

**NEW TOWN NEWS****SUMMER 2023**

Welcome (and welcome back), Titan Families!

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, I hope that you have enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer! As I begin my 7th year at New Town High School, I am particularly grateful for the continued blessing of this community of staff, students, and families in my life, and I am eager to see you on **Monday August 28, 2023. New Town High school is excited to continue our 3<sup>rd</sup> year in authorization as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Career Path (CP)/Diploma Path (DP), Mid Years Program (MYP) Magnet school.**

Throughout the summer BCPS and New Town High School have worked hard to provide the best learning engagement to all New Town High School students. We have had many hours of good discussion about how staff, students, and families can work together to ensure that our students are receiving an education that supports and empowers them as they strive to reach their full potential as young people of promise, intelligence, and goodness. We are proud and excited to launch the 2023-2024 school year with our incredibly talented and dedicated teaching staff and your ongoing support and partnership!

Let us begin this school year the same way we begin every day with our students, grounded in the mission of New Town High School: **The mission of New Town High School is to prepare students for success as knowledgeable and global citizens, future leaders, and life-long learners. We commit to a rigorous 21st century learning environment that is safe and supportive. We exist to help our students grow into resilient, empathetic, and inquisitive individuals who think both critically and creatively and possess the courage and conviction to take action. This will ensure that all students develop their individual potential based on the standards as outlined in BCPS Teacher and Learning Framework.**

We encourage all families to visit the New Town High School website for all updates with BCPS or New Town High School: <https://newtownhs.bcps.org/>

**James Martin**

**Principal**

New Town High School, An International Baccalaureate World School

**Dates to Remember**

**Early Entry Day** (Freshmen-only), Thursday, August 24, 2023, 7:30 am – 11:30 am

**Back to School Night** (all grades), Thursday, August 24, 2023, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**First Day of School, Monday, August 28, 2023, 7:35 am - 2:30 pm**

Greetings New Town High School students and families.

The start of a new school year is always one filled with excitement, promise and possibility. This year is no different. Think about all the lessons you learned last year and build upon them. Whether academic or personal, I challenge you to set goals for this year that exceed your progress beyond the previous year. Whatever goals you choose, devise a plan, get focused, stay committed, seek help, and make modifications as needed. Above all, keep **moving towards success**. Let us all resolve to make 2023-2024 the best year yet. **YOU'VE GOT THIS!**

With Titan *PRIDE*,



**Ms. Angela Berry, Assistant Principal (A-D)**

Titan Family,

It is my absolute pleasure to be a part of the New Town family this year. As I enter my 20th year as an educator and New Town High School enters its 20th year anniversary, I cannot think of a better place to serve. I have personal ties to New Town, as my family lives in and is an active part of the New Town community. As a 6th year assistant principal, I continuously seek ways to build positive relationships and cultivate an environment where our students can thrive. As a father, I personally believe that anything less is unacceptable. Removing barriers to success is my passion which pairs well with the relentless spirit of a Titan. I look forward to an exciting and successful 23-24 school year. Go Titans!



**Mr. Stephen Hicks, Assistant Principal (E-J)**

Greetings Titans,

I am very excited to join the New Town Family. As an educator, parent, and community member, the New Town community has always held a place in my heart. Now as I enter my 17<sup>th</sup> year in Baltimore County Public Schools and my 6<sup>th</sup> year as assistant principal, I am thankful to be able to join this amazing school community. I look forward to developing relationships with students and families that ensure student success. It is my goal to support all New Town students in developing a plan to accomplish short-term goals and ensure their future success. I am excited to see what amazing things our students can accomplish.

GO TITANS!



**Ms. Tarah Kutch, Assistant Principal (R-Z)**

Dear Students, Families, and New Town Community Members,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. I hope you had a restful, relaxing, and rejuvenating summer break. We are so excited to welcome you back to a new school year, with new faces, new goals, and new opportunities to grow and thrive. As one of your Assistant Principals, I look forward to working with the Titan team to provide a safe environment and world-class education to every student who walks through our doors. Accomplishing this lofty goal will require a contribution from all of us – administrators, teachers, staff, students, and families – but it is imperative that we each make this contribution for the well-being of these young adults who mean so much to us and who have such bright futures ahead. If I can be of any help as the year progresses, please do not hesitate to contact me. Let's get to work!



**Mr. W. Rafe Park, Assistant Principal (K-Q)**

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT**

New Town High School's counseling department implements a comprehensive developmental program to address the academic, career/college readiness, and social emotional needs of our students within a safe learning environment. Through counseling, coordination, and collaboration, school counselors work with other stakeholders to empower students to overcome barriers and reach their maximum potential as responsible citizens and life-long learners.

The school counseling team consists of the following members:

- Ms. Lisa Bach (Last names A - D)
- Mr. Christopher Rhone (Last names E - J)
- Ms. Yolanda Price, College and Career Counselor
- Ms. Zethray Owens, Office Administrator
- Ms. Londyn Rollins (Last names K - Q)
- Ms. Stacy Howland (Last names R - Z)
- Ms. Kendra Isaacs, School Records Facilitator

Please reach out to the school counseling team with any questions. The school counseling team looks forward to working with you.

## **NTHS School Guidelines**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Regular school attendance has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Students are expected to be in their classrooms by 7:45am and exit the building at 2:30pm. It is the key to high school graduation and college and career readiness. Research has proven that students who regularly attend school and are on time are more likely to read on their grade level, less likely to drop out of school, and more likely to graduate on time. Attendance is recorded by the teacher of each class. It is very important for all students to attend all classes that have been assigned to them daily.

**Regular attendance = Success in School = Future Leaders and Life-long Learners!**

### **1:1 CHROMEBOOKS**

BCPS is proud to offer students a one-to-one technology-based learning environment. **All students are expected to bring their assigned BCPS device, fully charged and in working condition, with them to school every day.** Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will continue to use the BCPS Chromebooks assigned to them in middle school.

Students are responsible for the proper use and care of their BCPS device. A short video on Device Use & Care is available at [Chromebook - Device Care & Respect \(Secondary\)](#). Additional support resources for using Chromebooks can be found at <https://innovationhub.bcps.org/device-care-use>.

If a student's BCPS device is experiencing a problem, the student must promptly report the issue using the [Technology Support Request form](#) or by calling the BCPS Help Desk at (443)809-4672, Monday-Friday 7:00am-4:15pm to create a service ticket. Directions for creating a ticket are available at [https://www.bcps.org/tech\\_support](https://www.bcps.org/tech_support). Service tickets will be addressed by BCPS computer technicians.

### **MASK & HOOD POLICY**

Students may only wear COVID-19 appropriate masks, if deciding to cover their faces during the school day. The following face wear is prohibited due to safety identification issues:

- Ski masks (full or half)
- Hoods on top of head

### **CELL PHONE POLICY**

In preparation for the start of the 23-24 school year, students, staff, and families are reminded of the importance of instructional time. Board of Education Policy and Superintendent's Rule 5552



indicate that all personal devices are to be off and away during the school day. Exceptions are during students' lunch periods.

- The primary focus of any local school procedure should be instructional time
- In light of national safety concerns in schools, confiscation should not be included in the consequence matrix

### DAILY SCHEDULE

Period 1	7:45 am - 9:25 am
Period 2	9:30 am – 10:55 am
Period 3	11:00 am – 1:00 pm A Lunch (11:00-11:30) B Lunch (11:30-12:00) C Lunch 12:00-12:30) D Lunch (12:30-1:00)
	<b><u>*Students are not allowed to order or receive deliveries of food at any time.</u></b>
Period 4	1:05 pm – 2:30 pm

### STUDENT SCHEDULE AND GRADES

Parents please be sure to create an account to access the BCPS FOCUS Portal. Within FOCUS, you can view your student's schedule, report card grades, bus information, and more. Click to [create an account](#) or [to access the FOCUS portal](#) with your existing account.

Once a BCPS account has been created in the FOCUS portal, current grades and course information continues to be made available in [Schoolology](#), our online learning platform.

### SCHOOL ENTRANCE

- Students will wait outside (**rain, snow, hot, or cold**) until 7:35am, when doors open.
  - Students should be dropped in the student parking lot/Athletic entrance.
  - Students need to be picked up on the tennis court side at dismissal.
- Upon entering, students will receive a grab-N-go breakfast and take it to the classroom where they will be permitted to eat.
- Students must report to school on time and be in the classroom by 7:45am.
- Parents/Visitors are asked to make an appointment to see any staff member prior to coming to the building.
- Due to safety precautions, **any student who leaves the building during the school day and without permission could be subject to:**
  - non-admittance for the remainder of the school day
  - RPC (required parent conference)
  - search

### BELL CHANGE

- Students are to report directly to their next period class. If the teacher is not ready to accept students in, students should wait outside the classroom.
- Students should use the restroom during the 5-minute transition period between classes.

### BATHROOMS

- All bathrooms will be available during transition time.
- Students should always have a pass to use the bathroom during class time.
- During 3<sup>rd</sup> period, the cafeteria bathrooms are the only bathrooms that will be available for use.
  - Students should use the bathroom during lunch or during transition times.
  - Students will not receive passes in the for the **first and last 15 minutes** of the class.

### SCHOOL MEALS

- Baltimore County Public Schools has returned to the free meals program (breakfast & lunch) for all students at no cost.
- Students will be released to the cafeteria for either A, B, C, or D lunch. All students must always sit down at a cafeteria table in the cafeteria until dismissed by a NTHS staff member.
- **Students may not purchase food for delivery during the school day at any time. Any students caught not following this policy will have their food confiscated.**
- **Parents may not deliver lunch to students during the school day at any time. Please prepare breakfast or lunch ahead of the school day and have the students carry with them when arriving at school.**

## **LOCKERS**

Lockers will be assigned to students who request a locker. Students will be able to request a locker from your homeroom teacher on the first day of school. If you would like a locker. Please do not request unless you intend on using it. Due to the size of our student enrollment, there are not enough lockers available for all students. Students who request a locker will be assigned a locker close to their A1 class on a first come, first served basis. Requests will be processed by the front office in a timely manner.

## **DEPARTMENT CHAIRS**

Jason Ambush	Performing Arts/Dean of Students	<a href="mailto:jambush2@bcps.org">jambush2@bcps.org</a>
Karen Turek	Technology Liaison	<a href="mailto:kturek@bcps.org">kturek@bcps.org</a>
Laura Bartel	English	<a href="mailto:lbartel@bcps.org">lbartel@bcps.org</a>
Nettie Christian	Special Ed	<a href="mailto:nchristian@bcps.org">nchristian@bcps.org</a>
Louise Coakley	IEP	<a href="mailto:lcoakley@bcps.org">lcoakley@bcps.org</a>
Samuel Mauk	Math	<a href="mailto:smauk2@bcps.org">smauk2@bcps.org</a>
David Hammer	Visual Arts	<a href="mailto:dhammer@bcps.org">dhammer@bcps.org</a>
Brent Hopkins	CTE	<a href="mailto:bhopkins@bcps.org">bhopkins@bcps.org</a>
Richard Kline	Social Studies	<a href="mailto:rkline3@bcps.org">rkline3@bcps.org</a>
Tyler Shaw	Science	<a href="mailto:tshaw3@bcps.org">tshaw3@bcps.org</a>
Londyn Rollins	School Counseling	<a href="mailto:lrollins@bcps.org">lrollins@bcps.org</a>
Rebecca Sanna	AVID	<a href="mailto:rsanna@bcps.org">rsanna@bcps.org</a>
Bradley Long	PE & Health	<a href="mailto:blong3@bcps.org">blong3@bcps.org</a>
Sam Johnson	World Language	<a href="mailto:sjohnson7@bcps.org">sjohnson7@bcps.org</a>
Preston Waters	Athletic Director	<a href="mailto:pwaters@bcps.org">pwaters@bcps.org</a>

## **NTHS Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)**

Greetings New Town High School Families:

We, the New Town PTSA, are extremely excited to start the 23/24 school year off running! Come out to meet your PTSA. We have been working diligently, fundraising, and gathering scholarship information to share and support our New Town families. As we head into a new academic year, we would like to invite students, parents, and teachers to join the New Town High School PTSA and bring new ideas to help our organization continue to grow. Titan up and join the PTSA and let's have a great school year.

Brandy Forman, President: [President@newtownhsptsa.org](mailto:President@newtownhsptsa.org)

## **CLASS INFORMATION**

**Freshmen: Welcome Class of 2027!** We are excited to welcome you to New Town High. We are hoping your experience of learning and enjoying school will go with you after you graduate. Our 2027 class advisors are TBA. Let's have a great freshman year!

**Sophomores: Welcome back Class of 2026!** We are so excited to pick up where we left off last year! We hope you had time to relax and have fun this summer. This year we have much to look forward to.

We are planning a ring dance, fundraising events, and sophomore social. Class dues will be collected online this year. We will hold several meetings throughout the year to keep you updated about class dues and plans. Please consider joining our class officers or dance committee this year to help organize events. More information can be found in the Class of 2026 Schoology group.

Ms. Kimisha Robinson: [krobinson14@bcps.org](mailto:krobinson14@bcps.org) & Ms. Nicole Beckford: [nbeckford@bcps.org](mailto:nbeckford@bcps.org)

**Juniors: Welcome Back Class of 2025!** Welcome back Juniors! Ms. Horah is very excited about this school year. More important information and dates will be forthcoming!

Ms. Abigail Horah: [ahorah@bcps.org](mailto:ahorah@bcps.org)

**Seniors: Congratulations Seniors!** You are now in your final year at New Town. Senior year is an invigorating time! It's a time to not only celebrate what you have accomplished, but also a time to make important decisions about your next steps. This year, you will begin the college application process, take college entrance exams, attend senior prom, participate in senior activities, and above all celebrate commencement!

We expect you to **FINISH STRONG!** We call the ceremonial end of your time at New Town "commencement," meaning the beginning. It is the beginning of your transition to adulthood whether that be college, trade school, work, or whatever you choose. Begin this next step of your life by finishing strong!

Communication between school and home continues to remain important. Please ensure that the school has **updated and correct** contact information on file, you can do this through the Focus portal. Students will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activities without updated contact information. This is often how you will find information about our events, how to pay dues, and make sure you remain on top of your senior activities. Congratulations, again Seniors! We'll see you at the end!

Mrs. Katie Duncan & Ms. Sadie Spencer

### **NTHS ATHLETICS**

Our 2023 fall sports season has begun, with a start date of Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. This fall, we are offering: Allied Soccer, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, and Volleyball. More information can be found at [newtownhs.bcps.org/titan\\_athletics](http://newtownhs.bcps.org/titan_athletics).

Last year our student athletes performed extremely well, academically, having some of the highest grade-point-averages (GPAs) New Town has ever seen. Their academic success transferred to the field of play where they had even greater athletic successes, as we were able to capture State Championships in Indoor Track, Boys Basketball, and Outdoor Track. In the class of 2023, many of our student athletes earned a myriad of full and partial college scholarships. The success of NTHS Athletics is rooted in academic success.



As we continue our journey to become a competitive and championship program in all sports, our foundation as a program will be discipline, sportsmanship, respect for the game, *and* respect for our opponent. For our student athletes, remember, this simple math, 'NO GRADES = NO PLAY!!' Stay focused and enjoy your high school experience. TITAN UP!!!!

Coach Preston Waters, Athletic Director

### **SPIRIT WEAR**

Purchases for NTHS apparel can be made at <https://www.rokkitwear.com/school/7968-new-town-high-school>

### **Advanced Placement (AP)**

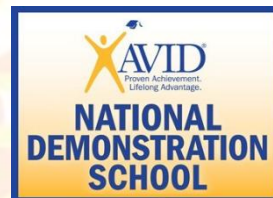


Advanced Placement (AP) is a rigorous academic program in the United States and Canada created by the College Board to offer college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. American colleges and universities may grant placement and course credit to students who obtain passing scores on the AP examinations. AP examinations are held in May of each year. New Town High School offers several AP courses for students in 9th - 12th grade. Students enrolled in AP courses will register in October/November to take the AP examinations in May. If you have any questions about the AP program at New Town High School, please contact Mrs. Turek ([kturek@bcps.org](mailto:kturek@bcps.org)) in the school library. With Titan Pride,

Karen Turek, AP Coordinator

### **AVID**

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! This year, we are focusing on our continued growth and goals to continue to reach educational success as we prepare our Titan scholars for college and career opportunities. This means that New Town High School will see and experience the consistent excellence of AVID and our scholars. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is a college and career preparatory program. At New Town High School, we implement AVID strategies in all our classes. In 2016, New Town became the first high school in Maryland to be an AVID National Demonstration School; we are a model school for AVID. In December of 2018, we earned our revalidation as a Demonstration School for another 3 years. This year, we will be preparing for the revalidation process! In addition to being a National Demonstration School, we are also a Schoolwide Site of Distinction. This is the highest certification level within AVID. As we continue this journey, AVID continues to support our scholars by providing strategies to help them reach academic success. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our AVID Coordinator, Mrs. Rebecca Sanna via email: [rsanna@bcps.org](mailto:rsanna@bcps.org).



Rebecca Sanna, AVID Coordinator

### **FRESHMEN TEAM**

The Freshmen Team, comprised of myself, Ms. Sadie Spencer and the core grade 9 teachers, are here to aid you and your student during their transition into high school. Our team provides both academic and social support for 9th grade students throughout the school year.

We will have 9th Grade Early Entry Day on Thursday, August 24, 2023, from 7:30am to 11:30am. Incoming 9th grade students are required to bring a copy of their NTHS (New Town High School) schedule (print out or digital) to Early Entry Day.

Ms. Sadie Spencer, Freshman Coordinator: [sspencer3@bcps.org](mailto:sspencer3@bcps.org)

### **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM**

New Town High School is an International Baccalaureate World School for the Diploma Programme (DP), the Career-related Programme (CP) and the Middle Years Programme (MYP). These complementary programs are accessible to all of New Town's diploma-bound students, and provide them with an educational environment that emphasizes intellectual challenge while encouraging them to make global connections between their studies in traditional subjects and the real world.

Students participate in a rigorous academic pathway of studies, with a focus on global perspectives. In a 1-to-1 technology-based environment, students will study language, social studies, science, mathematics, arts, physical and health education, and technology as interdisciplinary subjects. Focusing on global citizenship, Middle Years Programme (MYP) students in Grades 9 and 10 participate in real-world, hands-on experiences and complete a 10<sup>th</sup> grade personal passion project. Students in grades 11 and 12 may participate in either the Diploma Programme (DP) or the Career-related Programme (CP). Upon completion of the required coursework, reflective project/extended

essay, language development and service-learning projects, students take a set of IB external assessments to earn a DP Diploma or a CP Certificate. An integral part of our magnet program is the acquisition of a second language.

Chanell Owens Johnson, Magnet Coordinator: [cowens2@bcps.org](mailto:cowens2@bcps.org).

## **INTERNSHIPS**

Welcome Back Senior Interns!

I look forward to working with the senior scholars who have already signed up as interns. This experience will help you develop lifelong employment skills. I look forward to seeing you at our first **MANDATORY SEMINAR** in room 106 **on either:**

Wednesday, September 6 from 2:30-4:00 **OR** Thursday, September 7 from 2:30-4:00

Mrs. Kathryn Duncan, Internship Coordinator: [kduncan2@bcps.org](mailto:kduncan2@bcps.org)

## **SAT/PSAT**

Welcome Back Titans!

I am very excited about the upcoming school year. This year, for the first time ever the PSAT and SAT School Day will be administered digitally, and students will be able to take their test using their BCPS Chromebook. The PSAT will be administered in October and SAT School Day will be administered to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Spring of 2024. Exact test dates and more information will be released by the school district in the coming month.

11<sup>th</sup> graders, remember, the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is an opportunity for you to compete nationally for merit-based scholarships.

The PSAT is also an opportunity for all testers to take a practice SAT and determine areas for growth prior to SAT School Day. This winter, PSAT skill reports and scores will be released, allowing testers to determine if they met the college and career readiness benchmark for their grade level. The score report will also provide students with their strengths and weaknesses, so students can continue to practice. Students can also use their test results to connect to Khan Academy and create a personalized PSAT/SAT practice geared to improving your skills in advance of the exam.

Parents and students, I encourage you to use the variety of free resources available through [CollegeBoard](https://collegeboard.org) and [Khan Academy](https://khanacademy.org) to prepare for the test. If you have not created a CollegeBoard account, I strongly encourage you to do so as the site contains a wealth of resources for the PSAT and SAT. Go Titans!

Alyssa Mason, PSAT/SAT Coordinator: [abyrd3@bcps.org](mailto:abyrd3@bcps.org)

## **LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER**

Welcome to the NTHS Library Media Center!

I'm looking forward to greeting each of you personally when you visit the library. My goal is to make the library a friendly and welcoming place for students to read, learn, and relax.

**Exciting News!** Hundreds of new books, graphic novels, and manga were added to our library collection in the Spring. Students may browse the library in-person before school and during lunch. You may also browse virtually and place hold requests, anytime from anywhere with Destiny at <https://baltimore.follettdestiny.com> on your device or smartphone.

Visit our virtual library on Schoology where the NTHS Library Media Center Group is always open for students to:

- Learn how to access digital eBooks and audiobooks



- Find technology support resources, including device troubleshooting tips, instructional tools Like Microsoft Office 365 and the NoodleTools research platform, and BCPS Digital Content databases
- Get assistance with class assignments and research projects
- Participate in fun activities
- Make book suggestions and recommendations
- Find your next great read and so much more!!

If you aren't a member of the group yet, join today by signing into Schoology > Groups > My Groups > Join Group > Access Code: VCGJ-GMMN-JFF9J.

Join the **Graphic Novel & Manga Book Club** to discuss what you're reading or the anime you are watching and have an AMAZING time! The first meeting date and location will be announced in school and through Schoology.

Our friends at the BCPL, Owings Mills Branch invite students to check out books (with no overdue fines!) by using their school account (9-digit school ID#). Students may also use their student ID# and the password "0000" to access the BCPL online databases, register for programs, and place hold requests. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @LibraryNTHS to see library learning and literacy in action.

Mrs. Turek, Library Media Specialist: [kturek@bcps.org](mailto:kturek@bcps.org)

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM**

New Town High School Families,

The 2023-2024 school year will be here before we know it, and it is important we share the new guidance surrounding PE uniforms. As the school year starts, students will use the Physical Education Locker Rooms; therefore, they will be responsible for locking their belongings in a PE locker and ensuring they are appropriately dressed for class. **This year students must wear a New Town High School PE shirt or sweatshirt purchased through our online store.** Students may also purchase shorts and sweatpants from the online store, but it is not required. Students can wear shorts, sweats, and/or leggings from home. **Students who do not dress appropriately for class will not participate in physical activity that day, which will negatively impact their course grade.**

**The following items are not appropriate for participation in PE class:**

Jeans  
Jeggings  
Khakis  
Crocs

Slippers  
Open-toed shoes  
Jewelry

**Online Store**



To purchase a NTHS PE uniform, they must use the information below to access the online store. **Purchases must be made during the available time window (August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023).**

Uniforms will be sent to the school and distributed by the PE teachers at the beginning of the school year. It is highly recommended that students do not wear their PE clothes to school. Thank you for understanding, and we look forward to having a successful year!

#### **Timeframe:**

Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>

#### **Cost:**

Shirt-\$10.75  
Shorts-\$12.25  
Sweatshirt-\$21.50  
Sweatpants-\$22.00



## CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES

All parents must be signed up for the FOCUS Parent Portal, a tool designed to enhance communication and involvement for you in your child's education. To sign-up, please visit <https://baltimore.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/auth/>.

If you are not able to sign-up, please scan the QR code to **update** any contact information associated with your student's profile prior to September 8, 2023.

Parent Contact Form

