

THE

NORSEMEN NEWS

The fall sports season has been one to celebrate here at Newark High School, marked by new opportunities, teamwork, and outstanding accomplishments across all programs.

Our varsity volleyball team continues to shine with a recent regional championship win over Serena on Thursday, October 30th. The Lady Norsemen captured both the Little Ten Conference (LTC) regular season title and the conference tournament championship, along with a first-place finish at the Moldenhauer Classic in Bourbonnais. Congratulations to the team and coaching staff on an incredible season so far—best of luck in the remaining IHSA post season play!

The freshmen and junior varsity volleyball teams also enjoyed strong seasons, demonstrating growth and skill development that will prepare players for future varsity success.

This fall also marked exciting new beginnings with the launch of both boys golf and co-ed cross country programs here at NCHS. Both the golf and cross country teams showed tremendous effort and enthusiasm throughout their season, laying a strong foundation for continued growth in the years ahead.

In addition, Newark once again participated in a boys soccer co-op with Leland and Somonauk, where the team had a successful season with a record of 14-5-2.

Congratulations to all our fall athletes and coaches for representing Newark with pride, sportsmanship, and competitive spirit. We look forward to carrying this momentum into the winter basketball season!

Mr. Miller

Inside this issue

Fall Sports Update.....	1
News You'll Fall For.....	2
Homecoming Recap.....	4
Senior Seminar Update.....	6
Golf Update.....	8

News You'll Fall For

By: Heather Buhle, Morgen Hergenbahn, Travyn Holmstrom, Izzy Roberson, and Emma Dierzen

The leaves change color, the temperature drops, apple cider returns, costumes are in full swing, and Newark High School enters the fall season. Students now wake up just as the sun is rising, grab their pumpkin spice, throw on a hoodie, and walk into the building under the falling leaves. Trick-or-treating is on the horizon, but most students are preparing to harvest or carve pumpkins and attend haunted houses.

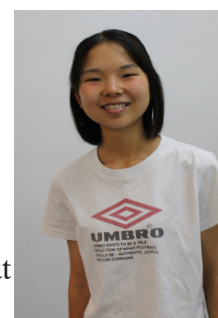
Fall is a season during which everyone can enjoy the changing color of the leaves, trick-or-treating, going to haunted houses, carving pumpkins, or even eating s'mores. So grab your graham crackers, marshmallows and chocolate and sit by the fire with friends. Freshman Sophia Chartrand says she enjoys making the seasonal Pillsbury cookies, which is a great family activity for this time of year. This season is a fun time for all grades at Newark. Creating fall memories is something Newark students will always remember. A common way that students can make such memories is bonfires! Many people enjoy hosting or attending a nice fire outside in the evening because they get to hang with classmates, roast s'mores, and exchange stories.

The cool air brings students and friends together to participate in fun fall traditions. A typical Halloween night in Newark includes trick or treating for as much candy as possible. "I love going trick or treating, getting

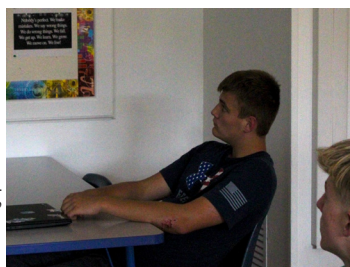
candy, and spending time with my friends," says freshman Nolan Anderson. Although Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are the most commonly eaten Halloween candy, he says his favorite is a classic Hershey's bar. Nolan also mentions that he previously dressed as a Trump supporter for the night. However, others choose to dress up as specific characters, as dressing up for Halloween is something our Newark Norsemen look forward to.

On October 31st, students have an opportunity to express themselves in unique ways through their costume. Costumes are a great way to make memories and have a fun and exciting Halloween. Sophomore Tyler Carlson still recalls his favorite costume from when he was younger. He says his favorite costume from previous years was the, "Bad guy from Karate Kid, because all of the moms said I looked like Johnny. It was a great year." Students dress up as anything from their favorite Disney character, to a celebrity, to someone from a horror movie.

Senior foreign exchange student, Saki Matsuyama, plans on spending her first Halloween in America dressing up as Stitch from the movie, *Lilo and Stitch* and trick-or-treating. She recently discovered her new favorite Halloween candy, candy corn, at Emma Dierzen's house after homecoming, where she tried it for the first time. Also, she is a fan of the movie, *Hocus Pocus*. She says, "I like Hocus Pocus because of the past and present scenes." Saki is excited to experience her first fall in America while watching her



Above: Senior Saki M. smiles as she experiences her first fall season in America



Above: Freshman Nolan A. enjoys World History I while secretly pondering what his Halloween costume will be this year.

favorite movie. Additionally, some of our students in Ag class are already preparing for their typical fall schedule of picking pumpkins that will later be sold to families in Newark.

If you are looking for somewhere to buy some pumpkins, check out the FFA! Students love carving pumpkins or roasting the seeds for a school snack. They are sold on a hayrack stand across from the town's Country Kitchen, and each pumpkin is priced individually based on size and variety, varying from \$1.00 - \$8.00. "The pumpkins are used for selling, most families usually take the seeds out and carve them," says freshman, Sophia Chartrand. Round up your friend group for a trip to the pumpkin patch, apple orchard, corn maze or haunted house. Make sure to stay safe during the spooky season, and gather as much candy as you can hold!

Homecoming Week Recap

By: Daniel Venegas, Destini Lindzy, Marilyn Morel, Miranda McBroom, Yaimara Martinez

Talk about comebacks! When it comes to Homecoming, the class of 2026 has not had the best record; for example, they have come in last place in powder puff soccer for the last four years.

However, the biggest challenge for the class of 2026 has always been their lip-sync performance.

This year, against all odds, they beat the Sophomores by four points and came in first place!



Above: Sophomore Jade M. goalkeeping in the first round of powderpuff soccer against the Juniors.

Homecoming 2025 occurred during the week of September 28th. The Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors competed all week long, playing lots of games, dressing up, and donating money. The community packed the bleachers Friday night, October 3rd, for the volleyball and Homecoming Games, supporting the students and cheering them on.

The Sophomores cheered each other on as they won first place in volleyball, soccer, and musical chairs. Sophomore Jade Mitchell says, "I think that we were very excited for each other and cheered each other on throughout the week." The Juniors got second place overall, and the Sophomores placed third. The two classes were neck-and-neck all week. A little more effort from the Sophomores can make next year's Homecoming captivating. Good luck next year, it's going to be a close one!

In addition to the games, there were many other opportunities for students to support their class during Homecoming week.

Classes could earn points by purchasing dinners from the Faculty Staff BBQ and by donating money to the food pantry during their lunch periods. Junior Shawn Schexnayder explains his techniques to ensure his class's win next year, saying "We will buy more dinners and donate to the food pantry jars."

Each class has an advisor who helps the class plan a strategy to win during the week. Senior class advisor, Mr. Blidy, reveals his expectations for the Seniors this year, "We went into Homecoming week with very high expectations. From the beginning of the year, I could tell that this group had a strong sense of unity and school pride. My hope was that they would channel that energy into working together as a truly cohesive team. After the Sophomore class won last year, we knew the competition would be tough - especially from the current Juniors - but the Seniors were determined to finish strong and leave their mark on their final Homecoming."

This year marked Mr. Blidy's last as a class advisor after 25 years. A win for the Seniors was the perfect ending for not just the class, but also Mr. Blidy. The Seniors worked hard all week long (and even in the weeks before) to do the best they could. Senior Morgen Herganhahn shares her thoughts on the contributing factors that led to the Seniors' win, saying, "I think because it was our Senior year, all of us wanted to win and have fun together one last time."



Above: Seniors Morgen H. and Cody K. celebrate after finding out they were elected Homecoming King and Queen

Most students would consider Homecoming week to be the most thrilling and eventful experience in high school. The Senior class triumphed over the Juniors, who, last year, as Sophomores, won homecoming. Congratulations Seniors on your Homecoming win! Thank you to every staff member and all the parents who made this week possible.

Senior Sem Arrives!

By: James DiClementi, Blerim Berisha, Makaylee Minnis, and Hadley Hergenbahn

The panel and audience take their seats as the student walks up to the podium. The student begins to speak elegantly about the presentation they have spent countless hours working on. They draw the audience in with their confident body language and clear dialect. This is a Senior Seminar Presentation.

Senior Seminar is a quarter-long class required that is for all seniors. The first set of presentations took place on Wednesday, October 8th, and Thursday, October 9th. To complete their presentations, our seniors think of topics early and develop an idea of how they want to present the information that they will be gathering. This project gives all Senior Seminar students a chance to display a variety of skills that they learned throughout their high school career.

One of our staff members who teaches Senior Sem is Mr. Hall. He has been teaching this class for years, and he loves watching the presentations and seeing the final product of all his student's hard work finally cultivated. Mr. Hall says "I thought it was a great class idea and project for the students. It is the last BIG showcase for the seniors to show off their skills and abilities. This is a class for them!"

Below: Mr. Hall stands at his podium as he teaches a lecture to his class.



"The thing I most enjoy about Senior Sem is learning from the students and seeing what topics and issues they're passionate about. It's exciting to see what kind of creativity is unleashed when people have the freedom to choose what they're going to investigate and how they're going to present it," says Mr. Foss, Mr. Hall's co-teacher for Senior Sem. He is very fond of teaching Senior Sem and seeing his students' creative work all compile into a final product they are proud of. He enjoys the wide topics of choice each student has and being able to learn more about each one through their presentations.



Above: Senior Miranda M. is hard at work on her Senior Sem, project

There were many successful Senior Sem presentations, during this round, and each one presented a variety of characteristics. Mr Foss states, "There's no one thing that successful projects have in common. People do projects on big, world-shaking issues and little personal topics; projects that help give them a boost into their future careers and projects with no practical applications at all."

Senior Miranda McBroom reveals that a Senior Seminar presentation can be a personal thing. She thinks that a good Senior Seminar Presentation is something that you

genuinely care about. Miranda chose her topic to be focused on the food eating disorder, ARFID, and the effects it can have. She says, “I have had it my whole life, and I would like more people to know what it is” Miranda thinks that the more personal the topic, the better the process will be for you. Her advice is, “Pick a topic you know you’ll like. If you get bored of it, you’ll lose motivation”

Congratulations to all of the first round students whose presentations are over. We now will be transitioning to the second quarter Senior Sem students. We are excited to see what these new presentations will cover, and on behalf of Mrs. Reardon’s PubPro Class, we wish all the seniors good luck!

Golf Sports Update

By: Kolton Rizzo, Malia Maddox, Matthew Underhill, and Evan Toftoy

The Newark Golf Team went out swinging strong this season with their new coach, Mr. Hergenbahn, playing on high hills, around challenging trees and large ponds, within busy cities and alongside vast corn fields. However, our Newark Golfers have proven that they are able to overcome it all. Now that the season is officially over, it's time for a recap.

The season started with the Sandwich Invitational on August 14th, and ended with Sophomore, Jimmy Kath, making it to Sectionals. Jimmy enthusiastically says, "My best memory from the season is shooting an 84 at regionals and making sectionals." Clearly, our golfers do not only compete for the sake of improving their game, but for the sake of making the post season as well.



Above: Junior Evan S. prepares to tee off at a match.

Senior golfer, Garrett Snyder is very enthusiastic about his season, as he frantically answers our questions. Garrett focused most of his efforts on improving his drive throughout the season, and he says, "I work on my drives because they keep slicing and I do this by hitting the ball really, really hard, hopefully in a straight-ish direction." Garrett is very dedicated to improving his game. However, he is not the only one. His teammate, junior Jaxon Collins, has also spent

some time improving many of his skills this season.

Jaxon says, "Many members on my team, I would say, most notably, myself, have improved tremendously. I improved my score by around 20 strokes from when we started. Jameson also improved a lot, he was moved to varsity later in the season." Improvement is one of the most essential aspects of growing as a team, as well as an individual, and sophomore Jimmy Kath happens to agree with this idea.



Above: Sophomore Jon N. admires his magnificent putt.

Jimmy is pumped to play next season, and is already improving on his skills. He says, "I'm gonna play next year and improve in different aspects of the game." Every athlete knows how to strengthen their skills, and for Jimmy and many others, the offseason is the perfect time to do so. Junior David Ulrich also had a very successful season this year. He plans on continuing his golf journey throughout his senior year, playing on the varsity level.

David says, "This season was a lot more fun than last year. I like that we had more practices and more meets this year. I have improved my chipping and putting over the year. I had my best round of the year vs Streator. I shot a +4. During the last



hole I was just focused on trying to get a par." Because of Ulrich's dedication to improve, he has seen measurable growth in his skill.

Above: Junior Shawn S. pushes his golf clubs to the next hole.

From early morning practices to strong finishes on the course, each player showed what it means to represent Newark pride. Each school and community we have encountered throughout this season has seen what it means to be a Newark Norsemen Golfer. We have showcased our strong determination and willpower to do what it takes to be on top, and our students and staff can't wait to see what our golf team has in store for next year's season.