



DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Darien High School, 80 High School Lane, Darien, Connecticut 06820 • (203) 655-3981

Kathy Kenny: DHS Math Teacher & Jeopardy Champion



On Friday, April 23rd and Monday, April 26th the popular game show *Jeopardy* starred Darien High School Math teacher **Kathy Kenny**. Kenny has been teaching Math at DHS for seven years, and has been a *Jeopardy* enthusiast since childhood. Kenny first applied to be a contestant on *Jeopardy* in college and then again in 2006, when she received an audition after taking the online test. After a series of auditions she received the call this past January that led her to Los Angeles in February to be a contestant on the show.

Kenny spent any spare time she had during the two weeks between the January phone call and the February trip to L.A. studying; she read books and studied atlases and paid close attention to *World History for Dummies*.

The taping took place at the Sony Picture Studios in Culver City, California. Kenny shared some interesting anecdotes about the show: The contestants stand on “elevators” which adjust to make everyone’s height the same to make filming easier. The game stops often during taping for judges to discuss or research answers given by the contestants or for adjustments to lighting, make-up, microphones, etc. Kenny was pleasantly surprised at the camaraderie between the contestants.

On the first day the competition was close until final *Jeopardy* when the question was, “The first known use of this word in the U.S. was in an obituary for wealthy banker Pierre Lorillard in 1843.” Kenny was the only contestant to give the correct answer, “What is millionaire?” She became the daily champion with winnings of \$18,100.

On the April 26th show, Kenny gave a “shout out” to DHS Principal **Dan Haron** in a rather unusual way. Kenny buzzed in on what turned out to be a daily double, “From the Latin for “oaken” & “strong”, this word is used to describe a rich, strong cup of coffee.” Not knowing the correct answer, Kenny said, “What is Haron?” Kenny came in second on the April 26th show, and found the entire experience “fun and stressful at the same time!”

April - May 2010

From the Principal's Desk Dan Haron

A short while ago the DHSPA invited a guest speaker to Darien High School to address parents and school staff on the topic of “How to Think Rationally and Teach Your Child to do the Same”. After the presentation one parent told me that this was the best parent lecture she had attended in all of her years as a DHS parent and would have been able to avoid many problems with her older children had she heard (and acted upon) this advice earlier. The speaker, **Dom DiMattia**, is a cognitive behavioral psychologist who was the former executive director of the world renowned Albert Ellis Institute. Having lived and worked in Fairfield County for much of his life, Dr. DiMattia acknowledged that, while living in this part of the country comes with many unassailable advantages, these advantages are often coupled with potential pitfalls that, while not unique to this area, are more pervasive here than other places and result in hurting our children’s mental health.

Irrational Beliefs	Rational Realizations
Perfectionism – The need to be perfect in all of our endeavors	Fallibility – The understanding that mistakes and imperfections are normal
Need for Approval – Relying on others to build self-esteem	Self-Acceptance – Learning to rely on oneself for a positive self-image
Low Frustration Tolerance – Easily getting upset when things don’t go our way	Reality – The realization that life is meant to be difficult and problematic at times

To combat these pitfalls, parents and educators need to help teenagers learn to change some ingrained irrational notions and beliefs to more rational realizations:

Dr. DiMattia explained that if we don’t make a concerted effort to move away from our irrational beliefs to the rational ones, not only will we pay a personal toll as parents and teachers but our students will also pay a toll on the road to adulthood. As an example, Dr. DiMattia relayed a recent conversation he had with a bank executive about the new crop of college graduates working for him. There was no question that these young men and women were bright, well educated and eager to please. However, they were also constantly looking for his approval and expected to be rewarded at every turn. When their projects hit glitches (as every project inevitably does) rather than accept this as a normal occurrence and learn to deal with it, they would get exceedingly frustrated and irritated and expect him to fix the problem for them.

Our goal at Darien High School has always been to encourage and teach each student to live up to their potential in the pursuit of excellence. This goal will not change. However, what Dr. DiMattia presentation does, is force us to ask the following questions as we pursue this goal:

Are we teaching teens how to deal with disappointments or are we too preoccupied with making sure they don’t experience any?

Are we inflating their self esteem to the point where a small pin-prick (called reality) will eventually burst their bubble?

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Are we expecting them to be perfect in all (or even one) areas of life when, in fact, perfection is unattainable?

We all want what is best for our kids, even if we don't always know exactly what that is or how to get there. Dr. DiMattia's rational approach to working with our teenagers is a good place to start.

Graduation Information

The Board of Education has set the date of graduation for **Monday, June 21**. Complete graduation information will be published on the DHS website and mailed to each senior family in the first week of June. For planning purposes, please note the following events on your calendar:

CAP AND GOWN PICKUP: Friday, June 18, DHS Main Office

Last names A - G from 8:30 - 9:30

Last names H - N from 9:30 - 10:30

Last names O - Z from 10:30 - 11:30

GRADUATION PRACTICE: Friday, June 18 @ 12:30 pm and Monday, June 21 @ 10:00 am

GRADUATION TIME/PLACE: Monday, June 21 @ 5:00 pm. If the weather cooperates, graduation is held outside on the Stadium Field and seating is unlimited and no tickets are required. If the weather is unsettled, graduation is held in the DHS Auditorium and admission will be by rain ticket only. Each senior will receive three (3) rain tickets. Regardless of the weather, a live video feed will be shown in the DHS Main Gymnasium and seating will be open admission and no tickets are required.

If you have any questions please contact **Meg Ricci** in the DHS Main Office, either by email at mricci@darienps.org or by phone at 203-655-3981, ext. 2318.



Student and Faculty News

DHS Orchestra Earns Silver at New York Heritage Festival

The Darien High School Orchestra earned a Silver (2nd place) Award at the New York City Heritage Festival on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Forty-five high school performing ensembles from the US and Canada competed for ratings at this year's festival. Under the direction of **Jane Minnis**, the DHS Orchestra performed three movements of Gustav Holst's *St. Paul's Suite*. Their performance was judged by three nationally-known music adjudicators, including composer Carl Strommen. This was the first Heritage Festival for the DHS Orchestra and they competed against very seasoned orchestras from around the country.

This year's festival was held at Riverside Church in New York City. Following the performance, the students had a guided tour of Carnegie Hall followed by a walking tour of New York with stops at Lincoln Center, Central Park and St. John the Divine. To finish the day, students enjoyed a dinner cruise around Manhattan on the Circle Line.



National Award For Alice Wang

Sophomore **Alice Wang** was named the national feature first-place winner in the American Society of Newspaper Editors/Quill and Scroll 2010 International Writing and Photo Contest.

Alice's winning entry was titled, "William Plunkett's Supersized Life." The story appeared in the December print issue of *Neirad* and later in the "Darien News." Alice interviewed senior **William Plunkett** about his experiences working in the fast food industry at McDonald's in Norwalk. The feature story was part of Alice's journalism independent study project.



Principal's Newsletter

Math Team Finishes 2nd in State



The Darien High School Math Team finished 2nd place at the Connecticut State Mathematics League Competition in the medium school division. The participants were **Brandon Wong, Andrew Gagne, Sebastian Kopp, William Juan, Misha Kushnir and Dillion Lareau.**

The team qualified to compete in the New England Math League Competition on April 30, 2010 in Canton, MA.

Neirad Wins Silver Crown Award

Neirad Enlino has been awarded a Silver Crown Award by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. The Neirad team accepted the honor at the awards convocation at Columbia University on March 19. Neirad Enlino earned a superior ranking, the second highest designation. Darien was one of just three high schools in the state to receive a Crown Award. Juniors **Katie Grozier** and **Parker Lange** are the co-editors of this monthly online news publication.



The Crown Awards are the highest recognition given by the CSPA to a student print or online medium for overall excellence. This year 1,558 magazines, newspapers, yearbooks and online publications of the current CSPA members were eligible to enter the Crown Awards.

Students Visit Senior Center



A group of DHS students spent an enjoyable afternoon visit to the Darien Senior Center. The seniors and students enjoyed learning the game "BUNCO" together and the seniors beat the students soundly at ping pong! This is the second time the students have visited the senior center, and they hope to continue the tradition next year; the seniors were in complete agreement. The students admit they will have to improve their ping pong skills before taking the seniors on again!

SADD Members Create Award Winning Video



Members of the Darien Chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) won a \$2,000 check from the Traveler's Insurance Company for a 25-second video they produced. The contest they entered required them to write, perform, direct and edit a 25-second video that addressed a teen driving law, specifically passenger restrictions, laws against talking on cell phones while driving or laws

against texting while driving. SADD members, **Kristi Carey, Adriana Baker, Tom Festo, Caroline Cochran, Elizabeth Billiter, Alex Enzor, Libby Bora** and **Kenny Weiss** chose to produce their video on texting and driving, an issue they see as a definite problem among teens. The Public Service Announcement placed third among the 79 entries. The PSA will be shown on WFSB-TV Channel 3.

Odyssey of the Mind Team Qualifies for World Championships

On Saturday, March 27th, the Darien High School Odyssey of the Mind team came in second place at the Connecticut State Finals. The team will attend the World Championships at Michigan State University at the end of May. Although the program has been running at Middlesex Middle School for the last four years, this is the first year at Darien High School. With their coach, **Susan Farrington**, and DHS faculty advisor, **Lee Strecker**, the founding members **Caroline Farrington, Renée Hodenfield, Caroline Golino, Dillon Lareau, Alex Norelli**, and **Shruthi Raghuraman** defeated Daniel Hand High School, Glastonbury Youth & Family Services, and the Franklin Academy teams.



Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

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Teams of up to seven members select a problem from a choice of five types, and must present a solution to the problem in a clever skit in under eight minutes and under \$125 for materials. In the second part of the competition, the students must participate in Spontaneous Problem Solving where the teams must quickly think of creative answers to verbal or hands-on (building things to reach a goal) problems.

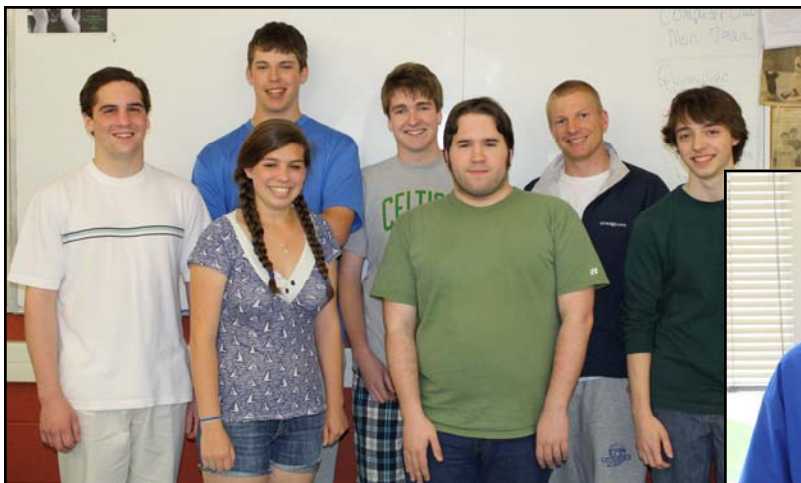
This year, the DHS team chose to create a humorous skit involving a food item accused of being unhealthy. The script was cleverly and humorously written by **Alex Norelli** and **Caroline Golino**. Costumes were made by **Caroline Farrington** and **Shruthi Raghuraman**, sets were made by **Dillon Lareau** and **Renée Hodenfield**. The team spent 6 months honing their Spontaneous Problem Solving skills and creating their long term problem solution. Faculty Advisor **Lee Strecker** acted as the arbiter of good humor, and lent countless hours of guidance to the team during the construction of the set.

Northeast Regional Science Bowl

A group of DHS students participated in the Northeast Regional Science Bowl at the University of Connecticut School of Engineering. The event took place on Saturday, March 20, 2010. The Science Bowl has been sponsored by the US Dept of Energy for the last 19 years. The morning round robin started with 36 teams. The DHS team was made up of: **William Juan, Andrew Gagne, Charlie Lacy, Sarah Q. Smith, and Brandon Wong**. They were coached by William's mother, **Jean Juan**. The DHS team made it to the championship match and ended up in 2nd place overall; Congratulations to the team!

Financial Capability Challenge

Students in the Investment/Finance class competed against 76,000 students nationwide in the U.S. Dept of Treasury Financial Capability Challenge. The challenge tests a student's knowledge of personal financial literacy. The following students scored in the top 20% nationwide. **John S. Baker, David Bigelow, Dylan Bothe, Amanda Brodsky, Miguel Corte-Real, Andrew Hurn, William Plunkett, Evan Rogers and Thomas Szivos**. Congratulations!



Tilford Selected as Governor's Scholar

Junior, **Danielle Tilford**, has been selected as one of 30 Governor's Scholars of Connecticut for 2010. Tilford was chosen from an entry pool the top juniors in Connecticut's high schools and will be honored along with the other designees at the Governor's Scholars Luncheon on May 20, 2010 at the Aqua Turf club in Southington. Now in its twelfth year, the purpose of the program is to recognize academically talented high school students in schools throughout the state, and present thirty students for special recognition to the Governor of Connecticut. Danielle is pictured here with Principal **Dan Haron**.



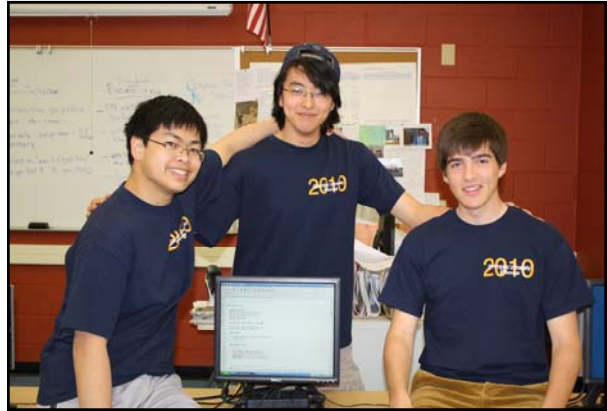
DHS All-State Musicians

Several outstanding musicians from Darien High School were chosen through a highly competitive state-wide audition process to perform at the Connecticut Music Educators Association All-State Music Festival. The festival took place at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford on April 8 – 10 and was held in conjunction with the 65th CMEA In-Service Conference. The students had the privilege of working in ensembles with Connecticut's most accomplished high school musicians conducted by nationally renowned conductors and educators. The band students worked with Dennis Glocke from Pennsylvania State University, the orchestra was lead by David Commanday of the New Jersey Youth Symphony and the Joffrey Ballet and the chorus students performed under the direction of Dr. Charlene Archibeque from San Jose State University. **Richard Sadlon**, the Director of Music in Darien states that, "These students have consistently worked and studied over the years to been chosen as among the finest high school musicians in Connecticut. We are all extremely proud of their accomplishments and they are to be commended for doing such a fine job of representing Darien High School and our town at this prestigious event." DHS All-State Musicians are: **Ryo Usami, Hannah Caldwell, Marin Amyotte, Katie Critelli, Danielle Tilford, Kathleen Cameron, Reed Morgan, Misha Kushnir, Dan Glockler** and **Emily Evans**.



Students Excel in Programming Contest

DHS Computer Science students **William Juan**, **Taiki Miki** and **Tim Westcott** won 2nd place at the Quinnipiac University 6th Annual Real Time Programming Competition. In this competition students are given 3 hours and 8 problems to solve. They have to write computer programs to solve the problems. The teams that solve the most problems in the shortest amount of time win. It is a very competitive environment that students not only have to utilize their programming skills, but teamwork, time and stress management as well! Please congratulate these students on a job well done!



Darien Students Honored at Statewide Arts Banquet



Two students from Darien High School were honored for their outstanding accomplishments in the arts. **Rachel Hathaway** (visual arts) and **Kathleen Griffith Cameron** (music/performing arts) represented Darien and were the recipients of awards given at an event which was held on April 28 at the Aqua Turf Club located in Southington, CT. The event was sponsored and organized by the Connecticut Association of Schools. The guest speaker for the evening was Edward Cummings, the conductor of the Hartford Symphony and Katie Stevens, the American Idol finalist from Connecticut, was also present as the recipient of an award from Pomeraug High School.

Hands on Experience for Students Interested in Medical Sciences

On Wednesday, April 21st, twenty-four DHS students had the unique opportunity to play sports doctor for a day at a special program at the Greenwich based Orthopaedic Foundation for Active Lifestyles (OFALS) Lab. The students were juniors and seniors from Post 53, AP Biology and Authentic Science Research interested in the medical sciences. The group spent the day learning how to repair broken arm bones. They were supervised by nationally renowned orthopaedic surgeon, Sports Medicine Specialist and Greenwich resident Kevin Plancher M.D., chairman of OFALS, who created the Sports Doctor for a Day Lab to serve as a medical-education outreach resource for top science students.



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Said junior **Gerianne Connell**, “I definitely thought the trip was worthwhile! It was very exciting to use the same tools that doctors use when they perform actual orthopedic surgery and to be able to perform “surgery” on a realistic fake arm. As someone who is thinking about entering a medical profession but not completely sure, this experience certainly peaked my interest in becoming a doctor. I also gained a greater understanding of exactly what orthopedic surgeons do.”



OFALS is a not-for-profit foundation whose principal mission is to promote, support, develop and encourage research and education concerning orthopaedic care and advancements in technologies and treatment of arthritis, orthopaedic injuries and musculoskeletal diseases. "By offering this series of programs for high school students, we are working to bring medical concepts to kids and encourage them, we hope, to consider medical careers," said Dr. Plancher **David Lewis**, DHS Science Department Coordinator accompanied the students to the Lab.

Foreign Language Poetry Contest

The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers 29th annual World Language Poetry Recitation Contest was held on Tuesday, April 27, at Wilbur High School, New Haven, CT. Twenty-five DHS students participated in the languages that we teach (French, Latin Mandarin, Spanish) as well as in several native languages(Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.) We were very well represented and the following students won silver medals:

French 4: **Colin Shay**

Spanish 3: **Isabella D’Agosto**

French 5: **William Plunkett**

Chinese native: **Li-Hua Lin**

French native: **Stephie Hippolyte**

German native: **Rachel Ulrich**

Latin Day

DHS Latin students attended Connecticut State Latin Day on Wednesday, April 28, at Holiday Hill, Cheshire, CT. Over 1700 Connecticut Latin students from both private and public middle and high schools attended in appropriate dress: tunic or toga. There were several workshops (laurel wreaths, schulpting, Greek vases, calligraphy, etc), certamen (academic contests in mythology, geography, mottoes) various sports, and wonderful food. The final events of the day were a tug of war and a chariot race. Even though it was a chilly day in the beautiful CT mountains, a good time was had by all.

Principal's Newsletter

DHS China Exchange Students Return from Shanghai #3 Girl's School

Thirteen Darien High School students and two Darien High School teachers have just returned from three weeks in China. One of the extraordinary features of the exchange is that the DHS students live with their Chinese host families for two weeks. In addition to the host family experience, the DHS students attended classes at the Shanghai #3 Girl's School, toured sites in Shanghai, Nanjing, Hangzhou, and Beijing. A highlight in Beijing was climbing the Great Wall of China.

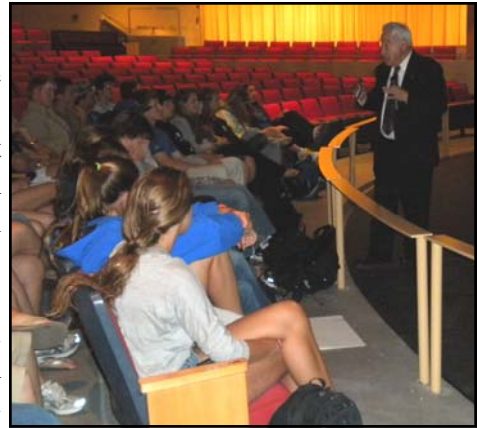
Pictured below are the DHS student travelers with their host sisters. The delegation this year included teachers **Mrs. Shortliffe** and **Mrs. Mammana** and students **Holden Chung, Stephen Wildish, Graham Hotchkiss, Zac Calahan, Emily Luongo, Lidia Calderon, Emily Olsen, Catie Wright, Clare Tuck, Annie Hekker, Katie McKay, Caroline Kearney, and Katie Donovan.**

DHS students are presently being interviewed for next year's exchange with Qingdao #58 High School. We expect to host the Qingdao students and teachers from September 29th to October 13th. Any DHS families who are interested in hosting in the fall should contact **Mrs. Armiger** at aarmiger@darienps.org or at Ext 2203.



Earth Day 2010

On Thursday April 22, DHS celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day. The day began with a lecture by **Mr. Leo Cirino**, father of DHS librarian **Jenn Cirino**, on the monitoring of phytoplankton in Long Island Sound. Community environmental groups from Darien joined our guest speaking schedule, including members of the Darien Land Trust, and local architect Mr. Loren Meyer speaking on sustainable buildings. During lunch, students had the opportunity to visit outdoor tables hosted by the Darien Nature Center, Choose to Reuse, the Darien Environmental Group, Friends of Animals, the Darien Land Trust, and representatives of Polar Bears International including the 2010 teenage Arctic Ambassador from Fairfield County.



DHS students themselves were also available at the tables to provide information: **Addie Calcagnini** and **Ned Farrington** provided pamphlets on the benefits of a vegan diet. Darien Animal Welfare Group students **Sam Wood**, **Lauren Littell**, and **Megan Foley** spoke to students about the dangers of pesticides and other garden hazards to pets. AP environmental students, **Courtney Stein** and **Emily Kelly** conducted a survey on recycling plastic water bottles, **Jon Nee** represented the DHS Fuel Cell Car, and students from the

Eco-citizens Club, who worked so hard to make the day a success, raised funds for rainforest preservation and ran a contest for organic, recycled T-shirts. The day ended with a lecture by Emily Rintoul of New England Roots and Shoots, and rousing musical performances by the Tudor singers and by Tone band members **Kenny Weiss**, **Nick Trautmann**, **Elizabeth Leimkuhler**, **Chris Stovall**, **Alex Wildish**, and **Joe Maccarone**.



AP Environmental teachers **Mrs. Scudder** and **Mrs. Geithner-Marron**, and chemistry teacher **Ms. Zago**, coordinated the day's activities. They would especially like to thank the "Eco-citizens" students for all their hard work, **Mr. Jeff DeMaio** and **Mrs. Sandy Timmons** for all their technical help, and **Mr. Andrade** and the **Tudor Singers** for their inspiring performance of "Turn the World Around".

Principal's Newsletter

Gentile 2nd in Science Fair

In addition to his regular course load, **Matt Gentile** has been working on an independent study project that he designed, constructed, and has been running completely on his own since the beginning of the school year. He is investigating the effects of different light sources on the growth of marine organisms including hard and soft corals, anemones, and algae. He entered his project in the Norwalk Community College Science Fair, and after spending a day competing with over 70 other students, Matt took home 2nd place overall.

Art Students Visit Yale Art Museums

On April 23rd, the combined Honor's Art and Art History classes spent a full day at the Yale Art Gallery and the Yale Center for British Art. Tours were provided to both classes. Students had the opportunity to witness and observe art and artifacts from Yale's African Collection. Ceremonial masks, dancing figures, headdresses, jewelry and totem figures were discussed. Art students were also lead through the American Hall of Paintings and Sculpture, and the Modern Wing to view an abstract painting by Marc Rothko, and an energetic discussion ensued as the students observed one on Duane Hanson's lifelike human sculptures.

At the Yale Center for British Art the art classes were introduced to more classical paintings by J.M.W. Turner, and John Constable who worked in the Romantic style of painting. We learned that both painters acted as a bridge between Romanticism and the new oncoming age of industrialism and expressionism.

In its entirety, the field trip to Yale inspired Art students and gave them a greater foundation in the of development a visual language by viewing and discussing the art of these master painters, sculptors, and photographers.



Many Thanks to:

Dale O'Brien

Valli Baker

Cara Ganser

for hosting the Spring Coffees.

Your hospitality is greatly appreciated!

Greetings From Guidance

Darien Summer School

Darien Summer School runs from June 28th - July 30th; for details please refer to www.dariensummerschool.com If you believe a particular summer school course may be appropriate for your son or daughter, please consult with your school counselor before making a decision.

Junior Planning Meetings

It is not too late for Juniors to schedule an individual post secondary planning meeting with their school counselor. These meetings are extremely important in discussing goals and planning how to achieve these goals by graduation. Please complete and submit the Junior and Parent Packet, located on the DHS website, prior to this meeting.

Course Registrations

Students who have not met with their counselor to discuss course selection for next year need to do so immediately. Once this meeting has occurred, students should bring home a course verification form for their parents to sign. Students who do not meet with their counselor to discuss course selection run the risk of not having the courses they want next year.

Do What You Are

Sophomores will have an opportunity to participate in a Guidance lead workshop called *Do What You Are* through the Naviance program. This program is designed to help students identify their strengths and weaknesses. In addition, it assists students in targeting possible areas of study to pursue in high school and eventually college. The program also reviews career opportunities. Workshops will be held:

Thursday, May 20th F-day (each period except the lunch wave) Room G-214

Thursday, May 27th C-Day (each period except the lunch wave) Room G 105

Senior Contact Information

In addition to letting us know where you will attend school next year, your guidance counselor would like to know how to get in touch with you after you leave DHS. Please send us your family email address or college email address when you know it. This will help us keep in touch and occasionally ask for information after you leave.

College Visits

Guidance Counselor **Lisa Messineo** attended the LVAIC (Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges) tour which included visits to Lehigh University, Lafayette College, Moravian College, Cedar Crest College, Muhlenberg College, and DeSales University. Messineo also visited SUNY New Paltz and Marist College on April 24th.

From the DHSPA

Dear DHS Parents:

With the arrival of spring comes “manic May” and a flurry of activities at DHS – AP tests, SAT/ACT’s, Prom, Spring Concerts, Science Symposium, Awards Ceremonies and Graduation. It is a wonderful and exciting time at DHS!

One of the best, and likely the most difficult job as DHSPA chairs is the annual nomination for Volunteer of the Year. With almost 100 volunteers, it is virtually impossible to single out one person or even a few people who have “gone the extra mile” or contributed in a significant manner. We are lucky to have a wonderful group of committed volunteers who spend hundreds of hours each week making a difference in the lives of our students so picking just one is extremely difficult.

For this year’s Volunteer of the Year award we have chosen someone who has made significant contributions to our community over the years and who has left a lasting impact on life at DHS. We would like to recognize **Sandy Coots**. For six consecutive years, Sandy has been a member of our Nominating Committee. For four years Sandy was a grade level rep and for the past two years she has served as Co-Chair of the committee. Sandy’s drive and determination have been instrumental in motivating her committee to make phone call after phone call seeking volunteers and ensuring that the DHSPA slate is filled with active and committed parents. We cannot express enough gratitude to Sandy who has given so much of herself to our school. Through the efforts of Sandy we have managed to fill our slate with fabulous volunteers year after year.

We would like to also extend our thanks to our Programs Co-Chairs, **Susan Lattimer** and **Carolyn Kyritz**. They have worked extremely hard to put together informational topics for the DHSPA meetings this year. The DHSPA meetings covered a wide variety of areas from college panels to summer options to sports injuries to rational decision-making as well as Don’t Text It, Sext It Or Post It On Your Wall about Internet Safety. Please check out the Darien High School website to view any of the meetings you might have missed or wish to view again.

Thank you to **Jennifer Fitzpatrick** and **Jean Juan** and their committees for keeping us all informed through the DPN and DHSPA website, respectively. This year Sandy Coots and **Deb Suckow** and their Nominating Committee did an outstanding job filling the DHSPA slate. Thank you to everyone on the Nominating Committee for all their time spent finding the perfect fit for our DHSPA. Kudos to **Phyllis Wiehs**, **Danielle Granath** and members of the Guidance staff for the wonderful iZONE program which took place during the month of April. In addition, please remind your students that the JOBS office is up and running thanks to **Eleanor McKay** and **Nancy Large**, so tell them to stop in and check out high school summer opportunities.

Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to **Dale O’Brien**, **Valli Baker** and **Cara Ganser** for opening up their homes for the Sophomore, Junior and Senior coffees where we all received valuable information about upcoming events and news from the Administration. And a special

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thank you to our Beautification Committee led by **Meg Holmgren** for keeping the school grounds looking so lovely all year long.

It is hard to believe we are coming to the end of another school year. We would like to invite all of you to the DHSPA End of Year Gathering scheduled for June 4th from 6-8 p.m. at the lovely home of **Laurie Tuck**. At the event, we will be thanking our “old” board and welcoming our new board members. It will be a wonderful evening and all are welcome.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Del Col and Barbara Alter

Spring Student Wear Sale

Welcome Center
Wednesday, May 12
from 9:30—12:00



**New Vineyard Vines
Blue Wave Flip Flops
Available!**

Upcoming Events

Achievers' Night 2010

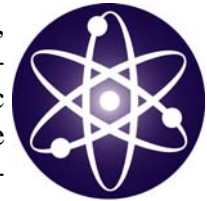


All are invited to attend Achievers' Night, which will be held Tuesday, May 18, at the DHS auditorium, at 6 p.m. This year's IDEA students will be presenting their projects, which include composition for piano and guitar, Rube Goldberg creation, study on sleep disorders, creation of medieval suit of armor, comparative analysis of Homer and Virgil's works, sitar performance, and many other exciting and unique accomplishments. Light refreshments will be served. Questions? Please

contact **Christine Leventhal**; cleventhal@darienps.org, or **Steve Coppock**; scoppock@darienps.org.

Science Symposium 2010

All are invited to attend this year's Authentic Science Research Symposium, which will be held Wednesday, May 26, at 6:30 p.m., in the DHS auditorium. ASR students choose a topic, and then carry out extensive bibliographic and laboratory research on a particular hypothesis. The evening will include poster presentations, oral presentations, and a keynote address by Dr. Erika Taylor, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Wesleyan University, on her research with biofuels, biofilms, and bacterial surface polysaccharides. Light refreshments will be served – please come and join us for a delightful and inspirational program! Questions? Please contact **David Lewis** at dlewis@darienps.org, or **Christine Leventhal** at cleventhal@darienps.org.



Science

Junior Senior Prom May 14th



The prom, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich on May 14th, is a formal dinner dance for juniors and seniors. Students may attend alone or with a date or other guest. Please review the prom agreement form with your child, sign it, and include a phone number where you can be reached on the night of the prom. **The signed prom agreement form must be returned with payment to the front desk by the end of the school day on Thursday, May 6th.**

[Visit the Prom 2010 page for more information and to download the DHS prom agreement.](#)

2010 Student Art Show—May 17 - May 28

Reception for Artists and Guests,
Wednesday, May 19 from 5:30—7:00 p.m.





**Attention Seniors!
Blue List* obligations
must be paid
before graduation.
Do it now to avoid the
rush at the end of the year!**

Check out *Destiny*, which gives you access to your “Blue List” from any computer. If you are unable to access your account or have any questions please contact the DHS Library staff.

Awards Ceremonies

The Senior Scholarship Ceremony will be held May 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium, followed by the Awards Ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Students who will be receiving scholarships and/or awards will be notified by mail (early next week) and invited to attend.

How to Make a Difference in a Child’s Life? Become a Mentor! Community Service Opportunity for Rising Juniors and Seniors

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to spend time helping out a child and show them that people care.”

That is the comment from a former Big Friend in the Junior Project Friendship Program at Family & Children's Agency (FCA) in Norwalk. Now in its 26th year, the Junior Project Friendship mentoring program has worked with many children and young people since its beginning. In addition to Darien, there are also Junior Project Friendship programs in the towns of New Canaan, Norwalk, Weston, Westport and Wilton. Junior Project Friendship provides opportunities for its high school volunteers to give something back to the community, and they almost always feel they get as much from the program as their “Little Friend”, if not more.

Specifically, Junior Project Friendship is a one-to-one mentoring program, matching high school **juniors** and **seniors** with younger children, ages 6-12, who will benefit from a mentoring relationship. The teens, known as “Big Friends”, act as role models and friends helping their “Little Friends” expand their horizons. Big Friends spend 2 to 3 hours each week with their Little Friend during the school year. Training and orientation are provided, and the JPF Coordinator meets monthly with the teens at the high school to offer guidance and support.

Recruitment for rising high school junior and senior volunteers for the fall of 2010 is now underway. There is always a special need for male teens. There will be an informational meeting about the program Wednesday, June 2nd immediately after school in the Student Activities Room, #A105. Teens interested in being a Big Friend who are not able to attend the meeting should call Mrs. **Sheri Richards** at 203-523-5702 for more information.

Principal's Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

May 3– 14	AP Testing
May 5	Senior Parent Coffee—@ Cara Gansers—9:30 a.m.
May 7	DHS “Pops” Cabaret—MMS Cafeteria—7:30 p.m.
May 8	<i>Current</i> Haiti Event @ Westhill High School—2:00-8:00 p.m.
May 13	DHSPA Executive Board Meeting—9:00 a.m.
May 14	Junior-Senior Prom—Greenwich Hyatt—7:00 p.m.
May 18	Achiever’s Night—Auditorium—6:00 p.m.
May 19	Carnival in the Courtyard—5:00-8:00 p.m.
May 20	Senior Scholarship Ceremony—Auditorium—6:00 p.m.
May 20	Awards Ceremony—Auditorium—7:30 p.m.
May 25	Theatre 308 Student Productions—Little Theatre—7:00 p.m.
May 26	Arts Festival
May 26	Science Symposium—Auditorium—6:00 p.m.
May 27	Foreign Language Awards Night—Auditorium—7:30 p.m.
May 31	Memorial Day—NO SCHOOL
June 2	Tri-M Concert - Sr. Recital and Induction Ceremony—Orchestra Room—7:00 p.m.
June 3	DHSPA New Board/Old Board Executive Board Meeting—A105—9:00 a.m.
June 3	Spring Awards Concert—Auditorium—7:30 p.m.
June 5	SAT
June 11	End of 4th Quarter
June 12	ACT
June 14	Exams 8 & 7
June 15	Exams 6 & 5
June 16	Exams 4 & 3
June 17	Exams 2 & 1
June 18	Exam Make-up Day
June 21	Early Dismissal (School ends for Students)
June 21	Graduation—Stadium Field—5:00 p.m.

Welcome Center (Message Center) Sign-Ups

If you are interested in working a shift at the Welcome Center for the 2010 – 2011 school year, please contact Patti Schoknecht at 655-3981 ext. 2353 or pschoknecht@darienps.org. There are five shifts per day, and volunteers usually work every other week.

1. 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
2. 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
3. 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon
4. 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.
5. 1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

When you call or email to sign-up, please include the following information: name, address, phone number, email address, the day you would like to work, and the shift you would like to work. If you are flexible, feel free to indicate more than one option, in order of preference.

Sign-ups are on a first come, first served basis. **If you are currently working at the Welcome Center you must still contact Patti to sign-up for the 2010-2011 school year.**