

Principal's Newsletter-February

Rotary Student of the Month-February

Congratulations to Nora Shanks who was chosen as the Rotary Student of the Month for February. Nora is a senior at Suffield High School. Nora is a member of the National Honor Society, where she has volunteered at our annual Volleyball Marathon, the Suffield River Cleanup and the NHS Blood Drive. She is also a member of the World Language Honor Society, as well as a member of the Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy. Nora has been involved with Suffield High School's Interact Club during her four years of high school, and is a member of the Executive Board. Interact Club is sponsored by the Suffield Rotary Club. The Interact Club's motto is, "Service before Self." Nora has also been a volunteer for our Homecoming Committee at Suffield High School.

Nora has been on the Suffield High School field hockey team and the lacrosse team throughout her four years at SHS. This year she was chosen as one of the Captains of the field hockey team. Nora was recently chosen as the female recipient of the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Scholar Athlete. Nora has been a Scholar Athlete during her four years of high school, which means she has maintained Honor Roll while participating in Athletics. She was part of the National Field Hockey Coaches Association National Academic Squad in 2018-2019. She was chosen as CHSCA Field Hockey-Second Team All-State in Grade 12 and was on the NCCC All-Conference Team in her junior year.

Nora has been a U-14 Field Hockey Coach at the Seekers Field Hockey Club this year. Nora helps to set up practices, helps players improve their skills, as well as helping the coach during games. In the past, Nora has worked as a Camp Counselor for Suffield Parks and Recreation, as well as a Camp Counselor at Wilbraham & Munson Academy. In her spare time, you may find Nora volunteering at Baystate Medical Center.

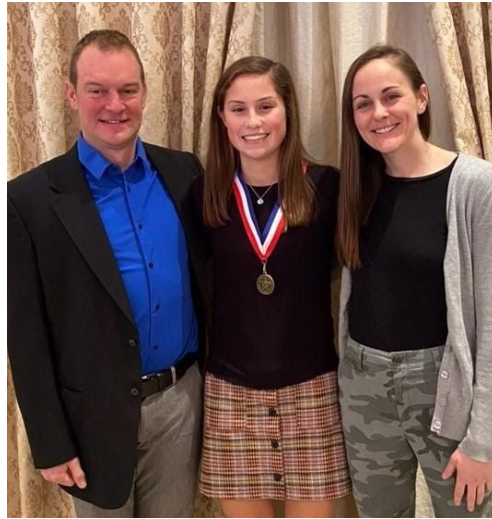
Congratulations to Nora on this well-deserved award!



Nora Shanks

Carly Matthews-Class L All-State Soccer Award

The Girls' Soccer Team, Coach Percoski, Coach Whiteley and the Suffield High School community would like to recognize Carly Matthews for receiving her Class L All-State Soccer Award this past Sunday at the Aqua Turf. Congratulations Carly! Well deserved!



Tim Percoski, Carly Matthews, Brittany Whiteley

Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award

Congratulations to Gretchen Gustafson who received the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award. HOBY is a leadership training that empowers students to become strong, compassionate youth leaders. Students will develop the confidence and skills to make them effective leaders in the home, school, and community. The HOBY Organization states, "We believe in the potential of today's youth. The HOBY mission is to inspire and prepare future young leaders for a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation. HOBY empowers young people to dream big, make an impact, and change the world. Our leadership programs are designed to prepare students to turn their ideas and goals into reality. Each program adheres to the five core HOBY values: Volunteerism, Integrity, Excellence, Diversity, and Community Partnership." Congratulations Gretchen!



Gretchen Gustafson

Connecticut Association of Schools High School Arts Award

Congratulations to Auneye' Armstrong and Veronica Partain, who were nominated by their teachers, to receive the Connecticut Association of Schools High School Arts Award. This award honors Connecticut's outstanding visual and performing arts students in the senior class. Both scholarship and leadership are also a factor when choosing students to receive this award. Auneye' was chosen for her excellence in Art and Veronica was chosen for her excellence in Poetry. Both students are invited to be recognized at a banquet at the Aqua Turf in April along with other students from the state. Congratulations to Auneye' and Veronica!



Auneye' Armstrong



Veronica Partain

Connecticut Scholars Award Program

Congratulations to Abby Halasi-Kun, who was chosen from among the junior class to receive the Connecticut Scholars Award, formerly known as the Governor's Scholars Award. This award is designed to honor the academic achievements of a select group of Connecticut high school junior year students. Students nominated must be in the top 5% of their class. The finalists will be chosen based on their PSAT scores and a timed one-hour essay. Finalists will be invited to attend the Connecticut Scholars Luncheon in May. They will receive a plaque and the opportunity to enrich their studies on a college campus before their high school graduation. Congratulations Abby!



Abby Halasi-Kun

Awards and Celebrations

Suffield High School has been awarded the AP Computer Science – Female Diversity Award. The award recognizes schools that are closing the gender gap and engaging more female students in computer science coursework in AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) and/or AP Computer Science A (AP CSA). Specifically, College Board is honoring schools who reached 50% or higher female representation in either of the two AP computer science courses in 2019, or whose percentage of female examinees met or exceeded that of the school's female population in 2019. Out of 20,000 institutions that offer AP courses, only 818 have achieved this important result.

Music Department News

The Suffield High School Band presents a Pops concert on Tuesday, February 25 in the auditorium. It will feature the Jazz Ensemble and the Band playing pop and jazz music. It begins at 7:00pm and admission is free.

Two Suffield High School students, Freshman Keith Griswold and Senior Angela Jiang performed in the Northern Regional Festival Band in January. After a day and a half of intense rehearsal with a guest conductor, they played a concert with the top student musicians in the northern region of the state. Congratulations to these two students on a job well done.



Keith Griswold

Angela Jiang

The Sound of Music

The cast and crew of our Spring Musical, The Sound of Music, under the direction of Patty Piellucci, Mary DiRoberts and Kelly Blais are preparing for the show scheduled to run March 12, 13 & 14. Special thanks to Joe Grimard for his set creation and Lori Foss for her tireless work with costumes. Please contact the school for ticket information.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Suffield High School will be hosting parent/teacher spring conferences for the first time. These conferences will take place as follows:

02/24/20	Monday Afternoon	3:00 - 4:30 PM
02/26/20	Wednesday Evening	5:30 - 7:00 PM
02/28/20	Friday Afternoon	11:10 - 2:10 PM

We may not have enough time slots to accommodate all meeting requests. If for some reason you do not have the opportunity to schedule a time, please reach out to individual teachers via PowerSchool. The link to schedule your conferences is:

<https://pickatime.com/client?ven=11608505&event=346184>

You may schedule conferences from February 7th through February 26.

Suffield Public Schools Food Service

Suffield Public Schools Food Service is pleased to introduce our new concept of a Sharing Table. The Sharing Table is a place where students can place unopened food and drinks that they choose not to eat or drink. This provides an opportunity for other students to take additional helpings of food or beverages from the Sharing Table at no cost to them. The Sharing Table is available to encourage sharing of unwanted items and prevents them from being thrown away. If a student is still hungry after finishing his or her meal, he or she may pick up items from the Sharing Table. Items from home may not be placed on the Sharing Table. For more information, please email bgashi@suffield.org.

Robotics Update - by Peter Davis and Suzanne Wosko (Advisors)

It is the last week of the build season. Below is a photo of our competition chassis and the practice chassis (Hartford Bot) on the table behind it. Suffice to say we have "miles to go before we sleep". For Robert Frost that phrase was a literary device. For us it may be a bit more literal; miles of 3D Printing, miles of aluminum chips, miles of wiring and most definitely miles and miles of code to sort through. It will all come together in the next seven days.

The vast majority of the design work is complete. The pressure is on the design team to finish fabricating the parts. The goal is to have all parts done with fabrication by the end of Wednesday night. Therefore Thursday and Friday can be used for assembly. The electronics will be laid out at that point and the belly pan will then be cut, powder coated, and assembled. All the while our new 3D Printer has been working away in the background to push out a myriad of timing pulleys and other critical parts to make this robot happen.



Pineapple Board

The Staff at Suffield High School has adopted a Pineapple Board. A Pineapple Board is a system that allows teachers to share best practice with the goal of professional growth.

Thank you to “Bushy Hill Farms” & “Back in Touch” for donating gift cards to our Pineapple Board Initiative.

Congratulations to Joe Grimard for being the winner for the month of January!

Planning 2020 -2021

We are busy planning for the 2020-2021 school year. Our goal is to have all students complete the course selection process by March 1st. When the process is complete, all families will receive an email to verify the end of the process. Continue to discuss the courses selected with your student, and contact the school counseling office if you would like to consider a change, or to schedule a meeting.

Booster Club

The Booster Club has been hard at work recently making improvements to the school store. At the recent Program of Studies Night for the Class of 2024, sales of apparel were at an all-time high. Please consider donating your time, talent, and energy to the group. The plans for spring events are ongoing, and more volunteers are needed.