

# HILL REGIONAL CAREER H.S. PARENT NEWSLETTER

December 2011 - Edition: IV

Principal: Michael M. Ceraso

Editor: Parent Liaison

News Committee: PTSO Membership

<http://www.nhps.net/career>

**PTSO 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. *Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. - Helen Adams Keller*

## Happy Holiday's

### HRRHS 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 & Civil 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.

### PARENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### December Can Drive

**Dec. 12 @ 6pm PTSO Mtg. – Library**

Dec. 12 @ 6pm

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Family Movie Night**

Dec.12-16

**Student Government Spirit Week**

Dec. 23 @10:30am

**Honor Roll Celebration**

#### New Haven Public School Calendar

12/21 – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Hanukkah & Winter

12/23 – Early Dismissal

12/26 – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Kwanzaa begins

12/25 - Christmas Day

12/31 – New Year's Eve

School Break - until Jan. 2, 201

**22<sup>nd</sup> Parent Partnership Council Mtg.,**

Special Education & Students Services  
Wed, Jan., 11, 2012

Columbus Family Academy

255 Blatchley Ave. NH, CT 06513

### From the desk of Michael M. Ceraso, Principal

While it seems as though it was just yesterday we were opening school for the year, as I write this, there are only three weeks left until the Holiday vacation. While I certainly hope that all of us will enjoy occasions of good rest, food and company, I remind parents and students that this time of the year leaves us with approximately 8 weeks until the beginning of Mid-Year Exams, and approximately 16 weeks until the beginning of the CAPT exams.

I am quite pleased to report that, to this point, Hill Regional Career Magnet High School students are enjoying yet another successful and interesting school year. This year, they continue to increase their focus on academic excellence, and have shown noteworthy growth in maturity. Our school 'atmosphere' is very positive. Your children's 'spirit' for our school and all it represents, and more importantly how that has meaning in their immediate community continues to be excellent, and they always represent themselves (and you, their parents) and our school wonderfully in all they do. Working with your children is truly an amazing experience!

In fact, with every passing day, our wonderful students, your children, impress me more and more: again this year our 1st Marking period Honor Roll was impressive – over 1/3 of the entire student body earned honors – that's awesome! In addition to their classroom successes, your children bring success to many other things in which they are involved: within the past few months, our students have assisted in re-establishing a National Academy Foundation Advisory Board, successfully re-opened the School Store, participated in several robotics demonstrations and competitions, planned and operated a fantastic, problem free Coronation Ball, and hosted a fund-raiser at Applebee's in Orange. This week, two of our student athletes were designated scholar-athletes for the month of December, and will be noted as such in the New Haven Register. On the evening of December 21, our Music and Choir students will present a Holiday Concert in our Auditorium. Several of our students are "cast" members in one of the two commercials made for New Haven's Magnet schools, both of which are played frequently on local TV, and are regularly shown before the main feature at a series of local movie theaters.

Even though the school year is just slightly more than 1/3 over, that's already an impressive record! As it always has, the remainder of the year will be filled with even more impressive accomplishments that will make the list much, much longer.

During the upcoming special time of the year, which is sometimes extraordinarily busy, hopefully you (and I) can take some time to slow down, relax, reflect, and focus on spending time with our families. Please accept my most sincere hopes for you and your family for a wonderful holiday season. I especially wish you and your family a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

### New Haven Schools of Choice: Open House Dates 2012

**NEW**

#### CITWIDE MAGNET SCHOOLS

Floyd Little Athletic Center

Wed., January 4 @6-8pm

[Click here to visit the NHIMS Site](#)

**NH Public Schools Gateway Center**

**203- 946-7415**

54 Meadow St, NH, CT 06519

#### INTERDISTRICT MAGNET FAIR

Hill Regional Career High School

140 Legion Ave. NH, CT 06519

Tue., January 17 @4-6pm

Snow Date: January 19

Sat., January 28: 11am -1pm

Snow Date: February 4

**Info Ms. Shawn Blowes - 203-946-5845**



**Guidance Corner**

The following information applies to all students: School attendance and tardiness is checked daily. Reporting to school on time is essential, especially to Home Room. When a child is absent from school a note must be brought to school the day your child returns - documenting the absence. Notes will not be accepted after 48 hours of absence. If you know that your child is to be tardy on any given day, please send a note with a legitimate excuse (not excused: woke up late) or, if possible accompany your child to school in person to sign him/her into school.

**Seniors:**

1. Senior must complete 20 hours of community service (40 hours if PROMISE students)
2. Every senior must earn 28 credits. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**
3. SAT and ACT registration forms are available in the Guidance Counselor's Offices or can be done on the collegeboard website. (High School CEEB Code #070488)
4. See counselors for upcoming dates for SAT, ACT and AP Exams - Register on-line @collegeboard.com – you must pay by credit card when registering online.
5. Students are reminded that transcripts indicate absences and tardiness as well as grades. Colleges may take this information into consideration.
6. Seniors must complete the Financial Aid Application (FAFSA) and submit it to FAFSA, which will submit it to the colleges you indicate on the FAFSA form. Students and parents must immediately register to get a PIN number (used as a signature online). This can be done now as it does take some time to receive the PIN. Most times the FAFSA deadline is Feb. 1, but check with each college to which your child has applied for deadline dates. FAFSA forms need to be completed in January. Apply ON-LINE at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) - Financial Aid is limited – **APPLY EARLY!** Any questions see your counselor.

**Sports,**

The winter season looks much brighter. The girls' basketball team returns a veteran team from last year. Remember that team won the state LL finals in 2011. Coach Kevin Walton is expecting a strong showing from the returning veterans on the team. Practice started in Late November and the team has its first scrimmage on Saturday, November 31 at Career against Bunnell HS. The team opens their season on December 9 Career vs. Guilford at Guilford. The team has a great rebuilding program for this season. Steve Bethke will coach the Junior Varsity and three-time State Champion Coach Kevin Walton will lead the Varsity Lady Panthers on a path to regain their LL State Title.

The boy's team begins practice November 26. They will open there season December 14 at Home vs. Hillhouse at the NH Athletic Center @6PM. Coach Larry Kelly is hoping for a strong showing from his returning players.

Coach Kareem Jackson is beginning his 13th season as the Head of Indoor track at Career. He already has three State Titles to his credit and coach Jackson is looking forward to another strong Indoor season. He has a number of returning runners, which holds well for the success of this year's team. Come out and follow the Panthers, in basketball and track.

The volleyball team gave it everything they could and just missed making the State Tournament by one victory, while playing in the strongest league (SCC) in the State. Our Lady Panthers won a Career high seven games this season. Brianna Longley was named SCC Volleyball Sports Center of Connecticut Scholar Athlete of the month. The Career HS girls handled themselves as true Winners. The Soccer team (Career/Hillhouse) despite injuries came away with ten victories and made the State playoffs for the second year. The team did produce its second all area play – Abraham Bartoah was named first Team All-State SCC player and William Ayala and Abraham Bartoah were voted all Oronoque Division player. William Ayala was voted SCC Sports Center of Connecticut Scholar Athlete of the month. Coach Bethke feels his team has made tremendous improvements over the last four years, and is looking for no less than a win in the SCC State tournament next year. For more information contact John Adamovich, Athletic Director @203-946-5845.

**Career High School Jazz Ensemble and Chorus, Scott McCoy, director**  
 The Jazz Ensemble and Chorus will be at the following locations:  
 Thursday, December 15, @ 5:30pm Yale - outside concert on Broadway in the lot  
 On Wednesday, December 21 @7:30pm, Career students will present a Holiday concert in the auditorium.

<b>Spirit Week</b>		
12/12 – Opposite Day	12/13 – Twin Day	12/14 – Wacky –Tacky – Outlandish clothes
12/15 – Choice Day	Honors Celebration – Café	12/16 – PEP Rally (2 <sup>nd</sup> Pd.)



### ISSP

Qualifying junior and senior students are beginning to sign up for College Before College classes for Spring Semester at Gateway Community College, SCSU, UNH and Yale University. There are still openings at SCSU and UNH for interested qualifying students. If interested or to see if your child qualifies, please see Ms. Mente. She is on site at Career M-T-F.

### AP

Junior AP students will be taking a Mock AP English Language Exam and senior AP students will be taking a Mock AP English Literature Exam on Monday, December 19 during periods 1, 2, and 3. These exams will be used to identify area/s that students need to strengthen before AP Exams begin in early in May. In addition, it will allow students, especially with no prior experience of AP Exams, to feel more comfortable when taking their exams. We wish our students well in this venture.

### **Library Media Center News**

Book 2.0 is a brand new club that has been formed in all of the New Haven high schools. The new Book Club will replace the Book Bowl Competition that has been a part of the Library Media Program for many years. Students will take part in one

or all three individual book clubs throughout the year. At the end of reading each book, ten students from Career will gather with representatives from other New Haven high school book clubs to share and create digital projects centered around the book.

Meetings have been taking place in the library each Tuesday where students have been taking part in book discussions and sharing ideas through an on-line blog. This allows students from Career to connect with students from other schools in the city prior to the district meeting.

The first district meeting will take place at Hillhouse High School on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Students will view and judge each other's digital presentations, meet and discuss the first book, *The Graceling* by Kristen Cashore, with students from other schools and share a lunch.

The date for the second book club will be announced soon. Look for flyers around the school and listen to the Career Morning News. The second book will be *The Other Wes Moore One Name, Two Fates*, by Wes Moore.

If you are interested, please see Mrs. Wilson, Library Media Specialist.

### **Do You Have a Student Taking High School Math?** *Andy Wight, HRCHS Math Lead Teacher*

A lot of confusion, uncertainty and anxiety are associated with learning mathematics. Many students (& parents) have experienced some form of "math trauma" at an early age and suffer from "post traumatic math syndrome"! Typical symptoms: feeling overwhelmed, unable to study the text book, frustration, headaches, avoidance, etc. I am being a bit tongue in cheek, but the math department takes it seriously that there are many negative feelings about mathematics.

In this monthly column I will take a look at some of the "hot button" current prescriptions for effective education (such as *Literacy Across Disciplines, Differentiated Instruction, Authentic Assessment, Performance based Learning, Real world Connections...*) and after a brief description of a topic offer some Tips For Parent Mentors (that's you, parent readers—we often forget to acknowledge your critical learning support role).

The 8-member HRCHS math faculty meets nearly every other day for common planning, sharing of teaching strategies, data analysis, departmental business, and general discussion. As experienced educators, we bring decades of math teaching experience to these meetings. Though the opinions and views expressed here are my own, they are shaped and sharpened by these conversations with my professional colleagues.

This month's topic is *Literacy in Math*. We all agree that literacy is important, but does it have the same meaning in every discipline? I think math literacy is **parallel**<sup>1</sup> to, but not **congruent**<sup>2</sup> with literacy strategies in, say, History or English classes. We don't teach historical vignettes or poetry in math classes (though we sometimes read them for interest, insight and pleasure). We do teach: close attention to language used to describe problems, precision in understanding of words and terms, and the importance of sentence structure for revealing the mathematical relationships between quantities mentioned. Reading is an essential problem solving skill in all disciplines; in math, the *verbal* statement of a problem leads to more formal *graphing, algebraic* or *numeric* formulations of the problem and its solution. (These are referred to as "the rule of four"—verbal, graphical, algebraic, numerical—the core of math literacy.)

TIPS for Parent-Mentors - If your students are struggling with a math problem, that's good news—it means they haven't given up! ("If there is no struggle, there is no progress." --Frederick Douglass, 1857)

Encourage them to do what they do in other situations:





- Try re-reading and saying the problem in their own words.
- Try making a picture or sketch of the problem
- Try making a table of numbers to represent the problem

- Try thinking of a place or time where they may have worked on a similar problem
- Take a blank paper folded into 4 sections like a window. On each section write one phrase: “verbal”, “picture/graph”, “numerical/table”, “algebraic/equation”. Try to put something in each of the sections, and bring this paper to class.

That's it for this month. If you wish, you can email me at [andy.wight@new-haven.k12.ct.us](mailto:andy.wight@new-haven.k12.ct.us). I will also be a participant in the January 17 PTSO meeting and look forward to talking to you there.

<sup>1</sup> parallel: mathematically, lines in the same direction, equidistant, never meeting; so in this case, similar aims but not overlapping approaches

<sup>2</sup> congruent: the (mathematical) term for being alike in all aspects

December 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Food Drive Starts	1	2	3
4	5	6 PTSO MTG @5:30pm	7	8 Senior Class West Haven Friendly's Family Fun Night!	9	10
11	12 Opposite Day	13 Twin Day	14 Wacky Tacky Day	15 TBA	16 Pep Rally	17
<b>Spirit Week</b> (Fun in-school activities and outfits)						
18	19	20	21 Hanukkah 	22 Last Day for Food Drive	23 Early Dismissal	24
25 Christmas Day 	26 <b>KWANZAA</b>	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Day No School
<b>Christmas Recess – No School</b>						
January 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Christmas Break No School	3	4	5	6  Three Kings No School	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. No School	17 PTSO MTG	18	19	20	21
22	23 Chinese New Year 	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Early Dismissal					