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# DHHS Newsletter

online@www.danielhand.org

May/June, 2009

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## A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We have had an amazing school year. As a community, we have much to be proud of in the many accomplishments of our students. They have excelled in academics with over six hundred students making the honor roll last trimester. The drama program this year shone with record attendance at both the fall drama and spring musical. As well, the student directed play, *Mirror Mirror*, was recognized at the CDA Festival. Students in the music program have participated in concerts, competitions, and performed magnificently marching down Main Street at Disney. Athletics continue to play an important role in enhancing the growth of our students in body and spirit. Clubs always address student interests, and many demonstrate their concerns for the global community through fund raising.

As the weather gets nicer and the number of days to closing become fewer, we have the age old problem of waning motivation and behaviors of concern. During class meetings, I encouraged the students to continue to work hard ending the year with integrity and pride in themselves. I warned them about becoming involved in disruptive behavior, such as cutting class and potentially dangerous behavior, such as a food fight. In addition I expressed my concern with reckless behavior involving alcohol and drugs. I explained that the choices they make can put them in the position of waking up each day with many choices or waking up with none.

A pre-prom assembly was held for our juniors and another one will be held for seniors directed by students from SMASH and Safe Rides. The theme and message they have chosen is, "How Will U Remember Prom?" Students sharing their voices and concern for each other is very powerful!

I thank you so much for your continued support. You share with us amazing young people who truly come to school each day eager to learn. In closing I ask for your support in helping our students to end the school year safely and to be able to positively reflect on their school year.

Have a fun filled and relaxing summer.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Britton  
Principal

## DHHS Salutes . . .

On March 28, DHHS was represented by **David Dorfman** '10, **Bradley Napier** '10, **Maria Soshea** '10, and **Yujia "Happy" Liu** '09 in the 41<sup>st</sup> International Chemistry Olympiad Competition held at Yale University."

The **Sophomore Class Council** for recently volunteering a Sunday evening preparing and providing food at the Columbus House in New Haven. At that time they also presented the organization with \$5,000 which they raised from the Winter Dance.

The Daniel **Hand Girls' Soccer team** for being awarded the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and Adidas "Team Academic Award" for exceptional academic performance as a team. It is the second year in a row the Girls' Soccer Team has been awarded this academic award.

The Hands-On-Stage Production of the musical *The Wiz* for their huge success. Playing to full houses on the Friday and Saturday nights of the show, the 120 students involved delighted audiences with their voices, acting, music, and sets. **Mrs. Joy Weaver**, the director, brought the story to life with modern music to tell the tale. **Mr. Ron Soja** brought harmony to the voices and **Mrs. Taralyn Bulyk** directed the pit band to perfection. The stage crew, under the direction of **Mrs. Jessica Littell**, brought many vibrant and intricate scenes to the stage.

New Student Council Officers for 2009-10: Co-Presidents **Felicia Martinelli** '10 and **Anastasia Soroko** '10, Secretary **Emma Price** '10, and Treasurer **Andrew Chapman** '11.

Students participating in the Connecticut Drama Festival at Ridgefield High School for their outstanding achievements. They performed *Mirror, Mirror*

directed by senior **Leigh Miller** and won best comedic timing placing in the top five. Seniors **Cooper Rivers** and **Nick Zak** received Best Actor awards for their portrayal of complex characters and junior **Alex McKissick** was a CDA Regional Winner for Acting.

**Natalie Weaver** '11 for being named champion of Connecticut's Fourth Annual Poetry Out Loud State Finals Competition in Hartford. The state finals were part of a national program. Natalie continued on to the national finals in Washington, DC. where she competed, had lunch at the White House, and received a Congressional Commendation from the Connecticut delegation.

**Emily Gao** '09 for receiving Honorable Mention at the Southern Connecticut Conference 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Expo. Emily received a certificate entitling her to a class of her choice at the Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven.

The **DHHS Show Choir** for their award winning performance at the Nutmeg Competition. Among their awards are Best Choral Sound, Gold Medal, Best in Show, Best Female Soloist - **Alexa Patrick** '12, Most Charismatic Soloist - **Alex McKissick** '10, Best Instrumentalist - **Mike Davis-Penta** '09.

Seniors **Ethan Langevin** for winning 1st Place Senior Division and **Joe Liang** for winning 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Senior Division in the Greater Middlesex Math League Competition. Both students will receive scholarships.

Senior **Mia Helfrich** for being named to the Senior National Gymnastics Team. She will represent the State of Connecticut at the Nationals in Virginia Beach on Memorial Day weekend. She has also been named Academic All State and Academic All American.

The following students for being invited to participate in All State Auditions: Chorus: **Sam Dickinson** '10; Band: **David Dorfman** '10, **Tony Li-Geng** '12, **James Muller** '09, **Adam Strawbridge** '10; Orchestra: **Lucy Peng** '11.

DHHS art students who received awards at the Connecticut Art Education Association Scholastic Awards: **Kelly Williams** '09 Gold Key Award in Painting, **Cassandra Talmadge** '09 Gold Key Award for Printmaking, **Bridget Weiler** '11 Silver Key Award for Digital Photography, **Emily Gao** '09 Honorable Mention for Sculpture, **Emily Karas** '12 Honorable Mention for Ceramics/Glass, **Kelsey Leahy** '10 Honorable Mention for Digital Photography, **Nicholas Zak** '09 Honorable Mention for Digital Photography.

Junior **Maria Soshea** for being accepted into the Discovery to Cure Summer Internship Program at Yale. This is a prestigious six-week program designed to promote interest in science and medical fields.

The following Juniors for being accepted into the National Honor Society: **Sally Adua**, **Meagan Allen**, **Victoria Boretsky**, **Madison Boris**, **Rebecca Church**, **Brian Coer**, **Jonathan Dowler**, **Hannah Ellman**, **John Falcone**, **Timothy Forrest**, **Eloise Fullington**, **Taylor Gardner**, **Matthew Gregory**, **Barbara Harding**, **Alexandra Ives**, **Emily Jablonski**, **Emily Kawai**, **Carly McAndrews**, **Alexander McKissick**, **Bradley Napier**, **Rene Parrinello**, **Claire Price**, **Julia Rubano**, **Laura Santry**, **Edward Tian**, and **Emily Wilkins**.

Junior **Meghan Long** for her essay which resulted in the DHHS Interact Club and the Uganda Club receiving an award from the Rotary Club for Outstanding International Service.

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## Newsy Notes

The **Astronomy Club** went stargazing in March at East Wharf Beach. The club members in attendance were able to see the International Space Station, as well as expand their knowledge of the various constellations, planets, and nebula that can be found in the late winter sky.

**Mr. Josh Beckman**, a former DHHS student and published poet, addressed several English classes on April 8. He discussed the art of poetry and read some of his works.

Several **French Club** members went to Jeffrey School three times this winter to engage students in French language and culture. They braved the elements and re-scheduled classes because of snow days. In the end, it was a rewarding experience for the high school students as well as for their grade 1-5 students. Those who participated included **Emelia Pelliccio '09**, **Jennifer Yao '12**, **Katherine Meier '12**, **Emma Lengle '12**, **Sonya Haupt '12**, **Ben Greene '10**, and **Chloe Geshwind '12**.

## Dress Code

The warm weather and current fashion conspire to create an atmosphere in our school that, for many, is not conducive to learning. Among particular concern are styles that reveal bare midriffs, shoulders, and cleavage. We ask that students not wear off the shoulder tops, tank tops, or tops with spaghetti straps. This problem is chiefly with female styles consisting of skimpy and tight clothing; often the wearers of such clothing are targets of unwanted attention and/or comments. Male students' violations fall into the category of pants worn too low so as to reveal their boxer shorts and tee shirts with slogans or images that promote substance use or send offensive sexual messages. We will enforce the policies here and ask parents to reinforce the message that DHHS has a dress code, because we want the best possible learning environment. We are a culture of young people and adults and inappropriate attire can be offensive to both groups.

## LMC Notes

As the school year enters the last trimester, the Library Media Center continues to look ahead for next year. The print collection at Daniel Hand continues to grow as large shipments of books are constantly being transferred to our shelves. We have purchased an eclectic collection of fiction and non-fiction that the students will be sure to enjoy!

The **Summer Reading List 2009** is almost complete and will be on the school and district websites by the end of the school year. Mr. Petrakopoulos took suggestions from students and staff and tried to include something for everybody. Some of the books are already in the Daniel Hand LMC. We should have the rest in by the end of the school year for our eager students.

The library would like to acknowledge the wonderful volunteers who assist the LMC staff whenever they can. The efforts of **Mrs. Katie Kraus**, **Mrs. Debbie Gilbert**, **Mrs. Lianne Herdle**, **Mrs. Huma Kidwai**, **Mrs. Laura Crawford**, and **Mrs. Tina Loucopoulos** are invaluable. Those new books would still be in boxes without them.

Mr. Petrakopoulos would like to thank the entire school for being so welcoming. He has had only positive experiences. He would like to thank especially the library paraprofessionals, **Mrs. Dawn Tiscia** and **Mrs. Tory Chaffee**, for their consistent hard work and great attitudes. They are two of the best resources the LMC has to offer.

### *Senior Prom*

*June 6, 2009  
7:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight  
Aqua Turf, Southington, CT  
No After Prom*



## Mark Your Calendar

### May

- 19 **Budget Referendum**  
 21 Senior Assembly, Gym 8:00 a.m.  
**Underclass Awards**, D&A Hall  
*Students only*  
 Senior Outing, Holiday Hill 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
 25 **Memorial Day - No School**  
 26 Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus 7:00 p.m.  
 28 Orchestra Concert, D&A Hall 7:30 p.m.

### June

- 2 Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus 7:00 p.m.  
 6 Senior Prom, Aqua Turf 7:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight  
 15 Senior Locker Clean-Up  
 15-16 Senior Exams During Classes  
 (Career and Tech. Ed., Art, World Lang., Music)  
 16 Last day regular classes for Seniors  
 17 Junior Locker Clean-Up  
 Senior Exams-Social Studies, English 7:30-11:00 a.m.  
 18 Sophomore/Freshman Locker Clean-Up  
**Last Day Third Trimester**  
 Senior Exams-Math, Science 7:30-11:00 a.m.  
 Senior Awards, D&A Hall 7:00 p.m.  
 19 Senior Make-Up Exams  
 19-23 **Underclass Exams** (see schedule p. 5)  
 22 Senior Meeting, D&A Hall 7:30 a.m.  
 Senior Brunch, Water's Edge 8:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m.  
 Graduation Rehearsal, DHHS Gym 11:30 a.m.  
 23 Graduation Rehearsal, Polson Gym 12:00 noon  
 Graduation Rehearsal, Church House Lawn 1:00 p.m.  
 24 **Last Day of School** (shortened sch.) 7:25 a.m.-11:30 p.m.  
**Make-Up Exams**  
 Graduation Rehearsal, Church House Lawn 1:00 p.m.  
**Graduation Ceremony**, Church House Lawn 6:00 p.m.  
 Nite-in-Hand 10:00 p.m.



## Host Families Urgently Needed - June 29 to July 26

The Student and Travel Exchange Program (STEP) is looking for families to host high school students from northern Spain for four weeks this summer, one student per family. Being able to speak Spanish is not a requirement and you are able to choose a student once your application is completed. Over 115 Madison families have hosted students from Spain in the past twelve years. While here, the students will attend advanced English/American culture classes four mornings each week. In the afternoons they will participate in a variety of fun and interesting experiences. On the fifth week day students will go on an all-day excursion. Host family members are invited to go along on the excursions as they are able. Evenings and weekends are host family time. Families need to provide their student with a bed (shared bedroom is fine), a bag lunch each day, carpool-transportation to class 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 Nann Cooke at 860 510-2475 or email at [cooken@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:cooken@madison.k12.ct.us) or [NannCooke@wmconnect.com](mailto:NannCooke@wmconnect.com) for an application.

## Phoenix Literary Magazine

Attention parents and students! The annual school literary magazine, PHOENIX, which showcases the poetry, essays, short stories, as well as art work and photos of the Daniel Hand student body, is available for purchase this month. Staff members have worked hard this year to select and arrange the creative writing and art work of our students. The magazine is on sale during lunch waves, and can also be purchased through any English department member. We hope to have them available for sale at the upcoming orchestra concert as well as other spring cultural events. The cost? \$3. The memories and the artistic efforts of our students? Priceless!

## Final Exam Schedule for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors\*

- June 19 7:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.  
**1st period class exam**
- 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
**2nd period class exam**
- June 22 7:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.  
**3/4th period class exam**
- 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
**5/6th period class exam**
- June 23 7:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.  
**7/8th period class exam**
- 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
**9th period class exam**
- June 24 Abbreviated periods  
Student/teacher conferences  
Make up exams  
Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.



## Senior Functions

- May 21 **Senior Assembly**, Gym - 8:00 a.m.
- Senior Outing**, Holiday Hill, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- June 6 **Senior Prom**, Aqua Turf, 7:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight
- June 15 **Senior Locker Clean-up**
- June 15 & 16 **Senior Exams\*** during classes  
Career and Tech. Ed., World Languages, Music, Art
- June 16 **Last Day of Regular Classes for Seniors**
- June 17 **Senior Exams\***  
Social Studies 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
English 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- June 18 **Senior Exams\***  
Math 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
Science 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Senior Awards Night**, Dining & Assembly Hall - 7:00 p.m.  
*All seniors are invited to attend*
- June 19 **Senior Make-up Exams** for excused absences  
Senior obligations due at 2:00 p.m.
- June 22 **Senior Assembly**, Dining & Assembly Hall - 7:30 a.m.
- Senior Brunch**, Woodwinds - 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- Graduation Rehearsal**, DHHS Gym - 11:30 a.m.  
*Attendance mandatory*
- June 23 **Graduation Rehearsal**, Polson Gym, 12:00 noon  
*Attendance mandatory*
- Graduation Rehearsal**, Church House Lawn, 1:00 p.m.  
*Attendance mandatory*
- June 24 **Graduation Rehearsal**, Church House Lawn - 1:00 p.m.  
*Attendance mandatory*
- Graduation Ceremony**, Church House Lawn - 6:00 p.m.
- Nite-In-Hand**, Daniel Hand High School - 10:00 p.m.

*\*All students are expected to take final exams at the scheduled time. Any requests for exceptions must be submitted in writing to the Principal by a parent or guardian as soon as possible.*

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## Registration for School Sports

Registration for Fall Sports at Daniel Hand High School and Walter C. Polson Middle School Interscholastic Sports will be held August 17-20, 2009, from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Health Office at Daniel Hand High School. The paperwork has been streamlined in an effort to make the registration process easier for all concerned. Students wishing to participate in fall sports must have the following paperwork on file in the Health Office:

Required paperwork:

|                                       |            |          |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Current annual physical               | DHHS/WCPMS | Annually |
| Sports Participation and Consent Form | DHHS/WCPMS | Annually |
| Emergency Information Form            | DHHS/WCPMS | Annually |
| Code of Conduct                       | DHHS       |          |

- The NEW Sports Participation and Consent Form should list ALL sports (regardless of season) in which a student anticipates playing. If a student is anticipating using the Tiger Fitness Center this should also be listed on this form.
- The school Emergency Information Form and the Athletic Emergency Information Sheet have been combined, and now need only be completed at the beginning of each school year. Again, any sport which a student anticipates playing (regardless of season) should be listed on this form.
- The physical form and the Code of Conduct Contract must be completed each year.
- Payment, in the amount of \$75.00, made payable to DHHS, should accompany the registration forms.

Registration fees for W. C. Polson Middle School interscholastic sports will be collected by coaches when uniforms are distributed.

Forms may be downloaded from the Daniel Hand High School website, [www.danielhand.org](http://www.danielhand.org), or can be picked up from the Health Office or the Athletics Office at DHHS.

### **Academic Eligibility Requirements for Student-Athletes**

To be eligible for fall sports a student must have received credit toward graduation for four courses of study for which he/she has not previously received credit.

A student-athlete cannot, AT ANY TIME, represent the school unless he / she is enrolled in at least four courses. During the school year a student must PASS at least four courses in the trimester preceding the athletic season. No unit of work for which a student has previously received credit shall be included in those required by this rule.

Freshmen may compete in the FIRST trimester regardless of marks received in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. After the first trimester the academic eligibility rules outlined above will apply.

### **Daniel Hand High School Student and Parent Notification of Ineligibility**

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 that 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 for discussion on strategies for academic improvement. At the interim point in a trimester the athletic director will be notified of student-athletes whose grades are in the D and F range, which may lead to academic ineligibility. The athletic director and coach will contact the student in an effort to support and encourage the student in making strides to improve his/her 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 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 the student can still feel connected to the athletic community.

## **APTS Awards**

### Art

Freshman **Nate Ferenczhalmy**  
Sophomore **Shaelin Gottlick**  
Junior **Jessie Kuzma**  
Senior **Kim Cantrell**

### Career and Technical Education

Business **Rick Powers** (gr. 12)  
Family Consumer Education  
**Jessica Buller** (gr. 9)  
Technical Education  
**Colin Bracken** (gr. 11)

### English

Freshman **Carolyn Behan**  
Sophomore **Rich Denton**  
Junior **Billy Reynolds**  
Senior **James Muller**

### Health

Sophomore **Laura Brink**  
Junior **Kerry Donohue**  
Senior **Brittany Parker**

### Math

Freshman **Amber Fuoco**  
Sophomore **Dea Diotalevi**  
Junior **Natalie Mancuso**  
Senior **Madison Hamburg**

### Music

Chorus **Elizabeth Evans** (gr. 12)  
Orchestra **Lizzie Pelker** (gr. 12)  
Band **Mark Sorensen** (gr. 9)

### Physical Education

Freshman **Austin Paradis**  
Sophomore **Samantha Herlihy**  
Junior **John Jongbloed**  
Senior **Matt Smith**

### Science

Freshman **Max Flanagan**  
Sophomore **Jordan Barnaby**  
Junior **Lyndsey Brown**  
Senior **Jessica Patrick**

### Social Studies

Freshman **Casey Drake**  
Sophomore **Axel Althin**  
Junior **Rebekah Levy**  
Senior **Pete Gladstone**

### World Language

Freshman **Ann-Sophie Deman**  
Sophomore **Marina Sachs**  
Junior **Devon Rowell**  
Senior **Ashley Russell**