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**Proud To be
A Black Knight!**

Small but Mighty, Newbury!

Dear Black Knight Families,

It seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming students back to school and attending the first Black Knight football game of the 2016-17 season. What a year it has been! As we complete another school year, I want to commend our Newbury staff for all of their hard work and dedication to the students of the Newbury Local School District. Each and every member of our staff plays in integral role in the safety and success of our students.

I also want to thank the members of our community for their continued support of the district and its students. There are several key members of the community that provide unwavering dedication to the district and we could not do the work we do without them, so thank you!

I would like to highlight some of the Black Knight accomplishments this year: Our students participated in a number of amazing opportunities this school year.

- In April, the Newbury Academic Team traveled to Chicago for their fourth straight appearance in the National Small School Championships
- HPAC (Health Professions Affinity Community) is a pipeline program developed in conjunction with NEOMED, in Rootstown, designed to engage students and advance their academic and career progress toward health professions. Our local chapter is the only HPAC Program in Geauga County
- 25 of our seniors traveled to Toronto, Canada for their senior trip
- In January, 17 Newbury students traveled with Lordstown students to the Presidential Inauguration
- Newbury teacher, Anna Tribuzzo, is the recipient of the Franklin B. Walter State Award for extraordinary contributions in the field of education. Anna was nominated for this award by State Support Team 4 and was recognized in Columbus for her accomplishments.
- Newbury Senior Vincent Polito is the recipient for the Walter Horn Award presented by State Support Team for Academic Achievement. He is a graduate of Auburn Career Center, also, with his credentials in Welding.
- Action research projects in the middle school
- "We Solve Problems" essay contest, sponsored by Gertsburg Law Firm.
- Middle School and High School students attended the Youngstown State University English Festival
- One Book, One School

You can read about these, and more of the great opportunities our students participated in, on the school web page.

In closing, I would like to share a part of the speech I gave on commencement day:

"Attitude matters most. Difficult roads are traveled by many, it is not talent that helped them navigate those roads, it is attitude. Voltaire said, 'Everything in your life is a reflection of a choice you have made. If you want a different result, make a different choice.' If you do not like what you see, make a conscience choice to do something different. And if you fail, and sometimes you will, readjust and try again."

It is an honor to work with all of the Black Knight staff as they make a positive impact in the lives of our students every day. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Go Black Knights!

Michelle Mrakovich
Superintendent

Commencement Wrap

Newbury Class of 2017



Newbury High School said goodbye to the 40 members of the Class of 2017 at its May 31 Commencement held in the school's auditorium.

After the choir sang the National Anthem, the band played "Pomp and Circumstance," by Edward Elgar, arranged by James Ployhar. Newbury Principal, Michael Chaffee, welcomed the event's guests and speakers. Elementary Principal, Cyndi Tomassetti, presented scholarships and Board President, Susan Arnold, praised the accomplishments of the graduates.

Salutatorian, Anne Kinkopf, offered her welcome, which she said she learned during her research about the role for achieving second standing in the class based on grades. She joked about the three-way tie for the top spot of valedictorian and said she was happy to take the fourth spot.

"It is surreal to be standing here, in this position right now," she said. "I can truly say, from experience that hard work and grit is key to achieving your dreams."

The choir performed two more songs, "Count on Me" by Bruno Mars and "I'll Always Remember You," by Andrew Green and Maria Brown-Gallenbery, arranged by Alissa Bodner.

Makenna Sanders, President of the Class of 2017, then thanked his classmates for allowing him to lead

this year, remarking they were fortunate to have made such a big impact with a small class.

"Our chapter at Newbury is ending. But we have an exciting open book waiting ahead of us," he said. "I know that each one of you have many years of success and fulfillment coming your way. It won't be easy."

Sanders will double major at Thiel College in Pennsylvania in religion and history.

"Our chapter at Newbury is ending. But we have an exciting open book waiting ahead of us"

Top Auburn Career Center graduate, Allyson Kekedy, who plans to attend Kent State University to study computer science, told her classmates to live life to the fullest.

"Many of us are heading off to college, and others are going straight into the workforce," she said. "Whatever you do or wherever you go, know that

it matters. However small an accomplishment, it all adds up. You have few limits on what you can achieve."

The school's principal rose to speak. Chaffee said he wanted to offer his sage wisdom.

"Are you ready for it?," he asked. "Just keep doing what you are doing. You are an extremely bright, talented, and diverse group of young people. You are some of the kindest, most compassionate young

Commencement Wrap *(continued)*

people I have ever been around. You genuinely care about your school, your teachers, and your community. Most importantly you care about each other.”

He encouraged the students to try new things at least once a month, volunteer often, ask for help, be safe and always keep a special spot in their hearts for Newbury.

“I have tremendous faith in each of you that it will continue,” he closed. “Go, Black Knights!”

Valedictorians, Hannah Lewandoski, Jessica Perez, and Sarah Stefancin took to the podium to address their classmates, families, staff and special guests.

“Our teachers will never get enough credit,” said Lewandoski, who will attend Fordham University in the fall to study film, “not solely for our education, but for teaching us in life.”

“Often when pursuing goals or moving forward in life we forget to thank those around us who have helped us achieve what we have. From family and friends to Newbury teachers and Staff, we forget to acknowledge these amazing people who have made it so that we can graduate here today,” said Perez.

Stefancin plans to enroll at the University of Mount Union to major in writing and psychology. She referenced when she spoke of a book called “The Little Prince,” Chaffee had shared with her.

“You can grow up without being grown up,” she told her classmates. “Once you’ve learned to pass for an adult, you can decide when you want to act

Valedictorians

Hannah Lewandoski
Jessica Perez
Sarah Stefancin

Salutatorian

Anne Kinkopf

Class Officers

President

Makenna Sanders

Vice President

Noah Wilson

Secretary

Sarah Stefancin

Treasurer

Thomas McKale, Jr.

Top Auburn Student

Allyson Kekedy

Administration

Ms. Michelle Mrakovich,
Superintendent

Mr. Michael Chaffee,
Principal

Mr. Anthony Forfia,
Assistant Principal

Board of Education

Mrs. Susan Arnold,
President

Mr. Martin Sanders,
Vice President

Mrs. Anne Kolenic

Mr. Guy Munn

Mr. Kirk Simpkins

like one.... Please don't lose [your] sense of fun, no matter what the world throws at you.”

Superintendent Michelle Mrakovich spoke to the graduates, thanking the faculty and parents for all of their support and encouragement along the way. She, too, challenged the Class of 2017 not to live short of their dreams.

A highlight video that captured special moments was played before Susan Arnold, Board of Education President, and the other Board of Education members — Vice President Martin Sanders, Anne Kolenic, Guy Munn, Kirk Simpkins — presented the diplomas.

After the last diploma was awarded, Sanders pronounced the Class of 2017 were graduates, prior to the singing of the Alma Mater. The band played “Fanfare and Recessional” by James Ployhar, marking the end of the ceremony.

High School

It has been an exciting and fulfilling 2016-17 school year for our Newbury Jr./Sr. High students and staff; one that has been filled with tremendous opportunities, experiences, growth, and improvement. We are extremely proud of the progress we have made in transforming our school, grateful for the many opportunities we can provide our students, tremendously excited for future challenges and successes, and very thankful for the support provided to our students and staff by our amazing community. WE ARE . . . NEWBURY!

Here are a few highlights from some of the many great things our students created and participated in this year:

(continued on page 4)

High School *(continued)*



Newbury **Academic Team**

In April, the Newbury Academic Team traveled to Chicago for its fourth straight appearance in the national championship, earning the highest finish yet by placing 19th in the nation! Additionally, Makenna Sanders earned All-American Honors by placing 13th out of 533 contestants in individual scoring. Congratulations to Coach Voelker and our outstanding students.



Choir

This spring, our High School Choir received a Superior rating at the Regional Competition in Mentor, earning the group a spot in the State Meet at Medina Highland High School. There, under the direction of Miss Alissa Bodner, the choir earned an Excellent rating.



Class of 2017 **Senior Trip**

Our seniors decided on an international destination for their senior trip this year. Twenty-five of our students visited Toronto for an educational, exciting and extremely enjoyable weekend.

High School *(continued)*



Presidential **Inauguration**

In January, 17 Newbury students traveled with Lordstown students to the Presidential Inauguration. They spent four days touring the nation's capital, watching history unfold, visiting sacred monuments, and meeting Ohio's two United States senators. The trip culminated the year long political quest that began the previous year when many of these same students traveled to Davenport, Iowa to experience the Iowa caucuses.



HPAC



Award-Winning **Teacher**

Newbury teacher Anna Tribuzzo is the recipient of the Franklin B. Walter State Award for extraordinary contributions in the field of education. She was nominated by State Support Team 4 and received the award and special acknowledgement this summer at a conference in Columbus.



Award-Winning **Student**

Newbury senior Vincent Polito is the recipient of the Walter Horn Award for Academic Achievement, presented by State Support Team 4. He completed his certification at the Auburn Career Center with credentials in Welding. Great job, Vinnie!



The students focused on addressing mental health issues and creating an atmosphere of acceptance and appreciation among peers. The group presented at Scholar's Day 2017 at NEOMED and participated in various other programs throughout NE Ohio.

Newbury's HPAC (Health Professions Affinity Community) Chapter is the only one of its kind in Geauga County. A pipeline program developed in conjunction with NEOMED in Rootstown, its purpose is to engage students and advance their academic and career progress toward health professions. This year the group finished its second successful year utilizing Americorps Volunteers under the leadership of Ms. Anderson.

Research-in-Action



Newbury's 8th-grade English classes were assigned a Research-in-Action project where the students identified a real-life problem and researched potential solutions. The goal for this project was two-fold: learning research can be applied to life and creating opportunities to give back to local communities. One group decided to create a website (<https://treetOp.wixsite.com/home>) to raise bullying awareness, encourage respect and to help those who are bullied not feel alone. One

group partnered with an online organization and wrote letters of encouragement to children who spend months at a time in hospitals fighting life-threatening diseases, while another partnered with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, volunteering to assemble lunches for youth centers and local food shelters. The members of a fourth group volunteered on two Saturdays at the Ashtabula Animal Protection League to spend time with and make treats for animals in need of a home.

NJHS Sports

It was an exciting year for our Junior High athletics. Three students participated in the State Middle School Track and Field Championships. John Tropf finished 6th in the shot put, Dana Medley and Max Reardon finished 9th and 10th, respectively, in the 800-meter run.

Congratulations to each of these athletes. Max also competed in the State Cross Country Meet in the Fall. Additionally, three Junior High athletes captured NAC Championships at the league meet: Holly Hamilton, Alexander Harrison and Erin Piczer. Congratulations!

Writing Partnership



This year our school was invited to participate with students from Chagrin Falls, Orange and Kenston in the “We Solve Problems” Essay Contest sponsored by the Gertsburg Law Firm and the Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce. Three students earned recognition in the final group of 27; Max Plesmid, Allyson Kekedy and Christina Weber, who finished second in the Senior Class Division. Each student earned a cash prize and helped the school receive a \$1,000 award.

Read All About It!

This year Newbury Jr./Sr. High School made its debut at the 39th Annual Youngstown State University English Festival, an event in which Newbury was the only school in Geauga County represented. The 48 students read seven books before competing and collaborating with more than a thousand students from Northeast Ohio. Many Newbury students captured awards.



Class of 2017



Finally a tremendous thank you to the Class of 2017 that finished out the school year celebrating various events including the Top Ten Dinner at Bass Lake Tavern & Inn, the None for Under 21 Rally at Hiram College (where Newbury Junior, Liesel Fenstermaker, earned second place in the Art Contest capturing \$500 to be used for next year's Prom), Prom at Punderson Manor, the spectacular After-Prom sponsored by our dynamic Newbury Black Knight Parents Organization, Senior Breakfast, and Commencement at the Newbury Auditorium. The Class of 2017 has been instrumental in the positive transformation of our school. We wish them luck as they travel out to conquer the world. Go Black Knights! Please enter this address to watch the Class of 2017 Highlight Video:

<https://t.co/vH6p2vk0Ai>

Athletics

Anthony Forfia, Athletic Director

The 2016-2017 school year was a very special year. In the fall, the football team was ranked as the overall most improved team in the state in Drew Pasteur's Ohio Fantastic 50 Ohio High School Football Rankings and Predictions. (Pasteur is a math professor at The College of Wooster; <http://fantastic50.net/improved.html>.) We also had two All-Ohio Football Players and two wrestlers who placed at the OHSAA Wrestling Tournament. Check out these other highlights:

All-Conference, Northeastern Athletic Conference

Cross Country: Hannah Lewandoski, All Conference and Regional Qualifier

Football: John Chambers, Thomas McKale Jr., Kade Marker, Joe Ule and Makenna Sanders, All Conference; Cody Hamilton, Honorable Mention

Soccer: Julian Surckla, Mario Puletti and Tino Johnson, All Conference

Volleyball: Caleigh Hamby, Haley Hamilton and Hannah Grubbs, Honorable Mention

Basketball: Nathaniel Grubbs and Mario Puletti, Honorable Mention

Baseball: Owen Mansfield, 2nd Team All-Conference; Jaden Cicchella, Honorable Mention

Softball: Haley Hamilton, 2nd Team All-Conference; Hannah Lewandoski, Honorable Mention

Track: Jonah Hamby, Regional Qualifier

All-District

Soccer: Julian Surckla, First Team, All Cleveland Division 3; Mario Puletti, Tino Johnson, Matthew Fink, Second Team, All Cleveland Division 3; Jonah Hamby, Kevin Piczer- Honorable Mention; Margaret Kolenic, Honorable Mention, All Cleveland Division 3

Football: John Chambers, Thomas McKale Jr., Makenna Sanders, Joseph Ule, All-NE Lakes Division 7; Kade Marker, Alex Lampert, Michael Weston, First Team Defense; Jaden Cicchella, Honorable Mention

Academic All-Ohio Selections for Cleveland District 3

Soccer: Kevin Piczer and Christina Weber

Associated Press Awards

Football: John Chambers, NELD D7 Offensive Player of the Year and First Team, All-Ohio Offense; Alex Lampert, NELD D7 Defensive Player of the Year and First Team, All-Ohio Defense; Thomas McKale Jr., Kade Marker, Joseph Ule, Makenna Sanders, Michael Weston, All-Ohio Special Mention; Ryan Williams, NELD D7 Coach of the Year

Athletics *(continued)*

Associated Press Awards *(continued)*

Wrestling: Kade Marker, (7th place at OHSAA State Wrestling Tournament); Thomas McKale Jr., (8th place at OHSAA State Wrestling Tournament); Michael Weston and Alex Lampert, Ohio Varsity 1st Team; John Chambers, Kevin Piczer, Mitchell Sanders, Ohio Varsity 2nd Team; Douglas Ule, Ohio Varsity Coach of the Year

Northeastern Athletic Conference Scholar Athletes

Awarded to those who achieved a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.5 GPA, at the end of each semester. *Wrestlers are in the Eastern Ohio Wrestling League (not NAC).

Fall

Soccer: HannaRose Brastoff, Hannah Grubbs, Julian Surckla, Maxwell Plesmid, Kevin Piczer, Margaret Kolenic, Christina Weber, Noah Wilson, Avery Ryan, Mario Puletti, Noah Arnold, Alex Piczer, Jonah Hamby, Ladislav Lubanovich

Cross Country: Kaleb Grubbs, Hannah Lewandoski, Grace Wright, Martin Stefancin, Allyson Kekedy, Anne Kinkopf, Noah Arnold

Volleyball: Haley Hamilton, Sage Neidbalson, Liesel Fenstermaker, Malarie Eggleston, Ellery Clark, Caleigh Hamby, Abigail Grubbs, Desiree Sullivan

Cheerleading: Grace Wright, Jessica Perez, Liesel Fenstermaker, Jacy Drabek, Rebecca Harrison, Abby Harvey, Brittany Whelchel

Football: Nathan Mohar, Thomas McKale Jr., Makenna Sanders, Alexander Lampert, Jared Gray, John Chambers

Winter

Wrestling: Thomas Bond, Kevin Piczer, Thomas McKale Jr., Alexander Lampert, Noah Wilson, Jared Gray, Makenna Sanders, Caleb Kaminski, Mitchell Sanders

Cheerleading: Jessica Perez, Grace Wright, Liesel Fenstermaker, Abby Harvey, Rebecca Harrison, Jacy Drabek, Brittany Whelchel, Samantha Alldredge

Basketball: Hannah Grubbs, Kaleb Grubbs, Haley Hamilton, Sage Neidbalson, Julian Surckla, Malarie Eggleston, HannaRose Brastoff, Jacob Orms, Mario Puletti, Noah Arnold, Nathaniel Grubbs, Rebecca Craven, Abigail Grubbs, Jonah Hamby

Spring

Track: Thomas Bond, Hannah Grubbs, Jessica Perez, Grace Wright, Hannah Lewandoski, Anne Kinkopf, Liesel Fenstermaker, Allyson Kekedy, HannaRose Brastoff, Kevin Piczer, Caleigh Hamby, Margaret Kolenic, Christina Weber, Noah Wilson, Nathaniel Grubbs, Alex Piczer, Makenna Sanders, Caleb Kaminski, Jonah Hamby, Andrew Slade

Softball: Mackenzie Grubbs, Haley Hamilton, Sage Neidbalson, Hannah Lewandoski, Ellery Clark, Malarie Eggleston, Avery Ryan

Baseball: Noah Arnold

Notifications and Cancellations

Join Newbury Athletics on Remind to receive text or email alert for athletic updates or schedule changes. Text the message @njshssport to 81010. Look for a confirmation message.

Purchase a **Banner/** **Program Advertisement**

Community support is critical to an athletic department. Please consider becoming a part of ours by displaying a banner with your business at the Newbury Jr./Sr. High School's Football/Soccer Field and/or the High School Gymnasium. Advertisements for the Fall and Winter Athletic programs are also available.

Newbury will supply the banners with information you provide in a photo-ready file. Advertising that directly promotes products such as tobacco, alcohol or other items deemed inappropriate for a school setting will not be accepted. Banners are \$350 for one year or \$600 for two years. Program advertisements: are \$200, full page; \$150 half page; \$100 1/4 page; and \$50 business-card size.

Checks payable to Newbury Local Schools, are accepted. Mail in c/o Athletic Director Anthony Forfia to Newbury Local Schools, 14775 Auburn Road, Newbury, Ohio 44065.

Elementary

It was a great year at Newbury Elementary, with many opportunities to shine. Here are some highlights:

Teachers go to School, too

Congratulations to Mrs. Bernadette Stefancin and Mrs. Sonya Morris, who recently “graduated” from the Ohio State University as Literacy Coaches. Both teachers spent the school year in a dynamic, long-term training. They learned about research-based methods; were provided with ongoing guidance as they continually implemented this in their own classrooms; and were supported as they gave on-site training for the teachers at Newbury. Mrs. Stefancin spent the year co-teaching with Miss Ebbert and Mrs. Morris spent the year working with Mrs. Cusman and Ms. Csontos. The goal of this comprehensive effort is to significantly raise the level of achievement for all students. We look forward to next year as our new Literacy Coaches begin sharing all they have learned with our entire staff!



High Marks for PBIS

We were recognized by the State as a Bronze PBIS Award Winner after one year of implementation. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing behavioral supports and a culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. We look forward to learning the outcome of a second evaluation we had this spring.

Parents Help with Success

Newbury Elementary was recognized with the Outstanding Environmental Education Program Award for the efforts given by parents and volunteers for Wet Labs activities. The Geauga Soil and Water Conservation chose the school for its effort and commitment to the program which has helped hundreds of students throughout the years to better understand and value Geauga County's natural resources. The program would not be possible without the help and support of parents and community members. We will miss those instrumental in the program, Mrs. Barnhardt, who is retiring and parents Mrs. Holden, Mrs. Shott and Mrs. Bartlett whose children are moving onto middle school.



Elementary *(continued)*



One School, **One Book**

Newbury Elementary took part in the One School, One Book project this year, through which the entire elementary read “The Enormous Egg,” by Oliver Butterworth. Thanks to Timmons Elementary for its generous donation of books and materials for our students. The staff worked hard transforming the building into an interactive museum to coincide with the book. Students visited during the day and learned about fossils, weight and measurement and areas of Ohio where dinosaurs once lived. As a culmination, Newbury Elementary went to the Natural History Museum.

Celebrity Hero Makes an Appearance

“Mike the Knight” from the same titled show on the Nick, Jr. cable channel joined Newbury Elementary School this year, as part of the school’s PBIS Program. Students had a chance to take a plush version of the character home for good behavior as part of the PBIS program. They journaled about their adventures and shared pictures. Most of the staff also took a turn bringing Mike the Knight home. He traveled to: Disney World, New York City, Washington D.C. for the Inauguration, Branson, Missouri, Ohio State, and many other places.



New Program off to Great Start

The Sensory Room, a specially designed area combining a range of stimuli to help students develop and engage their senses, has been a big success. The newly installed safe space allows students to explore and interact without risk. Some of the benefits are listed below.

- **Sensory Stimulation:** encourages students to explore the environment. This can have positive effects on their ability to react and interact with the larger world around them.
- **Enhance Learning and Play:** engages different areas of the brain, helping children absorb and retain more information and better meet the needs of the individual student.

- **Improve Balance, Movement and Spatial Orientation:** develops visual processing abilities as well as fine and gross motor skills, facilitating day-to-day living.
- **Tackle Problems With Behavior:** provides comfort and calmness for overactive and distressed children, and helps inactive students to feel better engaged, preventing the urge to act out.



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Dates to Remember

July 2017

10 Regular Board Meeting (*in the Former Library area*) 6:30pm

August 2017

07 Regular Board Meeting (*in the Former Library area*) 6:30pm

08 School Supply Sale (*in the Cafe*) 9am-11am & 4pm-7pm

16 Open House and Ice Cream Socials
Elementary School 5:30pm-6:30pm
Jr./Sr. High School 6:30pm-7:30pm

17 **First Day of School**

September 2017

17 Regular Board Meeting (*in the Former Library area*) 6:30pm

18 Fall Picture Day



14775 Auburn Road
Newbury, Ohio 44065

Board of Education
Phone : 440.564.5501
Fax : 440.564.9460

Newbury Elementary School
Phone : 440.564.2282
Fax : 440.564.9690

Newbury Jr./Sr. High School
Phone: 440.564.2281
Fax: 440.564.9788

Transportation Department
Phone: 440.564.5501

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Mrs. Susan Arnold, *President*
Mr. Martin Sanders, *Vice President*
Mrs. Anne Kolenic, *Member*
Mr. Guy Munn, *Member*
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