

DHHS Newsletter

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To receive important notices and updates, please sign up for the DHHS listserv at www.danielhand.org

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Let me begin by wishing you all a belated Happy New Year.

Prior to our holiday break we earned a wonderful recognition from *U.S. News & World Report* by being named one of the nation's top high schools with the distinction of a silver medal. *U.S. News & World Report*, in collaboration with School Evaluation Services, analyzed academic and enrollment data from more than 18,000 public high schools to find the very best across the country. America's Best High Schools recognizes three categories of distinction: gold, silver, and bronze. One hundred schools earned gold medals, 405 schools were awarded silver medals, and 1086 schools earned bronze. The silver medal recognizes high schools meeting all three criteria. Analysis is based on the following:

- Standardized test performance
- Proficiency rates of all students, including the least advantaged
- Challenging college-ready curriculum

For good reason we are very proud of our students. They come to school prepared to learn, and as you will see from reading this newsletter, they are actively involved in extracurricular activities and in making connections through the spirit of giving to our community and the global community.

Second trimester is very busy for us as we begin the course selection process for the 2008-2009 school year (see page 3). As well, the CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test) will be administered to sophomores March 4, 5, 6, (state mandated dates), and 11, 12 and 13 (district elected dates). Student performance on the CAPT is a state graduation requirement. To achieve our goal of providing students with an opportunity to be successful, we are coordinating the trimester exam schedule with the CAPT testing schedule. During exam periods, sophomores will take the CAPT. It is very important that students be in attendance and on time those days. Freshmen, juniors, and seniors are required to take exams during the regularly scheduled exam periods March 11, 12 and 13.

According to a survey conducted by the Associated Press, when young people were asked who they admired the most, their collective top pick was their parents. This was followed by a friend, grandmother, brother, and teacher/professor. As always I thank you for your support and look forward to a continuing year of many successes!

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Britton

Principal

DHHS Salutes...



The **Daniel Hand High School student body** for raising \$1525 for needy area families during the holiday. This exceeded the school goal of \$1233, or \$1 from each student.

The **Student Council** for a very successful Blood Drive in November. Thanks to the generosity of the student donors, they were able to yield 57 units. Many thanks to our parent volunteers, **Anne Galinsky, Chris Loftus, Lisa Brennan, Lisa Kitchell, Michele Scoopo, Diane Stewart, Melissa Thornburg, Susan Klug, Helen Althin, Kathy D'Agostino, and Suzanne Mueller**, who made the Blood Drive run so smoothly. Also, thanks to staff members **Jim Flanagan, Donna Konarski, Karin Thelin, Nancy Lynch, and Bob Burr and his custodial staff.**

Members of the **Student Council Homecoming Committee**, advisor, **Mr. Peter Nye**, and **faculty chaperones** for a very successful Homecoming Dance. More than eight hundred DHHS students and their guests enjoyed a great evening. The money that was raised will be used for the DHHS Student Council scholarship and donations to several charities.

Senior **Ana Rader** for being selected by the faculty for the DAR Good Citizen Award for leadership, dependability, service, and patriotism.

Seniors **Veronica Azmy, Chelsey Barrios, Kerry Brennan, Theresa Coffey, Catherine Dokurno, Derek Fish, Steven Gagliano, Robyn Kitchell, Caroline Maguire, Kyle Martin, Michael McConville, Lindsay Roseman, Jeffrey Rosen, Sheena Sangan, Laura Schiraldi, Maggie Stewart, and Georgia Thomas** for being

inducted into the National Honor Society in November.

Sophomore **Hannah Ellman** for being selected to represent DHHS at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar.

Juniors **Yujia Liu and Wil Leet** for being selected for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program.

The eight students who were selected to attend the Rotary International's UN Day at the United Nations in November: **Michael Abbondandolo '11, Chase Bastian '09, Michael Clark-Polnar '09, Matt Gregory '10, George Jenkins '09, Nikos Koller '09, Megan Lynch '11, and Brynn Tobin '09.**

Jared Concannon '09, student director of volunteers, and his **ice hockey teammates**, and **Coach Bob Faulkner**, and girls' soccer co-captains **Brittany Jackson '08 and Meg Flaherty '08, and their varsity teammates** for volunteering to assist with the Third Annual Connecticut Buddy Walk for Downs Syndrome at Hammonasset Park this fall.

Jimmy Kottage '11 for raising \$1,335 to purchase fire and carbon monoxide detectors for families in New Haven. Jimmy collected donations at several locations in Madison, as well as from all of the Madison Public Schools.

The **Cast and Crew of You Can't Take It With You** for an excellent fall production.

Senior **Everitt Newton** for collecting soccer, baseball, lacrosse, and football footwear for ages 5-18. They were sent to a non-profit organization in Nashville called "Soles for Souls" that will distribute them to needy children in the U.S. and elsewhere. Everitt encourages

anyone who has outgrown their cleats to send them to the organization (soles4souls.org).

Members of the AIDS Awareness Project who worked to raise consciousness among students and faculty of the toll taken on the world's population by HIV/AIDS. Students involved included: **Lindsay Roseman '08, Rianna DiBartolo-Cordovano '08, Dan Kilburn '09, Avery Hopkins '09, Alison Krasnor '09, Mary Stom '09, Liz English '09, Becca Luther '10, Emily Gao '09, Sam Hodgson '11, Maggie Ovia '11, Anna Wolek '08, Chelsey Healey '10, Marina Sachs '11, Jack Butler '09, and Alexa Fiszer '09.** Other students involved included: **Veronica Azmy '11, Carli Reichelt '09, Natalie Mancuso '10, Meghan Higgins '09, Mike Cianfaglione '09, Chelsey Detels '09, Jen Dunham '10, Jackie Yousef '08, Emily Chen '09, Matt Antonucci '09, and Ruiqi Li '09.** The group raised \$480.00 through a bake sale and school donations which will be given equally to three AIDS organizations.

F.A.C.S. (Family and Consumer Sciences Club) for sending holiday greetings to Iraq. They baked cookies and brownies and designed holiday cards with warm wishes for our service men and women. Two boxes were sent to Lieutenant Colonel Chris Coppola, a doctor currently serving in Iraq. He was very appreciative of the treats and distributed them to staff and patients.

The **junior girls and the senior girls** who competed in a Powder Puff Football game in November. Admission to the event was a donation to the New Haven Diaper Bank. Over \$500 was raised and a good time was had by all who attended. Thanks to the **Student Council, the Women's Club of Madison, and the Department of Athletics** for sponsoring this event.

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DHHS Salutes . . .

Continued from page 2

Sam Dickinson '10, Matthew Gregory '10, Alex McKissick '10, Ryan Thomas '09, Agneeta Thacker '11 for being selected to sing at the Southern Regional Festival.

Nick Bosch '08, Tess Coffey '08, Will Dickinson '08, Jackie Kos '11, Cindy Luo '08, Matt Nichols '10, Lucy Peng '11, Matt Rolfe '09, Jackie Strawbridge '08, Kathleen Wu '11 for being selected to the Southern Regional Orchestra.

Nick Bosch '08, Jon-Paul Chaffiotte '10, Katie Chapman '08, Emily Chen '09, Tess Coffey '08, Will Dickinson '08, David Dorfman '10, Nicholas Iverson '09, Oliver Lovejoy '10, James Muller '09, Emma Price '10, Adam Strawbridge '10, Jackie Strawbridge '08, CJ Tomasevich '11, Katie Trainer '08, Allison Wustrow '10 for their selection to the Southern Regional Band.

Reminders for the New Year

- √ Students wishing to **ride a bus other than the one they would normally ride**, must have a parent call Durham Bus Services at 318-0777 to make arrangements for the change.
- √ Students requesting an **early dismissal from school** must bring a note from home stating the reason for leaving school early. Notes should be presented to the attendance secretary upon arrival at school. At that time the student will be issued an early dismissal slip, which must be signed by teachers and returned to the attendance secretary before leaving school. *Parents are asked to call the attendance secretary in the morning of the dismissal to confirm the note.* Parents are also urged to request an early dismissal only in cases of pressing family business. *Seniors only* have the privilege of leaving school early after their last class of the day. **Trimester early dismissal forms for seniors** are available in the Main Office and must be signed by a parent and approved by a school administrator each trimester.
- √ First period **classes begin at 7:25 a.m.** followed by period 2 attendance at 8:34 a.m. Juniors and Seniors, who do not have scheduled first time block classes and who have their own transportation, must be in school by 8:15 a.m. Please help us by being certain that students are on time.
- √ Parents of **students who are absent** are required to call the school at 245-6355 between 7:00 and 10:00 a.m. each day the student is absent. This procedure also applies to students who will be tardy to school or who require an early dismissal.
- √ Students who are **tardy to school** must arrive at school prior to 9:00 a.m. All excused tardies must be for a valid reason and must be verified by a parent. Oversleeping is not considered a valid reason for tardiness. To be eligible to participate in an athletic or other after school activity, a student must be present for a minimum of four hours.

Course Selection

Course Selection for the 2008-09 school year is beginning. Pay careful attention to the deadlines and policies explained below to assure the best possible schedules and to enable the school administration to provide the courses that will best meet the needs of each student.

- When your student receives the *Program of Studies*, carefully review it, paying special attention to the course descriptions, credit requirements, and prerequisites.
- Discuss next year's course with this year's teacher so that proper placement decisions are made.
- Make the guidance counselor aware of special circumstances.
- Understand that the decisions about what is scheduled each year are based on the student course requests. Therefore, after the scheduling process is completed in June, changes in schedules, except in highly extenuating circumstances, cannot be made.



Key Dates and Deadlines for Course Selection

January 24 and 25

Students meet with counselors in English classes

January 28

Course selection sheets distributed in homeroom

February 8

Course selection sheets due to Guidance

Mark Your Calendar

January

17	Second Trimester Back to School Night, DAH	6:45 p.m.
21	Martin Luther King Day - No School	
22	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
23	Meeting for Incoming Ninth Graders (Snow date 1/28/08)	7:00 p.m.
24	Second Trimester Progress Reports	
24	College and Career Night, DAH (Snow date 1/31/08)	7:00 p.m.
26	SAT Testing	
28	Course Selection Sheets to Students	
29	Honors Breakfast (<i>Students Only</i>), DAH	Period 2

February

4-5	Classroom Teachers Discuss Courses in Classes	
5	APTS, Guidance Career Center	8:00 a.m.
5	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
8	Course Selection Blanks Due to Guidance	
13	Symphonic Band Concert, DAH	7:30 p.m.
18-22	Winter Break	
25-29	Spring Sports Registration, Health Office	8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

March

1	SAT Testing	
3-7	Spring Sports Registration, Health Office	8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
4	APTS, Guidance Career Center	8:00 a.m.
4	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
4-6	CAPT Testing	
5	APTS, Family Education Evening	6:00-9:00 p.m.
11-13	Second Trimester Exams	
11-13	CAPT Testing	
14	Last Day of Second Trimester	
17	Third Trimester begins	
18	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
21	Good Friday - No School	



Traffic Tips

In the interest of safe and timely arrivals and dismissals, we offer the following "traffic advisories":

- **Pick up and drop off students in the rear of the West Building (gymnasium)**
- **Plan to arrive before 7:10 a.m.**
- **Plan to pick up after 2:10 p.m.**

Please drive slowly at all times while entering and leaving the Polson/DHHS campus and stay alert for the many pedestrians and cyclists.

Public School Choices

Over the last fourteen years the State of Connecticut has expanded the range of public schools available to students and parents. In addition to our local high school, there are other options available, such as charter schools, magnet schools, vocational agriculture centers, vocational technical high schools, and public schools in nearby districts through the public schools of choice program. Informational booklets are available in our Guidance Office for students and parents interested in learning more about these options or visit www.nhps.net/IDM.

DHHS Mission Statement

Our primary purpose is to graduate successful life-long learners who are responsible citizens in the global community. Daniel Hand High School students, in collaboration with educators, parents, and the Madison community, will develop as motivated, self-reliant, creative, and ethical individuals who respect differences in others.

SAT Review

A review course will be offered at Daniel Hand High School to prepare students for the College Board Scholastic Assessment Test on March 1. The class will meet for ten sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:15 to 3:15 beginning Tuesday, January 22, and ending Thursday, February 28. The fee for the course is \$100. Interested students may sign up in Room 221. Class size is limited to 30 students.

Athletic Corner - Fall Sports Records

Boys' Cross Country: Hammonasset Division Winners
 SCC – 3rd Place
 Class MM – State Champions
 All-Conference **David Birdsall**
David Cotton

All Hammonasset **David Birdsall**
David Cotton
Dan Nestor
Sean Nestor
Ryan Sawicki

Girls' Cross Country: Class MM – 4th Place
 All Hammonasset **Ellen Schneider**
M. Katie Baumgartel

Swimming: SCC – 4th Place
 Class M – 4th Place
 State Open – 10th Place
 All-State and All-SCC selections: **Katherine Loftus**
Elizabeth Cohan
Lexi Bascom
Mallory Pultz

CIAC Scholar-Athlete: **Elizabeth Cohan**

Field Hockey: SCC – Co-Champions
 Advanced to Semi-finals in State Championship

All Conference Selections: **Andrea Bringardner**
 1st team **Lindsay Dolan**
Shannon Callinan
Brit Parker

2nd Team **Kendall Eisele**
Kellie Morrissey

Girls' Soccer: Undefeated in the regular season
 Seeded number one in the SCC

All-Hammonasset Selections: **Brittany Jackson**
Meg Flaherty
Kerry Wallack
Ellie Brink
Taya Richardson

Boys' Soccer: Qualified for State Tournament and advanced to second round

All-Hammonasset: **Josh Gregory**
Adam Kirilichin
Kevin Shirley

Girls' Volleyball: Hammonasset Division Winners
 Advanced to second round in State Championship

All State selections: **Whitney Hall**
 All Hammonasset: **Whitney Hall**
Laura Birnbaum
Jackie Yousef

Football: Division I East Champions
 Currently undefeated
 Seeded number one in Class MM Playoffs

Division I – Offense **Joe Robichaud**
Brandon Ruberti
Dylan Taylor

Division I – Defense **Rich Leighton**

Miscellaneous:

Wendy's High School Heisman Trophy 2007 Finalists:
David Birdsall
Laura Birnbaum



Spring Sports Registration

Registration for Spring Sports at Daniel Hand High School will take place from **February 25-29, 2008** and **March 3-7, 2008 from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Health Office** at Daniel Hand High School. Any student wishing to participate in spring sports must have all completed paperwork filed with the School Nurse.

The following paperwork is required at the time of registration:

- Current annual physical
- Seasonal Sports Participation and Consent Form
- Athletic Emergency Information Sheet
- Code of Conduct
- Parental Waiver/Release of Information
- Payment, in the amount of \$75.00, cash or check made payable to DHHS.

Forms may be downloaded from the Daniel Hand High School website, www.danielhand.org, or can be picked up from the Nurse's Office or the Athletics Office at DHHS.

Senior Reminders



- Class dues of \$60 are due on or before **February 1**.
- Measurement for caps and gowns will be **February 12**.
- Senior Prom will take place **May 24** at the Aqua Turf.
- Senior Outing is scheduled for **May 30** at Holiday Hill

APTS Awards

Art

Freshman	Malin Althin
Sophomore	Flynn Donovan
Junior	Hannah Lehman
Senior	Jeff McKinnon

Career and Technical Education

Business	Matt Sieminski '08
Family Consumer Education	Leandra Jelinek '08
Technical Education	Tim Manko '08

English

Freshman	Dave Copel
Sophomore	Kyle Pember
Junior	Cassie Talmadge-Joyce
Senior	Jamie Mauro

Health

Sophomore	Adam Strawbridge
Junior	Ryan DeCosta
Senior	Sally Cunningham

Math

Freshman	Katherine Leclerc
Sophomore	Matt Kostich
Junior	Ryan Dolan
Senior	Laura Nuss

Music

Chorus	Sarah Cantey '08
Orchestra	Ariel Gienza '08
Band	Steve Gagliano '08

Physical Education

Freshman	James Florentine
Sophomore	Katie Candee
Junior	Yujia Liu

Science

Freshman	Sweata Patel
Sophomore	Carly McAndrews
Junior	Alison Lamothe
Senior	Joe Sarro

Social Studies

Freshman	Christine McIntosh
Sophomore	Mary-Kate Bisailon
Junior	Bill McLaughlin
Senior	Kim Penna

World Language

Freshman	Matt Sawicki
Sophomore	Ben Greene
Junior	Brenna Peters
Senior	Nick Bosch

Host Families Needed Change

The Student and Travel Exchange Program (STEP) - June 26-July 24, 2008 is looking for families to host high school students from Spain for four weeks this summer, one student per family. Being able to speak Spanish is not a requirement. Over one hundred Madison families have hosted students from Spain in the past eleven years. The students will attend advanced English classes held in Guilford four mornings a week. In the afternoons they will participate in a variety of fun and interesting experiences that range from tours of Yale, the Capitol in Hartford, the Mark Twain House, the Pequot Museum, trips to the beach, bowling, and an amusement park adventure. On the fifth weekday the students go on all-day excursions to New York City, Boston, and Newport. Host family members are invited to go along on the excursions as they are able. Families need to provide their student with a bed (shared bedroom is fine), a bag lunch on excursion trips, and an American family experience. The students have their own spending money and medical insurance. If you would like to host a student or want more information, call Mrs. Nann Cooke, at 245-6381 or 860 664-9867.

From the LMC

In March 2006, at the request of the Board of Education, Mrs. Cindi Schneider, Library Media Specialist, presented a **Collection Development Plan**. This plan showed that the book collections in the district's library media centers were, overall, much smaller and older than they should be according to state and national standards. After studying the information about library collections in schools in Connecticut and nationwide, and after reviewing the facts and figures about our collections, the Board of Education decided to make addressing this problem a priority. They included having high quality print resources in the schools' libraries as part of their strategic plan for the next five years (2007- 2012). Next, the Board of Education, Central Office, and the schools' administrations supported this plan with increased funding for print media budget accounts. Additional financial support has been granted via a Special Appropriation from ECS (Educational Cost Sharing Grant) approved by the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and voters at a Town Meeting. The library media specialists are using these funds to make the collections more current. As a result, the DHHS LMC has many new books for your students to use for their assignments and research. Please encourage them to use these resources!

Night In Hand

ALL PARENTS

MARK FEBRUARY 4, 2008 ON YOUR CALENDARS!

Night In Hand, the parent run organization which provides a substance-free evening for DHHS graduates on graduation night is looking for volunteers!

The following areas are in need of helpful parents to volunteer their talents:

Security: In charge of coordination of parents graduation evening to watch the entrances and exits of the building.

School Liaison: Works with the school community to make sure guidelines are being met and information is disseminated through the proper channels.

Publicity: It is very important that we have a parent who can "get the news out" on what is happening with Night In Hand. This person would coordinate with the local newspapers and businesses spreading the NIH news.

Please call Suzanne Burkinshaw at 245-3258 or email her at suzanne.burkinshaw@snet.net if you are interested in chairing one of these committees.

Night In Hand, which is enjoyed by about 98% of the Senior class, needs as many volunteers as possible to make this event successful. Even if you can only lend a little bit of your talents, please come to the open meeting on February 4, 2008 at 7:15 p.m. in the DHHS Library Media Center. You do not have to be a Senior parent to be involved. This is a great way to get involved in an event that will impact your child in a very memorable, fun, positive manner!

Newsy Notes

Mr. Hank Baum from the Guilford Savings Bank is working in conjunction with Junior Achievement to offer an eight week **session on Banks in Action** in Mr. Schultz's Accounting class this month. Students are being exposed to various banking concepts and careers in banking.

Several **creative writing enrichment opportunities** exist at DHHS for those students interested. Opportunities include Phoenix (literary magazine), Writers, Inc. (creative writing club, and the Hand Print (school newspaper).

Nurse's Notes



The flu season is upon us. Please remember that hand washing is one of the most important means of preventing the spread of infection. For more information, please check the website for the Centers for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov/flu.

As mandated by the State of Connecticut, the Health Office staff conducted *vision screening* for ninth grade students, and *hearing screening* for tenth grade students. Parents of ninth grade students will be notified regarding *scoliosis screening*.

Connecticut State law requires each student in grade 10 to have a physical examination by a physician, APRN, DO, or PA. Hemoglobin or Hematocrit is required. **Tenth grade physical examinations are due before entry to the eleventh grade.** Forms are available in the DHHS Health Office and your provider's office. If you have any questions, please call the Health Office at 245-6370 and speak to Mrs. Donna Konarski, RN or Ms. Karin Thelin, Health Paraprofessional.