

Newsletter

March 2012



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Message From Our Principal, Gary W. Bocaccio

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the second semester. We are now midway through the third marking period which for your child may mean some new teachers, perhaps some new courses, and a new opportunity to learn and grow for all students. I am hopeful that our students are embracing the changes and challenges that accompany a new beginning. Please remain in regular contact with your child's teachers and counselors. We appreciate your help in encouraging attendance, punctuality, and homework as the days get longer and the weather improves.

Next Monday, March 19th, Spring Conferences will be held from 6:00 -8:30pm at Danbury High School. This will be a time for you to meet individually with your child's teachers and discuss your youngster's progress.

Thank you for your involvement as we partner together to enrich the educational experience of all children at Danbury High School.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Bocaccio,
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS:

3/16	Talent Show (Snow Date 3/30/12)	7pm	Auditorium
3/19	Parent/Teacher Conferences	6-8:30	
3/22	Early Dismissal DHS ACE ONLY	11:30	
3/23	BOG Dance	7-midnight	The Matrix
3/27	Early Dismissal District Wide	11:30	
3/27	Fashion Show	6:30-8:30	Amber Room
3/29	Mr. DHS	7pm	Auditorium
4/6	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY		
4/12	Early Dismissal DHS ACE ONLY	11:30	
4/13	Early Dismissal District Wide	11:30	
4/16-4/20	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK		
5/10	Early Dismissal DHS ACE ONLY	11:30	
5/11	Junior Prom	7-midnight	Danbury Plaza

School News

English Department, Mr. Thomas A. Porcelli, Department Head porcet@danbury.k12.ct.us

The English Department at Danbury High School has continued striving to make a difference in every student's education. This year, we are proud to have expanded the number of students in the National English Honor Society and are looking forward to a fabulous Wordfest coming up in April. We have worked hard to prepare our students for this year's CAPT experience, and we are confident that we will see our instruction and dedication make a difference in this year's scores.

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 their experience and newly-acquired knowledge with you.

Wordfest will be held on April 25th and 26th in the Library/Media Center. This is an exciting event for the whole school as students get to demonstrate their English skills by sharing original works of art with their peers. This leads to another literary event: the production of our literary magazine, *The Nutmegger*. Be sure to encourage your son or daughter to submit an original work today and perhaps we'll have the opportunity to publish it through this very polished publication.

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 lead our curriculum and hearing personal experiences about English instruction at Danbury High.

Math Department, Ms. Lisa Erhartic, Department Chair erharl@danbury.k12.ct.us

The American Mathematics Competition (AMC10/12) contest was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2012. The AMC Examination consists of 25 multiple-choice questions which students have 75 minutes to complete. The content includes algebra, geometry, number theory, counting, and logic problems at the level usually covered in 9th and 10th grades.

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) was administered to all 10th graders the week of March 5th and the mathematics sessions were on March 5th and 9th. In conjunction with this, the 9th graders took a practice CAPT test. Danbury High School's Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) is measured by this high-stakes test. The mathematics department worked harder than ever to address this with common weekly CAPT questions across classes that included freshmen and sophomores. Teachers included CAPT questions in common formative assessments.

(continued on next page)

School News, continued...

Math Department, continued

The Accuplacer Examination will be administered at the beginning of April to all juniors and those seniors planning to attend Western Connecticut State University (WCSU). This collaborative effort between DHS and WCSU continues to be successful year after year. This is due in part to the work done over the summer by the WCSU mathematics professors and DHS mathematics teachers in reviewing the Accuplacer Examination, student results, and the mathematics curricula at DHS.

Advanced Placement (AP) testing will occur in May.

School News, continued...

Social Studies Department, Mr. Paul Cavanna, Department Chair cavanp@danbury.k12.ct.us

The Danbury High School Social Studies department continues to present essential social studies skills and content in a relevant and rigorous manner. We just completed the implementation of our second Document-Based Question assessment. Aligned with state and district curriculum, these assessments are designed to enrich students' experiences with critical thinking and analysis as they work with primary and secondary source documents. In preparing for the CAPT, our teachers worked with our students in persuasive writing, which includes formulating a thesis statement, proving thoughtful analysis, and citing textual evidence. Additionally, our department put into place an array of effective teaching strategies in order to reach all students. For example, a number of our teachers have implemented the Cornell Note-taking strategy. This technique is designed to assist students in organizing and synthesizing content. While looking to provide unique and engaging educational opportunities, one of our teachers received an education grant from the Mohegan Tribe. This grant provided our students with a guest speaker and a field trip to the Mohegan Tribe Museum. Winston Churchill articulated our passion for the Social Sciences well when he stated, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Yearbook News

After a very busy fall and winter, the yearbook staff has completed this year's *Aggregate*. I believe this is one of our very best years, as the staff has chosen to include a few interesting and exciting visual elements to every spread. We've sold more yearbooks than we have over the past few years and are excited to hear the comments from all the students who bought one.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to buy one, we will have a limited number available for sale in late May for \$125 each. If you are interested in securing one, please be sure to contact the yearbook staff to ensure that your student has this historical account of the year.

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 staff. We'll be assigning some important editorial posts before the end of this year.

Hiring a Limousine for Prom?

The State of Connecticut Department of Transportation has asked us to provide you with the following information:

- Bureau of Public Transportation enforcement personnel will be in the field this prom season.
- If an unlicensed or improperly-licensed limousine is stopped during a spot check and found to be operating illegally, enforcement action will be taken.
- The occupants who hired the limousine service may find themselves without the transportation they hired for the rest of the evening. If such action is taken, it will be because of safety considerations.
- A properly-licensed vehicle will have a white license plate and the word 'livery' on it.
- Yellow pages – a livery company advertising in the yellow pages does NOT guarantee it is legally licensed.

Questions to ask when contracting a limousine service:

- Do you have a Connecticut Intrastate Authority?
- What is your Connecticut permit number?

Will you be servicing my needs with a Connecticut livery-plated vehicle?

Athletics

What forms do I need to try-out for a Danbury High School athletic team?

1. **A current physical.** Any student trying out for any sports team must have a physical on file in the nurses' office which is current through the end of that season.* If your physical expires during the season, you will not be eligible to try out. Thus, anniversary dates are not valid. If your child is interested in participating in our athletics program, it is strongly recommended that you get on a summer schedule for getting a physical.
2. **Permission form.** All students must present this form to the coach. The signed permission/agreement form can be downloaded from the athletic website or picked up in the Athletic Director's office.
3. **An emergency contact form.** This needs to be completed and handed to the coach during the tryout period. This can be downloaded from the athletic website or picked up in the Athletic Director's office.

PLEASE REVIEW THE STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK , AVAILABLE ON LINE,
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

*2011-2012 Athletic Dates

- Fall Season – August 27th — November 19th (exception – Football – August 22nd through December 10th)
- Winter Season – November 21st — March 17th
- Spring Season – March 19th — June 13th

How Your Child Can Obtain Working Papers

Working Papers issued at Danbury High School are for minors (under 18 years old) WORKING in Connecticut. If you are a Connecticut resident planning to work out of state, you must obtain Working Papers from that state; if you are an out-of-state resident planning to work in Connecticut, you must obtain Working Papers within the state of Connecticut.

APPLICANTS FOR WORKING PAPERS MUST APPEAR IN PERSON.

Ask your prospective employer for a Promise of Employment Letter. This letter should be on company letterhead; if that is not available, the prospective employer may use the Sample Letter available on line at the site below or in the Main Office, making sure to fully complete each question. Particular attention should be paid to "Exactly what duties will student be performing". Terms such as 'team member', 'associate', or 'helper' are not acceptable.

Complete a Working Papers Application form, available in the Main Office or through the web site below.

Provide an ORIGINAL document proving your date of birth. An acceptable document would be an original birth certificate, passport, or government-issued photo ID (not school ID).

Bring the above items to the Main Office at Danbury High School. Allow 24 hours for the preparation of your Working Papers.

If you have any questions, please call 203-797-4807 and speak to Ana Domingos or visit <http://www.danbury.k12.ct.us/dhsweb/main/workingpapers.html> for further information and access to forms.

Little Hatters...

The Child Development Nursery School Program is Now Open

Students in Linda Mitten's Child Development classes are happy to announce the March 12 opening of Little Hatter's Nursery School which services preschool children in Danbury. Enrollment is at a record high with 36 children attending and several more on a waiting list. Children attend two mornings per week with two sessions offered; one for the 3's and one for the 4's. The twelve-week Little Hatter's program is especially beneficial to children who have not had any preschool experience. This year, seven of the thirty-six children enrolled are English Language Learners. ELL children have an opportunity to improve their language skills before beginning kindergarten while high school Child Development students practice skills learned during their study of language acquisition.

The Child Development class gives high school students hands-on experience connected to careers in education and various other professions working with young children. In addition, teens get practical experience that they can apply to their own future parenting experience. High school students work in small groups to plan and teach an entire day of the program which includes reading a story, singing songs, an art or cooking project, group learning time, nursery rhyme time, planning a break for a healthful snack, gross motor time and of course, time for free play. Some of the themes for teaching days are Animal Habitats, Amazing Insects and Jobs People Do. Visits are planned by a local dental hygienist and fire fighters from Danbury. A fun and rewarding experience is anticipated by all!

Annual DHS Variety and Talent Show

The Annual DHS Variety and Talent Show will be held on March 16th at 7p.m. in the DHS auditorium. Tickets will be on sale at the door. Please come out and support our talented students and staff.

***** SAVE THE DATE *****

The Fine & Applied Arts Department's 5th Annual

CoDA Festival

(Celebration of Danbury Arts!!)

C.o.D.A Festival

Celebration of Danbury Arts
(K-12 Student Works, Arts, & Musical Performances)

Free Admission - Rain or Shine!!

-When: SATURDAY JUNE 2nd, 2012

-Where: DHS Courtyard

-Why: To showcase the AMAZING talents of Danbury's
K-12 students from

ART! BUSINESS!

COMMUNICATIONS! FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE!

MUSIC! TECH ED!!

Food!! Free Art Activities!! Fun Fun Fun!



JUNE 2nd, 2012

**Danbury High School
A K-12 Extravaganza!**

***** SAVE THE DATE *****