discussions of the School Council.

### **Special Olympics** (Soccer and Basketball)



The mission of Special Olympics Massachusetts (SOMA) is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of well-coached Olympic-type sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities by providing them with continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness; prepare for entry into school and community programs; express courage; experience joy; and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics Athletes, and the community.

### **Stage Crew**



A team of students interested in stage management, lighting, and sound are trained each year as Technical Assistants. Besides working on school theatrical presentations, members of the Stage Crew are available for sound and lighting support to groups renting and/or otherwise using the auditorium and other places in the school.

## **Student Advisory Council**



The Student Advisory Council to the School Principal consists of two representatives from each class, the Student Council President, and the Regional representatives to the State Advisory Council. The purpose of the Student Advisory Council is to act as a liaison between the School Committee and the student body. Matters of concern will be brought to the School Committee's attention during the regularly scheduled meetings.

## **Student Government**



Newburyport High School believes in and encourages effective student representation. In order that this may be realized, a student government exists which provides the opportunity for NHS students to participate in forming school procedures, policies, and activities.

## **Technology Club**



Tech Club meets twice a week. On Tuesdays, the club meets in a classroom to discuss technology past, present, and future. Students learn all the components of a computer and its operation. Students also have the opportunity to assemble a computer from scratch and to explore different software and operating systems. Fridays are

dedicated to LAN gaming.

## Varsity Choir

