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# Hill Regional Career Magnet High School

140 Legion Avenue, NH, CT 06519

# PARENT NEWSLETTER

September 2016 Volume 1, Issue 1

**Administrative Staff:**

Dr. Zakia Parish, Principal  
Mr. Steve Ciarcia, Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Mia Edmonds-Duff, Assistant Principal  
Ms. Bridgette Corcoran, AP Intern  
Ms. Julia Webb, AP Intern  
(475)-220-5000 - Fax: 203-946-5949

1	Letter from Administration Career PTSTO
2	Letters from Admin (continued) School Counseling
3	Career Service Advanced Placement
4	Future Project Library Media Center Panther's Pride

**Meet The Teacher Night**  
**Wed., Sept., 28, 2016**  
**5:30-7:30PM**  
**Academic/Community Fair**  
**5:00PM Main Libby**

**Panther s' PRIDE:**

Career's Code of Conduct

- **Preparedness** (Be ready to learn),
- **Respect** (Treat yourself and others the way you want to be treated),
- **Integrity** (Exercise honesty and character),
- **Discipline** (Maintain focus, motivation and self-control), and
- **Excellence** (Strive to be at your best)

✓ No School:

- 10/3 Rosh Hashanah
- 10/10 Columbus Day
- 10/12 Yom Kipper
- 10/24 Early Dismissal

- ✓ October 1<sup>st</sup> SAT test - late online registration deadline Sept. 20
- ✓ Oct. 19 - PSAT Exam - Grades 9 - 11 – @7:45am

**From The Desk of: Dr. Zakia Parrish**

Dear Parent/Guardians and students:

What a wonderful start we've had to the 2016-2017 school year! We had an amazing "Fresh Start" Day with our 9<sup>th</sup> graders, who spent September 1<sup>st</sup> getting to know all our staff, some of our upperclassmen student leaders and one another. The "C-day" schedule on September 2<sup>nd</sup> allowed all students the opportunity to meet all of their academic teachers and spend some extended time with their advisory groups. After such a strong start we are energized and looking forward to the upcoming school year!

We are dedicated to increasing student achievement through academics and character development. Students at Career will be challenged this year to think creatively and critically, collaborate with peers, analyze multiple pieces of information and express themselves in a variety of ways. Our mission at Career is to "prepare students to be thoughtful, productive, and contributing members of their communities with coursework emphasizing Business, Technology, Health, and the Sciences." The integration of 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills into the curriculum will provide students with the skills they need to become productive and responsible citizens.

We hope that you will become an active part of the Career High School community by participating in our School Planning and Management Team (SPMT), which meets on the **second Tuesday of every month** from 2:30 until 3:30. We also invite you to become a part of our PTSTO, so please contact Ms. Vernetta Smith, our Parent Liaison, at 475-220-5022 for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community and we look forward to seeing all of you on **September 28<sup>th</sup>** for Meet the Teacher Night.

looking forward to working collaboratively with the new Principal and staff to keep parents informed and students engaged.

**CAREER PARENT ROOM /PTSTO**  
(Parent Teacher Student Org)

As the Parent Liaison for Career I send a warm welcome to all of our new and returning families! As always, the PTSTO is really

We look forward to greeting at Meet The Teacher night - Wed., Sept. 28 from 5:30-7:30PM. Immediately before you meet



with teachers we will host our annual Academic/Community FAIR @ 5:00PM - located in the main lobby. Please plan on attending the FAIR and Meet the Teacher night to get to know all staff and see what we offer at Career.

PTSO Membership -

Membership is only \$5.00 per family per year.

The goal of the PTSO is to create a non-judgmental, inclusive environment for you. Please don't be shy about joining the committees - and its okay if you can't make every meeting, join us when you can.

We would love to have you fill those positions with your enthusiasm, fresh ideas, fundraising ideas and creativity. Remember fill in where you can!

As soon as a new Executive Board is selected, the meeting dates will be available via email, newsletter and on the website.

For information or to volunteer please call me, Ms. Vernetta Smith in the parent room @ 475-220-5022 or email [vernetta.smith@nhboe.net](mailto:vernetta.smith@nhboe.net).

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."**

*Helen Adams Keller*



**MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT**  
**Wednesday, September 28**  
**5:00PM Information Fair**  
**5:30 – 7:30PM**

### **Mia Edmonds- Duff, AP**

I am the Administrator for the Junior class and I am excited about all that your students will experience this year. This year I sent my son and daughter off to college and I realize more than ever how important Junior year is in terms of preparing for the



college application process. Stay informed by communicating with your student's

teachers, guidance counselor, Principal, Parent Liaison and PTO President. Check the website for important updates.

- Make sure your contact information is updated so that you can receive important announcements via email, text, Parentlink (our automated phone communication) or mail.
- Make sure you gain access to your student's academic performance by using Powerschool to monitor their grades and also access the Naviance system which supports the college application process.
- Help your students to relax, stay focused and enjoy the year.

There are a plethora of opportunities for your students and we are here to educate and support them in their endeavors. If you have any questions or suggestions don't hesitate to reach out to us so that we may steer you in the right directions.

**ADVISORY** - Advisory class is a course that teaches students many skills that will help them to succeed in a high school environment and also helps them to prepare for life beyond high school. Each student meets their advisor every Wednesday to discuss social and academic goals. This is an ideal setting for students to connect with a teacher to discuss their ideas, concerns, hopes and aspirations. Their advisors will focus on teaching study skills, organizational skills, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. The advisory class is not optional it is required so please make sure your student arrives to school on time and participates fully in advisory class. Parents, you can gain access to the Naviance online system with a username and password so you can learn more about the program. Our goal is to prepare students to be successful learners by encouraging and supporting them throughout their education.

**HELLO!**

### **Mrs. Julia Webb, AP Intern**

I am thrilled to be back at Career! I am serving as the 10th grade administrator, and my door is always open to students and families. My own daughter is starting first grade in New Haven, and I want for our students at Career what I want for her: to feel as supported in social and emotional growth and truly engaged in all our academics and activities.

## SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPT

Our three full-time counselors are excited to welcome students and parents back to school and we're looking forward to a great year!

We're also happy to introduce our new counselors, Ms. Rice and Mrs. Huckabey.

All counselors are located in the Counseling Suite on the first floor and are assigned to the following students:

Ms. Huckabey – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Tel #: 475-220-5029

Ms. Rice - Grades 10 – 12  
Last names A – L  
Tel #: 475-220-5026

Ms. Schock - Grades 10 – 12  
Last names M – Z  
Tel #: 475-220-5028

We encourage all students and parents to make full use of their access to students' class assignments and grades in PowerSchool. PowerSchool logins for parents and students were attached to the student schedules distributed at orientation in August, along with directions for creating an account and resetting passwords.

During September, all seniors will have an initial meeting with their counselor in small groups regarding the college process. Individual follow-up meetings will continue as needed for each senior. Parents of seniors who would like to participate may call their child's counselor to schedule a meeting.

All students in grades 9-11 will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> in their advisory classrooms beginning at 7:45 am.

Latecomers will not be able to take the test so please assist your child in arriving to school on time. More information to come!

Seniors should register online to take the SAT in October or November in order to have new scores ready to send to colleges this fall. This should be at least their second set of scores since they took the SAT in school last March. Now, students will take the test on a Saturday morning starting at 7:30 and ending around 12:30, at a test site they choose online. Eligible students may request a fee waiver from their counselor and are able to use the waiver until the late registration deadline. Early registration is best in order to get the test site of your choice. Your senior should pay close attention to the dates below, which are also posted in Guidance. The test is also given on December 3rd and January 21st. All of this information is also available on the CollegeBoard.org website.

October 1st SAT test - late online registration deadline September 20

November 5th SAT test - registration deadline October 7 and late online deadline Oct 25.



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The AP Course Contracts will be distributed to students on September 12th & 13th. The contract is available to view on [www.careerhighschool.org](http://www.careerhighschool.org).

Here are some highlights:

- Each student must submit a 2016-17 Alternative Income Survey or they are responsible to pay the \$84 for the exam.
- Students are required to take the AP Exam for each course they are enrolled in. Failure to do so will result in an obligation of \$100.
- Students need one contract per AP class
- Contracts must be on the bright yellow paper
- AP testing will occur May 1-12, 2017, please mark your calendars to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Students who fail to turn in the contract by the due date will be removed from the class.

Contracts are due: **September 30th**, but are expected prior to that date. If you have any question, please feel free to e-mail me at [jennifer.keith@new-haven.k12.ct.us](mailto:jennifer.keith@new-haven.k12.ct.us)



## CAREER SERVICE

### Welcome Back!!!!

Evolutions! is a free after school program for New Haven and West Haven public school students. Students interested in science, want some help preparing for college, or just needs something productive to do after school is

invited to apply. We do not make selections based upon grades- we look for students who will be enthusiastic and dedicated to the program, and those who will benefit most from the services we have to offer. This is not a program that parents should sign their child up to do. We are looking for young adults who are serious about applying and who have a strong desire to participate. We are especially looking for students who will be first in their family to go to college.

If accepted, you will be assigned to a class that takes place one day per week from 3:30-5:30 (but you can come over any time after 2:00). During class we do science trivia, SAT practice, learn about college and careers, and do hands on activities and museum exhibit projects. We also have free tutoring services, SAT practice and college essay writing workshops, monthly events where we play games, eat pizza, and network with college students, and an annual 3-day out-of-state college trip.

After one year in EVO, you can apply to work in the Sci. CORPS Youth Employment Program, where after 75 hours of community service, you can earn a paid position as Museum Interpreter. After two years, you can apply to do a paid summer lab internship with a Yale professor. Some of our graduates even work with the program during college.

Applications can be found on this page between August 1 and **September 20** of each year. You will be required to provide contact information for you and your parents/guardians, provide your grades from the previous school year (transcript not required), answer 7 essay questions, share your weekday availability, and provide 2 teacher references. Applications are available through an on-line survey, or through a paper application.

[https://yalesurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1BpXiBomzUPfLkt](https://yalesurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1BpXiBomzUPfLkt)

#### **FUTURE PROJECT, Jay Kemp,** Future Project Director.

Hello Parents,  
I am so excited to share what The Dream Team has planned this year. This year I am still committed to cultivating your child's passion, dream project, and discovery of purpose and possibility. So to help your child on their journey I have developed some incredible workshops which will be held every wed after school for Dream team members only. Along with the Dream Team workshops every Wed after school, there will be other events and programs.

First (day) week celebration  
September 1-9 - Welcomed new students and returning students to a space of power and possibility.

Meeting/Workshops August 26<sup>th</sup>  
thru June

Dream Team meetings were every wed from 2:30 to 4. That can change depending on the dream team's availability. Each meeting will support their personal projects, and development.

Panther Corner Podcast October 4<sup>th</sup> thru June

Twice a week students will be meeting at the Dream Directors office to record a 30 minute episode of Panther Corner Podcast. They will interview individuals of their choosing and provide some content exclusively for Career students. The show will be available on the school's website and other media outlets the students agree on.

Hip Hop Analytics

October 29<sup>th</sup> thru June

A workshop open for all students and staff where we do a critical analysis of artists, lyrics, and the parallels between Hip Hop culture and society today.

Black Wall Street and Family Potluck dinner February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Following the last year's success Mrs. Duff and the Dream team will once again collaborate to bring community and school community together for family fun and supporting local black owned businesses.

City wide events

Dream Team joins with other members across the city to collaborate on projects, ideas and activities for character development.

Pride Mastery Awards TBD Pride mastery awards highlight school community members that exemplified Pride in a masterful way.

#### FILM/TV PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES WANTED

I will be recruiting individuals interested in learning media production. Be sure your child sees me for more information.

#### **LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER** Marilyn Wilson, Library Media Specialist

Welcome to the 2015-2017 school year!

The Library Media Center is open daily from 7:30 – 2:15. Students will also be allowed to access the LMC during their lunch waves with a pass. All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking part in an orientation to the library during September and October. Students will be visiting the LMC with their English classes.

Parents are asked to encourage students to obtain library cards from their local libraries. Students will be able to use their public library cards in any public library in the state. The **Book Club** will meet sometime in the Fall. Dates and time TBD. Everyone is welcome to join! Look for posters and listen for the announcement for the first meeting. This year's Book Club titles are *Middlesex*, by Jeffrey Eugenides and *Gabi: A Girl in Pieces*, by Isabel Quintero.

Each month a "Literary Legend" will be promoted through a display in the Media Center. Student Media Center Aides will choose an author and present a visual glimpse into that author's life. Selected authors will represent a variety of cultural backgrounds.

#### **ROBOTICS**

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) is an exciting program that brings together 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.

Everyone in the world learns the current year's challenge on the first Saturday in January and has 6 weeks to build their robot. During build season the team meets six days a week until the stop build date in February.

Elm City Robo Squad FRC Team 558 would like to invite new members to the first meeting of the year and the showing of the movie *Wall-E*, on Tuesday, September 20, at 3 pm in room 213. This is free and open to everyone. Also there will be free refreshments! The robotics

team will meet on Tuesdays during the fall. See Ms. Scheetz in room 213 for further details.

#### **PTSO Fundraiser**

##### **Dear Career Parents/Guardians**

Please enroll your ShopRite Price Plus® card. You can enroll your \* **ShopRite** Card from October 1, 2016-April 26, 2017.

Fill out this form online @.

- ✓ <http://www.shoprite.com/shoprite-for-my-school/>
- ✓ ShopRite Customer Service Enter the school code: **17971**

#### **Helpful Tips**

##### **What is the PSAT/NMSQT?**

The PSAT/NMSQT is a preliminary version of the SAT

<https://www.ivywise.com/ivywise-knowledgebase/newsletter/article/students-guide-to-the-psat-nmsqt/>

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

##### **First Thursdays at the Peabody**

<http://calendar.yale.edu:80/events/opa/CA-L-2c9cb3cd-56d68457-0156-dc398a9b-00002266bedework@yale.edu/>

**Description:** The Peabody is keeping its doors open until 8 p.m. the first Thursday of each month through June! Free admission; donations welcome. **Start:** Thurs, Sept 1, 2016 5:00PM

**Where:** [Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History \(PM\)](#)

170 Whitney Ave., NH, CT