

THE

NORSEMEN NEWS

Ready, Set, Learn!

By: Hadley Hergenbahn, Makaylee Minnis, and Blerim Berisha

Welcome back! As the new semester begins, students are ready to reset and focus on their new classes and new schedule changes, and the spring semester presents opportunities for students to make several improvements to their academic year!

At the start of this semester, students had the opportunity to take new classes and/or change their schedules. These new classes and schedule changes give students a chance to expand their learning experiences and create new routines. Most classes offered here are either a semester long or year long, so most students who take new classes in the spring are taking a semester-long class. Schedule changes can also be helpful to students who struggled last semester and need a reset.

Students sometimes have classes that they are very excited about going into and some that they are dreading going into. Junior Sam Day shares what he's most excited for this semester, "I am looking forward to U.S. history because I love my country." Junior Sam Day also describes the class he least favors is, "4th period because I don't have any friends in that class except for David Ulrich."

Sophomore, Eastin McBroom, says that there is one class that might challenge him the most this semester, and that class happens to be, "Algebra II because there is a lot of new things and a lot of stuff to remember" However, Eastin also states, "I am very excited for Geography this semester because I love to learn about new countries."

Changing schedules can be a great opportunity to experience diversity during a student's second semester. School Counselor, Mrs. Ahearn shares the process of creating and changing schedules for students "Schedule changes are made during the first four days of each semester. To change a schedule, the student requests to meet with me so we can talk about why they want to make a change and if it is possible. Then the student gets parent permission." Mrs. Ahearn also describes the struggles when changing schedules in the middle of the year. "The hardest part is that there aren't many options available for students who want to change a class. Many classes are all year long, so students can't jump into the class in the middle of the semester."

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One of the several teachers at NCHS who teaches both semester long and year long courses is Mr. Blidy. However, he says that he prefers year-long classes to semester-long classes, because, “You get to see students growth throughout the whole year instead of just one semester; and then you don’t have to reestablish the routines again like a semester class and you get to know the students more.”

Whether you’re a student, teacher or parent, the opportunities to expand our school’s education are endless! Whether it’s switching classes or getting a new schedule, many options are available. Additionally, now is the time to start planning your schedule for next year! If you have any questions about this, ask Mrs. Ahearn! We wish our students a fantastic spring semester at Newark Community High School!



Above: School Counselor,
Mrs. Ahearn

Ballin' News

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

Newark's girls and boys basketball teams continue to shoot through the peaks and valleys of their season. Both groups strive for excellence as they practice by day and compete by night. Although we have many basketball players and managers on our teams, they are not the only ones involved in the game here at Newark. Many students spend their nights filling the student section to cheer on their fellow Norsemen.

As the end of the basketball season approaches, events such as senior night and regionals excite many students at Newark. They focus not only on wins and losses but on the traditions, pregame rituals, and influential leaders that have inspired the team and shaped their success on the court.

Team bonding is a crucial part of the season for the girls basketball team, and senior Reagan Thompson says "For our Christmas parties, our favorite thing to do is called powerpoint night". On this night, each grade is divided up and creates a presentation on a funny topic to then present it to the team. Along with "powerpoint night", the girls also have monthly team dinners together to enhance their connection off the court.

Sophomore manager, Hadley Hergenbahn, is a crucial and influential part of the girls basketball team. She describes the team's attitude and greatest feats on the court with excitement and enthusiasm, saying "Even though we may lose most of our games, we tend to always stay in the game and push the other

team to their limits." Showing an optimistic attitude towards any situation is what makes Newark's Lady Norsemen great athletes and competitors.

Meanwhile, on the boys team, Junior Austin Reibel says his inspiration on the court is Sean Crowe because "he hypes us up before games" and "he is young and upcoming". Many basketball players look to their teammates for inspiration in practice and support during games. Without motivation, our boys' and girls' teams would not be as successful as they are!

Senior boys manager, Jose Chapman describes some of the pre-game rituals the team completes in order to build up their energy. He says "We party on the bus and blast music in the locker room before leaving for away games. He also says that his pre-game hype song is "God Taught Me" by Zaunttee because "It gets me locked in for the game, and I am ready to get the stuff for the players and coaches."

Clearly, Newark High School prides itself on having a great team foundation. This foundation is what leads our athletes to success both on and off the court. Both the girls and boys basketball teams faced GSW for their senior night opponent, and the boys defeated the panthers 47-37, while the girls fell to lady panthers after four hard fought, effort filled quarters.



Above: Senior Reagan T. locks down one her defense to keep GSW from scoring on Senior Night, January 26th.



Above: Senior Team Manager, Jose C. gets the team ready for a home game.

Rockin' Winter

By: Malia Maddox, Yaimara Martinez, and Evan Toftoy

Imagine this: you're sitting in the bleachers, the whole school is cheering, and Newark's pep band is playing in the stands. With the annual Pops concert coming up, our NCHS band is busy making music and memories.

Coming off of their big Christmas concert on December 8th of the fall semester, our NCHS musicians are busy preparing for their annual Pops concert, which is set to take place in just a few short months.

Junior percussionist, Gavin Storey, has been a part of Newark band for the past seven years, and he has been playing the drums for the past nine. He says, "I joined band because I wanted to learn how to play the drums and to get good at them, because they have always been my



Above: Junior David U., Sophomore Eastin M. and Freshman Jakob N. play in the Newark Pep Band during a Varsity home basketball game.

favorite instrument to play. There are so many things you can do with them." Gavin is normally found at home sports games, off to the side of the bleachers. Fun fact, he's a key player in the National Anthem because he provides the snare

drum's signature sound. He has also helped new percussionists learn how to play a wide range of instruments, and he continues to be a great leader during band and is a great example for future band members.



Above: Juniors Austin B., Braddock M. and Dylan T. play in the Newark Band during the Christmas concert.

In addition to its riveting percussion section, our NCHS Band also boasts a talented woodwind section, which includes senior, Jenny Mikkelsen.

Jenny has been a part of Newark's band for eight years, proudly playing the clarinet. She says, "The hardest part of being in band is having to listen to all the freshmen try and learn how to play at the same pace as us." However, Jenny has learned a lot from participating in the band. She says, "Something band has taught me is that you will become pretty close with the people that you are sitting next to." Clearly, Band is a great avenue for not only improving your musical skills, but also for meeting new friends along the way.

Alongside Jenny, another senior band member who happens to play a major role in the brass section is senior Jacob Seyller.

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Jacob has played in the Newark band since the fifth grade, and he says, “I get extremely nervous while we play. When I get nervous, I just go for it and play the music.” Even while having eight years of experience, Jacob still experiences the familiar nervous energy that results from playing in front of an audience. He even says that he still gets his nerves in front of the band teacher, Miss Jasien, who hears him play every day. However, he always rises to the challenge and plays his best. Many memories can be made in the span of eight years, and Jacob says one of the funniest memories of the band’s many rehearsals is, “When Miss J spat out her coffee because she laughed too hard.”

Newark’s Band class lets students show off their musical talents through multiple concerts and other events. Additionally, Band provides students with many more opportunities within the music industry if they are interested in pursuing a musical career. Mrs. Jasien is always looking forward to her class each and every day, and for new members to join. So, if you’re thinking about taking up an instrument and testing out your musical skill, ask Mrs. Ahearn if joining Band would work for your schedule next year!

News You'll LOVE to Hear

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

Love is in the air here at Newark. This week, we are rapidly approaching everyone's favorite romantic holiday, Valentine's Day. Many students have been planning to spend Saturday with their special someone. However, other students are still focused on sticking to their New Year's resolutions.

2025 has officially come to an end and as we dive in to the New Year ahead of us. Many people have marked their calendars for this Saturday, February 14th, otherwise known as Valentines Day. As the weekend approaches, couples are beginning to plan out elaborate date nights and gifts for their special someone. However, one big question still remains, should people buy gifts for their loved ones just for this one special day or should they do it more frequently?

"I think boys should buy you stuff all the time, says Junior Kaylin Ryan. Although one of the things Valentine's Day is known for is getting gifts for your date, there are some people who have grievances about the idea of buying gifts just because it's tradition. Many people, including Kaylin, believe that if you truly like someone, you shouldn't wait until Valentines Day to show your appreciation. No matter what people think, to many couples, buying gifts is such a treasured tradition that they share. However, there are many more Valentine's Day traditions besides gift giving, and not everyone is a fan of that particular tradition. Some people would much rather indulge in some sweet treats.



Above: Junior Kaylin R. proudly shows off her Forensics crime scene project

Junior Kaidden Bailey says, "My favorite candy to eat is heart-shaped suckers." Candy is a staple gift that many people receive on Valentines Day. Many couples enjoy spending Valentine's Day sharing gifts, eating candy, and going out to dinner. Speaking of time, the times are changing as we have now transitioned into 2026. With the new year beginning, it isn't uncommon to make some goals for yourself. For some people, their New Year's resolutions may include making more money or starting to go to the gym. However, the best kinds of resolutions are the personal ones you make for yourself.



Above: Senior Daniel V. works with his group on their monthly newsletter in Publication Productions. His job in his group is to make sure everyone stays on task.

Senior Daniel Venegas says, "I would like to make more money, get in shape, get a girlfriend, and get into the top ten thousand players in League of Legends." New Year's has prompted many people to want to improve their lifestyle. There are a variety of different resolutions you can make, but at the end of the day it is important to choose one that is personal to you. No matter what the goal is, it's important to always put one foot in front of the other and strive towards completing it.

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2026 has kicked off with a strong start, and the remainder of the year remains bright and full of so many opportunities. As we reflect on this past year, remember to embrace every change and challenge, and live your life to the fullest. And to all the couples, may your Valentines Day be filled with love and happiness (and gentleman, don't forget your chocolates and flowers). In the wise words of Lewis Robinson, "Keep Moving Forward."