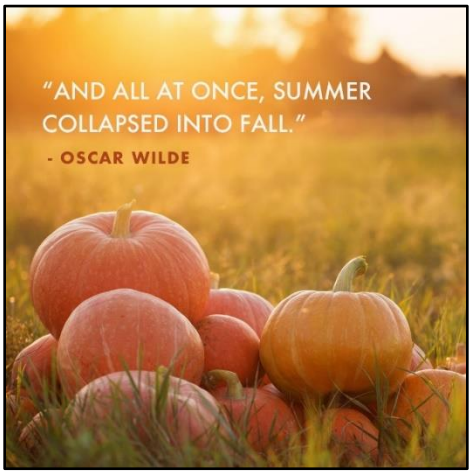
Haddam Killingworth High School
Sept|Oct 2023 Newsletter



From the Principal:

The 2023-24 school year is off to a fantastic start, with many new "family" members joining our team. Every new student and every new teacher/staff member brings something to our school community that adds to the spirit of who we are as Cougars. As I travel throughout the building, I am inspired by the learning happening in classrooms, the connections being made during club meetings and "free" time, and the school spirit that supports our extra-curricular program.

It is my hope that, through this edition of our newsletter, along with your recent visits to Open House and/or after school activities, you can feel the positive energy that fills HKHS each day!



The best **part of** this welcome back letter is always the introduction of new members of our team. We have wonderful additions this year, including:



Kate Bagnoli (Math): Kate grew up in Bridgewater, MA and studied physics at UMass Dartmouth. She received her Master of Materials Science from UConn and, while there, decided teaching high school math was really her passion - so she became certified through the Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) program. For eight years, she taught at Daniel Hand High School in Madison, CT - taking time off to raise her two children who will both be attending KES this fall. She is excited to be returning to the classroom and working with the wonderful staff in District 17. In her spare time, Kate enjoys reading, playing tennis, and working in her garden.



Andrea Beltran (Counseling): Prior to joining HKHS, Andrea worked at HKMS as a certified school counselor. Andrea spent nine years in the classroom teaching and seven years as a school counselor in Texas. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University and Master of Education in school counseling from Dallas Baptist University in Texas. She initially attended Texas A&M (gig 'em) for a second master's degree, but ultimately transferred to Liberty University to pursue a doctorate in community counseling. She is currently working on her dissertation and her focus study is on counseling and trauma. She currently resides in Madison with her two daughters and is a native Spanish speaker.



Anthony Bergantino (P.E./Health): Tony earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut, a master's from University of Bridgeport, and a sixth-year degree from Sacred Heart University. During his more than 20 years in District 17, he has taught at HES, Burr, KES, and HKMS. He has a passion for teaching and helping HK students understand the importance of making healthy life choices. Outside of work, he likes hiking, biking, and being active with his wife, three kids, and three dogs. He is thankful for the opportunity to "graduate" with last year's eighth graders, and to continue to share in their journey to adulthood through HKHS.



Haleigh Lombardi (Counseling): Haleigh is a social worker from Connecticut Behavioral Health, LLC contracted by the district to help assist with the counseling needs of our students. Before coming to HKHS, Haleigh worked as a social worker at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital. She is excited to be part of the HK team!



Jovan Marrero (Spanish): Jovan grew up in the town of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico. Since he was a child, he has always been interested in teaching Spanish/grammar. He completed a bachelor's degree at the Bayamón Central University with a specialty in middle/high school teaching. Later, he became certified by The College Board and started to work as a teacher at Abelardo Díaz Alfaro Middle School. Outside of school, Jovan likes to spend time with his husband and their daughter Arianna. They're currently living in the town of Bolton, CT.



Mia Mazzola (Special Education): Mia attended Southern Connecticut State University in order to pursue a collaborative degree in both elementary education and special education. While at SCSU, Mia found that she enjoys the special education side of her degree most as it allows her to assist students learning in a more targeted and individualized fashion. Mia has spent the past years working as a building substitute in the Guilford Public School system as well as working part time at a local daycare. Outside of work, Mia spends as much time outdoors as possible and enjoys being with family and friends. Mia feels very fortunate to be joining the HKHS family this coming year and looks forward to working alongside students and staff within this community!



Kelly Ryan (Math): In addition to her certification in mathematics, Kelly earned a BA in English literature and MA and CAS degrees in educational administration. Throughout her career, she has taught mathematics to students from grade five through the college level. The majority of that time was spent teaching geometry at Hamden High School, from which she recently retired. However, Kelly discovered that she really missed the classroom and is thrilled to be joining the HKHS community. Outside of school, Kelly likes to keep active as a runner, hiker, and figure skater. She and her husband enjoy traveling the world, particularly to mountain locales.



Kevin White (Social Studies): Originally from North Branford, Kevin attended Stonehill College for his undergraduate degree and the University of St. Joseph for graduate work. He began his career teaching students with severe special needs at NECC, then became a social studies teacher in the Ashland Public Schools in Massachusetts. Kevin relocated back to Connecticut and has taught social studies at HKMS since 2006. He has coached high school soccer, basketball, and softball in Massachusetts and/or RSD 17. Kevin lives in Guilford and has four children, two in college and two in Guilford Public Schools. He loves spending time with his wife, Gretchen, an 8th grade language arts teacher at HKMS, his kids, two cats, two geckos, and his dog. After recharging this summer with trips to Brimfield, Kent, and Provincetown, Kevin is looking forward to seeing familiar faces, meeting new ones, and becoming part of the HKHS family.



Alicia Zukowski (Science): Alee earned her bachelor's degree from Quinnipiac University, a master's from University of New Haven and an advanced certificate from College of Saint Rose. She began teaching in 2005 in Brooklyn, NY and came to RSD17 in 2013. She is excited to return to HKHS after being away for a year, although she never truly left, continuing to attend games and chaperone dances. She loves walking on the beach collecting sea glass and playing with her four dogs but most of all, she loves spending time with her two children and cheering from the sidelines at lacrosse games and basketball games. She is excited to come home to HKHS and looks forward to working with both old and new friends this year.



McKenzie Anderson (School Nurse): McKenzie graduated from the University of Pikeville Elliott School of Nursing in 2020 and goes by "Nurse Mac". She recently moved from Kentucky to Connecticut and is so excited to be here at HKHS! In her spare time, she enjoys playing football in the Women's Football Alliance (WFA) and traveling to new places. She cannot wait to meet all of you and hopes that we have the best school year yet!



It's Grade Check Time

PROGRESS REPORTS!

We are at the half way point of the 1st quarter! Please log into PowerSchool to check your child's grades and reach out to their teachers if you have any questions. Teacher email addresses are firstinitiallastname@rsd17.org.

If you do not have a Parent Portal account through PowerSchool, please reach out to agiarnella@rsd17.org for instructions.

New This Year: The HKHS Internship Program!



What is "real world" experience? Our students are undoubtedly part of the real world yet we want them to be prepared for the "real world" outside of high school. As they look to the future, they see the world of work ahead. There are so many career opportunities and they require so many skills. How can students decide on a direction? An internship is a great way for students to try out a job in a field of interest. They can observe, learn, engage in tasks, develop employability skills, and specific job skills for the field. They may develop an increased fascination with a field or they may discover that they would like to go in another direction.

We are excited to announce that our first group of interns are being placed in their fields of interest and will be going out to job sites this semester. In preparation for the experience, they are participating in classroom lessons to ensure that they are ready to interact professionally. Juniors and seniors may apply to participate in this experience and will earn ½ credit per semester. There are required classroom hours as well as internship hours. The classroom hours may occur during Lunch Activity period if the course does not fit in the student's schedule.

Students are encouraged to source their own internships as it is often the case that the student is in contact with a potential site. HKHS is developing a list of companies and organizations that are interested in mentoring an intern and we will work to find placements for students as well. Students interested in exploring an internship should contact Dr. Borzain, the internship coordinator, to discuss this and pick up an application. Dr. Borzain can be reached at cborzain@rsd17.org or (860) 554-1324.

How Can You Help? If you believe your business or employer would be interested in having a high school intern, please contact Dr. Borzain at cborzain@rsd17.org to express your interest. **Your support for this new venture is greatly appreciated!**



Advantages of participating for businesses & organizations:

- Share your knowledge and skills
- Increase your company's profile in the community
- Teach interns the skills that are crucial in your field
- Build the skills you wish to see in future employees
- Positively contribute to a high school student's growth
- Benefit by adding a positive new member to your team

PSAT Day: Tuesday, October 10th

Students in grades 9-11 will be taking the official CollegeBoard practice SAT. Freshmen will complete the PSAT 8/9, while sophomores and juniors will complete the PSAT NMSQT. All students will need to bring their **fully charged** school-issued Chromebook, as well as their computer charger, on this day. Lunch will be served after testing and then students will be dismissed for buses at 11:55am.

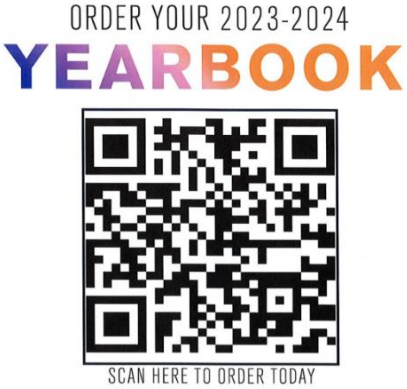
Students in grade 12 will remain home to work on post-secondary planning. Our school counselors will be posting suggested activities for students to work on during this day. Additionally, seniors will be able to sign up for college essay writing workshops with HKHS English teachers, or 15-minute planning workshops with their school counselor on Google Classroom. If your student is not sure what they need to do on October 10th, they should go to https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/ and explore the career, college, and/or scholarship opportunities available there. CollegeBoard has revamped this resource to provide excellent resources for students pursuing both the workforce or college after high school.



YEARBOOKS + PICTURE RETAKES

Picture retake day will be on Thursday, Oct. 19th during the Lunch Activity block.

Yearbook sales are open and there are a few copies left at $5 off the cover price of $85! **Please note:** ALL students who want a yearbook must order one. Senior dues no longer include a yearbook. Senior parents can also buy the very popular "Senior Ads" which vary in price based on size.



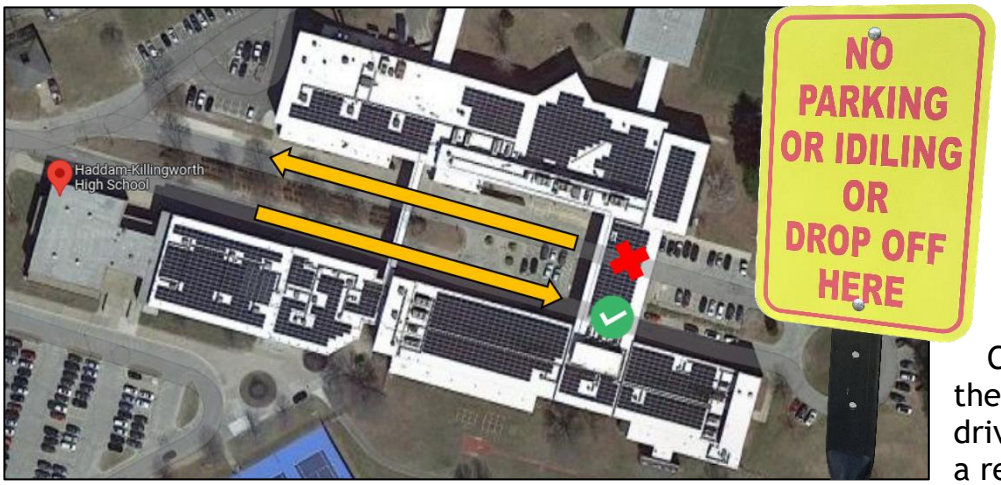


To order a yearbook or senior ad, please click the link below or scan the QR code: Haddam Killingworth High School Yearbook

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The World Language Department is celebrating
National Hispanic Heritage Month
from September 15th to October 15th
with interactive class lessons and daily trivia facts
posted to the Morning News.



Please remember that students should only be dropped off from the right driveway, as you pull in and are closest to the fieldhouse - as indicated with a green checkmark.

Cars should not stop on the auditorium side of the driveway – as indicated with a red x.

Grants for the HKHS Technology and TV/Media Departments!

Both the TV studio and the metalworking/engineering lab at the high school have gotten a well needed influx of new equipment thanks to two large grants that were written at the end of last year and fulfilled this summer!

The metalworking lab is being updated with many new pieces of computer controlled (CNC) equipment as we attempt to make the transition to a "Modern Manufacturing" lab that mimics the high precision manufacturing industries that CT is known for.





The TV studio is also seeing some much-needed new equipment including studio camera tripods, teleprompter software, lighting kits, SteadiCam rig, and other items needed to "improve training and video production education". Some new cosmetics in the TV studio have also added a fresh new look to the studio space. Both students and staff are excited as these new pieces of equipment make their way into the labs and curriculums.

Pictured here: Christopher Palmieri & Lindsay Blade

News from the Kitchen!

HKHS culinary classes have gotten off to a great start! An advanced group of students researched, planned, prepared, and presented authentic dishes from Italy to a group of teachers.









Beginner students have been getting used to working in the kitchen with their groups making cookies, muffins, eggs, and more.



SNOW DAYS!

Our final day of school is **tentatively** scheduled for Tuesday, June 11th but only if we do **not** have any snow days. Please be mindful when booking vacations that our final exam schedule and final day of school may change.



Co-Curricular Fair!

Students recently gathered in the fieldhouse for HKHS's annual co-curricular fair. Upperclassmen hosted tables for the various clubs and organizations that students are able to join including (*but not limited to*) Student Council, Peer Advocates, Environmental Club, French Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Photo Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.), Human Relations Club, HK Film Society, HKHS Unified Sports, Marine Awareness Club, Finance Club, The Cougar Chronicle, Robotics Club, Math League, Yearbook Club, Ski & Snowboard Club, HKHS Current Events, Science Olympaid, International Culture Club, ***and more!***

















HK Drama Club Proudly Presents:

Vintage Hitchcock

A live radio play

Spies, murder, love, and other trademarks of Alfred Hitchcock come to life in the style of a 1940's radio broadcast. With *The Lodger*, *Sabotage*, and *The 39 Steps* - ***Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play*** is a triple feature, complete with vintage commercials that recreate a daring train chase, a serial killer's ominous presence, and a devastating explosion through the magic of live sound effects!

Performances on Friday, Nov 3rd and Saturday, Nov 4th at 7pm
Tickets available at the door!

HK Drama Club is proud to announce its spring musical will be…



Coming May 2024!

HKHS choir students will be singing the national anthem at the Hartford Wolfpack hockey game on Oct 27th at 7pm in Hartford!

Hartford Wolf Pack vs Springfield Thunderbirds

Oct 27, 2023 7:00 PM
XL Center
Purchase Deadline: Oct 26th @ 5:00pm EDT
For tickets click this link:
https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Hkchoirdept

Band and Choral Students to Attend the Shoreline Music Festival!

Congratulations to Zi Abbot, Shylee Emigh, Sarah Bradley, Ashley Kelly, Tarin Degnan, Paul Birkmeyer, Elijah Sorrentino, Dominick Downey, Leeha Reddy, Gabriel Blair, Brigitte Battistoni, Alexander Battistoni, Cash Smigl, Chloe Engler, Ayianna Maikowski, Ian McLeaan, and John Moyher who were selected to represent the HKHS Music Department at this festival. Students will rehearsal for over 15 hours over two dates, culminating in a concert at Valley Regional High School on October 12th at 7pm. **For more information and to purchase tickets use this link.**

HKHS Has Spirit!



Our first pep rally of the year was held this week and it was a huge success! The senior class won the color war and came out on top in tug of war. Senior Ryan Ruggiero was the winner of Find That Drip with senior Mariella Fulcher as runner-up. Staff members joined our cheerleaders in a memorable performance that was a big hit! Sophomore, junior, and senior class leaders were announced as well.

Please join me in congratulating them! A huge thank you to our Cougar Den crew and advisors,Carlye Kohs & Ann Deibert for all your hard work!

Class of 2024: Luke Dooley, Blake Kamoen, Jonah Keithan-Resnick, Maddy Moriarty, & Catie Therrien
Class of 2025: Claire Eighmy, Grace LaConte, Bryce Leiberman, Elias Lowry, Keira Sehl-Albert, & Jeff Thebeau
Class of 2026: Gabe Blair, Jameson Conte, Tetsuya Imai, Catherine Nguyen, Finn O'Hanlon, & Payton Rich

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Homecoming:
A Night at the Cinema!

Students & staff alike had a wonderful time last night at HKHS's annual Homecoming dance.

Caroline Ignatuk was crowned Homecoming Queen along with **Owen Staskelunas** who was voted Homecoming King!





Haddam Killingworth High School presents

College Athletics Information Session

Join us on **Tuesday, Nov 14th at 6:00pm** in the high school auditorium.

All students and parents who would like more information about college athletics are encouraged to attend!

Molly McCarthy from Central Connecticut State University will be coming to talk about college athletics, NCAA eligibility and process, and college recruiting.



Molly is the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance & Student Athlete Services. She serves as the department liaison to Admissions, Residence Life, and the Center for International Education. Molly also coordinates community outreach for student-athletes and is responsible for initial eligibility for freshmen and transfer recruits.

For more information please contact Lynne Flint at LFlint@rsd17.org

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SPORT NEWS

Please help us congratulate our new captains for the fall sports season!

Cheer: Ella Cawley & Anna Wessinger
Boys Soccer: James Marchetti & Ben Werner
Volleyball: Reese Timothy & Sammy Minickene
Girls Swimming: Layla Hayward & Peyton Tyler
Boys Cross Country: Jack Cozean & Luke Hedges
Girls Soccer: Tu-lanh Criscuolo & Emmy Kehlenbach
Football: Luke Dooley, Cooper Pitts, & Wyatt Solosky
Girls Cross Country: Maddie Moriarty & Kayleigh Nelligan
Field Hockey: Jamie DiNapoli, Bridgette Battistoni, Maddie Catalano, & Tea Norman

PLEASE NOTE: All students not currently in high school must be accompanied by an adult to attend all Haddam Killingworth home athletic events.

This policy went into effect on 9/26/23 and will remain in effect for the entire school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SATs** | Saturday, Oct 7th
- **Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day** | Monday, Oct 9th – ***No school!***
- **PSAT Day** | Tuesday, Oct 10th - ***Early dismissal!***
- **Shoreline Music Festival** | Thursday, Oct 12th
- **Cap & Gown Measurements for Seniors** | Wednesday, Oct 18th during Advisory
- **School Picture Retake Day** | Thursday, Oct 19th
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** | *Instructions on how to sign up will be sent next week!*
  - Wednesday, Oct 25th from 5pm to 8pm
  - Thursday, Oct 26th from 12:35pm to 4:05pm
- **ACTs** | Saturday, Oct 28th
- **Quarter 1 Ends** | Wednesday, Nov 1st
- **"Vintage Hitchcock" Performance** | Friday, Nov 3rd & Saturday, Nov 4th at 7pm
- **SATs** | Saturday, Nov 4th
- **Professional Development Day** | Tuesday, Nov 7th - ***No school!***
- **Veterans Day** | Friday, Nov 10th – ***No school!***
- **College Athletics Information Session** | Nov 14th at 6pm in the HKHS auditorium
- **Southern Regional Music Auditions** | Saturday, Nov 18th at Foran High School
- **Cougar Bowl!** | Monday, Nov 20th at 6pm
- **Principal's Cup** | Tuesday, Nov 21st
- **Thanksgiving Break** | ½ day on Wed, Nov 22nd + no school on Nov 23rd & 24th

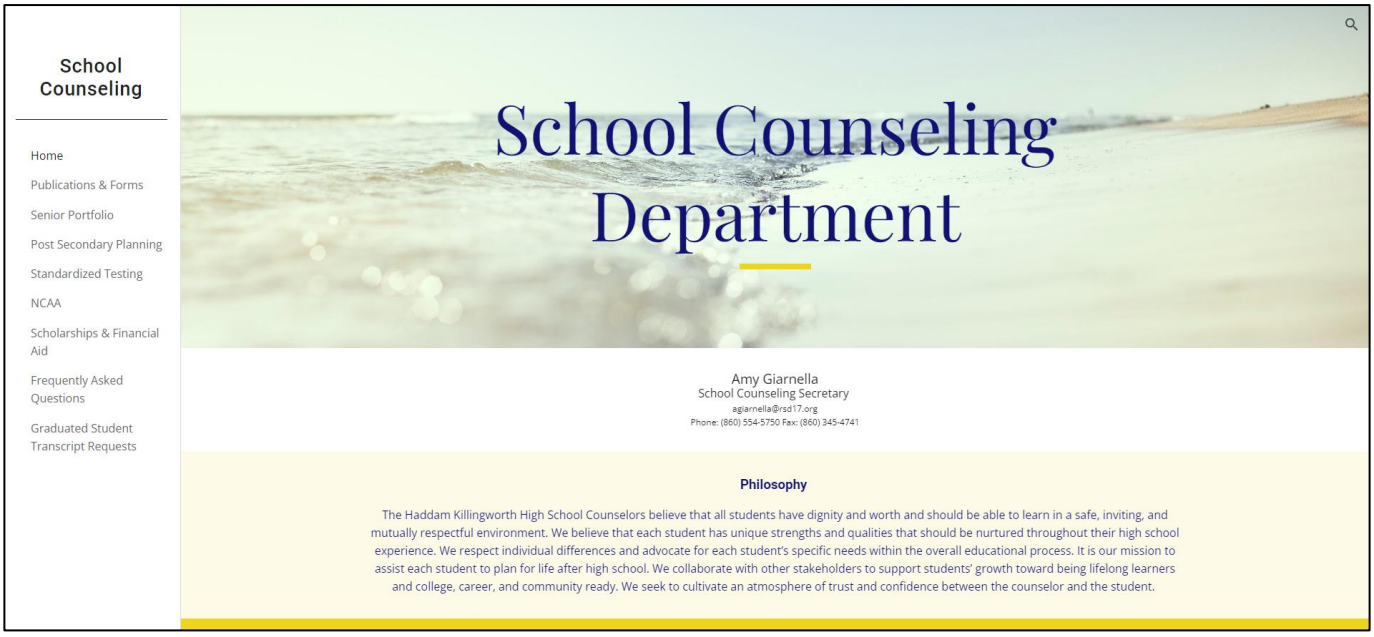
We look forward to seeing you at our school events and around campus.
Thank you so much for all you do to support our students and the Cougar family.

Respectfully,

Donna Hayward,
Principal

Guidance Counseling Dept Update!

The HKHS counseling department has launched our updated website! Please visit the site here to access information about post-secondary planning, standardized testing, scholarships & financial aid, and more. We also have a Frequently Asked Questions section to provide information about some common topics of concern.



Post-Secondary Planning In Progress!

High school counselors are currently working with our seniors on post-secondary planning. We have met with students in small groups and are currently meeting with students individually. Our **Senior Planning Night** was held on September 26th and that presentation can be found here. Students may also pick up copies of the handouts that were distributed by stopping by the guidance office.

Seniors with early deadlines (10/15, 11/1, or 11/15) should be actively working on their applications, including their personal essay. They should have already communicated with any teacher(s) from whom they would like a letter of recommendation.

College Reps Are In The House!

HKHS is hosting college representatives nearly every day during first lunch through mid-November. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with people who work at the colleges that they are applying to or are interested in. It's also a great way for juniors to find out more about colleges they are considering. Students can sign up for visits through Naviance and printed schedules are available in the counseling office. The morning announcements also include reminders about who is visiting each day.

Advanced Courses at HKHS

University of Connecticut's enrollment window for Early College Experience Courses is now open through 11:59 PM on October 20th, 2023. Students enrolled in one or more UConn ECE courses at HKHS can enroll through UConn for college credit for their course(s). Please reach out to Emily Baerlein, School Counselor and UConn ECE Site Representative (ebaerlein@rsd17.org) with any questions.

If your child is enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP) class, please look out for information regarding payment which will be coming soon!

***Please remember that if your child is on the Free & Reduced list, you are eligible to have AP & UConn course fees waived (as well as SAT fees, college application fees, and other charges)! If you are not sure if your child is on the list or would like additional information, please contact counseling secretary Amy Giarnella at agiarnella@rsd17.org or (860) 554-5750. You can also find information on the program here: https://portal.ct.gov/Free-and-Reduced.

CollegeBoard Accounts

Many students have been experiences issues logging into their CollegeBoard accounts, either because they don't remember what email address they used to set it up or they can't remember their password. Please note that we do not have any access to student login details and cannot reset passwords or unlock accounts as we can with PowerSchool and Naviance. **Students should call CollegeBoard's customer service line at 866-630-9305 or visit the Account Help section of the website which can be found here:** https://support.collegeboard.org/help-center/account-help

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Community Service

Reminder that all students must earn 30 hours of community service in order to graduate. Our Community Service Documentation Form was updated this past spring to reflect that community service hours should be completed for non-profit organizations. Any exceptions must be approved by the student's counselor before hours are completed. Updated forms are available in the guidance office, on the HKHS website, and on the new counseling website.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FACT SHEET

A support guide for parents and families to ensure positive school attendance

Why School Attendance is Important

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed.

Did You Know?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success, and student will be reported to the state as "Chronically Absent"

These facts and others can be found at www.AttendanceWorks.org

Unexcused Tardies (LAU) / Absences (ABU)

- Parents have 10 SCHOOL DAYS to excuse an absence after a student returns to school
- Students who are 15 minutes late are marked as unexcused absent
- Students who are late and unexcused will receive a detention for every 5 times they are late to school
- Once a student has reached 10 unexcused tardies, they will lose their parking privileges

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FACT SHEET

Parents can excuse the first 9 absences for their child

Absences 10 and above can be excused for:

- a medical appointment with a doctor's note
- illness excused by a medical professional
- observance of a religious holiday or mandated court appearance
- lack of district provided transportation
- extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by administration

Truancy

Either 4 unexcused absences in 30 days OR 10 unexcused absences in the school year.

Truant and chronically absent students are required to have an attendance meeting with their parent/guardian, school counselor, and an administrator. The student is also referred to Haddam Killingworth Youth & Family Services to provide additional interventions

(For further details, please refer to the student handbook.)

Participation in Co-Curricular Events & Athletics

In order to participate in <u>any</u> school-sponsored event (including athletics), students **MUST** be in present in school for at least 5 hours that day.

At minimum:

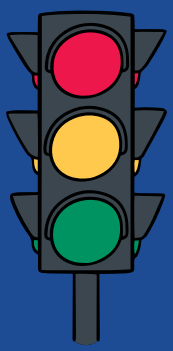
- Arrive by 7:25 and leave at 12:25
- Arrive by 9:10 and leave at 2:10

We Are a Community!

Haddam Killingworth Youth & Family Services can support your family with attendance issues at school!

Connect with HKYFS through the school or you can reach out to the interim director, Jennifer Favalora, to connect on your own at (860) 345-7498.

When do Absences Become a Problem?



Chronic Absence:
18 or more days

Warning Signs:
10 to 17 days

Satisfactory:
9 or fewer absences

Note: These numbers assume a 180 day school year.