
DHHS Newsletter

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January, 2006

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents:

I hope you all had a restful and happy holiday recess. As we close our first trimester and begin the second, we have much to be thankful for, to be proud of, and to look forward to!

"I am more interested in school because school is more interested in me." Breaking Ranks II research confirms that students who feel engaged are more likely to be successful. Our goal is to ensure that each student is connected with at least one adult in our building and is provided with opportunities to develop and attain academic, social, and emotional goals.

We had an amazing first trimester with student successes on the athletic fields, on the stage, in the arts, and in the classroom with over fifty percent of our students making the honor roll. In addition, many of our students received positive recognition in the form of early college acceptances.

Our students are very interested in keeping alive some of the traditions of old and beginning some anew. The week prior to holiday recess has now become known as spirit week. Students celebrated their fall accomplishments through a series of events (door decorating, college sweatshirt, and crazy hat days) that culminated in a pep rally. The current senior class had an opportunity to meet with graduates of the class of 2005 for an informative panel discussion on college/career experiences. During the week, the student body raised over \$1,000 for families in our community who were in need during the holiday season. February 4, 2006, will be the second annual Winter Semiformal dance. All ticket proceeds will be donated to "Africare", specifically to purchase vaccines for infants and adolescents.

This fall our Program of Studies, which is a listing of academic and elective courses, was revised and enhanced. We are excited about a number of new course offerings and programs developed to meet the ever evolving needs and strengths of our students.

Our first activity of importance this trimester is 2006-2007 course registration. The process begins with the dissemination of the Program of Studies on January 26 and 27. This will be followed by teacher and student discussions regarding the selection of appropriate courses January 30 through February 1. We ask that you spend some time with your son or daughter in reviewing the course offerings prior to those dates. Their course choices today become the foundation for future choices and the attainment of goals. Your child's school counselor and teachers are important resources, if you have questions.

This trimester all sophomores in the state will take the Connecticut Academic Performance Test. The test will be given on the following dates: March 7, 8, and 9 (state mandated dates), and March 15, 16, and 17 (district elected dates). To achieve our goal of eliciting

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the best performances from our tenth grade students, we are coordinating the trimester testing schedule with the CAPT testing schedule. Student performance on the CAPT is tied to graduation, so it is important that students be in attendance on those days. Freshmen, juniors and seniors are required to take exams during the scheduled exam periods.

In conclusion, I would like to remind you that you are invited to join me for casual conversation on academic, social, or emotional topics the first and third Tuesday of each month from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We look forward to maintaining the positive momentum that was begun in September.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Barbara Britton
Principal

DHHS Salutes . . .

The **Student Council** for a very successful Blood Drive in November.

Forty-six productive pints were donated. Many thanks to our parent volunteers who made the Blood Drive run so smoothly: **Dorit Altman, Jill Curtis, Lisa Hansen, Carolyn Katz, David Katz, Kathy Kishel, Katie Krause, Chris Loftus, Linda Sakmar, Mary Stryker, Kim Zdon.** Also, special thanks to **Cohen's Bagels** for their generous donation, and DHHS staff

members **Mr. Jim Flanagan, Mrs. Donna Konarski, and Mr. Bob Burr and the custodial staff** for their help and assistance before, during, and after the drive. A second drive will be conducted in March.

Staff members **Mr. Dan Zittoun, Mr. Warren Miller, Mr. Craig Semple, and Ms. Mary Markowski** for their volunteer efforts in presenting the fifth annual girls' flag football game between the girls in our junior and senior classes.

Mason Britton '08, Nageen Karimi '09, Katherine Mamula '08, Sarah Mamula '08, Nicholas Mancusco '08, and Miller Sakmar '09, for being selected to attend the Rotary New Generation seminar held at the University of New Haven.

Members of the **Student Council Homecoming Committee** and advisor, **Mr. Peter Nye,** and **faculty chaperones** for a very successful Homecoming Dance. More than eight hundred DHHS students and their guests enjoyed a great evening. The money that was raised will be used for the DHHS Student Council scholarship and donations to several charities.

Senior **Kelly Gerson** for being selected by the faculty for the DAR Good Citizen Award for her leadership, dependability, service, and patriotism.

Seniors **Kristin Bagnoli, Danielle Bartlett, Jennifer Basler, David Boyd, Laura Boyle, Kathleen Byrne, Samantha Cox, Lawrence DeBurra, Amy Detmer, Lisa Gagliano, Anna Goodbaum, Rebecca Holmberg, James Kenney, Caitlin McMahan, Jacqueline Murphy, Emily Rosen, Amy Siedlecki, Kimberly Simonsen, Li Charlie Tian,**

and **Jamie Tiscia** for being selected to the National Honor Society. The induction ceremony took place on November 21.

Emma Norris '08 for being selected to represent DHHS at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar.

Chorus members **Perri Freeman '09, Elizabeth Santone '07, and Ryan Thomas '09,** Band members **Dana Chaffiotte '07, Katie Chapman '08, William Dickinson '08, Wil Howell '06, John-Michael Parker '06, Tom Sikes '07, Jackie Strawbridge '08** (for Jazz Band), **Pete Tosiello '08, Katie Trainer '08,** and **Libby Trainer '06,** Orchestra members **Nick Bosch '08, Tess Coffey '08, Cindy Luo '08, Leandra Mosca '07, BJ Youngerman '06, and Ryan Youngerman '08** for being chosen to perform in the Southern Regional High School Festival at Maloney High School in Meriden on January 14.

Janvi Paralker '07 and Gregory Rittchen '07 for being selected for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program.

Alexandra DelVecchio '07, Layan Fuleihan '08, Cindy Luo '08, Tom Sikes '07, Kaitlin Stern '06, Libby Trainer '08 for auditioning and being selected to the All New England Festival Band Orchestra. They will be performing at Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on the U. Conn campus on March 11.

Our coaches of the year: **Mrs. Jen Amasino** for Swimming and **Mrs. Pat McCahill** for Girls' Lacrosse.

Nurse's Notes

The *flu season* is upon us. Please remember that hand washing is one of the most important means of preventing the spread of infection. For more information, please check the website for the Centers for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov/flu.

As mandated by the State of Connecticut, the Health Office staff conducted *vision screening* for ninth grade students, and *hearing screening* for tenth grade students. 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 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 Paraprofessional.

Reminders for the New Year

- ✓ Students requesting an **early dismissal from school** must bring a note from home stating the reason for leaving school early. Notes should be presented to the attendance secretary upon arrival at school. At that time the student will be issued an early dismissal slip, which must be signed by teachers and returned to the attendance secretary before leaving school. *Parents are asked to call the attendance secretary in the morning of the dismissal to confirm the note.* Parents are also urged to request an early dismissal only in cases of pressing family business. *Seniors only* have the privilege of leaving school early after their last class of the day. **Trimester early dismissal forms for seniors** are available in the Main Office and must be signed by a parent and approved by a school administrator each trimester.
- ✓ First period **classes begin at 7:25 a.m.** followed by period 2 attendance at 8:34 a.m. Juniors and Seniors, who do not have scheduled first time block classes and who have their own transportation, must be in school by 8:15 a.m. Please help us by being certain that students are on time.
- ✓ Parents of **students who are absent** are required to call the school at 245-6355 between 7:00 and 10:00 a.m. each day the student is absent. This procedure also applies to students who will be tardy to school or who require an early dismissal.
- ✓ Students who are **tardy to school** must arrive at school prior to 9:00 a.m. All excused tardies must be for a valid reason and must be verified by a parent. Oversleeping is not considered a valid reason for tardiness. To be eligible to participate in an athletic or other after school activity, a student must be present for a minimum of four hours.
- ✓ **Messages for students** will be taken only from parents and only for emergencies. Students will be called to the office for messages twice a day--at 8:25 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Course Selection

Course Selection for the 2006-07 school year will be starting before we know it. Pay careful attention to the deadlines and policies explained below to assure the best possible schedules and to enable the school administration to provide the courses that will best meet the needs of each student.

- When your student receives the *Program of Studies*, carefully review it, paying special attention to the course descriptions, credit requirements, and prerequisites.
- Discuss next year's course with this year's teacher so that proper placement decisions are made.
- Make the guidance counselor aware of special circumstances.
- Understand that the decisions about what is scheduled each year are based on the student course requests. Therefore, after the scheduling process is completed in June, changes in schedules, except in highly extenuating circumstances, cannot be made.

Key Dates and Deadlines for Course Selection

January 26 and 27

Students meet with counselors in English classes

January 30

Elective blanks distributed to students in homeroom

February 2

Elective blanks due to Guidance

APTS Update

Date: **Monday, February 6
7:00 p.m., LMC**
 Speaker: **Sam Rosensohn,
Founder of College
Planning Partnerships**

You may recognize Sam Rosensohn's name from his insightful articles on college planning entitled College 101 for the Shore Publishing Newspapers. Or you may be familiar (or recommended) to his business, College Planning Solutions, in Clinton. What you probably do not know is that Sam is a nationally recognized teacher with too many awards from the state and presidential level to mention here.

Sam will bring his years in education, his business acumen, and his own parental experiences to our next APTS meeting. He will be discussing and answering questions about what parents need to know for the "college planning process" beginning with freshman year and continuing through the high school years until the last application is in the mail. Please join us.

SAT Review

A review course will be offered at Daniel Hand High School to prepare students for the College Board Scholastic Assessment Test on April 1. The class will meet for ten sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:15 to 3:15 beginning Tuesday, February 28, and ending Thursday, March 30. The fee for the course is \$100. Interested students may sign up in Room 221. Class size is limited to 30 students.

First Trimester APTS Recognition Award Recipients

Art

Freshman	Jack Butler
Sophomore	Matt Allen
Junior	Emily Savoca
Senior	Joe Banks

Career and Technical Education

Business	Ryan Davidovich
TV Production	Mike Conti
Transportation & Materials Proc.	Brendan Johnson
Materials Proc.	Archibald Adams
Boat Building	Vincent Finelli
Boat Building	John-Paul Paradis

English

Freshman	Andrew Nappo
Sophomore	Ben Hacker
Junior	Max Calfo
Senior	Liz Bone

Health

Sophomore	Jamie Green
Junior	Dan Lane
Senior	Claire Prasinos

Math

Freshman	Liz English
Sophomore	Stephanie Chandler
Junior	Amber Durant
Senior	Joe Cohan

Music

Chorus	Sean O'Connor
Orchestra	Alexander Taubes
Band	Ruiqi Li

Physical Education

Freshman	Eric Anderson
Sophomore	Brittany Badik
Junior	Ethan Bates

Science

Freshman	Kelly Williams
Sophomore	Lindsay Roseman
Junior	Kathleen Horton
Senior	Liz Gosselin

Social Studies

Freshman	Leah Plummer
Sophomore	Everitt Newton
Junior	Josh Hedges
Senior	Tim Bartsch

World Language

Freshman	Marisa LeFebvre
Sophomore	Brendan Andrew
Junior	Maria Picone
Senior	Linda Thelin

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

January

16	Martin Luther King Day - No School	
17	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
19	Meeting for Incoming Ninth Graders (Snow date 1/23/05)	7:00 p.m.
26	Second Trimester Interims Reports	
28	SAT Testing	
31	Honors Breakfast (<i>Students Only</i>), DAH	Period 2

February

2	In Person Sign Ups for P-T Conferences	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
4	Winter Wonderland Dance, DAH	7:30-11:00 p.m.
6	Telephone Sign Ups for P-T Conferences	8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
6	APTS Meeting, LMC	7:00 p.m.
7	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
9	Parent Teacher Conferences	12-45-2:45 p.m., 7:00-9:00 p.m.
15	Symphonic Band Concert, DAH	7:30 p.m.
20-24	Winter Break	
28	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.

March

2	Spring Sports Registration, Health Office	6:00-8:00 p.m.
7	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
7-9	CAPT Testing	
15-17	Second Trimester Exams	
15-17	CAPT Testing	

Spring Sports Registration

Registration for Spring Sports at Daniel Hand High School will take place on Thursday, March 2, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Health Office at Daniel Hand High School. Any student wishing to participate in spring sports must have all completed paperwork filed with the School Nurse **no later than Friday, March 17.**

Required paperwork:

- Current annual physical
- Seasonal Sports Participation and Consent Form
- Athletic Emergency Information Sheet
- Code of Conduct
- Parental Waiver/Release of Information
- Registration Form and payment, in the amount of \$75.00, made payable to DHHS.

Forms may be downloaded from the Daniel Hand High School website, www.danielhand.org, or can be picked up from the Nurse's Office or the Athletics Office at DHHS.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences will take place on **Thursday, February 9.** Ten minute time blocks are available from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Parents may schedule the appointments *in person* at DHHS from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, February 2.** Appointments can be made *by phone* on **Monday, February 6.** Call 245-6352 to schedule an appointment. These conferences are very useful for parents of students who have concerns about this year's courses or who have questions about course selection or placement for next year.

New Additions

We welcome to our staff:

Jennifer Burtraw - Spanish Teacher

Jin Jungfan - Chinese Exchange
Teacher

Synthia Liska - Special Ed. Paraprofessional

Pat Turcio - Special Ed. Paraprofessional

Val Yaggi - Special Ed. Paraprofessional

In addition **Rachel McNellis** has taken on a new position as Guidance Secretary.

Traffic Tips

In the interest of safe and timely arrivals and dismissals, we offer the following "traffic advisories:"

- **Plan to arrive before 7:10 a.m.**
- **Plan to pick up after 2:10 p.m.**
- **Pick up and drop off students in the rear of the West Building (gymnasium)**

Please drive slowly at all times while entering and leaving the Polson/DHHS campus and stay alert for the many pedestrians and cyclists.