



Newton Newsworthy

A newsletter from your Superintendent, Mr. Pat L. McBride
October 2017



Local Report Card Info

The Ohio Department of Education recently published local district report card information from the 2016-2017 school year. It is my opinion, like that of most school administrators and educators, that the district report cards are nearly worthless in helping to improve instruction. Grades are given for various categories that are named "Achievement Component Grade", "Progress Grade", etc. with little to no explanation on what it means or how they calculated that grade. It's disappointing and extremely frustrating that this reporting system requires massive amounts of testing, money, time, and collective aggravation only to have reported, in the end, that the vast majority of school districts in Ohio are receiving D's or F's in most categories. In addition, when grades are reviewed from one category to another, they make absolutely no sense! How can a district receive an F in "Achievement Component" and then get a "Progress Grade" of an A and then receive F's in all other categories? It happened to multiple districts!!

I state this criticism even though our district report card compares favorably to all area schools in five counties. Our report card reflected high marks in many categories, but it is still worthless in terms of providing meaningful data for instructional improvement. To simply give low grades to all schools across the state will do nothing to improve instruction for Ohio students.

Newton Financial Position Strengthens Again During '17

The financial position of Newton Schools once again improved over the 2017 fiscal year! Key factors are consistent from year to year in contributing to strengthening our financial position. An increase in our state per pupil funding two years ago, a growing incoming open enrollment population coupled with a dwindling outgoing population, and sound financial planning are all positive factors.

For more information about our financial position and our five year forecast, go to www.ode.state.oh.us then click on Finance/Grants.

	Actual FY 16	Actual FY 17	Projected FY18
Revenues:			
Gen Prop Tax	\$1,532,661	\$1,558,877	\$1,574,466
Inc. Tax	1,348,860	1,447,865	1,462,344
State Grant Aid	2,816,199	3,059,660	3,091,762
All Other Rev.	856,796	729,775	737,073
Total Rev.	\$6,554,516	\$6,796,177	\$6,865,645
Expenditures:			
Personal Svc	\$3,204,825	\$3,454,546	\$3,575,455
Ret./Ins. Ben.	1,189,746	1,207,863	1,244,099
Purch. Svc.	729,886	917,343	925,000
All other Exp.	1,339,917	835,490	1,122,172
Total Exp.	\$6,464,374	\$6,415,242	\$6,866,726
Rev. – Exp. =	\$90,142	\$380,935	(\$1,081)
C/O Fund Bal.	\$2,251,175	\$2,632,110	\$2,631,029

2016-17 Ohio School Report Card – Miami County

District Name	Achieve Comp Grade	Perform Index %	Progress Comp Grade	Graduation Comp Grade	4 Year Grad Rate	K-3 Lit Improve Grade	Gap Closing Grade	Prepared For Success
Newton	C	82.7	D	A	93.3	C	D	C
Tipp	C	82.2	B	A	97.1	B	B	B
MEast	C	82.0	A	A	98.9	C	B	C
Bethel	C	77.0	D	A	94.7	C	B	D
MUnion	C	75.6	F	A	97.2	C	F	D
Troy	D	74.8	C	A	94.7	C	D	C
Covington	D	74.4	F	A	100	A	C	C
Piqua	D	68.9	A	C	87.5	C	F	D
Bradford	D	68.7	F	A	100	D	D	D

Weather Calls – Sometimes Easy, Sometimes Not

As winter rapidly approaches, you can be sure that bad weather will most likely cause school delays and/or closures. Newton has yet to delay or cancel this school year.

Newton has once again purchased the service of OneCall Now™ for Schools. Last school year, most parents received telephone calls about delays and closures from the Principal and or Superintendent who used this service on bad weather mornings. This service allows for every household with school age children in our district to get timely notification that a delay or cancellation is in effect.

It should be noted that weather calls are sometimes very hard to make. For example, fog situations are always difficult because of the unpredictable nature of fog. Fog can become very dense or burn off completely in a short time period. Unfortunately, decisions to delay or cancel must be made in a timely fashion so that transportation can run or parents notified so that they can plan for childcare. Decisions to delay or cancel are made based upon the best available information at the time and with the greatest consideration given to student safety. We also realize that school is important and we want students in school learning as long as conditions are reasonable and safe.

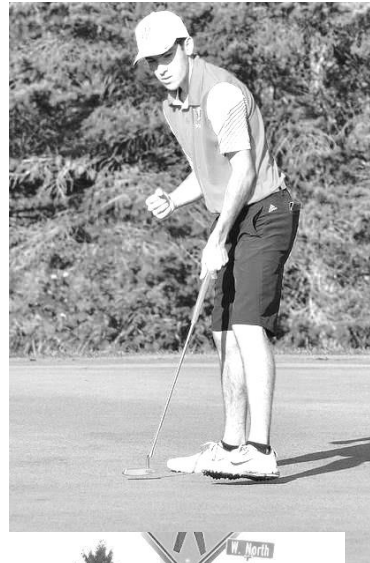
Please realize that parents can always make the final decision on weather calls. If a parent believes that their child cannot safely travel to school during a weather event, that parent may keep them home and the absence will be excused.

Besides telephone calls made to students'

homes, school closings and delays will be announced on WDTN/CH 2, WHIO/CH 7, WKEF/CH 22, WRGT/CH 45, AM 1410, FM 88.5, 91.3, 92.9, 92.1, and 102.9.

Boys Varsity Golf Wins CCC and Sectional Titles!

Congratulations to the Newton Boys Varsity Golf Team and Coach Randall Jamison! After an outstanding season that saw many Newton golfers improve their scores from week to week, Newton's team put it altogether in the last couple of rounds they played.



Chet Jamison shot a 78 for lowest score at the Sectional meet.

Other Newton low scorers in the top 10 at the Sectional meet were Garret Peters with an 84 and Drew Thiesing with a 91.

(Chet Jamison picture courtesy of TDN)

Cross Walk Signs Added This Year



Those who walk to school this year will be helped across the street safely by a very bright yellow blinking light. Students were instructed on how to use the light and proceed across the intersection during the first two weeks of

school. Students understand that they are still to be cautious and make sure cars stop before crossing the street. The school purchased the signs and the village installed them.

Sixth Grade Leads Relief Fund Donation

Sixth grade students encouraged by Mrs. Lawrence's leadership raised \$1,580 for victims of hurricane Harvey!





Macy Flanary running at the Miami County Cross Country Invitational. Macy is having an outstanding senior season!



Homecoming King and Queen Chosen for 2017 on September 15

Kacie Tackett and Treg Jackson were chosen homecoming Queen and King for the 2017 event. Kacie is the daughter of Jane Jess and Charles Tackett. Treg is the son of Lynee and Tony Jackson.

The event was held for the fourth year in a row prior to the start of a boys soccer game in September with a parade starting at 6:00 p.m. and the crowning of King and Queen during the ceremony which started at 6:30. The weather was excellent with temperatures in the mid 70's.

DATES TO REMEMBER...

October

- 17th – Picture Retake Day
- 19th – End of the 1st Grading Quarter
- 20th – Teacher Work Day – NO SCHOOL
- 27th – Grade Cards go Home

November

- 2nd – Parent Conferences 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- 5th - Daylight Savings Time Ends – Turn Your Clock Back 1 Hour
- 7th – Election Day
- 8th – BOE Meeting – 7:00 p.m. BOE Room
- 10th – Veterans Day Program
- 18th – Red & White Night – Dinner in Cafeteria 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. followed by Program in the High School Gym at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- 22nd – 24th – Thanksgiving Break

December

- 4th – Elementary Christmas Program 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High Gym
- 11th – Band Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m. Jr. High Gym
- 13th – BOE Meeting – 7:00 p.m. BOE Room
- 12th – Kindergarten Christmas Program at 1:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria
- 21st – Christmas Break Begins

January

- 3rd – Classes Resume
- 5th – End of the 2nd Grading Quarter