



Fall 2020

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce another year of our **Community Connections PIN Program**. I am writing to provide you with the information about this successful, popular program. Not only does this program provide individual recognition for achievement by Newmark students who demonstrate personal and social growth by participating in a personally meaningful community-based experience, it is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn and practice Functional Living Skills in the community.

The primary recommendation from the NHS Student Alliance is that High School students focus on earning PINs for service experiences that benefit others rather than focusing on personal achievements. Some examples of recent accomplishments of NHS students include: volunteering at a local temple to prepare food for a halfway house, participating in a beach clean-up through Clean Ocean Action and volunteering to help young children learn to swim at the YMCA.

We continue to encourage all of our students to attempt *novel and challenging activities* once they have mastered previous goals as they continue to grow and develop new skills.

Please send us pictures of your child engaging in their activities as we love to display them on our bulletin board, website and at the end of the year celebration!

Included is an outline of the program and a Nomination Form. Please submit forms to me when they are complete. Additional forms can be found on our website. We will have four recognition ceremonies throughout the school year (one per marking period) in the K-8 school and two (during the awards assemblies) at the high school. The program culminates with a celebratory breakfast in June that includes all recipients and their families. **The deadlines for submission of the nomination forms are as follows: November 11, 2020, January 20, 2021 March 24, 2021 and May 19, 2021.**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions either via email at cgeorge@newmarkeducation.com or by calling 908-753-0330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathleen M. George, LCSW". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathleen M. George, LCSW
Supervisor of Counseling Services

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PIN PROGRAM

Goal:

Newmark's Community Connections PIN program provides individual recognition for achievement by Newmark students who demonstrate personal and social growth by participating in a personally meaningful community-based experience. Community-based experiences can include the following categories: Community Service, Sports, Volunteering, Music/Performing Arts, Clubs (including Scouting), and miscellaneous experiences approved by the Newmark PIN Committee.

How It Works:

- Students earn individual PINs that represent their achievement. Students who earn PINs receive a lanyard on which to keep their PINs and to wear to display their achievements.
- The criteria for earning a PIN is as follows:
 - **COMPLETION OF ACTIVITY** (i.e. sports season, performance following music lessons)
 - **Minimum of 85% participation time completed in activity** (i.e. attending 85% of meetings, practices, games)
 - **Hours of time spent** in each activity (ex: volunteering) denotes level of PIN earned.
 - 5 hours = bronze
 - 10 hours = silver
 - 15 + hours = gold
 - Nomination of a singular activity worthy of achievement must be made by parent, teacher, or member of the PIN Committee.
 - The community leader or coach of the event will be asked (by the student) to complete a Community Connection Form to verify the student's achievement (see back; also available at newmarkeducation.com)

NEW FOR 2020-21:

Newmark High School students are encouraged to focus on earning PINs for service experiences that benefit others rather than focusing on personal achievements. Some examples of recent accomplishments of NHS students include: volunteering at a local temple to prepare food for a halfway house, participating in a beach clean-up through Clean Ocean Action and volunteering to help young children learn to swim at the YMCA.

Opportunities for Reflection:

Students will be recognized for their achievement during an annual spring PIN Breakfast Reception for the students receiving PINs, their families, the person in the community who is involved with the student (coach, scout leader, etc.), the PIN Committee, the Principal and the Director(s).

Contact Information:

Cathleen M. George, LCSW – Supervisor of Counseling Services, Newmark Education
Tel: 908-753-0330/cgeorge@newmarkeducation.com
1000 Cellar Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
www.newmarkeducation.com

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PIN PROGRAM

Newmark’s Community Connections PIN Program provides individual recognition of personal achievement by a Newmark student who demonstrates personal and social growth by participation in a personally meaningful community-based experience. Once the nomination has been approved, the student will receive a special pin commemorating their achievement and attend a ceremony in their honor. PIN Program ceremonies occur four times per year (once per marking period) at Newmark K-8 School and two times per year (at the awards assemblies) at Newmark High School. The program culminates in an annual breakfast reception for all recipients. **The deadline dates for submission of nomination forms occurs once per marking period and are as follows: November 11, 2020; January 20, 2021; March 24, 2021 and May 19, 2021.**

Instructions:

Please complete this form and submit to the student’s teacher to make your nomination or send to: Cathleen M. George Newmark Education, 1000 Cellar Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 or cgeorge@newmarkeducation.com

For More Information: Cathleen M. George, LCSW – Supervisor of Counseling Services, Newmark Education - Tel: 908-753-0330/cgeorge@newmarkeducation.com

Please Complete This FORM	
I nominate:	
I am (Please circle one):	Student / Club Member or Leader / Teacher / Volunteer / Coach / Parent / Other
Reason for nomination:	
Did the student complete the activity and/or meet the criteria of your program:	
a. Completion of activity (i.e. sports season, performance following music lessons)	YES / NO
b. Minimum of 85% participation time completed in activity (i.e. attending 85% of meetings, practices, games)	YES / NO
c. Hours of time spent in certain activities (ex: volunteering) denotes level of Pin earned.	# HOURS:
Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	