

---

---

# Ellington High School

---

---

Mid-December 2017

<http://ellingtonpublicschools.org>  
860.896.2352

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the students in the Treble Chorus, Chorale and Vocal Ensemble on their outstanding performance at last night's Winter Concert. Under the direction of Mr. Richard Diamond, the concert featured a closing sing-a-long that certainly put everybody in a holiday mood. Our Instrumental Winter Concert will be held on Thursday December 21st at 7:00 pm in the Gordon C. Getchell Auditorium. This concert, under the direction of Mr. Matt DeLassus, will feature the Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Steel Drum Band.



The winter athletic season is well underway and our student athletes have been preparing diligently for their games, meets, and competitions. The Ellington High School athletic program is well known for being very competitive in the NCCC. I encourage you to check our [sports schedules](#) and support our student athletes with your attendance.

At Ellington High School all students take the PSAT in grades 9, 10, and 11. As a result, the College Board provides us a list of 10th and 11th grade students who have AP Potential. AP Potential is a web-based tool that allows us to generate rosters of students who are likely to score a 3 or higher on a given AP® Exam based on their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, or SAT®. AP Potential is rooted in a long line of research showing moderate to strong correlations between PSAT/NMSQT® scores and AP Exam results, and PSAT/NMSQT scores are stronger predictors of students' AP Exam scores than the more traditional factors such as high school grades and grades in same-discipline course work. AP Potential is designed to help you and your student increase access to AP courses and to ensure that no student who has the chance of succeeding in AP is overlooked.

EHS offers a variety of AP courses for students across a wide-range of academic interests and we encourage all students to consider taking AP courses that match their personal and academic interests. Since students will be selecting courses for the 2018-2019 school year after the winter break, I will be notifying parents next week via email of those students who have been identified as having AP potential by the College Board. However, please be aware that we encourage all students to consider higher level coursework, including taking an AP course at some point in their high school years whether or not they have been identified as having AP potential. A test cannot identify all of the attributes students may have to succeed at high levels.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Neil Rinaldi  
Principal

## **THE SEASON OF GIVING**

On Saturday, December 2, a group of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) students volunteered at the Ellington Winterfest Celebration. They organized and ran a "Minute to Win It" type activity for children to compete in a variety of fun tasks, such as opening a Hershey kiss wearing oven mitts. The children and families had lots of fun, as did the high school students! FBLA members who helped with this event included Nicholas Willett, Jodi Norton, Emma Babiec, Matthew Mayne, Benjamin Heyman, Ryuan Anderson, Olivia Dutkewych, Matthew Mateya, Kaitlyn Webber, Kaitlin Berube, and Elizabeth Champeau. Visitors had lots of positive feedback for the FBLA group, and the students were proud to represent FBLA for this rewarding community service experience!

Several faculty and staff members recently participated in an after school cookie swap. In addition to the quantity baked for the cookie swap, all bakers baked at least an extra dozen. These extra cookies were combined and arranged on cookie platters for donation to the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen in Rockville. They were delivered and gratefully accepted. It was the hope that this small gesture by each baker resulted in making the day a bit brighter for all who had their evening meal there that night.

In the newsletter sent earlier this month, we provided information about the upcoming silent auction to benefit the Jacob Roger Poulin Foundation to help achieve their goal of building 4Jacob's Park. The silent auction was held last week and Mrs. Lynn Ouellet, Advisor of the Robert M. Murphy chapter of the National Honor Society, has announced that more than \$1,600 was pledged! This would not have been possible without the support of our many sponsors: EHS Class of 2018, Peer Mediators,

Guidance Department, Student Council, Opening Knight Players, Music Department, National Honor Society Officers, Food Services Staff, Main Office Staff, Multiple Abilities Program, Social Studies Department, Yearbook, Ellington Big Y, Gerry's Donuts, Holiday Restaurant, Kloter's Ice Cream Barn, Hometown Pizza, Ellington YMCA, Homestead Fuel, The Hartford Yard Goats, The Cupcake Bug, Lucky Nails of Ellington, The Hidden Still, Shop Rite of Enfield, The Scoop, and Anytime Fitness. Thank you to all who donated items to be auctioned off, stopped by to browse, or offered words of encouragement for our effort. We are most fortunate and grateful to work in such a wonderful community.

## **MUSIC NEWS**

### **Music Department to Present Winter Concert**

The Ellington High School Music Department is proud to present the following performance:



The Winter Concert featuring the Concert Band, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, and Steel Drum Band will be on Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 pm in the Gordon C. Getchell Auditorium. General admission is \$4 with free admission for senior citizens and children under five years of age. Please come out and support music in the Ellington Public Schools.

### **Invitation for Latin Students to Take the National Latin Exam**

All Latin students are invited to participate in the 2018 National Latin Exam. The National Latin Exam is a 40-item multiple-choice test that is based on what the average Latin student of their level has learned this year. Students compete against the test along with students at their own Latin level (I, II, III, IV). Over 150,000 Latin students take the exam each year. Participation alone looks great on a college application; even more so if a student scores high enough to place and earn an award. Over the years, Ellington High School has produced numerous students who have done just that.

There is a cost of \$5.00 per student to take the National Latin Exam. Students who plan to take the exam need to give Mrs. White the fee before the holiday break (cash or a check made out to EHS Activity Fund) so we can send in our registration. The exam will be given in late February or early March during the school day. The exact date, time and location of the 45-minute exam will be announced at a later date. If you have any questions regarding the National Latin Exam, email Mrs. White. You can also find information, including prior tests and practice materials, at the official National Latin Exam Website: <http://www.nle.org/>

### **AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT EHS**

In conjunction with the guidance department and the Creative Writing class, the EHS library is pleased to announce its first author event of the year, an afternoon with Connecticut young adult writer and librarian Cathy Andronik. On Friday, January 5th, Cathy will speak in the EHS library during G block to Mr. Gosselin's Creative Writing class and any other interested students about her work as a writer and as a librarian. This event offers an excellent opportunity for EHS students interested in writing, publishing, education, and library science to learn first-hand from the experiences of an expert in these fields.



Catherine M. Andronik is a teacher librarian at Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk, CT. Writing nonfiction books for children and young adults is her "second job," which she has been doing since 1989. Her books include *Wildly Romantic* (about the British Romantic poets), *Quest for a King: Searching for the Real King Arthur*, *Kindred Spirits* (a biography of L. M. Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*), *Prince of Humbugs* (a biography of P. T. Barnum),

*Hatshepsut: His Majesty, Herself* (a picture book biography of the female pharaoh of ancient Egypt), and several series titles (*Copernicus*, *Stephen Colbert*). She holds a B.A. in English from Wesleyan University and a Master's in Library Science and Instructional Technology from Southern Connecticut State University. She is working on a Ph.D. in Literature for Young Adults from Charles Sturt University in Australia. Cathy lives in Bridgeport with a flock of companion birds and spends whatever free time she can find reading, traveling, and horseback riding.

### **AMC MATH CONTEST**

The AMC Math Contest will be held on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This is a national event where students test their math skills against other high school students across the country. There are two versions of the test: one for 9th and 10th graders that covers topics through Algebra 2, and one for 11th and 12th graders that covers through Precalculus. It's a 75 minute, multiple-choice, no-calculator test, and we offer the test free of charge to those looking for a serious math challenge! You may email Mr. Melillo at [mmelillo@ellingtonschools.net](mailto:mmelillo@ellingtonschools.net) for more information, and registration is open through December 20th.

### **ATTENTION: ALL PARENTS WHO HAVE GIRLS WHO PLAY ICE HOCKEY!**

New this year! A Girls High School Hockey Varsity Co-op Team has been formed for Suffield/Ellington/Enfield. Any middle school/high school girls who are currently playing ice hockey, please have your parent(s) e-mail Tracy Lupone (team manager) at [tracyandjoe@gmail.com](mailto:tracyandjoe@gmail.com). The Girls Varsity Team is gathering a list of names of FUTURE players. Please provide the following information in your e-mail: Player Name, Town, Current School, Current Grade, Hockey Position and Current Hockey Team. We are excited about this new sports opportunity!

## **GUIDANCE DEPT. NEWS**

### **College Application Deadlines**

The guidance office will be closed during the holiday break from Friday, December 22nd at 11:35 a.m. until Tuesday, January 2nd at 7:25 a.m. Therefore, transcripts and letters of recommendations will not be available during this time period. We



recommend that seniors submit their college applications as soon as possible for a variety of reasons. Many colleges follow a practice known as “rolling admissions” where the earlier a student applies the sooner they’ll get an answer from the college, allowing them to plan and make decisions in a more timely fashion.

The guidance staff will submit student’s support materials (transcript and letters of recommendation) on-line through Naviance or mail them to colleges. Seniors are reminded that they are responsible for sending their SAT and/or ACT scores directly from the testing agency to colleges and universities.

### **PSAT**

PSAT results are now available, students can view their online score reports by logging on to their accounts at <https://studentscores.collegeboard.org/home>. Additionally, school counselors will distribute results to students. College Board offers a free online college and career planning resource for PSAT/NMSQT test-takers. All students who took the PSAT/NMSQT will receive access to connect to Khan Academy at [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat) which is a free online SAT practice. Students will receive log-in information on their PSAT/NMSQT Score Reports and will have immediate access to a rich array of college planning information. For more information, visit <http://www.collegeboard.com/student>

### **SAT**

Sign up now for the Saturday, March 10th SAT. The registration deadline is Friday, February 9th. Students can register on line at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

### **ACT**

Sign up now for the Saturday, February 10th ACT. The registration deadline is Friday, January 12th. Students can register on line [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

### **NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE**

The Ellington Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, marital status, gender identity or expression, genetic information, national/ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability including, but not limited to, intellectual disability: past or present history of mental disorder, past or present history of physical disability, past or present history of learning disability in its programs, activities, and employment practices as set forth in compliance with the Office of Civil Rights, Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Any person having inquiries concerning the Ellington Public Schools’ compliance with Title VI, Title IX and Section 504, should contact Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services at the Ellington Public Schools, P. O. Box 179, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029 or (860) 896-2300.