
DHHS Newsletter

www.danielhand.org

Fall 2007

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DHHS Listserv at
www.danielhand.org**

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our school year is in full swing. Students are busy with their course work, athletics, and extra-curricular activities. In addition to the many club offerings from last year, we have added the following new clubs: Leo (student Lions Club), German, Business/Finance, Dance, Active Hand (community service), Environmental, and Encore (an a cappella music group). New clubs are initiated based on students' interests and proposals. The focus of many of these clubs is community, global awareness, and charitable contributions. This speaks volumes about our students. As well, the fall comedy, You Can't Take It With You, is well into production and should be a treat for us all.

The class of 2009's performance on the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) was outstanding. Students scored in the top ten state wide in all four areas, and in our district reference group, they scored in the top three in all four areas. Ninety-four percent of last year's graduating class is presently attending two or four year colleges, demonstrating a continuum of excellence.

We are keenly aware of the essential skills that our students will need to be successful in the 21st century. Our graduates will need to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, and effective communicators. We recognize the importance of being technologically literate and developing strong life skills such as leadership, accountability, and self direction. Our 21st century focus will further integrate these skills into our existing curriculum, providing students with opportunities to see connections between learning and real world applications.

The safety and well being of our students are always primary concerns. We make every effort to insure that our building is secure and events are well supervised providing an optimal learning environment that fosters school spirit and positive relationships. One of the issues we cannot ignore is underage drinking and use of drugs. It is important that we work together engaging our students in dialogue about the dangers in use of drugs and alcohol, establishing boundaries, and communicating expectations. It is also important that you keep the lines of communication open between you and the parents of your child's friends. Together we can make a difference in keeping our students safe and we can demonstrate the importance of making good choices.

In an effort to get information to you in a more timely fashion, in the future you will be receiving this newsletter, reminders of upcoming events, and other information through our DHHS Listserv. This service will not replace our website, which is updated on a daily basis; rather it will enhance it in a more personal manner. In order to receive this information, you will need to sign-up. Please access our website (www.danielhand.org) and follow the directions.

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Principal's Letter

(continued from p. 1)

We look forward to another year of providing our students with opportunities for growth and celebrating their accomplishments. Our collaboration with you and your support send the message to our students that their education and social well being are important to us.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Britton
Principal

DHHS Salutes . . .

Seniors **Rachel Berman, Martina Burn and Ben Johnson** for being named Semi Finalists and **Mary Altonji, Kerry Brennan, Katherine Chapman, Michelle Chatterjee, Isaac Ellman, Yuxuan Fang, Layan Fuleihan, Steven Gagliano, Shomik Ghosh, Joshua Gregory, Shuyang Luo, Michael McConville, Amanda Rawstern, Jeffrey Rosen, Christine Schulte, Georgia Thomas, Peter Tosiello, and Jacob Trupin** for being named Commended Scholars by the National Merit Scholarship Program. These distinctions were earned by the students' performance on last year's PSAT.

Marcus Shak '08 for being recognized last spring by the American Chemical Society for his outstanding achievement in high school chemistry as a 2007 National Finalist for the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Competition.

Seniors **Emma Norris and Nick Bosch** for being selected for the Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents' Award for their academic and leadership abilities. Emma and Nick will be honored at the November 6 Board of Education meeting and at the November 11 Middlesex Superintendent's Luncheon at Saybrook Point Inn.

Coach **Mr. Bob Faulkner** for his 300th win as a soccer coach. Bob had 200 wins as the boys' coach and 100 (and still counting) as the girls' coach.

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.

Newsy Notes

The **DHHS Diversity "Dream Team"** attends bimonthly meetings with other Southern CT Conference schools to discuss issues of tolerance and discrimination. The concept of the program is that students will bring back information and activities from these meetings to their own schools and promote an acceptance and celebration of diversity in its varied forms. This year's representatives are **Laura Furey '08, Yasmin Ghadimian '08, Anthony Mancini '09, Kyle Martin '08, and Laura Schiraldi '08**, and their advisors are **Mrs. Victoria Crompton and Mr. John Hansen**. An offshoot of the Dream Team is the DHHS Diversity Club which meets every Thursday in Room 240 at 2:10 p.m. New members are always welcome.

The **Physical Education Department** is testing freshmen, sophomores, and juniors in the Presidential Fitness Tests. The sophomores are also performing the Connecticut Fitness Assessment Test this fall.

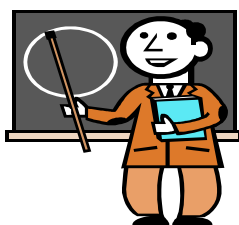
This past summer selected students, who excelled in their **Spanish** skills, traveled abroad to Spain for ten days with **Señora Cheryl Clark** where they experienced in real life what they had been learning in the classroom. Their travels took them to Madrid, Barcelona, Segovia and Mallorca. Students ate traditional Spanish cuisine and also attended a flamenco performance. It was a great experience being in a Spanish-speaking country and using and improving their language skills.

The **Marine Science and Technology class** is building fishing rods. That class, as well as the **Boat Building and Navigation class**, are anticipating building a boat for the Madison Shellfish Commission to be used to repopulate the Neck River with oysters.

Who's New?

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

Robert Bailey	PE Teacher
Timothy Ballantyne	Math Teacher
Shelly Bayne	Paraprofessional
Stephanie Brucher	Paraprofessional
Paul Curran	Mandarin Teacher
Kimberly Dunn	Tutoring Center
Lisa Edgerton	Sci/Chem Teacher
Rebecca Fusaro	Paraprofessional
Gregory Gallo	Art Teacher
Susan Groll	Math Teacher
Lauren Howard	Spanish Teacher
Maika Johnson	Paraprofessional
Beth Kelly	Business Teacher
Catherine Kennedy	Social Studies Teacher
Josef Knets	Social Studies Teacher
Carla Marino	Bookkeeper
David Mastroianni	Social Studies Teacher
Jill Rakowski	Paraprofessional
Michael Selmani	Security Specialist
Pierre Sorey	English
Marianne Valley	Science Teacher
Marianna Wikarska	French Teacher
Ashley Zawacki	Consumer Tech. Ed. Teacher



Opportunity Knocks

The **Phoenix Literary magazine** is beginning meetings to plan the 2008 edition. *Phoenix* is an annual 48-page literary magazine produced each spring by a staff of dedicated students who select writing, line art, and photos from contributions made by their peers, edit, type, lay out, proofread, and publish it. This year's staff is headed by **Rachel Berman '08, Jen Curtis '08, Emily Gao '09, and Hannah Honorof '09**. The *Phoenix* staff lost many important staff members and contributors to graduation and need both new members and lots of submissions of writing and art work. If your son or daughter is interested in creative writing, please urge them to join us or submit their work! Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 2:10 in room 346, but we have flexibility. Students who play sports are free to leave early; stage band members and others can come late.

Ms. Melissa McClellan, School Counseling Intern, is conducting **resume writing workshops for Juniors and Seniors**. Students may go to the Guidance and Counseling Office to schedule a workshop.

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. The ability 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 each day, and a typical 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 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	First Trimester Progress Reports Nite-In-Hand Meeting, LMC	7:30 p.m.
20	PSAT Testing	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

November

3	Homecoming Dance SAT Testing	7:30-11:30 p.m.
6	APTS Meeting, Guidance Career Center Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	8:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
8	Financial Aid Night for Seniors, D&A Hall	7:00 p.m.
10	Circle of Care--Care to Shop, Polson	9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.
16	Blood Drive, Auxiliary Gym	8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
20	Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
21	Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving Recess	
23-24	Thanksgiving Recess-No School	
26-28	First Trimester Exams	
29	Last Day of First Trimester	
30	First Day of Second Trimester	

December

1	SAT Testing	
4	APTS Meeting, Guidance Career Center Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	8:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
6-8	Drama Production, <i>You Can't Take It With You</i> D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.
10	First Trimester Report Cards Distributed	
13	Choral Concert, D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.
18	Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
20	Orchestra Concert, D&A Hall	
21	Early Dismissal -Holiday Break	
24-1/3	Holiday Break-No School	

January

2	Professional Development Day - No School for Students
17	Open House
21	Martin Luther King - No School



Help Wanted

Volunteers are needed to assist in the Guidance Office and Library Media Center.

If you are willing and able to help, please call Guidance at 245-6360 or the Library Media Center at 245-6376.

From the Department of Athletics

Registration for Winter Sports will take place Monday, November 5, through Monday, November 12, in the Health Office at DHHS. Paperwork may be dropped off in the Health Office between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. 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, from the Athletics Office, and the Health Office.

- Yearly Physical Examination Form
- Seasonal Health Consent/Participation Form
- Emergency Information
- Code of Conduct
- 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)

Financing A College Education

Thursday, November 8, 2007

7:00-8:30 p.m.

David Welsh, who has worked in the financial aid profession for more than twenty years, will be presenting a workshop entitled "Financing a College Education". He is currently the Director of Financial Aid Services at Tunxis Community College and the past president of Professional Financial Aid Administrators. He comes highly recommended from many top high schools and post-secondary institutions from Connecticut and beyond. Mark this on your calendar as a "do not miss event." The workshop will take place in the Dining and Assembly Hall.

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 2007 - Class of 2009

March 2006 - Class of 2008

March 2005 - Class of 2007



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

CAPT Test	Connecticut			DRG B			DHHS		
	Class 2009	Class 2008	Class 2007	Class 2009	Class 2008	Class 2007	Class 2009	Class 2008	Class 2007
Math	45.2%	46.3%	47.8%	67.8%	70.1%	69.3%	79.8%	78.6%	73.8%
Science	44.4%	44.6%	47.3%	66.1%	67.9%	69.1%	76.8%	76.5%	78.7%
Reading Across The Disciplines	45.6%	46.5%	48.9%	67.6%	70.8%	69.6%	74.1%	77.1%	83.2%
Writing Across The Disciplines	52.9%	52.4%	55.2%	73.2%	72.5%	75.3%	84.1%	80.8%	83.5%

Additional Information CHANGE

- The percentage of the DHHS Class of 2009 reaching at or above the proficient level: Math 95.6%, Science 98%, Reading 98%, Writing 98%
- The DHHS Class of 2009 scored 2nd in Math, 3rd in Science, 3rd in Reading, 2nd 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.

LMC Update

The Library Media Center hopes to be busy enough this year to beat our 2006-07 record of nearly **69,000 students** using the library during free periods, study halls, and classes! Students complete their research using both print and on-line resources. They also enjoy reading and studying in the seating area. Story time will start at the end of October during lunch waves, proving that even big kids like to wrap up in a blanket and listen to a good tale.

Our library works very closely with the staff at Scranton Library. Join us in welcoming Chris Angeli, the new Teen Librarian. She visited the high school on Thursday, October 11, so any student who does not have a public library card was able to obtain one. These cards are important not only for taking out books, but also for using Scranton's databases from home. If your child does not have a library card, please encourage him/her to get one and to meet Ms. Angeli!

Finally, a plea for **help!** Many parents greatly assist the school system by volunteering in the classrooms and libraries. THANK YOU! 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,

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 or Ms. Karin Thelin, Health Paraprofessional.



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.

Circle of Care

The Circle of Care—Care to Shop will take place on November 10th, 2007 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Polson Middle School. This *New and Nearly New Boutique* will be selling sporting goods, holiday decorations, children's toys, books, decorative home items, jewelry, clothing, and much more. All proceeds will go to Circle of Care, a local nonprofit organization for families of children with cancer.

A preview party is planned for November 9th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. For more information, contact Shelley Farmer at 245-4478 or Carol Newton at 245 2255.

Future Plans: Class Of 2007

Number of graduates: 264

<u>Stated Plans</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Four-year Colleges/Universities	90%
Two-year Colleges	4%
Military, Work, Undecided	6%