Haddam Killingworth High School March | April 2024 Newsletter



From the Principal:

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family rested after April break. We are headed into the "home stretch" of the 2023-24 academic year! Spring energy is evident inside the walls of HKHS, as students start to look toward the final learning activities and outcome of their classes and we begin to think about end of year celebrations which are just around the corner. I met with senior class leaders today to begin thinking about the commencement activities, with student leaders putting their spin on tradition to reflect the personality and wishes of the class. So many exciting academic, co-curricular, and whole-school celebratory events are planned. **It's a great time of year to be a Cougar!**

It's Grade Check Time

REPORT CARDS + HONOR ROLL!

The 3rd quarter has ended and grades are in the process of being finalized. Report cards will be sent out electronically early this week. Please reach out to your child's teachers if you have any questions and remember that grades can be monitored via PowerSchool. Honor roll for the 3rd quarter will be available this week as well.

Emergency Contact Info!

It is vital that we have accurate demographic and emergency contact information for our students. "Student Information" forms are being mailed out this week with the current information we have on file in PowerSchool. Please review them carefully for any inaccuracies and return them by June 13th, 2024, ***even if no changes are needed***. If you have moved, please note that you will need to submit proof of residency for your new address, even if it is still within the district.



Missed out on previous newsletters?



You can find them on the HKHS website under the School Bulletins tab! Please remember that most important communications from the school, such as report card notifications, newsletters, parent/teacher conference information, etc. are sent out through PowerSchool Parent Portal accounts. Any parent or guardian can set up an account but you will need your child's access details which can be obtained by contacting guidance secretary Amy Giarnella at agiarnella@rsd17.org.

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

The Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD) honored HK's very own Athletic Director Lynne Flint as the **2023 NIAAA STATE AWARD OF MERIT** recipient on March 21st! Mrs. Flint and many of HK's teachers, staff, and administrators were in attendance to celebrate at this great event.



This award, which was first introduced by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) in 1988, is based upon the member's service, leadership, and contributions at the local and state level. Without question, Mrs. Flint's devoted service as an athletic administrator has earned her this recognition. The positive impact that she has had on the lives of student-athletes and her contributions at the local, league, and state levels have not gone unnoticed.

Congratulations Mrs. Flint!

HK Robotics would like to thank The Lee Company for their generous donation of $500!

HK Robotics is a competitive club that designs, builds, and goes head-to-head against other schools from around the state. Each year a new competition 'game' is released and new robots are built. Donations like those from The Lee Company, are used to purchase new parts, motors, sensors, etc. and help with competition fees. **THANK YOU to The Lee Company, we couldn't do it without you!**

If you know of a business that is interested in supporting HK Robotics, please reach out to Mr. Kish at rkish@rsd17.org.



The HKHS junior prom will be held at Westbrook Elks Club on **Friday, April 26th at 7pm** with a theme of **UNDER THE STARS**! Ticket sales ran from April 1st to April 5th and all Outside Guests Forms should have already been turned in.

The HKHS senior prom is set for **Friday, May 31s at 6:30pm** at St. Clements Castle! The theme will be A Gatsby Gala and tickets will be on sale from May 15th to May 24th. Please note that all Outside Guest Forms for senior prom are due **no later than May 6th** and should be turned into to one of the senior class advisors, Sarah Landers or Kelly Brown. Late submissions will **not** be accepted.

HKHS celebrated Pi Day on 3/14 with a Pi for Pie event!







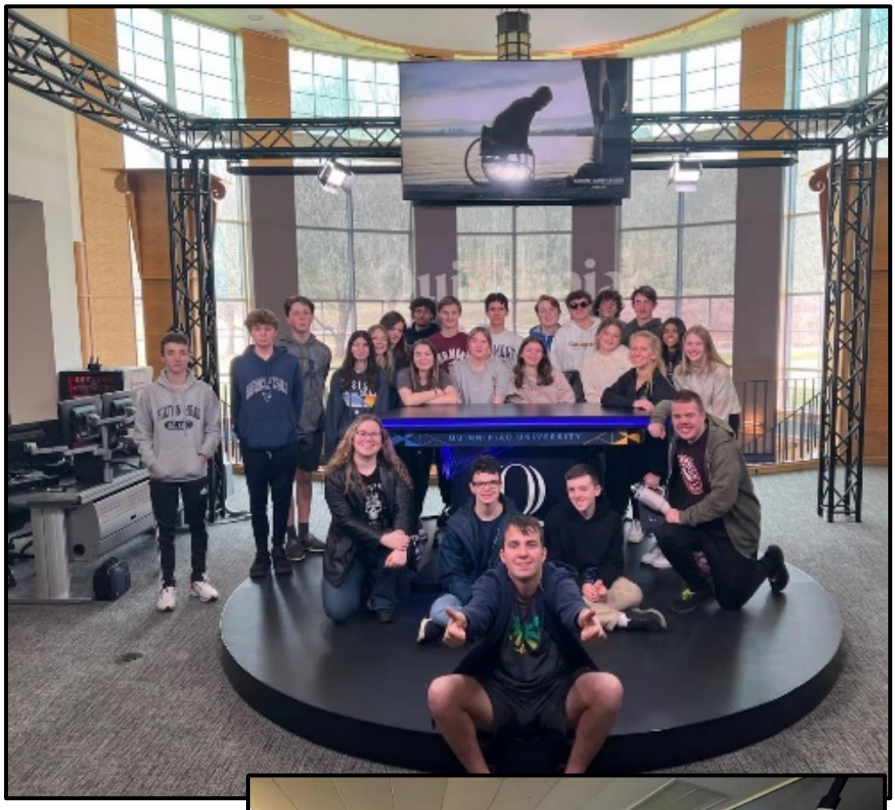
Pi (Greek letter "π") is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant — the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159. Pi Day is an annual opportunity for math enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi, talk to their friends about math, and of course – **EAT PIE.**





HKHS staff and students alike joined up to walk 3.14 km around the track before enjoying their reward of pie at the finish line!

HKTV Is On The Move!



We are excited to share that our HKTV students went on an engaging field trip on March 11th to Quinnipiac University. During this trip, students had the opportunity to explore the campus and visit the communications building. They worked collaboratively in groups to create a TV commercial in the TV studio and animated their own graphics using Adobe After Effects. Our students took on various roles such as Director, Technical Director, Graphics Operator, Teleprompter Operator, Play Out, Audio, Camera Operators, Floor Director, and Talent. **It was a hands-on and enriching experience for all!**







Interested in the content HKTV produces?

Make sure to visit the **HKTV LIVE** site which can be found here or by visiting both the high school and district websites where you can find the link in the top banner. You'll be able to watch the morning announcements live or visit the **Video Library** to view recordings of events such as graduation, awards night, scholarship night, NHS induction, and Board of Education meetings, plus school plays, musicals, concerts, and other events from across the district!

HKTV LIVE

NEXT UP: Fox 61 Student News Bootcamp!

HKTV had an amazing opportunity to visit the University of New Haven for the Fox 61 Student News Bootcamp on March 22nd!





During this field trip, students experienced a college atmosphere and had the chance to learn from Fox 61 TV news professionals about TV news expectations, techniques, and goals.



Our students received valuable feedback and advice from the professionals, enhancing their knowledge and skills in the field. Additionally, students got a behind-the-scenes tour of the University of New Haven's media center, which includes a TV studio and control room. **It was an informative experience that broadened their understanding of media production in the real world!**



The HKHS Speech & Debate classes held their final debate of the year on February 21st. This was the culmination of several debates among teams within Mr. Czarkowski's classes. Jonah Keithan-Resnick & Nathan Natanzon faced off against Catharine Therrien & Madison Moriarty *(pictured left to right with Mr. Czarkowski)* on the topic of free college tuition at public universities.

Jonah & Nathan were declared the winners by the tournament judges!

Click here to watch the debate on HKTV!

NEWS FROM THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

M3 Math Challenge spotlights mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool

The M3 Math Challenge is a "program of the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). It is an annual internet-based, intensive math modeling contest designed to motivate students to study and pursue careers in applied mathematics, computational science, data science, and technical computing."

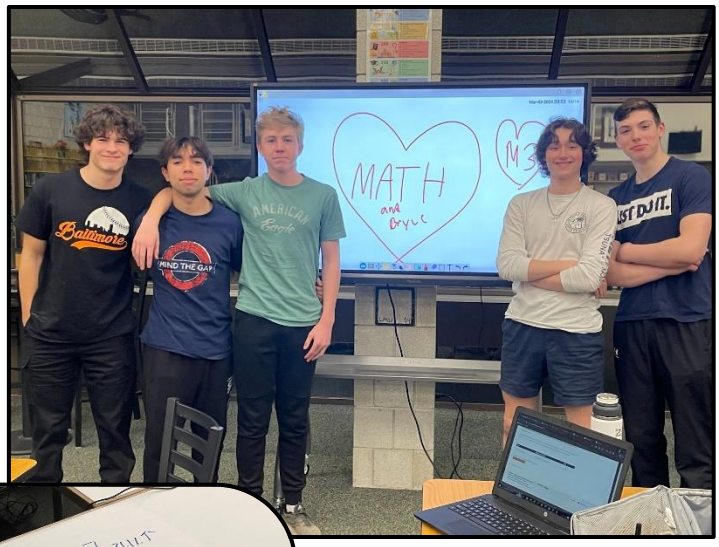
At 7am on March 3rd, a dedicated group of students arrived at school ready to face the challenge ahead. After signing into the M3 Math Challenge website and downloading the problem, they hit the ground running. After a 14 hour day of research, conjectures, analysis, and synthesis, each team developed a mathematical model and solution proposal for this year's problem – **"A Tale of Two Crises: The Housing Shortage and Homelessness."**

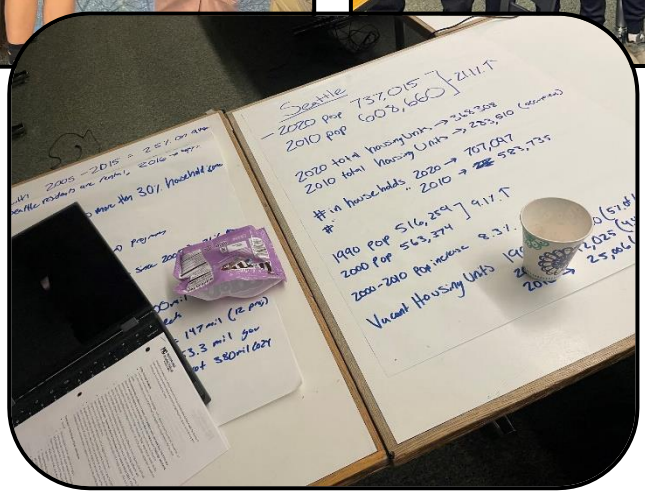
Some interesting statistics about this year's challenge participants (*yes, more math*):

1. Almost 3,000 students participated in the challenge
2. Of the 643 teams that submitted solutions, 114 were from the UK
3. 47% of solutions included technical computing
4. Over 100 Ph.D.-level mathematicians have begun the rigorous assessment of their work!

Judging will take place over the next 6-8 weeks, at which point, the teams will know if they will move onto the next round. Fingers crossed for the two HKHS team that participated!







2024 SENIORS

Ava Harriman, Ivy McNeil, Liza Murphy, and Vaishnavi Yalamanchi

2024 JUNIORS

Bryce Lieberman, Sam Greenwood, Michael Perry, Jeff Thebeau, and Mathias Schweitzer

siam
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge



Dylan Brown with every possible math trophy one student can win

Haddam Killingworth's JV Math Team finished the season strong with a second place finish in the 10-school Greater Middlesex County League! Individual students Dylan Brown and Bruce Peese were honored with trophies as the first and second, respectively, highest scoring freshman in the entire league. Dylan also participated at the varsity level and was awarded for being the second highest scoring underclassman in the varsity league, as well as the top total score on both HK teams. The Varsity Math Team season continues on as HKHS has qualified for the state meet on April 4th.



JV Math Team members Dylan Brown, Jameson Conte, and Tetsu Imai

Go HK Math Team!

CLASSROOM VISITS



On March 15th, The Environmental Club had the pleasure of meeting with Kim Price, who created the Zero Waste Initiative program for the Chester Fair. The Chester Fair, which runs every August, is the second traditional fair in the nation to utilize a zero waste program! Read more about their efforts here.

The presentation was very informative, and Mr. Price discussed ways to reduce waste and increase awareness of recycling. Mr. Price's overview generated many ideas within the club and we look forward to working with him for future endeavors at The Chester Fair and in our own community. Our club will also be collaborating with Valley Regional High School to implement zero waste initiatives in our schools!

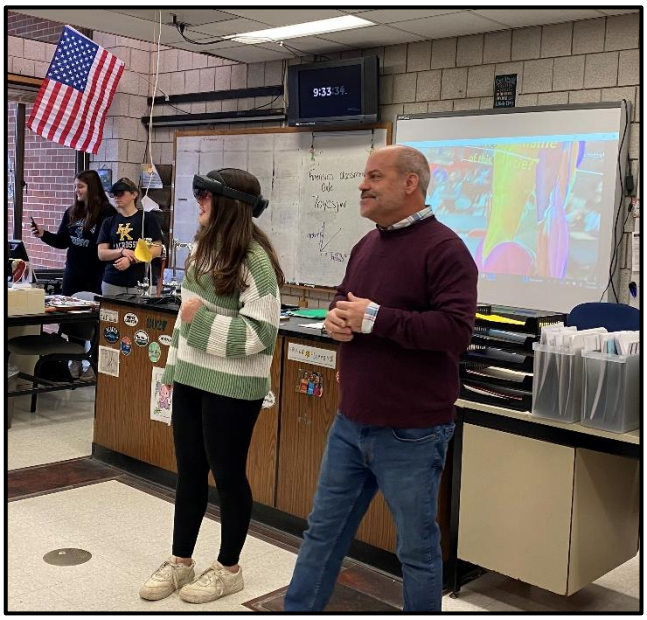


MUSIC AND DRAMA

On February 28th, HK Music & Drama students enjoyed a half-hour session with Dylan Armstrong who works in the informational technology field with Hartford HealthCare and is a professional musician. Mr. Armstrong's presentation included post-secondary planning, music as a hobby as an adult, and ways to combine a "day job" as a business professional while acting in community theater, singing in a semi-professional or community choir, or functioning as church musician on nights and weekends. Students asked many insightful questions such as how to find work as an amateur musician, ways to sing and play in college without being a music major, and what Mr. Armstrong's favorite "gig" was which was singing backup for Andrea Bocelli in Hartford! The talk concluded with a brief masterclass on singing and techniques to reach higher notes with supportive breathing.



Ted Dinesmore, a local Killingworth resident, visited HKHS to share his Augmented Reality software with anatomy and physiology students!





The students were able to use the equipment which allowed them to visualize and manipulate three-dimensional representations of anatomical structures, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of the human body. The software is used at universities and colleges all over the world for students studying medicine, physical therapy, radiology, and other health care services. The software is also being used to help input information into AI systems and is helping schools screen for dyslexia.

MR. HK 2024

HKTV STUDIO
DAVID SARGENT



HKTV students put in tremendous effort to produce this year's Mr. HK event, which took place on March 6th with a Barbie & Ken theme.

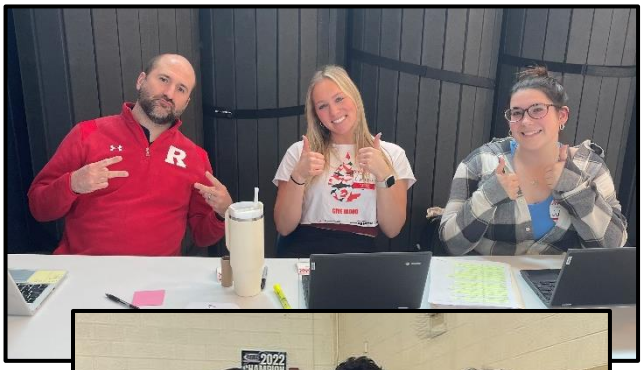


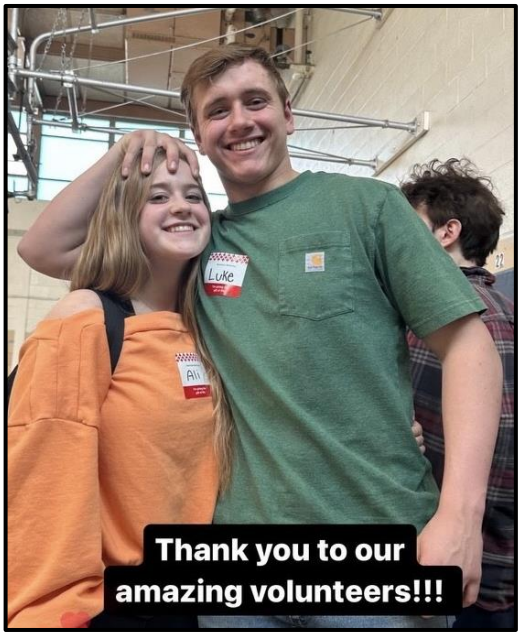
The event featured eight talented contestants who competed in various acts such as comedy, bagpipes, DJing, dancing, singing, slam poetry, and a band performance. We are proud to share that David Sargent emerged as the winner and earned the title of MR. HK 2024! It was a fun and unforgettable experience for everyone involved!

You can view a recording of the event here. **Congratulations David!**

HKHS Student Council's spring blood drive with the American Red Cross was held on March 15th with 37 pints successfully collected!

This surpassed the Red Cross's goal for the event and was enough to save 111 lives. This brings the Student Council's total number of lives saved for the year up to 222!





Dozens of volunteers from Student Council pitched in to make it a smooth and comfortable day for all involved.





News from the Stage



Date: Friday, May 3rd & Saturday, May 4th
Time: 7:00pm
Place: HKHS Auditorium

ORDER TICKETS HERE:

Tickets are $15 per person and can be purchased by scanning the QR code above!



HKHS STUDENT ART SHOW 2024

Please come to our opening celebration!

25 APRIL 2024

5:30–7:30pm

Westbrook Outlets
Suite F165 (Near Pepperidge Farm Store)

Original student art
Food by HKHS Culinary program
Music by HKHS students



2023-2024 TESTING DATES

~~PSATs~~ October ~~11~~th, 2023	SATs [11th graders only] Practice SATs [9th & 10th graders] March 27th, 2024 [in the morning]] *Make-Up Testing: April 17th, 2024*	NGSS [11th graders only] April 24th, 2024
SENIOR DIGITAL PORTFOLIO PRESENTATIONS March 27th, 2024 [in the afternoon]		

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS

Mon, 5/6/2024 Chemistry	Tue, 5/7/2024 Human Geography and Statistics	Wed, 5/8/2024 English Literature & Composition and Computer Science A	Thu, 5/9/2024 Psychology	Fri, 5/10/2024 United States History
Mon, 5/13/2024 Calculus AB and Calculus BC	Tue, 5/14/2024 English Language & Composition	Wed, 5/15/2024 French Language & Culture and Computer Science Principles and Music Theory	Thu, 5/16/2024 Spanish Language & Culture and Biology	

ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) EXAMS
May 21st, 2024 - May 23rd, 2024
[applicable to some but not all upperclassmen World Language students]

Please take note of testing dates for the remaider of the school year!

It is vital that students arrive at school on time and properly prepared on test days; both for themselves and to limit distractions for their fellow students.

If your student will be absent on a scheduled test date, please reach out as soon as possible so alternative arrangements can be made.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SAT Make-Ups** | Wednesday, April 17th
- **National Honor Society Induction** | Wednesday, April 17th
- **8th Graders Visit to HKHS** | Tuesday, April 23rd
- **NGSS Testing** | Wednesday, April 24th
- **HKHS Art Show |** Thursday, April 25th
- **Art Honor Society Induction** | Thursday, April 25th
- **Junior Prom** | Friday, April 26th
- **4th Quarter Progress Reports** | Friday, May 3rd
- **Bye Bye Birdie Spring Musical** | Friday, May 3rd & Saturday, May 4th
- **SATs** | Saturday, May 4th
- **AP Testing** | Monday, May 6th thru Friday, May 17th
- **HKHS Spring Band & Choir Concert**| Thursday, May 16th
- **AAPPL Testing** | Tuesday, May 21st thru Thursday, May 23rd
- **HKHS Awards Night** | Thursday, May 23rd
- **Senior Outing** | Friday, May 24th
- **Memorial Day** | Monday, May 27th - ***No school!***
- **STREETFEST!** | Wednesday, May 29th
- **Senior Prom** | Friday, May 31st
- **SATs** | Saturday, June 1st
- **Senior Scholarship Night** | Monday, June 3rd
- **4th Quarter Ends** | Friday, June 7th
- **FINALS!** | Monday, June 10th to Friday, June 14th
- **ACTs** | Saturday, June 8th

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!

Respectfully,

Donna Hayward

Donna Hayward,
Principal

◦ Guidance Counseling Dept Update ◦

HKHS held our annual **College & Career Fair** on Wednesday, April 3rd from 10am to 11:30am.

We hosted approximately 60 college representatives, as well as over a dozen representatives from technical and career schools, local employers, and branches of the military.

Students in grades 9th – 11th attended the fair with their advisory groups, and all seniors were invited to attend as well.



Junior Families!

School counselors are currently scheduling individual Junior Planning Meetings with each of our junior students. Families are invited to attend, either in-person or virtually. If your student has not already had an appointment and would like to do so sooner than later, please reach out to their school counselor or have your student stop by the counseling office.

Senior Families!

The HKHS school counseling office has received many scholarship opportunities for our students. Seniors are encouraged to check Naviance regularly for available scholarships as new opportunities continue to be added! Students should be sure to request their transcripts and/or letters of recommendation from Mrs. Giarnella in the guidance office as early as possible to allow time for processing.

REMINDERS: Seniors are **required** to document 30 hours of community service in order to graduate. Please be sure to complete your community service documentation forms (available in the school counseling office) and return them to your school counselor for approval.

Advanced Placement Students!

Students who are scheduled to take an Advanced Placement exam who have not yet submitted payment for that exam must provide a check made payable to HKHS to Ms. Stone in the school counseling office as soon as possible. Each exam is $100 and students who do not submit payment will receive a UFO. Multiple exams can be paid for with a single check.

Outstanding UFOs (*unfulfilled obligations*) will prevent a student from participating in activities such as purchasing prom tickets, receiving a parking space, senior activities, etc.