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**Newfane Central
School District**

Press Release

Board Approves Opening High School Fitness Center/ Internet Café to the Community.

Official opening set for January 30, 2017

Newfane, New York, December 22, 2016: The Newfane Central School District announced today that they have finalized plans that will allow them to open up the High School Fitness Center for the use of the community three nights a week beginning January 30, 2017. The Fitness Center, which is used frequently during the school day by the Physical Education classes and after school by the sports teams, was updated several years ago when the Newfane District was awarded a Carol M. White Physical Education Department grant from The U. S. Department of Education. "It has long been a goal of the Board to increase the community's access to our facilities", said Board of Education president Jim Schmitt, "Allowing the community access to our Aquatic Center (attached to the elementary school) has been very popular for many years; we felt it was the right time to open up access to the high school, too." The initial plan will have the Fitness Center open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 5:00PM until 9:00PM; additional access hours or days may be added dependent upon demand. The Fitness Center includes stationary bikes, elliptical and stepper machines, treadmills, free weights and a variety of weight machines. The District is currently looking to hire a Fitness Center Supervisor to oversee the facility while it is open to the public (see District website for job posting). Newfane community members can get an "Access Pass" for a one-time \$5.00 sign-up fee at the Fitness Center.

Access to include wifi-equipped waiting area. In addition to welcoming the community to the Fitness Center, District officials also plan on making the high school's East Cafeteria, located just steps away from the Fitness Center, available as an "internet café"-style gathering area while the Fitness Center is open. According to Superintendent of Schools Michael Baumann, the District is in the process of installing wifi internet access in the East Cafeteria, and is in discussions with a couple of different vendors who are interested in selling refreshments in that space. The recently renovated cafeteria space includes a small stage area, brand new bistro-style seating and an outdoor patio area for the warmer months. "The Cafeteria will give family members a place to wait comfortably, do homework or surf the 'net while mom or dad is in the Fitness Center," Baumann said. "The Board of Education is committed to making our schools an asset to the whole community, not just the students- and this is a big step in that direction." Community members interested in using the Fitness Center or the East Cafeteria will be able to enter through the Athletics entrance at the north end of the high school building.

For Immediate Release