

THE CONARD NEWSLETTER



CONARD HIGH SCHOOL 110 BEECHWOOD ROAD WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107
ISSUE NO. 1 DIRECT: (860) 231-5000 FAX: (860) 521-6699 September, 2015

October

- 13 Principal's Coffee 8:30am
- 13 Fall Band Concert 7:30pm
- 15 Orchestra Pyramid Concert 7:30pm
- 16 ID Picture Retakes
- 17 Autumn Leaves Jazz Show 7:30pm
- 20 PTO Business Meeting 6:30pm
- 20 Parent Panel on College Admission Process 7:00pm
- 21 College Fair 6:30pm
- 21 Black Box Play 2:00pm
The Seagull
- 23 Black Box Play 7:00pm
The Seagull
- 24 Black Box Play 7:00pm
The Seagull
- 27 Choir Fall Concert 7:30pm

November

- 4 End of 1st Quarter
- 6 Trivia Night 7:00pm
- 10 PTO Business Meeting 6:30pm
- 10 Principal's Coffee 7:00pm
- 11 How to Fund College Education 7:00pm
- 18 Parent/Teacher Conferences 6:00pm
- 18 Black Box Matinee 2:00pm
Ten Minute Plays
- 19 Parent/Teacher Conferences 7:30am
- 19 Black Box Theatre 7:00pm
Ten Minute Plays
- 20 Black Box Theatre 7:00pm
Ten Minute Plays
- 21 Conard vs. Hall Football Game 1:00pm
- 21 Black Box Theatre 7:00pm
Ten Minute Plays
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Break



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back! I am pleased to report that the 2015-2016 school year is off to a fantastic start! I would like to extend a special warm welcome to all of the parents/guardians whose child is just beginning their first year at Conard. As I walk around the halls and become surrounded by positive staff members and motivated students, I feel energized for another successful school year. We are prepared for another great year here at Conard!



At this point, I am sure that many of you have seen our new school logo. After a great amount of time and effort by our new school logo committee, we feel great pride in our new design. There's a feeling of family here at Conard whether you are an alumni, a current student, a staff member, or parent/guardian. For this reason, a family crest is the framework of the design. The four quadrants of the family crest each symbolize important components that we value at Conard, including academics, the arts, athletics, and community. Lastly, the large C in the middle is the traditional red C that has often been associated with Conard. After putting forth time and effort into its design, we

feel a great sense of pride in our new logo and Last week you had the opportunity to meet with your child's teachers at Open House. As I stated that night, the partnership between home and school is a critical factor in student success. The staff and I encourage your participation in your child's Conard experience. I strongly recommend that you contact your child's teachers or school counselor if you have any questions or concerns about your child's grades or any other issues. Remember that you can access your child's current grades on the ParentPortal

[\(https://powerschool.whps.org/public/\)](https://powerschool.whps.org/public/).

This year you may notice some new faces in the Conard family. This fall we welcome several new staff members. Each staff member was chosen from a very competitive pool of applicants, and I am confident that they will enhance the educational experiences of our students. Our new staff members include:

Mary Corcoran - Greeter
Naysha Cruz – Business & Finance
Elena Dilion – World Language Department Supervisor
Abigail Esposito – Social Studies
Carolina Gieczewski – World Language
Helaine Hanenbaum – Attendance
Maureen Healey - Science
Carrie Hess – Social Studies
Tricia Lea – Social Studies
Daniel Marcoux – Social Studies
Michael McGarry - Science
Mary McSweeney – Instrumental Music
Noah Mealy - Mathematics
James Redman – Pupil Services
Joanne Ruggiero – Pupil Services
Gregory Scheiber - Stagecraft
Douglas Sekorski - Mathematics
Matthew Timlin – Science
Jeff Valfer – Social Studies
Dan Whitney – Mathematics TA

Again, welcome back and we look forward to working with you this year. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-929-5001,

we hope you do as well!

Julio_Duarte@whps.org, or feel free to stop by as my door is always open.

Sincerely,
Julio Duarte
Principal

We challenge and guide our students to be active learners and productive citizens.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

In its enacting of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, Congress requires public schools to provide "on request by military recruiters, or an institution of higher education, access to secondary school student's names, addresses, and telephone listings." In keeping with this mandate, the West Hartford Public School district will provide this information upon receipt of each request. This act also requires that parents be notified of such requests and be provided with the option to refuse the release of this information. If you prefer that this data not be released without your specific written consent, you must notify the Guidance Office in writing by *October 10, 2015*.

The Social Studies Department

What Is Social Studies and Why Is It Important?

The National Council for the Social Studies, the largest professional association for social studies educators in the world, defines social studies as:

...the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence. Within the school program, social studies provides coordinated, systematic study drawing upon such disciplines as anthropology, archaeology, economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, and sociology, as well as appropriate content from the humanities, mathematics, and natural sciences. The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as

*citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world.*¹

In our Conard classrooms, this means that students will be engaged deeply in critical thinking about the past, present, and future through historical inquiry. More specifically, students will be asked to:

- respond to and raise historical questions/problems
- plan inquiries into topics of study that involve gathering information through guided research
- critically analyze sources of information for point of view, bias, and accuracy
- develop conclusions and interpretations using a variety of source material
- communicate conclusions through the development of written work, presentations, and classroom discussions

Making the School to Home Connection

Here are some easy ways to help your student-historian at home:

- ***Encourage curiosity.*** As you watch the news or check your Twitter feed, let your student know what questions you have about the events you are following.
- ***Engage in research.*** Follow an interesting current event by tracing it back in time. Visit places you wish to learn more about. Attend Town Council, PTO, or Board of Education meetings to find out what is going on in your community. Read non-fiction, lots of it!
- ***Talk about social studies.*** Share your interests about history, government, current issues. Ask your student what they are learning. Ask them to share their thinking about what they are learning and ask them to tell you why.
- ***Take action.*** Engage in a community service project as a family, write letters to public officials about issues for which you care deeply, or find other ways to become involved in your community.

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The Conard History and Social Studies Department looks forward to partnering with you this year to help fulfill the school's mission: create active learners and productive citizens.

1. The definition was officially adopted by National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) in 1992. See National Council for the Social Studies, *Expectations of Excellence: Curriculum Standards for Social Studies* (Washington, D.C.: NCSS, 1994): 3.T
2. Elder, Linda, Meg Gorzycki, and Richard Paul. *Student Guide to Historical Thinking*. (Foundation for Critical Thinking, 2011)
3. *Fr* National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), *The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards: Guidance for Enhancing the Rigor of K-12 Civics, Economics, Geography, and History* (Silver Spring, MD: NCSS, 2013). New to the

The Science Department

This year there are three new faces in the science department.

Matthew Timlin

Mr. Timlin is our new Physics teachers. After spending a five years as a professional engineer Mr. Timlin decided that his true passion was teaching. This spring Mr. Timlin completed his Master's of Education and teaching certification at UCONN. Some fun facts about Mr. Timlin are that he is a student of the martial arts and in his spare time he spins fire (but we promise he will not do it in his classroom).

Michael McGarry

Mr. McGarry is our new Earth Science teacher. Mr. McGarry has always had a passion for education. For the last 8 years he has worked at the Camp Hakness as a of counselor children with special needs. After receiving his BA in Geology from UCONN, he graduated this spring from University of New Haven with a Master's of Education. One thing Mr. McGarry would like you to know is that he is a diehard Husky Fan and you might see him at a football or basketball game this year.

Maureen Healey

Ms. Healey is teaching at both Hall and Conard this year. At Hall she teaches Biology and at Conard she teaches our Conceptual Chemistry classes. Ms. Healey earned her BS in Marine and Freshwater Biology at University of New Hampshire after which she worked as a museum and outdoor educator for 4 year. This past spring she completed her Master's of Education and teaching certification at UCONN. One thing Ms. Healey would like you to know about her is that she loves to play and watch soccer, so be sure to look for her at some Conard games this year.



Science Olympiad and Science Bowl teams will be entering a combined 4 competitions this year aiming for success at Yale and UConn. Last year,

this group of amazing students achieved 4th place in an event at Science Olympiad and in other events we finished in the top 20% out of 40 schools. We also achieved 7th at the state Science Bowl competition competing against over 40 schools. If anyone is interested please contact Dr. Mayer or come to a meeting on Tuesday's after school in Dr. Mayer's room. Everyone is welcome.

**Broken Dreams! Unfulfilled Ambitions!
Shattered Hearts! Sound like a good time? If so, then don't miss the Conard Drama production of *The Seagull*, a modern adaptation of Chekhov's classic play. This darkly comic masterpiece will play October 21, @ 2:00 (special free student performance) October 22, 23, 24 at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Reserve tickets by emailing conardhighdrama@gmail.com Tickets will also be available at the door.**

Welcome to the Conard Mathematics Department

Conard HS Mathematics Teachers: Holly Banak, Heather Beattie-DeWitt, Jackie Corricelli, Holly D'Addario, Dave Dippolino, Deb Hartshorn,

Ann Marie Houlihan, Linda Infantino, Julie Jastremski, Michael McCarthy, Noah Mealy, Elyse Nevins, Brian Noel, Sanjay Rambhia, Andrea Rose, Douglas Sekorski

The Secondary Mathematics Department views instruction within our discipline as crucial to the academic and social development of students, their readiness for post-secondary education, and their ability to position themselves for opportunities they will encounter within the 21st Century landscape. We subscribe to a standards-based approach that affects a balance between the development of conceptual understandings and mathematical skills. Our philosophy is grounded within four key areas: high expectations for all learners, promotion of inquiry and conjecture, reasoning and sense making, and habits of mind.

The Conard Mathematics Department welcomes two new members who are joining us in the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Noah Mealy is teaching Algebra I and Algebra II. He holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Connecticut. He is very excited to return to Conard HS this year after assuming the classes of a department member on a leave of absence last year. Mr. Doug Sekorski is teaching Pre-Algebra and Algebra II. He is a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut earning both a Bachelor's and Master's of Science degree in Mathematics and Mathematics Education. In addition, we are very proud of Mrs. Jackie Corricelli who recently won the Presidential Award for Excellent in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She visited the White House in late July for the award ceremony.

It was wonderful to meet so many of you last week at our Open House. We look forward to working with you and your child this year.



*Dr. Michelle Graveline,
Mathematics Department
Supervisor, Conard HS*

The Conard English Department



The teachers of the Conard English Department welcome you to a new school year full of enriching opportunities. Students in grades nine through twelve are engaged in

the first reading and writing tasks of the year, and all reports from the teachers indicate that students are enthusiastic about their new classes and the learning experiences we have planned for them. By now you should have received an expectations letter from your student's English teacher. This letter should acquaint you with the policies and procedures of the class along with a potential reading list for the year. If you have not received a copy of the expectations letter, please send a note to your child's teacher through email or PowerSchool and they will respond with an electronic or hard copy of the guide to their classroom.

Students should be bringing home work on a daily basis for English language arts, and we encourage you to engage them in a discussion of what they are reading or working on. All of the English teachers at Conard encourage students to read independently as a practice of lifelong learning, so you will want to check with your student on his or her progress. I was encouraged to see many of the English classrooms filled on Curriculum Night, September 16. If you were not able to make it to Conard that night, I encourage you to contact your student's English teacher and begin an ongoing conversation that supports the learning in the English classroom. We will be having Parent Conferences later this fall, but I would encourage you to ask for a meeting sooner if you have any questions or concerns about your students' progress before then. If you have an immediate concern about your student's placement in a course or about their academic progress, please contact me directly at 860-929-5053 or email me at tom_paleologopoulos@whps.org.

Tom Paleologopoulos, English Department Supervisor, Conard High School

The World Language Department

2015 CONARD LATIN EXAM WINNERS

The 2nd Annual Conard Classics Awards Ceremony was held on Friday, June 5th. Organized by Mr. Neumaier, World Language Department Supervisor, it honored 119 students: 58 National Latin Exam Award Winners, 60 Connecticut State Latin Exam Winners, and 1 National Greek Exam Winner.

NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

The National Latin Exam was given in March to over 140,000 students in all 50 states and 20 countries. This 40 question exam tests reading, comprehension, grammar, derivatives and Roman history and culture. To win an award, a student must get about 30 correct – the more correct, the higher the award. There were more Winners this year than in years past.

GOLD – SUMMA CUM LAUDE



L-R: MR. JACOBS, LEAH DOLLAR (PERFECT PAPER)-1, ANNA BAKER-1, JAMIE KUROWSKI-1, MARYONNA SHAMONEI-1, BRYCE HALTER-2, LEAH KELLY-2, MR. COLEMAN

SILVER – MAXIMA CUM LAUDE

CHLOE HENNINGER-1, MAEVE O'SHEA-1, KATHERINE GREGORY-1, MAGDELENA GRABBER-1, LAUREN VITELLI-1, HAKEEM BROWN-1, LEAH NGUYEN-1
ALYSSA ALFORD-1, MICAELA ECKETT-1, DIANA FESTA-1, ABIGAIL GOSSELIN-1, MELANIE ROCA-1

SILVER – MAXIMA CUM LAUDE

NICOLE SOUZA-2, ALEXANDER KRASON-2, HUNTER NAGER-2, AJAY JAGJIVAN-2, SAM MORGAN-2, ANDRE COSTA-2, JORDANA GRAVELEY-2

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

JAWAD KALEEM-2, MAYA FLORES-1, JAMIE HUNT-1, ZACHARY LAGANA-1, HANNAH AVENA-2, KEITH BEADLE-1, ROSA-MARIA DIEZ-2, ELEANOR DUVA-1, AVA KARP-2, JOEL LOPEZ-1, ANDREW OLMSTEAD-3, NORA POLLICELLI-1, AIDAN STABNICK-1, ALANNA UTHGENANNT-2, HAROLD WALKER-2

CUM LAUDE

REBEKAH KIM-1, DANIEL DACUNHA-2, JACOB RYOR-2, YASH NAIR-1, CASEY SHANE-1, MYCAH JOHNSON-2, ELIZABETH D'ANDREA-1, MICHAEL FERNANDEZ-2, GWENDOLYN GEISLER-2, FAITH HAVERTY-2, CHARLES HOSEK-1, LOVELEEN KAUR-2, PAIGE PIERCE-2, LEAN PROIETTI-1, JACKSON STARR-1, BRANDON STEINER-2, MICHAEL SISTI-3

CONNECTICUT STATE LATIN EXAM

The Connecticut State Latin Exam was given in April to 2000 students statewide. This 25 question exam tests reading, comprehension, and grammar-in-context. To win an award a student must score above the 75th percentile – the higher the percentile, the higher the award. There were more Winners this year than in years past.

GOLD – SUMMA CUM LAUDE



L-R: MR. JACOBS, HUNTER NAGER-2, ANNA BAKER-1, ANDRE COSTA-2, LEAH KELLY-2, NICOLE SOUZA-2, MARYONNA SHAMONEI-1, MR. COLEMAN, LAUREN VITELLI-1, MELANIE ROCA-1, DYLAN TURNER-1

SILVER - MAGNA CUM LAUDE

MAYA FLORES-1, MAEVE O'SHEA-1, CHLOE HENNINGER-1, SAM MORGAN-2, JAMIE HUNT-1, YASH NAIR-1, AJAY JAGJIVAN-2, ZACHARY LAGANA-1, LEAH DOLLAR-1, ALYSSA ALFORD-1, BRYCE HALTER-2, MYCAH JOHNSON-2, HANNAH AVENA-2, JAMIE KUROWSKI-1, KATHERINE GREGORY-1, MAGDELENA GRABBER-1, BERGEN BATTISTON-2, KEITH BEADLE-1, MICAELA ECKETT-1, ANDREW HOLLERBACH-3, LOVELEEN KAUR-2, NORA POLLICELLI-1

BRONZE – CUM LAUDE

LEAH NGUYEN-1, MACKENZIE BRINK-1, RYAN BELL-2, ELIZABETH D'ANDREA-1, ELEANOR DUVA-1, DIANA FESTA-1, JORDANA GRAVELEY-2, FAITH HAVERTY-2, HAROLD WALKER-2

CUM DIGNITATE

REBEKAH KIM-1, JACOB RYOR-2, SAM BOURQUIN-1, ALEXANDER KRASON-2, GILLIAN HAVERTY-1, THOMAS LINK-2, OLIVIA STARR-2, BRANDON STEINER-2, ALANNA UTHGENANNT-2, LUKE FLEGE-3, EVE GILLES-3, ANDREW OLMSTEAD-3, SYED KALEEM-3, PETER CARONE-3, DEREK EHLE-3, LOUISA GILLETT-3, AVA KARP-3, SARAH MAHON-3, CHRISTOPHER O'SULLIVAN-3, MICHAEL SISTI-3

NATIONAL GREEK EXAM – CUM LAUDE

MICHAEL HENNESSEY-2

Greetings from the Conard Library, Your Learning Commons!

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We look forward to working with students and staff this year to help them in any way we can, suggesting resources for research, integrated technology projects, independent reading, and so much more!

The library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 7:00 am - 4:00 pm, Wednesday 7:00 am - 3:00 pm, and Friday 7:00 am - 2:15 pm. These hours include the after school Homework Center (there is no homework center on Friday) To come to the library, students may either show their SRP card, or get a pass from a teacher.

Part of the library media curriculum includes teaching students how to be effective and efficient researchers, to become active learners, and to promote digital citizenship.

Here are some of our newest and most useful databases for the Conard community:

[*JSTOR*](#) is a digital library that includes more than 2,000 academic journals, books, and primary sources. This is the premier database used at colleges and universities for scholarly articles, and we are excited to be able to offer this resource to our high school students.

Students will need to get the username and password from a library staff member. [SIRS Issues Researcher](#) is a useful resource for leading issues of the day. It includes pro/con articles, viewpoint essays, and graphics such as charts, graphs, and political cartoons. Special features include historical maps of the United States and the world. The articles in this database are especially good for social studies, science, and language arts, and are a great resource for test practice. To access this resource from home, go to www.proquestk12.com/myproducts (click SIRS Knowledge Source). Call or email us for the username and password.

All databases can be accessed outside of school. Students will need the handout of passwords from the library since passwords cannot be posted online. All database articles can be emailed, translated, have the citation formatted, and most articles can be read to you! A complete list can be found on the library website's [database page](#).

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions!
[Kelly Casey](#) and [Rachel Tonucci](#), Library Media Specialists

kelly_casey@whps.org, 860-231-5000 x6137
rachel_tonucci@whps.org, 860-231-5000 x6136

THE ART DEPARTMENT

The Conard Art Department is off to a great start this 2015-16 school year with highly motivated art students who are already producing high quality art projects!



All of last year's art students had a hand in creating our impressive showcase which was part of our commencement. We used the chair as a visual metaphor for our Conard art community, our sense of belonging as well as our diversity and creative individuality.



Advanced Placement art students, Alexa Stansfield and Zach Mega volunteered to help paint the new Conard logo on the cafeteria wall. They even came in when school was

closed to finish up the fine details of the project. Other students helping paint the new logo were Elijah Hollens and Gretchen Hambrecht.



The Conard Art Department is considering a field trip to the Clark Museum and Williams College Museum in November.

Our advanced art students are participating with West Hartford Art League (WHAL) in a presentation by young artists currently exhibiting their work in the 'Emerging Artists' exhibition at WHAL. We will be joining Hall art students for a gallery talk on September 30 after school.

Art student, *Tiffany Wang*, and her mother, Charlene have been invaluable assistants, volunteering their time and energy to assist Ms. Kennedy in her sculpture installation on Governors Island, in New York City. This is a unique artist residency and installation on National Historic site which was once a military base. Many thanks to Tiffany and Charlene both for helping bring the creative process to the public!



The reception for this event is on September 27 on Governors Island, NY.



The Athletic Department

Fall sports are in full swing!

Daily schedules can be found on the Conard website or downloading the CIAC mobile app. Game cancellations and postponements are updated after 12:30 p.m. on the website. Practice changes are determined by the individual coaches.



Follow us on Twitter! @CHSWHAthletics

Winter sports registration will be accepted online from November 1st until November 15th. Online registration can be found by going to whathletics.org.

NURSES NOTES



Welcome to what we hope will be a *healthy* year at Conard High School. In the nurses' office, we try to engage students in

learning to increase their self-assessment skills related to their physical and emotional health. Please encourage your child to come to the nurses' office if they are not feeling well. We will always allow students to call a parent.

Illness Policy: Regular school attendance is important for optimal learning. However, a mere presence at school does not ensure effective learning. A student must be feeling well in order to maximize the learning experience. In addition, a child who is sick and comes to school may spread the illness to other students and staff. It is recommended that a child remain home if the following conditions are present:

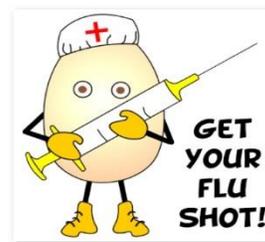
- **Fever:** The child should remain at home with a fever greater than 100 degrees. *The child can return to school* after he/she has been fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine such as Tylenol or Motrin).
- **Diarrhea/Vomiting:** A child with diarrhea and/or vomiting with a loss of

appetite and/or fever should stay at home until symptom-free for 24 hours.

- **Other Conditions:** Please feel free to call the Conard nurses at 860-929-5015 if you have questions about whether it is appropriate for your teen to be kept home.

Grade 10 Health Forms: If you have not yet turned in a physical exam report for your 2015-2016 Grade Ten student, please do so as soon as possible.

Medications: Students are not allowed to carry any medications in school, except for inhalers and Epipens which can be carried with a doctor's order. The nurses can administer medications when a Medication Administration Form is completed by the physician and parent.



Flu Shots: Flu season is approaching so remember to schedule your flu shots soon! The CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine for everyone age 6 months or older.

Although some of the viruses may be different from what is in the vaccine, the CDC reports that the vaccine can still minimize flu symptoms. Remember that the best way to prevent the flu (and other virus illnesses) is to wash your hands frequently and to avoid touching your face.

It is also important to remember that prescription antiviral drugs can be used to treat flu illness and to prevent serious flu complications. Treatment works best when begun within 48 hours of getting sick, and can make your illness milder and shorter. For this reason, it is advised that you call your primary care provider when you first feel you have the flu.

Go to cdc.gov/flu for more information.

Conard has two full time nurses, Beth Vossler and Mary Andrews. Please feel free to call us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to working together to encourage our students make healthy choices.

Senior Class Board

Do you shop at Stop & Shop? If so, please support Conard's Senior Class Board's Stop & Shop Fundraiser. Buying a \$50 (or more depending on your needs) Stop & Shop gift card not only covers the cost of your daily grocery shopping but it also helps the Senior Class Board. 1-5% of proceeds will go towards lowering the cost of Prom. The Stop & Shop gift cards are sold in increments of \$50. Please support the Senior Class Board by purchasing a gift card which will also pay for your next grocery trip to Stop & Shop! Deadline for ordering is Monday, November 2nd.

For more info and how to support the Senior Class Board, please contact Josie M at [860-561-4354](tel:860-561-4354) or jcmccormick333@gmail.com

Thanks for your support!