

Niles High School

WWW.NILESSCHOOLS.ORG

PRINCIPAL: Molly Brawley

NNT DIRECTOR: Jerry Holtgren

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: Chris Porter

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Matt Brawley

CURRICULUM

For students in grades 9-12, Niles High School is an award winning, comprehensive secondary educational institution with the charge to fully develop each individual student's potential through a wide array of academic, social, and athletic opportunities. NHS offers over 120 courses in disciplines as diverse as art, science, mathematics, language, multimedia, music, social science, communication, and career and technical education. These courses are offered in a range of levels from the state mandated Michigan Merit Curriculum to Advanced Placement classes to direct/dual enrollment postsecondary credit.

COVID-19 IMPACT STATEMENT

On March 16, 2020 Niles Community Schools converted to remote learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year as mandated by state law. Our transcript reflects changes made during this timeframe by a notation at the bottom of the transcript.

Niles Community Schools did return fully to in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years; however, we are offering the opportunity for students to stay home for online instruction through Edgenuity if they or a family member have health concerns. Courses completed on Edgenuity are denoted on our transcript by the prefix E2020 in the course title. At this time, there is no change to our grading scale or graduation requirements.

TESTING

AVERAGE SAT SCORES

2021 GRADUATES

Reading/Writing: 501

Math: 474

Composite: 980

At A Glance

Community:

Located in Berrien County, in the Southwest corner of Michigan, Niles High School serves a community of approximately 25,000 people, which includes the City of Niles and surrounding areas.

School

Characteristics:

Enrollment is approximately 850 students in grades 9-12.

Historically, over 60% of graduates pursue post-secondary education. Others are employed, completing apprenticeships, or are active in the military.

45% of our students are enrolled in the free/reduced lunch program.

We continue to monitor the health and safety of our learning environment and will follow the recommendations of the Berrien County Health Department should there be a need to convert to remote learning. Teachers and students are prepared to do this should it become a necessity. Any further changes to curriculum, grading policies, or graduation requirements will be noted on our transcripts.

Niles New Tech

Niles New Tech is a program housed within Niles High School and affiliated with the New Tech Network. Niles New Tech uses project based learning as the primary instructional model. Please review the last page of this supplement for more details on this program.

Schedule

Unless otherwise indicated, NHS uses a daily seven period schedule with the classes lasting approximately 50 minutes in length.

Grading Scale

Grades are calculated at the end of each semester. All classes that appear on the transcript are included in the calculation of our grade point average. All AP courses and core college courses are weighted one additional honor point.

Grade point average is based on the following scale:

A = 4.0	A- = 3.67	B+ = 3.33	B = 3.0	B- = 2.67
C+ = 2.33	C = 2.0	C- = 1.67	D+ = 1.33	D = 1.0
D- = 0.67				

Individual grades are figured on the following scale:

A = 93-100%	A- = 90-92%	B+ = 87-89%	B = 83-86%	B- = 80-82%	C+ = 77-79%
C = 73-76%	C- = 70-72%	D+ = 67-69%	D = 63-66%	D- = 60-62%	F = 59% or below

Athletics and Activities

We compete in the Wolverine Conference and offer 20 sports. Current course offerings are updated with the NCAA Eligibility Center. There are over 20 extracurricular clubs that students can join to further their interests in a variety of areas.

Niles High School Program Options

Early College Academy (Grades 11-12)

Students in grades 11-12 may apply for the ECA program with Lake Michigan College at the Bertrand Crossing Campus. On LMC's campus, students will take one to four courses at the college and then take the remaining classes in their high school program. This structure is for highly motivated students who are capable of working independently and meet the entrance requirements. Students who choose this option will gain college credits at the same time they gain high school credit. The college credits

are substantial and can later be used to graduate from LMC or transferred to a 4-year college or university. The district covers the cost of textbooks and provides transportation.

*Designated on transcripts as “ECA”

Dual enrollment (Grades 11-12)

Students can take college classes and receive both high school and college credit. Niles High School pays the tuition and fees for certain courses and for qualified students. Students are currently taking dual enrollment classes at Lake Michigan College, Southwestern Michigan College, and Andrews University. Core content college courses are weighted one additional honor point.

*Designated on transcripts as “LMC,” “SMC,” or “Andrews”

Advanced Placement (AP) Online/Classroom Instruction (Grades 10-12)

Advanced Placement classes are another option for accelerated work and are either taught by a Niles High School instructor in the classroom or via online instruction. All AP courses are weighted one additional honor point. In addition, enrolled students are eligible to take the AP test at the end of the school year to qualify for college credit at the college or university of their choosing. We are currently teaching seven AP courses in a classroom setting.

*Designated on transcripts at “AP”

AP Honors Program

Advanced Placement classes are highly rigorous and require more schoolwork than most classes. Summer work is also expected in some courses. AP Honor is for students who are planning to take at least 3 AP classes while at NHS. Students must have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average to apply and to receive AP Honors distinction their senior year.

Niles High School Career Technical Education (Grades 10-12)

Niles Community Schools has some of the very best career and technical courses in the county. Our courses consistently win awards and provide a “hands-on” approach to learning that provides real life learning skills. Programs we offer include: automotive technology, agriscience, graphic arts, welding, the Professional Health Careers Academy, allied health, and culinary arts. Students may also take a variety of career tech programs throughout Berrien County through the Berrien RESA consortium. Career tech programs also provide the opportunity to gain Michigan Merit Curriculum graduation requirements.

*Designated on transcripts by course name; 1 credit hour = 2 hour program; .5 credit hour = 1 hour program

Berrien RESA Math and Science Center at Andrew’s University (Grades 9-12)

This program is directed by the Berrien RESA and serves public and private school districts in a 750 square mile area. The Center is one of eight secondary specialized schools in Michigan and one of sixty such schools in the nation. The BCMSC is a member school of the National Consortium of the Secondary Specialized Schools for Mathematics, Science and Technology. Each year five to eight students are selected from Niles to attend the Center. Students apply in 8th grade and are selected based on teacher recommendations, grades, SAT scores, and writing samples. A separate transcript cover letter with specific details about their courses is available through our guidance office.

*Designated on transcripts at “Math Science Center” or “AH” for advanced honors.

Niles New Tech Entrepreneurial Academy

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History and Affiliations

Niles New Tech opened in 2011 on the Niles High School campus within the Niles Community Schools district. The name “New Tech” comes from the school’s affiliation with the New Tech Network - a consortium of schools nationwide committed to and receiving support in replicating the success of the first New Technology High School opened in Napa, California in 1996. New Tech, from the beginning, has used New Tech(niques) to educate students.

Instructional Model

All learning at Niles New Tech takes place within the context of larger projects or problems often tied to businesses and organizations within our community. Our facilitators design challenging projects tied to Common Core State Standards that suit the needs and interests of their learners. Learners then work in teams to acquire and apply knowledge to solve real-world problems, creating products and presentations for the various partners. The goal of this approach is to empower learners to be thinkers, problem-solvers, and entrepreneurs. Our approach to instruction fundamentally changes the role of teacher and student. Instead of traditional one-to-many instruction, teachers become facilitators and coaches who guide students to take charge of their own learning, invent their own solutions, and develop self-management techniques. Our learners are empowered and encouraged to design their own individual approaches to solving problems.

College Courses and Career Training

Over 30% of learners take college classes through dual enrollment agreements with Lake Michigan College and Southwestern Michigan College during their junior and senior years at Niles New Tech. These classes are offered at the LMC Napier and Bertrand Crossing campuses as well as the SMC Niles and Dowagiac campuses. Other learners choose to take AP courses, electives, or career and technical training within Niles High School.

School-wide Learning Outcomes

All Niles New Tech learners are expected to grow and excel in the following areas. Content and skill mastery are measured together as percentages of each individual course grade.

Outcome and Percentage

Agency / Reflection 13%
Critical Thinking 13%
Written Communication 12%
Presentation 12%
Content Literacy 50%

Total: 100%

Integrated Courses

At Niles New Tech, courses are integrated whenever appropriate and possible. Integrated courses are facilitated by highly qualified teachers certified to teach in their subject area. The following courses are examples of the integrations:

American Studies: U.S. History & English 9
Health Wealth: Health & Marketing

For course sequence, please visit nilesnewtech.org.

National Demonstration Site

Niles New Tech is proud to serve as a national demonstration site for the New Tech Network. Of the over 200 schools currently in the Network, Niles New Tech is one of only a handful to receive this distinction. To receive this honor, schools must develop a clear set of student outcomes with skills required to succeed in college, career, and civic life. All courses must demonstrate rigorous and relevant project-based learning to amplify deeper learning while engaging students in the classroom. Additionally, all learners must complete a minimum of three College-Readiness (writing) Assessments per semester. These assessments are scored with rubrics from Stanford's Center for Assessment. As a demonstration site, Niles New Tech also hosts tours for national, state, and local schools and districts to experience a New Tech school first hand. Learners lead tours, conduct workshops, and serve as panelists. Demonstration sites also play a key role in the training of teachers and administrators preparing to implement a New Tech school of their own.