

Newfield Central School

The Newfield Central School District was established in 1938 when various one room school houses were consolidated and their programs moved to the existing location in 1939. The current campus includes two instructional buildings totaling 223,460 square feet that house a Pre-K/Elementary School, a Middle School, and a High School. The 2010-2011 enrollment is approximately 975 students and is estimated to remain fairly stable over the next five years. The campus is situated on 46 acres on Main Street in the center of Newfield.

The buildings are well maintained and have undergone a variety of building improvements over the years. The current building project in 2010-11 will see the completion of ADA required improvements, some new doors, AC in the elementary library, and newly tiled walls in several elementary school hallways.

The earliest school in Newfield was housed in a log cabin, built around 1804 on Bank Street. This log cabin was soon replaced with a building called the "Yellow School House" situated on what is now part of the old Newfield Cemetery.

In 1812, Daniel Tompkins, Governor of New York State and namesake of our county, had passed into law a plan to provide for a complete system of public schools throughout the state. By 1822, twelve schools with a student population of 652 had been organized in the Newfield Township. School aid that year was \$150.84. By 1844, attendance swelled to 1,087 in 23 school houses. Soon these schools, generally consisting of one room with grades 1 through 8 in the same room, spread throughout the District. The school year was about three months long. The records show that teachers taught for \$.75 to \$1.50 per week and were maintained or boarded around the district by parents of the school children as part of their salary.

In 1869 the hamlet of Newfield decided to form a new consolidated District and combined the two school houses in the hamlet. A new building, located on Bank Street was constructed and eventually completed in 1871 at a cost of \$6,328.39 to accommodate two hundred children. By 1873 the Board of Education added instruction beyond grade 8, although until 1895 the students had to travel to Ithaca to take Regents Examinations. In 1898 the Newfield School District graduated its first high school class.

The pay of teachers also grew. In 1897 a teacher received \$99.00 for the eighteen week school year. However, for this amount it was expected that teachers would also supervise children on playgrounds and streets after the school day and in the evening hours.

By 1905 an addition was built on the Bank Street School, in part, to house its library of 190 books.

In 1938 the community decided to centralize all of the one room school houses into one building at the current site consisting of twelve elementary classrooms and five secondary classrooms. The building was constructed at a cost of \$220,000 shared by the federal and state governments.

In 1949 eight additional elementary classrooms were added to this building.

In 1957 came another addition with an industrial arts shop, a 200 seat cafeteria, eleven more classrooms and some remodeling of the original 1939 building.

In 1962 four additional classrooms were added. In 1967 a fourth addition was constructed with a new gym/auditorium music room, library and ten classrooms. (1)

In 1974 a separate High School was built along with a bus garage and some renovations on the original school at the cost of \$3.5 million. The class of 1976 was the first to graduate from that building.

In 1998, a middle school wing was added to the High School and significant infrastructure renovations and improvements at a cost of \$10 million took place across the campus.

Improvements to athletic fields, the bus garage and computer technology worth \$4 million occurred in 2000.

Newfield – 150 Years (1822-1972) G. Finley, F. Winch, A. Andersen, R. Andersen, A. Chaffee

Art Craft of Ithaca, 1972

Useful websites:

<http://www.newyorkschoools.com/districts/newfield-central-school-district.html> Shows Population

www.schoolmatters.com/schools.aspx/q/page=dl/did=12670 Shows Performance data

www.newfieldschools.org (shows district map, report card, facility use policy and more)

www.co.tompkins.ny.us/gis/maps/pdfs/School_Map_24_36.pdf (Shows District Map)