



FINE & PERFORMING ARTS NEWS LETTER

February 2026

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

As we honor Black History Month, our students and teachers are engaging in learning experiences that celebrate the rich history, achievements, and cultural contributions of Black Americans. This important work will also be reflected in upcoming performances and events across the district, highlighting the power of the arts to educate, inspire, and bring our community together. The district is proud to sponsor opportunities for students to share their voices and creativity, and we look forward to showcasing this meaningful work in the future—stay tuned!

Students in grades K-12 are invited to have their work featured at a future event or in our collection celebrating student writing and creativity. Click this link for more detailed information about student submission guidelines: <https://newburghschools.org/news.php?storynum=7055>

We also encourage families to support their children by attending the many upcoming Fine and Performing Arts events throughout the district. Your presence helps celebrate students' hard work and reinforces the important connection between our schools and community.

-Kristen Johnsen,
Director of Fine & Performing Arts

UPCOMING EVENTS



2/7 - OCMEA Junior High School All-County Auditions, Warwick Valley MS (Snow Date: 2/8)

2/11 - OCMEA Jazz All-County: Pre-Rehearsal, Warwick Valley HS

2/13 - SMS Valentine's Day Singing Telegrams

2/24 - THA Black History Month Celebration 6pm

2/26 - Middle Level Art Show, Newburgh Free Library: Riverview Room 4pm-6pm

2/26 - SMS Black History Month Celebration 5:30pm - 7:30pm

2/27 -2/28: OCMEA All-County Jazz Festival at NFA Main Campus

3/4 - All-District Art Show, Safe Harbors Lobby at the Ritz Theatre, 4pm-6pm

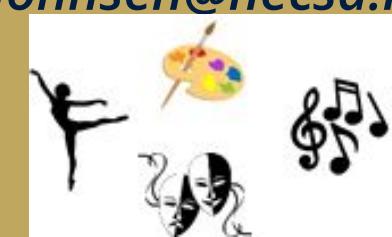
3/12 - Fostertown 2nd Grade Musical

3/14 & 3/14 - NFA Spring Musical Production

NECSD Department of Fine & Performing Arts

Inspiring lifelong learners, enthusiasts, and active participants in the arts, contributing to a vibrant and enriched community.

Questions? Email:
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Temple Hill Academy's 5th Grade Art Club with Miss Reyes designed and made a small mural for their Technology Specialist, Mr. Stevens. The title "Tech Magic" showcases different uses of technology in the classrooms through imagery in a collage-like fashion.

Shown right: Adam Quijano, Francis Lainez Oliva, Evelyn Vargas, Bella Collaguazo Hernandez, Kaesly Gil Mazara, Lia Reyes, Khiara Perez, Amia Rosas, Mr. Stevens, Andrew Marty, Alessia Cabrera, Lydia Penella, and Montserrat Cinto Leal.



OCMEA HS All-County Chorus - Teacher: TJ Swetz
Students:
Tyler Decker, Soprano
Stephanie Romano, Soprano
Ayanna Gorham, Alto
Edgar Ramirez, Tenor
Quinn Tracey, Tenor



We are proud to recognize our outstanding student musicians who were selected to participate in the OCMEA Senior High All-County Music Festival! Students from across the county auditioned in October, and we are thrilled that our students earned the opportunity to perform in this prestigious event. The festival took place on January 23-24, 2026, at Cornwall High School, where our musicians collaborated with their peers from throughout Orange County and performed under the direction of distinguished guest conductors.

OCMEA HS All-County Band - Teachers:
Kristina Morano and Paul Carroll
Student:
Matthew Gessner, Mallets



OCMEA HS All-County Orchestra - Teacher: Monica Antonelli-Guido
Students:
Joseph Vega-Ramos, Violin I
Saori Diaz, Violin II
Jasmine Rice, Viola
Candace Bryan, Bass
Drake Burns, Trombone

