
DHHS Newsletter

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Winter 2012

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Principal's Letter

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you all well. At this time last year I was thanking you for your flexibility in remaining positive throughout our many snow disruptions. This year winter survival has been a pleasure.

March madness, and I don't mean basketball, is once again upon us. On March 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 19 all sophomores will be taking the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) as required by No Child Left Behind. CAPT scores are part of Daniel Hand High School's graduation requirements (see the Program of Studies) and are also used as a measure for the high school program overall. Please insure that your child has had a good night's sleep and breakfast before taking this very important test. On March 14, 15, and 16 freshmen, juniors, and seniors will be taking trimester exams while the sophomores are taking CAPT. On those three days both CAPT testing and trimester exams will begin promptly at 7:45 a.m. Trimester exams end at 12:15; however, CAPT testing will end at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday and at 8:45 a.m. on Friday. The exam bus schedule allows for only one pick up and that is at 12:15 p.m. Sophomores may certainly remain in the school dining hall and wait for the bus. However, they are officially dismissed from school at the completion of their CAPT exam, so you may pick up your child following the exam.

Scheduling for next year is in progress. Over the next couple of weeks you will be receiving a mailing with your child's course requests for the 2012-2013 school year. The appropriate placement in selected courses is very important. Teachers have made recommendations that are in the best interest of your child, taking into consideration an academic review of their abilities. Should you have any questions, please contact the referring teacher and/or school counselor. Once schedules have been put in place, it is difficult to make changes.

I am saddened at the pressure I see building and over which I have no real control. What we need to keep in mind is what is of most importance. That, I would suggest, is a strong, supportive, and loving relationship with your child. Listen to them, do something unassuming with them like going for a walk, hug them often, and remember that their relationship with you is a most precious gift.

Spring is right around the corner. I hope to see you all on the athletic fields, in the seats being amazed by the musical *Legally Blonde*, in the audience at the spring concerts, and on the town green recognizing our graduating seniors! As always, we thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Britton

Principal



DHHS Salutes...



Seniors **Ciara Collins, Chloe Geshwin, Matthew Girardi, Jacob Thomas, Nancy Wu, and Jennifer Yao** for being selected as Finalists in the 2012 Competition by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Members of **the Student Council Homecoming Committee**, advisor **Mr. Peter Nye**, and **the faculty chaperones** for a very successful Homecoming Dance. The money raised will be used for the DHHS Student Council scholarship and donations to several charities.

The Cast and Crew of *It's A Wonderful Life*, their advisor, **Mrs. Joy Weaver**, and crew advisor, **Mrs. Jessica Littell**, for an excellent fall production.

Seniors **Renata Diotalevi** and **Gus Manke** for their selection as CAS-CIAC Scholar Athletes of the Year. This award goes to a graduating male and female senior who possess a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, who have participated in a CIAC sanctioned sport for at least two years, and who have exhibited outstanding school and community citizenship.

Seniors **Jennifer Yao** and **Jacob Thomas** for being selected for the SCC Scholar Leader Award for their outstanding scholarship and leadership. They will be honored at a dinner at Anthony's Ocean View in late March.

Seniors **Anne Pancak** (Visual Arts) and **Matt Horanzy** (Performing Arts) for being honored at the Seventeenth Annual Arts Recognition Banquet at the Aqua Turf for their outstanding achievements in the arts.

Renata Diotalevi '12 for winning 1st place in the Southern Connecticut Diving Competition.

Amy Salerno '13 for placing 6th in the State Junior Varsity Individuals

Fencing Tournament and **Kyle Welch** '15 for placing 10th and **James Welch** '15 for placing 9th in the CT Novice Fencing Tournament.

Grace Driscoll '13 for achieving 3rd place in the Voice of Democracy Competition. The competition, which is open to all high school students, provides students the opportunity to write and record a broadcast script on a patriotic theme and giving them an opportunity to compete for college scholarships and incentives.

Mr. Paul Coppola, Social Studies teacher, for being recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) District 2 as their High School Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Steve Filippone, Special Education teacher and football coach, for being recognized as Coach of the Year by the Walter Camp Foundation.

Matt Haigis '14 for being awarded the highest rank in Boy Scouting, Eagle Scout. Matt has worked very hard for two years to complete the requirements while maintaining good grades in school.

David Gao '12 for receiving one of President Obama's Volunteer Service Awards for his numerous hours of volunteerism.

Our **Show Choir, VIBE**, and teacher, **Mr. Soja**, for participating at the Regional Show Choir Festival in Dudley, MA and winning: a Gold Medal, Best Drummer Award (**Shaun Larson** '12 and **Ian Richardson** '13), Best Guitarist (**Matt Horanzy** '12) and Best Band. They were also named the Grand Champion.

The **Junior Class** for sponsoring the November Food Drive to benefit the Madison Food Pantry. 3,257 lbs. of food were collected (equal to 2 ½ lbs. of food donated per student). Congratulations to **Mrs. McGrimley's period 2 Calculus class** for having the highest donation rate. They received a free breakfast prior to Christmas break to celebrate their generosity.

Newsy Notes

En Garde! Fence! These commands were heard at least 500 times by both fencers and approximately sixty encouraging fans on January 17, 2012, when Daniel Hand hosted its first ever **fencing meet** vs. East Lyme in the main gym. Come show Daniel Hand school spirit and support our newest, most enthusiastic team members. The final away meets will be on March 3 at Hopkins Academy and State Championships at 9:00 a.m. at Ledyard High School on March 10. A final post season individual tournament will be held at Central High School in Bridgeport.

Recently one of our DHHS parents, Mr. Scott Houghton, shared his expertise in medical research with Mrs. Filippone's **Honors Biology class** enlightening them about several of the many human body systems and related illnesses. The students got to measure the oxygen levels in their blood, as well as do some very neat little tests on their own nervous system cells. He also demonstrated the use of a glucometer, which is an instrument used to measure the glucose present in the blood of many diabetics. Fun was had by all. Thanks again to Mr. Houghton for donating his time.

Senior Reminders

- If you have not been measured for your **cap and gown**, please see Mrs. Marino in the Main Office.
- **Class dues** should be paid *as soon as possible* in the Main Office. Dues should not be confused with Nite-In-Hand.
- The **Senior Outing** is scheduled for *May 25* at Holiday Hill.
- The **Senior Prom** will take place *June 2* at the Aqua Turf.

Musical Notes



On January 13th and 14th, 17 music students from Daniel Hand participated in the Connecticut Music Educators Association Southern Regional Music Festival. These students were accepted in the fall after a rigorous audition process in which hundreds of high school musicians from southern Connecticut participated. Our musicians practiced for two days with renowned conductors from area universities and the weekend culminated in a performance that featured college-level literature. The music department would like to congratulate all of our musicians who participated: Seniors **Eddie Barry, Mark Sorensen, Jack Thomas, Jennifer Yao**; Juniors **Bryana Braxton and Ian Richardson**; Sophomores **Mikie Chu, Noel Haren, Andrew Hook, Wes Kimmel, Olivia McKissick, Darius Mostaghimi, Rachel Odabashian, Griffin Pardales, Sarah Price**; and Freshmen **Catherine Peng and Lily Zhao**. All of these talented students will have the opportunity to audition for and participate in the All-State Music Festival, featuring the best musicians from the entire state, in April.

The **DHHS Choruses and Orchestras** had very successful **winter concerts** in December as did the DHHS Bands in mid-February. On Sunday, March 4th at 6:00 p.m., the music department will present a Cabaret Fundraiser/Dinner featuring **Encore, Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra**, and more. Don't miss this great event! Please contact John Gage at gagej@madison.k12.ct.us for more details.

The **DHHS Orchestra and Band** programs have been invited to participate in an **exchange program** with Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven. This exciting project is being sponsored by Webster Bank in collaboration with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. Our students will have the opportunity to learn a very challenging piece of music while working directly with the composer and members of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. During this process the students will be utilizing Movi software which will allow them to rehearse simultaneously with the members of the Wilbur Cross Band over the internet. The culminating exchange concert will be held on Thursday, April 12th at 7:15 p.m. in Woolsey Hall, New Haven.

Spring Musical



Legally Blonde will be performed on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 28-31, at Daniel Hand High School at 7:00 p.m. with matinees on Saturday, March 31, at 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 1, at 4:00 p.m. Tickets go on sale at the Main Office and at R.J. Julia's starting on March 16. Tickets will be available for students during lunch waves beginning March 26. Tickets will be \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door.

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.

State of CT mandated screenings:

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** which will be conducted before the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

Tenth grade physical examinations:

Connecticut State law requires each student in grade 10 to have a physical examination (PE) by a physician, APRN, DO, or PA. All areas that are noted with an asterick (*) must be completed by the provider. 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 Ms. Karin Thelin, Health Paraprofessional.

Opportunity Knocks

The staff of the literary magazine **Phoenix** is soliciting poems, essays, and stories, as well as line art, sketches, photos, and other art work for the 2012 edition. The magazine group is always looking for new ideas, new staff members, and contributions from DHHS students. Please see Mrs. Sullivan in room 346.

Artsy News

Each year the **DHHS Art Department** enters students into a state-wide art competition sponsored by the CT Art Education Association, which is the professional art educators' organization. The competition is called the **CT Scholastic Art Awards Program** which is an affiliate of The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. Student artwork is juried by professional artists and university professors and is selected on merit for inclusion in a state-wide art exhibition held at the University of Hartford Art School. Teachers are allowed to choose four works of art by their students to enter into the competition. Beyond the honor of being selected for this high quality exhibit, students may be awarded gold or silver keys and honorable mention places in each of 17 media categories. Winners of gold keys will have a digital image of their work submitted to the National Level Scholastic Art Awards for jury at the end of the exhibit. A national jury will determine works to be exhibited in the national exhibit which will be held in June, 2012, in Washington, DC. The selected works were on display at the Silpe Gallery, Hartford Art School from mid January until the beginning of February.

Congratulations to all our winners and to those whose work was submitted to the show:

Gold key awards:

Colette Kraemer '14 for Sculpture, *Mr. Kris Connors, teacher*; **Joseph Gentile** '12 for Painting, *Mr. Robert DelRusso, teacher*; **Tiffany Li** '13 for Mixed Media, *Mrs. Suzanne Gaskell, teacher*

Honorable Mention:

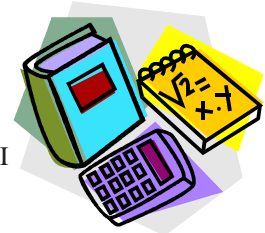
Hunter Bridge '13 for Painting, *Mr. Robert DelRusso, teacher*; **Emma Stewart** '13 for Painting, *Mr. Robert DelRusso, teacher*; **Bronwyn Kuehler** '13 for Mixed Media, *Mrs. Suzanne Gaskell, teacher*.

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 at 203 245-6355 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. For trimester 3 juniors who meet the criteria in the DHHS Student Handbook can also apply for a daily early dismissal.
- √ First period **classes begin at 7:25 a.m.** followed by period 2 attendance at 8:29 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 203 245-6355 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.

CAPT Schedule

March 6	Interdisciplinary Writing I & Editing
March 7	Response to Literature
March 8	Interdisciplinary Writing II
March 12	Science I
March 13	Science II
March 14 (exam day)	Math I
March 15 (exam day)	Math II
March 16 (exam day)	Reading for Information
March 19	Response to Literature (Supplemental)



PTO Awards for Trimester 1

Art

Freshman	Clara Wang
Sophomore	Matt Rasey
Junior	Caeleigh Higgins
Senior	Lance Forrest

Career and Technical Education

Business	Allison Culmo (gr. 11)
Family Consumer Education	Mickaela Predom (gr. 12)
Technical Education	Nina Lunn (gr. 9)

English

Freshman	Abby McGuirk
Sophomore	Jakob Leichtman
Junior	Grace Driscoll
Senior	Maia Smith

Health

Sophomore	Ashleigh Pavlovic
Junior	Marissa Rossi
Senior	Rachel Wilson

Math

Freshman	Brooke Fay
Sophomore	Makayla Portley
Junior	Graceann Kraemer
Senior	Eddie O'Neil

Music

Chorus	Evan DeFrancesco (gr. 12)
Orchestra	Katie Van Der Maelen (gr. 12)
Band	Griffin Paradales (gr. 12)

Physical Education

Freshman	Caleb Veth
Sophomore	Isabel Baird
Junior	Stephen Spinnato

Science

Freshman	Michelle Tenney
Sophomore	Fabian Rosing
Junior	Matt Griffin
Senior	Lindsay Fenn

Social Studies

Freshman	Kristian Helgeson
Sophomore	Asa Palmer
Junior	Annelise Gaffney
Senior	Ashley Surprenant

World Language

Freshman	Gabrielle Fazio
Sophomore	Ashleigh Pavlovic
Junior	Danielle Fortier
Senior	Carolyn Behan

Nite in Hand 2012

Excitement is in the air as planning for the class of 2012 Nite in Hand is underway!

This year's Event Co-chairs are Alicia Dolce, Linda Nietlisbach and Peggy Van Antwerp. Many parents have stepped forward to help, but we are still short-handed. Please help us make this year's event the special one that our grads deserve! Nite in Hand is not just a party. It's a way to keep our graduates safe and substance free on graduation night. Nite in Hand is not just for Senior parents! There are many areas that are traditionally handled by the parents of underclassmen. Getting involved long before your child is a senior is a great way to learn about Nite in Hand. If you are interested in learning more, send an email to niteinhand@gmail.com or join us for the next monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 6, at 7:00 in the DHHS Library/Media Center.

RSVP'S: Senior parents should now have received registration forms and important info about Nite in Hand. Please return the registration form as soon as possible. If you need a new form, go to the Nite in Hand page of the DHHS webpage and download the registration form by clicking on the words "completed forms."

Nite in Hand Fundraisers: **Tiger Coffee** is for Sale from the Island of Sumatra, a Fair Trade and organic coffee, locally roasted and available by the pound (ground and whole bean) for \$15 at Given in downtown Madison or by email at niteinhand@gmail.com. GET IT WHILE IT

LASTS!

May 4th – **Senior Auction** – 7:00 p.m. in the DHHS Cafetorium -an annual tradition where DHHS seniors auction their talents to raise funds for NIH. Truly entertaining!

Stay in Touch with Nite in Hand

Follow our blog at NiteinHand.blogspot.com and the Madison Patch. Check out the NIH webpage on the DHHS home page. Receive email alerts by subscribing to DHHS announcements through the webpage. Check out channel 18/19 for announcements as well as The Source, Shoreline Times and the Patch. "Like" us on Facebook.

Helping Hand Awards for Trimester 1

Freshman	Megan Wood
Sophomore	Kristin ShaoXi Johnson
Juniors	Bridget Bunda Arthur Wilkins
Seniors	Dom Nesci Nick D'Agostino



These students were recognized for their selfless contributions to DHHS. Criteria for this awards included doing something that benefits the school, Madison, or the global communities; being someone who is always nice or who always does the "right thing"; and/or changing for the better in significant ways.

Mark Your Calendar



March

6	PTO, Faculty Room	8:00 a.m.
6	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
6-19	CAPT Testing (see schedule p. 4)	
10	SAT Testing	
20	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
14-16	Second Trimester Exams	
19	Last Day of Second Trimester	
20	Third Trimester begins	
20	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
28-30	Spring Musical, <i>Legally Blonde</i> , DAH	7:00 p.m.
31	Spring Musical, <i>Legally Blonde</i> , DAH	2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

April

2	Spring Musical, <i>Legally Blonde</i> , DAH	4:00 p.m.
3	PTO, Guidance Career Center	8:00 a.m.
3	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
3	Blood Drive	7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
4	Early Financial Planning Meeting, DAH	7:00 p.m.
5	ASVAB Testing, LMC Classroom	7:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
6	Good Friday – No School	
16-20	April Break	
17	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
25	Honors Breakfast, Students only	9:15 a.m.
26	College Fair	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

May

1	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
4	Nite In Hand Auction, DAH	7:00 p.m.
8	Art Show and Reception, Sr. Commons	7:00-8:30 p.m.
8	Band Concert, DAH	7:30 p.m.
12	Junior Prom, DAH	8:00-11:00 p.m.
15	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
17	Choral Concert, DAH	7:30 p.m.
25	Senior Outing, Holiday Hill	
28	Memorial Day – No School	
31	Orchestra Concert, DAH	7:30 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunity

Each summer, Yale-New Haven Hospital sponsors a volunteer services program for high school students who are interested in devoting a minimum of 8 hours a week providing important services in various hospital-based volunteer programs. One of these programs is **Circle of Care**.

Circle of Care is a not-for-profit foundation formed in 2003 by three Connecticut moms who met while their children were being treated for cancer. These women recognized that families of pediatric cancer patients needed crucial support services not then readily available. Circle of Care was organized to fill in the gap. Circle of Care, in collaboration with Yale, makes available adult and teen volunteers to provide much needed diversion for kids undergoing long hours of chemotherapy and other cancer treatments. To find out more visit the Circle of Care website at: <http://www.thecircleofcare.org/>

Circle of Care volunteers work with children on the inpatient floor of the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital and in the outpatient treatment area of the adjacent Smilow Cancer Hospital. Additional volunteer support is provided at the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology office in Guilford. Volunteers engage in activities such as the following:

- Reading books, working on arts and crafts projects, and playing cards and board games with kids undergoing treatment as well as siblings who may have to come along to treatment appointments
- Providing general support and a sympathetic ear to kids undergoing cancer treatment
- Interacting with and assisting parents, family members and other care givers

DHHS students considering a career in health care or interested in providing an important community service are urged to apply to participate in the volunteer services program. For applications and more information, please contact Adele Merenstein at adelemerenstein@gmail.com

PTO Announcement

**The Parents Representative Council presents
a fun-filled night of Trick Hoops & Alley-Oops!**



vs Mighty Madison Tigers

Monday, March 26, 2012

6:30 p.m. at Polson Gym

(doors open at 5:45 p.m.)

STUDENTS: \$12 in Advance/\$14 at the Door GENERAL ADMISSION: \$14 in Advance/\$16 at the Door

Refreshments and Souvenirs will be sold at the game. Free Autograph Session following game.

Purchase Tickets online at: <http://www.harlemwizards.com> or

Send completed order form with check payable to JS PTO by March 16th to DHHS PTO in Main Office

Your tickets will be available for pick up in the DHHS Lobby on:

MARCH 19, 2012 from Noon to 2:30 p.m.

Tickets that are not picked up will be held at the Will-Call Table the night of the game.

Questions? Contact Jeanne Stevens at ny2ca2ct@sbcglobal.net or 203-245-4889

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Office Use Only:

Ticket Numbers

of Student Tickets: _____ **at \$12 each = \$** _____

of General Admission Tickets: _____ **at \$14 each = \$** _____

Total Amount Due: \$ _____