



MIDDLE OF THE KNIGHTS

Northeastern Middle School: Where Every Student Is Inspired to Learn and Empowered to Excel

Girls Cross Country - The Season's Highlights

By: Camille Angi, Riley Mayberry, and Kayleigh Hampton



The cross country team had a very successful season. NMS was lucky to have some powerful young women as a part of the team. Heather Crull, an 8th grade girls cross country member, explained that before their practices they started off by warming up for their practice runs. She also stated, "We warm up by running three miles at the beginning of the practice." Heather also mentioned that during practices, their coach times them when they are doing running drills. This really helped to prepare them for their meets.

Heather's other teammates are made up of 6th graders from the NMS building. Cheyenne Brooker, a sixth grade student stated, "The practices were hard on hot days but a little easier on warm days. Coach pushed us by encouraging us when we slowed down or started walking." The coach was a crucial part of the team especially when he pushed them to improve as runners. Brooker also explained how their coach encouraged them by saying kind words when they passed by. This created a true sense of unity amongst the team. When asked about the season overall, Brooker stated, "the season went really well. Nerve racking but fun and I had some friends who encouraged me during the meets." Their win rate was 50%. Way to go, Knights Cross Country!

Ask a Knight - Virtual Learning

By: Jenna Buckler and Brooklynn Creech

NWS went virtual for a short amount of time and many students found ways to stay caught up on assignments and get all their work done. There were many positive parts of virtual learning and many students enjoyed some of the changes in their learning environment even just for a short amount of time.

Rylee Gentry explained that she had a daily routine to help her stay caught up on work. First, she would get up before the school day started and check her iPad. Next, she would make a list of all her assignments and do them throughout the school day marking them off her list as she did them. Gentry stated, "One thing that helped me stay motivated was seeing my teachers smile everyday and being able to do my extracurriculars if I got my work done." Students had some struggles during virtual learning, one of which being that sometimes directions on Canvas were confusing, but thankfully, NMS teachers were there for students the whole way through email and Zoom. Overall there were more pros than cons of virtual learning. Some of the positive parts were that students didn't have to wake up as early to ride the bus. With no commute to school, this allowed them to get more rest.

So, what are some lessons learned from this round of virtual learning? If students want to get all their work done they could try to stay focused and not get off task. Staying focused can be a struggle for some people, but if they get all their work done they can do whatever they want for the rest of the day. Aubrey Day also had a daily routine. She said, "I woke up, made coffee, and I did my school work in order like I would if I was actually at school." Some things that helped Aubrey stay motivated was taking breaks in between classes and listening to music while she did her work. One thing Aubrey liked about virtual learning was being able to work at her own pace.

During virtual learning many students found ways like these to stay caught up on work and found a routine that helped them daily.

Meet the 8th Grade Teachers

By: John Wallace, Ava Mikesell, Reese Dumford, Korbyn Lehman



Mr. Avery - Science, PLTW

Mr. Avery is wise and open minded. He loves to interact with his students and truly loves teaching science. His enthusiasm for his subject really helps students understand the world around them and appreciate nature. Mr. Avery's entire family is in the education field which inspired him to become a teacher himself. He knew he always wanted to be a science teacher. When asked about his career planning process, Mr. Avery stated, "When I was deciding what I wanted to teach I knew it would be physical science or math. I chose physical science because it examines all of the interactions of the known universe." As a kid Mr. Avery enjoyed school very much. He was in a lot of extra curricular activities. Before becoming a science teacher Mr. Avery was in the army for 11 years, then he was a defense contractor for 17 years.

Mr. Bevins - U.S. History, Exploring College and Careers

Mr. Bevins is inspiring. He is always excited to see his students interacting in the classroom. He stated, "I love being in the classroom and being around students. I love to see the smile on their faces and those 'aha' moments when they finally understand something new." Mr. Bevins came from a large family where education is important. He has always been around kids because his mom runs a daycare. Because of this, he saw how to interact with kids because of his mom at an early age. His mom even homeschooled some of his siblings, so he has seen teaching first hand. School came really easy for him as a kid, but he struggled in high school with his work ethic. When he was younger, Mr. Bevins wasn't sure what he wanted to do. Once older however, he naturally found his career as a history teacher. He states, "I think it is fascinating to learn about the people and events that have come before us. Those people have helped shape the direction that our world has gone and helped to shape the thinking of us now as well." His interest in history shows in his enthusiastic teaching style.

Mrs. Cole - Pre-Algebra, Math Lab

Mrs. Cole is empathetic and caring. When asked about her favorite part of teaching, she stated, "I love seeing growth in my students. I enjoy getting to see the moment when everything 'clicks' and they solve problems correctly without any support from me. I love to see their confidence in being able to do their work independently." Mrs. Cole has had teachers all around her growing up! Her mom and dad were both teachers in some way. She always knew she wanted to be a teacher for that reason. Her dad was a math teacher, and she liked math as a kid as well, so she figured a math teacher would be the best fit for a career. School was always easy for Mrs. Cole. She helped her fellow classmates as a kid and always loved to see them get the hang of a new subject in math. She was also in a wide range of school activities.

Ms. McKinley - English, English Lab

Ms. McKinley is creative and energetic. She loves when students get excited about books they're reading or about a fun activity they do in class. When asked why Ms. McKinley chose her career she said, "I became a teacher because in high school I fell in

love with literature.” Ms. McKinley also loves teaching because she’s able to enjoy her traveling experiences during breaks instead of working year round. Ms. McKinley loves every day of her job and her favorite unit to teach is when students read and discuss “Nothing but the Truth.” In Middle School, Ms. McKinley hated English and cared about what people thought about her. However, in high school she began caring more about what she thought of herself. Her grades and learning became very important to her and that’s when she became interested in becoming a teacher.

Mrs. Moreland - Wellness

Mrs. Moreland is upbeat and exciting. She is very passionate about her job. She loves to get to know her students and enjoys making them laugh. However, Mrs. Moreland explained that she hasn’t always wanted to be a wellness teacher. She was going to be an athletic trainer, then realized it just wasn’t for her. She stated, “I’ve always been an active individual and constantly moving.” This inspired her to find a career based on her interests which led her into teaching wellness, health, and physical education. When Mrs. Moreland teaches health, her favorite topic is to teach Growth and Development. In PE, she loves to teach kids how to play badminton. When Mrs. Moreland was a kid she loved to learn and be challenged. Now, she inspires students to challenge themselves, too.

Northeastern’s Newest and Cutest Knight

By: Karissa Toney, Tiffany Horner, and Josie Retz



NMS is celebrating the arrival of our newest and most precious Knight, Claire. On November 5th, Mrs. Detweiler’s baby girl was born. Claire’s parents were very joyful with her arrival, and so was NMS. To welcome and care for her new baby, Mrs. Detweiler, the 6th grade history teacher, has taken a temporary leave of absence so that she can spend time with her newborn. Northeastern is looking forward to having Mrs. Detweiler back in the beginning of February.

Mrs. Detweiler and her husband spent some time trying to find a unique name for their baby. “We knew we wanted a name that was unique and special to her rather than a name that was very popular or that we already knew friends and acquaintances had,” stated Mrs. Detweiler. She went on to say that the other choice for a name, rather than Claire, would be Ainsley. Mrs. Detweiler loves being a mom, she stated, “My favorite part would have to be either the warm baby snuggles when she is sleeping, or the sweet smiles she has in her sleep when she is dreaming.” These are some of the many things Mrs. Detweiler enjoys about being a new mom.

Although Claire is still very young, her parents have already noticed certain personalities and looks in her. When asked who Claire looks more like, Mrs.

Detweiler responded, “She is a good mix of both of us and she definitely has my

husband’s dark hair.” She also said that Claire resembles her from the nose down and her husband from the eyes up. So far Claire is definitely a good combination of what both of her parents look like. Mrs. Detweiler also stated, “Claire is a content baby for the most part. She likes to be held and snuggled, and she loves to hear mine and her daddy’s voices.” Claire has a great personality for a baby, one that is very easy to love.

Claire not only has her immediate family but also has the Northeastern family right beside her, too. Northeastern’s students and staff can’t wait to finally meet her. The NMS Knights are excited to be taught by Mrs. Detweiler once again. NMS students and staff will be greeting Claire and Mrs. Detweiler back with welcoming arms. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Detweiler on their new baby girl!

How NMS Celebrates the Holidays

By: Alexis Booher, Samara Carr, Aiden Shaffer

With Halloween in the past, and Thanksgiving and Christmas around the corner, NMS is excited to share their holiday spirit with everyone.

When asked what she was planning for Thanksgiving, Mrs. Mitchell stated, “Unfortunately, with Covid concerns my extended family will not be getting together for Thanksgiving, but my immediate family will be enjoying lots of food and family time.”

Even though COVID-19 has impacted everyone in many ways, Mrs. Mitchell isn’t letting that stop her from celebrating her holidays. She is also hoping to get her Christmas tree up soon.

When asked about how she celebrates the holidays, Mrs. Mitchell stated, “Always with friends and family. I enjoy eating good food, playing lots of fun games, and just laughing and enjoying our time together.” Mrs. Mitchell loves the holidays and cherishes that it is a time to spend with her family.

With Christmas making a fast move, Alyssa Sheets, an NMS 7th grader said she is excited to decorate her room for the holidays. She explained, “For christmas my family usually all gets together and open gifts, like a secret santa gift exchange.” Alyssa and her family are looking forward to enjoying Christmas all together.

When asked what he did on Halloween, Brian Campbell, an NMS 8th grader stated “I walked around on halloween with close friends and we dressed up as clowns.”

NMS students share a lot of different traditions for the holidays. Some favorites included attending church services on Christmas

Eve, spending time with loved ones on Christmas morning, baking for a cookie swap with friends, decorating their homes and visiting special loved ones like grandparents. Knights have a lot to look forward to this holiday season. Whatever your plans are, NMS is wishing you a happy holiday season and new year!



NMS Boys Basketball

By: Brian Campbell, Logan Stephen, Elijah Todd, and Gunnar Napier

The NMS Boys Basketball team has been working hard since their first practice to prepare for their season. The teams consist of 7th and 8th graders. The 7th grade team is made up of Aiden Shaffer, Logan Seal, Kaleb Moore, Caleb Larsh, Marshal Phillips, Liam Shaffer, Kale Hansen, Eli Jasinski, Cooper Cline, and Dylan Ross. The 8th grade team includes Elijah Todd, Landon Scarrette, Jayden Sticco, Trennan Vanlandingham, Dalton Justice, Shane Cahlahan, Samuel White, Camrynn Crawford, Matthew Truitt, John Wallace, and Hayden Chalfant.

When asked about practices so far this season, Samuel White, a 8th grade basketball player, explained, “We have really tough coaches that push us to our limit which helps us become the best possible player we can be.” Since the players are practicing a lot they are getting better and are expected to be winning a lot of their games. They have been putting a lot of hard work into their practices. Regarding their upcoming game White also stated, “I feel very confident about our upcoming game because we’ve put a lot of work into it at practices and I think we have a really strong game plan coming into the game.” Sam believes that he and his team are going to pull off a win with a good game plan and hard work at practices.

John Wallace, another 8th grader, said, “In practice, we work on conditioning, plays, rebounding, and dribbling. Practice is fun and intense, it’s the highlight of my night.” John thrives on these intense practices so he can become a better player overall. John also stated that he is confident in the upcoming games because of the intensity in their practices.

On Nov. 19 the 7th grade boys opened their 2020 season on the road at Seton. They lost 34-18. The Knights were led in scoring by Liam Shaffer with 7 points. Although they lost, they are all still working hard for their future games ahead. The 8th grade boys opened their 2020 season with a win at Seton on Thursday by a score of 53-34. The Knights were led in scoring by Tre Vanlandingham with 24 points and Jayden Sticco with 7 points. The boys are ready to dominate the court this season and are confident in their ability to progress and work together.

NMS Girls Basketball

By: Camille Angi, Riley Mayberry, and Kayleigh Hampton

The NMS Girls Basketball Team has school spirit pumping through the NMS community. The girls are putting in as much effort as they can to have a successful season. The 7th and 8th grade basketball team practices together but works on separate skills. Each drill the coaches implement is to push the girls outside their comfort zone and to make them not only practice harder but become better players.

Though they have had quite some time away, the girls are excited to do what they know best which is dominate the competition. The girls have won the championship 3 years in a row. With hard work, they have every intention to bring home the championship again this year. The NMS community always enjoys watching the girl’s basketball team’s success each year. The district is looking forward to the tough competition and the possibility of bringing home the championship trophy for the 4th year in a row.

When asked about their 8th grade practices, Ava Mikesell, stated, “At practice we start out by running 4 laps. Then we do ball handling. After that we do drills that involve closing out, box outs, and help sides. We then go over our plays. We finish practice with a scrimmage to see what we still needed to improve on.” Mikesell also talked about the coach really keeping the team very busy to prepare for the upcoming season. Mikesell also said, “I am confident about my upcoming season with my teammates this year.” Mikesell believes in her team and is assured that they will have a fantastic and successful season.

When Adyson Kircher, the point guard of the 7th grade basketball team, was asked about their practices, she responded with “We start by stretching, and we do some ball handling to get warmed up, and finally to start off the practice we shoot our 10 freethrows and run for our misses.” Kircher is excited to get back on the court and do what’s necessary to take down the competition with her team. When asked about their new coach for this year she responded with, “We’ve only had a couple of practices but they have been good and the coaches are really pushing us to be better.” Kircher also said that they had just met the new 7th grade coach and he had them do different drills like shooting, ball handling, and plays to show him what they know and how he can help them improve.

Overall, the Lady Knights should have a powerful season of growth and success. NMS is looking forward to seeing what they can accomplish this school year. The girl’s basketball team has their work cut out for them, but NMS is confident they will be victorious.



NMS Spell Bowl Team

By: Olivia Null, Ellie Warren, and Chloe Abney-Brotz

The NMS Spell Bowl Team is a group of students that get together to spell words beyond their vocabulary. They represent their schools at local and state level competitions. The team consists of middle school students grades 6-8. This year, they practiced and competed via Zoom call meetings.

At practices teammates go over lists of words that they will later compete with to prepare. When asked about practices, Willow Warren, an 8th grade student, explained, “Practicing on zoom can be difficult at times with technical difficulties, but overall we have done well.” The Spell Bowl team had to do their competition over Zoom instead of at Union County Middle School. The winner of the yearly competition gets a trophy to take home to their school. At the meets, they are asked to spell out a variety of words either on paper or through a survey.

Aubrey Mainous, a 7th grade team member, stated, “We had a spell bowl meeting during our two week period of virtual learning. We did not get in the top 6 to move onto the next meet, but I feel like we did very well regardless!” The team had their meet on November 4th. They also had small zoom meetings to check in on the students and to practice their spelling for meets.

Mrs. Frame also explained, “We competed against 32 middle schools in our class and placed 14th. Top score went to Aubrey Mainous.” They competed in the Indiana Virtual Spell Bowl Competition. Overall, fourteenth is a really good spot to place considering that there were 32 other schools there.

When asked about her Spell Bowl schedule and practices, 6th grade student Cheyene Booker, said, “I do not feel stressed with having them on zoom. We had them on Wednesdays and Fridays and we had them at 3:30.” These practices went along with their school schedule so that they were easy to keep up with. Their meetings were around 45 minutes long.

Overall the NMS Spell Bowl team is a very hardworking and determined team. They show their talents in their online competitions and in their practices. Mrs. Frame is definitely a wonderful and caring team leader. They had fun and worked together as a team. Mrs. Frame even sponsored a pizza party for the team to celebrate their hard work at their latest competition. She stated, “We had a post competition pizza party to celebrate a great year. During normal years, we would have a pizza party final practice. Since we could not do that this year because we were out of school during that time, we used it as a final celebration.” The team ended their time together not only celebrating their hard work, but making memories that will last. Awesome job, Spell Bowl!



NMS Celebrates Red Ribbon Week - Essay Contest Winners

Students at NMS participated in Red Ribbon Week. The campaign is observed annually in the month of October throughout the nation. Red Ribbon Week's main goal is the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse. This year, an essay contest prompted students to write about the harmful effects of illegal and some prescription drugs. NMS would like to thank all of the students who participated in the essay contest. Finalists, awarded with \$25 Amazon gift cards, included 8th grade students John Wallace, Noah Ellis, Lucy Couch, and Josie Retz. The overall 1st prize winner, awarded a \$100 Amazon gift card, was 7th grade student, Marissa Gordnier. NMS is proud to feature Marissa's 1st place essay below.

Red Ribbon Week Essay: Know the Real Cost

By: Marissa Gordnier - 7th Grad Student at Northeastern Middle School

Imagine, you're hanging out with your friends behind the school one of your friends reaches into their pocket and pulls out a pack of cigarettes. They hand one to your other friend and then offer you one. You're confused on how to approach this. You don't want to look like a scaredy cat in front of your friends, but you also don't know if it is safe for you. Many people have been faced with situations close to this. Sadly, students have made the poor decision and were hooked onto drugs, alcohol, or other substances. This is why we need to inform students on ways to deal with certain scenarios that they may be faced with in the future.

You are sleeping over at your friends house with a bunch of your friends; you're having fun watching movies, having pillow fights, and joking around. You go down to dinner when one of your friend's (the host) older siblings stops you in the hallway. They ask you if you would like to smoke a cigarette with them. You're frightened of what they would do to you if you declined and what would happen to you if you accepted. This happens quite often and you shouldn't be frightened. One way to address this situation is to politely decline and walk away. If they continue asking you, try going to a trusted adult or to the host of the slumber party and tell them. By accepting the older siblings offer you would put yourself in a terrible position risking your health and could possibly get you addicted. It is better to decline and walk away from that situation.

Picture this, your class has finally ended. You go to use the restroom before your sixth period, wellness. You walk into the restroom and see a group of popular girls (or boys) vaping. They look over at you and offer you to join them and become popular yourself. This is a red flag!! You should not accept this offer even if they offer you something in return. Something you should do is decline the offer and walk away. As soon as you think you have gotten a safe distance, you should go to a nearby teacher and report this. You WILL NOT be considered a snitch for this act! You are just simply keeping yourself and the people around you safe. Who knows what or how many people they could have gotten hooked onto vaping if you hadn't stepped in to help.

Finally, imagine you are hanging out with a group of your friends at a bowling alley. Your parents dropped you off there previously so it was only you guys. You and a friend walk off to the game room while the rest of them continue bowling. One of your friends unzip their backpack and pull out a non-see-through water bottle. Your friend then tells you that they had snuck one of her mom's beers in their water bottle. They open the water bottle and take a drink. They then looked at you and asked if you would like a drink. They try to persuade you by telling you if you drank it they would give you money, they said if you didn't drink it then they would stop being your friend. You don't know what to do. You don't want to lose your friend, but you also don't want to drink beer because you know it's not good for you. Many people your age have fallen victim to this ultimatum. You should know that even if you lose one friend, though it might hurt, it DOES NOT even scratch the surface on what alcohol will do to you. The website conehealth.com states, "alcohol can harm the liver, whose job it is to break down harmful substances in the body. This can lead to hepatitis, jaundice and cirrhosis, which is the buildup of scar tissue that eventually destroys the organ." This means that alcohol can physically hurt you. This risk is worth no amount of money and you should never sell off your health for alcohol. What you should do is refuse, walk away and stay away from that person. It may matter what that friend can do to you, but what matters most is the decisions you make and what you do to yourself.

There are many more situations that people your age have to deal with that may get you addicted to alcohol, drugs, smoking/vaping, and/or other substances. All and all, middle schoolers should be educated on how to approach scenarios where they may be offered unhealthy substances that they may be faced with in the future.