

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:

I am very pleased to announce that, for the second year in a row, *U.S. News & World Report* has awarded Daniel Hand High School a Silver Medal, distinguishing us as one of the nation's top high schools. This recognition is based on the following:

- Standardized test performance
- Proficiency rates of all students
- Challenging college-ready curriculum

For this honor and for many other reasons, we are very proud of the accomplishments of our students and grateful for your continuing support.

March supposedly comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. We concur as the beginning of March brings with it seasonal tests: trimester exams and CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test). CAPT is a required assessment for all grade ten students in the state of Connecticut. Unlike traditional standardized tests, it measures what students can do with what they know in authentic situations. It is a test of application of knowledge. By law, our Board of Education is required to have the CAPT as a graduation requirement. This test will be administered to sophomores on March 3, 4, 5 (state mandated dates), and 12, 13, 16, and 17 (district elected dates). 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. We strongly recommend a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast! Freshmen, juniors, and seniors are required to take trimester exams during the regularly scheduled exam periods March 12, 13, and 16.

As I mentioned earlier, we have much to be proud of here at Daniel Hand. Given the numbers of students involved in after school activities, it is difficult from an observer's point of view to tell when our day actually ends! I encourage you to enjoy the following pages highlighting student accomplishments, activities, and upcoming events.

My best regards,

Barbara J. Britton

Principal

DHHS Salutes...



Seniors **Christopher Chen, Ruiqi Li, Luke Taylor** and **Ryan Thomas** for being named Finalists in the 2009 Competition for National Merit Scholarships.

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 raised will be used for the DHHS Student Council scholarship and donations to several charities.

The **Sophomore Class** and advisors **Mr. Martin Glasser** and **Mr. Paul Coppola** and the **Student Council** and their advisor **Mr. Peter Nye** for organizing the Winter Wonderland Dance. They raised over \$5,000 for the New Haven food bank.

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

Senior **Maliha Tariq** and Junior **Francesca Panullo** for being selected for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program.

The **Cast and Crew of *Father Knows Best*** and their advisor **Joy Weaver** for an excellent fall production.

Seniors **Mike Callaghan** and **Shannon Noonan** for their selection as CAS-CIAC Scholar Athletes of the Year. This award goes to a graduating male and female senior who possess a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, who have participated in a CIAC sanctioned sport for at least two years, and who have exhibited outstanding school and community citizenship.

The students and faculty members who formed a team called the “**Salty Scoundrels**” who participated in the **Penguin Plunge** at Hammonasset on January 31 in frigid temperatures. The team raised over \$7,700 for the Special Olympics.

The following students for their selection to the Southern Regional Music Festival. Chorus: **Matt Gregory** ‘10, **Alex McKissick** ‘10, **Ryan Thomas** ‘09, **Sam Dickinson** ‘10, **Nicole Poulter** ‘09, and **Louise Daraskevich** ‘09; Orchestra: **Matt Rolfe** ‘09, **Matt Nichols** ‘10, **Lucy Peng** ‘11, **Kathleen Wu** ‘11, and **Nancy Wu** ‘12; and Band: **Eddie Barry** ‘12, **Jon-Paul Chaffiotte** ‘10, **David Dorfman** ‘10, **Keenan Hye** ‘11, **Nick Iverson** ‘09, **Matt Kostich** ‘10, **Tony Li-Geng** ‘12, **Oliver Lovejoy** ‘10, **James Muller** ‘09, **Luke Parker** ‘10, **Claire Price** ‘10, **Emma Price** ‘10, **Mark Sorensen** ‘12, **Adam Strawbridge** ‘10, **CJ Tomasevich** ‘11, and **Lia Tosiello** ‘11.

The **DHHS Show Choir** for placing second overall in the Central Massachusetts Festival out of 20 groups participating. Junior **Alex McKissick** won Best Male Soloist and the Male Ensemble received the award for the Best Male Ensemble.

The **DHHS Honors Pre-Calculus and Calculus AB and BC classes** for scoring 85 points this year (2008-2009). This places DHHS in a tie for second place in the State of Connecticut and tenth in New England in the New England Math League.

The **Hand Digital Photo classes** that submitted photos to a national competition called “Tech & Learning’s Portraits of Learning Contest” sponsored by Adobe and the DHHS Art Department. We are proud to announce that out of 6,000 entries from middle/high schools across the country one of our students, sopho-

more **Josh Hettrick**, had his photo chosen for a second place award from Adobe! We are excited for Josh and we will be displaying his photo in the front hall display case with a write up. You can check out the winning photos in the digital edition of the magazine at http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/newbay/tl_200812/. Winning photos begin on page 34.

Student Council’s hat day fundraiser that raised \$200 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

The **Environmental Club** which was runner-up in the *Live Green Win Green Grant Competition* sponsored by Connecticut Light and Power. They won \$5000 for high-tech hand dryers for the school.

Sophomore **Abigail Plummer** for becoming a semi-finalist in the Rotary Speech Contest at Fairfield University. The subject of her speech focused on the ethics of shipping environmentally poisonous waste from the U.S. to third world countries in light of the Rotary Four-Way Test of ethical responsibility.

Sophomore **Natalie Weaver** who has won the T-Shirt Design Contest for State Latin Day 2009. Her drawing of the theme, “Ars Gratia Artis” will be worn by over 1000 Latin students in May.

Newsy Notes

Members of the **Spanish Club** who put on their high heel shoes and got private salsa lessons in the gym on Jan. 29th. Sra. Clark invited Alisa from Alisa’s House of Salsa to teach the Spanish Club, as well as other Spanish students, the art of salsa dancing. This was her second visit to Daniel Hand and the students had a wonderful time learning the fancy footwork. Come check out the Spanish Club and see what other fun activities they have planned.

Opportunity Knocks

Production has begun on the spring musical, *The Wiz*. This wonderful Broadway production has been adapted for our stage by director and choreographer, **Mrs. Joy Weaver**. Over 100 students will participate in bringing this story to the Daniel Hand High School stage. Come out for an evening of song, dance, and entertainment on April 2, 3, or 4. Performances start at 7:30 p.m.

The staff of the **literary magazine Phoenix** is soliciting poems, essays, and stories as well as line art, sketches, photos, and other art work for the 2009 edition. Headed by seniors **Hannah Honorof** and **Emily Gao**, the magazine group meets on Wednesdays in room 346, and is always looking for new ideas, new staff members, and contributions from DHHS students. Their mantra, "Be published! Be famous!" is often heard in period 2 announcements, but if your reluctant artists or shy poets need a nudge, send them and their work to room 346 on Wednesdays!

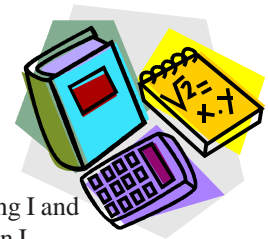
Help benefit the **Art from the Heart Dream Room Makeover** by attending a Candlelight Tea Tasting. Daniel Hand Students in the **FACS Club** and Morgan High Students will be working together to transform a bedroom for a local child undergoing treatment for cancer. Please join us in this worthwhile cause on Thursday, March 5, 2009 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Savvy Tea located at 28 Durham Road, Madison, CT. For details or tickets contact Anita Ferron at ferrona@madison.k12.ct.us.

Reminders for the New Year

- √ 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.

CAPT Schedule

March 3	Interdisciplinary Writing I and Reading for Information I
March 4	Response to Literature
March 5	Interdisciplinary Writing II
March 12 (exam day)	Math I and Editing
March 13 (exam day)	Math II
March 16 (exam day)	Science I and Science II
March 17	Reading for Information II



APTS Awards

Art

Freshman **Luke Stroehlein**
 Sophomore **Caroline Eisele**
 Junior **Ben Greene**
 Senior **Liz Hambor**

Career and Technical Education

Business **Shreya Patel** (gr. 11)
 Family Consumer Education
Alyssa Duffy (gr. 12)
 Technical Education
Chris Brockett (gr. 11)

English

Freshman **Mitch Brown**
 Sophomore **Maura Molish**
 Junior **Kristian Patrick**
 Senior **Brittany Johnson**

Health

Sophomore **Leah Friedman**
 Junior **Sean Langrieger**
 Senior **Taya Richardson**

Math

Freshman **Samantha Schaaf**
 Sophomore **Andrew Lucibello**
 Junior **Francesca Panullo**
 Senior **Jack Shirley**

Music

Chorus **Leigh Miller** (gr. 12)
 Orchestra **Lexi Scaros** (gr. 11)
 Band **Tony Li-Geng** (gr. 9)

Physical Education

Freshman **Jake Esposito**
 Sophomore **Joseph Hurley**
 Junior **Joseph Clarke**

Science

Freshman **Whitney Penn**
 Sophomore **Matt Wivell**
 Junior **Kate Minucci**
 Senior **Jordan Kinscherf**

Social Studies

Freshman **Eric Williams**
 Sophomore **Gina White**
 Junior **Griffin Mayhew**
 Senior **Pat Twomey**

World Language

Freshman **Tess Morrissey**
 Sophomore **Sarah Dicioccio**
 Junior **Brett Calash**
 Senior **Alyssa Duffy**

Students from **Mr. Russo's Human Biology class** and **Ms. Browne's Anatomy and Physiology class** were invited to go to NYC on December 16th for a field trip to see the **Bodies Exhibition**. Sixty DHHS students visited the Bodies exhibit, which shows the inner workings of the human body, and allowed students an up-close view of the body systems studied in class. The exhibit is setup so that students travel through different exhibit rooms which display various body systems like the skeletal system, circulatory system, reproductive system, and more in very creative ways. Students and teachers alike enjoyed seeing the real human bodies and learning about the various health issues from the exhibition.

As we begin the third trimester, all students who are enrolled in a **Physical Education class** must be prepared in March and April to go outside and run or walk the mile. All students should have appropriate clothing which must include dressing in layers for cold weather and wearing a sweat shirt and pants, gloves, hats, and scarves.

More Newsy Notes

The **Humanities class** and the **AP English classes** will be touring the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC the end of February as part of their studies of literature, art, history, and music.

This winter, students in Mrs. Corvino, Mrs. Earles, Mrs. Marchese, and Mrs. Sullivan's classes have been taking part in the statewide **Poetry Out Loud** recitation contest. In its second year at DHHS, this year's competition included over 300 students and culminated in a February assembly for those classes at

which the top ten declaimers competed. Our school winner will represent DHHS in the statewide competition in Hartford on the evening of March 11. Last year, our school winner, **Matt Gregory** ('10) was one of the top five finalists in the state. This year we hope to be as successful!

Mrs. Valentin's **Accounting and Personal Finance** students along with **Economics** students will be visiting the Federal Reserve Bank on February 24.



Spring Sports Registration

Registration for Spring Sports at Daniel Hand High School will be held **February 24-27, 2009 from 9:30 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.

Academic Eligibility

The academic success of our students is our primary purpose. Extra curricular activities, although secondary, are a very important part of our overall educational program. It is expected that all students will maintain passing grades and they and their parents will be kept current on academic progress.

At the interim point in a trimester, if a student is receiving grades in the D and F range, his/her guidance counselor will contact the student and his/her parents in regards to a process for academic remediation/support.

At the interim point in a trimester the Athletic Director will be notified of student-athletes whose grades, being in the D and F range, may lead to athletic ineligibility. The athletic director and coach will contact the student in an effort of support and encourage the student in making strides to improve their academic standing.

Prior to report card distribution, student-athletes grades will be reviewed by guidance and the athletic director. Those students who are deemed academically ineligible will be notified in a meeting with their parents, the director of guidance and the athletic director. A proposal will be developed to put in place supports for academic improvement, and the athletic director will work with the student in developing a plan whereby they can still feel connected to the athletic community.

Senior Reminders

- **Measurement for caps and gowns** took place February 11. Any senior who has not been measured, should see Mrs. Marino in the Main Office.
- **Class dues** should be paid as soon as possible in the Main Office.
- Senior Outing is scheduled for **May 21** at Holiday Hill
- Senior Prom will take place **June 6** at the Aqua Turf.

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** which will be conducted before the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

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.

Mark Your Calendar

February

- 16-20 **Winter Break - NO SCHOOL**
- 23 Professional Development - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- 24-27 Spring Sports Registration, Health Office 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 27 Showboat, DAH 7:30 p.m.

March

- 3 APTS, Guidance Career Center 8:00 a.m.
- 3 Board of Education, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.
- 3-5 **CAPT Testing**
- 12-16 **Second Trimester Exams**
- 12-17 **CAPT Testing**
- 14 SAT Testing
- 17 Board of Education, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.
- 17 **Last Day of Second Trimester**
- 18 **Third Trimester begins**
- 19-22 Band Trip to Disney
- 27-28 CDA Festival, Ridgefield High School
- 31 Blood Drive 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

April

- 2-4 Spring Musical, *The Wiz* 7:30 p.m.
- 7 APTS, Guidance Career Center 8:00 a.m.
- 8 Honors Breakfast, Students only 9:15 a.m.
- 10 **Good Friday - NO SCHOOL**
- 13-17 **April Break**



Traffic Tips

- 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.

From the LMC

Please welcome **George Petrakopoulos** (Mr. P, as the students call him) as the long-term substitute Library Media Specialist at DHHS! He just completed his student teaching as a LMS, and his former job involved research, so he is well-prepared for this position. He has met many of the students already, and he is very knowledgeable about the on-line and print resources of The Library Media Center. He will be working on the summer reading list, so be sure to let him know your suggestions. (petrakopoulosg@madison.k12.ct.us)

A plea for help! Many parents greatly assist the school system by volunteering in the classrooms and libraries. THANK YOU! We still need your assistance at the high school level, just as much as at the elementary level. The DHHS library is lucky to have a few dedicated souls who help us for a couple of hours a week, a little more if we're desperate. Afterward, they go out for lunch and make an event of it. Perhaps you and a friend would like to do the same. **We would love to have your help.** Please contact the Library Media Center at 245-6376 or email Mr. P.

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.

Athletic Corner - Fall Sports Records

Boys' Cross Country: *SCC - 4th Place*
 Class MM – State Champions

All-Conference **Dan Nestor**
 Sean Nestor

All Hammonasset **Dan Nestor**
 Sean Nestor
 John Muller
 Will Bratches

Girls' Cross Country: *SCC – 4th Place*

All Conference **Sarah Cotton**

All Hammonasset **Sarah Cotton**

Swimming:

CIAC Scholar Athlete **Shannon Noonan**

Field Hockey: *SCC – Runners' Up*
 Team Record: 11-1-2-2

All Conference Selections:
 1st team **Sally Adua**
 Emily Jablonski
 Brit Parker

2nd Team **Taylor Gardner**
 Jessica Hopper

Girls' Soccer: *SCC Hammonasset Div.*
 Champions
 SCC Champions
 Team Record 11-3-2

All-Hammonasset
 Selections: **Taya Richardson**
 Kerry Wallack
 Ellie Brink
 Courtney Reilly

Boys' Soccer: *Team record: 10-6-0*

All-Hammonasset: **Jack Shirley**
 Dan Shirley
 Kevin Shirley
 Ryan Dolan

Girls' Volleyball: *Team record: 12-6*

All Hammonasset: **Whitney Hall (All State)**
 Brielle Sydor

Football: *Team record: 7-4-0*

Division I – Offense **Jack Callaghan (All State)**
 Dylan Taylor
 Mike Davis (All State)

Division I – Defense **Kevin Martin**

Miscellaneous:

Wendy's High School Heisman Trophy 2007 Finalists:
 Neiha Kidwai
 Miller Sakmar

