



Council Rock School District District Report Card



30 North Chancellor Street
Newtown, PA 18940
Phone: 215-944-1000
www.crsd.org

Mark Klein, Esq.
Superintendent of Schools

Welcome and Overview



Dear Community Member:

On behalf of the students and staff of Newtown Middle School I want to take this opportunity to share with you information about our outstanding school. On the following pages of this Report Card you will find:

- School and District Data
- Points of Pride
- 2012 School Performance Profile

I hope you find the data in the Report Card helpful to you in keeping you informed about the growth and progress demonstrated by our students. The Web Site contains a number of other links to keep you informed about academic programs, student activities, clubs and athletics, school support services and Inter-Disciplinary Teams. Please refer to Home Page for the links.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us at 215-944-2600 or e-mail me at tlong@crsd.org.

Respectfully,

Timothy Long
Principal

Newtown Middle School

Newtown Middle School, formerly Council Rock High School has served the families of the Council Rock School District since its opening in 1955. During the past thirty-seven years it has educated thousands of students in different grade configurations and educational philosophies. Newtown Middle School presently enrolls approximately 880 students in grades seven and eight. More than seventy professional staff and twenty-five support staff employees are committed to creating an atmosphere of learning and social growth for all students. We have been committed to kids for almost 60 years and our commitment is stronger than ever. We have a distinguished history and an exciting future.

Newtown Middle School prides itself on providing a challenging and rigorous academic program while meeting the many social and emotional needs of the early adolescent. Through the implementation of numerous student support services and a varied co-curricular program, all students are encouraged to achieve success.

Newtown Middle School fosters a relationship with parents that include them as partners in their children's education. Daytime and evening programs invite parents into the process of guiding their child's education. Through an active PTA program, many families have formalized their relationship with the school.

Newtown Middle School continues its long and proud tradition of providing a safe and supportive learning environment that meets the needs of all of our children. It is a place where our children will grow to their fullest potential, ensuring their participation as lifelong learners and productive citizens. The collaborative efforts of staff, parents, students, and the community will support and encourage our children as they aim for excellence.



Council Rock Makes a Difference!



Newtown Middle School POINTS OF PRIDE

- ✓ Outstanding students and supportive parents and community
- ✓ Almost 60 years of excellence. NMS was first opened in 1954 as Council Rock High School. Since this time NMS has continued its tradition of excellence academically, athletically, and socially.
- ✓ Continuous high level student performance on PSSA and Curriculum Based Assessments.
- ✓ Annual Community Veterans Recognition Program
- ✓ Co-curricular teams, clubs and student organizations that support the interests of students with an over 70% participation rate.
- ✓ NMS has consistently received honors in the annual Mathcounts Competition. NMS has won the district competition for the last ten years and has qualified for the state competition five out of the last eight years.
- ✓ Each year NMS is extremely competitive in the State Science Competition. In 2012-2013 seven students qualified for the State Science competition and we finished with two champions and four second place finishers.
- ✓ NMS has raised over \$40,000.00 since 2003 for Diabetes through the Arts Department and their sponsorship of the Diabetes Walk.
- ✓ The Newtown Middle School Music Department historically receives highest honors at a variety of competitions and commissions. All three of our vocal ensembles and jazz ensemble have been hand featured at the state level as model, middle-level performing groups. All ensembles regularly receive “superior” ratings during our semi-annual participation in “Music in the Parks” festivals, often including the coveted “Espirit de Corps.”

NMS performing ensembles also have great opportunity to work with guest conductors and clinicians in a variety of settings. Most recently students in the choral program presented the World Premiere of “Music, When Soft Voices Die” to commemorate the 2012 Newtown, Connecticut school slayings. In preparing the piece, students had the opportunity to work with Peter deMets, a world-class musician and composer.

Students, individually, are also supported to excel through various honor ensembles. Many NMS students participate in local, county and state festivals as honor band/orchestra/choir participants.

PSSA Information

Detailed information related to how Council Rock School District and each of its schools have performed on the PSSA can be found at the following website sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education – **School Performance Profile**.

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

The state's assessment system is known as the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). Tests are required under the Chapter 4 Regulations of the State Board of Education and the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. The tests are based on Pennsylvania's Academic Standards in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening and Mathematics.

The state currently assesses students in Mathematics and Reading at grades 3 through 8 and 11; Writing at grades 5, 8 and 11; Science at grades 5, 8 and 11

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) provides information about student, school, and district performance in reading and mathematics. It is designed to;

- Determine the degree to which school programs enable students to attain proficiency of academic standards;
- Give students, parents, educators, and citizens an understanding of student and school performance regarding academic standards;
- Furnish assessment results to school districts for consideration in the development of plans for improvement; and,
- Provide information to state policymakers and the general public about student achievement by schools in the commonwealth.

Council Rock is proud of its consistently strong performance on the PSSA tests. Our students routinely score well above the state averages and comparably to distinguished districts with which we compare ourselves.

Each year about 95% of Council Rock graduates pursue higher education

- Four year college: 73%
- Two year college: 21%
- Other education institutions: 1%

4- District-level Teacher Quality Report

Percentage of Newtown Middle School teachers with emergency/provisional certification.	0%
--	----

Percentage of core academic subject Newtown Middle School teachers not taught by highly qualified teachers.	0%
---	----



Council Rock Remains Committed to Assessment, Achievement and Assistance

State Chapter 4 regulations require districts to develop a plan for additional instructional opportunities for students not achieving at a proficient level. Council Rock is proud of its academic assistance efforts, which include identification procedures, instructional strategies, monitoring of assessment procedures and opportunities for extended learning time. While student performance below proficient levels is a primary focus, the plan is designed to give all students multiple opportunities for success.



Assessment

The Council Rock Assessment Plan is essential to maintaining student and program excellence. Its purpose is to effectively and systematically collect and communicate student academic progress through the K-12 system and to enhance student growth and performance. Our assessment plan includes the use of standardized testing measures as well as numerous classroom and district designed measures.

National Perspective: National Comparison Information

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Terra Nova (April 2004)					X								
PSAT/SAT											X	X	X

State Perspective: Mastery of State Standards

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PSSA Reading and Math				X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
PSSA Writing							X		X			X	
PSSA Science					X				X			X	

DISTRICT PERSPECTIVE: MASTERY OF DISTRICT PROFICIENCIES/STANDARDS CLASSROOM ASSESSMENTS

	ELA	MATH	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES
K 1 2 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher observation • Running records • Retellings • Writing samples • Portfolios/ self-reflections • Journals • Oral presentations • Tests & quizzes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests & quizzes • Open-ended questions • Journals • Kindergarten Readiness Inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance assessments • Tests • Journals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests & quizzes • Logs • Diaries • Journals
4 5 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kid-watching • Responses to reading • Cloze procedures • Conferencing • Rubrics / Checklists • Self-reflection / self-evaluation • Informal Reading Inventories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests & quizzes • Open-ended questions • Journals • District performance tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance assessments • Tests • Journals • District-wide summative assessments for specific kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests & quizzes • Logs • Diaries • Journals • Projects
7 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher observation • Responses to reading • Conferencing • Rubrics/ checklists • Writing samples • Self-reflection / self-evaluation • Oral presentations • Tests & quizzes • Written retellings • Running records • Journals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests & quizzes • Open-ended questions • Journals • Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests & quizzes • Research & oral reports • Labs • District-wide summative assessments for specific units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests & quizzes • Logs • Diaries • Journals • Projects • Debates • Interviews • Oral presentations
9 10 11 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing samples • Responses to reading • Conferencing • Oral presentations • Rubrics/ checklists • Tests & quizzes • Essays • Portfolios/self-reflection • Research • On-line Writing Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests & quizzes • Open-ended questions • Journals • Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests & quizzes • Research & oral reports • Labs • District-wide mid-terms & finals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests & quizzes • Logs • Diaries • Journals • Projects • Debates • Interviews • Research paper • Final exams



*Council Rock students
consistently score
well above the state and county
averages.*

Academic Assistance

From time to time, students need academic assistance to achieve at their targeted levels of “proficiency.” Students qualify for district academic assistance programs through consideration of multiple identification measures, including classroom performance, teacher recommendation, district assessment results and state and standardized test achievement. The cornerstone of our district’s professional development program is a commitment to help all teachers meet the varied learning needs of their students through a menu of assessments and instructional strategies.

The chart below highlights the extensive support systems currently in place to serve our Council Rock students.

Academic Assistance Programs

GRADES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PROGRAMS												
Reading Remediation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Instructional Support Program	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Tutoring Programs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Summer School	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Alternative School									X	X	X	X
Before and After School Scheduled Extra Help Sessions							X	X	X	X	X	X
PSSA Skill Building Reading, Math, Writing			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Basic Language Arts and Math Curriculum						X	X	X	X	X	X	X



Special Education Provides Services for Council Rock Students

Council Rock School District recognizes that some children require supports beyond those that can be provided through the many and varied academic assistance programs provided by the district. More than 1500 students are provided with special education that is mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA). Special education in Council Rock supports children diagnosed with autism, deaf-blindness, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech and language impairment, traumatic brain injury, and visual impairments including blindness.

In most instances, children with disabilities are well served through the standards based curriculum in our public schools. Because the impact of a disability may vary widely from one special needs student to another, Council Rock serves students across the required continuum of placement options that include regular education classrooms, itinerant, resource and part time special education classroom support, separate special education public schools, approved private schools, hospitals, and instruction in the home. To support the achievement of students eligible under IDEA, Council Rock special education teachers provide specially designed instruction according to each child's Individual Education Program (IEP).

Students with very significant disabilities participate in the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA). This alternate assessment assures that attention is paid to the educational progress of students who are not able to be educated in a typical general education curriculum. All other students with special needs are required to participate in the PSSA, regardless of ability level. To support the achievement of students eligible under IDEA, Council Rock special education teachers provide specially designed instruction according to each child's Individual Education Program (IEP).



Council Rock
SCHOOL DISTRICT