



Newton High School

Respectful, Accountable, Motivated, Successful

NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL

Student Handbook

2022-2023

Principal

Dr. Shannon Buff

Assistant Principal

Mr. Cortez Allen

Dr. Veronica Bacote

Mr. Vincent Byams

Ms. Carla Hull

Ms. Monique Mitchell

Mrs. Katrina Stanfield

MISSION STATEMENT NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL

It is the mission of Newton High School to focus all of its resources on the efforts to provide every child every chance to succeed.

****EVERY CHILD, EVERY CHANCE****

BELIEFS

- Students are our first priority
- Administrators and teachers make the critical difference in student achievement;
- Respectful partnerships among students, staff, parents, and the community are integral to student success
- All students and staff deserve a safe, positive, and supportive environment
- Success is based on high expectations for our students, parents, and school system staff; and Lifelong learning is essential in a diverse and changing world.

Newton High School Expectations

We Are **RAMS**!

We are **Respectful**!

We are **Accountable**!

We are **Motivated**!

We are **Successful**!

We are **RAMS**!

RAMS, Rise!!!

Dear Parents and Students of Newton High School:

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year at Newton High School, Home of the Rams! We are looking forward to an exciting and promising new year and look forward to partnering with all stakeholders to ensure the success of our students! The Newton High School Rams Handbook will provide you with helpful information that will allow families to make the most of this school year.

At Newton High School, we are committed to providing educational excellence to all students. To do this, we provide a rigorous, challenging instructional program. Our goal is to prepare all of our students for standardized exams, college entrance exams, and most importantly, life after high school.

High school is a memorable time that consists not only of school studies but rewarding extracurricular activities as well. Newton High offers a host of sports, clubs, and other extracurricular activities that promote the education of the whole student.

In order to support a highly operational school, disciplinary violations cannot be tolerated. Misbehavior serves as a distraction to the learning process, and such distractions are not representative of the goals of Newton High School and the students we serve. Students are expected to exhibit positive, supportive behavior among classmates, faculty, staff, and visitors at all times. Please review the Discipline Code Rules and Dispositions section of the handbook with your child thoroughly.

Students are expected to be in class daily for the duration of each class. Instructional time lost from classes serves as a barrier to learning, and we want to reinforce the good habits of punctuality, focus, and responsibility so that students are ready for life after high school. We ask that students come to school daily and maximize their learning every day.

At Newton High School, we believe that every child deserves every chance to get a high quality education. We appreciate parent engagement that supports the learning process so that students get the most out of their educational experience. We are **RAMS!** We are **Respectful!** We are **Accountable!** We are **Motivated!** We are **Successful!** We are Rams! Rams, Rise!

Sincerely,

Dr. Shannon Buff

ACADEMY OF LIBERAL ARTS AT NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Academy of Liberal Arts at Newton High School (ALANHS) provides a structure to expose students to a variety of Humanities, World Languages, Fine Arts and Social Science courses specifically designed to prepare them for the rigor demonstrated at the collegiate level. In partnership with parents and our community, the sole function of ALANHS is to provide a globally competitive educational experience that is high quality, challenging, and inspires all students to make positive contributions to society. ALANHS is a rigorous, comprehensive, student-centered program that prepares students to be successful in college, responsible citizens, and effective leaders in the 21st Century.

Newton County Schools does not provide transportation for ALANHS students who live outside of Newton High School's attendance zone.

For additional information about the ALANHS program, contact Dr. Lockhart lockhart.victoria@newton.k12.ga.us or by phone at 770-787-2250 ext. 5505.

BUILDING LEVEL PRACTICES

All extracurricular activities, events, and programming are developed by school officials and are ultimately approved by the principal at the building level. All such building level practices, both explicitly or implicitly created, cannot be in conflict with established board policy and are subject to revision by the principal. Any concerns regarding building level practices must be submitted in writing to the principal. The principal's written decision on building level practices shall be final.

CLINIC

Newton High School will provide clinic services for students according to the policy approved by the Newton County Board of Education. Each student is requested to complete a medical reference card, which will be placed on file in the school clinic.

No internal medicines will be given to students without parental permission. All prescription drugs must be properly labeled with instructions for use and contained in the original container. Students who must take medication during school hours are encouraged to do so during class change at the clinic. When this is not possible, the student must obtain a medical pass from the clinic nurse.

DELIVERIES

Students will not be released from class to receive deliveries. Students are not permitted to receive deliveries of food from restaurants or visitors while at school. Please do not deliver flowers, balloons, or other items to school. These items will not be delivered to students during the day.

HALLWAYS

A student **must** have a hall pass from a teacher or signed student agenda in order to move in the hall during class. Running in the hall is not allowed. Students should move quietly throughout the building. **Students are not permitted to use the vending machines while classes are in session.** Students are not to loiter anywhere in the building during school hours.

HEADPHONES

The use of headphones/ earbuds is not permitted at Newton High School. Students violating Newton High school's headphone policy, will have their headphones confiscated by an administrator. **NO EXCEPTIONS OR WARNINGS.**

CLUBS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- **Academic Team** - The Academic Team displays the high standards of learning at Newton High School through statewide competitions.
- **Anchor Club**– This is an international service organization committed to improving the quality of life in the community. The primary focus is on helping individuals suffering from brain related disorders.
- **Anime Club**– This club explores Japanese culture by screening and discussing anime (Japanese cartoons and graphics).
- **Art Club**– This club helps students to appreciate art, improve skills, and participates in community activities.
- **BETA Club** – The BETA club promotes character, develops leadership skills, encourages service involvement, and recognizes achievement.
- **Certamen Team** – This is the Latin Club at Newton High School.
- **Creative Writing Club**– The club is dedicated to improving student social skills/interactions, literary presentation techniques, and writing as means of a close study of a variety of fiction writing approaches.
- **DECA**- DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high school and colleges around the globe.
- **Drama Club** - Club participants will have the opportunity to learn about all aspects of theatre production and performance.
- **FCCLA - Family, Career and Community Leaders of America** FCCLA Family, Career, Community Leaders of America, founded in 1945, is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through family and consumer science education.
- **Fellowship of Christian Athletes**– FCA is an organization of Christian students who meet and rejoice in their faith.
- **First Ladies of Newton**– “Be bold, be beautiful, be strong.” The *First Ladies* of Newton is designed to mold young ladies into role models and leaders in the community.
- **French Club – Le Club Francais**– The purpose of the French Club is To promote the French language, diversity and francophone culture through cultural and linguistically relevant enrichment activities.
- **Future Business Leaders of America – FBLA** – FBLA is an educational association of students preparing for careers in business.
- **Future Farmers of America**– The mission of FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for future leadership and career success.
- **Future Teachers of America**– The club's mission is to encourage and support students interested in entering the teaching profession.
- **Guitar Club**- This club is designed to promote interest in guitar playing.
- **Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Team**- promotes active reading and members participate in competitions at county, regional and divisional levels.
- **History Club**– The club endeavors to enrich and enlighten the members through in depth study of history.
- **Interact Club**– The purpose of this club is to provide opportunity for young people to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding.
- **Junior Classical League (JCL)**- The purpose is to encourage an interest in and an appreciation of the language, literature, and culture of ancient Greece and Rome and to impart an understanding of the debt of our own culture to that of Classical antiquity.

- **Key Club**– Key Club is an international, student-led organization providing its members with opportunities to perform civic service, build character, and develop leadership.
- **Ladies in Leadership**- a club that promotes positive interaction and leadership among young women at NHS.
- **Mock Trial**- Mock Trial requires students to play the role of attorneys and witnesses and members are evaluated on their ability to make a logical, cohesive and persuasive presentation.
- **National Honor Society**- the National Honor Society recognizes outstanding academic student achievements. The club honors student achievements and leadership, promotes educational excellence, and enhances scholastic opportunities for the NHS membership.
- **NHS Anti-Bullying Society/ABS**- The Anti-Bullying Society is a student centered organization that focuses on non-violence among students. ABS strives to educate those in the school and community about the identification and prevention of bullying.
- **Newton High Psychology Club**– This club was instituted to foster and maintain an interest in the field of psychology among students at Newton High School.
- **Rampage Student Newspaper**- The Newton Rampage is Newton High School's official student newspaper; it is fully funded, written, edited, and produced by the students of Newton High School.
- **SECME**– The purpose of SECME (Science Engineering Communication & Mathematics Enrichment) is to increase the pool of historically underrepresented and under-served students who will be prepared to enter and complete post-secondary studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); thus creating a diverse and globally competitive workforce.
- **Science Club**- to develop interest in science among the students at Newton High School.
- **Sigma Lambda Chi – 4H**– Community service, leadership, citizenship and public speaking opportunities through local, state and national conferences, trips, camps and competitions. Explore the environment, performing arts, geospatial technology, livestock, and more through this University of Georgia youth organization. Join the “Revolution of Responsibility” today with ΣΛΧ 4-H!
- **Sources of Strength**– The purpose of the club is to positively empower, motivate, educate, and beautify young men and women to become self-sufficient, positive, confident individuals of society who view their bodies as sacred and beautiful gifts while taking their place in the community through social development.
- **Spanish Club**- The purpose of the Spanish Club is to promote the Spanish language, diversity and Spanish culture through cultural and linguistically relevant enrichment activities.
- **Student Government Association/SGA**– The purpose of the Student Council is to represent the student body in matters pertaining to Newton High School.
- **Yearbook**- This group of students is responsible for capturing the activities and events throughout the school year, and putting them together in a book.
- **GSA**- Student-run club that provides a safe place for students to meet, support each other, talk about issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, and work to end discrimination.

SCHOOL DUES

As part of the full high school experience, junior and seniors have opportunities to participate in class events such as proms, picnics, and special activities. In addition, seniors are also eligible to receive a host of items that commemorate their upcoming graduation from high school.

Junior Dues

Juniors are assessed dues. All information regarding Junior dues will be supplied by the class sponsor and/or Junior Administrator.

Senior Dues

All information regarding senior dues and materials are supplied by the Senior Class Sponsor. Jostens is the Newton High School vendor for all senior graduation packages.

PERMANENT RECORDS

A student or parent may review the permanent record at any time. It is suggested that the student/ parent make an appointment with their counselor to do this. Transcripts of records require a written release and may be obtained from the Records Clerk. All staff members are instructed to maintain confidentiality of student records.

COURSE SYLLABI

At the start of each semester, teachers will distribute a course syllabus to their students. Students are asked to take the syllabus home and review it with their parents. Since the syllabus will include an outline of the course content, grading procedure, tardy policy, expectations for behavior, and other pertinent information, it is important that students and parents carefully read all syllabi.

PROGRESS REPORTS

In order to communicate the progress of students to parents, the following reports are available:

1. **Weekly Progress Reports** - The Infinite Campus Parent Portal provides parents with regular access to student progress.
2. **Progress Reports** – Progress Reports will be generated every 4.5 weeks and can be viewed in Infinite Campus.
3. **Report Cards** – Report cards will be issued to all students every 9 weeks.

SCHEDULES

Students may not take more than one course in an academic area without the approval of the department chairperson and the Principal or his designee.

In all cases, final approval rests with the principal pending consideration of class sizes, staffing, etc.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes will be made for the following reasons:

1. A student is not in the appropriate course level.
2. A student does not have the prerequisite for the course.
3. A student has already passed the course.
4. Administrative discretion based upon individualized circumstances; students may lose the opportunity to gain credit if principal grants a schedule change.

Teacher preference is not a reason for requesting a schedule change. If a student perceives that there is a problem with a teacher, the parent must call the child's counselor to set up a meeting with the teacher in an effort to deal with the problem. The principal or their designee must approve all schedule changes. Requests for changes will not be made past the fifth workday of the semester.

TEXTBOOKS AND SCHOOL ISSUES ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Textbooks and School issued electronic devices are the property of the Newton County School System and the State of Georgia. They are issued to each student and are the student's responsibility. The student has the responsibility to take care of these materials at all times. If a book is lost or damaged beyond the usual wear, the student is required to pay for the book. Lost textbooks and devices will not be replaced until payment has been received. Lost agendas will also have to be replaced by the student.

TRANSPORTATION

Students may ride assigned buses, walk, or obtain other means to travel to and from school. Any student who wishes to ride a different bus to or from school must have a permission note from home that has been approved by an administrator or designee. All students transported to school by parents should be dropped off at either the front or rear student drop off area.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

2. Class Officers: There will be a President, Vice-President, and class representatives of each class. Elections for rising seniors, juniors, and sophomores are held during the spring semester of the preceding year. Satisfactory grades are required. All class officers will be Student Government members.
3. Student Government Members: Members must have maintained at least a "C" average the semester prior to their election. Election of Student Government members will be held during second semester. A student may be a candidate for both the Student Council and his/her class simultaneously. A member may be taken off the Student Council for unsatisfactory grades or unsatisfactory participation.
4. Student Council Officers: Student Body and Senior officers will make up the governing board of the student council.
5. Candidates for any office or representative to the Student Council must have a satisfactory discipline record at NHS. Any questions regarding whether a student's record is satisfactory shall be determined by a joint meeting of the Student Council advisors and the Principal or his designee.

* THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION IS GOVERNED BY THE CONSTITUTION FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT AT NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL.

GRADUATION AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected to complete a common set of requirements to earn a regular diploma.

HOPE Note: Grades from **ALL** coursework in the academic core attempted in high school will be calculated in the GPA. Final GPA will be calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission using a 4.0 scale. Any grade earned in high school courses taken in the middle school **will not** be included in the HOPE calculation.

Units marked by * **are required** under current graduation rule.

SUBJECT AREAS	Units Required to Graduate in 2015-2016 and subsequent years Entered 12-13
English/Language Arts *	4
Mathematics *	4
Science *	4
Social Studies *	4
CTAE and/or Modern Language/Latin and/or Fine Arts	3
Health and Physical Education * or 3 units of ROTC	1
Electives	3
TOTAL	23

The following chart provides information relative to **EOCs** tests.

Required Standardized Testing	
SUBJECT	EOC EOC Scores are 20% of the Total Course Grade
English	American Literature
Math	Algebra I
Science	Biology
Social Studies	US History,