

THE

NORSEMEN NEWS

Final Thoughts from Mr. Ulrich

The end of the school year always brings a sense of reflection, pride, and anticipation for what lies ahead. At Newark High School, this time of year is especially meaningful as we celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2026—a group that has left a lasting mark on our school community.

As we approach the final days of the school year, it is important for all students—especially our seniors—to stay focused and finish strong. Every assignment, test, and class period still matters. Successfully completing coursework and passing all classes is essential to ensuring a smooth and well-earned transition to graduation.

As we prepare to honor the Class of 2026, we invite families and community members to join us for several important events on Friday, May 22. The day will begin with our Senior Awards Ceremony at 8:00 a.m., where we will recognize the many accomplishments of the graduating class. Graduation practice will follow at 10:00 a.m., ensuring students are prepared for the evening’s celebration. After practice, seniors along with the faculty and staff, will have a luncheon to celebrate.

The graduation ceremony will take place at 7:00pm in the gym. Newark High School is looking forward to celebrating the class of 2026 with family, friends and community members.

We are incredibly proud of the Class of 2026 and all they have accomplished. Their impact will be felt long after they leave our halls, and we look forward to seeing the paths they carve in the future.

- Mr. Ulrich

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A Season on the Road

By: Heather Buhle, Emma Dierzen, Kolton Rizzo, and Daniel Venegas

Newark's very own softball and baseball teams recently traveled three hours South to experience some new competition at their annual Spring "Play the Turf" tournament, which wrapped up their Spring Break from March 27th-29th. This was an exciting weekend full of growing skills, team bonding, and great competition. Competing in this tournament helped prepare our softball and baseball athletes to conquer conference games, senior night, and eventually, the postseason.

Both the Newark Softball and Baseball teams performed extremely well during the tournament. They learned team dynamics and adjusted their play styles to enhance their gameplay. Using these skills, the softball team won two games, and the baseball team won once against the strong teams at the invite. This annual tournament is also a great time for the teams to make memories.

During their downtime at the tournament, the NCHS softball team did not turn down a sweet treat, as they are famous for making "candy salad;" this is where each player brings a specific type of candy, and they are all mixed in a bucket or bin for sharing. Junior Adelaide Johnson, is an exemplary leader as an upperclassman on the team this year. Outside of the field, she says, "One of my favorite moments was walking through the drive-thru at Dairy Queen because their lobby was closed, and we also took a team walk to 7 Brew, talked a lot on the bus, and got to go to different restaurants together." While teams are, of course, travelling to experience big tournaments against fresh

teams, the memories are what will carry on for years to come!

The softball girls made lots of memories at the tournament, but also learned a lot. Sophomore Brooklyn Wallin learned that, "There are going to be high-pressure situations that some people thrive in while others crumble. This is where the game shows whose hard work pays off."



Above: Sophomore Brooklyn W. takes a practice swing before coming up to the plate.

The Newark baseball team also played its best as they took on the challenge of facing new opponents in the tournament. Though they only won one game on the trip, the team played their hardest. Freshman Harrison Mathre says, "Our first game was rough, but the next day our JV team played their best and ended up winning." After the games, the team was able to wind down, and Harrison says "I liked eating Domino's pizza after the games." Despite their defeat, the team still stayed strong even after their losses. They showed great sportsmanship and determination on the field, and keep their spirits high after the games.

Our Newark softball and baseball teams had a blast at the tournament, having made great memories and learning a lot about teamwork. These athletes carried these skills through to their subsequent games, including the softball senior night game against Somonaugk on Tuesday, May 5th and the baseball senior night game against Plano on Friday, May 8th. Good luck in the postseason, and GO NORESEMEN!



Above: Freshman Harrison M. waits to catch an incoming ball while playing outfield.

Spring Musical

By: Malia Maddox, Yaimara Martinez, Evan Toftoy

Luck, be a lady! With fast paced action, all the elements of a romantic comedy, and a setting of New York during the 1950's, the NCHS Drama Club successfully put on another show during this year's Spring Musical, "Guys and Dolls".

After nearly three months of rehearsals, our Drama Club members showed off all their hard work during three performances on the nights of Thursday, April 16th, Friday, April 17th, and Saturday, April 18th - and they even managed to "steal the show" from a thunderstorm raging outside.

Sophomore Cole Sateikis played the lead role of "Sky" in the musical and he developed key strategies to combat his nerves throughout multiple performances. He says that some good advice is to "take deep breaths, stay calm, and just enjoy yourself." That is a great strategy for



Above: Sophomores Cole S. as Sky and Jade M. as Sarah share the stage during a scene in Act 2.

performing in front of large audiences, especially over the course of three days. This is Cole's second year as a member of the Drama Club, and he said his favorite moment of the whole experience was, "Getting a lead role, I am so grateful for it." However, without the Drama Club's wonderful directors, there would be no lead roles to award to students.

Along with Mrs. Jasien, Mr. Akre directed the musical this spring, for the third year in a row. He says, "This year, we decided to do a show that was less familiar to the students than our past few productions.

Even though most of our students had not heard of the show, within the first few rehearsals they realized there actually were a few songs they knew from elsewhere. This makes "Guys and Dolls" a perfect bridge between contemporary, popular shows and theater classics."

Although he does not appear on stage, Mr. Akre still looks forward to making memories every year. He says "One of my favorite moments every year is when the students begin to settle into and understand their character. It is a noticeable change when the actors show more of their character than themselves on stage. It is a really neat progression to watch unfold. The audience can look forward to a fast-paced, romantic comedy (emphasis on comedy), set in 1950's New York. We have an amazing cast and crew with an enormous amount of talent. Whether you are on or behind the stage, Drama Club is loaded with many life lessons and career skills that are incredibly useful! Those on stage, practice public speaking and audience engagement



Above Sophomore Scarlett H. as Adelaide takes center stage during a scene in Act 3.

skills. Behind the scenes, students learn many carpentry and artistic skills that make our stage turn into the streets of New York or a club in Havana. Our cast has done a phenomenal job making characters come to life.” No matter which musical the Drama Club chooses to perform, lots of dedication, hard work, and learning is always involved in the process.

Sophomore Scarlett Hopkins played the role of Adelaide this year, and started preparing for her role the moment the cast list was announced. Scarlett put a great amount of effort into her character. She says, “I have had to take more control of my time management during the spring musical, because it can be difficult finding time for schoolwork and other activities outside of rehearsal.” Every actor and member of the musical, from the onstage cast to behind the scenes crew has to do this as well. Despite the long rehearsals, Scarlett says, “The most memorable rehearsal moment from this year is our dinner breaks during tech week - that’s when everyone gets together and shares funny stories.” These connections between the actors are what helped make the musical a success.

The musical was a hit, and many of the cast members claimed it as one of the best musicals that the Drama Club has performed in recent years, and audiences can’t wait to see what the Drama Club has in store for next year!

AP-ril Newsletter

By Hadley Hergenbahn, Makaylee Minnis,
Blerim Berisha

Have you ever wanted to take a closer look into an AP class? AP stands for Advanced placement, which indicates a college level course that is taught in high school and developed by the College Board to prepare students for higher education.

An AP class is an opportunity for students to tackle college level work, boost their weighted GPA, enhance their college applications and potentially earn college credit by scoring a 3 or higher on a standardized exam. AP classes are faster paced and more in-depth classes. These classes typically require intense study habits. Over the past several days, many of our students have completed their AP Exams, signifying the end of their curriculum.



Above Junior Gracyn S. is ready for her class discussion to start.

One of the AP classes here at NCHS, AP Language and Composition, focuses on the rhetoric, writing, and analysis of non-fiction texts. To take AP Lang, you need to be at least a Junior and take the required prerequisites. Junior, Gracyn Schultz, shares how her past English classes have helped her prepare for AP Lang, she says, “My past English classes helped prepare me for AP lang because we talk about a lot of things that we have learned previously in past classes, which has made it a lot easier to understand.”

Even if you haven’t taken an AP Lang, some students say it is similar to the prerequisite classes that you are required to take before it. Senior Kolton Rizzo explains an interesting way of viewing and AP class to someone who hasn’t taken one yet. He says, “I would explain it as a more advanced class of Lit and Comp. It is the same assignments, there are just more of them.”



Above: Senior Kolton R. analyzes a synthesis essay prompt during a class activity in AP Lang.

Something you might not know about AP classes is that the AP exam students take costs \$40. Typically, the class itself is free, but the exam has a cost. The cost of the AP exam ensures the administration, development, and scoring of standardized tests that allow high school students to demonstrate college-level proficiency.

Studying for an AP exam is essential and Kolton Rizzo has tried many different ways to study. He says, “The best way to study is to try your best on the timed writing exercises. There are three of them on the AP exam, so it is pretty useful to practice.” AP Lang is a very challenging class that you have to be motivated to take. Another student enrolled on this class is Junior Tess Kot and she says, “The biggest challenge in AP Lang is that you have to do a lot outside of class. Sometimes, it is hard to find the time to get the work done but I like the fast paced, do it on our

own type of work.”

Whether you’re taking an AP class now or preparing to take one in the future, we recommend that you select your AP class based on your strengths and weaknesses. Taking an AP class can also depend on what your intended college major is going to be. Gracyn says, “I chose to take AP Lang because I love reading and writing and I plan on using it to help my future.”

Here at Newark Community High School, we offer more AP classes than just AP Lang. We also offer AP Pre Calc, AP Calculus, AP Music Theory, AP US History, AP Physics and AP Studio Art. All AP classes we offer here at Newark are amazing opportunities for students who are interested in getting a head start on their college career. Newark offers many different options for students so everyone has a chance to take a college course in an area that they might want to pursue in the future. If you are interested in taking an AP class next year, talk to Mrs. Ahearn.

The Great Dance!

By: Travyn Holmstrom, Matthew Underhill,
Miranda McBroom, James DiClementi

Prom is the famous end of the year event portrayed in every high school movie. With dancing, parties, and a wardrobe extravaganza, Prom is all the hype.

This year's prom was held on Friday, April 24th, and the theme was based on the book *The Great Gatsby*. Students dressed up in tuxedos, bow ties, and fancy dresses, and heels to meet for prom walk at the school, which started at 5:00 pm. Afterwards, everyone headed to Northfork Farm in Oswego for dinner and dancing

It was at this year's prom walk that Senior Daniel Venegas and foreign exchange student, Saki Matsuyama were crowned Prom King and Queen. Other senior members of the court included Reggie Chapman, Noah Baker, Cody Kulbartz, Blerim Berisha, Ines Riou-Bacar, Eva Smith, Morgen Hergenbahn, and Heather Buhle. These seniors, along with several other students who attended prom were able to show off their fancy attire while walking a themed runway in the gym.



Above: Senior Prom King Daniel V. and Prom Queen, Saki M.

Speaking of theme, our student council chose the theme of *The Great Gatsby* over various other themes such as *Night Under the Stars* and *Circus*. However, *The Great Gatsby* theme inspired the color palette of green and gold. The idea for *The Great Gatsby* to be a theme

came from Ms. McCoy's U.S History class where, as part of the curriculum, students are required to watch the movie.

However, prom isn't just defined by its theme, one of the most important parts of the whole event is the music. In past years, the DJ's at prom played songs from the 2000's as well as popular songs at the time. Junior Evan Sittler had one song that he really wanted to hear at this year's event. He said, "I hope they play Fien for the 5th annual year" This song is so important to Evan, because it's his favorite song.



Above: Junior Evan S. attends prom walk with his date Sophomore, Jade M.

Prom music can involve anything from slow dance songs to crazy party songs that get everyone on the dancefloor. Slow dance music gives couples the opportunity to relax and take the night in. Fast paced songs are for friends to jam out. Senior Maya Wolf shared her opinions whether to attend prom in a group with some close friends, or a special someone. She says, "Friends because you don't have to worry about entertaining anybody."

Prom night was a success. Every year, students are eager to dress up, dance, and make lasting memories. From the glamorous Great Gatsby theme to the mix of music that keeps the energy alive, this year's prom promised to be a night to remember. Whether you were there for the fashion, the friends, or the fun, prom is a special tradition that brings everyone together one last time before the school year ends.