



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
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[Click here for SPANISH](#)

Hello Newton School Community,

Here is the Community Schools C2C Month in Review for December/January! The Choose 2 Connect, C2C, program would love to highlight that we have reached our program and grant goal regarding our Level of Service (LOS)! This means that we have had at least 151 students attend and participate in the C2C program for 30 days or more! We highly encourage all of our students and families to continue to attend the after school program daily and our family events on a monthly basis!

This winter season has been a cold one. Please make sure to bundle up, stay warm, and be aware of the weather conditions when walking and/or driving. Stay safe Newton! Please check out these local [resources](#) for all families that are available to you to access!

What's been happening?:

- **Nutrition:**

- We would like to share our continued gratitude with the following community organizations for all their support and contributions:
 - Sodexo (daily snack for all students in the C2C program)
 - The Sparta Community Food Pantry (snacks and more snacks!!)
 - LocalShare NJ (fresh produce)
 - The Weekend Bag Program (hygiene and personal care products)
 - Sussex County Division of Social Services Food Pantry (Backpack Snack for Kids)
 - In conjunction with these collaborators, we have created various service learning opportunities for our students from Halsted Middle School and Newton High School.
- We anticipate planning additional cooking sessions with the students in the March/April timeframe as this continues to be a huge area of interest with the students.

- **Academic Support, Enrichment Activities, Social Interaction:**

- We continue to provide individualized attention to our students in the areas of academic support, enrichment experiences, social emotional learning activities, as well as incorporating opportunities to problem solve, brainstorm, think critically, and work together.
 - Our certified staff are highly dedicated to supporting all students with their academic and social emotional needs.
- In addition, we are working closely with the school staff and administration to collaborate on addressing areas of need and support by analyzing data and finding ways to develop and support the WHOLE CHILD.

This project was funded in its entirety from the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Title IV, Part B, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grant through a contract with the New Jersey Department of Education. The ESEA was reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

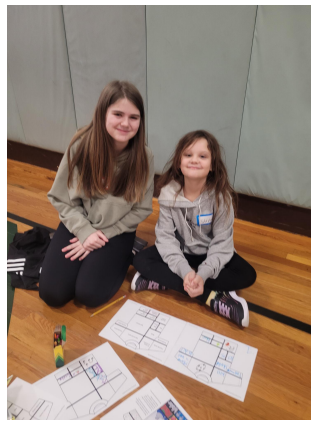
- Below are some programs and clubs that are currently underway with our students during the C2C afterschool program!!
 - We continue to partner with Blair's Academy and their high school students at Halsted Middle School.
 - Newton High School students have started a Book Club with Merriam Avenue School! They visit weekly to read, discuss, explore and build relationships with the youngsters @ Merriam!
 - Our weekly STEAM activities are a huge hit and highly motivating for the students. Students explore various hands-on learning experiences to understand that Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math are all around us.



- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) continues to grow and flourish! The students, along with Ms. Iliff, continue to impress with their abilities, thoughtfulness, and motivated mindset as they prepare for their conference/competition in March (good luck students and staff!!)
- Tree Habilitate Program w/ the Wallkill River Watershed Management Group (MAS) Fall session is complete but we are in the process of scheduling the Spring session!
- Physical fitness club



- Puzzle Club, Lego Club, Paper Airplanes and Rockets Club, Kindness Club @ MAS
- ESports Club, Volleyball Club @ HMS
- Lion's Quest (@ MAS) in partnership with the Center for Prevention and Counseling
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Club of New Jersey (partnered with Newton High School @ HMS)



- Arts and crafts, Pickleball and Chess club have been a big hit!



- In recent weeks we have been creating cards of support for the elderly and local veterans that we plan to share with them next week on Valentine's Day! Our students and staff were excited to share some love with others during this season!
- The [MindfulSelf](#)
 - Monthly sessions have begun and we are learning some great ways to incorporate Mindfulness, Self-regulation, and Social-Emotional Learning into our daily practices!
 - [Resources for Mindful Family Fun](#) (please see a synopsis of what we learned thus far and some activities to do at home with your child)
- We continue to explore several learning experiences within our local community. The purpose is to learn more about what our community has to offer, how we can learn from each other, and how these organizations are relevant to us now, but also in the future as well. Check out some upcoming walking trips and field trip ideas that we are planning for in the next few months...
 - Sterling Hill Mining Museum (trips are being planned during March, more info to come along with permission slips)
 - Walking trips to local museums and Sussex County Community College (The Culinary Institute)
 - Local Historical Sites and museums
 - The local library
 - The Longo Planetarium at the County College of Morris (trips are being planned during March, more info to come along with permission slips)

Communication:

- We believe in maintaining open lines of communication with parents/guardians. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or feedback you might have.
- As a reminder, one of our main goals is to consistently promote positive interactions, teamwork, and the formation of new friendships, emphasizing respect, responsibility, and kindness. This goal is extremely important to us and a part of our district mission of focusing on developing the **WHOLE CHILD!**
- January's Community Schools Family Event, Family Game Night took place on Wednesday, January 29th.
 - We had a great turnout for this event! Families, students, and staff had the opportunity to participate in several games with each other and with other participating families as well.
 - Here are some games that were available to all:
 - UNO, Old Maid, HeadBanz, Go Fish, Checkers, Chess, Chutes and Ladders, Candyland, Cornhole, Connect Four, JENGA
 - Participants enjoyed hot chocolate, coffee, apples, lite snacks, and a night of fun!
 - As a community, we enjoyed each other's company, interacted with others, engaged in meaningful activities with our children, and had some fun!



- As a part of our after school program and NJDOE grant, we are required to complete several surveys throughout the year. We kindly ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the survey below to assist with our data collection and evaluation process. This will help with finding ways to improve the program in relation to the grant components. We ask that you kindly please complete the survey by February 11th. We greatly appreciate everyone who has already submitted a response and encourage others to please submit one as well. Thank you all for your time and attention to this matter and thank you!
 - Survey [English](#)/[Spanish](#)

A Few Ongoing Important Reminders:

- **Pick-Up:**
 - You can pick up your child between 3:00 pm and 5:40 pm. Once signed out, they cannot return to the program or stay on school grounds. We highly encourage parents to allow their child the

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opportunity to remain at the program for the duration of time and to sign up for the various clubs being offered!

- **Authorized Pick-Up:**

- Please ensure that the list of approved persons for pick-up is up to date. For safety purposes, your child will not be released to anyone not on this list without your verbal/written approval.
- To update the pick-up list, email Community Schools at community@newtonnj.org. For emergencies, follow the above protocol.

Upcoming dates to keep in mind:

- February 13, 2025: [Spread Love & Positive Communication Family Event](#)
 - Please join us next week!
- February 17, 2025: NO SCHOOL, NO C2C
- February 27, 2025: [Family Literacy Night @ Merriam Avenue School](#)
 - In collaboration with Project Self Sufficiency
 - You must register to attend
- March 7, 2025: Early dismissal day, NO C2C (Staff in-service)
- March 18, 2025: No C2C @ Halsted (early dismissal, Parent/Teacher Conferences)
- March 20, 2025: No C2C @ Merriam (early dismissal, Parent/Teacher Conferences)
- March 21, 2025: Book Bonanza Night
 - w/Special guests, author Sue Steinhardt and Phil the Dog!
 - More info to follow soon!
- Field trip dates to Longo Planetarium (grades 3, 5, & 6)
 - More info to follow soon!
- Field trip dates to Sterling Hill Mining Museum (grades 4, 7, & 8)
 - More info to follow soon!

We look forward to providing our students and families with an engaging and interactive after school experience. For any questions or concerns, contact the Community Schools/C2C Office at community@newtonnj.org or 973-383-7440 ext. 2500. Please allow at least two school days for a response.

Kind regards and with much hope and love!

Joel DeBarros

Director of Community Schools

[2024-2025 C2C Student & Parent Handbook](#)

[Link to C2C Yearly Calendar](#)

[Link to C2C Website](#) (a work in progress)

[Link to C2C Monthly Event Calendar](#) (will be updated monthly)