



# Needham High School News From the Hill

January 11, 2024

## Save the date!

**Monday, January 15** - No School (Martin Luther King Jr Day)

**Friday, January 19** - End of Term 2

**Friday, January 26** - A Capella Go! (7pm in the NHS Auditorium)

**Now - Friday, January 26** - Donate your electronics! (See Flyers & Reminders for more details)

**Wednesday, January 31** - Last day to pre-order a yearbook to guarantee your purchase!

**Now - Friday, February 2** - Cradles to Crayons Clothing Drive (See Flyers & Reminders for more details)

**Saturday, February 10** - Space Club Movie Night (6-8pm in the NHS cafeteria)

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## PTC Meeting – Tonight at 6:30pm

### Agenda:

1. PTC Presidents' Welcome and Updates
2. Principal's Updates
3. Course Selection Process for 2024-2025 - Important Timelines and Tips, with Dana Plunkett, Director of Counseling 7-12
4. Q & A Session

### Meeting Link:

Topic: NHS PTC Evening meeting

Time: **Jan 11, 2024 06:30 PM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

### Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://needham-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/84705880511?pwd=TVY2b0V2c1pEN3hHT0t4T1MrR3hFdz09>

Meeting ID: 847 0588 0511

Passcode: 832658

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## **A Reminder From the Health Office - January 2024**

Dear Parents and Students,

The Needham High School Health Office is seeing an increase in COVID, flu cases and respiratory illnesses.

Please stay home if you experience symptoms.

Prioritize your health by testing for COVID (we recommend Covid testing at least 3-5 days in a row) when symptoms start, following the Covid protocols, and adhere to our Illness guidelines.

When you have a high fever and continued respiratory symptoms beyond 3 days consult your physician.

Most medical offices can test for Covid, Flu, Strep, Mononucleosis, RSV and other illnesses. Call your medical provider with any concerns or worsening symptoms

As exams and the end of the semester (January 19) approaches, let's prioritize everyone's well-being.

Please call the Health Office with any concerns or questions.

Get a medical note if you require an excused absence.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding,

The Health Office Nurses

Attached are the specific guidelines or protocols established by the school or local health authorities

[2023 Covid Protocol](#)

[Illness Guidelines](#)

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**From Now Until the End of January - Don't Forget to Pre-order  
Your Yearbook!**

THE ADVOCATE

# 2024 NHS YEARBOOK

**ORDER NOW \$75**

PLEASE PURCHASE YOUR YEARBOOK DIRECTLY  
THROUGH WALSWORTH AT

WWW.YEARBOOKFOREVER.COM

BY SEARCHING FOR NEEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL

**PRE-ORDER YOUR BOOK BY  
JANUARY 31, 2024  
TO GUARANTEE YOUR PURCHASE!**

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE!

PLEASE REACH OUT TO MS. KATE BERGERON  
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS  
KATHERINE\_BERGERON@NEEDHAM.K12.MA.US

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### Morning Drop Offs - Please Plan Accordingly

With the winter weather finally arriving, please remember to plan accordingly so that your students are arriving on time. There has been an increase in student tardiness and we ask that parents and guardians continue to be mindful of the 8am (and Friday 8:35am) start time. Thank you!

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## Postsecondary Planning Junior Parent Night via Zoom

Thursday, January 18th, 6:30-8:00PM

We hope all junior parents/guardians will be able to attend the Junior Parent Night. To officially kick off the postsecondary planning process, we will share information we presented to the students and welcome college admissions representatives from Brandeis University, Providence College and Bridgewater State University for advice/insight about the process, including a question and answer period.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

[https://needham-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/83334186313?  
pwd=ME9GVG0rTVVMN0hWTVFYeY4VmdUdz09](https://needham-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/83334186313?pwd=ME9GVG0rTVVMN0hWTVFYeY4VmdUdz09)

Passcode: 411070

Webinar ID: 833 3418 6313

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## Space Club Movie Night - February 10 at 6pm!

NEEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL

# MOVIE NIGHT GRAVITY

6 PM | SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 10 | 8 PM

*snacks will be provided*



*RSVP here!*

Movie is rated PG-13 ~ there is a Parents Night Out  
March 2nd with Wall-E for kids

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### 9th Grade Families -

*Is your student interested in purchasing merch in support of their class?*

The 2027 Student Council is asking that students scan this QR code and fill out the Google Form, indicating what types of merchandise they'd be interested in purchasing. This will help the class leaders keep track of what items should be supplied!

*Options include: hats, beanies, hoodies, tees, sweats or joggers*

Please Fill Out This Google Form  
If You Are In The Class Of 2027



the form is about what merch you are  
interested in purchasing and  
to get a count of how many people  
want each item

# Class of 2024 Flocking Fundraiser Update - ALL DATES FULL!

Thank you for your interest in keeping our flock moving throughout Needham.

At this time, ALL of our available dates have been booked!

We will let you know if we are able to open additional dates later in the spring.



If you wish to DONATE directly to the Class of 2024, you may do so at [bit.ly/flocking2024](https://bit.ly/flocking2024) or scan this QR code:



**We so appreciate all of the support!**

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## -Reminders From Last Week-

*In case you missed it:*

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### Needham School Committee FY25 Budget Hearing

The Needham School Committee will conduct a public hearing on the School Department's proposed FY25 budget on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024** in the Broadmeadow School Performance Center at **6:30 p.m.** The public hearing will also be accessible via Zoom: the link will be provided at [http://www.needham.k12.ma.us/district\\_info/school\\_committee/agendas](http://www.needham.k12.ma.us/district_info/school_committee/agendas) prior to the meeting. The School Committee welcomes public participation in the School Department's budget discussion.

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### A Cappella Go!

#### Tickets Available for NHS's a Cappella Go, Coming Friday, January 26th

Come one, come all to NHS's a Cappella Go concert, one night only, on **Friday, January 26th at 7:00pm** in the NHS Auditorium!

This family-friendly night of music will feature the amazing talent of all four NHS a Cappella Groups: Counterpoint; Fermata Nowhere; the Subway Dwarves; and the Treble Rebels!

As is the a Cappella Go tradition, we are also thrilled to welcome to the stage three college groups, each featuring a NHS a Cappella alumni: Columbia Non Sequitur (Columbia); Duly Noted (UMass); and Ursa Minors (Brown).

Purchase your tickets in advance at: [TicketStage - Needham High School Friends of Music](https://www.ticketstage.com/Needham-High-School-Friends-of-Music)

[Tickets](#). Tickets will be sold at the door based on availability.

Questions? Please contact [lhill@nhsfriendsofmusic.org](mailto:lhill@nhsfriendsofmusic.org)

# a cappella GO!



## Flyers & Reminders

### Cradles to Crayons | DONATION DRIVE



Join the **Class of 2024** to make a difference and support Cradles to Crayons' efforts to keep kids warm!

WHEN?	WHERE?	WHAT?
Monday 1/8 - Friday 2/2	Donation bins will be located in the <b>Main Lobby</b> and outside the <b>Counseling Office</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Winter Coats</li><li>• Hats &amp; Gloves</li><li>• Winter Boots</li><li>• Sweaters</li></ul> <p><small>We will accept ALL clothing, youth sizes 0-20 and adult sizes small and medium</small></p>

*Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive—at home, at school, and at play. We supply these items free of charge by engaging and connecting communities.*

Cradles to Crayons | 281 Newtonville Avenue | Newton, MA 02460 | [cradlestocrayons.org/boston](https://www.cradlestocrayons.org/boston)



**DONATE YOUR  
ELECTRONICS!**

**DECEMBER 4TH - JANUARY 26TH**

We accept all electronics except:

- Laptops/computers/monitors
- Calculators
- Game consoles



Drop your electronics in the bins in the library or main office! The electronics can be in any condition! Donating your old electronics will help preserve Coltan (a harmful material to gorilla habitats).

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## Needham Community News

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### Needham's MLK Day Celebration & Observance

Needham Diversity Initiative (NDI) invites you to join us for the celebration of the

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Monday, January 15, 2024**  
Needham High School Auditorium  
Admiral Gracey Drive, Needham

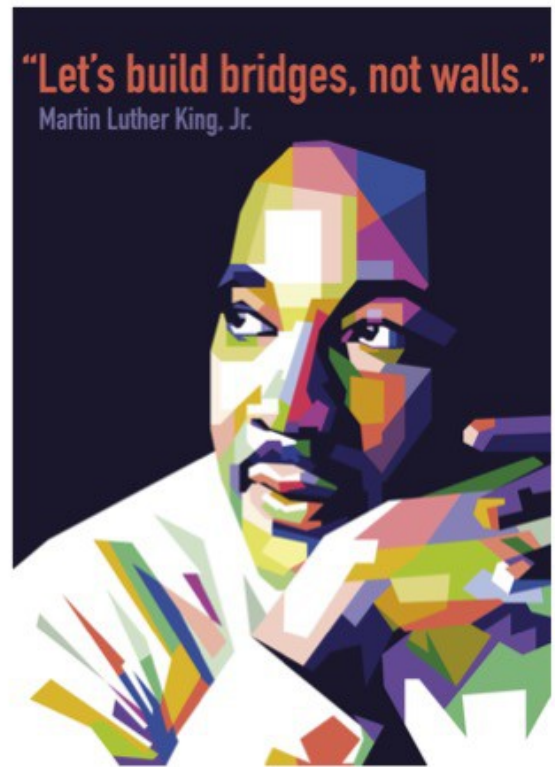
**10:00 AM– 11:30 AM**  
**Doors open and refreshments at 9:30 AM**  
Wearing of masks is encouraged

For more information visit:

[www.NeedhamDiversity.org](http://www.NeedhamDiversity.org)



**NEEDHAM  
DIVERSITY  
INITIATIVE**



Co-sponsored by the following Needham organizations:

- Diversity Initiative
- Interfaith Clergy Association
- Human Rights Committee
- Public Schools and its METCO Program

### Monday, Jan. 15, 10:00am - 11:30am

(9:30am: Doors open and refreshments)

Needham High School auditorium, enter Admiral Gracey Drive

Theme: "Let's build bridges, not walls"

Martin Luther King, Jr., Keynote speaker Dr. Gilda Barabino (President of Olin College), music by the Eliot School Choir and Plugged In Band, excerpts from MLK's "I Have a Dream" spoken by Valine Valbrun-Paul (Chairperson of METCO Needham Parents Council), Brother Dennis Slaughter & his band, and more at this free, family friendly event!

For more information go to: <https://www.needhamdiversity.org>

Co-sponsored by Needham Diversity Initiative, Human Rights Committee, Interfaith Clergy Association and Needham Public Schools and its METCO Program.

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### Keeping Children Safe & Secure Online: A Project Safe Childhood Presentation for Parents

The United States Attorney's Office District of Massachusetts in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be holding an online webinar for adults that will bring awareness to the dangers children face online and to educate adults on how to keep children safe. **Space is limited and registration is required in advance.**



Date and time:

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024 6:30 PM** | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

**Log in begins at 6:00 pm**

<https://usao.webex.com/weblink/register/r89884ccf204c605b8e466eb4be8aa854>

For questions: [USAMA.PSCOutreach@usdoj.gov](mailto:USAMA.PSCOutreach@usdoj.gov)

**Volunteers Around Needham**

**NEEDHAM  
YOUTH & FAMILY  
SERVICES**

**NEWBRIDGE ON THE CHARLES**

High school students can earn  
**30+ hours of  
community service**  
with a flexible schedule  
and make meaningful  
connections with seniors  
living at NewBridge on the  
Charles

**JOIN US FOR A  
KICKOFF EVENT!**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH**  
Time: 3:30–5:00PM  
5000 Great Meadow Rd, Dedham  
**Learn about the seniors  
living in the community and  
what your role can look like  
as a volunteer**

For questions and more  
information please contact  
Ellen Whirley, LCSW at  
[ewhirley@needhamma.gov](mailto:ewhirley@needhamma.gov)  
or by calling 781-455-7500  
ext. 266

Register using the QR code below  
or by visiting  
[www.needhamprograms.com](http://www.needhamprograms.com)



## The Winter Sale - Friends of the Needham Public Library

The Winter Sale of the Friends of the Needham Public Library will be held in the Community Room on **Friday, January 26 from noon to 4:00, Saturday, January 27 from 9:00-4:00, and Sunday, January 28 from 1:00-4:00.** Sunday is bargain day with all books half price and a brown bag of books \$8.00.

## Attendance Policies & Procedures

Please see this [link](#) to review NHS Attendance Procedures.

## Covid Protocol

[Covid Infographics, 9/23](#)

[Covid Illness Guidelines and NPS Illness Guidelines](#)

## NHS Counseling Department

Be sure to keep up with the latest news on the [NHS Counseling Department Newsfeed](#) and mark your calendars for upcoming parent evenings. Students can access the latest scholarship, community service and job opportunities as well as other relevant information.

## After School Snack Program

Delicious and nutritious snacks are available for purchase every day after school.

**Where:** NHS. Between the A Gym & Weight Room

**When:** 2:35-3:00. Every day after school

**Cost:** Prices range from \$.50 to \$3.00

Students can pay by cash or use their school lunch account PIN#.

## Request for Reduction of Fees Form

Please complete [this](#) form, if your family is experiencing financial hardship and you would like to be considered for a reduction of school related fees.

## Lost and Found - Main Office

Students who find lost items can bring them to the lost and found area located in the Main Office. Students who lose items are welcome to come to the Main Office where they can fill out the Lost and Found form.

## Academic Resources

### Math Help Available!

Wednesdays: 9:00am-12:45pm

Come to the Math and Science office Room 205

### NHS Writing Center

**What we are:** A peer tutoring service. Students can come for help on any writing assignment for any subject.

**Who we are:** Juniors and seniors who are skilled writers, recommended by their English teachers, trained as peer tutors.

**Where we are:** LIBRARY CLASSROOM

**When we meet:** During X-block on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Students must sign up for X-block Writing Center with adaptive scheduler on PowerSchool.

AND after school on Wednesdays (also in Library Classroom)

No appointment necessary for after school Writing Center -- just walk in!

# HOMework CLUB

TUESDAYS 7:30-8 \* THURSDAYS 2:35-3:30

@TheNHSLibrary

ACCESS  
TO  
TEXTBOOKS



HELP  
FROM  
PEERS



HELP  
FROM MS.  
ROWSE



QUIET  
SPACE  
TO WORK

For more information, email: [paige\\_rowse@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:paige_rowse@needham.k12.ma.us)



**Danielle Doherty**

Danielle is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters