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# DHHS Newsletter

online@www.danielhand.org

May/June, 2012

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## Principal's Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In reflecting back upon this past school year, we all have much of which to be proud. Our students have demonstrated success on many fronts, not the least of which has been their generous and kind spirit. They have demonstrated sportsmanship on the field, integrity in the classroom, generosity with a myriad of fundraising activities, and pride in the arts. We are so privileged to work with these wonderful young people every day.

We are very pleased to announce that The Committee on Public Secondary Schools, at its March 2012 meeting, reviewed our decennial evaluation report and voted to award the school continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The Committee was very gracious with many commendations for which we take great pride. As well, part of their charge in reviewing our programs and facilities is to make recommendations. We take these recommendations very seriously, and over the next five years we will address them through professional development and facilities review. Our goal is to strive in making improvements to provide our students with a strong and supportive educational experience.

In preparation for our prom season, we had an assembly for the juniors and seniors sponsored by MADE and LIFE. The focus of the assembly was on making good choices. Jeff Yalden, the motivational speaker, has been featured on MTV and contributed to *A Cup of Chicken Soup for the Soul*. He has presented in all 50 states, 48 countries, and every Province in Canada. In May freshmen and sophomores will have the privilege of watching a one act play produced by our own Daniel Hand High School students. The message of the play is that each and every one of them is important.

As I mention at the end of every school year, summer vacation is almost here and is a perfect time to take advantage of that needed time off. Much has been said about the associated stress that teenagers today feel. As much as I wish this were not the case, the demands on our students, real or perceived, from academics, peer relations, physical appearance, family, activities, and over all social growth are ever present. I truly believe that it is our collective responsibility to be good listeners, paying attention to their personal wellness, and helping them to schedule down time for themselves.

Thank you all for sending us such wonderful children and for your continued support. Please enjoy a restful and fun-filled summer.

Sincerely,  
*Barbara J. Britton*  
Principal

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## DHHS Salutes . . .

The Hands-On-Stage production of the musical, *Legally Blonde* for their extremely successful show. The students involved delighted audiences with their voices, acting, music, and sets. **Mrs. Joy Weaver**, play director, **Mr. Ron Soja**, choral director, **Mr. Nick DiFabbio**, pit band director, and **Mrs. Jessica Littell**, stage crew director, are all to be congratulated for their expertise and hard work.

The following Juniors for being accepted into the National Honor Society: **Demiana Azmy, Chandler Berke, Kate Boudreau, Bryana Braxton, Helen Burland, William Chupp, John Clarke, Henry Cohen, Jayna Concannon, Leah Connolly, Eileen Creaser, Elizabeth Florentine, Lauren Gallagher, Zachary Gardner, Sarah Geller, Cathy Guo, Douglas Levine, Tiffany Li, Constantine Loucopoulos, Daniel Lyons, Carlin McCarthy, John Ovian, Jennifer Palmer, Ian Richardson, Victoria Rotermund, Amanda Rubano, Meredith Ruggiero, Michael Santry, Kelly Tomasevich, and Emily Viloudaki.**

Congratulations to newly elected Student Council officers: President, **Stephanie Levin** '13; Vice President, **Bryana Braxton** '13; Secretary, **Emily Viloudaki** '13; and Treasurers, **Nikhil Jain** '13 and **Nikitha Reddy** '15.

The **Daniel Hand Orchestras** placed first in the Music in the Parks Festival on Saturday, April 28, in Toms River, New Jersey. There were band, jazz band, and orchestra ensembles from five other schools who also participated in the festival.

The **DHHS Math Team** had a very successful season. This year's captain was **Jack Thomas** '12, and the varsity team included: **Cathy Guo** '13, **Craig Herdle** '12, **Wes Kimmel** '14, **Matt Richard** '13, and **Jason Wu** '12. Other

team members included: **Mark Barrow** '13, **Courtney Burns** '15, **Olivia Calabro** '14, **Felicia DeMatteo** '14, **James Dorfman** '14, **Colman Fahey** '14, **Caroline Wolek** '14, **Kevin Zhao** '15, **Lily Zhao** '15.

The team finished in first place in the Greater Middlesex County Math League and won 6 out of 7 meets. **Jack Thomas** was the top scoring senior, and **Jason Wu** came in second place among the seniors. Both Jack and Jason received scholarships for their achievements. **Matt Richard** tied for second place for the top scoring juniors, and **Wes Kimmel** was the top scoring underclassman. In addition, the team qualified for and competed in the Connecticut State Math Meet, finishing 10<sup>th</sup> out of 16 medium-sized schools in Connecticut.

**Joseph Gentile** '12 for recently winning the 2012 National Scholastic Art & Writing Award from the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers for his self-portrait painting. This award recognizes leadership and dedication to creative arts. This year 200,000 works of art were submitted and only 1,500 were recognized at the national level. He has been invited to attend a ceremony at Carnegie Hall in June.

**Vance Giarratana** '12 for winning the Scholar Athlete Award given by The New Haven County Chapter of The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

**Joshua Stokes** '13 for his prize winning video, *First Amendment Documentary*, which was the third place winner in a national contest in the C-SPAN StudentCam documentary competition. His video and interview aired on C-SPAN on April 12. In addition, this month the C-SPAN classroom bus visited DHHS to honor Josh, as well as to offer tours of the interactive, multimedia production studio-on-wheels.

**Sheila Huang** '13 for being recognized as a semi-finalist by The Connecticut Association of Schools in the Governor's Scholar competition for her outstanding achievements.

Recipients of the CIAC 2012 Scholar-Athlete awards: seniors **Augustin Manke** and **Renata Diotalevi**. They were recognized at the Scholar-Athlete Banquet at the Aqua Turf in May.

**Andrew Hook** '14, **Ian Richardson** '13, and **Jennifer Yao** '12 for their selection to the All-State Band and Orchestra.

## LMC News

The Daniel Hand Library Media Center has never been busier. The various end-of-year research projects and exams assigned to students have made the LMC a very popular place to be.

The 2012 Summer Reading List is complete and will be on the school and district websites within the next few weeks. Mr. Petrakopoulos took suggestions from students and staff and tried to include something for everybody. Some of the books are already in the LMC. The rest should be in by the end of the year for our eager students.

The library would like to acknowledge the wonderful parent volunteers who assist the LMC staff. **Katie Krause, Jana Pietrzyk, Martha Monico, and Huma Kidwai** put a lot of work and effort into the LMC displays this year as well as shelving and processing books. The LMC is always looking for volunteers helpers. 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.

## Club News

This year members of the newly formed **Excel Club**, which was formed and is led by student co-presidents **Caleigh Higgins** '14 and **Tyler McAndrews** '14, have participated in various community projects including Art from the Heart, Habitat for Humanity, trail clearing in Rockland Preserve, and volunteer work at Madison's Leprechaun 5-Miler. The Excel Club was also officially recognized by the National Exchange Club this month and is a part of the National Exchange Club dedicated to promoting community service. New members are always welcome.

Brand new this year to DHHS is the **Stock Market Club**, which recently concluded their Stock Market Game simulation competition. The club was created to give students an opportunity to learn about the stock market and participate in an online stock market simulation against other high school students in the state of Connecticut. Overall, 1,295 students from over 60 different high schools in Connecticut participated in the online competition. The top finisher for Daniel Hand was **Doug Levine** '13, who finished 12<sup>th</sup> overall, followed by **Andrew Muckle** '15, who finished 24<sup>th</sup> respectively. Also with strong gains and rounding out Daniel Hand's top finishers were **Connor Favre** '14, **Jeff Okamoto** '15, and **Adam Taylor** '15. The Stock Market Club meets on Fridays in room 114 and always accepts new members. Any student interested in learning more can see Mr. Tommaso.

## Nurse's Notes

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 before entry to the eleventh grade.* Forms (State of CT, blue, HAR-3 forms, rev 4/2012) are available in the DHHS Health Office, your provider's office, or at this link: [http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/deps/student/health/HAR3\\_2011.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/deps/student/health/HAR3_2011.pdf)

Mrs. Donna Konarski, RN will be working limited hours during the summer months and looks forward to receiving the physical exam forms, sports registrations, medications for the next school year, or questions/concerns that you may have. Donna Konarski, RN or Karin Thelin, Health Paraprofessional II may be reached at 203-245-6370, DHHS Health Office.

## Phoenix Literary Magazine

Attention parents and students! The annual school literary magazine, *Phoenix*, which showcases the poetry, essays, short stories, as well as art work, and photos of the Daniel Hand student body, will be available for purchase this month. Phoenix staff members have worked hard to select and arrange the creative writing and art work of our students.

The magazine will be on sale during lunch waves, and can also be purchased through any English department member.



## SAT Review Course

A review course will be offered at Daniel Hand High School in the fall to prepare students for the November 3rd College Board Scholastic Assessment Test. The class will meet for ten sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:10 to 3:10 beginning Tuesday, October 2, and ending Thursday, November 1. The fee for the course is \$125. For additional information contact Mr. Reed Miller at [miller@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:miller@madison.k12.ct.us). Interested students may sign up in the main office. Class size is limited to 30 students.

## Dress Code

The warm weather and current fashion conspire to create an atmosphere in our school that, for many, is not conducive to learning. Among particular concern are styles that reveal bare midriffs, shoulders, and cleavage. We ask that students not wear off the shoulder tops, tank tops, or tops with spaghetti strap, razor backs, or large arm holes. Girls' shorts must have at least a three inch inseam. This problem is chiefly with female styles consisting of skimpy and tight clothing; often the wearers of such clothing are targets of unwanted attention and/or comments. Male students' violations fall into the category of pants worn too low so as to reveal their boxer shorts and tee shirts with slogans or images that promote substance use or send offensive sexual messages. We will enforce the policies here and ask parents to reinforce the message that DHHS has a dress code, because we want the best possible learning environment. We are a culture of young people and adults and inappropriate attire can be offensive to both groups.

## Mark Your Calendar

### May

25	<b>Underclass Awards</b> , D&A Hall <i>Students only</i>	
25	Senior Assembly, Gym	8:15 a.m.
25	Senior Outing, Holiday Hill	9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
28	<b>Memorial Day - No School</b>	
29	Orchestra Concert, D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.
30	National Honor Society Induction, Senior Commons	7:00 p.m.
31	Choral Concert, D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.

### June

1	Class Council Elections	PAW Groups
2	Senior Prom, Aqua Turf	7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
5	Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	7:00 p.m.
8	Senior Locker Clean-Up	
8-11	Senior Exams During Classes (Career and Tech. Ed., Art, World Lang., Music)	
11	Last day regular classes for Seniors	
12	Junior Locker Clean-Up	
12	Senior Exams-Social Studies, English	7:30-11:00 a.m.
13	Sophomore/Freshman Locker Clean-Up	
13	<b>Last Day Third Trimester</b>	
13	Senior Exams-Math, Science	7:30-11:00 a.m.
14	Senior Make-Up Exams	
14	Senior Awards, D&A Hall	7:00 p.m.
14-18	<b>Underclass Exams</b> (see schedule p. 5)	
15	Senior Meeting, D&A Hall	8:15 a.m.
15	Senior Brunch, Woodwinds	9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
15	Graduation Rehearsal, DHHS Gym	11:30 a.m.
18	Graduation Rehearsal, Madison Green	1:00 p.m.
19	<b>Last Day of School</b> (shortened sch.)	7:25 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
19	<b>Make-Up Exams</b>	
19	Graduation Rehearsal, Madison Green	1:00 p.m.
19	<b>Graduation Ceremony</b> , Madison Green	6:00 p.m.
19	Nite-in-Hand	10:00 p.m.



## Newsy Notes

Over 90 seniors have been selected to take the State of Connecticut Career and Technology Education Concentrator Test. This test is given to those seniors who have successfully completed coursework in specialized areas such as **Finance, Computers Information, Business Management, Early Childhood Education, Pre-Engineering, Cooperative Work, Food and Nutrition, Video, and Early Childhood Education**. Last Year Daniel Hand students placed sixth overall in the state and number one in the area of Business Management.

**Mr. David Tommaso** and eight of his **Personal Finance** students will be attending a Personal Finance Symposium at Central Connecticut State University in May.

In **Advanced Materials Processing** students have been constructing a set of cubby holes for the Art for the Heart project. The cubby holes will be painted by Mrs. Anita Ferron's class and then they will be installed in the room of a child from Guilford who has cancer.

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, three students from DHHS performed at the **Connecticut Music Educators Association's All State Conference** in Hartford. **Andrew Hook '14, Ian Richardson '13, and Jennifer Yao '12** auditioned for this festival in February and were selected to perform with other top musicians from the state in the All State Band and Orchestra. The performance was the culmination of three days of rehearsal and collaboration with other high school musicians as well as nationally renowned conductors and composers. Participation in this festival qualifies them to be selected for the 2013 All-Eastern band and orchestra next April, a group that will be comprised of the top high school musicians from the thirteen Northeast states.

On May 8<sup>th</sup> the **DHHS Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band** performed their spring concert. Highlights included a tribute to the late Director of Bands, **Mr. Richard Fasano**, as the bands played two Sousa marches and a beautiful arrangement of Puccini's *Nessun Dorma*. The evening culminated with a tribute to the 63 seniors in the band, many of whom have been dedicated to the Madison band program since they were nine years old.

The DHHS bands have had a wonderful year. Our performance season will conclude with the Memorial Day Parade on May 28<sup>th</sup> and graduation on June 19<sup>th</sup>. We are already gearing up for 2012-13 as we look forward to another great school year including our trip to Disney World next March!

## Final Exam Schedule for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors\*

- June 14 7:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.  
**1st period class exam**
- 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
**2nd period class exam**
- June 15 7:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.  
**3rd period class exam**
- 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
**4th period class exam**
- June 18 7:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.  
**5th period class exam**
- 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
**6th period class exam**
- June 19 Abbreviated periods  
Student/teacher conferences  
Make up exams  
Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.



## Senior Functions

- May 25 **Senior Assembly**, Gym - 8:15 a.m.
- Senior Outing**, Holiday Hill, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- June 2 **Senior Prom**, Aqua Turf, 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
- June 8 **Senior Locker Clean-up**
- June 8 & 11 **Senior Exams\*** during classes  
Career and Tech. Ed., World Languages, Music, Art
- June 11 **Last Day of Regular Classes for Seniors**
- June 12 **Senior Exams\***, LMC  
Social Studies 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
English 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- June 13 **Senior Exams\***, LMC  
Math 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
Science 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- June 14 **Senior Make-up Exams** for excused absences  
Senior obligations due at 2:00 p.m.
- Senior Awards Night**, Dining & Assembly Hall - 7:00 p.m.  
*All seniors are invited to attend*
- June 15 **Senior Assembly**, Dining & Assembly Hall - 8:15 a.m.
- Senior Brunch**, Woodwinds - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Graduation Rehearsal**, DHHS Gym - 11:30 a.m.  
*Attendance mandatory*
- June 18 **Graduation Rehearsal**, Madison Green, 1:00 p.m.  
*Attendance mandatory*
- June 19 **Graduation Rehearsal**, Madison Green - 1:00 p.m.  
*Attendance mandatory*
- Graduation Ceremony**, Madison Green - 6:00 p.m.
- Nite-In-Hand**, Daniel Hand High School - 10:00 p.m.

*\*All students are expected to take final exams at the scheduled time. Any requests for exceptions must be submitted in writing to the Principal by a parent or guardian as soon as possible.*

## PTO Awards

### Art

Freshman **Michelle McCloskey**  
Sophomore **Katie Lustig**  
Junior **Matthew Richard**  
Senior **Briana Evans**

### Career and Technical Education

Business **Melina Singer**, gr. 12  
Family Consumer Education  
**Mikayla Laske**, gr. 11  
Technical Education  
**Ricahrd Vollmer**, gr. 11

### English

Freshman **Melissa Busca**  
Sophomore **Claire Bunes**  
Junior **Connor Liska**  
Senior **Rich Griffith**

### Health

Sophomore **Kyle Maxwell**  
Junior **Chase Bunes**  
Senior **Ashley Surprenant**

### Math

Freshman **Cori Ouellette**  
**Mike Sampson**  
Sophomore **Tara McCloskey**  
Junior **Sara Montgomery**

### Music

Chorus **Eric McKissick**, gr. 12  
Orchestra **Megan Sicignano**, gr. 12  
Band **Ryan Sicignano**, gr. 10

### Physical Education

Freshman **Morgan Werth**  
Sophomore **Nick Norwitz**  
Junior **Matt Griffin**

### Science

Freshman **Hannah Scholnick**  
Sophomore **Rachel Anderson**  
Junior **Amanda Griffin**  
Senior **Brett Gelino**

### Social Studies

Freshman **Georgia Jensen**  
Sophomore **Chris Flynn**  
Junior **Paige Andrews**  
Senior **Austin Paradis**

### World Language

Freshman **Samantha Mancuso**  
Sophomore **Daniel Huang**  
Junior **Nikhil Jain**  
Senior **Courtney LeBlanc**

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## WINTER SPORTS REPORT

The winter season runs from November to March, with 381 students participating in 14 sports.

Wrestling:	Regular season SCC Champions Class L State Champions Runners' Up – State Open Championship Runners' Up – New England Championships Five wrestlers were named All State and three will compete in the Nationals
Gymnastics:	Regular season SCC Champions Runners' Up Class M Championships 3 <sup>rd</sup> place in State Open Championships 6 <sup>th</sup> place in New England Championships Two gymnasts will compete in the Nationals
Cheerleading:	Runners' Up – SCC Championship 7 <sup>th</sup> place in State Championship Two cheerleaders named All State (first time in school history)
Girls' Basketball:	Received New Haven Board of Basketball Officials "Sportsmanship" Award Qualified for SCC and State championships, and advanced to the second round
Boys' Basketball:	Qualified for SCC and State championships. And advanced to the second round
Boys' Swimming:	Finished in the top ten in the SCC and States in only their second season as a team
Fencing:	Finished 7 <sup>th</sup> in the States in their first varsity season
Boys' Ice Hockey:	Regular season SCC Division II Champions Runners' Up in the SCC Tournament Advanced to quarterfinals in the State Tournament
Girls' Ice Hockey:	Advanced to the SCC and State Tournaments
Ski Team:	Had a successful season despite the lack of snow
Dance Team:	Had a successful season and are hoping to advance to the State Championships next year
Girls' Indoor Track:	Finished 8 <sup>th</sup> in the SCC, and 6 <sup>th</sup> in States
Boys' Indoor Track:	Finished 10 <sup>th</sup> in the SCC, and 4 <sup>th</sup> in States
Unified Basketball:	Competed in several tournaments this season

# Nite In Hand News

Nite-In-Hand will be hosting the 24th annual graduation party for the Daniel Hand High School Class of 2012. This is a fun, safe, substance free party held at the high school on graduation night. Decorations, entertainment, games, food, music, prizes and “more” makes this night one filled with magic and memories for years to come for our new graduates.

## **RSVP- Register Your Grad for NIH**

Senior parents, if you have not registered your grad to attend Nite in Hand, please do so as soon as possible. It's not too late! Your son or daughter cannot attend Nite in Hand unless they are registered and we would like to see all of our Class of 2012 grads take part in this special event. Please contact Peggy VanAntwerp at [Avapt@aol.com](mailto:Avapt@aol.com) with any questions. Scholarships to attend are available.

## **Decorating Needs Your Help**

Work on NIH 2012 decorations is taking place at a Milano's facility at 170 Fort Path Road, Unit 4. It takes a lot of volunteer help to create the decorations that add so much to the special atmosphere of the event. There are many projects that do not need any special artistic skill and some that can be done at home. We have many projects ready and waiting for people to help and we generally meet from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Tuesday and Sunday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. We are also often working on Saturday afternoons. For the specific schedule each week, please check the Nite in Hand blog at [niteinhand.blogspot.com](http://niteinhand.blogspot.com) and register your email to receive schedule updates.

## **Raffle Committee**

The Nite in Hand raffle committee needs your help. We are in need of

“college bound” raffle items for prizes for the raffle finale at the event's closing. Please call one of the raffle Co-Chairs to donate a prize. Your support is truly appreciated. Pat Williams can be reached at [williams0215@comcast.net](mailto:williams0215@comcast.net) and Paula Munro at [munrosp@aol.com](mailto:munrosp@aol.com).

## **Underclassman Parents Welcome**

By getting involved now, you'll know what NIH is all about before your child is a senior. Underclassman parents can help out on decorations. We also need many volunteers for set up, decorations, baking, clean up, or to work a shift the night of the event.

Nite In Hand is funded entirely by donations from parents, our Madison and shoreline community, and local businesses. The Nite in Hand committee needs to ask for your help. Simply, we need donations. Would you, or do you know someone, who would donate prize items for our graduating class? Do you or someone you know, work for a business that has raffle items or could make a monetary contribution? We are grateful for your help in prior years and ask your continued support in 2012.

## **Buy your Grad Sign Now! \$12**

Graduation lawn signs are now available at Given in downtown Madison, at the Decorations Committee workspace at 170 Fort Path Road, Unit 4, and by contacting Vanessa Ballantine, 203-530-9595.

## **Senior Parents Send in Pictures of Your Grad!**

As part of the decorations, each year a picture board is made for each and every senior. These boards will hang in a dedicated hallway and the seniors love to see them. The boards will go home with each senior in the morning. We need you to send to us photo-

graphs of your senior that will make him or her smile, laugh, and remember a special time. These pictures can be a mix of photos including baby pictures, pictures from grade school, sporting events, proms, homecoming dances, and fun with family and friends. For full instructions and a schedule to help assemble the picture boards, please visit the Nite in Hand link on the DHHS webpage or the Nite in Hand blog at [niteinhand.blogspot.com](http://niteinhand.blogspot.com).

## **Volunteer Coordination, Set-Up and Clean-Up - Event Workers Needed**

Please help us to set up the decorations, games and events of Nite in Hand. Volunteers will also be needed to help clean-up and store decorations on the morning after Nite in Hand. We will be needing people with trucks or vans to help out for a couple of hours. You can send an email to the committee at [niteinhand@gmail.com](mailto:niteinhand@gmail.com) or contact a committee head directly.

- Margaret Mather, head of Volunteer Coordination, can be reached at [mather26@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mather26@sbcglobal.net).
- Linda Enright is heading the Set Up Committee and can be reached at [LZenright2@aol.com](mailto:LZenright2@aol.com).
- Julie Kondrin is heading up the Clean Up Committee and can be reached at [Jkcondrin@gmail.com](mailto:Jkcondrin@gmail.com).

## **Stay in Touch with Nite in Hand**

- Important information including contacts are located on the Nite in Hand link on the DHHS webpage.
- Follow the latest news at the Nite in Hand Blog at [niteinhand.blogspot.com](http://niteinhand.blogspot.com)
- Like us on Facebook at NiteinHand.
- Contact the Co-Chairs at [Niteinhand@gmail.com](mailto:Niteinhand@gmail.com)

*\*\*Please stop by the night of the graduation during preview hours to see this spectacular celebration!\*\**