U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT – BEST HIGH SCHOOL

We were recently informed that Norwood Norfolk School was listed as a “Best High School” by US News & World Report. According to the report these rankings were found by weighing six indicators of school quality for the 2016-17 school year, as follows:

- College readiness, based on the proportions of 12th-grade students who took and passed Advanced Placement and/or International Baccalaureate exams.
- College curriculum breadth, based on proportions of 12th-grade students who took and passed AP and/or IB exams in multiple content areas.
- Math and reading proficiency, based on student performance on state-required tests.
- Math and reading performance, based on whether performance on state assessments exceeded expectations given the school's proportion of underserved students.
- Underserved student performance, based on how black, Hispanic and low-income students performed on state assessments compared with those who are not underserved in the state.
- Graduation rates, based on the proportion of students who entered ninth grade in 2012-2013 and graduated four years later.

In the ranking for NYS, Norwood-Norfalk was ranked 226th. Only two other schools in our North Country area were ranked higher! We’re very pleased to receive this designation as a Best High School and want to congratulate our faculty, staff, students, parents, administration and community.

#MANDYSTRONG

This past week our school wore yellow in support of one of our own. Mandy Boyd is a first grade teacher at NN and was recently diagnosed with Synovial Sarcoma, a rare form of cancer. This past week our school was ablaze with yellow in support for Mrs. Boyd, who was undergoing a medical procedure on the time. Positive vibes were sent by all.

There are upcoming events scheduled to support Mrs. Boyd and her family, but one that is drawing attention from people is a raffle for adults. There are a lot of people selling tickets for this raffle, but you can contact Lisa Mitras in the business office if you need assistance.
HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIP

NNCS Students traveled to Detroit, Michigan on Tuesday, April 22nd to attend the FIRST Robotics Championship tournament April 23-26. Wednesday began with a trip to the Henry Ford Museum to get a glimpse of history. Then on to unpacking the robot and a practice round on the Tesla field. The days were long but students managed to squeeze in fun and homework time with their Clarkson mentors. Competition consisted of 6 playing fields with over 400 teams competing during the 4 day competition. While they did not make it to finals, kudos to the team for a job well done!

SENIORS VISIT A FLYER WHILE ON SENIOR TRIP

In one of the more touching shows of support for teacher Mandy Boyd, our seniors took time away from their senior trip to visit her at the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NYC. Everyone couldn’t actually see her, but a couple of parents were able to. Mrs. Boyd was definitely touched by this wonderful support.

We have great, thoughtful kids!

Our seniors outside the hospital entrance.

Our seniors have been enjoying their trip to the Big Apple. Their agenda has been packed with visiting the many sights to be found in NYC. Pictured to the left is from their time in Times Square. Behind them is the building that you see on New Years Eve.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for our primary is taking place now. If you have (or know of) a child who will be four, five, or six years old before December 1st and they are not enrolled in school, then please have their parents call the elementary office.
CREATIVE WRITING POEM VILLAGE FIELD TRIP

By Stephanie Skeels (Grade 12) and Brandi Ladue (Grade 12)

Despite the unexpected cold, six Norwood-Norfolk students traveled to Saranac Lake on Tuesday, April 30th for the annual Poem Village project, organized by the Adirondack Center for Writing. The town plasters their windows with poems submitted by students and writers from across New York each year. The first Creative Writing class at NNCS, taught by Ms. Sullivan, had the privilege of exploring the town in search of poems they wrote and submitted prior.

Before they began their search, students participated in workshops led by Baylee Annis (Assistant Director of the Adirondack Center for Writing) that encouraged and inspired their writing. The students read poems by authors who frequented the Poem Village and then wrote their own spin of the poem using lists of nouns and verbs made by their classmates. While exploring the town, almost all the students found their writing pasted to the windows of various shops.

A few classmates were also interviewed by poet and journalist, Robin Caudell, who traveled 1 hour to join us for the field trip. Her article about the Poem Village project, which highlights three NNCS students, can be found by clicking on the Press-Republican website HERE.

The day was incredible and the students went back in high spirits, excited to share their experience with their classmates and family. The poems will remain on display in the windows of Saranac Lake shops and restaurants through mid-May.

Posing with their poems are seniors Stephanie Skeels and Brandi Ladue, and junior Reanna Taylor.

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP – NORWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The TAG group is a Teen Advisory Group at the Norwood Public Library. It is a group of teens that choose the programs, events and materials at the library for teens. There are meetings to share ideas. The kids are given a budget to work with and distribute as they see fit. They present their ideas to the library director and if it is used for the clubs objective, which is to draw teenage kids to the library, she will happily approve it and assist them in achieving their goals. They are currently putting together a Gary's Mod gaming group. They also have held movie days and parties. If any teen is interested then please inquire at the Norwood Public Library.

FACEBOOK

Celebrate our children! Follow our middle school on Facebook page by clicking "Norwood-Norfolk Middle School Moments" Our elementary has also joined with a Facebook page, called “Norwood-Norfolk Elementary School.”


2019-2020 SCHOOL BUDGET

The planning cycle for the 2019-20 school budget, which began this past December, was bolstered by an infusion of state aid. While the Foundation Aid formula is still funding NNCS less that what it's designed to provide, the additional aid has allowed for us to be responsive to the needs of our taxpayers while maintaining the academic program that we offer. For the past seven years we have kept our local share at a near 0% increase per $1,000 assessed value and we have always complied with the tax cap formula. The 2019-20 budget has a 1.29% tax levy increase with the addition of a mental health counselor to support our students. We are asking approval from the voters to allow the district to maintain our bus replacement schedule, too. Keeping our buses on a seven year replacement cycle provides savings on maintenance costs while maximizing trade in values.

Please be informed. There will be a budget hearing on May 7th at 6:30 in the District Conference Room. Then on May 14th Mr. Cruikshank will present the budget a second time at 6:30 in the District Conference Room. The public is encouraged to attend so that they can make an informed decision. The budget vote will be on May 21st from 12:30pm to 8:30pm.

On May 21st the public will also elect BOE members. There are currently three open seats for three years each and one seat for one year. Incumbents Suzanne Fiacco and Mary Ellen Todd are both seeking reelection.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

We recently received notification that all taxpayers should know.

Changes to STAR and Maximum Exemptions for 2019-20

The Department of Taxation and Finance released maximum STAR exemption savings for 2019-20, which are available at: https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/max_index.htm

The 2019-20 Enacted State Budget makes several changes to the STAR program, which went into effect immediately. The changes are intended to encourage home owners to switch from the STAR exemption to the STAR credit. The income limit for the exemption has been lowered to $250,000, compared with a $500,000 limit for the credit. The amount received for the exemption will remain the same each year, while the credit can increase up to two percent annually.

The switch from the exemption to the credit is final. There is no fee for switching from the exemption to the credit. If someone wants to renounce the exemption in order to receive the credit, they have to do so prior to December 31 of the relevant year. If the switch doesn’t affect any rolls that have already been filed, property owners can simply submit a request in writing, signed by all owners, stating they no longer wish to receive the STAR Exemption on their property. For renunciations after taxes are levied, property owners need to complete and submit Form RP-496. The STAR exemption and removal site has more information on the process: https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/star-renunciation.htm

It appears that he state is looking to move people from the STAR Exemption to the STAR Credit. With the Exemption, NYS directly payed the STAR portion of your taxes. With the Credit, you pay your full tax amount and NYS reimburses the taxpayer. They provide an incentive to switch in that the Exemption will never increase but the Credit will increase up to 2% per year.

Flyer Pride
Embrace the Power of Working Together
School-Family-Community
PARENTS WHO HOST, LOSE THE MOST

With spring comes Prom, Graduation, and celebration. But, let’s make sure we keep our children safe. For parents, many find this a tense time in balancing their children’s burgeoning freedoms with rules. We all want our children safe. We all must do our part to ensure their safety.

Parents play a major role in their children’s choices about alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. In a recent national survey of parents and teens by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, one-third of teen partygoers have been to parties where teens were drinking alcohol, smoking pot, or using cocaine, Ecstasy or prescription drugs while a parent was present. By age 17, nearly half (46 percent) of teens have been at such parties where parents were present.

“Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don’t be a party to teenage drinking” is a public awareness campaign to provide parents with accurate information about the health risks of underage drinking and the legal consequences of providing alcohol to youth. The campaign encourages parents and the community to send a unified message at prom and graduation time that teen alcohol consumption is not acceptable. It is illegal, unsafe, and unhealthy for anyone under age 21 to drink alcohol.

Here are the facts:

• Parents who give alcohol to their teen’s friends under any circumstances, even in their own homes, are breaking the law.

• You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.

If you break the law:

• Others can sue you if you give alcohol to anyone under 21, and they in turn, hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property.

• You can be arrested for unlawfully dealing with a child, and/or Endangering the welfare of a child, Under the New York State Penal law and other charges may also be considered.

Underage use of alcohol is a serious problem that too often leads to harmful consequences for youth and their families. Parents can protect themselves and their teens by following these guidelines when hosting parties for their children:

• Host safe, alcohol-free activities and events for youth during prom and graduation season

• Refuse to supply alcohol to children or allow drinking in your home or on your property

• Be at home when your teenager has a party

• Make sure your teenager’s friends do not bring alcohol into your home

• Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at youth events

• Report underage drinking

Let's keep our kids safe this spring.

FAFSA TRACKER

In an effort to better prepare our students for college, NYS has created a tool for schools & parents to track the completion rates of the FAFSA forms for our high school seniors. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA is a must for students interested in seeking advanced educational opportunities. The SED uses FAFSA completion rates as a possible percentage of graduates planning to attend college. For any senior planning to attend college, please see Mrs. Bush for FAFSA assistance.
FLYER ATHLETICS

Make sure to get out to support your favorite athletes and teams. Our Flyers are having a stellar spring…when it’s not raining. For the most up-to-date schedules please visit www.sectionxboces.org or you can follow the link from our website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

5/6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
5/7 Budget Hearing and Board of Education Meeting
5/12 Mothers Day
5/11 Prom
5/14 An Evening with the Arts
Budget Hearing
5/16 DIG Meeting
5/18 Blood Drive – Memory of former Principal Joanne Bigwarfe
5/19 Jamboree to benefit Mandy Boyd
5/21 High School Concert
Flyer Fair
Budget Vote & BOE Election
5/24 Snow Day Giveback
5/27 Memorial Day