
DHHS Newsletter

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Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we approach the close of the school year, with proms, senior activities, and a large number of new student drivers, I once again feel a sense of obligation in asking you to engage your son or daughter in conversation regarding the importance of making good decisions. Two years ago, students in grades 7-12 participated in the American Drug and Alcohol Survey. The results indicated that the most prevalent substance used/tried by our students was alcohol. They indicated that alcohol was easy to acquire and that drinking was most often done at parties with friends in the home. This, coupled with an increase in the number of teen deaths as a result of automobile accidents related to speed and/or alcohol, is cause for great concern. The role that "peer pressure" plays in the decision-making process cannot be minimized. However, as I mentioned in our January Newsletter, when teens were asked who they admired the most, their collective top pick was their parents. It is for this reason that I stress the importance of making time to listen and engage your child in conversations that are important to them. We, too, will continue to emphasize the importance of healthy choices with consistent and ongoing guidance reminding them that the choices they make today will determine the choices they will have tomorrow.

Our second trimester was busy! Student participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is outstanding. Our band, orchestra, and chorus concerts entertained students, families, and the community. The Interact Club sponsored *Showboat*, a talent show featuring our students in dance, song, and instrumentals. Proceeds from the show, with six hundred in attendance, will go to a variety of charities. Students involved in the performing arts previewed our student-directed play, *Present Tense*, for the Connecticut Drama Association. The Show Choir, VIBE, previewed their choreographed routines for the Nutmeg Festival. The Dance Team took sixth place in the state in Jazz. Also worthy of commendation are activities of students involved in the Environmental Club, Debate, Math Team, Computer Club, and many others (see following pages for more detail). The school participated in a "New Hampshire style" primary organized by interested students. Participation was excellent. In case you

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Principal's Letter

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are interested, Obama won by a landslide. Student enthusiasm, pride, and talent were evident in all these activities. As well, a special note of thanks goes to the many teachers who give freely of their time as advisors to these clubs in support of our students.

We are most definitely ready for the warm weather and for all that the third trimesters brings.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Britton

Principal



LMC Update

The Library Media Specialists from all of the schools are working on the summer reading list for 2008. They will gather comments and suggestions from the librarians at Scranton Library, as well as from the faculty and students in our schools. Parents and students are encouraged to send their ideas to the addresses below. Thank you.

Cynthia Schneider, Library Media Specialist
Daniel Hand High School
286 Green Hill Road
Madison, CT 06443
schneiderc@madison.k12.ct.us

Guidance Notes

The following is happening in the DHHS School Counseling and Guidance Program. (Be sure to check the DHHS Guidance website for more information).

EARLY INFORMATION FOR FINANCIAL AID

A workshop presented by the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation will provide families with information on how to pay for the high cost of post-secondary education on **Thursday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Daniel Hand High School Dining and Assembly Hall

COLLEGE/CAREER FAIR coming to Daniel Hand on **Thursday, April 24, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** in the Dining and Assembly Hall and Gym Area. *Over 100 colleges and post-secondary schools will be featured. Detailed information will be mailed home and available on our website.*

REMINDER TO ALL ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDENTS

The school counselors visited all of the AP classes this past week to discuss the AP testing schedule. The fee for each test is \$84 and is due on **Monday, March 24**. The testing schedule can be found on the DHHS guidance website for more information.

THIRD ANNUAL SUMMER SEMINAR

Save the date: Saturday, June 21. Get a jump start on the college process. A number of workshops will be offered focusing on the college application process such as: planning for the interview, deciding where to apply, writing effective essays, financing college, on-line resources, SAT vs. ACT to mention just a few. More information will be mailed home and available on our website.

HAVE YOU LOGGED IN NAVIANCE YET?

There is no time like the present to log on and get up to the minute information from your Guidance Department. Visit the Daniel Hand website, select Guidance, and click on Quick Link to Naviance.

Dress Code

As the warm weather approaches, we face another challenge and that is the dress code. We continually battle the fashion designers and marketers. We ask for your assistance in assuring that student dress is appropriate for a learning environment.



DHHS Salutes . . .

Seniors **Martina Burn** and **Ben Johnson** for being named National Merit Scholarship Finalists in the 2008 Competition for Merit Scholarship Awards.

Lindsay Roseman '08 for being chosen for the Madison Lions Club Good Citizenship Award. Lindsay will be recognized at a Lions Club dinner.

Seniors **Martina Burn** and **Marcus Shak** for their selection as DHHS Scholar-Leaders. They will be honored at the Southern Connecticut Conference Scholar Leader Dinner at Anthony's Ocean View this month.

New Student Council Officers: President **Augusta Gillespie** '09, Vice President **Jack Butler** '09, Secretary **Amy Curtis** '09, and Treasurer **Chase Bastian** '09 on their new positions.

The Varsity Math Team and advisor, **Mrs. Maureen Brown**, for earning first place in the Middlesex County Mathematics League. Team members include **Marcus Shak** '08 and **Amanda Rawstern** '08 (captains), **Joe Liang** '09, **Ethan Langevin** '09, **Alan Zhao** '11, **Ben Johnson** '09, **Andrew Chapman** '11, **Eddie Tian** '10, and **Kathleen Wu** '11. The team will compete in the State Math Contest in April. Their overall standing also qualifies the team for the New England meet in May.

The following band students for being selected to participate in the Connecticut All-State Music Festival in Hartford in April: **Tess Coffey** '08, **David Dorfman** '10, **Will Dickinson** '08, and **Jackie Strawbridge** '08.

Our art students for entering the Future Choices Art Awards. Works by thirty students from Hand are currently on exhibit at Lyme Academy. Special recognition was awarded to **Lauren Feiner** '08, recipient of the Wall St.

Gallery Award, **Hannah Lehman** '09, recipient of the Breakwater Book Award, and **Ed Tian** '10, who won third place for his animation, "Freedom".

Members of the Debate Team, **Chase Bastian** '09, **Kathleen Wu** '11, **Mike Clark-Polner** '09, **Max Lecar** '09, **Nick Iverson** '09, and **Shomik Ghosh** '08, **Cindy Luo** '08, **Mary Altonji** '08, **Emily Wilkins** '10, **Happy Liu** '09, and **Luke D'Ancicco** '10, who will be competing at the State Championships in Amity later this month. Kudos also to their coach, **Mr. Martin Glasser**.

Seniors **Derek Fish** and **Katherine Loftus** for being selected CAS/CIAC Scholar Athletes of the Year. They will be honored at the Aqua Turf in May.

Seniors **Tess Coffey** and **Ben Aron** for being recognized by CAS/CIAC for their outstanding talents in the arts. Tess (trumpet) and Ben (art) will be honored at a dinner at the Aqua Turf.

Dylan Taylor '08 for being honored by the Gene Casey-New Haven County Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame for scholarship excellence and citizenship. He will be honored at a dinner this month at Fantasia in North Haven.

The **Girls' Basketball team** and their coach, **Mr. Jim Holleran**, for visiting children with cancer at Yale New Haven Hospital and treating the children to an ice cream social. The team then raised over \$2,000 for the Circle of Care, which helps families that have children with cancer.

The **Girls' Soccer team** for receiving the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's Team Academic Award for the 2006-07 academic year. The girls and their coach, **Mr. Bob Faulkner**, were recognized by the Board of Education in January.

Meghan Cummings '11 for organizing a group of freshman girls to walk in the Connecticut American Liver Foundation's Walk for Liver Wellness in honor of her 10-year old sister, Grace, who was born with an incurable liver disease. The walkers included **Elizabeth Baker**, **Morgan Brennan**, **Carolyn Bull**, **Elizabeth Burland**, **Kristen Cardarelli**, **Alex Casparino**, **Olivia Edwards**, **Emily Gumbrecht**, **Rachel Johansen**, **Stephanie Lyons**, **Lauren McMahan**, and **Carly Purcell**. The group did an exceptional job in raising funds for liver research.

Four members of the University of Connecticut's Early College Experience Chemistry class, who took part in the initial screening for the 2008 International Chemistry Olympiad on March 15. They were juniors **Mia Helfrich**, **Emily Gao**, **Joe (Hongliang) Liang**, and **Christopher Chen**. The event was sponsored by the New Haven Chapter of the American Chemical Society and led by Dr. Olivier Nicaise.

Sophomore honors students in Ms. Corvino's and Mrs. Sullivan's English classes who recently took part in a recitation contest called Poetry Out Loud. This national program, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, involved students from many high schools at all grade levels competing and sending their school winners to the state finals, which were held in Hartford on March 13. Congratulations go to our school finalists, **Luke D'Ancicco**, **Andres Davagnino**, **Michael DiBiccario**, **Matthew Gregory**, **Hannah Ellman**, **Melody Kloszewski**, **Moira O'Connor**, **Alexandra Petrini**, and **Allison Wustrow**, who competed in February to go to the finals, and to **Matthew Gregory**, who as our school champion, was the only sophomore to make it to the final five finalists in the state competition.

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Newsy Notes

Physical Education students will be performing the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment test for tenth grade students. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors/seniors will be participating in the President's Challenge Fitness Tests. Students will be going outside to perform the mile walk/run. We recommend that all students dress appropriately for the weather.

The students in **Mrs. Filippone's Cell Biology classes** were treated to a guest speaker, Dr. Marrow, a renowned pathologist from Yale, and father of sophomore, Anna Marrow. He teaches in the medical school, as well as the graduate, and the undergraduate schools at Yale. He did a phenomenal job at driving home the point to students that the choices they have made, and will continue to make, will affect their physical and mental health for the rest of their lives. He brought in several "normal" as well as "diseased" organs to show the students and explained the differences between them. For instance, he showed them a good liver vs. one that has been hardened by cirrhosis. He was an inspiration for all the students and they felt privileged to be part of the experience.

Señora Giral'd's Fundamental Spanish 2 students spent the day in New Haven on March 5. These Junior and Senior Spanish students enjoyed a two-hour session at Alisa's House of Salsa where they learned, then competed in Salsa and Merengue dancing. Students then traveled to La Hacienda restaurant to sample a typical Mexican buffet before returning to DHHS.

Also in March, **Señora Clark's Spanish 2 class** took a field trip to New Haven to enjoy some Spanish cuisine. They had just finished studying a unit on Spain and watched a video series called "Isabel" that took place in Spain. Many students showed an interest in the country and culture and wanted to experience the real thing. Chef Pedro Garzon of the Barcelona Wine Bar prepared a wonderful variety of Spain's popular tapas dishes as well as the famous "paella" the students had learned about in class. Chaperones, Sra. Aguzzi, Sra. Armas, and Sra. Wendt also attended the event.

The Environmental Club is doing a wide variety of activities to raise environmental awareness in our school and community. For our school they have designed a recycling logo and are putting up a 6'x8' banner on Earth Day in the Dining and Assembly Hall. They will also be selling custom-designed DHHS cloth shopping bags to be carried in place of plastic bags. They are creating presentations to be made to the staffs of Madison Public Schools on ways teachers and administration can save paper (and budget money!) in their daily teaching responsibilities. An orientation for incoming freshman is also being created. On April 19, the weekend before Earth Day, they will be at Madison Stop and Shop hosting a bag exchange. Customers bringing in 10 plastic bags to be recycled will be provided with a free reusable cloth bag. The club is also in the process of creating a similar light bulb exchange. Other projects, which have not been finalized yet, are also being planned, such as an environmental fair and/or symposium and a school event called "Earth Hour".

Nite-In-Hand

Help make Nite-in-Hand a memorable celebration!!

Nite-in-Hand is a joyous and substance-free celebration held all night at Hand for graduating seniors to keep them safe, happy, and supervised by people who volunteer to make it happen. There is work to be done before, the day of, and of course, that night.

Folks are needed to volunteer, especially families with sophomores and juniors, so that they can learn what it is about and in turn, will appreciate it all the more when someone else steps up for their child. Contact Suzanne Burkinshaw, suzanne.burkinshaw@snet.net to add your name to the list of current volunteers.

The Senior Auction

Tuesday, April 8th at 7:00 PM DHHS Dining and Assembly Hall

Save the date for The Senior Auction! Seniors auction their time and talent to raise money for Nite-In-Hand. Join your seniors and enjoy a fun-filled evening! Parents are welcome to bring an appetizer or dessert items for the refreshments table. Questions? Contact Denise Rose at 421-3894 or Susan Klug at 245-0620.

Decorations

The exciting and rewarding work of the **Decorations Committee** began on Monday, March 17. Please contact Lili Mastronardi at lmastronardi@hpearce.com with the dates and times you are available to volunteer your services. This is a great opportunity to meet other DHHS parents and to be a part of a very special evening for the senior students at Daniel Hand.

Mark Your Calendar

March

17	First Day Trimester 3	
18	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:00 p.m.
21	Good Friday - No School	
26	Distribution of Report Cards	

April

1	Blood Drive	
1	Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
2	K-12 Art Show Reception, Scranton Library (Show continues until 4/25 during library hours)	7:30-8:30 p.m.
3-5	Spring Musical, <i>South Pacific</i> , D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.
5	Spring Musical, <i>South Pacific</i> , D&A Hall	1:00 p.m.
8	Senior Auction, D&A Hall	7:00 p.m.
10	Honors Breakfast, Students Only	Period 2
14-18	Spring Recess - No School	
20	Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
24	College Fair , D&A Hall and Gym	6:00-8:00 p.m.
26	Jr. Prom, D&A Hall	7:30-11:00 p.m.

May

1	Financial Aid Night, D&A Hall	7:00 p.m.
2	Third Trimester Interims	
3	SAT Testing	
6	APTS Meeting, Guidance Career Center	8:00 a.m.
6	Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
7	Art Show Reception (Show continues until 5/23)	7:00 p.m.
7	Symphonic Band Concert , D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.
15	Choral Concert , D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.
20	Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	7:00 p.m.
20	Budget Referendum	
22	Night of Songs	7:30 p.m.
24	Senior Prom, Aqua Turf	7:30 p.m.-12:00 mid.
26	Memorial Day-No School	
27	Student Film Night	7:00 p.m.
29	Orchestra Concert , D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.

Prom Planning . . .

We have been reminded by the State Department of Transportation that in order to legally do business in Connecticut, limousine operators and their vehicles must be inspected and registered at the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles.

Please be certain if your student will be traveling by limousine to a prom, that they hire only operators who are properly registered. To check on the status of any limousine company, please contact the Regulatory and Compliance Unit at (860) 594-2868.

Nurse's Notes

Attention Parents of Sophomores of school year 2007-08:

Madison Board of Education policy and Connecticut State law, Section 10-206-C, **require a physical examination for all students in Grade 10.** Examinations must be completed between June 1, 2007 and the remainder of the tenth grade 2007/08 school year and submitted on the state issued blue Health Assessment Record (HAR-3) to the school nurse. The blue Health Assessment Record can be obtained from the school nurse's office and must be received by the school nurse in order for the student to enter grade 11 in school year 2008/2009. If the assessment is not forwarded to the school before the following school year begins in August, 2008, the student will not be permitted to enter the eleventh grade.

Attention Parents of Athletes:

Students enrolled in school sports are required to have **yearly physical examinations.** The student must submit the completed Seasonal Sports Participation Health Record/Consent (**a new consent with each new sport**) to the school nurse prior to participation. The health forms can be obtained from the school nurse's office and online at www.madison.k12.ct.us/athletics/athdhshome.htm.

Junior and Senior Reminders . . .

April 26	Junior Prom Dining & Assembly Hall 7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
May 24	Senior Prom Aqua Turf 7:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight
May 30	Senior Outing Holiday Hill 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

From the Department of Athletics:

Our winter sports teams had a very successful season, with several teams advancing well into the post-season.

- **Megan Lynch** '11 finished in second place in the state championships and qualified for the New England Championships. She represented the school in the 1000 m race on Friday, February 29, in Boston, MA.
- **Derek Fish** '08 won the New England Wrestling Championship, and has qualified to compete in the National Tournament later this month. **The Wrestling Team** won the SCC Championship.
- **The girls' basketball** team competed in the state championships quarter finals, losing to Branford in a very close game.
- **The boys' basketball** team also competed in the state championships quarterfinals, losing to E. O. Smith.
- **The gymnastics team** was a runner up in the state championships.
- **The Dance Team** finished 3rd in the State Championships.
- **DHHS Cheerleading Team** competed in the State Cheerleading Championships, improving their placement from last year's event.
- **The Fencing Club** competed in the state finals for the first time with **Lizzie Pelker** '09 finishing in sixth place.
- For the first time in its history, DHHS fielded an **Alpine Ski Club**, that competed in races at Mount Southington.
- **Tim De Ocejo** '08 competed in the 2008 State Open Championships 100 yd. breast stroke.

Host Families Needed

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. 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. 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.

DHHS Salutes . .

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The **DHHS Show Choir** for winning the Silver Medal and being one of the top four choirs chosen to compete in the evening showcase at the Nutmeg Festival on March 15. The Show Choir also competed in the Shepherd Hill Competition on February 2 and won the Silver Medal and the Judges' Award for Excellence in "Groovalisousness". Also, special congratulations to **Kyle Martin** '08, who won the Best Male Soloist Award.

The **Hands On Stage Company** for participating in the Connecticut Drama Association Annual Theater Festival which was held March 14 and 15 at Ellington High School. The event featured twelve area high schools producing one-act plays that were judged by theater professionals. Hands Production of *Present Tense* was student directed by **Emsie Bartsch** '08 and garnered a Best Acting Award for **Nick Zak** '09.



Calendars

To view the revised school calendar for 07-08 or the 08-09 calendar, please visit the Madison Public Schools website, madison.k12.ct.us

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.