Haddam Killingworth High School
May | June 2025 Newsletter

From the Principal:

In these last few weeks of the 2024-25 academic year, we've been celebrating the success of our students and staff alike!

As we approach the final few days of the school year, we look forward to celebrating our seniors at their graduation on Wednesday, June 11th. We are happy to share plenty of good news in this final edition of the 2024-25 Haddam Killingworth High School newsletter.



HKHS Class of 2025 **Valedictorian & Salutatorian** Announced!

Middlebury College

University of Connecticut



Michael Perry, son of Karen and Scott Perry of Killingworth, has been named the Valedictorian of the class of 2025 at Haddam Killingworth High School. Michael excels in all academic fields which is evident by the numerous commendations he has received over the years. Michael keeps himself busy on the field as well as in the classroom. He has been a member of the HKHS boys' soccer team for all four years of high school and was selected as captain for his senior season. Michael is a true master of time management and greatly enjoys staying busy while managing to never seem overwhelmed. His consistently calm and positive demeanor is especially impressive considering his brimming schedule. Michael will be attending Middlebury College in the fall where students are not required to declare a major until the end of their third semester. This will allow him to explore his wide range of academic interests before committing to a specific major.

Clare Link, daughter of Christine and Matthew Link of Killingworth, is the Salutatorian for the Haddam Killingworth High School class of 2025. She has earned numerous academic and leadership accolades over the years, reflecting her excellence across a diverse field of subjects. As an active member of the Yearbook Club, Science Olympiad, French Honor Society, and National Honor Society, Clare demonstrates leadership and academic engagement. She serves as a senior editor of the Yearbook Club, overseeing content and design, and earned 4th place in Forestry at the state Science Olympiad competition. As secretary of the French Honor Society, Clare contributes to club operations and cultural outreach. She was inducted into the National Honor Society in recognition of her academic and service achievements and also serves as the student director of the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust. Clare will be attending The University of Connecticut to pursue a degree in environmental science in the fall of 2025.

Read more about Michael & Clare and the rest of our Top 10 by clicking here!

IT'S OFFICIAL ~ the end is near!

Graduation is less than a week away! The Class of 2025 Commencement Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 11th at Haddam Killingworth High School. It is ***tentatively*** scheduled to be held at 4pm; the final decision will be dependent on the weather to provide students with the best chance at an outdoor event. Principal Hayward will communicate with families if changes are needed. ***Your patience & cooperation is appreciated!***

36th Annual PROJECT GRADUATION theme is...





This all-night graduation party is held every year in the fieldhouse for the graduates of Haddam Killingworth High School. The celebration will take place on the night of graduation, **Wednesday, June 11th from 10pm until 4:30am on Thursday, June 12th**. The night's activities will include inflatables, games, swimming, contests, and other activities to surprise and entertain the graduates. Food and beverages will be available all night long. Every graduate will receive a gift AND be able to participate in the prize raffle!

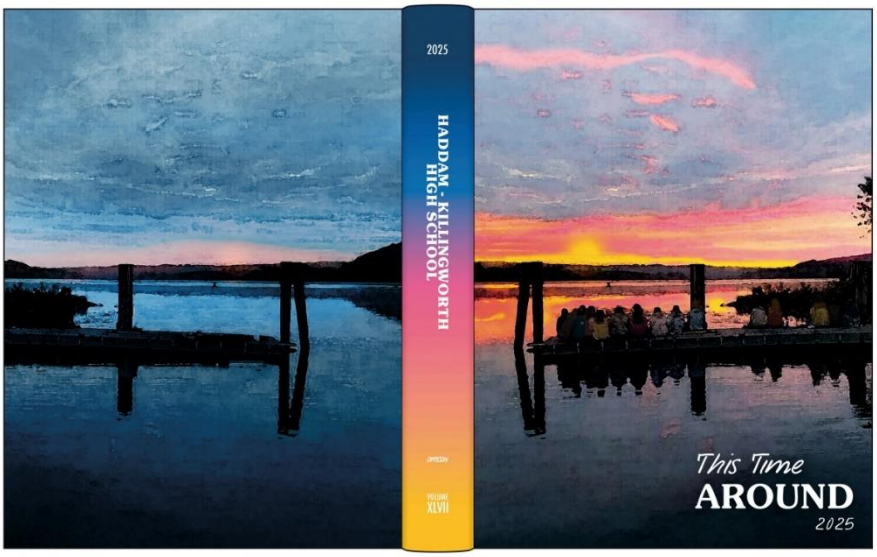
Parents and community members have been working since September to plan and organize this drug & alcohol-free celebration. Graduation night can be a perilous one for students. It is the committee's mission to bring the graduates together to celebrate their achievements in a safe environment. **Over the last 35 years, Project Grad has hosted over 2,100 HKHS graduates!** During that time, our communities have not experienced a single graduation night tragedy.

Please consider helping with the setup of this amazing event! **The committee is still in need of volunteers (*students & adults*) to help decorate between 8:30am to 6pm on both Tuesday, June 10th & Wednesday, June 11th**. Help is also needed for cleanup on Thursday, June 12th from 4:30am-7am**.** Use this Sign Up Genius link for any of the above!



Underclassmen are encouraged to volunteer for community service hours and can join after their finals are complete. If you'd like to spend some time with the Class of 2025 at Project Graduation you are more than welcome! Come and see the transformed field house before or after graduation, drop in during the party, or spend the whole night with us on the 11th!

If you'd be willing to chaperone, you can sign up here!
If you're interested in joining the committee, making donations, or have other questions, please email hkprojectgraduation@gmail.com.



LAST CALL for YEARBOOKS!

The 2025 HKHS yearbook was revealed during STREETFEST on Wed, May 28th to great acclaim! Students who have not picked up their yearbook yet, should stop by the Library Media Center to see Ms. Baldwin. **If you did not yet purchase a yearbook THERE IS STILL TIME!** Please bring a check for $85 made payable to "HKHS Yearbook" to Mrs. Giarnella in the guidance office. We will continue selling them, **first come, first served** until they are gone *(as we do need them gone)*! **Thank you for helping to keep our yearbook tradition alive!**

Chromebook Return!



All seniors should have returned their Chromebooks to Ms. Baldwin in the library by Tuesday, June 3rd. If your senior student has not done so, please have them return it ASAP. **Seniors will not have their Chromebooks for final exams.**

9th – 11th graders will be returning their Chromebooks to their Advisory teachers after their A period exam on June 10th. The exam ends at 9:30am and buses will be arriving for pick up at 9:50am.



FINAL REPORT CARDS + HONOR ROLL!

The 4th quarter ended on Wed, June 4th and final exams are underway this week and next. Final grades should be ready the week of June 16th and final report cards will be sent out by mail, likely the week of June 23rd. Q4 honor roll should also be available the week of June 23rd. Please reach out to your child's teachers if you have any questions (email addresses are FirstInitialLastName@rsd17.org) and remember that grades can be monitored via PowerSchool.

Emergency Contact Info!

Reminder to please return the "Student Information" forms that were mailed out after April break and should be returned ASAP if you have not already done so. It is vital that we have accurate demographic and emergency contact information for our students. Please review them carefully for any inaccuracies and **return them by June 11th, 2025, *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.





CONGRATULATIONS

are in order for our...

2025 HKHS TEACHER of the YEAR:

~and~

2025 DISTRICT TEACHER of the YEAR!



Maude Bing,
World Language Teacher

Maude Bing started teaching at HKHS in 1996 and has been educating our students for a total of 27 years! Her many roles over the years have included Spanish teacher, boys' and girls' tennis coach, various advisory roles as well as serving as a class advisor with Ms. Adamczyk in the early 2000s while simultaneously running the school's Human Relations Club. Ms. Bing was the **first-ever** girls' soccer coach in HKHS history, taking the reins of the fledgling program in the '90s. These days she works tirelessly as a dedicated TEAM mentor and a leader within the World Language department, always sharing her wisdom of best teaching practices. Ms. Bing is officially a mentor now but she has ***always*** generously shared resources, instructional techniques and ideas. She is ever ready and willing to help a colleague with ways to be a better teacher. She has exceptional rapport with students as well, always striving to offer a safe space and "home" for all of her students. **Let's all congratulate Ms. Bing on this well-deserved recognition!**



2025 STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR:

Amy Giarnella, *Guidance Counseling Secretary*

Amy Giarnella started at HKHS in the spring of 2023 - a difficult time to begin as she was required to jump in with both feet and hit the ground running. Little did we know, she had more experience with technology and organization than all of us combined. Suffice to say, she impressed us all. "Mrs. G" has not been with us for long, but it has felt as though she's been a member of our team for years. Students rely heavily upon her with regard to a wealth of procedures and as a result, she has lightened the Counseling Department load in ways that we've never experienced. We are grateful to Mrs. Giarnella for many reasons, one of the most important being that she has simplified and/or streamlined many of our existing processes since joining our team. She is also involved in many ways outside of the counseling department such as being a member of the RSD17 Technology Committee. **Congrats to Mrs. G!**

HKTV Wins "Best Performance"!

Two HKTV student films were nominated for the 9th annual **Quiet Corner Film Festival** that took place on May 28th at Killingly High School. **This recognition highlights the creativity and talent of our young filmmakers!**







CONGRATULATIONS to Mia McLaughlin who was nominated for her short film "***Phantom***" *(watch it here)* and to Reagan Aronson on her short film "***HKTV***" *(watch it here)*. **Emmerson Goeden came out on top with a Best Performance win for "HKTV"!**

Students walked the red carpet and it was an amazing experience overall!

You can read more about the festival here & **watch an interview with Reagan & Emmerson here**!
(skip ahead to 2:01 for their appearance)





STN Honor Society Gains a New Member!

HKTV student Larson McLaughlin has been inducted into the **Student Television Network Honor Society**!

The STN Honor Society was established to recognize the academic accomplishments of outstanding students enrolled in STN member schools. Students must be either a junior or senior in high school, have a minimum GPA of 3.50, be involved in one or more STN programs, and be nominated by an advisor. You can read more about this organization here!



Congrats Larson!

HKHS takes on the FRENCH!

Over the April vacation, 32 current and former HKHS French students and 6 staff members traveled to France for the week. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to experience French culture and history firsthand and to test their language skills. They thrived in this new environment! They experienced gothic cathedrals, medieval castles, the Normandy D-Day beaches, a walled city, a medieval abbey, a Paris boat cruise, and so much more. They enjoyed dining and shopping ~ ***French style***!



In front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris

Above all, they represented HK with pride. At every stop, hotels, restaurants, guided tours, etc., local personnel raved about their mature and appropriate behavior. **We are so proud of their conduct, their open-mindedness to a new culture, and their willingness to experience it all.**



At the Memorial of Caen in Normandy

CT Construction Career Day

HKHS technology & engineering students have been busy this last month with field trips and guest speakers helping students to make career connections in the fields of construction and engineering.

Technology students attended the **Connecticut Construction Career Day** in Wallingford, hosted annually by the Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut. This event highlights many of the potential careers in various construction fields including HVAC, electricians, plumbers, welders, heavy equipment, concrete, and safety.







What makes this event unique is the **hands-on** experience that the students get to participate in, on top of the variety of networking opportunities for potential career decisions. Students were able to talk with workers in the construction trades and hear what a career in the trades has to offer! Students were able to test out heavy equipment, climb telephone poles, and use other tools of the trade to get a small taste of construction careers. So many CT companies are hungry for skilled trades workers and are offering paid training, competitive pay, and opportunities for growth!







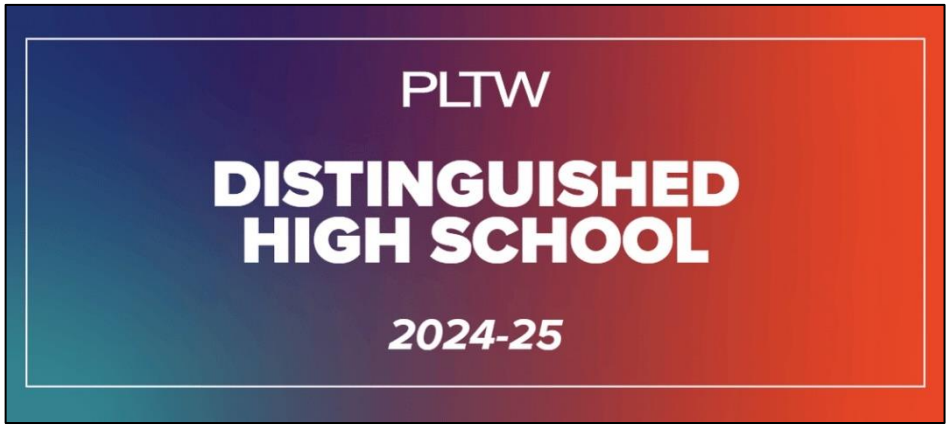
HKHS Alumni in the House!

HKHS engineering students had a visit with HKHS alumni, **Lindsay West** to talk about life after HK in the world of engineering. Lindsay works at Burns & McDonnell, a global engineering and architecture firm. She shared her journey through college and spoke about her current career as a Food Process Engineer – a career that often involves designing and optimizing manufacturing processes and equipment and ensuring compliance with food safety regulations. She also spoke to students about the internship process for those pursuing engineering in college.

Thank you, Lindsay!

BURNS McDONNELL

PLTW is Leading the Way *(literally)*



We're proud to announce Haddam Killingworth High School has been received national recognition as a **Project Lead The Way (PLTW) 2024-25 Distinguished School** for their commitment to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their Project Lead The Way (PLTW) engineering programs.

For nearly 30 years, PLTW has empowered millions of students across the U.S. to unlock their potential by developing the in-demand, real-world knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in life beyond the classroom. This award is given to schools who demonstrate high student engagement and retention in their PLTW engineering programs. PLTW enables schools to design scalable, future-focused programs that inspire students, empower educators, and connect learning to life after graduation. HKHS is proud to offer **7 unique courses** and has been participating in PLTW for over 20 years!

Criteria for this award include running at least three PLTW high school courses, having at least 25% of students in the school participating in PLTW courses, or at least 33% taking two courses or more and strategies to ensure students have opportunities to participate in PLTW programs. **HKHS joins only 6 other high schools in Connecticut to earn this distinction in 2024-25!** Other schools are the Academy of Information & Technology (Stamford), Aero/ Hydrospace Engineering Magnet School (Bridgeport), Engineering & Science Magnet School (New Haven), Rocky Hill High School, Simsbury High School, and Weston High School.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY
PLTW

Congrats to all involved in creating and sustaining this program!

[You can read more about what PLTW has to offer here.]

French & Spanish Honor Societies' Induction Ceremony 2025

Families gathered on April 7th to see their dedicated and talented world language students inducted into the French & Spanish Honor Societies. To be inducted, students must demonstrate a love of language and culture as well as high academic achievement.



The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is pleased to announce their newest members as: Zi Abbott, Audrey Bailey, Charlotte Behnke, Alexandra Catalano, Ryleigh Degnan, Peyton Dixon, Brody Ferguson, Ava Geissler, Juliette Harriman, Safina Hussain, Elna Krasniqi, Camryn Lisitano-Rode, Gabriella Lopez, Audrey Macy, Mia McLaughlin, Ava McNamara, Cameron Moore, Adalyn Proulx, Aaron Richwine, Mikayla Ruggiero, Madelyn Ruocco, Emilia Schweitzer, Aoife Sidlow, Bella Sperrazza, and Emily Spong.



The French Honor Society is thrilled to welcome 10 new members including: Chloe Abarientos, Dylan Brown, Maizie Irons, Sophia Langer, Audrey LaRosa, Mia Lomuntad, Bruce Peese, Frieda Petersen, Isla Poapst, and Wyatt Voegtli.

Each of these students have shown exemplary academic achievement, character, and an enthusiasm for exploring language and culture. As members, they will do service projects, explore their respective culture and language together, and will share both French & Spanish cultures and traditions with the school community. **Congratulations to all!**

Spanish Honor Society Supports World Central Kitchen

Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica learned about the career of Chef José Andrés and his foundation, World Central Kitchen. WCK provides food to people in distress during crises around the world. The Sociedad held its first Salsa Sale with the proceeds (**$500**) going to support World Central Kitchen's efforts across the globe!

Internship Program Year End Wrap-Up

As students look to the future, some want to test the waters in different fields of employment. Students in the HKHS Internship Program participated in our internship course, which focuses on job skills, business etiquette, and employer expectations. After completing the coursework and safety lessons, these seniors were placed in internships based on their interests. Students worked either in the fall semester, mid-winter, or during the spring semester. Contacts for internships come from family connections or school partnerships. Places of employment or job shadowing included: Middlesex Hospital, The Lee Company, HK Youth & Family Services, HK Rec Department, Yale New Haven Hospital Clinical Engineering Department, Burr School, Connecticut River Area Health District, CertifyFit, MissionCIT's EMS education, and the Higganum Veterinary Clinic.

Students had wonderful experiences this past year! Here are a few comments from participants:

"The benefits of interning at a hospital are endless, but some of the most important benefits are practical skills, real-world experience in healthcare, networking opportunities for when you become a healthcare worker, and exposure to different cultures. These skills helped me get hands-on experience that I would not be able to learn in a classroom setting. It helps me improve communication skills, and I got to see teamwork skills in a hospital setting." -A.M.

"I learned that eye contact and active listening is really important for conversations, and people do notice that. I got a compliment from one of the workers there that I was good at having a proper conversation, and they said that a lot of kids these days don't know how to have a formal conversation. I also got comments about my posture and how I presented myself, so that stuff's important too." -L.R.

"I also did a project on Radon... that's currently displayed in the office for the public to see." -L.R.

"There is so much that I observed and learned that I could write for hours about it but some of the most interesting things were, how to conduct/prepare for surgeries, how to conduct a basic physical exam, the importance of a fear free practice, and finally how to find different infections such as in the ear or on the skin using a microscope." -S.R.

"For events, they need at least 1 set of medical supplies…I assisted in making sure that the supplies they had were inventoried and well-organized so that they could be used. Another portion of my time was spent helping to organize their general storage area." -C.S.

"I learned the flow of the day, the amount of patients a nurse will take care of for one shift, the kinds of hours nurses work, how long they will spend on certain tasks, and more. It really helped me see how time is delegated in different tasks, just to make sure I know what kind of career I'm getting into, which was the most important part for me." -C.L.

"They showed me how project engineers work with the customer to develop and design the product, as well as testing the product in different environments and applications to ensure its durability and functionality." -S.G.

There are many more quotes that we'd love to share. For the moment, though, we would like to thank all the organizations and companies that invited us in. The HKHS Internship Program is always looking for additional sites where students can observe and/or participate so let us know if you'd like to get involved!

HKHS Band Performs at Killingworth Memorial Day Parade

On a beautiful Monday in May, HKHS band members gathered in Killingworth to march in the annual Memorial Day Parade. The band played a patriotic medley called "*Armed Forces Marching On*" while parading south on Route 81 and followed it up by playing the "*Star Spangled Banner*" at a ceremony at the Congregational Church in Killingworth.







Trumpet player Bruce Peese and trombone player Christopher Sanders-Roberts performed "*Taps*" at for the ceremony.

HKHS alternates with Haddam Killingworth Middle School each year, switching between the Killingworth parade and the Haddam parade. Next year, the middle school will perform in Killingworth, and the HKHS band will perform for the Haddam Memorial Day parade.



Outside of marching, the students even had some time to play at the Killingworth Elementary School playground!



HKHS is COOKIN'!

The culinary classroom has been buzzing with activity this spring!

Students once again visited Channel 8 News on both April 11th and May 9th, where they showcased seasonal spring and summer BBQ dishes alongside Gil Simmons.





April 25th, Emilia Maziarz and Margret DiNapoli traveled to the Morgan School for the regional cupcake competition and ***dominated***! Their creativity and baking expertise truly impressed the judges.



Back in the classroom, all culinary classes collaborated on an impressive five-day project, which they presented to a panel of teachers. The dedication, teamwork, and mouthwatering results made it a highlight of the season!



As always, it's been a delicious spring in the culinary program!

HKHS Math Team EQUALS TOP TEN

HKHS's Math Team was selected to represent the Greater Middlesex County Math League at the New England Math Match on May 2nd outside of Boston. This annual event is hosted by the New England Association of Math Leagues (NEAML) and featured highly competitive schools from all over the region. HKHS earned 8th place in the "Small School Division" for all of New England!

Rank	Small School Division	
1	Brunswick School	
2	Hopkins School	
3	Mass Academy	67
4	Hamden Hall	63
5	Kingswood Oxford	60
6	Bishop Brady High School	50
7	Lynnfield High School	47
8	Haddam-Killingworth High School	43
9	Baxter Academy	30
10	Maranacook Community High Scho	28



The HKHS students who competed were Tetsuya Imai, Jameson Conte, Dylan Brown, Bruce Peese, Chloe Abarientos, and Owen Voegtli. Bruce was the team's highest scorer!

Coach Zac Cropper-Alt says next year we'll try to crack the top five!



The Math Team also entered the "Purple Comet! Math Meet" on April 22nd and came in **2nd Place** for Connecticut! Purple Comet is a world-wide online competition that is open to any high school or middle school teams to join.

Continuing Education for the Win!

On May 19th, four of our teachers became newly certified to teach UConn Early College Experience (ECE) courses here at HKHS. The ECE Program offers 104 accredited courses in 46 disciplines, and is the longest running program of its kind in the nation! HKHS currently offers several UConn courses, where students can earn credit that is transferable to most colleges. **Congrats to our teachers!**



Michael Baklik *[Phys Ed & Health],* ***Tracey Ritter*** *[History & Social Studies],* ***Marcy Webster*** *[Music], &* ***Jason Canaan*** *[Art] (pictured left to right)*

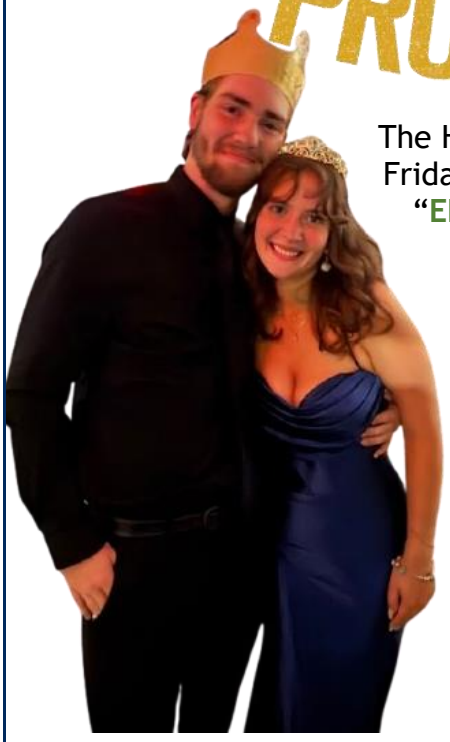
JUNIOR PROM 2025



The HKHS junior prom was held at Beckham Hall at Wesleyan University on **Friday, April 25th** with a theme of "**UNDER THE SEA**". The students enjoyed a night full of dancing, food, and treats. **Ian Pizzorusso was crowned Prom King & Grace Natanzon was by his side as Prom Queen!**



SENIOR PROM 2025



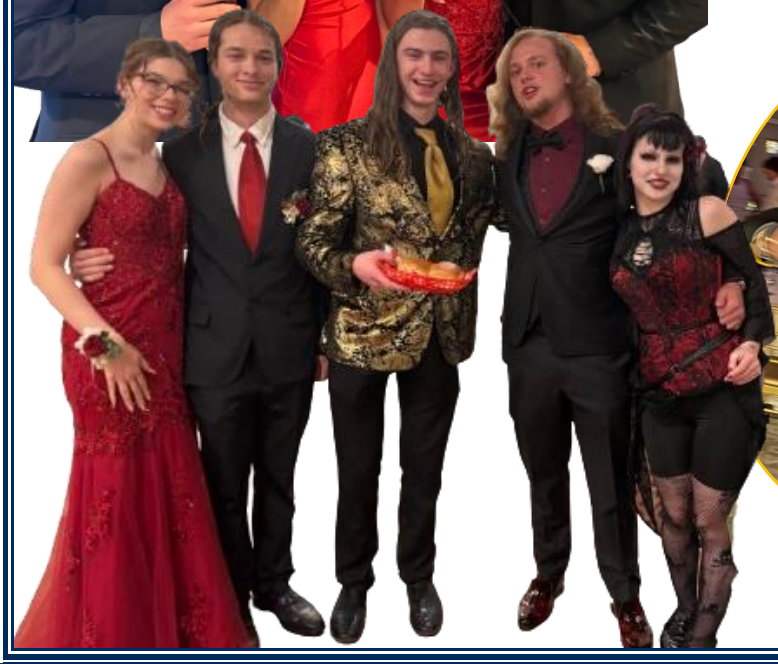
The HKHS senior prom was held on Friday, May 30th with the theme of "**ENCHANTED FOREST**" and the back drop was the beautiful St. Clements Castle in Portland. To no one's surprise, the adorable couple of…





Joseph Salafia & Sonya Luneau were crowned the 2025 Prom King & Prom Queen!





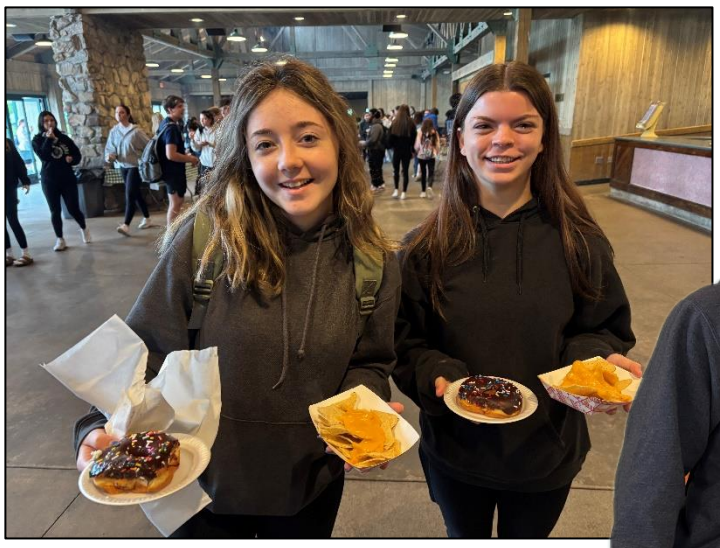
Students enjoyed a slider station and mocktails followed by a salad course & dinner before a night of dancing!





SENIOR THINGS

CLASS OF 2025





The Class of 2025 spent the day at **Holiday Hill** on Friday, May 23rd for their final field trip – a.k.a. their senior outing. Despite having less than ideal weather, a good time was had by all!

Students played laser tag, basketball, mini golf, and other games, won prizes, and enjoyed good food - including ice cream & cotton candy from their food trucks!



HOLIDAY HILL

SENIOR PORTRAITS!

Rising Seniors of the Class of 2026 – Senior portrait sessions with Steady Photography should be booked soon! Schedule them early for the best selection of dates. They will be on-site at the high school on both **July 22nd & August 14th** however all portraits must be taken before August 29th.

Please **click here for additional information** on dates, times, cost, and more. If you have questions about senior portraits, please reach out to Steady Photography directly at studio@steadyphotography.com.

Steady PHOTOGRAPHY

HKHS Goes Green!



For over 20 years Dr. Borzain has been a Beach Captain for International Coastal Clean-up Day sponsored by **Save the Sound** for The Ocean Conservancy. Over the years, students from the Spanish Honor Society, French Honor Society, Environmental Club, and International Culture Club have participated in the cleaning and data collection. Each year a t-shirt is produced to support the event. The HKHS students pictured here are wearing the t-shirts from ***at least*** 2009 to the present! *To learn more or sign up to volunteer with **Save the Sound*** – *click here*!

On May 21st, HKHS's **International Culture Club** and our **Environmental Club** held a "**green & clean**" themed luncheon meeting. All luncheon items were environmentally friendly, healthy, and/or purchased from companies that have established green initiatives.



The group enjoyed the lunch, which included locally made pizza, homemade salsa and organic chips, several delicious salads, pasta salad, fruit, and yummy desserts. ***Who knew that Oreos are vegan?*** Both clubs hope to continue collaborating next year and they wish everyone a happy and healthy summer break!

♫ TUNE IN to What's Happening in the HK Music Dept! 🎶



The annual **Spring Chorus & Band Concert** was held on May 15th and was a wonderful evening of song and celebrations! Highlights included senior recognitions, music from the Boston Festival our groups attended in April, and a combined piece with the HK middle school band.



The HK Select Choirs performed at the Hartford Yard Goats on May 28th. They were honored to sing the National Anthem and had a great time down on the field watching the inner workings of a minor league baseball team. The HK Choir performs at a variety of professional sporting events throughout the year including Hartford Wolf Pack hockey games and is actively seeking to add the CT Sun for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year.







RSD17 Earns National Recognition!

We're all singing today, because the NAMM Foundation just named Regional School District 17 as one of the nation's **Best Communities for Music Education** (BCME) programs!

This national recognition program is the signature offering of the NAMM Foundation that recognizes and celebrates schools and districts for their support and commitment to music education and efforts to assure access to music for all students as part of a well-rounded education. This program gives districts and schools tools to increase visibility and support for their music programs.

*Like any community, a thriving music education community requires broad participation, a sense of belonging, and structure. The **Best Communities for Music Education Award** recognizes that a healthy music community is defined by a wealth of passion and commitment from leaders who leverage every resource to expand opportunities for children to learn and grow through music-making. Throughout the award's 26 years, the Foundation has recognized thousands of school districts and schools in 46 states. From rural to metropolitan, large and small, public and non-public. The NAMM Foundation proudly honors the diversity of educational communities that support students' musical growth.*

Winning this award highlights our district's dedication to music education and is intended to strengthen community pride and advocacy for music programs. *You can read more and see a complete list of awardees here!*

¿Qué es esto? Qui a fait quoi?

Congratulations to the following list of seniors who are graduating with the Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy!

Earning the Seal of Biliteracy in French:
Julia Bermingham & Keira Sehl-Albert

Earning the Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish:
Liem Criscuolo, Trevor Dixon, Claire Eighmy, Grace LaConte, Ava Mazotta, Michael Perry, Gabrielle Williams, Mathias Schweitzer, Samuel Greenwood, Mitchell Kelsey, Joseph Lucero, & Bryce Leiberman

And, an EXTRA special congratulations to *Gabriel Sirqueira* for graduating with the Seal of Tri-literacy in Portuguese & Spanish!

Next up! Congratulations to the following list of juniors who have just passed their AAPPL exams in May!

AAPPL
ACTFL ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE TOWARD PROFICIENCY IN LANGUAGES

Adam Livingston, Julia Downing, Dina Kilroy, Daniel McCourt, John Moyher, Catherine Nguyen, Mikayla Ruggiero, Cash Smigel, Avery Maxwell, Cameron Moore, & Emily Spong

Haddam Killingworth High School Hosts Inspiring Art Show & National Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony

On April 23rd, HKHS proudly showcased the creativity and talent of its student artists at the annual Art Show & National Art Honor Society (NAHS) Induction Ceremony. The evening was a celebration of artistic achievement, dedication, and community spirit.



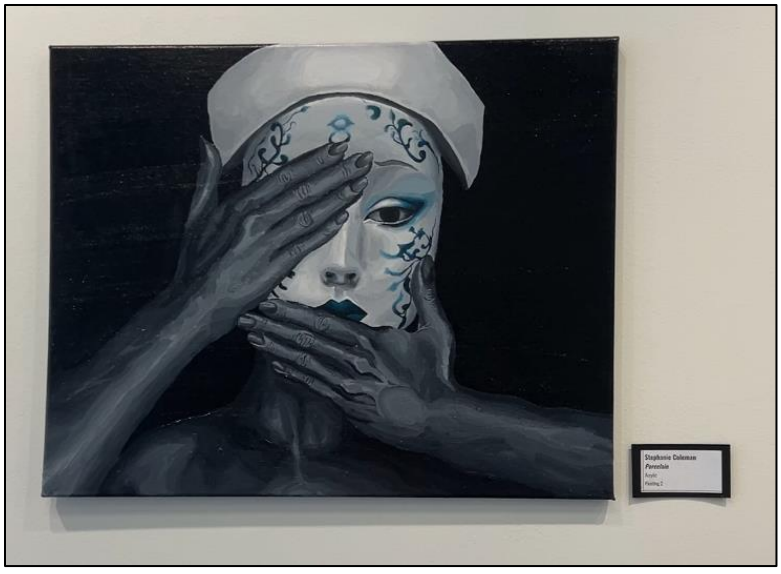




The art show featured an impressive array of student work across multiple media, including painting, drawing, photography, and ceramic sculpture. The school's art gallery and surrounding halls were transformed into a vibrant visual experience, offering attendees a chance to admire the diverse talents and creative voices of Haddam Killingworth's young artists.

The event was capped off with the NAHS Induction Ceremony, where new members were formally welcomed into the society. These students were recognized not only for their artistic excellence but also for their commitment to scholarship, leadership, and service through the arts. The ceremony served as a reminder of the important role that art plays in both personal expression and community enrichment.





The event was beautifully catered by the Haddam Killingworth High School Culinary Arts Department, whose students prepared and served a variety of delicious refreshments. Their contribution added a warm and festive touch to the evening, exemplifying the collaborative spirit that defines the school's vibrant arts community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the newly inducted NAHS members and sincere thanks to Mrs. Siciliano and her student participants, the faculty and administration who attended, and families who helped make the night such a memorable success!

National Art Honor Society Goes to the Yale Art Gallery

On May 2nd, members of the HKHS National Art Honor Society (NAHS) embarked on an enriching field trip to the Yale University Art Gallery in New Haven. The visit provided students with a unique opportunity to engage directly with some of the most iconic works in the history of art.



As one of the oldest and most renowned university art museums in the country, the Yale Art Gallery boasts an extensive and diverse collection. Students were able to explore masterpieces spanning ancient to contemporary art, including works by legendary artists such as Van Gogh, Picasso, Monet, and Rothko. The experience allowed them to observe techniques, styles, and cultural contexts up close—bringing to life the lessons they've studied in the classroom.



The field trip not only deepened students' appreciation for the visual arts but also inspired them to think critically and creatively about their own artistic journeys. Guided by knowledgeable staff and instructors, the students engaged in thoughtful discussions and reflections throughout the day.

Trips like this one reinforce the mission of the NAHS: ***to support excellence in the visual arts and to foster a lifelong love for art and culture***.



The visit to the Yale Art Gallery was both educational and inspiring, and a valuable reminder of the power of experiencing great art in person. **Special thanks to the art department and chaperones who helped make the day possible, and to the Yale Art Gallery for welcoming our students so warmly!**

No Space for Hate: A Community Art Project

These pieces of yellow origami were created by the efforts of HKHS's National Art Honor Society and the Student Equity Team. The Student Equity Team held an assembly discussing the social issues seen within our school community. At the end of the assembly, each student then wrote on a yellow card.



On these cards were pledges from every student like: "*I vow to be kind to everyone I meet*", "*I promise to speak up for others*", and a whole host of other pledges for the sake of our community. The National Art Honor Society then took these cards and created art out of them.

This piece is a community-based art project. During this year's Streetfest, NAHS had the entire school lend a hand in folding a piece. **The concept: Take Up Space with Kindness, No Room for Hate.** There will be a temporary installation of the work until clear acrylic is used to display these pledges in a more permanent presentation.

STREETFEST 2025!



HKHS held its annual **Streetfest** celebration on Wednesday, May 28th and it was a huge success! Students enjoyed a BBQ lunch, tons of games & activities, the much-anticipated cardboard boat race, and much more!









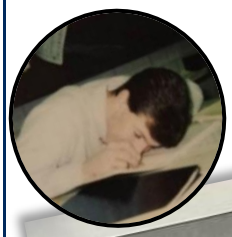






😔 Goodbye Keck! Hello Zagata! 😊

The Cougar Chronicle, HKHS's student-run newspaper will have a new advisor at the helm for the first time in ***since 1992***! English teacher Barth Keck is retiring from HKHS after **30 YEARS**. Never fear however as our very own **Miss Zagata, English teacher extraordinaire**, is ready to step up to the plate! Mr. Keck has been an unbelievably influential figure here at HKHS for hundreds and hundreds of students over the years and here is what a few of them had to say…





Recent editions of ***The Cougar Chronicle*** *can be found here, including the Mr. Keck's very last edition from June 2025.*

"Mr. Keck has been a true leader for The Cougar Chronicle. He dedicates so much time to help his journalism students and Cougar Chronicle Club students ***understand the purpose of journalism****, and teach them really how to write an effective news story, and he cares about his students and wants them to succeed and feel good about their work. I have enjoyed working on the paper so much, and I feel I have been inspired to perhaps take on something like this as a career someday. I feel that I have been very privileged to have worked with Mr. Keck."*
- Jonathan Saraceno

"One thing I will miss about Mr. Keck is how he teaches, how he interacts with people in his class, and the good advice that he gives. He has a funny sense of humor and it would lighten up the mood. My favorite quote from him would be ***"Sit down - that's what I'm taking about!"***
- Jeffrey Schull

"I joined The Cougar Chronicle my sophomore year because I knew I wanted to minor in journalism later on. This led me to take Mr. Keck's journalism class that worked alongside The Cougar Chronicle this past year. Throughout my experience of writing articles advised by Mr. Keck I discovered my further love for journalism. ***He never forced me to enjoy the work I did but always encouraged me to love what I wrote.*** *I can never thank him enough for opening my eyes to a career I look forward to doing every day."*
- Reagan Aronson



- **4th Quarter Ended** | Tuesday, June 3rd
- **Final Exams** | Thursday, June 5th through Wednesday, June 11th
- **SATs** | Saturday, June 7th
- **½ Day** | Monday, June 9th & Tuesday, June 10th – ***Dismissal at 11:55am!***
- **Graduation Rehearsals** | **Mandatory** for **all** seniors – *you must be present for **both**!*
  - Tuesday, June 10th at 12:30pm - starting in the **auditorium**
  - Wednesday, June 11th at 9am - starting in the **cafeteria**
- **Senior Breakfast** | Wednesday, June 11th at 8am in the cafeteria
- **GRADUATION DAY!** | June 11th at 4pm **weather dependent**
  - An outdoor ceremony will not require tickets. However, if it is moved to the auditorium due to inclement weather, each student will be allotted **four** tickets.
- **Project Graduation** – Wednesday, June 11th starting at 10pm until 4:30am on June 12th in the HKHS fieldhouse. *Students must arrive by 11pm for admittance!*
- **ACTs** | Saturdays, June 14th
- **Steady Photography Senior Photo Sessions** | July 22nd & August 14th
  - *On-site at the high school for both sessions*
- **Freshmen Orientation** | Thursday, August 19th @ HKHS
  - *Invitations will be going out to 8th grade families in July!*

We look forward to bringing the 2024-25 school year to a successful close with graduation on Wednesday, June 11th. We hope you have a wonderful final few days of the school year and a fantastic summer break!

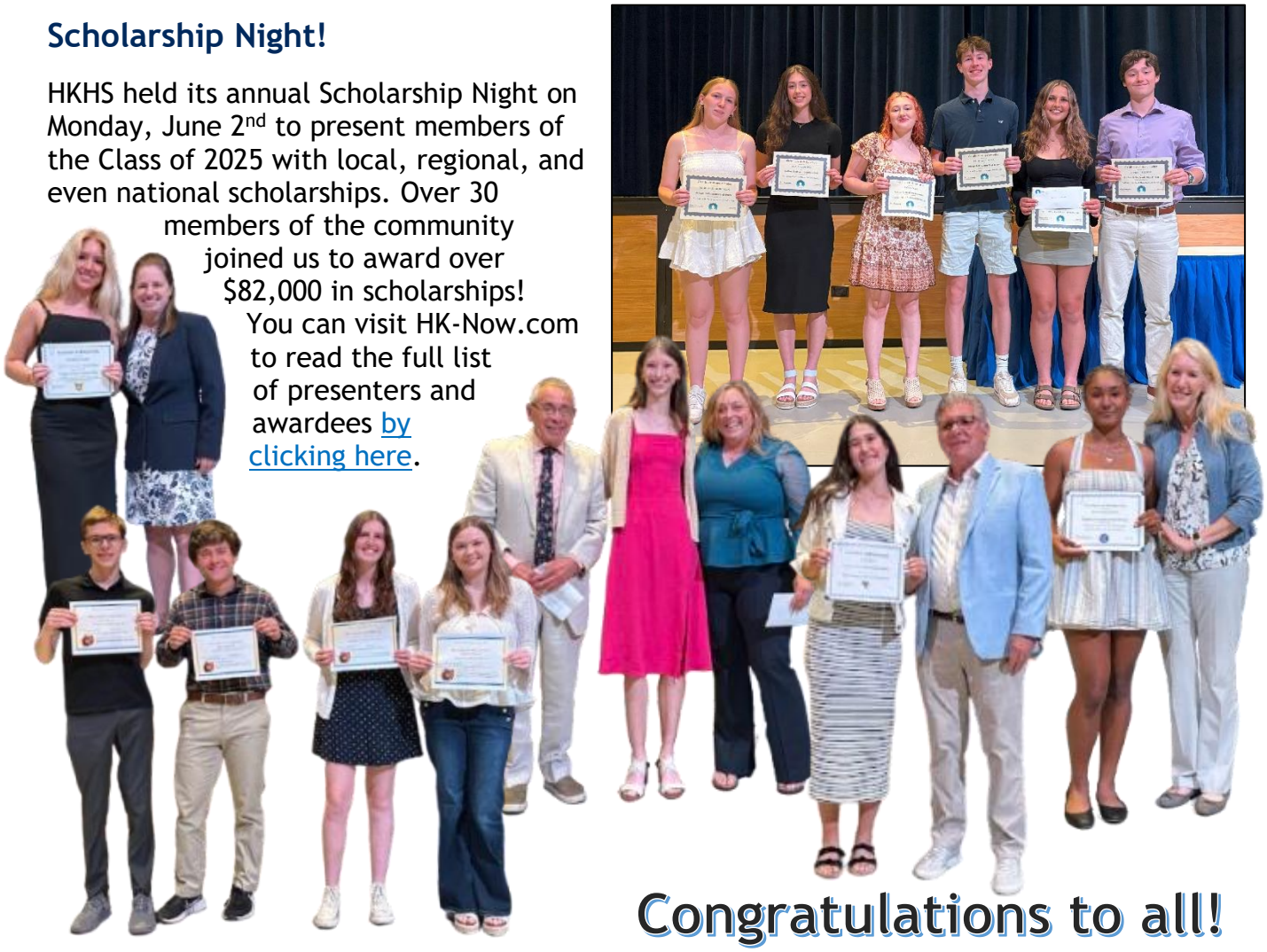
Respectfully,

Donna L. Hayward,
Principal

◦ Guidance Counseling Dept Update ◦

Scholarship Night!

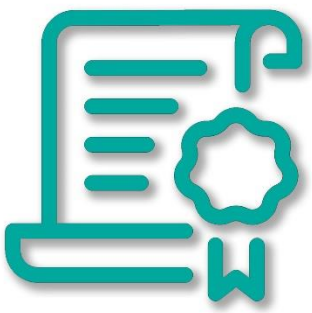
HKHS held its annual Scholarship Night on Monday, June 2nd to present members of the Class of 2025 with local, regional, and even national scholarships. Over 30 members of the community joined us to award over $82,000 in scholarships! You can visit HK-Now.com to read the full list of presenters and awardees by clicking here.



Congratulations to all!

Senior Transcripts!

Final HKHS transcripts for seniors will automatically be sent out by the school counselors once final grades are complete which should be the week of June 16th. Seniors should have indicated where they will be attending college by meeting with their school counselor who will use that information to send out transcripts. This is also the case for NCAA student athletes. Students do **not** need to request this to be done and do **not** need to call or email their counselors to follow up.



Colleges will routinely send reminder emails each week but students should **not** be concerned unless they receive notice it has not been received by early to mid-July. Please note that even after we have sent final transcripts, a student's portal may still say their transcript is needed for several days to a week+. This is because the colleges have to manually download the transcript AND update their portal indicating it was received. If you believe there is an issue or have questions over the summer, please contact counseling secretary Amy Giarnella at 860.554.5750 or agiarnella@rsd17.org for assistance.

UConn ECE Transcripts!

Seniors who have taken UConn ECE courses and need a UConn transcript sent to their college or university - **must order it themselves** directly through UConn. Information this process can be found here. If your student is currently enrolled in a UConn ECE class they should **not** try to request their transcript until **after** July 1st.

Student Schedules!

All rising seniors and juniors have received their schedules for the 2025-26 school year. Rising sophomores are in the process of receiving their schedules from counselors while incoming freshman will receive theirs at orientation in August. All students will have the opportunity to make changes to their schedule, if possible, up until the Add/Drop Deadline of Sept 10th.

Goodbye Naviance! HELLO SchooLinks!

RSD17 is excited to announce that we have partnered with SchooLinks as our College & Career Readiness platform. All of the SchooLinks features are designed with students in mind to help them become career, college, and life ready. As a parent or guardian, you will have the opportunity to join your student in their career and college exploration process and have conversations with them about their future. You will be able to access SchooLinks through your own account as well. School counselors visited Health 2 classes on May 19th to facilitate our rising seniors in accessing SchooLinks for the first time. We will begin utilizing SchooLinks with all of our students, starting in the fall of 2025.

Going forward, SchooLinks will allow you to:

- View the results of your student's career interest, strength, and mindset assessments to learn more about their interests and what careers might be right for them
- See what colleges and careers your student has favorited and set as goals
- Check your personalized dashboard for upcoming events as well as important reminders and to-dos for your student
- Complete your own research on colleges, careers, and more to help you have informed conversations with your student PLUS the ability to add options to their student's account
- Compare college costs, explore expected financial aid, scholarships, & out-of-pocket expenses

SchooLinks is a tool that gives you access to the bigger picture of your students' future!

We look forward to getting started and helping you help your student!

Advanced Placement Students!

Please note that students scheduled for Advanced Placement (AP) courses for 2025-2026 ***may*** have summer work that is required for the incoming course. However, not all teachers assign summer work so it will depend on the specific class(es) in which the student is enrolled. AP teachers have been meeting with their AP students to review these details. If a student has any questions they should reach out the corresponding teacher(s).

PARKING PERMITS!



All HKHS students are required to earn 30 hours of community service in order to graduate. **Please note that all students are required to earn ALL 30 hours of community service in order to receive a parking permit or participate in other senior privileges** *(such as senior prom, senior outing, etc.)*. *The exception to this rule is transfer students who have a prorated requirement.*

Rising seniors should be sure to get their required hours completed over the summer if they intend on applying for a parking space for the fall. Please note that rising juniors are **not** guaranteed a parking spot. All juniors must also have ALL required community service hours before they can apply for a spot.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES OF HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH INC.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES!

Haddam Killingworth Youth & Family Services strives to meet the needs (*as they learn about them!*) of teens in our community. One concern from parents and guardians with rising freshman or underclassmen was finding ways to connect their kids with opportunities to fulfill their required community service hours.

HKYFS is offering great summer volunteer opportunities such as their **Summer Solstice Kids Event** on June 20th from 5pm-8pm. Help make the evening fun and memorable for local families with tasks such as activity setup, assisting with games & crafts, and general support.

Also available is their **Teen Trailblazers** program for 7th-10th graders which is day trips for the younger teen crowd who need safe and fun ways to socialize during the summer. This is your chance to get out, explore, and have fun! Whether you're into outdoor fun, new experiences, or just want to hang out with a great group, this is the summer plan for you!

TEEN Trailblazers

HKYFS has also compiled a list of local organizations and events to connect students with what interests them. Visit https://hkyfs.org/community-volunteer-opportunities/ today!

Search for the Perfect Volunteer Opportunity

Choose the type of volunteer opportunity perfect for you and your interests.

ALL	EVENTS	GARDENING & GROUNDSKEEPING	HADDAM
HELPING SENIORS	HELPING YOUTH	INDOOR ACTIVITIES	KILLINGWORTH
	OTHER	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES	

*Please note that all hours must be completed for NON-PROFIT organizations unless a student has **PRIOR** approval from their counselor. **Any** opportunity listed on the HKYFS website will be accepted however. Contact counseling secretary Amy Giarnella at 860.554.5750 or agiarnella@rsd17.org if you have any questions.*