Newsome High School PTSA E-Newsletter October 2015

October 03, 2015 at 10:14 PM

From Newsome High School PTSA

To Cyndi Cisneros

Reply-To Newsome High School PTSA

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Newsome High School PTSA. Don't forget to add secretary@newsomehighschoolptsa.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox! If you have moved, graduated or your student is no longer attending Newsome High School, please let us know so we can take your e-mail off our distribution list. Bleed Blue!

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



Carla Bruning, Principal

16550 Fishhawk Blvd. Lithia, FL 33547 813-740-4600

Newsome PTSA Newsletter Volume 7 Issue 3 October 2015

Donna Rayburn, President Cyndi Cisneros, Editor



President's Message

Happy Fall!

As membership registration forms continue to be turned in throughout the year, we should be close to being up to date in handing out the car emblem removable clings to our PTSA members. Please be patient as we have over 890 membership forms and dozens of corporate sponsor registrations to process. If your student's homeroom is included on our form, it makes it quicker for us to get your cling to you. If we do not have your



student's homeroom information, we have to work with the school administration to find it which takes a little time.

Please remember that effective October 1, any person not registered for this year's PTSA will no longer have access to our Facebook page and this will be your last newsletter until your dues are paid. We want everyone to have access to the "most comprehensive information" at Newsome High School and be able to fund Teacher Mini-grants, Senior Scholarships, Student Recognition programs and our students' participation in the County and State Reflections competitions.

Our Newsome High School PTSA family has experienced some tragedies in September. We are deeply sorry for our families that have had these happen in their lives. Our prayers are with these families as they attempt to move forward. If our

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Thu Oct 1, 2015 3 pm Golf @ Plant City

6 pm

members hear about events good or not so good in our PTSA community, please let me know so we can reach out to offer assistance.

More information will be coming in the next issue regarding our fall program offered to parents and students.

Have a happy and safe October!

Donna Rayburn

Newsome PTSA President

president@newsomehighschoolptsa.org

Letter from our Principal



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our own School Resource Officer, Deputy Alonso, for achieving the designation of National Practitioner with the National Association of School Resource Officers this summer. To date, Deputy Alonso is only the third deputy in the agency to achieve this distinction.

The title is earned by completing additional training above and beyond the normal for law enforcement officers focused on school law and procedures. In addition, Deputy Alonso attended and received certification for Advanced School Resource Officer.

Please help me in thanking Deputy Alonso for focusing his efforts on keeping our students safe at Newsome. He strives to be a role model and has a positive influence on our Newsome students and other school children in our community.

Sincerely, Carla Bruning Principal Newsome High School carla.bruning@sdhc.k12.fl.us

N.O.P.E at Newsome Kathy McAdam, PTSA Programs Chair



Your PTSA is proud to bring to Newsome a parent presentation of the NOPE program next year on February 23rd, 2016. NOPE Task Force is dedicated to educating communities about the dangerous consequences of prescription drug misuse and abuse as well as other substance abuse and drug overdose.

Most parents are surprised to learn that they are the most powerful influence on their children when it comes to drugs. But, it's true, so this message needs to start with parents. Kids need to hear how risky drug and alcohol use can be. They need to know how damaging it can be to their lives, and they need to begin by listening to someone they trust. By staying involved, knowing what their kids are doing, and setting limits with clear rules and consequences, parents can keep their kids drug-free.

More NOPE info will follow, but mark your calendars for Tuesday night, February 23!

DEPUTY'S CORNER

Deputy Alonso, Newsome School Resource Officer

Homecoming is here! Next week the first major event of the school year takes place. With approximately 1,700 students on campus for the dance, a few thoughts come to mind. First of all, remind your child to bring their ticket. This will help allow quick entry to the dance.



Second, the traffic pattern will be somewhat different than normal to help get everyone in and out during arrival and exit at the end of the evening. Deputies will be directing

College Night Brandon HS

7 pm JV Football @ Spoto

7 pm Swimming @ Brandon

Fri Oct 2, 2015

Mini-Grant Applications Due!

2 pm PEP RALLY Class Colors (Seniors-Togas)

7:30 pm Football @ Riverview

9 pm Ice Hockey vs. Jesuit Ice Sports Forum

Sat Oct 3, 2015

JROTC Raider Competition Anclote HS

8 am Cross Country Don Bishop Invitational @ Brandon

Mon Oct 5, 2015

SPIRIT WEEK
Mathletes vs. Athletes

Girls Soccer Try-outs

3 pm Golf vs. Plant City and Durant

7 pm Swimming @ Brandon

Tue Oct 6, 2015

SPIRIT WEEK Country vs. Country Club

JROTC Battalion Photo

3 pm Golf @ Riverview

5 pm Cross Country Fresh/Soph Meet @ Al Lope Park

Wed Oct 7, 2015

CLUB DAY

SPIRIT WEEK Character/Superhero Day

Swimming

traffic and have aisles/lanes blocked to help facilitate the flow. Please follow the deputies' directions and don't cut corners.

Finally, and unfortunately for some, alcohol is associated with Homecoming. Please talk to your children about these dangers. If you plan on having a pre-Homecoming dinner/party don't allow alcohol. It's surprising how some parents allow the alcohol at their homes because they feel their kids are safe if they do it at home rather than away from home. Remember, providing alcohol to minors or allowing an open house party is against the law. Let's all work together to make this year's Homecoming the best and safest ever.

PTSA Donation Drive

Liz Brewer, 2nd VP Ways and Means

The PTSA Cash Donation fundraiser is still open! 100% of your donations go directly to the PTSA, teachers and students of Newsome High School. We need your support to help us achieve our goals each year.



Your dollars help us provide student appreciation, teacher appreciation breakfa

sts and lunches and dinners, teacher mini-grants, guest speakers for our families and senior scholarships. Last year we distributed \$6,000.00 in scholarships to our students thanks to our donors and sponsors.

To help the PTSA and our school, you can fill out the <u>donation</u> form and turn it in at the Newsome main office, with ATTN: PTSA.

Or you can visit our **Spirit Store** and make a PayPal donation! Thanks for your support!

Spirit Day the Greek Way!

Carolann Tompkins and Sammy DeVine, Co-Chairs



Let's extend Spirit Week to Monday, October 12, and come on over to Little Greek to support the Newsome HS PTSA. Check out the Little Greek Dining Menu to whet your appetite!

Please remember to let the staff know that you are there in support of Newsome. Spirit Days the Greek Way benefit the programs we sponsor throughout the year - such as our speaker series, mini-grants for the staff, senior scholarships, monthly gifts for the students, and conference night meals.

Little Greek Restaurant is located at 3474 Lithia Pinecrest Road and is open from 11:00 am until 9:00 pm.

AVID Interview Day - October 22

Chad Cornwell, IR3, IR4, and Advanced Reading Teacher

We are looking for 20-30 volunteers to interview students in AVID, speech and debate, and intensive reading 3 and 4 - students who will be applying and interviewing for jobs in their near future.

West Conference

5 pm Volleyball vs. Manatee

Thu Oct 8, 2015

SPIRIT WEEK Pink Out

7 pm JV Football vs. Durant

Fri Oct 9, 2015

SPIRIT WEEK First Mate Friday

Swimming County Championships

2:45 pm Homecoming Parade

7:30 pm Football v Steinbrenner Homecoming Game

9 pm Ice Hockey @ Jesuit Ice Sports Forum

Sat Oct 10, 2015

JROTC Rifle Competition @Newsome

7 pm Homecoming Dance

Mon Oct 12, 2015

Columbus Day

Flu Vaccinations Available 9:40 am - 11:15 am

Boys Soccer Try-outs

Tue Oct 13, 2015

Batallion Photo Battalion Birthday

11:15 am Boys Golf Districts

4 pm Cross Country Cty Championships @ Al Lopez Park

7pm Volleyball vs. Wharton

Wed Oct 14, 2015

PSAT

11:15 am Girls Golf Districts This is an important part of the education we provide for Newsome students, preparing them for success in the job market. We would love to have several NHS parents participate if they can. If businesses are in a hiring phase and want to use this as as time to recruit and interview potential employees they are welcome to do so.



Also, PTSA is coordinating a continental breakfast before the event. We will be feeding approximately 100 people. If you are interested in volunteering or donating items for the breakfast, please visit <u>SignupGenius</u> that has been set-up for this event. Items can be dropped off in the main office the morning of October 22nd. Please mark them AVID Interview Day.

Interested persons can email me at chad.cornwell@sdhc.k12.fl.us or call me at (775) 762-5377 with questions or needs.

Reflections

Vicky Furey, Chair



Newsome Students looking for a way to express your creativity, add an award to your college resume' or just show off your artistic talent, can do just that, by participating in the 2015 Reflections Program. It's easy to enter and everyone gets recognized for their participation.

First, pick one or more of the six artistic categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography and Visual Arts.

Next, choreograph and dance, produce a film, write a poem or story, compose a song, take a picture or create a piece of visual art to show your interpretation of the "Let Your Imagination Fly" theme.

Then, submit your work by the October 23, 2015 deadline and attend the awards ceremony at the end of the year to be recognized and receive your award.

You can pick up Reflections entry forms and guidelines for submission from the Media Center or print your own from the <u>FL PTA Website</u> or our own <u>Newsome Website</u>.

So, Let Your Imagination Fly!

Student Spotlight

Shamein Averett, Communications Committee



Katie Chastain Class of 2016

Newsome Activities:

Marching Band (4 Years)
National Honor Society
Science National Honor Society
Founder / President of 1 Voice club
STEM Club

Leadership Positions:

President & Founder of 1 Voice Band Librarian (2 Years) Band President Band High Brass Captain

Hobbies:

Soccer (Competitive and Rec)
Photography

6 pm Newsome PTSA Board Meeting

Thu Oct 15, 2015

7 pm Volleyball vs. Brandon SENIOR NIGHT

Fri Oct 16, 2015

6 pm Ice Hockey @ Wharton Ice Sports Forum

7:30 pm Football @ Jefferson

Fri Oct 17, 2015

6:30 am - Noon Newsome Chorus Yard Sale

Mon Oct 19, 2015

6:30 pm Athletic Boosters Meeting

> 7 pm Volleyball Districts

Tue Oct 20, 2015

6:30 pm Chorus Concert

7 pm Volleyball Districts

Wed Oct 21, 2015

6 pm kev vs. Sara

Ice Hockey vs. Sarasota Amelie Arena

Thu Oct 22, 2015

AVID Interview Day

5:30 pm Cross Country Districts

7 pm Volleyball Finals

Fri Oct 23, 2015

End of 1st Grading Period

Reflections Submissions Due!

6 pm Ice Hockey vs. Freedom Ice Sports Forum

7:30 pm Football vs. Sarasota SENIOR NIGHT

Sun Oct 24, 2015

Drawing

College: Vanderbilt/Tulane/Boston

Future Plans:

Biomedical Engineering with focus on prosthetics



Newsome JROTC

by Cadet Captain Kai Johnston

The Newsome High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Wolfpack Battalion is off to a great start in the 2015-2016 school year. Since the program has seen the most populated battalion in Newsome history, an additional instructor is being hired to aid in our cadets' success. With a third instructor, the program will be able to provide more focused curriculum and expand practice opportunities for our extra-curricular activities (raider, rifle, drill, color guard, and leadership and academic bowl teams). We are currently in



search of an adult volunteer to start up and mentor a new team called Cyber Patriots. This team teaches cadets how to protect computers from cyber attacks and competes against other schools with Cyber Patriot teams.

The Battalion continues it's tradition of Service to the Community and has already volunteered at four Newsome football games, to include the 9/11-football game where select cadets paid homage to the lives lost on that fateful day with a presentation of a large American Flag and the five military branch flags.



In addition, the Newsome Color Guard has already supported numerous events around the community. The JROTC Teams are already preparing for their annual performance at the Bevis Elementary and Randall Middle School Veterans Day programs as well as the Ceremony at Veteran's Park on November 11th. The Rifle Team recently competed in the Strawberry Crest Postal competition placing 1st and 2nd overall and sweeping all the individual categories. The Raider Team will compete in their first competition on Saturday, October, 3rd at Anclote High School and the Rifle Team will host a match at Newsome on October 10th.



The Wolfpack Battalion continues its mission to "Motivate young people to be better citizens" and improve every cadet's chance at being successful after graduation. While JROTC is not a recruiting effort for the United States military, it provides leadership opportunities, team-building skills, and prepares students for life after high school. Students enrolled in JROTC are expected to live up to the "Cadet Creed" and the seven "Army Values" of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honesty, integrity and personal courage.

ACT at Newsome

Sun Oct 25, 2015

E- Newsletter Articles Due

Newsome Boys Basketball's 12th Annual Fundraiser at River Hills Country Club

Mon Oct 26, 2015

NO SCHOOL Non-Student Day

Tue Oct 27, 2015

Golf State Championships

Diving Districts

6:30 pm Newsome/Randall Band Concert

Wed Oct 28, 2015

Underclassmen Pictures -Make-Up

Swimming Districts

Thu Oct 29, 2015

6:30 pm Orchestra Concert

7 pm Soccer Girls vs. TB Tech

Fri Oct 30, 2015

Courtyard Tiles Orders are Due!

9 am Swimming Districts -Tampa

> 9 am Cross Country Region 2 Meet @ Holloway Park

12 pm Diving Districts @ Brandon

6 pm Band 5K Race

6 pm - 8 pm Trick-or-Treat Street

7:30 pm Football @ Manatee

10:30 pm Ice Hockey vs. Berkley Ice Sports Forum To learn more about Newsome JROTC or to follow the achievements of this year's cadets, log onto the NHS JROTC homepage or click on the JROTC link found under "programs" on the Newsome High School homepage.

Newsome Idol 2015

Shara Lawson, Newsome Chorus Boosters Secretary

Last Tuesday, September 22^{nd,} the <u>Newsome Chorus</u> held one of its most popular fundraisers, Newsome Idol. After auditions by many talented Newsome students, twelve finalists were chosen to perform. Mikayla Anderson, Alecia Barwise, Michael Cerrito, Victoria Chattin, Brianna Combs, Jenna Dahlin, Ashtyn Debord, Tommy Roth, Cecelia Skrocki, Hayes Ubillos, Olivia Weinstein, and Kayleigh Williams prepared two songs each.

The judges had their work cut out for them as these students really sang their hearts out. All the contestants gave it their best and they didn't disappoint because the second round was even more spectacular than the first! Everyone definitely had their "A+ game "on.

The voting was fiercely competitive, and every vote raised money for the Newsome Chorus. If you were there, you saw a phenomenal show. If you weren't there, you will want to make sure you don't miss next year's show! It was a night to remember!



Come out and see these great performers and the rest of the Newsome chorus at our concerts throughout the school year.

Trick-or-Treat Street @ Newsome High School

The Class of 2018 will be hosting Trick-or-Treat Street on Friday, October 30, 2015, from 6pm-8pm in the Newsome HS courtyard! This will be a free event and open to kids 5^{th} grade and younger and their families!

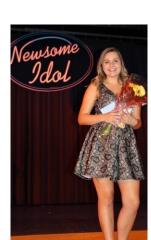
Clubs, sports groups, groups of NHS friends and teachers are all invited to sponsor a trick-or-treat station or game station on that evening.

Also, this is a great way to earn community services hours as they will be offered to any club, sports groups or student participants!!

For more information, have your Club Sponsor, Sports Group Sponsor or Group Leader email Jeffry Bogue at: Jeffry.Bogue@sdhc.k12.fl.us for participation details and to share your willingness to join the fun and sponsor a station.

We are **also** asking the community to donate a bag(s) of candy for this charitable community event. You may drop all candy donations off to Ms. Podd in the Newsome High School front office.

Thank you for heart to help support this event and provide a safe and fun place for children to trick-or-treat!





Student Recognition

Lisa MacLaren, Chair

Are you still not a student member of the PTSA? The 1st Quarter Student Recognition Drawing will be conducted on October 25th. There will be 8 student member names randomly drawn to receive \$25 in gift certificates.

What?

You're still not a member? There is still time to join!

Simply visit our **website** or the **spirit store** to sign up. If you don't win this quarter, we will have a drawing each quarter for the remainder of the year.

PTSA Membership dues support Newsome student activities, student and teacher recognition, teacher mini-grants, the Reflections program, Senior Scholarships and several other programs provided throughout the year. Thank you in advance for your support and Good Luck!

Faculty Recognition Dawn Ullom and Valerie Hellier Co-Chairs



We are grateful for our Newsome hard working teachers that also became PTSA members. To show our appreciation for all they do, we are providing them with dinner or a gift each month.

October will be fall treats. Also, our faculty members will receive a special surprise for their birthday



The Great American Teach-In - November 19th!

The Great American Teach-in is an opportunity for community and parent volunteers to come in and share a part of their lives with the students at Newsome.

Members of the community are invited into Newsome on November 19th for an hour, a few class periods or an entire school day to share with students information about their career or hobby, to organize an activity, or to teach a class.



If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful event, please email Ms. Hacker at linda.hacker@sdhc.k12.fl.us or call her at (813) 740-4600 ext. 246

Senior Scholarships

Jill Rintoul, Chair

Newsome High School PTSA works with the community to provide deserving seniors with much needed scholarships. Last year the Newsome PTSA awarded \$6,000 in scholarships that selected seniors used at their college of choice.



Mini-Grant

This year we are excited to be offering separate scholarships for three categories: students who will be majoring in Performing/Fine Arts students, who will be attending a two-year college students, and who will be attending a four year college.

Newsome Seniors, you must become a member of the PTSA by January 29th, 2016, to be eligible to apply for a Newsome Senior Scholarship. Application deadline will be February 19, 2016. Applications are reviewed by a panel of judges outside of Newsome and include community leaders. Applications will be available on our website mid-October.

Teacher Mini-Grants

Kathi Hayes, Chair

Teachers and staff, as you get back into the swing of things, brainstorm what you would like to ask the PTSA for in the form of a mini-grant. The first mini-grant deadline will be the beginning of October when we will award \$1,000, and another \$1,000 will be awarded in late January.

PTSA Mini-Grants don't need to be Hillsborough County approved vendors. The PTSA Mini-grant committee reviews all applications and approves those having the most impact on the students.

The mini-grant application form is due by Friday, October 2, 2015. The application and project description must be typed, and returned to the PTSA mailbox in the Main Office. Approved funds must be used by October 30, 2015, unless the project or program takes place after this date.

month.

Thanks for leading our kids on the TRAIL of success.





Joe E. Newsome High School

Vision Statement:

Joe E. Newsome High School will be one of the top 3 high schools in the SDHC. Measured by: daily attendance rate, graduation rate, and FCAT scores.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide a safe and supportive environment that will promote lifelong learning and prepare students to become productive members of society. Newsome High School will provide experiences and knowledge needed to succeed in a rapidly changing world.







Corporate Sponsorships Pam McAuley, Chair

If you would like a business membership, or to be one of our corporate sponsors, please contact Pam McAuley.

Businesses and sponsors receive recognition on our website as well as in our monthly e-newsletters. Information and application can be found <u>here</u>. It is a simple one page application. Individual Applicants must be current Newsome PTSA members. All nonperishable items purchased with grant funds remain the property of Newsome High School.

If you have any questions please contact Kathi Hayes.

Courtyard Tiles Project

Melanie Bentley-Montanaro, Chair

Last month to...

MARK YOUR STUDENTS PLACE IN NEWSOME HISTORY!

We are proud to provide the "Paving Your Way In Life" project for all grades. You can buy a personalized tile that will be installed in our courtyard on the walls of the planter. Your student can enjoy seeing these displayed tiles while they are here and many more students will for years to come.



Your participation in this project will allow us to continue providing all the things we do for the students and staff of NHS such as senior scholarships, teacher mini grants, student and staff recognition and sensational speakers on topics important to our teens.

But hurry because this year we are putting a deadline on buying the pavers so they can be installed and still enjoyed during this school year.

All orders must be received by Friday, October 30!

You can find the form <u>here</u>, on our PTSA website or on our Facebook page. If you have any questions email <u>Melanie Bentley-Montanaro</u>.



Volunteers

Ginny Harrell, Volunteer Coordinator

Teacher Goodie Bags: The PTSA needs you!

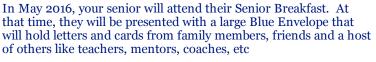
We want to thank our terrific teachers each month for all they do! Please consider donating the items listed on <u>Sign-upgenius</u>. You can drop any donations off in the main office, labeled "PTSA" — by October 7th .

Thank you in advance - we couldn't do this without you! Any questions, email volunteer@newsomehighschoolptsa.org.

Blue Letter Envelopes

Monica Weaver and Liz Hallman, Co-Chairs

This announcement is for parents of Newsome Seniors to remind them of an event that will take place at the culmination of their student's senior year.





As Blue Letter Envelope committee chairs, it's our desire to share information with you that will keep you prepared and ready when that time arrives! So, mark your spring calendars now and be ready to reach out to family and friends and request that they send a letter or card to your student for that day. We cannot begin to express how much this means to the graduates!!

Beginning in late January 2016, letters and cards can be mailed to or dropped off at NHS. We will send detailed instructions in 2016, but we want to make sure you are well informed about this wonderful milestone in your student's senior year!!



Thank you to our corporate sponsors our success could not be achieved without your support!

> Dr Charles DeVine (813) 689-2466 Private Practice over 15 Years!









Abdoney Orthodontics

Abdoney Pediatrics

David Weekly Homes

Liz Hallman AAA Travel

Fifth Third Bank

Craig L. Oldham, DDS Riverview Dental Care

Osprey Observer

StrongLife Chiropractic and Natural Health If you have questions, please contact your PTSA Blue Letter Envelope team: Monica Weaver & Liz Hallman at blueletterenvelopes@newsomehighschoolptsa.org



LegislationTami Schaller, Chair

Last month, our Superintendent issued a statement regarding the Florida Testing and Accountibilty System. Below is Superintendent Eakins' letter:

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This week, the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) met with Florida's Education Commissioner Pam Stewart in regards to concerns about the state's testing and the accountability system. I, along with other superintendents in the state, share the same concerns and have issued a statement to the Education Commissioner that I want to share with you.

Florida district school superintendents have lost confidence in the current accountability system for the students of the state of Florida. As Superintendent, my first priority is student achievement. I am concerned about the assessment and how it may negatively impact students and teachers. The accountability system being implemented this year does not capture a student's learning gains and thus does not reflect the student's true achievement or the excellent teaching practices especially at some of our most challenging schools.

As many of you know, there were concerns about the validity of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) given this past spring. An independent study showed, "the administration of the FSA did not meet the normal rigor and standardization expected with a high-stakes assessment program like the FSA."

I believe in accountability but when implementing something new and when some of the results are in question, I believe we need to take a step back. It is not fair to our students and our teachers. Over the last few years, Superintendents have asked the state to slow things down. We need a credible accountability system. When you are assessing children, we need to be able to show what they have accomplished and they must be able to get credit for that knowledge.

I stand with other superintendents asking the state to slow down and suspend any application of the results from the spring 2015 administration of the FSA to students, teachers, and schools.

I have attached the FADSS press release to this email. Thank you for supporting Hillsborough County Public Schools.

Jeff Eakins, Superintendent Hillsborough County Public Schools Preparing Students for Life

FADSS press release

PSAT @ Newsome Wednesday - October 14th

All 9th, 10th and 11th grade Newsome students will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 14th. Not only does this test provide practice for the <u>SAT</u>, it provides <u>National Merit Scholarship</u> opportunities for Juniors.



Here is a helpful guide: <u>Prepare for the New PSAT</u>. The College Board provides many other helpful PSAT/SAT preparation tools, one in the form of a <u>Daily Practice for</u>



Newsome Athletic Boosters are proud to announce that wish list items have been awarded to the following teams:

> Girls Soccer \$650 for entry fees to two tournaments

Girls Cross Country \$300 entry fee \$150 equipment \$75 banner

Boys Cross Country \$135 tournament fee \$350 van rental fee

Boys Lacrosse \$720 practice balls \$229 for practice goal

Swimming \$200 meet fee \$100 for canopy and two coaches' hotel rooms

All wish list items above are submitted by coaches and paid for out of the Booster Club general revenue fund. We are proud to support our athletes and athletic programs.

Next Newsome Athletic Club Booster meeting is Monday, October 19th at 6:30 pm in the Media Center.

GO WOLVES!!

Newsome Football Golf Tournament

Summerfield Crossings Golf Club November 14th 12:30 pm Tee Time



the New SAT mobile app. With it, students will receive an official sample SAT question daily and get immediate feedback and answer explanations. Collegeboard.com

Article from US News.com

3 Reasons Your PSAT Score Matters

Strong PSAT scores can lead to scholarships and help students prepare for the SAT exam.

Most high school students are familiar with the SAT and spend considerable time getting ready for the exam. However, before they ever sit for the SAT, many will take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, a standardized test cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Many take this test without doing anything to prepare. Unfortunately, students often assume the exam is just a practice test that doesn't have any real value since <u>college</u> <u>admissions</u> offices do not use the score to assess applications.

While it is true that the score is not a factor like the <u>SAT and ACT</u> in admissions decisions, a good performance on the PSAT is still crucial. There are three very important reasons your score matters. [Learn more tips to prepare for college during high school.]

1. Scores can lead to National Merit Scholarships: The National Merit Scholarship Corporation uses these scores to qualify semifinalists who are then considered for National Merit Scholarship competition. Recognition by the National Merit program provides a monetary award and can often be leveraged to secure additional scholarships.

Recipients and finalists can become eligible for corporate scholarships and many colleges and universities offer National Merit Scholarship participants institutional grants and merit scholarships as well. In some cases, these grants cover full tuition.

College is expensive and competition for scholarships is fierce. By achieving a high score on the PSAT, students can take a lot of stress out of the college admissions and financial aid process. [Find scholarships to finance a private college education.]

2. Good scores can indicate performance on the SAT: The PSAT is a terrific way to familiarize yourself with the structure, content and process of taking the SAT and get a sense of how you'll perform on the actual exam. Your score can show you which subjects you may not be particularly strong in, regardless of your grades in related classes.

For example, your A's in English class may not amply reflect your knowledge of obscure vocabulary or the specific essay writing skills that are critical for success on the test. Your score on the verbal section can more accurately tell you how prepared you are and therefore allow you to concentrate on studying for what you are weakest in to improve your score for the real thing.

Your performance will empower you with the information you need to design an SAT study plan that will help you earn your best possible score. [Get answers to seven myths about standardized tests.]

3. Doing well can provide a big confidence boost: Test anxiety and a fear of the unknown can have a negative impact on students taking the SAT for the first time. However, if you've already done well on the PSAT, you'll be at a distinct advantage.

Just as rehearsing before a performance or practicing before a sports game gives you the boost of confidence you need to succeed, posting a solid score on the PSAT will do the same for your SAT-taking experience.

Additionally, the PSAT is a tool many colleges and universities use to identify students they think may make a good addition to their student body and who may be deserving of scholarships. These scores are a way for colleges to be more selective in their recruitment process, and having schools express interest in you and recruit you to apply can also increase confidence.

Underestimating the significance of the PSAT is a common mistake, but is one that is easily corrected. The test is a critical step to getting ready for success on the SAT and by taking it seriously and working hard to achieve a high score, you can not only get a jump-start on your SAT prep, you can possibly secure coveted scholarship dollars.

About the Author: Ryan Maness, a tutor with Varsity Tutors, earned a bachelor's in political science and history from the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign. He teaches at the University of Chicago, where he earned a master's in international relations and is pursuing a Ph.D. in political science, and Northeastern Illinois University.

This is a big event that is at the end of regular season and loads of fun! It is limited to the first 144 paid golfers, so get your spot held by making your payment today. We can get names closer to the event. Here is the link to sign up to play or do signage.

There are many ways for a family to participate. Find a foursome, signage at event, donation of item to raffle, volunteer at some capacity.

Just let me know if you are interested in volunteering and we will find something to fit what works for you.

Krista Behrens <u>Newsome Football</u> Golf Tournament Coordinator

2015 - 2016 NHS PTSA BOARD

Donna Rayburn President

Elaine Ward

1st Vice President - Membership

Liz Brewer2nd VP - Ways and Means

Cyndi CisnerosSecretary - Communications

Shelly Thelen Treasurer

CHAIR POSITIONS

Liza Grimm Awards

Monica Weaver Liz Hallman Blue Letter Envelopes

Pam McAuley Corporate Sponsorship

Melanie Bentley-Montanaro Courtyard Tiles Project

Dawn Ullom
Valerie Hellier
Faculty and Staff Recognition

Carolann Tompkins Sammy DeVine Fundraising/Spirit Night

> Kelley Pollock Membership

Lisa MacLaren
Historian
Student Reocgnition







NEWSOME ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Carla Bruning, Principal, Ext. 225 Mr. Tyvan Lindbeck, Asst. Principal for Curriculum, Ext. 224 Mr. Paul Lindstrom, Asst. Principal for Administration, Ext. 226 Dr. Jones, Asst. Principal for Student Affairs A-G, Ext. 227 Mr. Peacock, Asst. Principal for Student Affairs H-O, Ext. 228 Mr. Radebaugh, Asst. Principal for Student Affairs P-Z, Ext. 229

Click Here for Guidance Counselors Information!

For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf,
And the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.

-Rudyard Kipling

Newsome High School PTSA / Visit our Website!

We welcome submissions from parents, teachers and students. Articles are due to Editor by the 25th of the month.

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