

# DHHS Newsletter

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

November 2015

## Principal's Letter

To Parents and Guardians:

It has been a great start to the 2015-16 school year. The adjustment to the schedule for the first day of school allowed the administration the opportunity to meet with the entire student body. Our assistant principals, Mr. Bodner and Mrs. Schneider, were able to share the important components of the handbook, while our Athletic Director, Mr. Semple, and I led the sports and general expectation meeting with our students. Although it was a great deal of information to share in one morning, it was an exciting way for us to kick off the school year.

The freshmen class seems to have transitioned nicely into the daily routine at Hand and the sophomores are clearly more comfortable with the high school environment. The junior class is involved in what many would say is the most challenging year of high school. Seniors are busy completing college applications and beginning to plan 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 expected and unexpected stressors. Hand continues to be a 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 90 plus 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, spectator behavior at sporting events can be challenging. As we did last year, we have openly communicated our spectator 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 yourselves at all events.

At the time of this newsletter, the halfway point of the first trimester has already passed. 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 beyond impressed with the performances. This year's fall performance is *M\*A\*S\*H* and is scheduled on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining and Assembly Hall. The musical and drama performances are events I would encourage you attend with your entire family. Please check our website for dates and times of these special events.

*continued on p. 2*

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



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DHHS Salutes	P. 4
Fall Production	P. 4
Mark Your Calendar	P. 5
Newsy Notes	P. 5
Nurse's Notes	P. 3
PTO	P. 6
Yearbook	P. 3

## Principal's Letter

*continued from p.1*

For your information, the Board of Education recently revised and approved Homework Policy #6154. Each school in the district created homework regulations that align with the Homework Policy. All DHHS students received a copy of our regulations during a PAW on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. We also sent an e-Notify to the school community on October 13<sup>th</sup> that included a link to the regulations. These regulations are already in effect and we are hopeful they will be positive for both our students and our faculty. Additionally, faculty members have been working on the *2016-17 Program of Studies*. Courses that typically exceed the terms defined in our regulations will be clearly communicated in the *Program of Studies*. Our hope is that, prior to selecting courses, students and their families will have a clear understanding of the workload next year's schedule can have prior to submitting the required forms during the winter months.

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 25<sup>th</sup> and trimester two will begin on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

As we did last year, the "learning lab" pilot in language arts and math will continue. At the beginning of each mester, we announce and post 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 a study hall during one of these learning labs can visit the teacher for support in either language arts or math. For clarity, learning labs are not designed to be tutoring or re-teaching but an opportunity for students to have access to content specific teachers who can offer assistance and answer questions as needed.

It continues to be a pleasure working with such amazing students and such a high-quality staff. Additionally, the ongoing support we receive from the community is very much appreciated.

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

---

## 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 *scoliosis screening* for *ninth*

*grade males only*. We will send you a notice when we will be starting and give you an opportunity for your child's health care provider to perform the screening.

**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 PRIOR to 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 Mrs. Cathy McGrady, Health Paraprofessional II at 245-6370, DHHS Health Office.



## Yearbook

Students can purchase yearbooks online at: [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) for a special price of \$75.00 (Hurry before the price reverts to the regular price of \$80.00!)

Graduation ads are on sale through December 4, 2015. This is your one opportunity to include a special message/photo in the 2016 yearbook. You can place your ad online at [www.gradad.com](http://www.gradad.com).

All seniors should have had their portrait taken already. The FINAL days for rescheduled appointments are rapidly approaching. Be sure your senior either took a picture already or has an appointment scheduled. **Once seniors receive their proofs, they should go online to choose the pose they want included in the yearbook or a pose will selected for them.**

If you would like to advertise your business in the yearbook, please contact one of the yearbook advisors. The yearbook typically reaches over 700 homes each year. We greatly appreciate your support!

Any questions concerning the yearbook should be addressed to one of the advisors: Julie Johnson (rm. 310), [johnsonj@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:johnsonj@madison.k12.ct.us) and Josh Young (rm. 328) [youngj@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:youngj@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.



## SAT Class

A review course will be offered at Daniel Hand High School to prepare students for the redesigned SAT. It will also include practice for the ACT. The class will meet for 10 sessions, Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2:10-3:10 p.m. The first class will be on Monday, February 1st and the last class will be on Wednesday, March 2nd. The fee for the course is \$150.00.

For more information send an email to Reed Miller @ [millerr@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:millerr@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.



## Nite-in-Hand

Planning for the 2016 Nite-in-Hand celebration is well underway! Nite-in-Hand is an evening celebration held graduation night at Daniel Hand High School. It allows Madison's graduates to spend the entire night celebrating together in a safe, substance-free environment. Planning meetings take place the 1st Tuesday of each month, in the DHHS library, from 7-8:00 p.m.

Whether you have worked before on NIH or never before, we need you! Whether you have a senior or an underclassmen, we need you! A successful NIH depends on great parent participation. Come learn and experience the Nite-in-Hand process so that this extraordinary tradition may be continued for years to come!

## DHHS Salutes....

Seniors **Danielle Marzitelli** and **Matthew Henry** 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 November at a Madison Board of Education meeting and will also be honored at the Middlesex Superintendents' Luncheon at Saybrook Point Inn in December.

**Emily Gravino '16** for being selected "Miss Be Thankful" for the Madison Lions Club campaign to benefit eye research. Emily 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 four 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 back our volunteers Jennifer Tung and Claudia Pace and welcome first time volunteer, Christine Clyde. 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.



## Save the Date



**M\*A\*S\*H** comes to DHHS!

This comedy details the exploits of military doctors and nurses at a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital during the Korean War. Between hospital shifts and countless rounds of martinis, wisecracking surgeons Hawkeye Pierce and Duke Forrest make it their business to undercut the smug, moralistic pretensions of Bible-thumper Major Frank Burns and Army true-believer Major "Hot Lips" Houlihan. Abetted by such other troublemakers as Trapper John McIntyre and Painless Pole, as well as such (relative) innocents as Radar O'Reilly, Hawkeye and Duke drive Burns and Houlihan crazy while engaging in such additional blasphemies as taking a medical trip to Japan to play golf, staging a mock Frankenstein movie re-make to cure Painless' depression, and using any means necessary to win an inter-MASH football game. *M\*A\*S\*H* creates a casual, chaotic atmosphere emphasizing the constant noise and activity of a surgical unit near battle lines. *M\*A\*S\*H* became the third most popular film of 1970 but is probably best known as the popular, award winning TV series that ran from 1972-1983. Based on a novel by Richard Hooker, this a MUST see for students and their parents that promises to entertain and delight audiences of all ages!

The curtain rises at 7:00 p.m. on December 3, 4, and 5 in the Daniel Hand High School Dining and Assembly Hall. Tickets can be purchased in advance from RJ Julia's and the DHHS Main Office starting November 21.

## Music Notes

The DHHS Tiger marching Band had a very successful fall season. After our one week of band camp in August, the band was ready to go for their two September performances in Cheshire and at the Surf Club. October brought rain but also Band Night with the Polson 8th graders, Senior Night, and our annual Halloween costume night on October 30th. We will conclude our season on November 25th at Guilford High School for the annual Thanksgiving game.

The music department will be sending 30 students to Waterbury on November 21 to audition for the CMEA Southern Regional Festival. Students who score high enough on their audition will be selected to be members of the Southern Regional Festival Jazz Band, Chorus, Orchestra, or Concert Band in January. DHHS is always well represented at these festivals, and we are sure this year will be no exception.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our band concerts: Winter Concert, February 4th (snow date Feb. 10) and Spring Concert, May 12th.

We hope to see you there!



## Mark Your Calendar

### November

- 10 **Early Dismissal—Professional Development**
- 10 Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.
- 20, 23, 24 **First Trimester Exams** (see exam schedule)
- 25 **Early Dismissal**
- 26-27 **Thanksgiving Recess , No School**
- 30 1st day of Second Trimester

### December

- 1 PTO Meeting, LMC classroom 8:00 a.m.
- 1 Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.
- 3-5 *M\*A\*S\*H*, Drama Prod., D&A Hall 7:00 p.m.
- 5 SAT Testing
- 7 Blood Drive, Auxiliary Gym
- 11 **First Trimester Report Cards Distributed in PAW**
- 15 Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Choral Concert, D&A Hall 7:30 p.m.
- 23-1/3 **Holiday Break, No School**

### January

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

## Exam Schedule

Fri., 11/20	Period 1	7:45-9:45
	Period 2	10:15-12:15
Mon., 11/23	Period 3	7:45-9:45
	Period 4	10:15-12:15
Tues., 11/24	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 website. 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.

## Newsy Notes

During October, a number of **Advanced Studio and Painting Studio** students participated in a field trip to Old Lyme where they had the opportunity to participate in a life drawing class. Understanding the human form is a vital aspect of becoming an artist and this gave the students an opportunity to draw the figure of a live model. The students were also able to tour the Old Lyme studios as well as the studio and sculptural grounds of Gilbert Boro, an internationally renowned artist. We continue to have a great relationship with Lyme

Academy as they welcome our students in such continuing educational opportunities. The students had a wonderful time and had this to say about their experience: "The trip to Lyme Academy was essential towards the broadening of my horizons on higher education in the arts. The figure drawing was a fulfilling learning experience that instantly improved the way I draw and changed how I see structures in the world."- Emma Boey. "Lyme Academy showed me I have options and college can be a place to develop as a person in an entertaining and personalized way. The life drawing class was very involved and educational. Working in a large group made me feel like as a unit we were learning from each other." - Clare Graves

The **Honors Biology** classes had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Natural History in NYC on October 1st. The trip allowed students to visit many exhibits to enhance and enrich their understanding of the unit on Evolution. The students were fascinated by "Lucy" and the array of artifacts in the Hall of Human Origins and the blue whale replica in the Millstein Hall of Ocean Life. The Life at the Limits exhibit displayed many astonishing life forms living in unique places and related the information to Darwin's theory of natural selection. Students enjoyed seeing displays throughout the museum exhibit halls and were able to make many connections on their own to the evolution unit.

## Guidance Corner

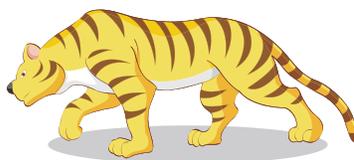
The guidance department hosted Charles Wareham, Valark Financial Services, on October 14th. This was an informational meeting open to parents of senior students to offer options and insights regarding college funding strategies. If you were unable to attend and would like to receive information, please contact Gina Voytek @ [voytekg@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:voytekg@madison.k12.ct.us).

499 sophomores and juniors took the PSAT on October 14th during the school day. The results of the PSAT will be available to students in January.

**Attention Seniors:** Please continue to submit blue forms (request for transcripts) to the guidance office three weeks prior to your college application deadline. Any questions, please see your school counselor.



\*\*\*\*\*



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 by attending 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. Most meetings feature a guest speaker from one of the DHHS departments.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Schedule 2015-16 DHHS PTO Meetings**

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

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

No April Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 2016