

place the instrument by the door
the night before so it's not forgotten
in the morning rush.



FINE & PERFORMING ARTS NEWS LETTER

October 2025



The NFA Dance Team before their halftime show at the September 12th home football game

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

October Arts Spotlight: Celebrating Creativity and Community

With the arrival of fall, our arts programs are kicking into high gear, full of excitement and new student learning opportunities. Our 4th grade students are beginning their musical journey as they learn how to play instruments for the very first time—what an exciting time for our young musicians! (Be sure to check out page 2 for tips on how to support them at home.)

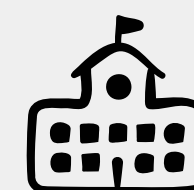
Our Friday night football games have been buzzing with school spirit this season, with performances from the pep band and routines from our dance team energizing the crowds at football games. It's wonderful to see our students sharing their talents and school spirit with the community!

In the visual arts classrooms, students are diving into the vibrant traditions of Hispanic Heritage Month through meaningful projects and creative expression. Families will have an opportunity to see selected student artwork on display at the October 28th Board of Education meeting—a special celebration of culture and creativity.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



10/10 - Pep Band & NFA Dance Team @ NFA Home Football Game
(Pink Day Walk at 5pm) Football Game Starts at 6pm

10/13 - NFA Main Music Council
Back to School Bowling Bash 10am - 12pm

10/21 - OCMEA HS Chorus Auditions
@Valley Central HS

10/23 - OCMEA HS Chorus Auditions
@Pine Bush HS

10/24 - Pep Band & NFA Dance Team @NFA Home Football Game:
Homecoming Game vs. Pine Bush 6pm

11/ 4 & 11/5 - SMS Musical Auditions

11/14 & 11/15 - *Chicago: Teen Edition*, NFA Main Auditorium
(11/14: 7pm, 11/15: 2pm & 7pm)

11/18 - OCMEA Jazz Auditions
(Warwick Valley HS)

11/20 - Fostertown 3rd Grade Musical, 6:30pm

11/20 - SMS Bits and Skits, SMS Auditorium, 6pm

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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Students designed their own sugar skulls at Temple Hill Academy in Ms. Dutcher's art classes

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE CONTINUED

Rehearsals are underway for *A Christmas Carol* and *Chicago: Teen Edition*! Our students are already bringing these productions to life, and we're excited to see their creativity and hard work shine on stage in the months ahead.

There's so much happening this month, and we're proud to celebrate the hard work, creativity, and collaboration of our students and staff across the district.

-Kristen Johnsen, Director of Fine & Performing Arts

👤 **Día de los Muertos Symbols in Student Art** 🎨

In celebration of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), students have been learning about the rich cultural traditions behind this vibrant holiday. In their artwork, you may notice colorful calaveras (skulls) and bright marigold flowers, and symbolic items like candles, food, and butterflies—each representing remembrance, love, and the joyful celebration of those who have passed. These symbols honor the holiday's message: remembering and celebrating the lives of loved ones with beauty, color, and respect.

- **Skulls (Calaveras):** Colorful skulls represent the cycle of life and death, often decorated with joy to honor and celebrate loved ones who have passed.
- **Butterflies:** Monarch butterflies are believed to carry the spirits of ancestors returning to visit during Día de los Muertos.
- **Marigolds (Cempasúchil):** Bright marigolds guide spirits to their altars with their vibrant color and strong scent.

BEGINNING MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

SUPPORTING YOUR YOUNG MUSICIAN: HELPFUL TIPS FOR FAMILIES

- **Establish a Daily Practice Routine:** Encourage your child to practice for at least 15 minutes each day. Try making practice part of your child's after-school or evening routine, just like homework.
- **Help Them Remember Their Instrument:** Place the instrument by the door the night before so it's not forgotten in the morning rush.
- **Be Patient and Encouraging:** Learning an instrument is challenging; offer consistent and positive verbal praise and understand that progress can be slow at times.
- **Provide a Dedicated Space:** Set up a comfortable, dedicated practice area free from distractions where your child can focus.
- **Encourage Performances:** Arrange informal performances for friends and family, or host a mini-recital to give your child a goal to work towards.
- **Attend Performances:** Show your support by making an effort to attend their concerts, which can provide a great sense of accomplishment for the student.

