

# DHHS Newsletter

[www.danielhand.org](http://www.danielhand.org)

November 2014

## Principal's Letter

To Parents and Guardians:

The 2014-15 school year started on a positive note. Attendance at the Freshmen Orientation and the combination Sport's Night/Back to School Night was excellent. At the time of this newsletter, the mid-way point of the first trimester has already passed. Similar to last year, the absence of disruptive weather has been beneficial to both staff and students. I hope it continues over the winter months.

The incoming freshmen seem to have transitioned nicely into the daily routine at Daniel Hand. The sophomores are much more comfortable with the high school environment. Our juniors are in what many would say is the most challenging year of high school. Seniors are busy completing college applications and planning for life after high school. Our counselors are fully aware of the pressures associated with being in high school and work closely with students to help them manage both the expected and unexpected stressors. Hand continues to be a very busy place after the school day. A very high percentage of our students remain on campus after the conclusion of the school day. Whether they are seeking support from teachers, participating in one of our 80+ clubs, working out, or participating on one of our athletic teams, it is wonderful to be a part of such an active school community.

I understand that we all have busy lives, but if your schedule allows, I would encourage you to attend some of our athletic competitions. Not only are we competing in the very challenging SCC, but our student-athletes genuinely appreciate our support when we attend their events. I have enjoyed attending several sporting events thus far and look forward to attending more over the course of the school year. As you are aware, behavior at sporting events can be challenging at times. This year, we have openly communicated our fan behavior expectations to our entire student body. We expect there to be a great deal of positive and respectful energy at all sporting events, no matter the outcome of the competition. We will address this with our students over the course of the school year and ask for your assistance with communicating these expectations to your children as well as serving as a role model at all events.

Before you know it, December will be upon us as will the exciting drama and musical performances. I attended the majority of these events last year and was nothing short of impressed with the performances. This year's fall performance is *Alice in Wonderland* and is scheduled on December 4th, 5th, and 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining and Assembly Hall. The December musical performances and the fall drama performance are events I would encourage you attend with your entire family.

*Sign up for email notices and news updates at [www.danielhand.org](http://www.danielhand.org) E-Notify Sign-Up*



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## Principal's Letter

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Teaching and learning at DHHS are informed by the school's Core Values and Beliefs and Learning Expectations. You can find this information in the Student and Family Handbook as well as on our school's homepage at [www.danielhand.org](http://www.danielhand.org). We use benchmark assessments to identify each student's level of achievement in meeting these expectations. With that being said, a defined revision cycle for all curricular areas has been developed. Language arts and math have already started this important process. Within the revision process, there will be changes to benchmarks as well as the implementation of newly created 21st century learning rubrics. Expect to hear more about these revisions in the future.

In our continued effort to be environmentally friendly, we will not be issuing paper copies of trimester two schedules. Students can access their schedules on Infinite Campus. Barring school cancellations for any reason, trimester one will end on Wednesday, November 26th and trimester two will begin on Monday, December 1st.

Understanding that our students work diligently and would benefit from more accessibility to teachers, we are piloting what we refer to as "learning labs" in language arts and math. More specifically, we are announcing the period and location of all study halls that are supervised by either a language arts or math teacher. Any student who happens to have a free period or study hall during one of these learning labs can visit the teacher for support in either language arts or math. For clarity, this is not designed to be tutoring or re-teaching but an opportunity for students to have access to content specific teachers that can offer assistance as needed. We will assess the success of these new learning labs and hope to offer more in various content areas in the future.

On a personal note, I continue to be impressed with the entire DHHS school community. I have had the opportunity to visit several classes during instruction and have been pleased with what I have observed. Some of the observations included student speeches, collaborative tasks, and in many instances high level discussions around relevant topics. Our guidance program coordinator, Jen Hawley, and I recently visited all the junior history classes. During these visits we discussed and distributed CAPT scores from March 2014. I am looking forward to getting into more classrooms over the course of the school year. It is a pleasure working with such amazing students and such a high-quality staff.

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter article. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Anthony R. Salutari, Jr.*

Principal

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## Daniel Hand High School's Core Values and Beliefs

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.

### **Core Values and Beliefs Statement:**

The Daniel Hand High School community believes that the mission of our school is to support all students by providing them with challenging educational opportunities which will prepare them to be globally aware citizens of the 21st century. To succeed in this mission, we recognize that our students must demonstrate competence in oral and written communications; understand effective and responsible use of technology; and develop critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity. In addition, it is critical that our students respect and contribute to the diverse, multicultural community and international community in which they live.

## Nurse's Notes

The *flu season* is approaching - please encourage your children to:

1. Fuel their system in the morning with a good healthy breakfast,
2. Get plenty of rest,
3. Wash their hands frequently.

**Washing hands is one of the most 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 in the spring*.

**Connecticut State law requires each student in grade 10** to have a physical examination performed by a MD, APRN, DO, or PA. *Tenth grade physical examinations are due in 10th grade before entry to the eleventh grade.*

Forms (State of CT, blue, HAR-3, rev 4/2012 forms) are available in the DHHS Health Office & at [http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/student/health/har3\\_final.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/student/health/har3_final.pdf).

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Donna Konarski, RN or Ms. Karin Thelin, Health Paraprofessional II at 245-6370, DHHS Health Office.



## Save the Date

HANDS ON STAGE PRODUCTION COMPANY invites you to join us for our fall production of *Alice in Wonderland*. The performance dates are Thursday through Saturday, December 4-6. Curtain is at 7:00 p.m. Tickets go on sale Saturday, November 22 at R. J. Julia's Bookstore and ACT II Thrift Shop. Tickets can be purchased in the main office of Daniel Hand High

School starting Monday, November 24. Ticket price is \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door. Advance ticket prices end at 5:00 p.m. the day of the show.



## SAT Class

A review course will be offered at Daniel Hand High School to prepare students for the SAT and ACT. The class will meet for twelve sessions, Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2:10-3:10 p.m. The first class will be on Monday, February 2nd and the last class will be on Wednesday, March 11th. The fee for the course is \$150.

For more information send an email to: [miller@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:miller@madison.k12.ct.us). Interested students should sign up in the main office with a check for \$150 made out to DHHS. Class size is limited to 30 students.



## Yearbook

Students can purchase yearbooks online at: [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) for \$70.00 and the first line of personalization is free. Also, parents of seniors are reminded that yearbook graduation ads are now available at [www.gradad.com](http://www.gradad.com). Parents with questions regarding any aspect of the yearbook may contact Mrs. Allison Marchese at [marchesea@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:marchesea@madison.k12.ct.us) or Catherine Mastroianni at [mastroiannic@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:mastroiannic@madison.k12.ct.us).

## Bonus Programs

Please help our school by signing up for the **A+ School Rewards Program** at [www.stopandshop.com](http://www.stopandshop.com). Our school will earn cash each time you use your card. We appreciate your support.

If you apply and get approved for a **REDcard at Target**, you can participate in the Take Charge of Education program and earn a donation for our school. Target will donate up to 1% of your purchase to the school you indicate.

Go to [www.Target.com/tcoe](http://www.Target.com/tcoe) and select Take Charge of Education.

## Nite-in-Hand

Planning for the 2015 Nite-in-Hand celebration is well underway! Nite-in-Hand is a fun, safe, and substance free evening of celebration held graduation night at Daniel Hand High School. Traditionally, Nite-in-Hand allows Madison's grads to spend the entire night celebrating together in a safe substance-free environment.

The second Nite-in-Hand 2015 planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the DHHS library. Normally meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month but because of election day it is moved to the 2nd Tuesday.

Whether you have worked before on NIH or never before, we need YOU! NIH depends on parent participation. Please come on the 11th and sign up for a committee of your choice.

## DHHS Salutes....

Seniors **Grace Gilbert** and **Andrew Rossi** for being selected for the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents' Award for their academic and leadership abilities and dedication to the community. They will be honored in December at a Madison Board of Education meeting and will also be honored at the Middlesex Superintendents' Luncheon at Saybrook Point Inn.

**Abigail McGuirk '14** for being selected "Miss Be Thankful" for the Madison Lions Club campaign to benefit eye research. Abigail was chosen for this honor for her leadership, academic achievements, and community service.

## Library Notes

The Daniel Hand Library Media Center is happy to be back in business. Our e-book services are constantly growing in popularity. The Daniel Hand Library Media Center has two e-book services that can be accessed 24/7 and offer both fiction and non-fiction. They are Follett Shelf and Overdrive. Follett Shelf is fully integrated with the LMC's online catalog Destiny and provides students and teachers the ability to read books of all genres on most devices. Overdrive allows students to access titles on their devices, including their smartphones. Overdrive also includes audiobooks and Kindle titles that can be accessed on all devices. The e-book collection has grown to 2,000 in the past three years. E-books can currently be accessed through the LMC webpage or directly through Destiny. Students and staff are always welcome to come into the LMC for a tutorial. Students should use their I.D. numbers as their username and password.

The LMC would like to welcome our new volunteers Jennifer Tung and Claudia Pace. Their assistance is invaluable to the LMC. We are always looking for volunteers to help with shelving books, designing our displays, and performing various library tasks. Call us at 203-245-6376 for more information or stop by the LMC. It is a great way to stay in touch with what is happening in the school.



## Newsy Notes

Ms. Browne and Mrs. Filippone invited their **Honors Biology classes** to the American Museum of Natural History on October 1 to wrap up their study of evolution. The trip was an amazing opportunity to see first-hand the diversity of living things in dioramas, appreciate the size and scope of extinct species in fossil form, and view a traveling exhibit of Lonesome George, the last Pinta Island (Galapagos Island) tortoise! Many of the exhibits related directly to species that Charles Darwin famously noted in his travels around the world in the 1930s. A special thank you to the parent volunteers and retired teachers for chaperoning this meaningful experience.

Teachers Josh Hibbard, Kristin Mancini, Denise Earles, and Page Pelphrey will be traveling with 32 students from Daniel Hand High School to **Santiago de Compostela, Spain** and its surroundings this upcoming summer from July 6-13, 2015. Students will have the opportunity to see, first-hand, cultural elements of Spain studied in their Spanish classes and to test their Spanish language skills with locals in authentic settings. Anyone with interest in traveling on similar trips to Spain in the future should contact Mr. Josh Hibbard at [hibbardj@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:hibbardj@madison.k12.ct.us).

The **DHHS Band** has had a great fall season so far. Performing their halftime show at the first three home games, the 225 member Tiger Marching Band and Flag Squad featured the music of Chicago and the Jackson 5. The band traveled to Middletown on Halloween night for the Hand/Xavier game, where they performed an array of new music in the stands, as well as their halftime show in full costume. Our class of 2015 band members will be honored at the November 7th home game, and we will have our last home halftime performance the night before Thanksgiving, on November 26th.

The **DHHS Jazz Band** is off to a strong start and is gearing up for its February trip to Montreal with the Chamber Ensemble. Together, these two groups will have master classes at McGill University, a performance at Notre Dame Cathedral, and some wonderful opportunities to experience the culture of Montreal. Other upcoming gigs for the band include a trip to Ryerson School in January, our winter concert on February 10th, and a Ryerson fundraiser at the Madison Winter Club on March 20th.

## Mark Your Calendar

### November

- 18 **Early Dismissal—Professional Development**  
 18 Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.  
 21, 24, 25 **First Trimester Exams** (see exam schedule)  
 26 **Early Dismissal**  
 27-28 **Thanksgiving Recess , No School**

### December

- 1 1st day of Second Trimester  
 2 PTO Meeting, LMC classroom 8:00 a.m.  
 2 Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.  
 4-6 *Alice In Wonderland*, Drama Prod., D&A Hall 7:00 p.m.  
 6 SAT Testing  
 8 Blood Drive, Auxiliary Gym  
 10 Choral Concert, D&A Hall 7:30 p.m.  
 12 **First Trimester Report Cards Distributed in PAW**  
 16 Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.  
 17 Orchestra Concert, D&A Hall 7:30 p.m.  
 23-1/2 **Holiday Break, No School**

### January

- 5 **School Resumes**  
 6 PTO Meeting, LMC classroom 8:00 a.m.  
 6 Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.  
 19 **Martin Luther King, No School**  
 20 Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.  
 27 **Early Dismissal—Professional Development**

## Exam Schedule

Fri., 11/21	Period 1	7:45-9:45
	Period 2	10:15-12:15
Mon., 11/24	Period 3	7:45-9:45
	Period 4	10:15-12:15
Tues., 11/25	Period 5	7:45-9:45
	Period 6	10:15-12:15

## Voice Mail/E-Mail

A complete directory of voice mail and e-mail numbers can be found on our web-site. The easiest way to leave a voice mail message is to dial 203.245.6475 to access the system and then add the voice mail box number. Feel free to call the main school number 203.245.6350 if you need assistance.

## More Newsy Notes

Mr. Samuelson and Mr. Docker teamed up to bring their **Biology classes** on a nature walk to observe some of the local flora and fauna in and around Bauer Farm in order to help emphasize relevant topics learned in the classroom. Future field studies will include students working in teams to sample various quadrats of the habitat. Students will be responsible for observing and identifying various species of plants, testing and analyzing soil samples for temperature and pH, and discussing the ecological important of their findings.



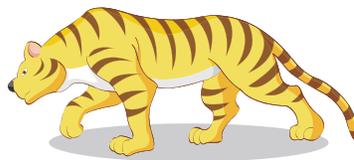
The United Nations Department of Public Information Non Governmental Organizations (DPI/NGO) held its 65th annual conference this summer at the United Nations headquarters in New York. **Anita Ferron** was on the committee of which five people presented representing the Internal Federation of Home Economists (IFHE). The focus was on families to improve sustainable development and eradicate poverty by providing basic conditions and empowerment. The presenters discussed their work with the Navajo people, young males in Australia, underprivileged residents of Guyana, American Students in university family studies programs, and the Canadian

FRESH food program. This conference provided IFHE an opportunity to meet with and begin a plan of action working collaboratively with other NGO organizations to help families around the world become healthy, sustainable, and productive members of their communities.

During October, fifteen advanced studio art students participated in a field trip to Old Lyme where they had an opportunity to visit internationally renowned Gilbert Boro's studio and his adjacent sculpture grounds. Later in the day the students toured the Lyme Arts Academy and participated in a life drawing class. On the grounds, Boro's large scale sculptures are so artfully

placed on his beautifully landscaped property. "Entering these grounds is like entering a grove of beech trees. The sculptures spread above and around you as you walk underneath and through their forms." Jason E. Boro, Art Critic.

Then it was off to the Lyme Arts Studio next door for a campus tour, life drawing class, and lunch. Anatomical Studies are paramount to understanding the human form. The students had an introduction to approaching the figure through drawing a live model, an opportunity we are unable to offer at the high school. Lyme Academy has generously offered to include our students in such continuing education opportunities.



Greetings!

**Studies show the more connected parents are to their teenagers' lives, the less isolated the kids feel and the more successful they become as adults.** A great way for you to be informed and involved in your students' high school experience is attendance at the monthly DHHS PTO meetings. **Meetings are generally held the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 a.m.** (school calendar permitting) at Hand. These meetings are a wonderful opportunity for an open forum discussion regarding curriculum, sports, and navigating through your child's high school years.

Please support DHHS PTO by becoming a member today! Your \$25.00 membership dues support the purchase of school equipment, books, and core program enhancements. The PTO also supports the fall and spring Blood Drives, Staff Appreciation Breakfast, Art Receptions, College Fair, and special event programming such as professional speakers or school-wide assemblies.

Membership dues: **\$25.00 per family (a tax deductible contribution)**

Please complete the information below and make checks payable to DHHS PTO. Return to the school office or:

Jeanne Stevens  
14 Juniper Lane  
Madison, CT 06443

Corporate Matching: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Schedule 2014-15 DHHS PTO Meetings

All meetings begin at **8:00 a.m.** and are held in the Library or Guidance Center depending upon room availability. Every effort is made to hold our meetings on the first Tuesday of each month.

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

No April Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2015