



# Principal's Newsletter

March 2017

## Message from our Principal, Daniel E. Donovan

Hello Hatters,

It is unbelievable to me that we are already talking about entering the fourth quarter, graduation, and registration for the next school year. This year has been a blur and I am excited about sending another great group of seniors out into the world.

By the time you receive this we will be late into the third quarter and on the cusp of the fourth quarter. Please remember to stay in contact with your child's teachers and look on PowerSchool for grade updates. Frequent contact between parents/guardians and teachers will help us remain united in our shared goal of ensuring your child's success.

In an effort to save time and allow parents/guardians to have more input into their child's course requests, we registered online with PowerSchool. To register for next year's classes, students and parents/guardians can go online and select their requests. Students with special circumstances or questions should make appointments to meet with their school counselors. Online registration will close on March 20<sup>th</sup>. This allows us time to build a master schedule. More information can be found on our DHS website under the Online Registration links.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> we had a very successful School Fair/Spring Conference Night. During this night our current students provided tours of the school and all departments, clubs, sports teams, and organizations were on display. Mr. Davidson presented important information to the incoming freshman class and Ms. Schreiner presented information regarding the online registration process. While our Spring Conferences are still not as well-attended as our fall conferences, we did see a slight increase in our overall number of conferences.

Danbury High School sophomores will be taking the CAPT Science test during their chemistry classes in March and April. Sophomores who are not in a chemistry class will complete the test in one session in the Library/Media Center. All Danbury High School juniors will be taking the SAT during the school day on April 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity for all juniors to complete the SAT at no charge. It is very important that all juniors are present and ready for the test.

Note that no matter how many more snow days we have, graduation will take place no later than June 19<sup>th</sup>, (unless inclement weather on that day forces us to postpone to June 20<sup>th</sup>).

In closing, we are almost done with another school year. Our seniors are looking forward to their future plans and our most recent data showed we had over 80% of our seniors filling out college applications. Our goal for the year is 100% and our

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school counselors are still working with the remaining students to push for college applications.

There is only one more Principal's Breakfast this year which will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up on the DHS homepage.

Best,

Daniel Donovan  
Principal



## School News

**English Department**, Mr. Thomas Porcelli, Department Head [porcet@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:porcet@danbury.k12.ct.us)

The English Department at Danbury High School has been working hard, trying to make a difference in every student's education.

Many grade levels are gearing up to deliver key instruction for a number of Shakespearean plays. From *Romeo and Juliet* to *Othello* to *Macbeth*, our students will be immersed in one of the most exciting literary time periods ever. Please ask your child to share his or her experience and newly-acquired knowledge with you.

The production of our literary magazine, *The Nutmegger*, is upon us as well. This year the Nutmegger is being advised by both Miss Duffy and Miss Costello. These energetic teachers head up this group of students to compile an impressive collection of student written works to publish.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions about the English department or its curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact me. I enjoy nothing more than sharing the ideas which guide our curriculum and hearing personal experiences about English instruction at Danbury High.

**ESL Department**, Ms. Stacey Brugnolo, Department Head [brugns@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:brugns@danbury.k12.ct.us)

As the school year continues to unfold, the ESL department is providing opportunities for ESL families to become more involved in their children's daily lives at Danbury High School. Recently, several families joined the Hispanic Center presentation in the school media center on January 11 to learn more about financial aid and scholarships that are available for their children. Please stay tuned for other workshops that are being presented to our ESL families.

During the month of February, ELLs took the LAS Links Test. We should receive the results at the beginning of April. If you would like to know your child's results at that time, please do not hesitate to contact Stacey Brugnolo.

**Fine Arts Department**, Dr. Michael Obre, Department Head [obremi@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:obremi@danbury.k12.ct.us)

The Fine Arts department of Danbury High School is where tomorrow's artists, designers, performers, teachers, and scholars of all disciplines acquire 21st century skills through rigorous, hands-on, open-ended programs emphasizing the creative processes so needed in today's workplace and economy.

Danbury High School is known for the comprehensiveness of its fine arts programs; our school offers a unique opportunity for students to explore what it means to be successful and fulfilled in the 21st century.

Save the date! Our annual Celebration of Danbury Arts (the CoDA Festival) is Saturday May 20th and is being held at Broadview Middle School as the high school continues to be under renovation. We hope to see you there.



### NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY

The National Art Honor Society (NAHS) is a nationwide not-for-profit organization for high school students with an interest in the visual arts. The program is designed to provide opportunities for art-related activities, after-school programs, field trips, and community service events. Members meet periodically to organize, plan, and participate in such activities. Danbury High School proudly has the largest chapter of thousands in the United States.

This year illustrator Scott Brundage presided over the induction of 80 NAHS students following our weekend trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.



[www.scottbrundage.com](http://www.scottbrundage.com)



“Madame X” by John Singer Sargent

### ARTISTS ON THE RISE

Danbury High School is proud that 41 of our art students have had works accepted at the prestigious Brookfield Craft Center art exposition this March. This juried youth art show is for students who design and create their own work in any of the following categories: Clay/Ceramic, Photography, Fiber, Glass, Jewelry, Mixed Media (2D), Mixed Media (3D), Painting, and Drawing.

**Health & Physical Education Department**, Ms. Doreen Robbins, Department Head [robbid@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:robbid@danbury.k12.ct.us)  
Physical Education

Physical Education reinforces the importance of physical activity in everyday life. We are currently taking part in Unit 2 of our selective elective program in Physical Education. Some of the unit activity choices are badminton, nitro ball, floor hockey, basketball, cooperative games and weight training. Through the medium

of sport and movement all students will participate in a differentiated program that fosters each student's personal health, fitness, and safety. Through exposure to a wide variety of activities, students will gain the knowledge necessary to understand the importance of and be able to make informed decisions on how to achieve and maintain life-long fitness.

A friendly reminder regarding make-up classes for excused absences: students can make up physical education classes after school in the weight room. Make-ups are held on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 2:15 to 4:00 in the weight room. Students will participate in a work-out session lasting 30 minutes. The assigned weight room teacher will give students a make-up slip upon completion of the 30 minute workout. The make up slip is then given to the students' roster teacher. We encourage your involvement in your child's physical education experience; please feel free to contact us at anytime.

### Health Education

Students in our Health Education classes are just beginning our unit on Mental Health. We are currently learning about the Wellness Triangle and its importance to the development of the whole child. Wellness involves the physical, mental, social and spiritual parts of our lives and how they impact our decisions and problem solving. Students will be able to identify the daily stressors they face and develop positive ways to cope with these stressors. They will also be able to recognize the physical, emotional and behavioral symptoms that can surface as a result of mismanaged stress. Our students will identify their personality types and reaction styles helping them to recognize areas of strengths and weakness. We continually encourage our health education students to be self advocates and to practice lifelong wellness. We welcome your involvement in your child's health education experience; please feel free to contact us at anytime.

**Math Department**, Ms. Lisa Erhartic [erharl@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:erharl@danbury.k12.ct.us)

Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honors Society) had an induction ceremony in December to honor the 41 new members bringing the total number of members to 56. The advisors are Mrs. Jessica Javier and Mrs. Karen Robinson.

The American Mathematics Competition (AMC10/12) contest was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. The AMC Examination consists of 25 multiple-choice questions. Students have 75 minutes to complete this examination. The content includes algebra, geometry, number theory, counting, and logic problems at the level usually covered in 9th and 10th grades. A total of 150 students participated this year.

**School Counseling Department**, Ms. Vikki Carlson, Department Head [carlsv@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:carlsv@danbury.k12.ct.us)

On April 5th juniors will be taking the SAT during the school day at Danbury High School. Students can use the scores from this administration when they apply to college in their senior year. As many students take the SAT multiple times, below is the College Board's Score Choice Policy:

Score Choice give you the option to choose which scores (by test date for the SAT and by individual test for SAT Subject Tests) you send to colleges – in accordance with an institution's stated score-use practice. You can choose scores from one, several or all SAT test dates.

The College Board worked with colleges and universities to help you understand which scores they would like you to send. You can view the score-use practices of participating colleges and universities at the time that you're asked to send scores.

Colleges and universities will only receive the scores that you send them –your scores will not be released for admission purposes without your specific consent.

### Score –Use Practices

You can view score-use practices by college/university by visiting College Board’s College search website at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>. Select an institute of interest, and then go to the SAT, AP, CLEP icon (under each institution) for score-use practice information.

Additionally, you can download the SAT Score-Use Practices List, which provides an alphabetical listing of score-use practices of colleges and scholarship programs which have submitted score-use practices.

### College Acceptance Letters and College Scholarship Awards

Seniors should bring in all copies of their college and scholarship acceptance awards to their school counselor. We want to hear that they received good news and we need to record this data in Family Connection to allow our future students to see where DHS students continue their education.

### **Science Department**, Mr. John LaRosa, Department Head [larosj@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:larosj@danbury.k12.ct.us)

During the months of March and April, all sophomores will be taking the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) in science. Science will be the only subject assessed using the CAPT as all other disciplines will be assessed with the SAT. The science CAPT will include the following topics that are covered within our biology and semester-one chemistry curricula: energy transformations, chemical structures and properties, global interdependence, cell chemistry, biotechnology, genetics, evolution and biodiversity. There will also be a major focus on scientific inquiry, literacy, and numeracy skills. Just as in previous years, there will be two tests, comprised of 60 multiple-choice and five short written response questions. If you or your child have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone within the science department.

### **Social Studies Department**, Ms. Ann Tucci, Department Head [tuccia@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:tuccia@danbury.k12.ct.us)

Our social studies teachers are dedicated to helping students become historical thinkers. They are supporting students of all levels to access primary sources and secondary sources using Stanford's Historical Thinking Strategies. Students are engaging in authentic lessons across the department while staying current with the news.

Our Civics classes are well into semester two and students are learning about our founding principles as a nation, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. In U.S. History courses, students are currently diving into the 1960s and the Vietnam era, studying the events of the Vietnam War, counterculture, and the anti-war movement.

Students in Modern World courses are learning about world competition during the Cold War era, while students in World Studies classes are studying the Renaissance, which is the era of rebirth of Classical Greek and Roman culture. This is a far cry from our previous unit of the Middle Ages, when European society had to rebuild what they knew as civilization. Unlike people of Middle Ages, the people of the Renaissance are questioning the power of the Church, their intellectual ability, and even the world. Students are engaged in a research project to learn how new discoveries made during and after the Renaissance shape the way we view the world, science, economics, and native peoples around the world.

### National History Honor Society

We are incredibly proud of the significant contribution that Danbury High School Rho Kappa students have made within the community. All students interested in joining Rho Kappa are encouraged to reach out to Ms. Betsy Needle in room D382 or via email at [needleb@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:needleb@danbury.k12.ct.us).

**World Languages Department**, Ms. Patricia Gonzalez, Department Head [gonzap@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:gonzap@danbury.k12.ct.us)

Spanish 1 Honors learned about class schedules in Spanish-speaking countries and how they differ from our class schedules here in the United States. They also discussed extracurricular and afterschool activities. Students drew comparisons between how they spend their time after school and how students in Spanish-speaking countries might spend their time after school. They found out that no matter where you live, spending time with family and friends tops the list of importance!

In Spanish 2, students learned about the art of bargaining in a market. They watched a video of someone bargaining in an outdoor market in the Dominican Republic. Prior to watching, students read a short article in Spanish about the rules of bargaining and how to be successful. In the video, the presenter demonstrated these techniques. Later in the unit students will learn about two markets in Spain and Ecuador and why they are famous.

Italian classes have been learning about the huge winter festival celebrated all over Italy - the Carnevale. They have been learning about the traditional Italian masks by "La Commedia dell'Arte" and have recreated some of the amazing masks. Student-created masks will be displayed on D2, and also in the Library/Media Center.

French I students are finishing a unit on family, where they learned to describe people in their lives in various ways. To end the unit, students will be creating a family photo album, comprised of real or imaginary family members (possible "imaginary" family members include celebrities, fictional characters, historical figures, etc). To accompany the pictures in their "album de famille," students will write a brief description of each family member's physical appearance and personality. They will then present their photo albums to the class.

The Costa Rica trip is in a month! All are super excited for a wonderful adventure.



## *Class News*

### **Class Dues**

Danbury High School students are required to pay class dues for every year they attend our school. Class dues are \$25 per year and must be up-to-date in order for students to attend school events, such as the prom.

**Senior Class Advisors**, Ms. Jaclyn Aaron and Ms. Nicole Gurney

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The senior class has been hard at work planning our prom that will be held on Friday, May 26th. Senior prom will be at the Amber Room from 7pm-12am. Tickets will be on sale May 15-19 in the cafeteria during all lunch periods. Please take note that May 19 will be the last day to buy a ticket. In order to buy a prom ticket, students need to have paid all of their class dues, and all other debts must be resolved. Dues are \$100 (\$25 per year) and can be paid in C537 or D480 anytime, or at the prom ticket table when purchasing tickets.

The senior trip will be to Six Flags in New Jersey in early June. The date will be determined after all of the snow days are over and the calendar for June is finalized. Tickets for this trip will be on sale in C537 and D480 from April 17-21 and will cost \$55 each. This price includes coach bus transportation, a park ticket to Six Flags New Jersey, and a full lunch.

All seniors with a Facebook account are encouraged to join our class's Facebook page. Search Danbury High School Class of 2017 (there is a picture of our Hatter) and click join. We will post updates, event details, and other information on this page. Please note that if you are not a senior, you cannot join.

We look forward to our last few months advising this stellar group of Hatters!



Spring sport tryouts will start on Saturday, March 18th. In order to try out for a team, you must have the following:

- A valid physical on file with the nurses' office that covers the entire spring season.
- All necessary forms (emergency medical, permission form, sudden cardiac arrest, concussion awareness and out-of-season conditioning forms) must be completed online through Family ID. Please find the link to Family ID on the main page of the Danbury High School website. You will need to create an account and follow instructions from there.

Any questions, please contact Athletic Director Chip Salvestrini at 203-797-4853 or [salvec@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:salvec@danbury.k12.ct.us).

### CONGRATULATIONS

Danbury High School teams have won 16 team championships so far during the winter sports season. Each team will also have additional championship opportunities in March. Due to publication deadlines of this newsletter, some results may not be current.

Cheerleading, Coach Joann Tatarzycki: FCIAC Grand Champion, Quinnipiac Cheer Challenge Grand Champion, Watertown Cheer Fest Champions, State LL Champion, CT Open State Championships were March 11, New England Regional Championships are March 18.

Boys Track, Coach Rob Murray: FCIAC Western Division Champion, FCIAC Champion, State LL Champion, State Open Champion, New England Championships were Saturday March 4.

Girls Track, Nick Fraticelli: FCIAC Western Division Champion, FCIAC Champion, State LL Champion, State Open Runner Up, New England Championships were Saturday March 4.

Wrestling, Coach Ricky Shook: FCIAC Western Division Champion, FCIAC Champion, State LL Champion, State Open Champion, New England Champion.

Coach Rob Murray (Boys Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track) was named to the FCIAC Hall of Fame and will be inducted in June.

Coach Jackie DiNardo (Girls Basketball) will be honored as the 2017 Connecticut HS Girls Basketball Coach of the Year in May.



## *Notes from the Nurses*

State regulations require that all students in grade 9 have a complete physical exam. If you have not done so, please provide the nurse's office with documentation of your child's health assessment. Students are required to have their health assessment on file in order to start the 10th grade. If you have questions or require assistance in finding a health-care provider, please contact the nurse's office at 203-797-4827. Thank you for your cooperation.

# *PTO*



PTO meetings are 7pm, and are normally held in the Library/Media Center. Please plan to attend!

Feb 27th - Social Media Safety

Danbury Police Lieutenant Danielo provided a presentation

April 24th - Teenage Safety Driving

There will be a speaker from Thayer Driver Education, as well as a Danbury Police Officer to discuss rules and laws of the road. The winner of the Driver Education raffle will be announced. If you are interested in purchasing a \$10 raffle ticket for this class, donated by Thayer Driver Education at a \$595 value, please contact [dhspto@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:dhspto@danbury.k12.ct.us)

May 15th - Parent-2-Parent Freshman Orientation presented by a PTO Board member and parent

The PTO supported Principal Donovan's request to purchase shirts for the Hatters' Heroes program. Several students and a staff member are selected each month as Hatters' Heroes. Those chosen exemplify qualities such as leadership, kindness, showing respect, having a strong work ethic, being supportive, etc. Their photos are prominently displayed on the wall of the main office for the month, and they receive a t-shirt. Below is a picture of the t-shirt designed by our own Dr. Obre.





The PTO's website is linked through Danbury High School website under the "About Us" tab. We currently have two fundraising opportunities: Amazon Smiles & A+ Stop & Shop Rewards. It's Easy! Contact us if you would like more information. Please consider Supporting DHS PTO through volunteering or fundraising, fostering our mission of enhancing and supporting the educational experience at DHS. Thank you.

Email: [dhspto@danbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:dhspto@danbury.k12.ct.us)

Facebook: Danbury High School PTO

Twitter: @dhspto1



## Yearbook

After a very busy fall and winter, the yearbook staff has almost completed this year's *Aggregate*.

As we have done over the past few years, we will be publishing a small supplement to record the spring events in the school. Look forward to a nice presentation of this year's play, the senior prom, and all the spring sports we offer at the school. Please encourage your child to get involved in next year's yearbook by listening for announcements regarding next year's staffing. We'll be assigning some important editorial posts before the end of this year.

If your child is a junior and planning to graduate next year, it is time to start thinking of senior portraits. We will have a short assembly in April explaining the criteria and the process for your child to have a senior portrait taken at no cost. Our portrait studio requires a small deposit to ensure that the proofs aren't being used inappropriately, but there is no charge for any student to be in the yearbook. Seniors are required to sit for a portrait with our studio, even if they aren't purchasing a yearbook.

Please note that there is space in the back of the book for a personal ad you might want to take out to congratulate the soon to be graduate.

## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
3/21	Early Dismissal for Staff PD	1:00	
3/30	DHS Productions presents "Once On This Island"	7pm	Auditorium
3/31	DHS Productions presents "Once On This Island"	7:30pm	Auditorium
4/1	DHS Productions presents "Once On This Island"	7:30pm	Auditorium
4/3	Junior College Night	6:30-8pm	Auditorium
4/4	Early Dismissal for Staff PD	1:00	
4/5	SAT Grade 11		Gym
4/6	CAPT Grade 10		In Science Classes
4/7	Unified Prom	6-10pm	Cafeteria
4/8	ACT		
4/10-14	School Closed for Spring Recess		
4/18	Early Dismissal for Staff PD	1:00	

4/20	Q3 Report Cards Available in Power School		
4/21	Latino Night	7-9:30	Cafeteria
4/21	ESL Awards Night	6pm	Auditorium
4/28	Junior Prom	7pm-12am	Crowne Plaza
5/2	Early Dismissal for Staff PD	1:00	
5/12	Early Dismissal for Staff PD	11:30	
5/16	Early Dismissal for Staff PD	1:00	