

Hall Update

Principal's
Message

Dear Hall Community:

HAPPY NEW YEAR and WELCOME BACK! I look forward to the beginning of the new school year with much enthusiasm!

First, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our custodial and office staff for their efforts during the summer months preparing our school for the return of our students and staff.

It was great to meet the Class of 2013, students new to Hall, and their parents at our New Student-Parent Orientation Activities Fair and BBQ. We hope the orientation program helped ease the transition from 8th to 9th grade. Much thanks to our upperclassmen that served as mentors. I would also like to extend thanks to the PTO for their help with the parent breakfast as well as treating our staff to a "Welcome Back Luncheon".

We are improving safety and efficiency with the assistance of modern technology. More lighting has been provided in the front parking lots and more security cameras have been installed around the exterior of the building. Our daily announcements will be posted on video monitors in the lobbies and cafeteria to better inform students what's happening at Hall. The school district will be using Connect Ed, an advanced communication system that will improve the way we are able to notify our parents and staff of important and sometimes emergency information via the telephone. More information will be forthcoming.

One of the longstanding Hall High School traditions is to fly the Hall flag in recognition of the accomplishments and achievements of our students and staff. On the first day of school, we flew the flag, congratulated, and we proudly announced that Mrs. Elizabeth Devine has been selected by the National Council of Social Studies as Teacher of the Year!!

Every year, Hall High School develops goals and objectives to enhance the quality of education of all students. For the 2009-2010 school year the Hall administration strives to meet the following goals:

- .. 95% of our students who enter high school as 9th graders will meet the graduation competencies and requirements four years later.
- .. Increase the percentage of students at goal in math and reading to 69% and increase the students at proficient math and reading to 82%.
- .. Create a school climate that supports positive behavior and a culture of respect as measured by a 3% decrease in attendance/behavior referrals.
- .. Increase parent and community engagement in the academic process as measured by participation in academic school events.

Within this newsletter you will find important dates to remember that include but are not limited to, music and athletic events, guidance programs and theatre productions; don't forget to mark your calendars. You will find these programs and events entertaining and informative. Please visit our website at www.whps.org/schools/hall where you can find updated information on athletic contests, cancellations, school events, etc.

Curriculum Night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9 from 7:00 pm – 9:10 pm. This program is designed to give parents the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and learn more about the educational programs offered. Individual parent conferences cannot be conducted during Curriculum Night due to the short visits to each classroom. You are encouraged to email or call your child's teachers and/or counselors with any questions or concerns you have during the school year.

I look forward to working to working with you and your son(s) and/or daughter(s) this school year and having a great year because **Together we are Proud . . . Together we are Hall High! Let's have a great year!!**

Donald J. Slater, Ph.D.
Proud Principal

Hall High School Teacher Named Social Studies Teacher of the Year

Veteran Hall High School social studies teacher **Elizabeth Devine** has received the 2009-2010 "Outstanding Secondary Social Studies Teacher of Year" award from the National Council for the Social Studies. Mrs. Devine will be formally presented with this award at the annual NCSS conference in Atlanta in November. Besides being formally recognized in Atlanta, Ms. Devine will receive a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative gift. She will also be presenting a workshop at the Atlanta conference. Ms. Devine will be recognized at the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies conference on October 30, and will present a workshop at this conference.

Mrs. Devine is being recognized for her absolutely superior teaching and genuine care for her students. She has displayed excellence in teaching A.P United States History, American Government, American Studies, and Human Rights. Countless students have stated that many of their most treasured moments at Hall High School were in one of Mrs. Devine's classes. Mrs. Devine is the organizer of the Hall High School Human Rights Coalition, and has supervised activities such as Empty Bowls, Pennies for Peace, and Red Hand Day. Students in Mrs. Devine's American Studies classes have taken part in a number of innovative activities and projects, including interviewing veterans and others in the West Hartford community. Mrs. Devine has also been the mentor to countless beginning teachers in the Hall High School social studies department.

ARTNews

New staff member and volunteer projects planned

The Art department is excited to welcome an additional staff member this year. **Kelly Smurthwaite** will be joining us to teach two "Drawing" classes and an "Exploring Art and Design" class. Kelly is a veteran teacher having taught at Duffy School for many years as well as Renbrook School's summer program.

This year Hall's Art Honor Society students will be out in the community working on 'art related' volunteer projects, such as; middle school art club, West Hartford Art League's 'Artwalk' chalk drawings, and creating murals at Hall.

Be sure to watch for the many exhibits that are planned for this year. We will have our ever changing 'Hallway Gallery', Scholastics art exhibit at Taube Gallery at the University of Connecticut in January, Artbeat, our town wide exhibit, in March and our big end of year show in June.

And don't miss:

The current exhibit at Artspace Gallery; **Joanne Barry-Dutro and Donna Namnoun** are two of eight artists whose work is featured in an exhibit there through Sept. 26. The Gallery is located at 555 Asylum Avenue, Htfd.

FROM THE PTO

September/October 2009

Dear Parents and Teachers,

Welcome back to the 2009-2010 school year! The PTO is off to a great start. With heartfelt thanks to Lisa Feigenbaum, the PTO past president, our organization is in good shape with a many parent volunteers returning this year as well as opportunities for new and returning parents to jump right in.

As you know from filling out the PTO membership form, there are many opportunities to be involved in the life of Hall High School. The PTO supports funding requests from teachers and administrators to help fund projects and equipment. Last year we were able to share the cost of a recumbent bike for the fitness center/ cardio-weight room, purchase some science equipment and foreign language dictionaries. We try to accommodate "wish list items" that teachers share with us, evaluating to see how many students will be served by the grant, and if it meets the goals of our non-profit charter. We also support a range of activities that celebrate the achievements of our students and appreciation to the teachers.

If you have not yet joined the PTO, simply log on to <http://www.whps.org/schools/hall/pto/pto.asp> and scroll down the page to the membership form and click on the link to download it. I also want to let you know that you can subscribe to the Hall PTO listserve at http://hallpto.org/hallpto/Hall_High_School_PTO.html. This is different than the Hall High School email list that you can subscribe to from Hall's main web page (<http://www.whps.org/schools/hall/>) under the email contact service link. The PTO listserve sends out messages about upcoming events. One event that I would like to bring to your attention is the combined Hall/Conard PTO dinner on October 7, 2009 at 5:45 followed by a program. More details will be sent out about the program as they become available.

You might have noticed the updated and improved appearance of the Hall Highlights newsletter. I'd like to thank our parent volunteers, Roxanne Stachelek and Mandy VanSchaack, and from the front office Jean Baril, for their work on this publication. Because of their effort we are now able to provide a more attractive and user-friendly newsletter. There will be five issues posted this academic year.

I look forward to meeting and working with you this school year. If you have any questions, comments, ideas or concerns, feel free to contact me at HallPTO@gmail.com or call me at 233-6855.

Best wishes,

Susan Grantham
PTO President

September/October DATES OF NOTE:

September 9:

Curriculum night - 7:00 pm

September 16:

Senior planning night - 7:00 pm

September 28:

Yom Kippur - no school

October 2:

Progress reports

October 7:

Combined Hall/Conard PTO
dinner and COC* speaker

October 12:

Columbus Day - No School

October 14:

Freshman Choir Concert -
7:00 pm

October 21:

College Fair - at Conard High
School - 7:00 pm

November 3:

Election day - no school

November 4:

COC coffeehouse - 7:00 pm

November 5-7:

Fall Mainstage Play - 7:00 pm

November 6:

End of first quarter

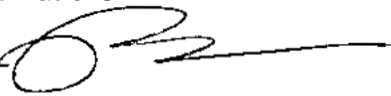
Hall High School

Town of West Hartford – West Hartford Public Schools



Plant and Facilities Services Department
17 Brixton Street, West Hartford, CT 06110
Phone: 860 561-7920
Fax: 860 561-8141



To: Building Occupants, Parents and Parent-Teacher Organizations
From: Robert Palmer, Director of Plant & Facilities Services 
Date: September 2009
Re: Asbestos Information

As a representative of the West Hartford Public Schools and pursuant to the regulations of the EPA's *Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)*, this memo is to notify you of the presence of asbestos and asbestos related activities within the school district.

We are aware that there is some form(s) of asbestos in some of our buildings and will continue a program of monitoring and removing materials as necessary. The monitoring consists of a visual inspection of all known asbestos-containing building materials (*ACBM*) every six months. It is our belief that any remaining asbestos does not present a health hazard to student or staff populations.

A re-inspection was completed in 2008. The updated Management Plan will be available for public inspection at the following address:

West Hartford Public Schools
Plant & Facilities Services Department
17 Brixton Street
West Hartford, Connecticut 06110

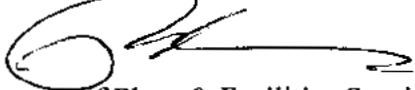
For further information concerning *ACBM*, you may contact Niel J. Andersen, Manager of Building Services, (860) 561-7920.

Town of West Hartford – West Hartford Public Schools



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17 Brixton Street, West Hartford, CT 06110
Phone: 860 561-7920
Fax: 860 561-8141



To: Parents and Staff 
From: Robert Palmer, Director of Plant & Facilities Services
Date: September 2009
Re: IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Plan

On June 27, 2000, the Board of Education approved a policy on Integrated Pest Management required of the State of Connecticut, Public Act No. 99-165. The West Hartford Public School system has implemented an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan for our school buildings and grounds. The plan, which will be administered through the Plant & Facilities Services Department, deals with the use of pesticides in the buildings and on the grounds.

Any person within the staff or student population may **register at their school** so that they may receive prior notice of pesticide applications. Such notice shall be given twenty-four hours in advance to any and all registrants. **Please note that pesticide applications (inside or outside) are not done during the school day while the students or staff are present, except in emergency conditions.**

The pesticide application activity for the prior year (2008) is on the other side of this letter. Please feel free to contact Niel Andersen at the Plant and Facilities Services Department if you have any questions (860)561-7920.

COUNSELING News

New counselor and counselor interns welcomed

Although this summer was a little shorter than usual, students and staff returned to Hall High with renewed energy after some good time away from the rigors of school. We are pleased to welcome **Maria Alutto**, the counselor who replaces Paul Ribeiro. Maria has hit the ground running meeting with her students to resolve schedule problems, helping freshmen get acclimated and working with seniors as they make plans to apply to college. We also want to welcome three counselor interns from the University of Connecticut's Counselor Education Program who will be working with us this year: **Shoshana Belfer-Tyler, Matthew Rosen and Heather Strunk**. They will be participating in every aspect of our program - classroom presentations, evening programs, career development programs, group and individual counseling. They will do most of the organizing and administration of our PSAT and AP testing programs. All sophomores and most juniors take the PSAT on October 14th during school, while the freshmen practice CT Academic Performance Test (CAPT) skills and spend some time with their counselors in group activities.

In the midst of appointments with individual students from all grades, the counselors focus our group efforts with particular classes at various times during the year. In the early fall we spend time with both freshmen and seniors. We get acquainted with our freshmen in small groups and then individually, insuring that they know how to make an appointment with their counselor. After a week or so of feeling new and getting lost, we begin to see the transition as they get involved with the life of the school. Senior Planning Night held on September 16th was a success with a good turnout and it has motivated seniors to further shape their post secondary plans. For most this means narrowing the list of colleges, signing up for SAT's and ACT's, completing questionnaires and resume's and work-

ing to make the senior year a testament to their academic ability. Our seniors don't need too much encouragement to meet with their counselors as their sense of purpose brings them to our door. We strongly encourage our seniors to make frequent visits to the Guidance Department to meet with the great number of college admissions representatives that come to the Career Center to meet with our students, to check in with their counselor frequently to get the help they need and to take advantage of the resources available in our Career Center through Mrs. Oulundsen, the Career Center Coordinator.

The growing expense of a college education in this economy has become a great concern to many of our families. We are adding a special evening to help parents of middle and early high school students to plan ahead for these financial demands. Please join us on October 28th to hear from a financial planning expert as he shares advice on how to best prepare for the financial demands of a college education.

Dates to remember:

September 16

7 - 9 PM Senior Planning Night

October 14

morning PSAT's for junior & sophomores

October 21

7 - 8:30 PM College Fair at Conard High School

October 28

7:00 - 8:00 Planning Ahead for College Finances

PUPIL Services

Off to a good start!

The Pupil Services Department is off to an enthusiastic start for the new school year. Our entire staff is returning which will give us the advantage of a smooth transition back to continue the work that was begun last year.

The priorities and initiatives for 2009 - 2010 will focus on four basic strands:

1. Integration between special education and general education
2. Program Evaluation, Professional Development and Parent education
3. Universal design and instructional practice
4. State compliance requirements and the Annual Performance Report (APR).

As we continue to build on the integration between special education and general education, our focus remains that of improving the access and achievement for all students. Two initiatives that hold tremendous promise and potential for improving the alignment between special and general education are SRBI, Scientific Research Based Intervention and UDL, Universal Design for Learning. Both of these initiatives fit within our existing framework which is consistent with current practices and ultimately allows us to build to the next level of differentiation.

SRBI provides a framework for implementing early intervention services for all struggling learners utilizing a sys-

temic/tiered approach to core instruction, curriculum and behavioral supports. This is a state-wide initiative that is being further developed and implemented in our schools through continuous professional development for all staff.

UDL is an approach for designing instructional methods and materials that are flexible enough from the outset to accommodate learning differences. The principles of UDL are derived from the research in neuroscience and inspired by the universal design in architecture where the accommodations for individuals with diverse physical disabilities are built into the structure/environment. UDL emphasizes the need for the curriculum to adapt to student needs, rather than requiring the student to adapt.

The Universal Design for Learning provides a framework that is consistent with SRBI and provides a blueprint for developing instructional goals, materials, methods and assessments that support all learners. The SRBI and UDL methodologies extend beyond the categories of disability and promote practices that support shared responsibility, resources and ownership, and create coherence between general and special education.

We look forward to a successful and rewarding year working with our students toward reaching the high goals and expectations we hold for them.

MUSIC Notes

Welcome to the 2009-10 school year! We hope that you have all had a fun-filled and relaxing summer vacation! We extend a warm welcome to **Alfredo Grado**, our new guitar instructor. Alfredo will be teaching guitar part-time at Conard and Hall. All of our students and staff are very much looking forward to another exciting year of many musical ventures, some of which include great traditions such as the Madrigal Dinners, Pops 'n Jazz, Eurotour 2010, and Chocolate Cafe. The bands, orchestra, and choirs will also be diligently and enthusiastically preparing for their many performances and activities throughout the year. We look forward to the joy of making music with you every day! We extend our most cordial invitation to the entire Hall community to attend our many concerts, and we thank you for your continued support! Have an awesome year!

Lorri Cetto, Marilyn Krentzman, Alfredo Grado, John Mastroianni

Health Education and Physical Education

Parent Input Needed!

The offerings in physical education class aim to give students knowledges, skills, and leisure type opportunities that can carry over beyond the school day and beyond graduation from high school. Yoga, archery, fitness, ballroom dance, tennis, and volleyball are some examples. The Fitness Tests are given yearly and serve as one measure of a student's health and fitness. The state has updated these tests this year.

The half year course in health education is offered in tenth grade. It provides students up-to-date information on current health issues such as stress management, nutrition, drugs and alcohol, sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, and suicide prevention. Students learn how to access up-to-date information, how to find and contact resources for support, ways to manage their stress, how to assertively communicate, and much more. Students in grades 9, 11, and 12 received the state mandated substance abuse prevention curriculum.

As part of the West Hartford Public Schools Five-Year Plan for Curriculum Review, we are requesting your feedback regarding the curriculum and services provided by the health and physical education programs. This

information will help us to make revisions and further meet the needs of your child. Please fill out our short surveys that have been posted on our department website.

To take these surveys, or to find out more details about the curriculum or the updated fitness tests, please contact your student's teacher or check out our department website.

To locate our department website, go to the district web page (www.whps.org), click on offices at the top, then click on Physical Education and Health on the left and side.

The Hall Health and Physical Education staff looks forwarded to a productive year.

Have a healthy and active day!

Sue Curnias, Nicole Burrell, Joshua Greenberg, Joe Mancini, Bryan Mor,retti, Frank Robinson
Rosey Bonner, Department Supervisor

Board of Education Representative

Will Attend Board of Education meetings

As another school year begins, I am readying myself for the challenges of the year to come. In addition to preparing myself for school classes, writing college applications, and participating in various clubs, I am priming myself to be Hall High School's Board of Education Representative. Every other Tuesday, I will attend the West Hartford Board of Education meetings and serve as a non-voting member. Although I get the added perks of a name plate and a microphone, my real purpose is to report back to the Hall community the decisions and discussions that occur in the meetings. I will connect to the students through the Student Association, on which I serve as an Executive Board

member, and to the parents through this newsletter. In each issue, I will include an article detailing all issues relevant to Hall High School. I am looking forward to writing this column to serve as a connection between not only the Board of Education and the students at Hall, but as a connection between the Board and the parents. If there are any concerns that you would like me to specifically address, please contact me via email (L_nweintraub@yahoo.com). I value your input. I hope this is a great school year, and I look forward to including you in the Board of Education meetings.

Lia Weintraub

NEWS You Can Use:

Any student who is new to Hall this year (including Freshmen) will have to see a cafeteria employee to get a new lunch account PIN. The number you had in Middle School will no longer work.