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# DHHS Newsletter

Fall 2005

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## Principal's Letter

Dear Parents,

We have begun our school year with an exciting myriad of activities. Over 467 students are participating in the fall athletic program, 65 students makeup the cast and crew of the November production of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*; and students are preparing for SATs/PSATs and the college selection process. In addition the Student Leadership Team, whose membership is made up of elected members of the class councils and student council, held its first meeting of the year. The group reported many planned class activities and initiated suggestions for a spirit week and numerous fund raising opportunities to support a variety of charities.

We are very proud of the class of 2005's performance on CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test). Students scored in the top ten in the state in all four areas. In Educational Reference Group B (ERG B) students scored first in reading and writing, second in math, and third in science. Specific details are included on page 5. Students will be receiving their individual scores over the next couple of weeks.

One of my personal initiatives is to make myself available to you on a more frequent basis. I would like to offer you the opportunity, on the first and third Tuesday of each month between 2:30 and 5:00 p.m. to stop by for casual conversation about policies, theories, and practices in education, educational programs, social emotional issues, or anything else that might be on your mind. Appointments are not necessary; however, I recommend that you call ahead to insure that I am not delayed by unforeseen school business. This is not to suggest in any way that I will not be available, if the need arises, for an individual conference related specifically to your child. In these cases, call for a phone or in-person conference.

Every year we look forward to celebrating the growth and accomplishments of our students. They continue to amaze us with their talents, leadership, and compassion in the areas of athletics, fine arts, and community service. There is a direct correlation between student achievement/success and parental involvement. We cannot thank you enough for the support that you give our community in the education of your children.

We look forward with enthusiasm to another successful school year.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Britton  
Principal

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## DHHS Salutes . . .

Senior **Emily Barrios** for being named a Semi Finalist and Seniors **Matthew Altonji, Samuel Belanger, Devan Boyle, Wil Howell, John-Michael Parker, Li Tian, Elizabeth Trainer, and Drake Turner** for being named Commended Scholars by the National Merit Scholarship Program. These distinctions are earned by the students' performance on last year's PSAT.

Seniors **Ashley Flanders, Niko Kumar, David Boyd, Amy Siedlecki, and Jacqueline Murphy** for representing the Madison Public Schools as workshop panelists at the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities 2005 Convention and Expo this month.

**Summer Pacelli, '07** for developing an idea on how DHHS athletes could make a donation to the Red Cross to help people in the Gulf put their lives back together following Hurricane Katrina. Summer, a member of the DHHS swim team, devised a plan with Athletic Director, Craig Semple, whereby student-athletes would participate in a day of "Practice for People." On Friday, September 16, coaches and student-athletes participated by making a contribution of \$5.00 (or whatever they could) to the Red Cross in exchange for practicing that day. Summer's "Practice for People" was a huge success, resulting in a \$554.00 donation to the Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. As Summer said, "Since athletes practice to get better at their sport, why not practice to better someone else's life—and your own too!"

The **Freshman Football players** for collecting non-perishable items to stuff a bus for the Hurricane Katrina and Rita victims. And the **Varsity, JV, and Freshman Football players** for their involvement in several community service projects such as the Madison Mile Relay, Reading for Character at Jeffrey School, and walk-a-thons for several charities.

Seniors **Ashley Flanders** and **Ben Goldman** for being selected to receive the Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents' Student Recognition Award for leadership service to DHHS, academic prowess, and service to others in the community. The award will be presented by the Middlesex Shoreline Superintendents' Association in November.

**That Tiger Marching Band** for their excellent performance at West Point last month for the West Point/U. Conn football game.

## Newsy Notes

The safety and well being of our students is one of our primary concerns. In a safe environment students will academically and socially thrive. This year we are pleased to announce the addition of our new security team made up of **Bob Faulkner, Jessica Littell, and Michael Rollinson**. Their responsibilities include being accessible to students at all times. They are visible in the halls, dining and assembly hall, and parking lot(s) throughout the day. They serve as an additional resource for our students to use for any matters relating to their safety and well being at Daniel Hand. In addition to our school day, you will see Mike, Jessica, and Bob at various extracurricular events. Our security team is committed to our proactive approach of making student life a positive and rewarding experience for our entire student body.

## Nurse's Notes

As the *flu season* approaches, encourage your children, as always, to fuel their system in the morning with a good healthy breakfast, get plenty of rest, and wash their hands frequently. Washing hands is one of the important means of preventing the spread of infection.

As mandated by the State of Connecticut, the Health Office staff will continue conducting *vision screening* for ninth grade students, and *hearing screening* for tenth grade students during December. 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 (State of CT, blue, HAR-3 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 Mrs. Barbara Minges, Health Secretary at 245-6370.

## Athletic Info

All Sports Passes for the 2005-06 school year are still available. Passes are for all athletic events held at DHHS. A family pass, which covers the parents/guardians and their DHHS family members, costs \$75. Adult passes are \$50 and student or senior citizen passes are \$25. Please contact the Athletic Office at 245-6366 for more details.

## Who's New?

We welcome a number of new members to the DHHS staff this year:

Phyllis Annunziata	Guidance Counselor
Jean Baker	Guidance Coordinator
Brian Beard	Tech Ed Teacher
Pam Benn	Social Studies Teacher
Taralyn Bulyk	Orchestra Teacher
Denise Earles	English Teacher
Laura Flores	Spanish Teacher
John Hansen	Spanish Teacher
Cristin Keyes	English Teacher
Jessica Littell	Security Specialist
Mary Markowski	Science Teacher
Timothy Paisey	Psychologist
Michael Rollinson	Security Specialist
Sheri Valentin	Business Teacher
Diane Walsh	Math Teacher
Travis Winkley	Special Ed Teacher
Jim Wygonik	Eng/SocStudies Teacher/ITS
Daniel Zittoun	Assistant Principal

## Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences will take place on Thursday, October 27. Ten minute time blocks are available from 12:45 to 3:00 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Parents may schedule the appointments *in person* at DHHS from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 24, in the Senior Commons. Appointments can be made *by phone* on Tuesday, October 25. Call 245-6352 to schedule an appointment. Teacher conferences may be made at any mutually convenient time by contacting the teacher directly by voice mail or e-mail. A voice mail/e-mail directory is included in this newsletter.

## APTS Update

(Alliance of Parents, Teachers and Students)

On behalf of APTS, we welcome you to the 2005-06 school year at Daniel Hand High School.

As parents of high school students, we desire the best possible education for our children and we desire to be well informed regarding our students' education, health, and well-being. As our children grow, so do their dilemmas, concerns, and decisions. At the high school level, it is more important than ever to be well-informed parents. The main focus of APTS is information. The group is the vehicle for keeping you informed and involved.

There are many demands placed on our free time. At Daniel Hand, you may choose to become active in one of the many booster clubs that support various student activities. Our hope is that you will also choose to support and attend the APTS group and create a body of parents, well informed about student life, school activities and special events.

APTS is not a fund raising organization. Our budget is derived solely from membership dues. Your dues support various school events including the blood drive, Nite-In-Hand, and the Daniel Hand Calendar, which you may pick up at the DHHS main office.

If you have not already done so, please support us by completing the membership form included in this newsletter and join us at the APTS meetings listed below at 7:00 PM in the Library/Media Center.

### Meeting Dates:

- Oct. 10 Administration introductions, review of revised school policies
- Dec. 5 Guest Craig Semple, Athletic Director
- Feb. 6 Guest TBA, Guidance Department
- Apr. 3 Guest Michael Rollinson, DHHS Security Specialist
- June 5 Guest Taffy Bowes, Social Services

Sincerely,  
Nancy Gerson and Sandy Rader  
Co-Presidents

## DHHS Mission Statement

*As members of the Daniel Hand High School community, our primary purpose is to graduate successful life-long learners who are responsible citizens of the global community. We believe all students can learn, discover, develop, and realize their talents. We can best accomplish our mission in an environment that is supportive, structured, challenging, and secure. With the collaborative efforts of students, educators, parents, and the Madison community, Daniel Hand High School students will mature as self-reliant and ethical individuals who respect learning and appreciate differences in others.*

## Mark Your Calendar

### October

15	PSAT Testing	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
18	Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
19	First Trimester Interims	
20-21	Underclass Photos	
24	In Person Sign Ups for Conferences, Senior Commons	5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
25	Phone Sign Ups for Conferences	8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
26	Make Up Picture Day for Students Who Were Absent	
27	Parent Teacher Conferences	12:45 p.m.-3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

### November

1	Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
5	Homecoming Dance	7:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m.
5	SAT Testing	
11	Veterans' Day-School in Session	
15	BOE Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
17-19	Fall Drama Production, <i>The Man Who Came to Dinner</i> , D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.
18	Blood Drive, Auxiliary Gym	8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
23	Professional Dev. Day for Staff/No School for Students	
24-25	Thanksgiving Recess-No School	
29	Financial Aid Night for Seniors, D&A Hall	7:00 p.m.
30	Underclass Photo Retakes, PE Class	7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

### December

1-5	First Trimester Exams	
3	SAT Testing	
5	APTS Meeting, LMC	7:00 p.m.
6	Last Day of First Trimester	
7	Second Trimester Begins	
7	Orchestra Concert, D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.
15	Choral Concert, D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.
20	Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
23	Early Dismissal -HolidayBreak	
24-1/2	Holiday Break-No School	



## Help Wanted

Volunteers are needed to help with the newsletter mailings.

If you are able to help, please contact Cathy Harris at 245-6350.

## DHHS Winter Sports Registration

Registration for winter sports at Daniel Hand High School will take place on Thursday, November 3 from 6:00-8:00 pm in the nurse's office at Daniel Hand High School. Students who would like to participate in the sports program must have a completed physical on file with the school nurse PRIOR to tryouts and/or practices.

The following forms are required for registration, and are available on the website at [www.madisonps.org](http://www.madisonps.org), from the Athletics Office, the nurse's office, and will also be available on Thursday, November 3.

1. Yearly Physical Examination Form
2. Seasonal Health Consent/participation Form
3. Code of Conduct
4. Registration/Payment form
5. Check, made payable to DHHS, in the amount of \$75.00.

Please note that registration checks will be held until final team rosters are determined. At that time, any student who DOES NOT make a team will have their check returned to their home address.

### Winter Sports Offerings:

**Boys:** Basketball (V, JV, Fr.)  
Wrestling  
Ice Hockey (V)  
Indoor Track (V)

**Girls:** Basketball (V, JV, Fr.)  
Gymnastics  
Ice Hockey (V)  
Indoor Track (V)

**Co-ed:** Cheerleading (V)



## SAT Review

A review course will be offered at Daniel Hand High School to prepare students for the March 12 College Board Scholastic Assessment Test. The class will meet for ten sessions, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:05 to 3:15. The first class will be on Tuesday, February 1, and the last class will be on Thursday, March 10. The fee for the course is \$100. Interested students should sign up in room 221. Class size is limited to 30 students.

## Voice Mail/E-Mail

A complete directory of voice mail and e-mail numbers is included in this newsletter. The easiest way to leave a voice mail message is to dial 245-6475 to access the system and then add the voice mail box number. Feel free to call the main school number 245-6350 if you need assistance.

## Reminder

All students are required to complete an Emergency Card, an Acceptable Use Policy Form, and an Affidavit of Responsibilities for the Student Handbook at the beginning of the school year. Please help us by checking with your student to be sure they have handed in all of their forms. Forms are available in the Administrative Office.

## DHHS CAPT Results

**March 2005 - Class of 2007**

**March 2004 - Class of 2006**

**May 2003 - Class of 2005**



All scores are the percentage of students who reached the state goal in the subject area.

CAPT Test	Connecticut			Erg B			DHHS		
	Class 2007	Class 2006	Class 2005	Class 2007	Class 2006	Class 2005	Class 2007	Class 2006	Class 2005
Math	47.8%	46.1%	45.1%	69.3%	67.1%	67%	73.8%	77%	78.6%
Science	47.3%	47.4%	43.2%	69.1%	66.1%	64%	78.7%	78.9%	81.7%
Reading Across The Disciplines	48.9%	48%	47%	69.6%	69.6%	69%	83.2%	84.6%	90.2%
Writing Across The Disciplines	55.2%	53.7%	52.8%	75.3%	72.4%	72.1%	83.5%	75.8%	89.7%

### Additional Information

- 61% of the DHHS Class of 2007 reached the state goal in all four tests
- The percentage of students at or above the proficient level: Math 90.9%, Science 95.5%, Reading 95.1%, Writing 95.8%
- Educational Reference Group B (ERG B) Schools: Bethel, Brookfield, Cheshire, Fairfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Greenwich, Guilford, Madison, Monroe, New Fairfield, Newtown, South Windsor, Trumbull, West Hartford, District #5, Region 8.

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## Students and Media Coverage

Madison Board of Education Policy #5180.4 provides guidelines for the use of schools or students for publicity purposes. The policy requires that parents be given the opportunity to withhold permission for interviews, photographs, and videotaping of their child at school. If you wish to withhold permission for your son or daughter to participate in school related publicity, please fill out the form below and return it to the Principal's Office as soon as possible. For topics of a sensitive nature featuring specific students, specific parental permission will be obtained. Remember that all Board of Education Policies are available for your review at each of the school buildings and at the Board of Education Offices at Town Campus and on the MPS website ([www.madison.k12.ct.us](http://www.madison.k12.ct.us)).

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### *Public News Media Refusal Form*

*I refuse permission for my son/daughter to be interviewed, photographed, or video taped in conjunction with school related publicity.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
YOG

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## Student Recruitment

The newly revised Board of Education policy on Student Recruitment #5100.9.1, in compliance with new federal legislation, now permits the distribution of students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers to branches of the armed forces of the United States of America, as well as educational institutions who may request them for the purposes of recruitment. Parents, guardians, or students who have reached the age of 18 may withhold consent of the release of this information by completing the form below and returning it to the Principal as soon as possible, but no later than October 30.

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### *Student Recruitment Refusal Form*

*I do not grant permission to Daniel Hand High School to release the name, address, and telephone number of the above named student to any outside agencies (U.S. Armed forces, educational institutions, etc.) for the purposes of recruitment.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
YOG

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## From the LMC

The Library Media Center has been a busy place this fall! We are trying to beat our record of 60,363 patrons last school year, not including before and after school use. Many classes use the LMC classroom and computer lab to work on research assignments, using both print resources and on-line sources such as Internet sites, E-books, and subscription databases. More and more students are discovering the pleasure of reading a book, magazine, or newspaper in the seating area or working on assignments in the homework zone

Our library works very closely with the staff at Scranton Library. For example, librarians Jane Ash and Dawn Fiorelli work with the schools' library media specialists to develop the summer reading list. In addition, Scranton Library donates some of their popular fiction to DHHS to supplement our collection.

In August, Scranton sponsored a presentation for parents by Michael Sullivan, author of the book *Connecting Boys with Books*. He gave a presentation to the elementary school teachers earlier the same day. The parents appreciated the opportunity that Scranton provided for them to understand and participate in a program that was part of school professional development. Also, teen librarian Dawn Fiorelli comes to the high school each fall so a student who does not have a library card may obtain one. These cards are important not only for taking out books, but also for using Scranton's databases. She will be in the LMC on October 14th. Finally, as part of the One Book One Town Program sponsored by the Friends of Scranton Library, Carlos Eire, author of *Waiting for Snow in*

*Havana*, will speak to some of our students about his boyhood in Cuba and his experience as one of the boys who came to America through the Pedro Pan (Peter Pan) project. It is wonderful that Sandra Long and her staff are willing to work so closely with the schools. I hope our relationship continues to grow because the result is that both the school community and the community at large benefit!

There is also more fiction to read, thanks to Scranton's generosity and cooperative spirit which allows more of the LMC book budget to support the academic curriculum while still providing students with quality reading for pleasure. We also appreciate the donation from the class of 1978 to purchase new books. Their generosity will help us develop a collection commensurate with the wonderful facility.

Thank you to the hardworking LMC volunteers: Katie Krause, Claire DeLombaert, Mary Schulte, and Gail Fearon! We appreciate our volunteers' help in making the LMC a wonderful resource for the DHHS students, faculty, and staff.

## Use of Pesticides

The Board of Education has adopted a policy on the use of pesticides in school buildings and on school grounds. The policy is a common sense approach rather than routine application. Personnel licensed by the State of Connecticut will apply all pesticides and no pesticide will be applied while school is in session except in emergency situations.

Any parent, guardian, or school staff member may register for notice of pesticide application at his/her school. Each school will maintain a registry of persons requesting notification. Such notice will include the name of the active ingredient of the applied pesticide, the date of the application on the school property, and the name of the person who may be contacted for further information. Notification will be made by either telephone or by sending a notice home with the student. A record of each pesticide application will be kept in the custodian's office.

### Future Plans: Class Of 2005

*Number of graduates: 232*

<u>Stated Plans</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Four-year Colleges/Universities	90%
Two-year Colleges	4%
Post Graduate Schools	2%
Military	0%
Work	3%
Other	1%