
DHHS Newsletter

Fall 2006

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Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It doesn't take long for things to take off where they left off, and that's a good thing. Fall sports are in full swing as is evident by the numbers of athletes I am privileged to watch everyday on the turf field. Practice for the fall play, It Was a Dark and Stormy Night, is underway, and many clubs have begun to meet. A complete listing of all clubs can be found on our website and is updated on a regular basis.

The class of 2008's performance on the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) was outstanding. Students scored in the top ten in the state in all four areas. In our district reference group (DRG B), students scored in the top three in all four areas. Individual scores have been returned to students. If you have any questions regarding these scores, please contact your child's school counselor.

I would like to offer to you an opportunity to stop by for conversation about policies, theories, and practices in education, educational programs, and social emotional issues on the first and third, Tuesday of each month between 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Appointments are not necessary; however, I recommend that you call ahead to insure that I have not been delayed by unforeseen school business. Additionally, I would like to invite you to an informational meeting with updates on CAPT, our Strategic School Profile, and school improvement plans. This meeting will take place on November 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Band Room.

Every year we look forward to celebrating and sharing with you the growth and achievements of our students. Our collaboration with you and the community plays an extensive role in these accomplishments, and we thank you all for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Britton
Principal

DHHS Salutes . . .

Senior **Matthew Seaton** for being named a Semi Finalist and Seniors **Cynthia Brunelle, Dana Chaffiotte, Carol Ferguson-Cundy, Rachel Hogue, Sena Hornby, Rebecca Jablonski, Alicia Johnson, Jake Loiterstein, Zoe Miller-Vedam, William Roegge, Elizabeth Santone, Matthew Seaton, Hannah Simkins,** and **Alexander Taubes** for being named Commended Scholars by the National Merit Scholarship Program. These distinctions are earned by the students' performance on last year's PSAT.

The following students for their efforts working in the golf tournament fundraiser on their day off from school: Freshmen **Ryan Maghini, Erin Roberts, Julie Rubano,** Sophomores **Jack Callaghan, Mike Callaghan, Morgan Donahue, Leah Galinsky, Brendan Maghini, Dino Mancinelli, John Minucci, Ken Moulton, Tyler Swiggett,** Juniors **Kevin Korwek, Dave Kraus, Chad Krygier, Kellie Morrissey, Ali Nassimos, Joe Sarro,** Seniors **Mike Bagnoli, Keri Beisner, Samantha Brown, Sam Campbell, Kali Cardoza, Kendall Carroll, Caitlin Caserta, Jillian Church, Alex Duda, Steve Godiksen, Ryan Hansen, Becky Lutz, John Moulton, Kristina Rapuano, Emily Savoca, Tyler Schwartz, Corey Seaquist.**

Shannon Curtis '09 for receiving a letter of acceptance for the 2007 Futures Program for USA Field Hockey.

Chris DiMarco '08 and **Hayden Turner '08** for qualifying for the 2006 U. S. Snowboarding Association National Championships at Northstar in Tahoe.

Shoreline Arts Alliance winners **Louisa Lauher '06,** recipient of a scholarship in Creative Writing, **Cynthia Brunelle '07** received special recognition in Creative Writing, **Katelin Stern '06** (harp) and **Nicholas Mouradian '07** (flute) received special recognition in instrumental music, and **Ashley Mirando '07** for special recognition for vocal music last June.

Brendan Andrew '08, Erin Baumgartel '08, Katie Byrne '06, Ashley Flanders '06, Chad Gomard-Henshaw '09, Hannah Honorof '09, Alicia Johnson '07, Kaitrin Kinnare '07, Elizabeth Langevin '06, Ethan Langevin '09, Sarah Levesque '08, Shannon Noonan '07, John-Michael Parker '06, Amanda Rawstern '08, Kim Simonsen '06, B. J. Youngerman '06 for being enrolled in the National Junior Classical League Latin Honor Society for the 2005-06 school year.

Newsy Notes

Teachers **Mrs. Anita Ferron** and **Mrs. Mary Helen Leitze** applied for and were accepted to a summer program "Transforming Japan" through Yale's Asian Studies Center. They became part of a small group of teachers from New England who participated in a week-long series of classes at Yale and then in a two-week tour of Japan. They visited a number of cities and some rural areas visiting museums, shrines, and historical sites. The goal was to educate U.S. teachers about Japan past and present, Japan's role in Asia, and the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship. As part of the program, they will include some of what they learned in their classes this year and they are planning an interdisciplinary unit of study.

The Spanish Club is getting off to a great start this year. They are already planning some fun events that have students experiencing the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. If your child is a Spanish student this year, he/she are welcome to attend the meetings. Meetings are during the week after school and attendance is important to participate in the planned events. See Señora Clark in room 241 for more details. Let the fiesta begin!

Teacher **Ms. Paula Chabot** took part in a Vergilian Society sponsored tour of Malta and Tunisia for two weeks in July. Malta is known for its megalithic Neolithic temples and Crusader knight fortifications and Tunisia is rich in Roman cities and mosaics.

Who's New?

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

Angela Bhushan	Science Coordinator
Erica Browne	Biology Teacher
Ashley Caron	French Teacher
Paul Coppola	Social Studies Teacher
Mia Corvino	English Teacher
David Cutillo	Special Ed Paraprofessional
Jessica DeStefano	English Teacher
Peter Ettlinger	Long-Term Substi- tute Counselor
Ray Ezell	Social Studies Teacher
Kara Heller	Attendance Sec'y
John Leonard	Band Teacher
Kristin Mancini	Spanish Teacher
Carly McGrady	Special Ed Teacher
Katherine Raschke	Biology Teacher
Marcie Rocchio	Business Teacher
Robin Rotundi	Student Assistance Paraprofessional
Mary Smith	Art Teacher
Haiyan Song	Chinese Exchange Teacher
J. L. Speranza	Spanish Teacher
Paul Thomas	Choral Teacher
Trisha Zurolo	Math Teacher

APTS Update

(Alliance of Parents, Teachers and Students)

The next APTS meeting will be **November 6th at 7:00pm in the Library Media Center**. Jean Baker, Director of the DHHS Guidance Department, and Sam Rosensohn of College Planning Partnerships will co-host the meeting. Their goal is to further educate you to the responsibilities, activities, and involvement with our students of the DHHS Guidance Department. College Planning Partnerships, is a private business that helps students prepare for college. You may be familiar with Sam Rosensohn's weekly articles in the shoreline papers. He will address the difference between the old and new SAT test. Please join us.

The APTS meeting dates are:

November 6th - Guidance Department
January 8th - Craig Semple - Athletic Director
March 5th - Taffy Bowes - Madison Youth Services
May 7th - Administration End of Year

Nite-In-Hand 2007

The first organizational meeting for Nite-In-Hand 2007 will be held **Thursday, Nov. 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining and Assembly Hall**. Parents of all classes are invited. This will be the "changing of the guards" meeting and planning gets underway immediately. Please come prepared to volunteer, and suggest/vote on themes for the nineteenth consecutive graduation party. The chairpersons/volunteer positions are: Co-Chairpersons, Town PD/FD Coordinator, Publicity, Senior Auction, School Liaison, Carnival Events, Prize Room, Solicitation, Hospitality, Napping Room, Bingo, Food, Decorations, Clean-Up, Games & Entertainment, Pictures, Hollywood Squares, Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinators, AND SOME!

Nite-In-Hand is a fun, safe, substance-free night of celebration for graduating seniors. Planned and funded by the parent body and community, this event has become a tradition that seniors look forward to with great anticipation. It is also an event that parents look forward to as well. It is truly fun to participate in Nite-In-Hand!

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

- 19 First Trimester Progress Reports
- 20 Make Up Picture Day for Students Who Were Absent
- 21 PSAT Testing 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

November

- 2 Registration for Winter Sports, Nurse's Office 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 4 Homecoming Dance 7:30-11:30 p.m.
- 4 SAT Testing
- 6 APTS Meeting, LMC 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Financial Aid Night for Seniors, D&A Hall 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Informational Meeting, Band Room 7:00 p.m.
- 16-18 Fall Drama Production, *It Was A Dark and Stormy Night*,
D&A Hall 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Blood Drive, Auxiliary Gym 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- 22 Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving Recess
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Recess-No School
- 28-30 First Trimester Exams

December

- 1 Last Day of First Trimester
- 2 SAT Testing
- 4 Second Trimester Begins
- 5 Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.
- 11 First Trimester Report Cards Distributed
- 14 Choral Concert, D&A Hall 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Orchestra Concert, D&A Hall
- 22 Early Dismissal -Holiday Break
- 22-1/2 Holiday Break-No School

From the Department of Athletics

Check out the website for the Department of Athletics. Go to www.danielhand.org and click on the Athletics link on the menu on the left.

- Sign up for email changes to sports schedules
- Check the new links to websites that have a wealth of information for student-athletes wishing to play a sport at the college level
- Read about our two fundraisers, the proceeds from which will benefit the new Tiger Fitness Center.

Registration for Winter Sports will take place on Thursday, November 2, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Nurse's Office at DHHS. In order to participate, students must have the following forms completed and payment in the amount of \$75.00 must accompany the forms (please make checks payable to DHHS).

- Annual Physical Exam (*once a year*)
- Seasonal Health Participation and Consent Form (*each season*)
- Student Participation Contract (*once a year*)
- Parental Waiver for Release of Information (*one form will cover all four years of high school*)
- Athletic Emergency Information (*each season*)

Please note: In order for the applications to be processed ALL documentation must be completed and must be accompanied by the appropriate payment.

Attention Student-Athletes

West Haven High School will be hosting an **Athletic IQ evaluation session on Saturday, November 18, at 9:00 a.m.** The Athletic IQ is the equivalent of the SAT. It is a standardized evaluation that electronically measures speed, power, agility, flexibility, and reaction time. It also gives student-athletes the ability to compare with peers, locally, regionally, and nationally, with Division I, II and III college athletes by sport, position and more. Stop by the Athletics Office to pick up a brochure. This event is sponsored by the CIAC and seniors will receive free membership and an evaluation for the 2006-2007 school year.

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.

Financial Aid Night

Elaine Solinga, who has worked in the financial aid profession for more than twenty years, will be presenting a workshop entitled "Financing a College Education". She is currently the Director of Financial Aid Services at Connecticut College, a position she has held for the past sixteen years. The workshop will take place in the Dining and Assembly Hall on **November 9 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

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 2006 - Class of 2008

March 2005 - Class of 2007

March 2004 - Class of 2006



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

CAPT Test	Connecticut			DRG B			DHHS		
	Class 2008	Class 2007	Class 2006	Class 2008	Class 2008	Class 2006	Class 2007	Class 2006	Class 2005
Math	46.3%	47.8%	46.1%	70.1%	69.3%	67.1%	78.6%	73.8%	77%
Science	44.6%	47.3%	47.4%	67.9%	69.1%	66.1%	76.5%	78.7%	78.9%
Reading Across The Disciplines	46.5%	48.9%	48%	70.8%	69.6%	69.6%	77.1%	83.2%	84.6%
Writing Across The Disciplines	52.4%	55.2%	53.7%	72.5%	75.3%	72.4%	80.8%	83.5%	75.8%

Additional Information

- The percentage of the DHHS Class of 2008 reaching at or above the proficient level: Math 93%, Science 97.6%, Reading 95.9%, Writing 93%
- The DHHS Class of 2008 scored 3rd in Math, 2nd in Science, 2nd in Reading, 3rd in Writing in DRG B.
- District Reference Group B (DRG B) Schools: Avon, Brookfield, Cheshire, Fairfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Greenwich, Guilford, Madison, Monroe, New Fairfield, Newtown, Orange, Simsbury, South Windsor, Trumbull, West Hartford, Woodbridge, Region 5, Region 8.

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).

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

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**.

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

LMC Update

The Library Media Center is a busy place this fall! At this rate, we will beat our 2005-2006 record of over 65,000 students using the library during free periods, study halls, and classes. Students use both print resources and on-line sources such as Internet sites, e-books, and subscription databases. Students also enjoy reading a book, magazine, or newspaper in the seating area.

Summer reading was a great success. Eighty percent of the students at DHHS did at least some reading this summer. 969 students out of 1210 enrolled read 3972 books! I have a few plans in the works to encourage student reading throughout the school year, which I will share in another newsletter.

Our library works very closely with the staff at Scranton Library on summer reading, as well as on many other projects. Dawn Fiorelli, Scranton's Teen Librarian, came to the high school in early October so that any student who did not have a public library card had the opportunity to obtain one. These cards are important not only for taking out books, but also for using Scranton's databases from home.

Finally, a plea for help! Many parents greatly assist the school system by volunteering in the classrooms and libraries. THANK YOU! We still need 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 Specialist, Cynthia Schneider, at 245-6376 or e-mail schneiderc@madison.k12.ct.us.

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. *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 at 245-6370.

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 2006

Number of graduates: 268

<u>Stated Plans</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Four-year Colleges/Universities	93%
Two-year Colleges	2%
Post Graduate Schools	1%
Military	0%
Work	1%
Other	3%