

Hill Regional Career H.S. Parent Newsletter

January/February 2012 - Edition: IV Principal: Michael M. Ceraso Editor: Parent Liaison News Committee: PTSSO Membership <http://www.nhps.net/career>

Happy New Year and **THANK YOU** to all Parent Volunteers!

MID-YEAR = JANUARY MID-TERMS

PTSSO Mission Statement: It is our mission to work collaboratively with the school community to provide a quality education for our children, through increased Parental participation, productive communication and assistance, while fostering a warm and welcoming environment.

From the Desk of, Michael Ceraso, Principal

MID-YEAR EXAM INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE – Jan. 24 – Jan. 27, 2012
All students are required to take Mid-Year Exams. Only students in semester courses with A+ averages for BOTH the 1st and 2nd Marking Periods are eligible for exemption from Mid-Year Exams, and this is at the discretion of the teacher.

On all Exam days, morning buses will run at normal times. The first day of Exams, Tuesday January 24th, is a FULL DAY OF SCHOOL, during which we will administer 2 Mid-Year Exams, AND have 2 classes. On that day, we will have a regular lunch periods, and dismissal will occur at the regular time of 2:15. The following days, Wednesday, January 25th, Thursday, January 26th and Friday, January 27th will be Exam days only and will have 11:50 dismissals. On those days, there will be a “grab and go” lunch served (no sit down service) and students will be dismissed at the conclusion of the second exam period (11:50) each day. Buses will be available at that time to transport students home. **Buses will not run at 2:15 on Exam days.** **All non-exempt students are to be present for all exams.** In the event that a student is ill on the day of an exam, you are asked to report the absence prior to the beginning of the exam period. During the exam period, the entire school is a quiet zone. Students who are late to an exam period create a disruption to the testing of the other students in a class. These students will be housed in the cafeteria and must wait until the beginning of the next exam period.

- If a student doesn't have an early exam, and he/she arrives early for the second exam, these students will wait in the cafeteria until the next exam period.
- In the event of a snow cancellation during the exam schedule, the order of the exams would remain the same. Students would return to take the exams of the snow day and all other exams would be delayed by one day.
- If there were a delayed opening of the school, only one exam would be delayed by one day. The sequence of the exams would remain the same, but the missed exam would then be delayed and given from 8:00 – 9:45 a.m. on Monday, January 30, and classes would follow with dismissal at 12PM. (January 30 is already scheduled as a 12:00 dismissal as it is a Teacher Workshop day.

The midterm exams are calculated as 10% of the final grade of any course, and are recorded on student report cards as separate grades. Students should be reviewing materials for all of their courses at this time, along with the assigned daily homework.

Tuesday, January 24, 2012 1 st Day of Exams – B-Day	Wednesday, January 25, 2012 2 nd Day of Exams – A-Day
HOMEROOM - 7:45 – 8:05	HOMEROOM - 7:45 – 8:05
Period 1 Exam - 8:10 – 9:55	Period 1 Exam 8:10 – 9:55
Period 6 – 9:50 – 10:40	
Period 3,4,5 – 10:45-12:25 (Lunch)	Period 2 Exam - 10:05 – 12:05
Period 2 Exam -	Early Dismissal – 11:50am
Full Day - 2:15 Dismissal	Makeup Exams -12:35 – 2:15
Thursday, January 26, 2012 3 rd Day of Exams- B-Day	Friday, January 27, 2012 Final Day of Exams- A-Day
HOMEROOM - 7:45 – 8:05	HOMEROOM - 7:45 – 8:05
Period 3,4,5 Exam - 8:10 – 9:55	Period 3,4,5 Exam 8:10 – 9:55
Period 6 Exam - 10:05 – 12:05	Period 6 Exam - 10:05 – 12:05
Early Dismissal – 11:50am	Early Dismissal – 11:50am

Makeup Exams - 12:35 – 2:15

January 17, 2012

PTSSO Meeting

Library

5:30-7:00pm

Invited Teachers

**From: Math, English,
Resource &
Guidance**

**Come out for a
question & answer
session with our
invited guest.**

Learn what's new!

**REPORT CARD
CONFERENCE**

2nd Marking Period

Thurs., Feb. 09, 2012

**Report Card Distribution
6:00PM- 8:00PM – Gym**

**Pasta Dinner
5:30PM – Café**



Winter has arrived!

School Closing or Delayed Opening will be announced through the NHPS District-wide ParentLink.

FM stations: 99.1, 94.3, 101, 108, 99.9, 103, 96.5, 95.7 and 96.0, 60, 1080 and 1360 on AM.

TV Channels: 8, 30, and 3. you can also go on-line to www.nhps.net or you can call 946-8888.

2012

Career High School

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Career is to prepare all of our students to become productive members of their own community and a global society by providing an educational environment that establishes rigorous standards of academic performance with a focus on health and business. We encourage students to maximize their potential by promoting critical and creative thinking, developing technological competence and fostering respect for a diverse and changing world. These goals are the shared responsibility and commitment of the staff, faculty, students, parents and community

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Students will:

1. Write using Standard English for a variety of purposes and audiences.
2. Read actively and critically for a variety of purposes.
3. Use academic knowledge and information to think critically, problem solve, and make decisions.
4. Select and apply the tools of technology to improve personal and professional productivity.
5. Effectively communicate using a variety of methods.

SOCIAL & CIVIC EXPECTATIONS

Students will:

1. Develop an awareness of behavior that promotes a healthy and responsible lifestyle.
2. Provide service to the greater community.
3. Demonstrate an appreciation for diverse cultures.
4. Exhibit positive communication and collaboration within the school and regional community
5. Exhibit respect for themselves and others.

**FEBRUARY
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Please contact Ms. Joyner or Mrs. Bonora
@ 203-946-5845 if you're interested in
participating in our Annual Celebration and
Education of Black History.
As always, thank you for your support!**

ROBOTICS: FIRST: - (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) by Cynthia Scheetz, Science Teacher

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) is an exciting program that assimilates teams, sponsors, colleges and technical professionals with high school students to develop their solution to a prescribed engineering challenge in a competitive game environment. The competitions combine the practical application of science and technology with the fun, intense energy and excitement of a championship-sporting event. The program results in life-changing, career molding experiences for its participants and is a lot of fun.

Elm City Robosquad 558 had 13 members find out what this year's challenge is by attending the 2012 FRC Kickoff on Saturday, January 7, 2012. The regional kickoff was held at Farmington High School where they saw Dean Kaman, founder of FIRST; present the 2012 game rules and regulations by video from NH. The video stream was sponsored by NASA.

The team also saw the 2012 game field for the first time and received a Kit of Parts (KOP). The KOP includes, but is certainly not limited to, motors, sensors, chassis hardware, transmissions, software packages, control systems and batteries. The intent of the kit is to provide a level starting point for all teams. This year's competition is named Rebound Rumble, and as you can guess is based on basketball.

Robosquad 558 members and their mentors will be building their robot six days a week until February 21. Be sure to stop by their table at Report Card night on February 9.

MATH Department

**SO YOU HAVE A STUDENT TAKING HIGH SCHOOL MATH...by
Andy Wight**

Last month I began this series of articles with a brief look at *literacy in mathematics* and concluded with by stating that the core of math literacy is summarized in the so called "rule of four"—*verbal, graphical, numerical and algebraic* methods of expressing and untangling problems.

This month, as a logical next step I will address **differentiated Instruction** in mathematics as the Career High School math Department currently approaches it. And please note that I say "approaches". The topic of differentiated instruction is so important and so vast that it would be foolish to think we have fully understood and implemented it in our teaching. This may be a bit like trying to understand your teenagers—you keep trying and by the time you think you've got it they will be years beyond their teens. But in parenting and in teaching what matters most is that we persist -- keep asking, listening and seeking.

Ted Sizer, a distinguished educator and founder of many high schools, once wrote about the challenges of schools and education in an article titled "No Two Alike". When it comes to children, I am sure that no parent, grandparent or teacher would disagree with that statement! Now imagine looking at a roomful of teenagers and keeping that thought in mind as you prepare to open your mouth and say or teach anything. This is what we face in the math department, with the added fact that the majority of students say they "just don't get" or "don't like" math. In theory, differentiated instruction (a.k.a. differentiated learning) is straightforward: it requires that we provide students with different ways to absorb information and make sense of ideas. This, in turn, takes development of teaching materials and methods which allow all students to learn effectively, adjusting for differences in ability, interest or motivation. And there is the challenge: *adjusting*. The model of differentiated instruction asks teachers to be flexible in their approach to teaching and adjust the curriculum and presentation of information to learners rather than expecting students to modify themselves for the curriculum. Much easier to say than to do!

At Career we recognize that differentiated instruction as a *teaching process* has great potential to positively change learning by offering teachers a means to provide instruction to a range of students in today's classroom situations. We are seeking through our common planning discussions of essential skills, performance assessments, vertical themes, to identify, create, share, and support teaching methods that best reach your children--our students. This will be an ongoing and lifelong endeavor, much like your parenting. The good news is that teaching and parenting share similar principles for learning:

Principle 1: To support learning, provide *multiple, flexible* methods of presentation.

Principle 2: To support understanding, provide *multiple, flexible* methods of expression and practice.

Principle 3: To support social and emotional learning, provide *multiple, flexible* options for engagement.

As teachers and parents, we can unite in celebrating the great diversity of our students and together encourage both clarity of purpose and flexibility of methods as we aim to equip this next generation with both essential learning and life lessons.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT - (Counselors – 203-846-5845)

Ms. Drummond - x3196

Ms. Hawley -x3108

Ms. Aronoff - x3131

10th Grade Parents, PSAT scores were given to students before Christmas break. Please ask your child about his/her scores; review the information and contact his/her guidance counselor you're your questions.

Juniors will need to hand in their college research form in order to register for next year classes. FREE SAT Testing - for all HRCHS Juniors in March. FREE. Location: Career High School!

Seniors - To meet graduation requirements, every student in the class of 2012 must earn 28 credits. Every senior must complete 20 hours of community service or 40 hours for New Haven Promise. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

- Parents will be notified in writing and/or by telephone of possible graduation failures. The Senior Administrator and each senior's

guidance counselor will clear seniors and notify those students who are not eligible to graduate. Parental notice will accompany or precede student notice.

- Obligation slips are reported to the administrative staff on students who fail to return all materials that belong to the school (i.e. textbooks, lab coats, library books, sports equipment, class dues, fees, etc.). Parents please note: **this includes class dues – your child is responsible for class dues for each year he/she has attended Career High School – no exceptions.**

- Caps/gowns, tickets, for graduation, etc. will not be released to students until all financial obligations are met.

- A copy of each of your child's college acceptance letters should be on file with your child's counselor.

- You must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) financial aid application and submit it to FAFSA, which will submit it to the colleges you indicate on the FAFSA form. For most colleges the deadline is Feb. 1, but check with each college to which your child has applied for deadline dates. For assistance with the FAFSA form, please sign-up to speak with your counselor. The money available will begin to be disbursed at this time, the longer you wait the less money that is available.

-Be aware, some schools require a CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA...go to each school website or call the financial aid office to be sure that you complete ALL appropriate forms. Each school is different and varies from year to year.

- It is extremely important that you pay very close attention to returning all necessary and important materials to colleges as specified (health records, acceptance fees, housing fees, etc).

- Seek summer college programs to aid your child in getting off to a good start in college when classes begin in the fall.

- Scholarships are widely available– read all senior bulletin boards for scholarship information. Have your child browse through the scholarships file on the first floor. Also, you or your child can use the Internet and/or the Library Media Center (books, catalogues, etc) to obtain information and search for scholarships.

- Complete all scholarship applications accurately. Answer all questions appropriately. Submit copies of scholarship applications to your counselor.

- SAT and ACT registration forms are available in the Guidance Counselor's Offices. - **SAT Program 2012 – H.S. Code #070488.** See counselors for upcoming dates for SAT, ACT and AP Exams

- Register on-line @collegeboard.com

Juniors -- Every junior should take the SAT or the ACT as early as possible during their junior year. All juniors will be taking the test in March at Career High School, information to follow.

- To be considered a senior in the fall, every current junior must earn 21 credits by the end of the school year. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

- Parents should look carefully at the second marking period and mid-year examination grades and make sure that their child is on track to passing ALL courses. If this is not the case, parents should contact counselors and/or administrators to schedule appointments so that positive interventions may be made

- Juniors should be considering their post-graduation plans now – and they should be doing research and making plans about prospective colleges' requirements, programs and costs.

- Juniors and their parents should be thinking about the courses they plan to choose for next year.

- Parents of juniors should speak you're your child's guidance counselor about summer scholastic programs to aid in getting off to a good start in the senior year when classes begin in the fall.

- Make sure your child does some independent reading of something other than textbooks during the school year and throughout the summer.

Sophomores - sophomores should consider taking the SAT during the spring of their sophomore year.

- To be considered a junior in the fall, every current sophomore must earn 14 credits by the end of the school year. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

- Parents should look carefully at the second marking period and mid-year examination grades and make sure that their child is on track to passing ALL courses. If this is not the case, parents should contact counselors and/or administrators to schedule appointments so that positive interventions may be made.

- Sophomores and their parents should be thinking about the courses they plan to choose for next year.

- Parents of sophomores and sophomores should be considering summer scholastic programs to aid in getting off to a good start in the junior year when classes begin in the fall.

Freshmen -- freshman year is the time to establish a very solid high school academic foundation and to get best prepared for the important CAPT, which will occur in the early spring of the sophomore year. Every freshman gets several opportunities to take practice CAPT tests in each test area, and all freshmen should take the test and their results seriously. Also, in each discipline, teachers present critical CAPT practice and/or test-taking tips on how to score in the highest levels. Freshmen and their parents should become familiar with all of this information, and focus on strengthening areas of need and further excelling in areas of proven strength.

- To be considered a sophomore in the fall, every current freshman must earn 7 credits by the end of the school year. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

- Parents should look carefully at the second marking period and mid-year examination grades and make sure that their child is on track to passing ALL courses. If this is not the case, parents should contact counselors and/or administrators to schedule appointments so that positive interventions may be made.

- Freshmen and their parents should be thinking about the courses they plan to choose for next year – and be sure they choose appropriately challenging courses as sophomores so they are best prepared for further academic challenge and courses in the magnet content focus in their junior year.

- Parents of freshmen should be considering summer scholastic programs to aid in getting off to a good start in the sophomore year when classes begin in the fall. Again, if you are unsure about what is available, speak with your child's guidance counselor.

- Make sure your child does some independent reading of something other than textbooks during the school year and throughout the summer

ADVANCED PLACEMENT, Ms. Mentz

Remaining tutorial dates for AP students taking AP Calc, Stats, English Language, English Lit, Biology and Chemistry:

Math: Mar 17, Apr 28 at Career

English: Mar 31 TBD by English teachers (outside Career)

Science: Mar 3, May 5 at Danbury

Please remind your child of the AP Exam Prep Sessions, they are extremely important; all sessions are taught by current AP teachers. These sessions assist students in their weak areas

COMMUNITY NEWS

A Celebration of the Legacy

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Presents: "Character over Color!"

Monday, January 16, 2012 - Wexler-Grant Community School!



Announcing Neighbor-to-Neighbor LifeLine 2012

In the winter of 2009 The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and United Way of Greater New Haven launched Neighbor-to-Neighbor LifeLine, a community effort to raise and distribute funds to meet immediate, emergency needs for individuals and families affected by the economic downturn to help them avert or pull out of crisis.

Our combined efforts have resulted in more people receiving the help they need. The evidence is in our three year results of the N2N program:

As the New Year approaches, we want to communicate with our community partners about N2N LifeLine 2012, which will continue to invest dollars in non-profit, faith, and municipal organizations that serve our region. There will be two separate investment processes:

- [A Greater New Haven application](#) process for organizations that provide emergency food or housing services.
- [A Shoreline application](#) process for organizations that provide emergency food, housing or relief services. The shoreline application will become available on **January 18th**, 2012.

New Haven Promise - an Economic Development initiative specifically designed to keep and improve residency in New Haven. To qualify students must live in New Haven and have attended a NHPS since the 9th grade. Please feel free to call 203-776-6473 for more information.

Scholarship Applications Available Soon! Later this month, seniors in all New Haven Public Schools (and at charter schools within the City of New Haven) can start to apply for New Haven Promise scholarships. Starting this year, Promise scholarship applications will be available online only. To qualify, this year's seniors need to have a 3.0 GPA (averaged over their junior and senior years), 90% attendance, good behavior (no expulsions) and 20 hours of community service. This year's seniors will qualify for up to 50% of the scholarship--either 50% tuition coverage at a public, in-state two- or four-year college or \$1,250 at an in-state private nonprofit college. [Here's a full list of qualifying colleges](#)

Youth@Work is a public-private partnership between the City of New Haven, the New Haven Board of Education, Workforce Alliance, the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce and Empower New Haven. The program provides summer and year-round employment opportunities, workplace exposure and work readiness activities to youth who may be challenged by socio-economic and/or academic barriers to workplace success. **The program targets in-school youth, ages 14-21, who are New Haven residents and/or attend New Haven public schools.** Youth@Work is also a part of the Mayor's Youth Initiative, aimed at providing young people workplace exposure, mentoring and school and community-based enrichment activities.

SAMS Program - The Carnegie Mellon Summer Academy for Mathematics and Science - June 30 to August 10, 2012 SAMS applicants must be at least 15 years old and have completed their sophomore year of high school to participate in this program. SAMS participants will be required to reside in university housing.

<http://www.cmu.edu/enrollment/summerprogramsfordiversity/sams.html>

FREE Tax Preparation - by the **Greater New Haven Vita Coalition**
All sites offer services first-come, first-served. Most sites are open from the last week of January through mid-April. Hours are subject to change. **Come prepared!** Be sure to check the list of [documents](#) to bring with you.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

PTSO Meeting

Q&A with Career Staff

Library

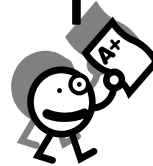
5:30-7:00pm

Thursday, Feb. 09, 2012

Pasta Dinner @ 5:30pm - Cafe



Report Card Distribution - GYM



6pm - 8pm



January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2 No School	3 Welcome Back!	4 Magnet Fair 6-8PM Hillhouse HS	5	6 Three Kings Day No School	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Inter-District Magnet School Fair 12-2PM
15	16 Martin Luther King Day No School	17 PTSO Meeting Library – 5:30PM Career HS Magnet Fair 6PM	18	19	20	21
22	23 Chinese New Year	24 Mid-Term Exams	25 Mid-term Exams Early Dismissal	26 Mid-Term Exams Early Dismissal	27 Mid-Term Exams Early Dismissal 2 nd MP Ends	28
29	30 Early Dismissal	31				

(* PTSO will host a staff member from Guidance, Math, English and New Haven Promise)

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9 Report Card Night 5:30PM – Pasta Dinner 6-8PM Report Card Distribution	10	11	
12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15	16	17 Early Dismissal Magnet Fair Applications Due	18	
19	20 Presidents Day	Winter Break – No School				24	25
26	27 Welcome Back!	28	29				

Extended Day – Tutorial - *Tutorials and activities are available for all students attending Career high School - * Programs meet 2:30- 3:30 PM on the schedule day(s), unless noted * Please follow assigned scheduled.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Ms. Wilson/Library – Book Bowl / Research	Ms. Ukah - RM 309 – Math/Reading Skills in Chemistry	Ms. Wilson/Library – Book Bowl / Research
Sr. CAPT Prep – Guidance Department	Sr. CAPT Prep – Guidance Department	Sr. CAPT Prep – Guidance Department
Ms. Neighbors – RM 211 Science/Grade 10 CAPT Prep	Ms. Ports - RM 202 Writing / Grade 10 CAPT Prep	Ms. Jalil – RM 305 Science/Grade 10 CAPT Prep
Mr. Stygares – ESL RM 204	Mr. Stygares – ESL RM 204	Mr. Stygares – ESL RM 204
		Mr. Koehler – English Tutorial – RM 306
Ms. Alogna-RM 207 HOSA/EMT	Ms. Alogna-RM 207 HOSA/EMT	Ms. Alogna-RM 207 HOSA/EMT