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NEWTON SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

2025/2026 SCHOOL PROFILE

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SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY - TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 1870 - CLASS OF 2026: 460

Newton is a small city of 85,000 located 4 miles west of Boston. Our excellent public educational system is strongly supported by its residents and attracts families from all over the world. Our community is comprised of primarily academic, executive and professional families. Since its inception in 1966, Newton Public Schools have embraced students from Boston through the METCO program. This program provides expanded academic opportunities to students enhancing racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity for all.

CLASS OF 2025 FUTURE PLANS:

TOTAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION: 92.1%

- 89.3% 4 year college
- 3.5% 2 year college
- 0.8% Specialized & Post-Grad Education
- 2.9% Unknown
- 3.5% Employment/military/
vocational training

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| • Black/African American | 3.8% |
| • Asian | 25.2% |
| • Hispanic | 9% |
| • Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 0.0% |
| • Multi-Race/Non-Hispanic | 6.2% |
| • Native American | 0.3% |
| • White | 55.7% |

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 243 credits is required for graduation. Students planning to continue formal education after high school are strongly advised to complete at least 2 years of a world language. Our grading system is alphabetical. D- is a passing grade.

English (48 Credits), Mathematics (24 Credits) History/Social Science - including United States History (36 credits), Science - 12 in biological science and 12 in physical science (24 Credits), Visual/Performing Arts (12 Credits), Wellness/Physical Ed (15 Credits).

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A passing grade with no credit indicates the student failed to meet the attendance standard for the course.

WHAT MAKES NEWTON SOUTH UNIQUE

- Our guiding values (Choose Kindness, Listen First, Show Respect, Take Responsibility) are reinforced through Courageous Conversations on Race and Courageous Conversations on Identity, classroom lessons led by trained student-facilitators.
- In 2024-2025 154 Newton South graduates in the Class of 2025 earned a Seal of Biliteracy, including 32 Seals with Distinction. Students earn this designation in the Winter of their senior year and the seal is included on their mid-year and final transcript.
- Newton South students have opportunities for global study and exchange abroad (with community-based scholarship support) to China, France, Argentina, Rome, Prague and other regions as designed/proposed by faculty and/or students.
- The Newton South Jazz Band were again Gold Medal winners at the Massachusetts Jazz Educators festival. In recent years they have performed at Lincoln Center in the Essentially Ellington competition.
- South Stage, Newton South's Theatre Company, produces seven shows a year including an annual musical and joint Shakespeare production with Newton North's Theatre Ink.
- Students completing a certificate in our Early Childhood Education program have the opportunity to receive Dual Enrollment credit through our partnership with Middlesex Community College.
- Newton South is a member of the Dual County League. Our Athletics Department fields 36 varsity teams and 19 sub-varsity teams in 24 sports, including Unified Programs in partnership with the Special Olympics. During the 2024-25 Season, our Boys Soccer was Ranked #1 in the state, Our Alpine skiing team was ranked #2 in the state, Boys Basketball was ranked #10, Girls Volleyball was ranked #12 and our Boys and Girls Cross Country team garnered numerous DCL and MIAA achievements.
- Newton South's Speech & Debate team members routinely win awards and recognition in local and national competitions.
- LigerBots is a joint Newton North/Newton South robotics team that builds a robot for the FIRST Robotics Challenge (FRC) every year. Last year the LigerBots ranked 8th in New England, and went to the FRC World Championship.
- The Lion's Roar (print newspaper), Denebola (online newspaper), and Regulus (yearbook) are consistently among the best publications in New England.
- Newton South is home to the first and oldest public school GSA in the country.

ACADEMICS IN CONTEXT

SCOPE, SEQUENCE, AND COURSE PLACEMENT PHILOSOPHY

Newton South has a commitment to opportunity, access, and excellence for all students. The scope and sequence of courses in each department has been designed to support these overarching goals. The curriculum is designed to support the continuous academic, social and skill development growth for all students. As students consider their course load, teachers and counselors support them in finding an appropriate level of stretch and balance within their classes.

COURSE LEVELS

Courses at Newton South High School are offered at the Honors, Advanced College Prep (ACP), and College Prep (CP) levels. Some introductory electives and pass-fail courses are non-leveled. More detailed information about these levels and how they are interpreted in the different departments within the school is explained in the individual department sections within the NSHS Program of Studies. *Due to the rigor of AP and honors courses we strongly recommend that students take no more than three courses at this level per year.*

MULTILEVEL COURSE OFFERINGS

Multilevel courses contain students who are individually registered for different levels and learn in the same classroom community. We believe in the power of multilevel courses which:

Provide a rich experience for students within a diverse learning community.

Increase access and equity for all students by dismantling structures where implicit bias results in a sorting of students by race, gender, ability and/or socioeconomic status based on the subject area and level.

Provide students with access to support and opportunity for challenge in the same learning community.

GPA POLICY 2025-2026

Newton South calculates an unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA) based upon leveled and traditionally graded courses completed in the Newton Public Schools in grades 9-12. Courses taken and grades earned outside of the Newton Public Schools are not included in GPA calculation. Initial transcripts for students in the class of 2026 report a cumulative unweighted GPA representing grades earned at Newton South in ninth through eleventh grade. After the first semester of twelfth grade, mid-year transcript will include an updated cumulative unweighted GPA incorporating grades earned during the first two quarters of twelfth grade.

GPA SCALE					
A 4.0	B+ 3.3	B- 2.7	C 2.0	D+ 1.3	D- 0.7
A- 3.7	B 3.0	C+ 2.3	C- 1.7	D 1.0	F 0.0

2025 AP PERFORMANCE

In Spring 2025, 663 students in grades 9-12 took 1519 tests in 31 subjects. 91% earned scores of 3 or better.

- AP Scholars with Distinction: 129
- AP Scholars with Honors: 68
- AP Scholars: 88

NATIONAL MERIT & ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMS

- Winners: 2 (Class of 2025)
- Finalists: 7 (Class of 2025)
- National Recognition Program: 34 (Class of 2026)
- Semi-Finalists: 6 (Class of 2026)
- Commended Students: 52 (Class of 2026)

CLASS OF 2025 - MIDDLE 50% STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Middle 50% SAT Scores (352 Students Tested)

Percentile	Total	EBRW	Math
75th	1460	730	730
50th	1340	670	680
25th	1190	590	600

Middle 50% ACT Scores (87 Students Tested)

Percentile	Composite	Math	Science	STEM	English	Reading
75th	32	32	31	32	33	33
50th	29	28	28	28	29	30
25th	25	24	24	25	24	25

UNIQUE CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

Newton South High School has one of the most comprehensive academic programs in the state of Massachusetts. With a faculty second to none, students immerse themselves in courses that feed the mind and fill the heart through creativity, problem solving and reflection opportunities.

INTERDISCIPLINARY SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITIES - Newton South offers three small learning communities characterized by cross-discipline integration of content to support contextual and experiential learning. Each small learning community offers a sequence of courses beginning in grade 10. The DA VINCI PROGRAM is a three year project-based, collaborative approach to learning science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). Students build skills in experimentation, analytical problem solving, presentation, communication and artistic representation. The GLOBAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM develops thoughtful and committed global citizens. Students integrate knowledge in history, English and science through projects, essays and performance-based assessments. In the final year of the program, seniors apply their learning through a local experiential project or an international trip that leads to a Global Competency Certificate. The NEW MEDIA COMMUNITIES PROGRAM is a two year sequence integrating English, history and the arts that seeks to explore how we arrived at this age of visual media and how to navigate it responsibly and critically.

CAREER & VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION – This program offers students the chance to prepare for 21st-century careers through a comprehensive sequencing of technical and academic courses. Individualized student career plans are designed to assist in making informed choices for now and the future. Certifications are available in Automotive Technology, Carpentry/Construction Technology, Culinary Arts, Design & Visual Communication, Drafting, Early Education & Care, Graphic Communications, Greengrading, Introduction to Technical Theater, and TV/Video Production.

LEGACY SCHOLARS – faculty nominated peer community for African-American, Latino, and Multi-racial students. Legacy Scholars work together with faculty mentors to build a culture of academic achievement and empowerment. Our first class of Scholars graduated in 2017.

W.I.S.E. – Engaging senior students in a different form of learning experience outside the classroom in preparation for a transition to college or work is the goal of this program. Qualified seniors spend their final term of high school working on a substantial, self-designed academic project/internship, which benefits both the Newton South and local communities.

NEWTON SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL HONORS & AP COURSE OFFERINGS 2025-2026

ART

- Honors 2D Art
- Honors 3D Art
- Digital Art Studio
- Honors Ceramics
- Honors Photography
- AP Studio Art: Drawing
- AP 3-D Design
- AP Art History

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

- Computer Science 1,2,3,4

ENGLISH

- Sophomore English
- Global Justice Communities:
World Literature 10
- New Media Communities: English 10
- Junior English
- Global Justice Communities:
American Literature 11
- New Media Communities: English 11
- Global Justice English: Words that
Change the World 12
- Jewish & Jewish-American Literature
- Shakespeare 12
- Horror & Science Fiction 12
- Women in Literature 12
- African-American Literature 12
- Asian & Asian-American Literature 12

- Film Studies 12
- Public Speaking & Presentation 9-12
- AP English Literature &
Composition
- AP English Language &
Composition

FAMILY/CONSUMER SCIENCE

- Early Childhood Education
Major/Minor
- Child Growth & Development
Major/Minor

HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE

- Modern World History 10
- Global Justice: Modern World
History 10
- Global Justice: United States History 11
- New Media Communities: Modern
World History 10
- New Media Communities: United
States History 11
- Race, Class and Gender Identity 12
- Ethics in the Modern World 12
- AP Human Geography 12
- World Religions
- AP African American Studies
- AP United States History
- AP European History
- AP U.S. Government and Politics

- AP Comparative Government
- AP Psychology
- AP Microeconomics

MATHEMATICS

- Math 1,2
- daVinci Math 2, 3
- Linear Algebra
- Precalculus Honors
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics

MUSIC

- Symphonic Band
- Select Wind Ensemble
- Honors Jazz Combo
- Honors Jazz Ensemble
- Madrigals 10-12
- String Orchestra
- Music Production
- Advanced Music Production &
Songwriting
- AP Music Theory I
- AP Music Theory II

SCIENCE

- Engineering III
- daVinci Science I (Chemistry)
- daVinci Science II (Biology)

- daVinci Steam III Capstone Project
- Chemistry
- Chemistry II
- Organic Chemistry
- Biology
- Global Biology
- Neurobiology
- Global Marine Biology
- Biotechnology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Biology
- AP Physics C Mechanics
- AP Physics C Mechanics &
Electricity & Magnetism
- AP Environmental Science

THEATRE

- Actor's Workshop
- Acting and Directing
- Acting for Screen & Stage
- Technical Theatre Studio

WORLD LANGUAGE

- Chinese 3-5
- French 3H, 4H
- Latin 3-5
- Spanish 3H, 4H
- AP Chinese Language and Culture
- AP French Language
- AP Spanish Language

CURRICULUM NOTES

- Mathematics 1 Honors is the only honors level course offered as part of a typical freshmen's curriculum
- In Math only, some courses are offered at the Accelerated level
- Courses in grades 10-12 are offered at Honors, Advanced College Preparatory, and College Preparatory
- Due to the rigor of AP and honors courses we strongly recommend that students take no more than three courses at this level per year
- Most AP courses are only open to seniors

COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS: NEWTON SOUTH GRADUATES

2021-2025

University of Alabama	Colorado State University, Fort Collins	College of Lake County	Ohio University	Springfield College
Alfred State College	Columbia College Chicago	Langara College	University of Oklahoma, Norman	St. John's College
Allegheny College	Columbia University	Lasell University	Oxford College/Emory University	St. John's University
American University	Columbia University Sciences Po	Lehigh University	Pace University	St. Lawrence University
Amherst College	Columbus College of Art & Design	Lesley University	Pennsylvania State University	St. Petersburg College
Arizona State University	Concordia University	List College, Jewish Theological Seminary	University of Pennsylvania	Stanford University
University of Arizona	Connecticut College	London Metropolitan University	Pierce College	Stonehill College
Assumption University	University of Connecticut	Louisiana State University	University of Pittsburgh	Stony Brook University
College of the Atlantic	Cornell University	Loyola Marymount University	Pitzer College	Suffolk University
Babson College	Curry College	Loyola University, Chicago	Plymouth State University	SUNY Cortland
Bard College	Dartmouth College	Macalester College	Pratt Institute	Swarthmore College
Bates College	Davidson College	Maine College of Art & Design	Princeton University	Syracuse University
Bay State College	Dean College	University of Maine	Providence College	The University of Tampa
Baylor University	University of Delaware	University of Manchester	Purdue University	Tel Aviv/ Columbia University
Bennington College	Denison University	Manhattan College	Queen's University	Temple University
Bentley University	University of Denver	Marist College	Quincy College	The University of Tennessee
Bergen Community College	DePaul University	Massachusetts College of Art & Design	Quinnipiac University	The University of Texas, Austin
Berklee College of Music	Dickinson University	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	Reed College	The University of Texas, Dallas
Binghamton University	Drexel University	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences	Regis College	The George Washington University
Biola University	Duke University	University of Massachusetts, Amherst	Reichman University (IDC Herzliya)	The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology
Boston College	Earlham College	University of Massachusetts, Boston	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	The New School
Boston University	@ U Rochester	University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth	Rhode Island School of Design	Thomas Jefferson University
Bowdoin College	EHL- Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne	University of Massachusetts, Lowell	Rice University	University of Toronto
Brandeis University	Elon University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Richmond	Trinity College
Bridgewater State University	Embry Riddle University	McGill University	Ringling College of Art & Design	Tufts University
University of British Columbia	Emerson College	Merrimack College	Rochester Institute of Technology	Tulane University
Brown University	Emory University	Miami University, OH	University of Rochester	Union College
Bryant University	Endicott College	University of Miami	Roger Williams University	University of Buffalo
Bryn Mawr College	ESADE Business School	Miami Dade College	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	Universite de Montreal
Bucknell University	Fairfield University	University of Michigan	Rutgers University	University of Edinburgh
Bunker Hill Community College	Fashion Institute of Technology	Michigan State University	Sacred Heart University	University of St. Andrews
Butler University	Fitchburg State University	Middlebury College	Saint Joseph's University	University of Westminster
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	University of Florida	Middlesex Community College	Saint Louis University	Vanderbilt University
University of California, Berkeley	Florida State University	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Saint Michael's University	Vassar College
University of California, Davis	Fordham University	University of Mississippi	Saint Peter's University	Vermont State University
University of California, Irvine	Framingham State University	University of Missouri	Salem State University	University of Vermont
University of California, Los Angeles	Franklin & Marshall College	Montana State University	Salve Regina University	University of Victoria
University of California, San Diego	Franklin Pierce University	Morehouse College	San Diego State University	Villanova University
University of California, Santa Barbara	George Mason University	Mount Holyoke College	University of San Francisco	Virginia Commonwealth University
University of California, Santa Cruz	Georgetown University	Universidad de Navarra	College of San Mateo	Virginia Military Institute
Cape Cod Community College	Georgia Institute of Technology	University of New England	Santa Clara University	Virginia Tech
Carleton College	Gettysburg College	University of New Hampshire	Santa Monica College	University of Virginia
Carnegie Mellon University	Gordon College	'University of New Haven	Sarah Lawrence College	Wake Forest University
Case Western Reserve University	Grinnell College	New York University	Savannah College of Art & Design	Washington University in St. Louis
University of Central Florida	Hamilton College	Nichols College	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Wellesley College
Champlain College	University of Hartford	North Carolina, Chapel Hill	School of Visual Arts	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Chapman University	Hartwick College	University of North Carolina, Charlotte	Scripps College	Wesleyan University
College of Charleston	Harvard College	University of North Carolina, Greensboro	Simmons University	West Virginia University
University of Chicago	HES Amsterdam, School of Business	North Shore Community College	Skidmore College	Western New England University
Claremont McKenna College	High Point University	Northeastern University	Smith College	Westfield State University
Clark Atlanta University	Hobart William Smith Colleges	Northwestern University	University of South Carolina	Wheaton College, MA
Clark University	Hofstra University	University of Notre Dame	University of Southern California	Whitman College
Clemson University	Hotelschool The Hague	Oberlin College	Southern California Institute of Architecture	Williams College
Cleveland Institute of Art	Howard University	Occidental College	University of South Dakota	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Coastal Carolina University	IE University Madrid		University of South Florida	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Colby College	IE University Segovia		South Maine Community College	Worcester State University
Colby-Sawyer College	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign		Southern Methodist University	Xavier University of Louisiana
Colgate University	Indiana University		Southern New Hampshire University	Yale University
College of the Holy Cross	Ithaca College			
College of William & Mary	Johns Hopkins University			
University of Colorado, Boulder	Johnson & Wales University			
University of Colorado, Denver	Kent State University			
Colorado College	Kenyon College			
Colorado School of Mines	Lafayette College			