



Home of the Knights

MID JANUARY 2017

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

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www.ellingtonpublicschools.org

Featured stories in this newsletter

Program of Studies



SAT®

Course Selection

Parent Meetings

Aquatics Workshop

SAT Practice Sessions

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that in a few weeks our freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will start to think about their course selections for next year. An integral part of the course selection process is our annually updated Program of Studies (POS) that helps students and parent/guardians create a personalized pathway to life after high school. The Program of Studies for the 2017-2018 school year will soon be posted on our website under *Publications* and also under *School Counseling Department*. Our course offerings are expanded once again this year to help meet all students' needs, giving students choice and voice to pursue their interests and achieve their goals. In addition to the courses in this booklet students will have access to over 25 extracurricular clubs and 44 athletic teams. The list of course offerings in the POS is comprehensive and includes a variety of STEM courses such as Robotics, Forensics, Earth and Space Science, and AP Computer Science principles. We now offer over 23 Advanced Placement and UConn ECE courses. I believe you will be pleased to know that Ellington High School has been named to the Advanced Placement District Honor Roll for three of the last six years. The annual AP District Honor Roll recognizes districts for increasing access to Advanced Placement course work while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Ellington High School was only one of 120 schools in the U.S. and Canada to receive this distinction. New for the 2017-2018 school year I am also pleased to announce that EHS is one of eight high schools in the state that has been approved to offer the Advanced Placement Capstone program. This course is designed to equip students with the independent research, collaboration and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. AP Seminar will be offered in grades 10-12 in 2017-2018 and AP Research in grades 11-12 starting in 2018-2019. Reaching these goals indicates that Ellington High School is successfully preparing students for rigorous coursework associated with college-level courses.

I encourage students to collaborate with their parents, guardians, teachers, and school counselor to make well-informed choices that will help them accomplish their future goals. To meet the demands of life in the 21st Century, I encourage all students to challenge themselves to pursue rigorous coursework at the highest level possible. Students should always consider, and strive towards, taking honors or AP level courses to reach their full potential. Recently I sent a letter to approximately 100 parents informing them that as a result of the fall PSAT/NMSQT scores their student(s) was most likely to succeed in identified AP courses. Data indicates that students engaged in higher level coursework have a greater likelihood of meeting success in college and career aspirations.

Our graduation policy and administrative regulations that appear on pages 4-9 should be reviewed as we are in a period of transition regarding required credits needed to graduate. The graduation policy ensures that all students are provided with a planned, rigorous, and engaging curriculum that provides support systems, resources, and time to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. The graduation policy also provides opportunities for the acquisition of essential skills and knowledge needed to attend college or begin work in a technology-based economy resulting in a meaningful high school diploma supported by common standards of quality and excellence.

It is important for all students to set high expectations and make thoughtful decisions about their coursework as an integral step in planning for their future. Questions regarding course selection should be directed to your student's school counselor.

Sincerely,

Neil Rinaldi
Principal

Parent Advisory Meetings

All parents/guardians are cordially invited to attend our upcoming parent advisory meetings to be held on Thursday, January 26 at 7:15 am and again at 6:30 pm in the library presentation room. We are offering two times in an effort to accommodate the schedules of all who would like to attend. The agenda topics will include: Vision of the Graduate, Mastery-Based Learning, Equitable Opportunities, Innovative Practices, and Personalized Learning. Refreshments will be served.

Environmental Science Students Attend Aquatics Workshop

On Saturday January 14th, six AP Environmental Science students (**Aedan Randall, Grace Hinckley, Dylan Rellis, Stella Pontius, Dan Bocchino, and Olivia Palmer**) attended an aquatics workshop at CT River Academy in East Hartford. Students worked with water resource professionals and aquatic ecologists and participated in hands-on activities including species identification of fish, insects, crustaceans using keys, and explored watershed systems and wetland environments. They learned how to protect wetland soils in Connecticut and why wetland soils and aquatic systems are so important to water conservation, including water quantity and quality.

Winter PSAT/SAT Personalized Practice Sessions at EHS

EHS is offering an after school program to help 11th grade students prepare for the Spring 2017 SAT. In this six-week program students will utilize the SAT's online resources to create their own Personalized Practice Plans to sharpen their skills in reading, writing, and math. Students will be able to work on individualized and targeted skills using the online SAT tutorials available through Khan Academy. Pizza will be provided to participants at the end of each session.

When: Wednesdays, February 1 - March 8
Time: 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm (NEW TIME!)
Where: Ellington High School, Library Media Center
Who: Current 11th Grade Students

Please register online at www.ellingtonpublicschools.org. There is no cost for participation in this program, however registration is required.

Note: The College Board and Khan Academy have partnered to provide online SAT test preparation programs and resources entirely free of charge. The intent of this afterschool program is to provide a space and time for students to use these resources including the on-line technology/computers needed.

Library Media Center News

Students are invited to join the Library Media Reading group for a book discussion of the Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd. The group will be meeting in the library presentation room on January 26 during all three lunch blocks. Students bring their own lunch and dessert will be provided. Copies of the book are available in the LMC. Students are asked to sign up in advance.

On Friday, February 10, during all three E lunch blocks, the Library Advisory Group will be meeting to discuss student participants' suggestions and concerns for making our library media center a great place. Students are invited to Join the group for pizza and to offer great feedback. Students are asked to sign up in advance.

Yearbook News

The senior section of the yearbook is off to the printers!! The yearbook staff is in need of candid pictures for the senior slide show that will be presented at Class Night. Any pictures from kindergarten to high school are welcome.

Yearbook Orders

Yearbooks are on sale for \$75. Forms are available on the school website or outside room 350. Payment can be cash or check payable to EHS Activity Fund. These are only for yearbooks that are **not** personalized. All personalized yearbooks must be ordered online directly through Jostens. A link is available below and on the yearbook page of the school website. The cost is \$75 for the book, \$5 for the student's name, and \$3 for each icon.

http://www.ellingtonpublicschools.org/uploaded/High_School_Files/Publications/Newsletters/PersPilot_Flyer.pdf

Business Ads

The deadline has been extended for Business Ads. The Ellington High School Yearbook Staff would like to offer you the opportunity to advertise your business by placing an ad in the 2017 EHS Yearbook. Please submit your ads and payment by February 20, 2017. Checks should be made out to EHS Activity Fund. Forms are available at the link below.

Full Page Ad \$500.00 Half Page Ad \$250.00 Quarter Page Ad \$150.00 Eighth Page Ad \$100.00

http://www.ellingtonpublicschools.org/uploaded/High_School_Files/Publications/Newsletters/2017_Ellington_High_School_Business_Ad_Order_Form_-_new_businesses.pdf

All ads will be in color unless specified. We have desktop publishing capability here at EHS, and are happy to assist you with your layout, or you may submit your finished ad as a .jpeg file at 300dpi.

All electronic submissions should be sent to skuehn@ellingtonps.net. All mail should be sent to: Susan Kuehn, Yearbook Advisor, Ellington High School, 37 Maple Street, P.O. Box 149, Ellington, CT 06029. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kuehn by email or at 860.896.2352 ext. 350.

Guidance Department News

SAT

Sign up now for the Saturday, March 11th SAT. The registration deadline is Friday, February 10th. Students can register on line at www.collegeboard.org

Ellington Youth Services News

In March, Youth Services will present ***Stop the Stigma: Let's Talk about The Teen Brain and Risk-Taking*** with Dr. Ruth Potee on Thursday evening, March 9, 2017 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Ellington Middle School. Come learn more about the teen and tween brain and what parents and the community can do to keep our teens safer and healthier. Dr. Potee practices family medicine in Greenfield, Massachusetts. She is the Chair of the Healthcare Solutions Opioid Task Force of Franklin County. Dr. Potee has addressed professional and community audiences throughout New England. Admission is free for the speaker series.

Upcoming Events at Hall Memorial Library

On Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 pm, licensed Washington D.C. tour guide Mariann Millard will present **Hail to the Chief**- an illustrated history of presidential inaugurations, from Washington's 1789 ceremony to Obama's January 2009 event. Through images and anecdotes she will bring to life the oath, the speech, the parade, the White House move-in, and the celebratory balls. This program is free but pre-registration at library.ellington-ct.gov is required or call the library at [860.870.3160](tel:860.870.3160) for assistance.

The 2nd annual **Mini-Golf at the Library** fundraiser for the Friends of the Library will be held on Saturday, February 4 from 10:00 am—5:00 pm. The library will be turned into a giant mini-golf course for the day, with kids and adults putting up and down the aisles, through the hallways, and even down the stairs! All holes have been sponsored by local businesses who will be building obstacles for their fairways. There will also be magicians, face

painting, a food court and a teacup raffle to complete the day. Ticket prices have been kept very low so everyone can participate in the fun.

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.