

# Hill Regional Career H.S. Parent Newsletter

January/February 2014-Volume I

Publicity Committee: PTSO

Editor: Parent Liaison

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."

# 2014

## From The Desk of: Madeline Negrón

Dear Career Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s),

I hope that you enjoyed a relaxing holiday season in the company of all your loved ones! It is hard to imagine but the end of the first half of the academic year is upon us. Our students have been balancing their academic work and their extra-curricular activities as demonstrated by the significant number of students who earned Honors at the end for the first marking period. In addition, approximately three quarters of our school population has been taking full advantage of the variety of programs that are made available through our BOOST! resources. Our students have also allocated time to support their school community and community at large by volunteering their services and organizing fundraisers to support others in need. I cannot stress enough how fortunate I am to be working with such a wonderful group of students.

The implementation of the Senior Capstone Project is now a reality. On Friday, January 17, 2013, the first group of senior students will be presenting their projects before a panel. These students have been working diligently throughout the first semester to arrive at this point. Their journey began with the submission of a clear proposal outlining their expected outcomes. Students then documented their progress through completion of a weekly journal, and now will finally have the opportunity to make a formal presentation in which they will highlight their reflections and what they've learned through the process.

In the months ahead, we will continue to work closely with our students to support them in their academic goals. Once again this year we will be participating in SAT School Day. On Wednesday, February 26, 2014, all junior students will be administered the SAT during the regular school day. Our sophomore students will be taking the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) in the subject of Science only. As many of you are aware, the state has now moved to the Common Core State Standards and as we make the transition to the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing, the CAPT English and Mathematics will not be administered to sophomores this year. On the other hand, since we are one of the districts who will be participating in the administration of SBAC pilot tests this spring, a randomly selected group of juniors will be taking the SBAC in English and in Math.

In addition to their course work, all our students are in the process of compiling their 21<sup>st</sup> century academic portfolios. By the end of January, all freshmen and sophomore students should have a total of three artifacts in their portfolios and all junior and senior students should have a total of four artifacts in their portfolios. In addition, all students should now be familiarized with the Naviance tool which has been presented in Advisory classes.

On behalf of my entire staff, I want to thank you for your support during the first half of the school year. We look forward to a successful second semester of school.

Sincerely,

*Madeline Negrón, Ph.D.*

Principal

## Mid-Year Exam Schedule

### Monday, January 13, 2014

Period 1B exam 8:00 – 9:45

Period 2B exam 10:00 – 11:45

**Makeup exams 12:30 – 2:15**

### Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Period 1A exam 8:00 – 9:45

Period 2A exam 10:00 – 11:45

**Makeup exams 12:30 – 2:15**

### Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Period 3B exam 8:00 – 9:45

Period 4B exam 10:00 – 11:45

**Makeup exams 12:30 – 2:15**

### Thursday, January 16, 2014

Period 3A exam 8:00 – 9:45

Period 4A exam 10:00 – 11:45

**Makeup exams 12:30 – 2:15**

**Special Note:** During exam dates, the cafeteria will only be open for breakfast

**Dismissal: 11:45am**

## PTSO Meeting

### Wednesday, January 15, 2014

5PM- 6:00PM Meeting

5:15 - Refreshments

Place: School Library

Topic: College Summit and New Haven Promise

*College Summit has been named one of 100 Top Nonprofits by Social Impact Exchange!*

PTSO Co-Presidents:

Eileen: (203-675-2151)

[bakerteam04@gmail.com](mailto:bakerteam04@gmail.com)

Terry: (203-415-8363)

[terry.reese@yale.edu](mailto:terry.reese@yale.edu)

## **CAPSTONE**

(Graduation Requirement)

Friday, January 17 will be an early release day as well for the purpose of the Senior Capstone Project presentations. All students will be released at 12 noon with the exception of 69 seniors who will be scheduled to make their presentations.

## **REPORT CARD CONFERENCE 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period**

**Thursday  
January 30, 2014**

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

### **PowerSchool**

A View from both Sides  
Lisa Bryson, Business Teacher

As a parent & teacher

As a parent of 3 students in the North Haven Public school system, I have been a PowerSchool user since they rolled it out about 5 years ago. When it was first introduced, I witnessed some of the growing pains that we are now experiencing here in New Haven. From the school side, some teachers embraced the system right away and kept their grade-books up-to-date. Other teachers had difficulty switching to an electronic grade-book and only updated grades at the midpoint of the term and for final grades. From the parent side, some parents loved the system and logged in everyday! Other parents waited for the progress

reports in the mail, and contacted teachers with concerns. It took a few years for teachers and parents to transition to the new system, but it did happen! I firmly believe it will happen in New Haven too! As a parent, I see PowerSchool as a tool to enhance communication with my child's teachers. By checking on their grades weekly, I am more aware of what is happening in their classrooms. I have the information I need to talk to my children about their schoolwork. Now, our dinner conversations are not just "How was your day?", but instead "I saw that you did great on that science lab you were working so hard on!" Also, since my children know that I check PowerSchool, when they say "I don't have any homework tonight", it's more likely to be true!

Another way that PowerSchool enhances my communication with the school is through email. When parents create accounts in PowerSchool, they are asked to enter a valid email. Now, I get frequent emails from my children's' teachers, giving me a heads up about what is going on in class.

"Parents—just a quick reminder that the fieldtrip to the science center is next Wednesday—students will need a bag lunch"

Or

"Parents—On Wednesday, students will be taking their first unit test. Please encourage them to stay after on Tuesday if they need some help."

I've also found that PowerSchool has provided a starting point to some really meaningful conversations with teachers.

When my child was frustrated by a grade, I had the information to be able to talk to the teacher about the grade and better understand

the expectations. Sometimes, one "off" grade in a grade-book can help initiate a conversation. "I see that he did not receive full credit on the last few homework assignments. Do you think he is struggling with the material or is he just not making homework a priority?"

Some final thoughts from a parent's perspective: View PowerSchool as one tool in your parenting toolbox. Set up your account, enter your email and logon once a week or so. Talk to your child about what you see....Good and Bad! Contact teachers with any concerns or comments.

FYI! PowerSchool has an APP for your Smartphone's and it's free! Be sure to get the one for parents, not for students.

### **Progress Reports/Report Cards**

Student progress reports were mailed home before the Christmas break. If you have not received it in the mail please call or come by the school. A progress report can offer parents insight into their child's academic success or area of improvement. Students in need of improvement have a few weeks to improve their performance and grade – so please review the progress reports with your student.

The 2nd marking period Report Card Conference is schedule for January - a little earlier than normal - it's usually scheduled in February. Please mark your calendar for Thursday, January 30, 2014 for report card pick-up and teacher conferences.

## Changes in the Business Dept

Next the year will be an exciting year for our business students and teachers. We have decided to make several changes to support our continued goal of giving our students a solid foundation in business education. The following new courses will be offered: Business Law, Fashion Merchandising, Business Concepts and Careers, Hospitality & Tourism, and Advanced Computer Concepts. Courses we will continue to offer are Accounting I, Accounting II, Marketing I, Marketing II, Computer Applications 1, Web Design, Personal Finance. With all these changes we have decided to discontinue our partnership with the National Academy Foundation. Look for more new courses in the years to come as we continue to change to keep current with the Business World!

## Career Service and BOOST!

Ms. Huckabey @ 203-946-5845

- Youth at work applications are printed and available in the BOOST! office/ they are also available on the Naviance webpage
- Programs coming in the spring: Walk In My Shoes Fashion Club, Belly Dancing, Art Club, Hip Hop Dance
- Programs that will still run and could use new faces: Boxing, Zumba, and F.A.M.E.
- BOOST! Office is always looking for assistance from our parents; If any parents have any experience with grant writing- we could use your help! Many of our new afterschool programs are non-profit and work with us to continue providing

programming for our students but we are currently working together to sustain our programs and ensure they continue running for years to come. If you have any advice or wouldn't mind working with our BOOST! teams please feel free to contact us.

- Reminder: Junior and Senior students should apply for the Bank of America Internship program by January 31st – students can apply at [www.bankofamerica.com/student-leaders](http://www.bankofamerica.com/student-leaders)
- Student Participation (Highlights): Five students from Career High School were selected to participate in the Yale New Haven Hospital Business and Health Internship program. Please congratulate Lizmarie Serrano, Paola Medina, Michelle Guaman, Michelle Cardenas and Widnelly Cruz.
- A few selected business students will also have the opportunity to learn a new skill in web development with Yale University. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a course on Ruby on Rails this semester starting January 29th. Wish them luck

## GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Counselors

Mrs. Drummond

946-5845 x 3108

Last Name A – L, Grades 10-12

Ms. Aronoff

946-5845 x 3131

Last Name M – Z, Grades 10-12

Ms. Esteves - 946-5845 x 3196

9th Grade Only

Note: Wednesday, February 26th during period's 1, 2 and 3 New Haven Public Schools will administer the SAT test during the school day for all current juniors. The remainder of the students will have a normal school day.

## Seniors

- To meet graduation requirements, every student in the class of 2014 must earn 28 credits. Every senior must complete 20 hours of community service. 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.

- It is extremely important that you pay very close attention to returning all necessary and important materials to colleges by the deadlines 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 search through the list of scholarships available on Naviance. 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 2014 – H.S. Code #070488. See counselors for upcoming dates for SAT, ACT and AP Exams

- Register for the SAT on-line @ [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

### Juniors

- Every junior will take the SAT during the school day on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. There are also SAT dates available in March, May and June.

- 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'/training programs' requirements and costs

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

- Parents of juniors should speak with 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. This can positively impact SAT scores.

### Sophomores

- Highly motivated 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 junior 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.

### **CT Health Insurance**

For information and help completing the application for Health Insurance – please call:

1-(800)-805-4325 or visit:

Access Health CT walk-in center at 55 Church St, New Haven, Ct

Hours:

Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm;

Sat: 10-4pm;

Sun: 12pm-4pm

### **EVENTS**

Early Dismissal – Mon., January 27

Report Card Conference - Thursday, January 30

Magnet School Application Feb. 3 – School Choice Guide and online applications open & available

Feb. 5 – Citywide Magnet Fair at the Floyd Little Athletic Center (6-8 p.m.)

Feb. 8 – Inter-district Magnet Fair at Hill Regional Career High School (12-2 p.m.)

Feb. 10- March 7 – Open houses

Feb. 26 – Kindergarten Fair at Floyd Little Athletics Center from (6-8 p.m.)

March 14 – Application deadline

April 9 – School Lottery



**Don't forget - the deadline to receive the EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT is Friday, January 31st!**

**For more more information and to download an application please visit the [Shubert Theater & Arts Camp Website](#) or call 203.691.2439 The Shubert Theater and Arts Camp is sponsored by The David A. Beckerman Foundation Visit the [Shubert's website](#) for a full listing of events.**

## CITYSEED



### FIRST INDOOR WINTER FARMERS' MARKET!

We have a lot to share this week, so bear with us!

### The INDOOR WINTER MARKET EVERY SATURDAY

January 11th - April 26th  
10am-1pm  
at the

Metropolitan Business Academy (MBA)

located on 115 Water Street, New Haven, CT 06511

## 18th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy of Environmental and Social Justice 2014

### FREE

The Yale Peabody Museum, 170 Whitney Avenue, will host its 18th annual *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Legacy of Environmental and Social Justice*

Sunday, January 19,  
12pm to 4:30 p.m.,  
Monday, January 20,  
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On Sunday, January 19th, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm, teens from the Yale Peabody Museum's EVOLUTIONS After School Program will host their 5th annual event celebrating the legacy of Dr. King. In this interactive workshop, teens from around Connecticut will come together to understand the role of food and health in social justice, and define the role that they can play to resolve issues of food justice within our communities.

On Sunday, January 19, from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Jacqui Patterson will give a talk on "Another Way Is Possible: Forging a Path to Preserving a Sustainable Planet."

An important component of this celebration is our Zannette Lewis Environmental and Social Justice Community Open Mic and Poetry Slam, on Monday, January 20, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Community Open Mic is an exciting aspect of our festival that gives people a unique opportunity to honor the spoken word legacy of Dr. King by sharing original poetry. The Poetry Slam includes well-known poets from around the United States. Volunteers are still needed at the Peabody for either day of the MLK celebration. Please contact Mary by e-mail at [peabody.volunteers@yale.edu](mailto:peabody.volunteers@yale.edu), or phone (203) 432-3731