

DHHS Newsletter

www.danielhand.org

Principal's Letter

To Parents and Guardians:

The weather in New England is always a topic of conversation over the winter months. Despite some of the especially cold days, it is nice to experience a typical winter weather pattern that mixes in both cold and milder temperatures.

As many of you know, the month of March is filled with assessments in all Connecticut public schools. All DHHS sophomores will be taking the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) on March 4th, 5th, 6th, 14th, 17th, and 18th. The testing window for CAPT is March 3rd through the 28th. Make up testing, as necessary, will occur on any day during the testing window. CAPT scores are a part of Daniel Hand High School's graduation requirements and are also used as a measure for the overall high school program. Feel free to refer to page 3 of the *2013-14 Program of Studies* for additional information. Please note that on March 4th, 5th, and 6th CAPT testing will begin promptly at 7:25 a.m. On-time arrival is important on all school days but is especially important during standardized test sessions. Freshmen, juniors, and seniors will be taking Trimester 2 exams on March 14th, 17th, and 18th while sophomores are taking CAPT. On these three days, both CAPT and trimester exams will begin promptly at 7:45 a.m. Students should be in school at 7:25 a.m. on these days. Please note that student dismissal on March 14th, 17th, and 18th is at 12:15 p.m. As with any day, please encourage your children to get a good night's sleep and to eat a healthy breakfast.

In an effort to recognize the many wonderful student accomplishments at DHHS, at the end of each trimester, we present students with *PTO* and *Helping Hands* certificates. Students receive these recognitions for outstanding achievement, interest, or dedication in a particular subject or for selfless contributions that make our school community a welcoming environment. Mr. Bodner, Mrs. Schneider, and I are the lucky ones who meet with these students and commend them for their effort and positive character. A list of the students who recently received recognition is included in this newsletter.

Believe it or not, the 2014-15 scheduling process has started. Students recently received next year's *Program of Studies* and will be working with their teachers on course requests. We plan to send eNotify reminders for important due dates. Please keep in mind that course request forms require a parent/guardian signature. The master schedule is developed based on the course request information we gather from all students. Once schedules

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Principal's Letter

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are complete, it is very difficult to make changes. Keep this in mind when reviewing and ultimately signing your child's course request form. If you have not done so already, I would suggest reviewing the *2014-15 Program of Studies* in the near future. For your convenience, an electronic version is available on our website.

Our fall athletic teams experienced quite a bit of success with the season ending in December. Winter sports are in full swing. I have been able to attend several of our teams' competitions and have been impressed with the noticeable teamwork and efforts of our student athletes. I have also noticed positive sportsmanship and character no matter the outcome of the competition. Our student athletes and their coaches deserve a great deal of credit for consistently demonstrating character and poise. I am looking forward to attending more events in the future.

I hope you were able to attend the fall drama production. *Humbug* certainly did not disappoint anyone who attended. Our student performers, the crew, Jessica Littell, and Joy Weaver put on three outstanding performances. I was able to attend the final performance and was nothing short of impressed with the production. At the end of the evening, the announcement of the spring musical energized everyone present. *Beauty and the Beast* will be performed in early April. Our students are already busy preparing for what should be an amazing performance.

In our continued effort to be environmentally friendly, we will not be issuing paper copies of trimester three schedules. Students can access their schedules on Infinite Campus. Barring school cancellations for any reason, trimester two will end on Wednesday, March 19th, and trimester three will begin on Thursday, March 20th. These dates are subject to change if school is cancelled due to inclement weather.

It is hard to believe that the mid-point of the school year has already passed. Discussions about end of the year planning, including graduation, have already started. I have enjoyed every opportunity I have had to interact with the student body, staff members, and the entire DHHS community. Daniel Hand is truly an impressive place.

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter article. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Anthony R. Salutari, Jr.

Principal

Daniel Hand High School's Core Values and Beliefs

Our primary purpose is to graduate successful life-long learners who are responsible citizens in the global community. Daniel Hand High School students, in collaboration with educators, parents, and the Madison community, will develop as motivated, self-reliant, creative, and ethical individuals who respect differences in others.

Core Values and Beliefs Statement:

The Daniel Hand High School community believes that the mission of our school is to support all students by providing them with challenging educational opportunities which will prepare them to be globally aware citizens of the 21st century. To succeed in this mission, we recognize that our students must demonstrate competence in oral and written communications; understand effective and responsible use of technology; and develop critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity. In addition, it is critical that our students respect and contribute to the diverse, multicultural community and international community in which they live.

Nurse's Notes

The Flu season is 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.

ST of CT Mandated

Screenings: As mandated by the State of Connecticut, the Health Office staff conducted **vision screening** for 9th grade students and **hearing screening** for 10th grade stu-

dents. Parents of ninth grade students will be notified regarding **scoliosis screening** which will be conducted before the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

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 asterisk (*) 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, Mrs. Donna Konarski, RN or Ms. Karin Thelin, Health Paraprofessional.



PTO Awards for Trimester I

Art

Freshman	Tristan Sorensen
Sophomore	Tessa Farnham
Junior	Bryan McManus
Senior	Jonathan Walker

Music

Chorus	Courtney Buckley (gr.12)
Orchestra	Stefan Nahar (gr.12)
Band	Jeffrey Okamoto (gr.11)

Career and Technical Education

Business	Douglas Wu (gr.12)
Family Consumer Education	Kaitlyn Melino (gr.11)
Technical Education	Samuel Kramer (gr.10)

Physical Education

Freshman	Megan Phillips
Sophomore	Connor Sakmar
Junior	Catherine Florentine

English

Freshman	Lindsay Nichols
Sophomore	Grace Gill
Junior	Parker Haupt
Senior	Chase Briggs

Science

Freshman	Kelly Doktorski
Sophomore	Lauren Paidas
Junior	Benjamin Swimmer
Senior	Katherine Mazzeo

Health

Sophomore	Joseph Milner
Junior	Cosme Fumex
Senior	Gabriella Dess

Social Studies

Freshman	Marcello Migic
Sophomore	Kasimira Roe
Junior	Connor Bell
Senior	Rachel Anderson

Math

Freshman	Shane Stanton
Sophomore	Jack Hennessey
Junior	Brandon O'Neill
Senior	Danielle Russo

World Language

Freshman	Collin Parsch
Sophomore	Ella Harmon
Junior	Howard Odum
Senior	Emily Shafer

DHHS Salutes....

Members of the **Student Council Homecoming Committee**, advisor **Mr. Peter Nye**, and the **faculty chaperones** for a very successful Homecoming Dance.

The Cast and Crew of *Humbug*, their advisor, **Mrs. Joy Weaver**, and crew advisor, **Mrs. Jessica Littell**, for an excellent fall production.

Senior, **Amanda Corcoran** for being selected as a Finalist in the 2014 Competition by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Seniors **Justine Grato** (Visual Arts) and **Ella Sweet** (Performing Arts) for being honored at the Nineteenth Annual Arts Recognition banquet at the Aqua Turf for their outstanding achievements in the arts.

Seniors **Kyle Maxwell** and **Brendan Hughes** 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.

Junior **Molly Zalman** who was selected as the winner of the local VFW District #2 Voice of Democracy Scholarship Contest. Her recorded essay was based on the question, "Why I'm optimistic about my nation's future".

Sophomore, **Eric Marsh** who earned the rank of Eagle Scout in Boys Scouts. For his Eagle Service Project, Eric worked with the Shoreline Greenway Trail. Eric designed and created a large "rest area" with a beautiful vista at Hammonasset State Park.

The following Seniors for being accepted into the National Honor Society: **Natalie Baughan, Andrew Card, Adam D'Agostino, Kathleen Downes, Connor Favre, Patrick Ferland, Daniel Gardner, Juliette Geller, Christian Koshgarian, Colette Kramer, Zoe Makoul, Kevin Mallon, Katherine Mazzeo, Caroline Morin, Jennifer Ongley, Kathryn Phillips, Anoush Razavian, Scott Rubinstein, Emily Shafer, Victoria Smith-Israel, and Mary Sobran.**

Several Tiger Band members who performed with various ensembles at the Southern Regional High School Music Festival in Meriden. **Sarah Price, Clara Wang, Makayla Pardo, Michael Gulcicek, William Card, Joseph Wolek, Caroline Morin, Jeffrey Okamoto, Griffin Pardales, Noel Haren, Danica Meier, and Neil Ferland** were all selected to perform at the concert; **Andrew Hook** with the orchestra; and **Wesley Kimmel** and **Liam Hye** with the jazz band.

Helping Hand recipients, seniors: **Mikkie Chu, Makayla Portley**; juniors: **Ian Bergere, Meghan Wood, Kevin Clarke, Rochelle Horanzy**; sophomores: **Madeleine Yaggi, Cassandra Long**, and freshman: **Ciara Burke**; faculty members: **Mr. Salutari, Mr. Schreiber, Mrs. Dixon**, and student group **WOW**.

Brian Jackson and **Christian Koshgarian** for receiving the Dr. Valerio Moretti 2013 Scholar-Athlete Award from the Connecticut Soccer Coaches Association. This scholarship is given to outstanding senior soccer players who combine athletic prowess with high academic achievement.

Newsy Notes

The student "**Acts of Kindness Club**" coordinated a Red Cross blood drive on December 9th in the DHHS gymnasium. The PTO provided support in the form of snacks, check-in, and (when needed) moral fortitude. Many students (over 17 years old) and several teachers donated a pint of blood. Senior **Maggie Gautrau** spearheaded the event with significant help from senior **Phoebe Riegle** and juniors **Sandy Barrow** and **Lindsey Brown**. Although the start of the blood drive was delayed by a winter event that caused a 90-minute delay in the start of school, our students and teachers still managed to exceed (by one pint) the stated goal of 60 pints. The Hand community came together with energetic contributions of setup and prep-work by the health office, the custodial staff, PTO, students, and staff.

Since the end of marching season, the **Tiger Bands** have been very busy. In addition to playing at Polson Middle School for the 8th grade, the Jazz Band traveled to Brown Middle School to perform with the 6th Grade Jazz Band and work with them in small group sectionals. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Hand students to share their knowledge of jazz with the "next generation" of Madison musicians. In March, the DHHS Jazz Band will once again be the musical accompaniment for the Ryerson School "Give to Grow" fundraiser, being held at the Madison Winter Club.

The **DHHS Concert Band, Symphonic Band** and **Jazz Band** performed their winter concert on Wednesday, February 12th, at 7:30 p.m. in the dining and assembly hall. The jazz band program included music by Duke Ellington, Earth Wind and Fire, Leonard Bernstein, and a tune that can only be described as a funky hip hop shuffle. The concert bands presented music from "Chicago", "Up", noted band composers John Mackey, Sam Hazo, and Eric Whitacre, and a very modern and moving piece that musically depicts the fire bombing of Dresden, Germany in 1945. In addition the concert band played one piece conducted by senior **Andrew Hook**, who will be continuing his musical studies at Carnegie Mellon University this fall.

On January 18th, the **DHHS Show Choir** competed in a regional festival at Lowell, MA. Show Choir received the following awards: Grand Champions, Gold Medal, Best Choreography, Best Choral Sound, and Best Rhythm Section. **Michael Gilchrist** received the Judges Award for Performance and **Nicholas Balow** received the Judges Award for Outstanding Instrumentalist.

In December, the **AP biology classes** took a field trip to Hartford to see the BODIES REVEALED exhibit at the CT Science Center. They viewed over 200 actual human bodies preserved using an innovative process that captures the body's exquisite detail and offers an unprecedented look at all of the body systems including muscular, nervous, digestive, and circulatory.

Mark Your Calendar

March

3-27	CAPT Testing (see adjacent schedule)	
4	Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
8	SAT testing	
14, 17, 18	Second Trimester Exams	
18	Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
19	Last Day of Second Trimester	
20	Third Trimester begins	
28	Professional Development - no school for students	

April

1	PTO Meeting, LMC classroom	8:00 a.m.
1	Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
2-4	Spring Musical, <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> , DAH	7:00 p.m.
5	Spring Musical, <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> , DAH	2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
6	Spring Musical, <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> , DAH	2:00 p.m.
7	SAT Testing	
8	Honors Breakfast, Students only	9:00 a.m.
14-18	Spring Break	
22	Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
24	College Fair	6-7:30p.m.

May

6	PTO Meeting, LMC classroom	8:00 a.m.
6	Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
10	Junior Prom, DAH	7:30-11:00p.m.
14	Band Concert, DAH	7:30 p.m.
14	Art Show & Reception, Sr. Commons	6:30-8:00 p.m.
20	Board of Ed. Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
22	Orchestra Concert, DAH	7:30 p.m.
23	Senior Outing, Holiday Hill	
26	Memorial Day—No School	
28	Choral Concert, DAH	7:30 p.m.

Beauty and the Beast

A Hands-On Stage Production

A handsome prince turned into a ghastly beast. A home town hero (who's a bit full of himself) trying to win the affection of the beautiful, but rather odd girl from the village. An enchanted castle, a magical rose, and the beast's last chance to break the spell that keeps him prisoner. Is beauty only skin deep? Can the beast open his heart and learn to love again? And even more important, can he win the love of the fair maiden he holds captive? Over 100 DHHS students are busy designing and creating the costumes, props and sets, learning the orchestrations, practicing their vocals and bringing this beautiful story to life on our stage. Come and enjoy Disney's "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST", on April 2nd-5th evening performances beginning at 7:00 p.m. with weekend matinees at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 5 and Sunday April 6. Tickets go on sale March 22 at R. J. Julia's and the Daniel Hand High School main office,

CAPT Schedule

March 4	Interdisciplinary Writing I & Editing
March 5	Response to Literature
March 6	Interdisciplinary Writing II
March 14 (exam day)	Math I, Science I
March 17 (exam day)	Math II, Science II
March 18 (exam day)	Reading for Information

Library Notes

The Daniel Hand Library Media Center now has a fully functional e-book/audiobook system that is fully integrated with its online catalog and accessible from home and school. E-books are now offered through two systems, Follett Shelf and Overdrive. Follett Shelf is limited to e-books that can be read on tablets, digital readers, laptops, or desktop computers. Overdrive offers both e-books and audiobooks and is compatible with all the above devices as well as mobile devices such as iPhones, Android phones, and other smartphones. With the student Wi-Fi network, these audio and e-books are easily accessible from anywhere in the school at any time. Links to Follett Shelf and Overdrive as well as tutorials can be found on the LMC's website under the e-books link.

The LMC would also like to thank Phyllis Annunziata for taking time out of her retirement to volunteer in the LMC. We are glad to have her back! The LMC is always looking for volunteers to help with shelving books and designing our displays. 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.



Dear Parents,

Help us celebrate the 26th anniversary of Nite in Hand!

Nite in Hand is a fun, safe, substance-free night of celebration for graduating seniors. Our seniors look forward to the event with great anticipation. The Madison community, parents of DHHS students, and the students themselves all come together to make this a memorable night for this year's graduates.

Nite in Hand is looking for volunteers. **Help is still needed on ALL of our committees. It takes a village to put together, please consider signing up to support our great event and attend our planning meetings!**

It has been the tradition of Nite in Hand for underclassmen parents to be in charge of clean-up. Please consider giving your time and help graduating students and families celebrate this very special event.

You can contact us through niteinhand@gmail.com or through the DHHS website - Nite in Hand link.

Our organizational meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at the DHHS Library Media Center at 7 pm.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 4.

What Every Parent Needs to Know About Safe Rides

Safe Rides

203-245-8347

On the recent youth survey administered to all DHHS students in grades 9-12 in October 2013:

25% of seniors reported they drove after drinking once or more in the past 12 months, and

28% of 9-12 grade students reported they rode (once or more in the past 12 months) with a driver who had been drinking (The question did not specify if this was with another youth or with an adult.)

Safe Rides is a confidential, community-wide, student-to-student transportation service, which operates on Friday and Saturday nights from 10:00 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

The primary purpose of Safe Rides is to keep people alive and safe. Reasons why kids should call Safe Rides:

- They don't want to get in the car with the person who is giving them a ride because that person is under the influence, is too tired, or has changed plans
- They are babysitting and need a safe ride home when they suspect the adult who would provide them with a ride is under the influence or they have children asleep that they don't want to wake or leave to give the sitter a ride home
- They are under the influence of alcohol or another drug

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- They are past driving curfew time and need a ride home
- They are at work and need a ride home (as long as they are within Madison)
- Or they are uncomfortable in their surroundings, make the decision to leave, and need a ride
- They have no ride home for whatever reason

How it works:

When people call the Safe Rides number, they will speak with the dispatcher (a student). The dispatcher will ask for their location, their cell phone number, and where they need to be dropped off which must be their home address. The reason we ask for a cell phone number is so we can call them when we arrive at their location. If the callers are not comfortable giving their name to the dispatcher, they do not have to do so. All calls are confidential.

A prospective passenger is met outside the pick-up address, as Safe Rides personnel are not to go into the house where a party is being held or into any other location where the caller is located. Safe Rides may take people only home - not to other parties or other people's houses. No one who has been out of high school for over 6 months, who is exhibiting violent or aggressive behavior, or who is passed out, is to be given a ride. In the case of finding someone vomiting or unconscious, the shift is to call 911 immediately. Two Safe Rides members go out on all calls. No one may be transported across town lines.

Safe Rides is run by Madison Youth and Family Services with the support of The Exchange Club of Madison and operates only within Madison town borders. 3-8 high school students and 1 adult staff each shift. Adult responsibilities include interacting with student volunteers, reinforcing program and transportation guidelines, and canceling the shift if the weather is bad. The student volunteers are registered through Madison Youth and Family Services and insured through the town. Safe Rides drivers must have a license for at least six months, so most drivers are high school juniors and seniors. Volunteers use their own family's cars. The number of seatbelts in the car determines the number of passengers who can be carried per trip.

Confidentiality is a vitally important part of the program. Neither adult nor student volunteers talk about the shift or divulge the names of any passengers during or outside the shift.

It is our hope that parents will discuss using Safe Rides with their teens and support their son/daughter for making the choice to call Safe Rides, even when a family rule has been broken or a behavioral expectation is unmet. **Teens sometimes make bad choices, but calling Safe Rides is never one of them.**

For more information, contact Melissa Balletto, Program Leader/Coordinator at Madison Youth & Family Services, 245-5656.