



Home of the Knights

MID-SEPTEMBER 2017

Ellington High School
37 Maple Street, P.O. Box 149, Ellington, CT 06029

860.896.2352
www.ellingtonpublicschools.org

Featured stories in this newsletter



Mini Conferences



Hurricane Recovery Fundraiser



Les Misérables



College Rep Visits

Dear Parent / Guardians,

I am pleased to announce that our open house was once again a big success. It was my pleasure to meet with numerous parents regarding our programs and policies. Later this week I will be sending out a survey so that we can use your feedback to improve this program.

Our first parent advisory meetings of the year will be held on Tuesday, September 26th at 7:15 am and again at 6:00 pm in the library presentation room. I strongly encourage parents to attend this meeting if possible as it is an effective way to share first-hand information about our programs and policies here at the high school. Dr. Nicol will be in attendance to gather parent feedback on the characteristics you would like to see in the new EHS principal.

Our parent-teacher mini conferences will be held on Thursday, October 12th from 6:00 pm–8:00 pm. At the mini conferences you will have an opportunity to speak one to one with your student's teachers. (Further details and information on signing up for mini conferences will be sent in a separate communication.) These events, in conjunction with my new video series entitled, The Principal's Corner, are two examples of helping develop a strong and vibrant school culture.

As many of you know we will be implementing a "Flex" block period this year. The first one will be on Monday, September 25. Please view my "Principal's Corner" video about Flex Block at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDP9F-FflzI>

Many of our extracurricular activities are in full swing. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Neil Rinaldi, Principal

Community Tag/Craft Sale

Peer Advocates For A Better Society will be hosting a Community Tag/Craft Sale on Saturday, September 23 in the front parking lot of the EHS Building. Set up begins at 7:00 am and the event will last until 1:00 pm. If you'd like to reserve a location please fill out the Google form below. Spaces are available as two parking spots for \$10, or three parking spots for \$15. If you have any questions or concerns please email lakelly@ellingtonschools.net. We hope to see you there!

Google Form: <https://docs.google.com/a/ellingtonps.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezO5HpK1YFs8TKN8UxvlKQT5-cOfpEHMeu0tSOc4qarGkhbQ/viewform>

Coaching Assistance Sought for Mock Trial Team

The EHS Mock Trial Team is looking for coaching assistance from anyone in the community who has experience in law-related fields. Students who participate on the team act as attorneys and witnesses and compete against peers from other schools to learn more about the judicial system in action and to gain some insight into career opportunities in law. They would benefit greatly from your expertise and would love to learn from you! If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Mrs. Lynn Ouellet at louellet@ellingtonschools.net.

Hurricane Recovery Fundraiser Underway

The Ellington High School National Honor Society and Student Council are teaming up to sponsor Operation Re"Cover," a fundraising effort to help the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and you are invited to participate. All donations are welcome and appreciated. For \$1.00 you can purchase a plastic coffee cup cover on which you can write your name or a message. The covers will be displayed in the EHS foyer. If you would like to participate just send your name and donation to Mrs. Lynn Ouellet, the National Honor Society advisor. Also indicate what message you'd like to have written on the coffee cup cover. Help us reach our goal of raising \$1,000 for the American Red Cross!

ECE Physics Students Seek to Defend Title in Boat Races

UCONN ECE Physics will, for the second year, be competing in the Cardboard and Duck Tape Boat Races taking place on September 27th at UCONN's Avery Point Campus in Groton, CT. (The trip was rescheduled from September 20th due to the weather forecast.) As defending champions, our Ellington High School physics students will be entering four boats in this action packed and fun learning experience. ECE Physics students work for three weeks to investigate the nature of flotation and the mathematics involved. Students engineer a boat capable of carrying an intrepid paddler around the ocean course in Groton. Finally, students communicate their learning through a video documenting the entire process as well as an assessment of their skills at measuring and calculating buoyancy.

French Students Travel to The Bushnell

We are pleased to announce that French students in levels 3-5 will have the opportunity to see *Les Misérables* at The Bushnell on Thursday, October 5th. Don't miss out on this great opportunity...there are only 48 seats available on the bus!

Students should be sure to return the completed permission slip along with a check for \$55 payable to EHS Activity Fund. Forms and checks (or cash) must be turned in to your child's French teacher no later than Thursday, September 21, 2017.

Guidance Department News

School Counselor Assignment

Each student is assigned to a school counselor by the student's last name. Students with last names beginning with A-B are with Mrs. Markowski; students with last names beginning with C to H with Mrs. O'Brien; students with last names beginning with I to PA with Mrs. Howarth and Mrs. Moeller has students with last names beginning with PE to Z.

Reminder - College Planning Night

We are at the time in their high school careers when juniors are beginning or continuing their post-high school planning. In order to help you and your student to understand the college search and application process, we encourage each junior and at least one of his/her parents or guardians to attend our **College Planning Program on Tuesday, October 3, 2017** (with a "storm date" of Thursday, October 5th). The goal of the program is to give parents and students the information they need to successfully navigate the college search process and will include a panel of college admissions representatives.

The program will begin at 6:30 pm in our auditorium and last until approximately 8:45 pm. We feel you will find this is time well spent as your family moves forward in this process.

If you have not already done so, we ask that you **RSVP** if you will be attending, as we need to prepare materials for you. **Please telephone Mrs. Aubin in the School Counseling Office at 860.896.2352 ext. 219 or e-mail her at jaubin@ellingtonschools.net no later than Tuesday, September 26th to register for the program.** We look forward to seeing you October 3rd!

Academy Nominations

Each year the CT Congressional Delegations sponsor a **Military Academy Day**. The focus of this day is for students interested in a Military

Academy to have their questions answered by various representatives from each Academy. Presently a date has not been selected for the Academy Day. Once we receive more information we will pass it on. In the meantime, below is information on the Academy Coordinators that your student would be working with:

Senator Blumenthal's Office
860.258.6940

Senator Blumenthal's application deadline is October 4th at 5:00 p.m. They will be conducting interviews on [October 21st and 22nd](#) for all candidates who submitted a complete application package by the deadline. The application and instructions are available on the Senator's website at this link: <https://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/services/academy-nominations>

Senator Murphy's Office
860.549.8463

Senator Murphy's application deadline is Monday, October 16th at 5:00 p.m. They will be conducting interviews on November 4th and 5th. Application and instructions are available via this link: <http://www.murphy.senate.gov/services/academy>

Congressman Joe Courtney's Office
860.886.0139

Congressman Courtney's application deadline is October 28th. Application and instructions are available via this link: <http://www.courtney.house.gov/academy-nominations/>

Financial Aid Workshop—Save the Date

Changes for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2018 –19 school year....students will be able to submit a FAFSA® earlier. Students will be able to file a 2018–19 FAFSA as early as October 1, 2017, rather than beginning on January 1st. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.

Therefore, the Ellington High School Guidance Department in cooperation with the University of Connecticut's department of financial aid will host its annual Financial Aid Workshop. The workshop will focus on the filing of the FAFSA. It will be held on **Monday, September 25th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the high school library.**

PSAT/NMSQT

The 2017 Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) will be administered on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at the high school during the academic school day. The test, co-sponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, is an important step in making college plans. The PSAT/NMSQT parallels the SAT. Like the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT will be based on the principle that the test should closely align with high school curricula and college skills. The total testing time for the PSAT/NMSQT is 2 hours and 45 minutes (plus approximately 45-50 minutes for administrative duties).

All freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be given the PSAT at no cost to the students. Juniors will receive the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT Student Bulletin which will provide them with helpful hints on what to expect and a practice test to get their "feet wet." If you have any further questions or concerns, please call the guidance office at 860.896.2352.

SAT

The next SAT date for the 2017-18 school year is Saturday, November 4th. The registration deadline is Thursday, October 5th. Students can register on line at www.collegeboard.org

ACT

The next ACT date for the 2017-18 school year is Saturday, October 28th. The registration deadline is Friday, September 22nd. Students can register on line www.actstudent.org

College Representatives

The season for college representative visits has begun! Over the next several months college admissions counselors from area colleges and universities are scheduled to visit Ellington High School. All students are welcome to attend whether to express interest in a college they are considering or to learn more about a college with which they are unfamiliar. The visit schedule is on the EHS website, as well as on the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office and through Naviance. Check regularly, as new schools are being added daily. Students are encouraged to sign up in order to receive a pass to the presentation.

EHS Website is a Great Source of Information for Events and Schedules

We remind parents/guardians to refer to our website frequently for information on our schedules, programs, and events. For example, you can find our monthly schedule of classes and bell schedules [here](#). Our daily bulletin is posted each morning [here](#). This information is used in the recording of our morning announcements. You'll find our current and most recent news bulletins [here](#). Don't miss our events calendar for performances, presentations, fundraisers, and other special events. You'll find it [here](#).

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.