



## Nonnewaug High School Seniors to Receive Connecticut Association of Schools High School Arts Awards

February 22, 2023 – Nonnewaug High School seniors Gretchen Davis and Emily Lungarini are the two recipients of Connecticut Association of Schools Arts Awards for the 2022-23 school year. Davis will receive the Visual Arts Award and Lungarini will receive the Performing Arts Award at the 28<sup>th</sup> annual CAS High School Arts Awards banquet in April.



The CAS High School Arts award honors two seniors from each Connecticut high school for their excellence in the categories of performing and visual arts, and who possess the qualities of scholarship and leadership.

“This is really a prestigious award as only two students from each high school receive this each year,” said Dr. Jason Bouchard, Region 14 School’s Director of Fine Arts. “Gretchen and Emily are ideal for this award as they are students in our arts programs here that we hope all students can emulate.”

“It’s very nice to see the hard work I put in over the past four years has really paid off,” Lungarini said. She added that the additional leadership roles like being president of the NHS Music Department, conducting and teaching students, and helping to organize music events have been amazing experiences in her high school performing arts career.

Davis said she is humbled to receive this designation. “There are so many talented, inspirational and smart students in the visual arts department at Nonnewaug and it’s such an honor to be picked for this award,” she said. Davis, who found her passion in oil pastels, said she is planning to continue on the art and design path in college with a major at a Boston-area college in Interior Architecture and Design.

Her advice to fellow students, especially incoming freshman at Nonnewaug, is simple. “Take an art class,” she said. “You never know what you’ll find out about yourself.” Davis said taking Foundations of Art gave her the confidence in to continue with art. “It helped me figure out my special talents in art,” she said. “I was capable of so much more and allowed to experiment in art.”

Lungarini, who plays piano, flute, percussion, and dabbles in singing will attend Western Connecticut State University next year as a Music Education/Classical Piano major. She has

similar advice for students thinking about performing arts at Nonnewaug. “Just show up,” she said. “The best thing you can do is come to participate. You don’t have to be amazing; you just need to be interested.”

Both students praised the Fine Arts Department for the support and encouragement from teachers, advisors, and fellow students. “We have the best mentors and the Nonnewaug art and music departments are the best out there,” Davis said.

Lungarini added that the growth of the music department over the past four years has been remarkable and is a testament to the support and enthusiasm of students and staff. “We have some of the most motivated students I have seen.”