



A Message from Our Principal

Welcome back!!! As the end of the summer break has now arrived, I sincerely hope that your vacation has been restful and enjoyable.

Our purpose at NHS is to encourage you and challenge you academically, promote opportunities for effective communication, provide a safe learning environment, and instill self-worth through curricular and extracurricular achievement.

Our goal at NHS is to "Teach-for-learning-for-all". Remember; your success starts here – GO RAMS!!
Dr. Craig Lockhart, Principal

COUNSELORS' CASELOAD:

A-Dan **Ms. Sedlacek**

Dar-Holl **Dr. Breakfield**

Holm-Minn **Ms. Hector**

Mint-Simp **Dr. Cagle**

Sims-Z **Ms. Bridges**

Graduation Coach – Cate Etheridge

Home-School Facilitator – Cindye Jones



*Welcome Back Seniors,
Class of 2012!*

Guidance Staff

Each new year brings changes to the guidance department at NHS. The counselors' caseload and new staff are listed at the left. **Ms. Debbie Stephens** is still the administrator assigned to curriculum and instruction, and student services (attendance, records, guidance, etc.).

Dr. Mitzi Cagle's office has been moved to "northeast wing" of the building near the science hall. **Mrs. Valarie Brown** is our registrar, and **Mrs. Stephanie Curtis** is the student services center secretary and

attendance secretary. **Mrs. Serafina Sicurella** is still our records secretary. With the exception of Dr. Cagle we are all located in the student services center.

Our additional staff members this year are **Ms. Cate Etheridge**, Graduation Coach and, **Ms. Cindye Jones**, Home-School Facilitator. Ms. Etheridge will advise and assist students who at risk of not graduating. Assisting Ms. Etheridge is **Ms. Katrina Stanfield**, a NHS graduate and our Academic Coach. Ms. Jones will focus on community and parent relations.

You can still find college information, catalogs, and SAT/ACT prep materials in the Media Center. **Ms. Janet Goodman** will be happy to assist you.

Senior Evaluations

Counselors have reviewed senior transcripts to ensure scheduling accuracy and will begin individual conferences with seniors the week of **September 06, 2011.**

Your assigned counselor and you will discuss course requirements for

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graduation, your post-secondary educational plans, and important dates for you to adhere to in your senior year. We will meet with all seniors before the end of September, and mail information home to your parents.

Seven Day Period

The “seven period day” affords each student the opportunity to participate in “Instructional Focus” (IF). It appears on your schedule as AcadEx. During IF students may further their studies or ask questions about more difficult assignments, participate in credit recovery, tutoring, and receive more intensive instructional support as needed. All students will receive six (6) credits over the course of the school year, while students who wish or need to take seven (7) credits may have the opportunity to do so as well. **Remember, ALL classes are taken yearlong.**

Just when you were becoming accustomed to Block Scheduling, the “game plan” changed. You must have earned **20 units** as of **August 2011** to be classified as a senior if you **entered 9th grade in 2008-09**. Additionally, you must earn a minimum of 26 units to graduate. If needed to meet graduation requirements, additional credits can be earned through Credit Recovery at Alpha Omega, Faith Academy, Covington Academy and/or GA Virtual School during the school year. Please meet with your counselor or the Graduation Coach for details.

ACT/SAT Information

If you plan to attend a college or university after graduation, you may need to take the ACT or SAT. Your counselor can advise you on your testing needs. Taking both tests is not required or necessary. Most

colleges will accept either test. Ask your counselor about the new rule on SAT/ACT for admissions to two year colleges. Neither test is required for admissions to technical colleges or two year colleges.

The ACT will be administered on **September 10** at Eastside High & GPC. The registration D/L was **Friday, August 12**. Registration materials are in the Student Services Center and online.

The SAT will be administered on **October 1** at **Newton High and GPC**. Registration D/L for the SAT is on **September 9**.

Fee waivers for both tests are available in your counselor’s office to students who receive free or reduced lunch. Additionally, you will be entitled to college application fee waivers.

College Visits

Seniors are allowed two (2) college visits without being counted absent. You must first obtain a parent permission form from Mrs. Curtis in the Student Services Center and return it at least three (3) days prior to visiting the college of your choice.

When you return the signed permission form, you will receive a form to take with you to the college to verify your visit.

Read your handbook; stop by the Student Services Center for more information.

Transcript Requests

As you complete applications for colleges and technical schools, you will find it necessary to have a copy of your high school transcript. Mrs. Sicurella, the records secretary will help you with this task.

After you have completed all parts of the college application, secure a **request for transcript** form from Mrs. Sicurella in the Student Services

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Center. Complete and attach all application material, including application fee (or fee waiver), and return everything to Mrs. Sicurella. The packet will be mailed at no cost to you.

If you need your class rank for a college or scholarship application, please complete your part and give the application to your counselor for mailing. ***Students are not given their class rank.**

We recommend that you complete and mail all college applications **before the Christmas Break**. Be sure to check with individual colleges for earlier deadlines.

Honor Grads

Honor graduates must have an overall **GPA of 90** for seven semesters. The student must also pass all portions of the GHS GT or the appropriate EOCT, and not received an NC due to absences. **GPA’s are not rounded up**. See your handbook for more information. Honor Graduates with Distinction must take a minimum of two AP classes and/or PSO courses.



Tips For Seniors

Your post-secondary educational planning and preparation will pay off. Your next step should be additional education or training that will make you more marketable for the work force. At this time you should:

- Have a list of schools or training that you are interested in.
- Schedule college, military, or business visits, and talk to

people in your field of interest.

- Prepare to take SAT/ACT/ASVAB, as needed, in the fall.
- Request college applications & give thought to essay topics.
- Consider who to ask for letters of recommendation and prepare a resume to present to them.
- Search for Scholarships – www.fastweb.com is an excellent source
- **CONTINUE TO STUDY AND KEEP YOUR GRADES UP.**

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

www.gcic.peachnet.edu User ID-newton / Password – gcis413. Info on over 437 occupations, 129 college programs, over 1200 scholarships, and 187+ schools across the nation.

www.GAcollage411 for information about GA colleges, SAT/ACT prep, Resume help, etc.

www.finaid.org for scholarship search

www.fastweb.com for scholarship search.

www.newtoncountyschools.org click on the student tab for scholarship and important college information.

HOPE Scholarship & Grant

The HOPE scholarship is available to financially assist Georgia students when they attend Georgia's technical schools, colleges, or universities. The Program has undergone many changes under Governor Deal. To receive the **HOPE Scholarship**, students must **still earn a 3.0 or above GPA in academic classes. However, the scholarship recipient will only receive a percentage (%) of standard tuition charges.**

Zell Miller Scholar Program will pay **100% of tuition** charges for graduates who earn a **3.7** in academic classes and 1200 CR/M on the SAT, or 26 on the ACT. **Valedictorians** and **Salutatorians** are classified Zell Miller Scholars.

The **Grant** is still available to GA residents seeking a certificate or diploma at a Technical College or a unit of the University System of GA. You must meet all graduation requirements or earn a GED. **HOPE** brochures and more information are available in the Student Services Center.

A part of the application process for receiving **HOPE** is completing the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The **FAFSA** is also used to apply for federal and state student grants, college work-study and loans. The **FAFSA** forms for the class of 2012 will not be available until **January 2012**.

Graduation Coach

Ms. Cate Etheridge's role as graduation coach is to assist students who are at risk of not graduating. These areas include, but are not limited to, students with poor attendance, poor academic performance; students with behavior issues or who have failed the EOCT, or GHSGT; under-credited students, teen parents, etc. **Resources:** Test Prep programs for GHSGT websites/study guides. Ms. Etheridge's office is across the hall from the student services center.

GHSGT- GRADUATION, WAIVERS & VARIANCES

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Please note that students who entered 9th grade in 2008-09 will have to pass **all portions of the Georgia High School Graduation/Writing Tests (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Writing) or pass the corresponding EOCT in the subject area; AND meet all course requirements (units) to participate in the Graduation Ceremony.** Student will not receive a high school diploma until all requirements are met as established by Newton County School System and the Georgia Department of Education.

A student may request a GHSGT Variance/Waiver which is a decision by the State Board of Education to exempt or waive requirements for the graduation test. Specific criteria must be met. See your counselor or the Graduation Coach for details.

You can access the GHSGT Study Guides online at either <http://newtoncountyschools.org/newtonhigh/GHSGT.htm> or <http://usatestprep.com/front/index.php> - the username is: *nhs* and the password is *newton81*.

IMPORTANT DATES

8/12.....Registration D/L for
9/10 ACT @ EHS & GPC
9/06Senior Evaluations begin
9/07.....College Fair @ AHS
5:30PM
9/09D/L for 10/1 SAT@NHS
9/10ACT @ Eastside
9/12&13..GHSGT Retest
9/16Registration D/L for
10/22 ACT
9/19-23...EOCT Mid-month
9/22.....College Fair @ Stonecrest
Mall from 6-9:00PM
9/24HOMECOMING
9/27GHSWT
10/7.....Registration D/L for
11/05 SAT
10/01.....SAT @ NHS
10/17-21..EOCT Mid-month
10/22.....ACT
10/31-11/01...GHSGT Retest
11/04.....Registration D/L for
12/10 ACT
11/05.....SAT

11/08.....Registration for 12/03
SAT
12/03.....SAT
12/05-09...EOCT Mid-Month
12/10.....ACT @ EHS & GPC

Jan 2012....Local scholarship
applications available
Jan. 2012...FAFSA available
Jan 26, 2012.....ASVAB



The graduation requirements below
are for students entering 9th grade
in 2008-2009. **GRADUATION**
WITH DISTINCTION = 28 UNITS

SUBJECT	UNITS REQUIRED
English /Language Arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Social Studies	4
CTAE and/or Modern Language/Latin and/or Fine Arts	3
Health and Personal Fitness or 3 units of ROTC	1
Electives	6
TOTAL	26