

Sheehan High School Awarded Continued Accreditation



Principal Rosemary Duthie is pleased to announce that the Committee on Public Secondary Schools (CPSS) of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges has recommended that Mark T. Sheehan High School, Wallingford, receive continued accreditation in the Association. The Committee's decision was based upon review of the evaluation report prepared by the committee that visited the school in November 2015.

Accreditation is an ongoing process which requires schools to meet the Standards for Accreditation that reflect best practices for teaching and learning and to demonstrate school improvement monitored through peer review. The accreditation program involves a threefold process: a self-study conducted by the school's staff, an on-site evaluation conducted by a NEASC visiting committee,

and a follow-up program carried out by the school to implement the findings of the self-study and valid recommendations of the visiting committee.

The Sheehan self-study took place from August 2013 to June 2015 under the leadership of Social Studies Department Chairperson Heather Brinton and School Counselor Maura Distant. Students and parents joined the professional staff in the self-study deliberations. Following the completion of the self-study, a group of sixteen educators appointed by NEASC visited the school from November 15 through November 18, 2015. During this time, the visiting team met with students, parents, school and district personnel, observed classes, and reviewed the self-study documents to determine the degree to which the school meets the NEASC Standards for Accreditation.

The visiting committee, chaired by Alyson Geary (CPSS), was impressed with many of the programs and services provided by Mark T. Sheehan High School and shared a number of commendations, which included the emphasis the school places on authentic learning opportunities, the positive, respectful, and supportive school culture, and the promotion of increased personalization and student choice in individual courses. The committee also provided recommendations designed to guide the professional staff in continuing the great work of the school. Principal Rosemary Duthie stated that the faculty and staff will address the recommendations beginning in the 2016 – 2017 school year and use them to help Sheehan move beyond its present accomplishments.

The Visiting Committee Report is posted on the school's website.



Junior Achievement Global Connection Takes on China

The JA Global Connection is a 12-month program that spans two summers. It starts the first summer when Chinese students visit the US for a weeklong program with Connecticut students in Hartford to develop their business plans (Phase 1); continues during the school year as the Connecticut and Chinese students execute their plans using the JA Company Program and trade products (Phase 2); and concludes the second summer when the Connecticut students visit for a weeklong program at Fudan University in Shanghai, along with tours of Beijing and Xi'an (Phase 3). The program has been sponsored for the last four years by United Technologies Corp.

On August 3rd, 7 chaperones and 15 students from Sheehan and Lyman Hall headed to China to begin the final chapter of the Junior Achievement Global Connection program. After a 13-hour flight, we arrived tired but excited to spend three days sightseeing in Beijing. In Beijing, we climbed the Great Wall of China, explored the Forbidden City and Summer Palace, and learned all about the cloisonné, jade, and pearl industries.

We left Beijing in high spirits, ready to begin a week-long business program in Shanghai. The American students were most excited about reuniting with their Chinese friends whom they had not seen in a year. After a fun first day in Shanghai reconnecting with old friends, the business program formally kicked off at Fudan University on August 8th. The rest of the week was devoted to learning about business and entrepreneurship through lectures, design thinking workshops, tours of UTC and HSBC, and a hands-on sales competition. Kairav Maniar, a senior at Sheehan, described his work in this phase of the program. "I enjoyed the sales competition most because it allowed us the independence of running our own competitive business in the middle of a crowded Shanghai technology park. We were able to choose a product based on our target customer and formulate appropriate marketing techniques relevant to our buyers. We also learned how to work together across cultural and language barriers to achieve success."

Although the students worked hard in Shanghai, there was also time for sightseeing and diversion. All participants unanimously agreed that an evening river cruise on the Huangpu River was one of the most incredible moments of the trip. Sheehan senior Meghan Partesano was particularly taken with the beauty of the city. "Looking at the gorgeous skyline of Shanghai actually took my breath away. We were with all of our friends from both America and China, and it was amazing for us to experience this moment together."

On August 12th, the Global Connection program formally ended and students said goodbye to their friends in Shanghai amid hugs, tears, and promises to stay in touch. The American students and chaperones headed to their final destination, Xi'an, to witness the incredible Terracotta Army. On August 15th, we reluctantly headed back home, with everyone agreeing that it would be nice to stay "just a few more days." Either way, the memories and friendships forged on this amazing journey will not soon be forgotten.

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The
Education
Connection
Your Wallingford Public Schools Community Newsletter

100 South Turnpike Road
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Special Thanks

Many thanks to Holiday Cinemas for hosting "Summer Reading" at every movie shown this summer.

Wallingford Education Foundation

Save the date:

Get your team ready to SPELL on Thursday 23 February 2017 for our annual Spelling Bee. Snow date 2 March 2017.

The Distinguished Alumni Dinner will be held on 28 April 2017 at Zandris. The committee is entertaining nominations for Distinguished Alumni now; if you have any nomination please contact us at 203-949-6534.

Keep an eye out for BeerFest May 2017 to be held at Westbrook Lobster.

Every penny raised from these events is returned to the Wallingford Public School System in the form of grants. Please support the WEF!



The
Education
Connection

Fall 2016

Your Wallingford Public Schools Community Newsletter

Superintendent's Message

Dear Wallingford Community Members:

As we begin a new school year, we are maintaining our focus in reaching our goal for the Wallingford 100, a district-wide endeavor aimed achieving 100%,

- Community involvement
- Student engagement
- High school graduation rates
- Post-high school success

Below are some of the highlights of our continued efforts designed to make the *Wallingford 100 a reality*.

INTERVENTION

With the implementation of full day kindergarten and the expansion of prekindergarten opportunities, we continue to move closer to providing the best intervention services possible to students. Coupled with maintaining intervention staff and low class sizes, we will continue to see growth in the number of students reading on grade level by grade 3.

This year, we are also implementing three sessions of extended day literacy and numeracy programming for students in grade 2 and grade 4. Our hope is that these opportunities for additional instruction and practice in these vital areas will help our students find even greater levels of success.

In addition, we are enthusiastically anticipating the launch of Capstone/Makerspace curricula at both the 3-5 and 6-8 levels this fall. These curricula utilize "design thinking" which requires children to employ a host of research and technological tools to find realistic solutions to real life challenges. We believe involving students in higher-level thinking and reasoning, Capstone/Makerspace activities will increase both student engagement and achievement.

MODELS OF EXCELLENCE

The primary focus of this, our fourth year in the development of Wallingford's Mastery Based Learning System, will be in the area of instruction. Learning standards, indicators, and scoring criteria will be compiled into a Mastery-Based Learning Toolkit that will be utilized for all staff. We will also collect student work demonstrating each of the four levels of achievement to ensure that our teachers share a clear and common understanding of what constitutes mastery. In addition, we are planning a parent/student version of the Mastery-Based Learning Toolkit to be launched in the spring.

Our District Leadership Team will also continue its Public Will campaign aimed at engaging all stakeholders in our journey toward the implementation of our Mastery-Based Learning System.

For clarification purposes, there are a couple of key points we would like to make for parents, students, and community members.

1. We are not going to a 1-4 grading system at the middle and high school levels next year. The District Leadership Team, comprised of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education members, decided not to venture into changing to a point system or removing GPA. The timeline for these changes, if and when they occur, is not set, but it will not be next year.
2. Homework is still allowed to be assigned in our schools at all grade levels. The decision was made to classify homework as either for competency and graded (which would be included in class grade) or for compliance (which would be included in habits of work score). Never was it a new district policy that homework was no longer to be assigned.



Wallingford Public Schools Mission Statement and Vision

Mission: To inspire, educate and support all students as they discover and pursue their best.

Vision: Wallingford Public Schools, with families and community, will distinguish itself with innovative teaching and learning experiences in a safe and supportive environment. Our goal is to ignite passion for learning and excellence in every student so that each becomes a life-long contributor to the local and global communities.

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PROACTIVE STUDENT SUPPORTS WITH A FUTURE FOCUS

A tremendous amount of work will continue in this area for the 2016-2017 school year. Key areas of focus will be the following:

- Increasing internship opportunities for more students
- Expanding early career exploration at the elementary level
- Formalizing the implementation of Student Success Plans in Naviance
- Implementing school-day shuttle services for students to work on Capstone projects and to meet with mentors at HUBCAP
- Leveraging the implementation of the Pre-Engineering/Advanced Manufacturing pathway at Sheehan High School to identify and develop similar experiences in other areas
- Launching Responsive Advisory at the middle schools

ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

As indicated above, our focus this year will be in the area of instruction. As a result, our professional development offerings will have a clear connection to instructional practices best suited for a Mastery-Based Learning System. In addition, as part of the Mastery-Based Learning Toolkit, we plan to leverage the expertise of staff throughout the district to provide colleagues support and information on how best to personalize learning for our students.

Key to the implementation of personalized learning is technology. Teachers will continue to be trained in Google Classroom and other interactive technologies. The goal is to leverage the technology to engage students and increase the capacity and efficiency of instruction.

We look forward to continued district growth in all focus areas. For a complete narrative of our progress, you can find the Annual Report on our website.

Sincerely,

Salvatore F. Menzo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Happy Anniversary Lyman Hall!



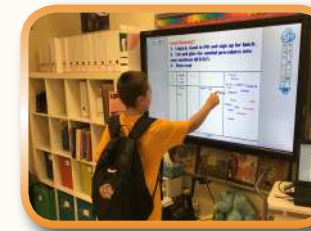
Lyman Hall High School is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, a milestone achieved by only a handful of Connecticut's schools. Named after Dr. Lyman Hall, a Wallingford native and signer of the Declaration of Independence, Lyman Hall High School was originally dedicated on October 19, 1916 at its original site which currently houses the Wallingford Town Hall. Thanks to the efforts of the 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee, the school was rededicated at a ceremony held at its original campus on October 19, 2016 honoring the faculty, staff, and thousands of students who have upheld the traditions of Lyman Hall and the community it has served for the past century.

The Celebration Committee has a number of additional events planned to celebrate this remarkable achievement. The school will host a Sock Hop on November 4th in the Lyman Hall Gymnasium and a celebration concert to be held on December 21st will feature alumni from the school's music department. A host of other events will follow in 2017. In addition, the Lyman Hall marching band is dedicating its season to the 100th anniversary.

Principal Joseph Corso underscored the committee's plans to engage not only current students, but as many former Lyman Hall graduates in the events as well, saying, "We're looking to get as many alumni as possible out to celebrate to really up the excitement for this."

For additional information, please visit facebook at lhhs100thcelebration.

TouchIt Technology



Many elementary teachers have been very fortunate to receive TouchIt interactive LED television in their classrooms. These interactive units allow teachers to show content from across all disciplines from their computer. The TV's also include multi-touch controls that allow teachers to control any application that is running on their PC, MCA or Chrome Operating System directly from the screen. A great advantage of multi-touch capabilities provided by the TouchIt TV's is the ability to have



multiple students using the device at the same time. This lends itself to group activities and provides a great tool for bringing the teachers' lessons to life for the students. The TouchIt interactive LED is also Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) compatible which allows teachers to use their own wireless devices and creates opportunities for interactive, whole class learning through BYOD initiatives.

Teachers and students across the district are using this technology in a variety of ways. Students use the units to sign up for their own lunch count which also serves as their attendance for the day. In addition, teachers create anchor charts in reading and writing to display during lessons. During math, the TouchIt LED is used for number talks and educational videos. Many teachers also use it for science, morning meeting messages, homework assignments, station charts and interactive games.



Here, CJ Mills, Kyle Criscuolo, Connor Hubley and Valeria Ruiz-Acosta from Mrs. O'Sullivan's 5th grade class at Pond Hill, work in a literacy station. Using the TouchIt interactive LED and the Scholastic News Interactive Magazine, students were able to read about tigers and to work cooperatively as a group to complete a literacy task.

German-American Exchange Program



WALLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



From June 25 – July 10, fourteen Sheehan students and three chaperones went on an amazing journey to Germany. There were many months of preparations, many meetings after school, various fund raisers and lots of communication between the students, their families and the partner schools. Last year, German students came to Wallingford and stayed with local families and attended classes at Sheehan. This year's trip allowed our students to reunite with friends while exploring the culture and language of Germany. Our German host families were "wunderbar" as they went above and beyond to make everyone feel welcome and comfortable. Our students attended the local school 'Franziskus Gymnasium' in Mutlangen, a small town not far from Stuttgart. They also took part in four day trips: to Rothenburg, to Stuttgart, to Neuschwanstein Castle and to Munich. Other highlights of the trip were the public viewing of soccer matches

for the Euro-Cup and spectacular performances during a medieval festival called the 'Stauffen Saga'. We were lucky to have great weather and no security issues. The students had a great time and were very responsible throughout the trip. We are hoping to host three of the German exchange students for a long-term stay from January to June 2017 at Sheehan. For May 2017 we are looking for 20 Moran and Sheehan families to host students from Franziskus Gymnasium in Mutlangen, Germany. This exchange is currently being planned.



Group photo of the exchange students at Franziskus Gymnasium in Mutlangen, Germany

Welcome To Our New Administrators!



Christine Melita Assistant Principal
Dag Hammarskjold Middle School,
Todd Snyder Principal
Dag Hammarskjold Middle School,
Ken Daly, Assistant Principal
Lyman Hall High School



Mary Poisson Principal
Yalesville Elementary School,
Kristina Kiely Principal
E.C. Stevens Elementary School,
Christina Sagnella Principal
Parker Farms Elementary School

Responsive Advisory Update

This year, both James H. Moran Middle School and Dag Hammarskjold students will have the opportunity to take part in Advisory. Advisory, which was piloted last year, is a program students have experienced at the high school level for a number of years. Though there are many purposes for advisory ranging from academic focus to developing social and emotional skills to building a sense of school community, advisory is meant to grow connections. Because students will have the same advisory teacher throughout their middle school experience, students will have the opportunity to build a strong relationship with a staff member and a group of students with whom they might not otherwise know.

Both middle schools are using the Responsive Classroom model to conduct their advisory lessons. You may remember Responsive Classroom from the elementary schools, as this is an approach used district-wide at our K-2 and 3-5 schools. We are pleased that Responsive Classroom has recently extended their model to include middle school because it is an approach that has been successful, certainly here in Wallingford, and nationwide.

Feel free to ask students what they are doing in advisory and please check out the Responsive Classroom website for additional information by visiting: <https://www.responsiveclassroom.org>

The Wellness Connection Moving Forward with Health & Physical Education

Wallingford is pleased to welcome Anthony Loomis, the district's new Health & Wellness Curriculum Resource Teacher

Goals for the Health and Wellness Department include:

- Inspiring student to be dedicated to their overall well-being
- Having students apply knowledge and skills necessary for improving health

Did you know?
Exercise Grows Brain Cells! That's right, first and foremost benefits the BRAIN, making physical education a vital part of the school day.

Did you know?
Kids who engage in light exercise like a one mile walk before exams, performed 25 percent better than their counterparts who were tutored for the same amount of time.

Did you know?
When you sit for about 17 minutes, your brain sends a signal to your body that you are sleeping

Did you know?
Just standing up can increase learning 7-10%

Did you know?
Cardio (aka cardiovascular or aerobic) exercise is the best type of exercise for improving brain function.

Check out this amazing comparison!!!

