

Fall 2021

Newmark K-8 News



NEWMARK
K-8 School



Welcome Back Students!

Principal’s Message

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the 2021-2022 school year! Our K-8 students are settling in nicely and adjusting to their new classrooms. Our goal is to challenge our students intellectually, experience social successes and guide them toward independent thinking and problem solving. As we strive to promote healthy development in all aspects of each student’s life, we also strive to develop students who make good choices and decisions resulting in successful and healthy outcomes.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members: Ms. Jenna Sullo, Technology Teacher and Ms. Dakota Halma, Teacher working with Ms. Fagan and Mrs. Shannon. We are pleased and excited that they are a part of our Newmark Family.

We hope you enjoyed our virtual K-8 Back To School Night on Thursday, September 23. Back To School Night provided parents an opportunity to hear from their child’s teachers and gave a snapshot of their school day and subject areas. This is a nice way to begin to cultivate the relationship essential to provide school-family bonds that are so important to our children.

We are happy to once again be hosting our annual Movie Night on Friday, October 15, 2021. This year, the event will be held outside and we cannot wait to see your family and friends at this fun-filled evening. The event will begin at 6:45 PM and the movie, *Space Jam: A New Legacy*, will begin at 7:00 PM. Please do not forget to bring your favorite pillow, blanket and/or beach chair.

We are all working together to help our students make good, sound choices. The power of choice is one of the greatest powers we can give ourselves. The choices we make helps create who we are. We are looking forward to a great year!!!

Sincerely,

Gina M. Borea
Principal

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Newmark K-8 School:

Ms. Gina M. Borea
Principal

Dr. Regina M. Peter &
Ms. Cynthia Allman
Executive Directors

Spotlight News

SUPPORT NEWMARK'S 2021 ANNUAL FUND

Every fall, we ask Newmark family and friends to consider donating to our Annual Fund to support the programs and services that are the hallmark of Newmark.

This year, we recognize that Newmark must continue doing what we do best – educating and providing emotional security for our families and students.

Understanding that we serve a unique population of students, we have gone above and beyond to maintain important safety protocols and procedures to keep our students and staff as healthy and safe as possible. For the new school year, we have invested in a fresh reboot to mentally prepare our students for the next phase of the pandemic. We completely repainted the entire 60,000 square foot facility, deep cleaned all carpets, surfaces and soft furniture, and added new artwork to create a welcoming physical space. Additionally, we've invested in technology training for our staff to maintain our high level of responsiveness to the pandemic and upgraded technology tools in the classroom. Our counseling program will feature expanded student life skill training and guided practice on mental health issues so that our students can progress.

How To Donate:

- **By Credit Card:**

www.newmarkeducation.com/support/annual

- **By Check: send check payable to: NextMark Foundation, 1000 Cellar Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 Attn: Newmark Annual Fund**



We need your financial support to continue the important work we have set in place for the 2021-22 school year. Please help support Newmark's investment in the physical and emotional well-being of our students and staff with a tax deductible gift to the 2021 Annual Fund today. Whether you can donate \$100, \$500 or even \$5,000 – we value that your contribution.

Newmark's Annual Fund Appeal ends October 15, 2021. Please help us reach this year's goal of **100% parent participation**. If you value the education and experience provided by Newmark for your child, please donate to the 2021 Newmark Annual Fund today. Your tax-deductible gift will make a great difference for all the students at Newmark!

Thank you!

NextMark Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supporting Newmark Education and Teacher Training.

• *Disclaimer: Your donation will be acknowledged as "**Student's Last Name**" Family for the newsletter and donor wall (ex. Jones Family). If you wish to be acknowledged differently, please email Sandra at slevy@newmarkeducation.com or indicate Recognition Name with your donation.*

Community Service

Mrs. Osiadacz



Parker



Ellie



Coco

“One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone.”

— Shannon L. Alder

Community Service is already well underway this year, and our first big project is the Blankets of Hope initiative. The entire student body watched a set of important videos from this organization, teaching empathy and kindness.

With so many Americans experiencing homelessness, it is imperative that now, more than ever, Newmark lets our local homeless population know that they are not alone by donating brand new blankets to keep warm this fall and winter, and sharing an encouraging note with each blanket.

Our school store donations will continue this year and keeping with tradition, we are starting off by donating to the Plainfield Area Humane Society. Students will be using their school store points to donate to the local pets in need.

*Please note that until further notice there will be no Bake Sales or Philly Pretzel sales. I'm excited to work with our students throughout the year!

Please be sure to check the Friday Backpack News for details on Community Service happenings.

SAVE THE DATES

K-8 Fall Announcements

K-8 Family Fun Movie Night “Under The Stars” – Free PG-rated movie for the whole family outdoors on the Newmark Turf Field at 6:45 PM. See Friday Backpack News or website to register for *Space Jam: A New Legacy*.

K-8 Teen Afternoon: Friday, September 24, 2021 – For students in Mrs. Arnao, Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. Mastrogiovanni and Ms. Pantano's classes. From 2:45-4:30 PM. \$20 Fee – Parents need to provide transportation home promptly at 4:30 PM – See Friday Backpack News or website for Permission Forms.

K-8 Kids Afternoon: Friday, October 1, 2021 – For students in Ms. Fagan, Ms. McCarty, Mrs. Necci and Mr. Cebula's classes. From 2:45-4:00 PM. \$20 Fee – Parents need to provide transportation home promptly at 4:00 PM – See Friday Backpack News or website for Permission Forms.

K-8 After School Clubs & Programs – Session II:

- Session II – Begins week of November 15, 2021 through January 20, 2022

Upcoming Dressdown Days:

Favorite Hat Day: Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Holiday Colors: Wednesday, December 22, 2021

First Day of School



Lillian is poised and ready!



Mikey and Mr. Hobson



Thumbs up for a new school year!



Ready to hit a homerun this year!



Mrs. Necci's Class feeling positive.



First day, here we come!



Jumping into a brand new school year!

Healthy U Kick Off



Newmark students stretching it out



Healthy U Kick Off!



Avery showing her GO food



Giancarlo



Ms. Fagan's Class warming up!



Ms. McCarty's class showing off their high knees



Get that heart rate up!

Counseling News

Ms. George, Mrs. Jernigan and Ms. Rentrop

Virtual Parent Counseling Nights

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! The Counseling Department would like to share some important information about upcoming events and key dates for you to be aware of:

Counseling is an integral part of the student experience at Newmark School just as communication between home and school is an integral part of your child's education and well-being. To effectively share information concerning your child, we provide parents an opportunity to connect with the Newmark counselors on the first Tuesday of every month. We encourage you to schedule an appointment for one of our monthly counseling nights to discuss any issues or concerns you may have or just to touch base about your child's progress.

All counselor meetings will be held virtually via telephone. To schedule an appointment, please contact Marla Zucker at 908-753-0330 or mzucker@newmarkeducation.com. Individual appointments are 30 minutes, and we have the following time slots available: 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00 PM. Our K-8 counselors are Ashlie Jernigan, MS, NCSP and Alyson Rentrop, LSW.

The dates for the 2021-2022 school year are listed below:

Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
Tuesday, January 11, 2022
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Tuesday, April 12, 2022
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Community Connections PIN Program

The Community Connections PIN Program recognizes students who demonstrate personal and social growth by participating in meaningful community-based experiences. Community-based experiences can include the following categories: Community Service, Sports, Volunteering, Music/Performing Arts, and Clubs (including Scouting).

Nominations can be submitted by a parent, teacher or member of the PIN Committee. Once the nomination has been approved, the student will receive a special pin commemorating their achievement with a ceremony in their honor. PINS Program ceremonies occur two times per year (at the awards assemblies). PINS Form submission deadlines are:

Friday, November 12, 2021
Friday, January 21, 2022
Friday, April 1, 2022
Friday, May 20, 2022

• View nomination forms on school website at www.newmarkeducation.com/our-schools/pins



PINs Ceremony December 2019



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your children back to school! The COVID-19 virus is still part of our environment and we need to be proactive and keep our kids safe. Please complete the daily COVID questionnaire, and, if you are not sure, please keep them home. Contact me if you have a question at ecarroll@newmarkeducation.com.

Medication/Health Issues:

If there are any health issues during the school year with your child please let me know. It is also important for me to know if your child is on any medication and, if so, what type and dosage. Please also keep me up-to-date with any medication changes. If your child also needs any medication while in school, the medication release form is on the Newmark website under School Nurse as are other health forms.

Health Screenings:

We will not be conducting sports physicals with Dr. Acella for those students in the middle school and high school wishing to participate in interscholastic sports at this time but hope to in the near future. We will keep you posted if we are going to do a spring sport. If we do, your student will need to get a sports physical with their primary doctor. If your child has had a physical done on 3-1-21 or after, their doctor just needs to fill out the forms.

Personal Hygiene and Your Child:

Monitoring your child's personal hygiene is important from a social as well as health point of view. Maintaining personal hygiene enhances an individual's physical and emotional wellness. While most children age 9 and older are able to attend to their own daily hygiene, supervision is still necessary in order to ensure that good habits develop. Here are some basic tips that you may want to discuss with your child to promote good hygiene.

- A balanced diet is the foundation for overall good health. A diet that includes all the food groups and one high in fruits and vegetables is recommended. Eating a healthy diet has shown to improve a child's ability to learn in school.
- A bath or shower using a mild soap is needed daily for middle school and high school age students. Hair should be washed at least twice a week or more frequently depending on your child's activity level. A deodorant/antiperspirant is usually needed daily.
- Teeth should be brushed at least twice a day to prevent decay and to maintain healthy gums. Flossing is recommended daily.
- Clothing should be changed on a daily basis. Clean cotton socks are the best for feet because they absorb moisture. For face masks, we recommend daily mask cleaning and replacing disposable ones daily.
- Coughing and sneezing into a tissue and properly disposing is a good hygiene practice, or sneezing into your arm, then washing your hands after.
- Regular handwashing should be emphasized since this has been identified as the most important practice for preventing illness.

At Newmark School we encourage all children to develop good grooming practices. We believe that good hygiene promotes independence, self-confidence, and self-esteem and builds a foundation for lifelong healthy habits.

Students of the Month



Ben, *Ms. Fagan*



Rusty, *Ms. McCarty*



Trevor, *Ms. McCarty*



Alexander, *Mrs. Necci*



Henry, *Mr. Cebula*



Jason, *Mrs. Arnao*



Larsen, *Mrs. Gregory*



Emily, *Mrs. Mastrogiovanni*



Tyler, *Ms. Pantano*

Congratulations!