

THE

NORSEMEN NEWS

It is hard to believe that we have been in school for almost a month already. The staff and students have adjusted to some new changes we have in place for the school year. We have added SRT (Student Resource Time) daily. SRT is a great time for students to meet with teachers for extra help, make up a missed test or quiz, finish a science or foods lab, or work on homework. SRT occurs at the end of the day and every student is assigned to a classroom teacher. The teachers are provided with grade updates weekly and will work to encourage and remind the students of missing work they might have or classes they are struggling in. Juniors and seniors are eligible for early release from SRT every Friday. Eligibility is calculated on a semester basis and is based on grades, attendance, and behavior referrals.

If you follow the news closely, you probably know that many schools are limiting student use of cell phones during the school day. Our conference partner, Hinckley-Big Rock, was featured in a Chicago Tribune article recently focusing on their new cell phone policies. Last year, we introduced a new cell phone policy that requires our students to place their phones in designated pockets during each class period. Our students have been responsive to this system, and our teachers have reported more student engagement in class.

As we continue through the year, I encourage you to stay up to date on your students' academic progress through PowerSchool. You can download an app that will update you on any changes to your student's grades. As a staff, we have made a goal to keep grades updated.

Homecoming week will be here fast, and we are excited for our students to be able to participate in all the homecoming festivities. On Friday, October 4th, the entire community is invited to the faculty and staff barbeque that will take place in the parking lot. The girls' volleyball team plays Earlville that evening, and the traditional homecoming games will take place after the varsity match. This is always a fun week for the staff and students. We are excited to see which class will be victorious this year. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Mr. Ulrich

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New Year, New Schedules

By: Hannah Shields, Easton Kmepiak, Bella Dierzen, and Jenny Mikkelson

August 14, 2024: The parking lot is full, you hear sounds of the lockers closing, and the familiar ring of the bell - sounds of kids talking, laughing and shuffling to class. You are ready for the first day of school.

The 2024- 2025 school year for NCHS has officially started and will run from August 14, 2024 to May 23, 2025.

For freshman Jacey Johnson, who just started at Newark High School, this year can offer lots of new experiences. She says, “High school has been going pretty well, and I am enjoying it a lot more than middle school.” As for sophomore Caleb Morgan, the start of school this year seemed less stressful, since he has one year of experience already. He says, “It has been easier I think, and classes have been much more exciting.”

So, what are the classes looking like for our Norsemen this year? Sophomore Caleb Morgan thinks his hardest class will be “Lit and Comp 2, I feel it is just a lot of busy work.” However, Senior Isabella Creps says “I think that APUSH will be my hardest class, because of the workload and how much you have to remember over many centuries of history.” Unlike junior Cody Kulbartz, who tends to think this Junior year will be much harder than his sophomore year.



Above: Freshman Jacey J.



Above: Sophomore Caleb Morgan

Cody says, “I anticipate my junior year being the hardest, because of all the tests. It should be way harder, yes.”

For Isabella Creps, senior year might be a little nerve racking, considering the fact that she is currently taking one of the most challenging classes required for our Norsemen: Senior Seminar. She says, “finding a topic that I like and will be able to research a lot on, mainly one that I won’t get tired of” will be the hardest aspect of this class for her. We are hoping all Senior Sem students have a successful course! Your senior year is the most memorable, so make it count! As Jacey Johnson says, “I am most looking forward to making a lot of memories in the next 4 years here!” We all only have 4 years in high school, so let’s all make the best of it!



Above: Junior Cody K.



Above: Senior Isabella C.

Starting a new school year can be difficult, but we wish our student body the best! Try your hardest, make the most of your time, try new things, and have fun. As Caleb Morgan says, “I wouldn’t change any of my classes, I currently like them all”

Newark FFA at the Fair

By: Ryan Woods, Jackson Walker, and Garret Snyder

Picture this: the smell of corn dogs, fried oreos, funnel cake, chicken george, and of course, the beloved lemon shake ups - people milling around, petting zoos, carnival rides, and animal shows, and best of all - the FFA petting zoo! All of these things were available for people to experience at the 136th Annual Sandwich Fair!

This month, the Newark FFA chapter participated in annual FFA petting zoo, and several Norsemen students also entered projects in the art, collections, horticulture, and livestock categories of competition.

Although the fair is fun for patrons of all ages, it is not set up all in one day. Junior FFA member, Jorgen Friestad arrives a couple of days before the fair starts to prepare to show his animals. He says, "I make sure all the animals are dialed in and I make sure I have all the supplies/tack I need". While Jorgen gets ready to show at the fair, Junior FFA president, Toby Steffen says his duties to get ready are, "To plant mums around trees, set up pens in the building, powerwash everything." After all is set up, FFA members must



Above: Junior FFA member, Marilyn M. shows off chicks at the petting zoo



Above: Junior FFA President Toby Steffen's award winning Gladiolas

ensure that the petting zoo stays clean and operational for the entirety of the five day fair. Once all of this is done, then the visitors can start coming to visit the Newark FFA.

"Newark FFA also runs the Ag Literacy Barn, which includes being in charge of the animals and teaching visitors about agriculture. Along with this, we sell water to help pay for our National convention trip" says Newark FFA Adviser, Mr. Joe Steffen. This may not seem like much to do in one week, but for Mr. Steffen and FFA President Toby Steffen, their family has a long history with the Sandwich Fair, Mr. Steffen says, "My family has been showing at the fair since 1912. I showed cattle and I entered flowers"

Aside from the FFA activities, the Sandwich Fair offers plenty of other activities and foods, especially a favorite food among FFA members. Many have different opinions on where the best place to get food, is but to Jorgen, one food stands out, "Chicken George is my favorite food."

The Newark FFA chapter participates in the Sandwich Fair every year, so if you are interested in getting involved, contact Mr. Steffen!

First Look at the 2024 Season

By: Payton Wills, Dottie Wood, Presley Hauge, and Trevor Westphal

At 5:30 pm, Norsemen fans flooded into the gymnasium to sit on the newly painted bleachers, eager to witness the Lady Norsemen take the court against Ottawa Marquette on Wednesday, August 28th for the first Volleyball game of the 2024 season.

The first fall sports season for NCHS has officially begun, and our lady Norsemen volleyball players have given us a little insight about what that looks like from their perspective.

Senior all around player, Addison Ness, says, “I think this year compared to my other three years is going to be a little different, because I am playing all the way around this year.” While some of our Norsemen still have multiple seasons left to play, others are experiencing their last season and are reminiscing some of their favorite memories as a Norsemen. Ending your high school sports career can be very difficult due to all the memories you collected over the years.

As the season begins, Junior Sadie Pottinger runs us through what a typical practice looks like. “We start by warming up, serving, and playing a warm up game. Later on, we do hitting lines and serve and receive practice. At the end, we either scrimmage or play a scrimmage-like game.” During the practices, the girls experience most of their team bonding, and spectators can visibly see how much these girls care about each other and the game.



Above, Senior Addison N. warms up before the teams play Ottawa Marquette for the first game of the season

Addison Ness says, “I am looking forward to playing with a new group of girls,” as she enters her senior year, she will have some new teammates that she will be playing with and a team that will look a little different this year, but no matter who her teammates are, she always tries to encourage them. Working with a different group can be difficult. You have to learn how to work with new people, and figure out what works best for the team, but by the end of the season, the girls are practically family.

“My teammates motivate me the most, they inspire me,” Freshmen Hadley Hergenbahn shares. For some of the Lady Norsemen, this season is their first time playing at the NCHS level. Hadley says, “The major difference between middle school and high school volleyball is that high school volleyball is so much more fun and happy.”

The goal for many players is to create a stress free environment, which results in a victorious season. “My favorite part of the season is spending time with my teammates.” Sadie says.

Addison Ness shares her opinion about how the team will be this year, she states “I am



Above: Junior Sadie P. is excited for the first varsity game of the season.

expecting our team to win the little 10 conference and make it out of sectional semifinals.” The Newark Lady Norsemen have won the little ten conference every year for the past decade, so the team has a big reputation to uphold.

There are a total of 11 home games this season, which includes the Homecoming Game on Friday, October 4th. If you are interested in attending a home game to support our Lady Norsemen, check the school website for a full schedule or contact the main office.

New Staff

By: Emiliano Quezada, Adrian Leshi, and Jacob Seyller

The first day of school: a day where people can start with a clean slate. Our students experience new classes, new teachers, maybe even new friends. Every new school year comes with new staff members for NCHS. Students have a chance to get to know them throughout the year.



Above: Mr. Langhoff makes sure he looks good for his picture as a staff member at NCHS.

This year, we have two new staff members at NCHS - science teacher, Mr. Childers, and maintenance director, Mr. Langhoff, and we caught up with both of them to see how their first few weeks have been.

This can be a very exciting time with many things to look forward to. Mr. Langhoff says, “The thing I look forward to as the maintenance director is that there is something new to do almost every day. Some jobs out there, you do the same thing every day and nothing changes, but in this position, you never know what will come up each day and keep it interesting.” Mr. Langhoff started his first year at Newark making sure he had the school ready for the students to have a good year, with most of his time going into making sure the students and staff have a running building to learn and teach in.

As Mr. Langhoff says, “My role as the maintenance director at Newark High School is to maintain the building and grounds. I work with our custodians to keep the school clean and ready for events and classes each day. If something goes wrong and needs to be fixed, I am called to take care of any problems, and I also receive work orders as teachers and staff need certain things done.” As maintenance director, it is Mr. Langhoff’s job to make sure every teacher is satisfied with their room. Mr. Childers is coming to Newark from Oswego High School, a much bigger school. For him, this first year at Newark is about adjusting to such a smaller school. As Mr. Childers gets adjusted to the very massive sized difference, he reflects on the differences he has experienced at NCHS so far, “I’ve taught at larger and smaller schools. One school in central Illinois was kindergarten through high school, and had less students than Newark. My last school had more students in a single grade and 9 science teachers. It seems like a very tight knit community. The staff has been very supportive and kind, and I’ve enjoyed getting to know the students and everyone that is a part of the school.”



Above Mr. Childers gets his plans ready for his next class.

With a new year at a new school comes many new experiences. Mr. Childers is still working on adjusting to such a small number of students, coming from a school with a higher number of students. He explains why he decided to come to Newark, saying “When I was looking for a teaching position, I did a couple of interviews.

I wanted to teach high school, and I knew Newark would be a great place to work when I met Mr. Ulrich, Mrs. Gummerson, and Mr. Foss.” Mr. Childers also says, “I was excited to hear about the classes I would be teaching. This is my first year teaching Forensics, which has been really interesting, and I’m looking forward to all the engaging labs and projects. Biology, Earth Science, and Anatomy & Physiology have always been great classes I really enjoyed teaching in the past.”

A new school year with new staff has started, and the students here at Newark have learned a lot about the new workers of the school. Overall, the staff are very excited about the upcoming school year!

Congrats to Our Norsemen on a Successful Sandwich Fair!



Left: Junior Sarah Zarko's original graphite pencil drawing, which earned her the Best of Show - JR Art award.

Right: Sophomore Evan Sittler's original ceramic creation, which earned him the Best of Show - Jr. Ceramics award.



Left: Junior Toby Steffen's colorful gladiola display, which earned him the Most Artistic Award. Toby also won the Best Floral Specimen award.



Left: Sophomore Easton Kempiak exhibiting her pig, Sundy. Easton earned the Champion Hampshire Gilt and Champion Overall Purebred awards with Sundy in the open show. She also earned the Reserve AOB Gilt Junior award in both the Junior and Open show, as well as the Reserve Yorkshire Barrow award in the Junior show, the Champion York Gilt award in the Junior show (reserve in the open show), and the Champion Spot Gilt in both the Open and Junior shows.

Right: Junior Jacob Seyller's 2nd place graphite pencil drawing.



Left: Sophomore Jaxon Collins' 3rd place graphite pencil drawing.



Right: Freshman Perla Badillo's 3rd place graphite pencil drawing.



NCHS Faculty/Staff



BBQ



Drive Thru or Dine In

Funds raised will be used for the Faculty/Staff Scholarship that is awarded to a senior at graduation.

Friday, October 4, 2024

4:30 - 6:30 PM

Newark High School Parking Lot



May purchase at the door or Order Online at

<https://faculty-staff-bbq.cheddarup.com>

****Note there will be a card processing fee online****

MENU

2 Pork Chop Dinner (includes applesauce, baked beans, roll and butter)	\$15.00
Pork Burger with Bun Dinner (includes applesauce, and baked beans)	\$9.00
Hamburger with Bun Dinner (includes applesauce, and baked beans)	\$9.00
Hot Dog with Bun Dinner (Limited # Avail.) (includes applesauce, and chips)	\$6.00
Bottle Water (Sold Separately)	\$1.00