



The New Middle School  
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*The New Middle School  
provides an alternative  
educational experience and  
social-emotional support for  
bright children.*

## Newspaper Staff

- Amanda
- Christopher
- Clara
- Corey
- Elysse
- Jacob
- Jared
- John
- Jordan
- Justin
- Katie
- Laura
- Lauren
- Matthew A.
- Matthew C.
- Noah
- Rachel
- Robert
- Yndia

## School News

### Super Cyber



This summer log on to a fun-filled technology adventure. You are just a click away from some very cool computer experiences! Become a techno-savvy kid with our new technology curriculum. The instruction is interactive; kids

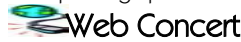
“learn by doing.” Kids will help each other learn a variety of programs on PCs and Macs including “I Life” and “I Sight.”



**Web Survivor**  
Survive the island by cracking binary codes and answering trivia.



**Web Photo**  
Edit digital photos and use paint tools to produce creative photographs.



**Web Concert**  
Learn how to promote a concert by using sound clips, video clips, and interviews to promote your favorite concert.



**Web Producer**  
Capture film using a video camera; then import the film onto Windows Movie Maker, then edit and add special effects.



**Web Design**  
Plan, construct, and create a webpage including media such as sound, scrolling text, and graphics.



**Creative Arts**  
Create and edit art through the computer.

Along with all the great technology, kids will also experience a variety of social activities such as sports, games and a weekly social mixer where kids will have a special picnic-style lunch while socializing with their friends.

May 29-July 20

Call 713-802-1256 for information

### Honor Roll

By Corey

There is something new at NMS. Many schools have an honor roll, or something like it. Now NMS has joined the club. To get on the honor roll students must exhibit good behavior, and turn in all class work, and homework. At the end of the month the honor roll students from Ms. Jeanette’s and Ms. Kim’s class get to take a special trip for lunch.

At the beginning of a new month the students start with a clean slate, nothing carries over for better or worse.

So now making good choices has even more rewards!

### Book Club

By Laura

In Book Club we read books like *The Pigman* and *Banner in the Sky*. Afterwards we answer questions on what we read. Something new we are doing is Fright Write stories, just to change things up.

Fright Write is where students write by themselves or with a partner, a scary story. Some students say they like this more than reading, but some say they enjoy reading more.

So that’s the latest on Book Club.

### Skills Lab

By Jacob

This year NMS students all have laptops that they use for daily school assignments. So to help students improve their computer techniques we go to Skills Lab. Skills Lab is a part of the day when students get to use their computers to practice typing and math skills. We use CDs that help us with our keyboarding by improving our speed and accuracy. We also sharpen our math skills by working on a variety of math games.

We even learn how to safely use the Internet. Some safe places we surf are Classbrain.com and Funbrain.com. These are educational sites that can help you with school work and offer fun games.

### Spring is in the Air!



Enjoying the great weather with friends!



Jared and Justin build a gumdrop bridge in science.



Ms. Jeanette takes Book Club outside, and Ms. Kim takes science outdoors as well.



Teaming up for a group photo!

## Features

### What the Media is Doing to Kids and Teens

By Rachel

Media is all around us in movies, television, magazines, advertisements, billboards, and the Internet. Sadly, all of this media is making kids and teens think that fighting and violence is cool, or that you need to be skinny to be a perfect person.

All over the movies, video games, and television shows are acts of fighting, killing people and other types of violence. This isn't putting a positive image to kids because it is teaching them that you can solve any problem by hurting another person. Also, kids are getting in trouble at school, home, and sometimes with the law because they are copying things they saw in video games, movies and television shows.

Celebrities, they are everywhere! You can see them on television shows, in movies, and in countless advertisements. Some kids look up to celebrities not because of their wealth, but because they are super skinny. This trend of having to be really skinny is not only making kids diet at an early age, but sometimes it is deadly. Now a days in almost every fashion or celebrity magazine, there are ads for diet pills, and weight loss treatments. This is making kids, mostly girls, think that they are fat and you need to be skinny to get friends.

If you are overwhelmed by all of these things there are things you can do to stop yourself from thinking these things:

1. Think about the positives of yourself. You may not be as skinny as Paris Hilton, but you may be good at other things like sports, art or science.
2. Limit yourself. Try to limit yourself from watching too much television and go outside!

And the most important thing to do: **DON'T BELIEVE IT!**

No matter how many times you see it, no matter many people say it is true, don't believe that you have to be skinny, or that it is okay to hurt someone physically or emotionally.

### Spring

By Jordan

Spring is in the air, so put away those coats! Spring is a season that comes after winter and before summer. The official start of spring is around March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Spring is a beautiful time of year. The weather is pleasant, and the flowers are in bloom. It is a time of new beginnings.

There are many special events that take place in the spring. It is a time of celebrations like Easter and Passover. Maybe the best part of spring is spring break, a time for relaxation and rejuvenation.

So check those calendars because spring is on it way!



### Energy Sources

By Noah

Pelamis is the world's first commercial wave energy project. It's designed for the waves to move it in a snake-like motion. Three are now off the north Portugal coast are generating 2,25 MW. Twenty-eight more are being planned. This is expected to take a year and yield 22.5 MW for the company Energias de Portugal.

The order for the first phase of the project costs \$ 8.2 mi. It is funded by a Portuguese consortium. The project supplies power for 1,500 homes in Agucadoura. It should also displace 60,000 carbon dioxide emissions.



## Science

### Bullfrogs

By Robert

The bullfrog is the state amphibian for Missouri and Oklahoma. It is also eaten in Southern and Midwestern parts of the United States.

The bullfrog has some astronomical history too. In 1970 two bullfrogs were launched into orbit on the Orbiting Frog Otolith spacecraft.

The bullfrog is very closely related to the toad. It can grow up to a length of 5 inches and usually weighs 5 pounds.

Bullfrogs are very carnivorous and will literally eat anything that can fit in their mouth.

When the bullfrog is eaten, it is only the rear legs, and occasionally the back. The bullfrog is usually fried before eaten. I guess for some frogs it's not "hoppily" ever after!



### Komodo Dragons

By Matthew A.

Dragons are real creatures, but not the ones you see in movies. I mean Komodo Dragons. Komodos are very big. They can get as big as ten feet long and they can weigh up to 375 lbs. Their population is only 4000 to 5000, which means they are endangered.

Komodos need warm days, lots of land and water. They can be found in Indonesia. There you will find Komodo Island. It is the perfect place for Komodo Dragons since it is located near the equator, and it is always very hot.

Komodos are hunters. They use the bacteria in their mouths like venom to kill their food. This is a useful tool that kills their food quickly, or the prey dies weeks later from the infection.

Now you know about the dragons of the real world.



### Hiccups

By Clara

Not long ago, a Florida teenager, Jennifer had hiccups lasting for 5 weeks straight! Jennifer's story began January 23<sup>rd</sup> when she woke up finding that she was hiccupping 50 times in one minute. After just a few days of the hiccups not going away, Jennifer and her family flew to New York in search for a cure.

Jennifer and her mother were very concerned about the out of control spasms that were affecting her life, from the pain to the sleepless nights that added stress to Jennifer and her family. Everything they tried didn't work, not even the home remedies or medications.

Then, recently, on a Wednesday, her hiccups suddenly decreased to just a few each day. Jennifer found a huge relief not having so many hiccups anymore. Slowly the hiccups stopped. "I don't know how they stopped. What I do know is that I had multiple things I did that day with acupuncture, chiropractor, hypnosis and a *hic cup*," Jennifer said referring to a drink supposed to help hiccups. Ever since her hiccups have stopped. Jennifer will need a new nickname other than hiccup girl.

## Health and Fitness

### Peanut Butter Recall

By Katie

The latest food scare has peanut butter spreading salmonella. Jars of Peter Pan and Great Value Peanut Butter have been recalled across the nation causing Americans to question the safety of our food supply.

Symptoms of salmonella poisoning are fever, headache, diarrhea, abdominal cramping, vomiting and nausea with dehydration. Around 600 people a year die of salmonella poisoning. The elderly and children are especially susceptible because of weakened or underdeveloped immune systems.

So before you spread peanut butter on a piece of bread for a tasty snack, make sure your jar is not spreading salmonella!

### American's Health

By Elysse

When you eat a lot you may feel sluggish and weak. That is because you aren't using up all the food you eat. If you eat a heavy meal or snack and then sit around, the food is being unused and can make you gain weight. Calories are used to give you energy, much like fuel helps a car run. If you do not burn the calories you take in by being active, it is stored in your body and often turns to fat.

Some things you should eat daily are fruits, vegetables, and protein rich foods that are low in fat, like chicken and salmon. Cut back on sugary sodas and fast foods which are loaded with empty calories and fat that keep your body from performing at its best.

These are good choices that will allow you to live a healthy life.