

NPHS FRIDAY MESSAGE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR FAMILIES

March 4, 2022

Dear New Paltz High School Families,

Yesterday, I sent a message to families asking for their assistance in dealing with inappropriate social media use by students, especially cyberbullying that has increased in frequency in the past several weeks. Many of our students, as well as some of our parents and community members, reached out to share their concerns about this message, especially given its timing in relation to posts by some of our students who recently used social media to share their own experiences with sexual assault.

I would like to assure you that this message was not related to these posts. The voices of those who have displayed the courage to share stories about sexual assault should be amplified, not silenced. We fully support raising awareness about sexual assault, and the importance of affirmative consent, and encourage victims of any abuse or injustice to speak out. Our commitment to these students is unwavering, and I apologize if any student felt that this message was related to their experiences. That was never the intention.

The message truly was sent to simply remind parents to be aware of their children's online behavior and ask for their help to prevent misuse and cyberbullying.

If any student would like to speak to me about this, I encourage them to stop by my office. Please know that I, along with the faculty and staff at the High School, care deeply about the well-being of all our students and want them to know they are valued members of our school community who will be heard when they speak. Also, please know that we have been engaged in the process of planning an educational response in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,
Dr. Samuelle Simms
Principal, New Paltz High School

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Important Dates

March 4 End of 25 week marking period

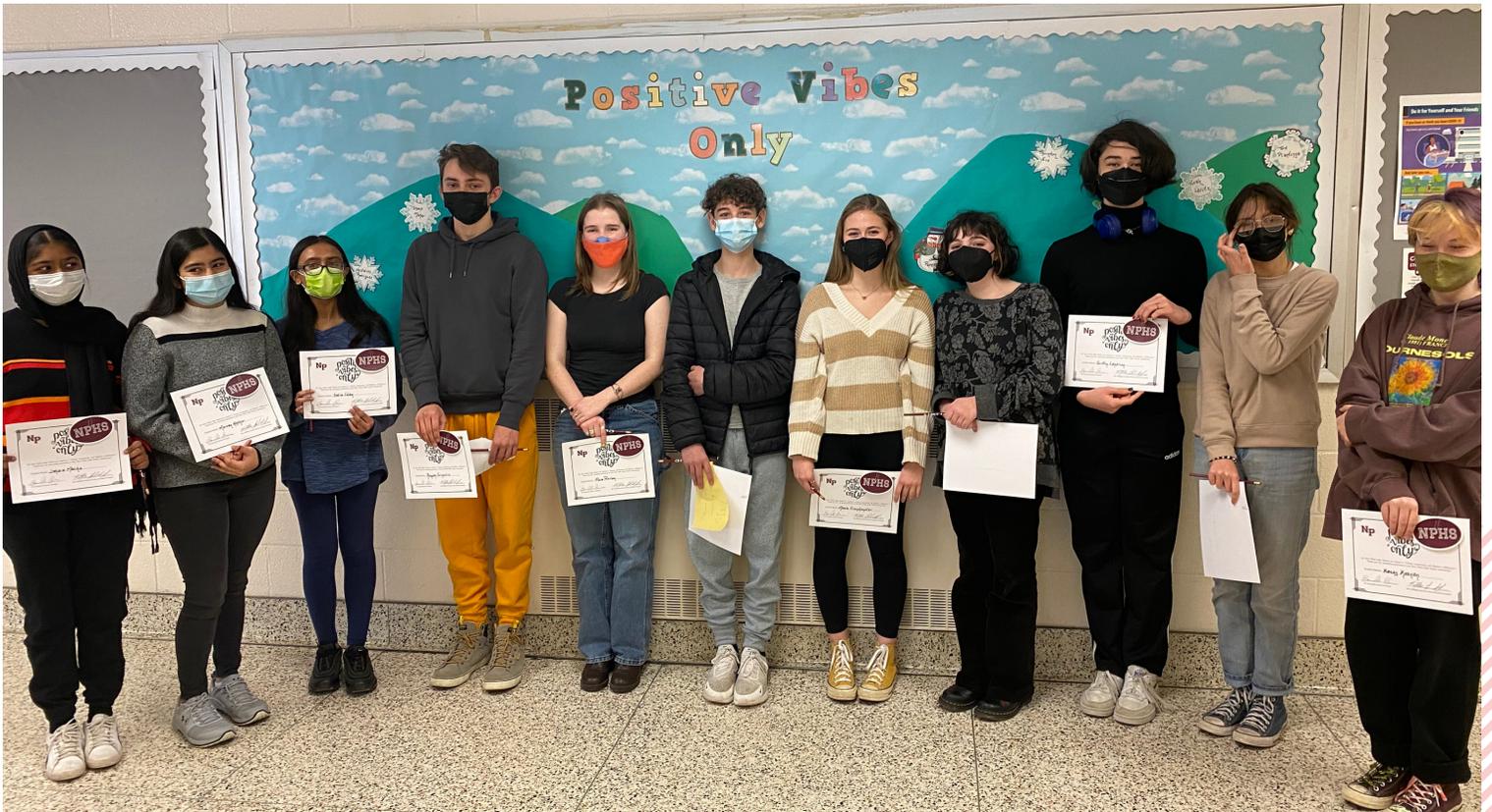
March 9 High School Scholarship Concert at 7pm

March 14 JU/U Spring sports

March 16 PT Conferences at 6pm-8pm

Around NPHS

Positive Vibes Only!



Zorian Shepko-Hamilton, Maeve Eisenhandler, Griffin Landrum, Phoebe Eis, Roman Grinevics, Julia Fetherolf, Michael Verney, Kasey Keenan, Kira Hopkins-King, Wendy Zhao, Marzan Akther, Reggie Gold, Sadia Islam, Natalya Knoth, Jahara Maliha, Riley Martinez, Flora Pierson, Tuari Schenker

ATHLETICS

The Boys Indoor Track had a record setting evening at the State Qualifying meet on Saturday.

Alex Peyser started the night off in fantastic form by tying a school record with a top 4 finish in the 55 M high hurdles. Then he went on to break the school record in the 300 M dash, just missing the finals. Chace Snyder and Elijah Flynn joined in the good performances by running season best races in the 1000 Meters. Max Hawkins ran a season best in the mile, crushing the 5 minute mark by 8 seconds. Chace, Elijah and Max then teamed up with JJ Giordano to run the fastest 4 x 800 relay of the season, moving up 3 places to finish in the top 5 overall. Finally, the 4 x 200 relay team of Jack Ifkovits, Finn, Brandon Sirof and Alex broke their own school record by over a second to make the finals.

Finn Gibson, tying his personal best, took second overall in the high jump and will compete in the State High school track meet at Ocean Breeze this coming Saturday. Congratulations to Finn and to all the guys for their great performances!

-Ms. Seim



Protect Trans Kids: A Response To Texas And Florida

By Lora Johnson, on behalf of the Varsity Track Team

"Refusing to support kids when they tell you they're transgender does reduce the chance they'll grow up to be trans but only by reducing the chance they'll grow up"

- Katie Mack, bisexual astrophysicist, in response to Texas 2022

The track team would like to draw your attention to current events in the US: trans youth and trans rights are being harmfully targeted by politicians and legislatures across the country.

In 2021, 34 states introduced anti-trans legislation to criminalize medical care and restrict participation in sports, including Arkansas, Alabama, Arizona, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee. In the first week of 2022 alone, seven different states proposed laws that would limit trans rights. Florida is on course to pass a bill dubbed "Don't Say Gay" that will not only ban children up to third grade from learning about sexuality and gender identities in school, but allow parents to sue the school if they think this law is being broken. Originally, the bill included an amendment that would have forced school principals to out students to their families, regardless of whether or not it would endanger the children, but there was enough backlash that it was removed. At the same time, political figures in Texas have just declared gender-affirming medical care to be "child abuse", and called on both licensed professionals and the general public to report instances of this supposed abuse. Parents of trans kids could now be investigated simply for supporting their children.

This isn't happening somewhere across the world. It is happening right here, and it is happening now. What's going on politically in our country regarding trans rights is scary and dangerous. Extensive research has shown that supporting trans youth leads to better mental health, and this is vital when 52% of trans and nonbinary youth seriously considered suicide in 2021 ([The Trevor Project](#)). **Supporting trans kids can save their lives.** Every major medical association in the country supports healthcare for trans youth, and anti-trans political action is directly going against this.

As a team with multiple trans and nonbinary teammates, these issues are personal to us. We understand that there is a lot going on in the world, but we can't let this get passed over. We can all make a difference and contribute to change, but only if we know about the problem in the first place. Please take a moment to educate yourself. Please do what you can to help.

All children deserve to feel safe and loved.

– New Paltz Varsity Track Team

How to help and learn:

<https://www.equalitytexas.org/>

<https://www.transtexas.org/>

<https://www.hrc.org/>

<https://www.latinatranstexas.org/>

<https://www.eqfl.org/transactionf/>

<https://www.aclu.org/>

<https://www.lambdalegal.org/>

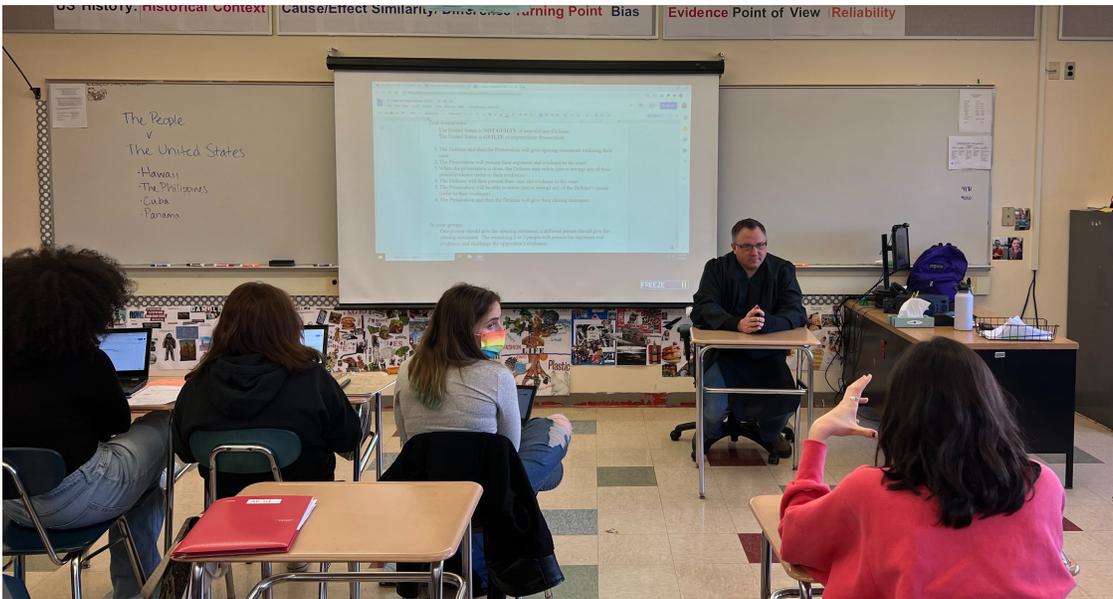
<https://www.transformationsproject.org/>



Various other, smaller organizations are being shared on social media

AP U.S. HISTORY

This week the AP U.S. History class prepared for a trial, *The People v. The United States*. They were trying to decide if the U.S. was guilty of imperialism in Hawaii, The Philippines, Cuba, and Panama. Students acted as the prosecution and defense, pleading their case to guest judges, Mr. Burger and seen in this picture, Mr. Gill.- Ms. Kiley

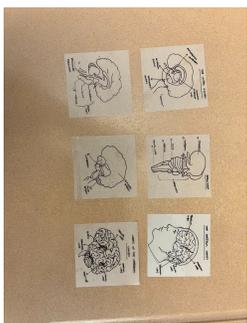
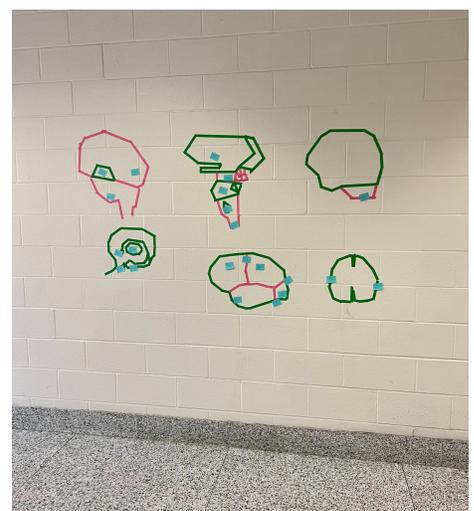
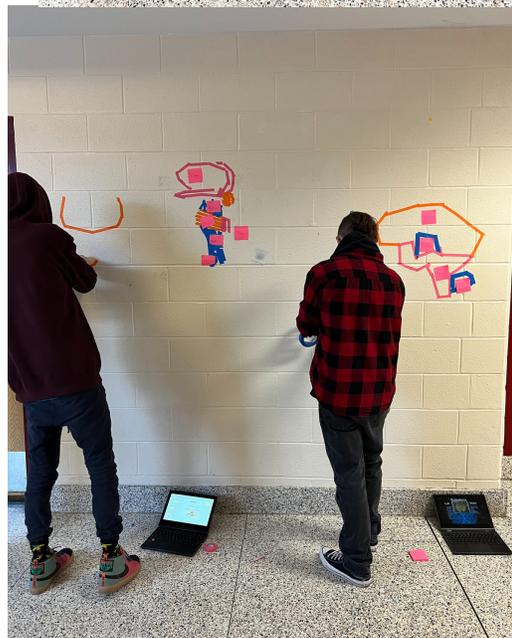


Ms. McKenna's poetry class wrote and posted feedback during a gallery walk showcasing students' poet focus research projects. Each student researched the life, influences, and style of a poet of their choice, then wrote an original poem inspired by their poet.



PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology students have been focusing on learning the various parts of the brain, as well as the functions of those parts. To make it more comprehensible, students used transparent post it notes to take realistic notes, and then made 3-d clay models out of play-dough. We then took to the hallways to recreate our own versions of brains. - Ms. Fredericks



CARING, CONNECTING, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE