

NEWBURYPORT Public Schools

2023-24 Strategic Plan Year in Review

NPS invested in programs, staff, and operations to provide a high quality, engaging education for every child.



In 2022 Superintendent Sean Gallagher presented a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan to the School Committee.

The plan is guided by a Portrait of a Graduate vision and focused on five strategic areas.

| Strategic Focus Areas | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Teaching & Learning | Supports | Culture | Operations | Stakeholders |
| Providing high quality, innovative instruction | Ensuring every child has the supports they need to grow | Creating a culture of belonging | Ensuring highly qualified staff, up to date resources, and safe buildings | Creating a community of active stakeholders |

What follows is a review of some of our key accomplishments, investments, and areas for continued growth. We are proud to share our work and pursue our mission to be “the port where tradition and innovation converge.”

Celebrating the Whole Child

Our vision is for every child to leave Newburyport Public Schools literate across the disciplines, physically, emotionally & socially well, innovative problem solvers, civically engaged and prepared for life after graduation.

From the day they enter school as 5 year-olds to the day they graduate, our students are growing and changing.

Across this K12 pathway, we want to make sure young people can celebrate success, persevere through failure, and create a healthy and hopeful path to their future.

For this reason, we invest in school climate and culture while also analyzing and reflecting on student academic data.

We remain focused on our goals while staying flexible so we can respond to changing needs and invest in safe and secure facilities.

The Portrait of a Graduate

With the help of our Student Ambassadors, our administrators and educators worked to bring the Portrait of a Graduate vision to life. Through stories and presentations, our Ambassadors helped us define the powerful learning experiences that prepared them for graduation. Follow the QRCode for more details.



PORTAIT OF A GRADUATE
ROURKE LEE

Class of '25



At NHS, I have pursued honors level and AP level classes in math, science, and Spanish. I have met many friends through the swim and tennis teams and am part of the student council and government where I have a voice for my class and school. Through an NHS opportunity, I am currently working on a climate change awareness project with a college professor.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 724** Miles I've walked to and from school since 6th grade
- 05155** The ZIP code of the first ski mountain I skied at
- 2019** The year I moved to Newburyport in 6th grade



PORTAIT OF A GRADUATE
ZOE KAKUBA

Class of '24



My interests in art pushed me to join the National Art Honor Society and eventually become vice president. This role shapes my leadership skills, offers me insight into working collaboratively, and allows me to do something creative within the school and the community. My passions for community service and social activism also influenced me to join Interact Club, Film Club, and Red Cross Club where I work to connect with the Newburyport community.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 51** The amount of miles I moved to Newburyport in 6th grade.
- 175** Hours of community service I've performed during my time at NHS
- 5000+** Size of my family's antiquarian book collection



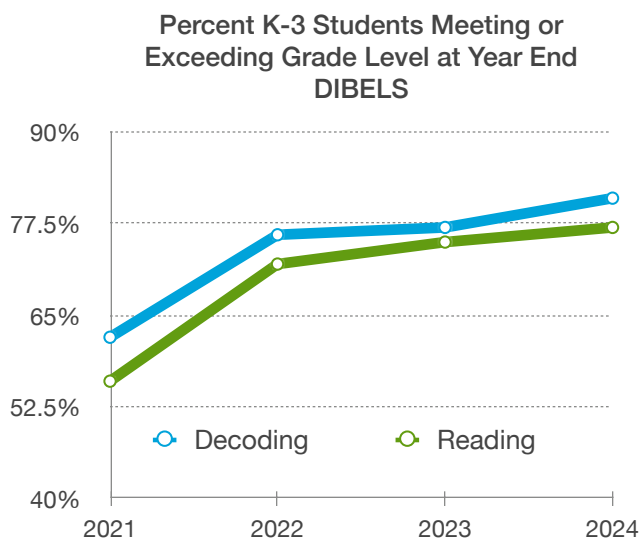
Academic Highlights

Investments in professional development and instructional resources allowed us to strengthen our math program, expand the roll out of a full phonics program, and provide opportunities for educators across the district to create powerful learning for every student.

- **K-5 iReady Classroom Mathematics.** With the highest rating by EdReports, this program provides educators with quality instructional materials that are aligned with MA standards. Investments in materials and training allowed every K-5 and special education teacher to expand implementation.

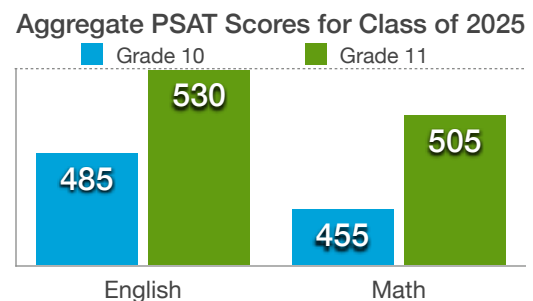
- **Ongoing Development of Special Education Programs.** Professional development with dyslexia experts from Landmark Outreach continues. 26 teachers becoming Orton-Gillingham reading program trained. 67 students participated in the language-based program and 8 students were able to exit the program. Reduced out-of-district placements FY23 to FY24 by 39%.

- **Foundations Program Shows Positive Results.** The Foundations program is a structured reading, spelling, and handwriting curriculum implemented in 2020. Year end DIBELS test scores for students in K-3 show positive trends in decoding and reading.



- **Universal PSAT Testing at NHS.**

Investments in the budget allow all grade 10 and 11 students to take the PSAT. The result is strong student growth with the combined scores at the 68th percentile nationally.



- **Grade 8 Students Explore Literacy by Podcasting.** 160 8th graders interviewed an adult community member then designed and recorded an audio interview. The program highlighted the power of using multimedia to teach reading, writing, speaking and listening.
- **World Language Continues to Grow.** Expansion of the middle school world language program has allowed NHS to add courses. This fall over 20% of the senior class is taking either Spanish 5 or AP Spanish. Six NHS seniors graduated with a *Seal of Biliteracy* in four languages: German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.
- **College Board Awards NHS AP Honor Roll Status.** The goal of providing access to advanced classes for all students was met this year with NHS earning a place on the AP School Honor Roll. *“The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools that have done outstanding work to welcome more students into AP courses and support them on the path to college success.”*

Student Voice and Leadership

When young people have the opportunity to express themselves in their educational experience, engagement increases. NPS continues to create more ways for students to voice their opinions, advocate for change, and take on leadership roles.

- 75 NHS students joined the new **CLIPS Mentoring Program** (Clipper Leaders in Practice & Service). Under the leadership of 20 members, 180+ freshman participated in student-run advisory programs.
- All 480+ Nock Middle School students and their parents participated in a **student led conversation about data and goals**. 78.2% of students reported the conversations were "helpful" or "very helpful".
- 25 Molin, 70+ NHS, and 60+ Nock students influenced administrative decision making through participation in **student School Councils**.



Community Partners Help us Grow

With the support of our community partners including the Newburyport Education Foundation and the Newburyport Elementary PTO, NPS continues to reimagine education.

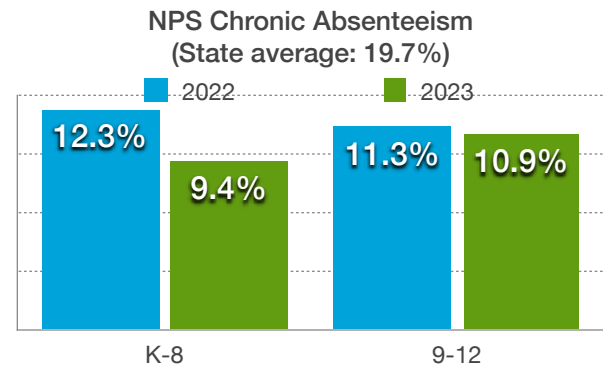
- **Students Learn to Create Augmented Reality.** Thanks to a generous NEF donation, 17 NHS students participated in an AR coding class facilitated by XR Foundations.
- **Every Student is a Reader.** The NEF and PTO programs make reading part of our culture. NEF book vending machines at the Molin & Bresnahan help young people build a home library. And our students read 240,000 minutes for the PTO-sponsored *Readathon*!
- **Middle School Students Build Farmbot.** An NEF donation allowed Nock technology teachers and special educators to create an inclusive engineering program where students from general and special education programs built a robotic garden.
- **NHS Internships Reach Record Numbers.** 82 NHS students participated in an internship. With 115 partners (22 Alliance of Climate & Environmental Stewards members), students had many opportunities for hands-on learning. We were excited to have 12 students participate in an Educational Internship in PK-8 classes.
- **Assemblies Support Learning.** PTO funds extend the curriculum through field trips and a wide-range of speaker programs. From poetry using pictures of dogs to hands-on learning about adaptive technologies for people with disabilities, our young people are learning about the world.

Multi-Tiered System of Support

A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) ensures every student receives academic and behavioral supports. Interventions happen at three tiers: Tier 1 interventions happen with the classroom teacher, Tier 2 interventions happen in small groups, and Tier 3 interventions occur with a specialized teacher.

- All schools have an **MTSS team** to ensure every student is progressing.
- Investments in **Intervention Teachers** at the K-5 allow NPS to provide targeted intervention in literacy and math for any student identified through the process.
- iReady Diagnostic is used by K-8 teachers to progress monitor and create **personalized learning plans** for students at every level.

- NPS met our DESE accountability target by significantly **decreasing the number of students with chronic absenteeism.**



Innovation in Teaching and Learning

In our ever-changing world, NPS educators understand the importance of innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

- **NHS Awarded \$75K Innovation Career Pathway Grant.** This year NHS students will have the opportunity to participate in a new Environmental Pathway where they will take courses toward a post-graduation pathway in environmental sciences.
- **Teacher-led Green Team Boosts Sustainability Practices.** A team of NPS teachers met throughout the year to create lessons about sustainable practices and support the greening of NPS operations.
- **Investments Increased Place-Based Learning.** The NPS budget supported a reduction in parent fees for place-based learning at the middle school resulting in more opportunities for field studies and lessons that create community stewards.
- **Portrait of a Graduate Ambassadors Define a Vision for the Future.** 15 NHS students collaborated with a team of teachers to tell expand our understanding of the path to graduation.



Learning Beyond the School Day

Learning does not stop when the school day ends. With so much growth and learning outside the classroom, significant investments have been made to ensure that NPS students have opportunities to learn, grow and explore even when school is out.

- 110 students at the Bresnahan school attended the **Clipper Courses** before & after school programs.
- NHS students attended school sponsored international trips to Iceland and Cuba. In addition, over 30 students enrolled in the NHS **Global Citizens program** and hosted their second annual culture fair.
- Over 75% of the NHS students participate in **extracurricular athletics**. We continue to expand our teams, building competitive volleyball and learn-to wrestle programs.
- Once again, the **NHS Sailbot program** competed against college engineering programs. Although their boat proved competitive, there was no three-peat!
- Over 400 students participated in performing arts programs offered at NHS, the Nock and the Bresnahan. We were proud to have a **fall play and spring musical** at both the high school and middle school.
- Once again, the community celebrated the arts with a wonderful festival hosted by our music teachers. 500 students in grades PK-12 performed at the **Newburyport Education Foundation Arts Festival**.
- We continue to expand our instrument program! 228 students in grades 4-12 learned instruments in our **band & orchestra programs**.



Reimagine Organizations and Operations

Educational organizations face constant change. Reimagining aspects of our organization helps us accomplish our goals of meeting every students needs.

- Reorganized our **Student Services Department**. With the addition of two Program Supervisors, our new Director of Student Services can more effectively meet the needs of the learning community and continue to grow the in-district programs.
- Upgraded the **security systems** of all four schools. With new camera and visitor entry systems, our investments create safe and secure environments for every building.
- Over 50% of NHS students participate in the **iPad Lease-to-Own** program. 24 students participated in the scholarship program.
- Upgrades to **district firewall and servers** ensure our systems are functioning well and our data is secure.
- Replacement of the **NHS phone system** ensured all schools are 911-compliant.

2024 Graduates—Onward, Forward!

The Class of 2024 truly embodies our Portrait of a Graduate Vision. Our graduates are kind, creative and active members of our community - we are proud to call these graduates Clippers! For a complete matriculation list see the NHS website.

- 89% of students will be attending a **2 year (5%)** or **4 year (84%) college**.
- Of the 180 students attending college, **48%** of students will be attending a **public college** and **41% will attend a private college**.
- Of the 33 students that completed **dual enrollment** courses, all graduated with transferable credits.
- 76% of students took **advanced coursework** (AP, Dual Enrollment or Technical). 115 students completed at least one AP course.
- 20 **Advanced Placement** courses were offered, including US Gov't & Politics, Statistics, and Chemistry. The percentage of qualifying scores increased to 88%.



Educators Leading the Way

NPS educators are leaders in their field. Congratulations to NPS staff who were invited to present at national educational conferences this year.

- Principal Nick Markos and teachers Brenda Palmisano and Eric Schildge were invited to the National Conference on School Leadership in Nashville to present on amplifying student voice.
- Molin Principal Tara Rossi and Bresnahan Principal Jamie Sokolowski were invited to the annual Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development conference to present on building trauma-sensitive schools.

Investing in Newburyport's Future

The NPS budget supports the growth and development of Newburyport's youth. Below are a few key investments and the outcomes we are seeing.

| Investment | Outcome |
|--|---|
| High Quality Elementary Instructional Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iReady Math Program (K-3) • Foundations Early Literacy Program (K-3) • MyView Literacy (K-5) • Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Program (K-2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing early literacy scores on the DIBELS diagnostic • Increased continuity across classrooms in literacy content and instructional strategy • Common Assessment alignment across every grade level |
| Staffing to support educator coaching and student intervention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math (3) and literacy (5) interventionists at K-5 • Math coach K-5 (1) • Literacy coach K-5 (1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students identified through diagnostic testing as below grade level have daily & weekly intervention. • Implementation of K-5 curriculum programs are fully supported with in-class coaching |
| Vocational education options for NHS students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 students attended the Peterson School electrical coursework and apprenticeship |
| Staffing and professional development to expand world language to grades 6-12 (over the past six years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All middle school students have world language as a core subject • More students graduating with the Seal of Biliteracy • New course offerings at NHS: Spanish 5 and AP Spanish; 20% of NHS seniors enrolling |
| Staffing to support growth of grade 6-12 music and performing arts programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchestra program expanded from grades 6-8 to grades 4 through 10 • Band program rebuilding in grades 4-5 • Fall play and spring musical at middle and high schools • Annual performing arts celebration |
| Diagnostic Tools to monitor student growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iReady Diagnostic & personal growth plan • DIBELS Early Literacy Diagnostic • Assessment development and analysis software for common assessment and data analysis • PSAT for all | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning, middle and end of year data collection process in place • Professional development is building our capacity to use data in grade level and vertical planning meetings |