



Eric A. Byrne, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

35 Leroy Ave
Darien, CT 06820
T. (203) 656 7412
F. (203) 656 3052
E. ebyrne@darienps.org

September 19, 2025

Dear Darien Community,

On Wednesday morning I had the privilege of meeting Riptide, the Darien High School mascot. Riptide was in front of DHS greeting students as they arrived at school for the day. While Riptide may look fierce with an intimidating snarl, don't be fooled by the optics. Riptide is an absolute mush and loves interacting with the community.

District Alerts/Notifications

This week's incident at DHS reminded us how crucial it is to stay in the loop with what's happening at our schools. We use contact information provided in Aspen to send out timely updates, news, and alerts via SchoolMessenger generated emails, phone calls and text messages. To make sure you get all the information you need, please take a moment to double-check your contact information in your Aspen account. In addition, you must opt in to start receiving text messages. Please simply send "subscribe, opt in, or yes" to the number 67587 to sign up for text message alerts from the District. If you are having trouble receiving messages or opting in, please submit a "Help Ticket" by clicking on the "Contact the Help Desk" button on the main page of the district website: <https://www.darienps.org/>.

Transportation Safety

While we are all familiar with the rules surrounding school bus safety, it is important to note that not all of our students ride on traditional yellow school buses. Some of our students in Darien are transported to and from school by van or suburban and not buses. These vehicles are white and not the traditional yellow, but they do often make multiple stops, may drive more slowly than typical traffic, and sometimes wait a few moments for families to meet the vehicle during pickups. Please observe the same traffic rules when you approach one of our vans or suburbans on the roads. Your patience and attentiveness help ensure that all students can get to and from school safely.

Performing Arts

The fall performing arts season begins at Darien High School next week. The DHS Ensembles Autumn Showcase Concert will be held on Thursday, Sept 25th at 7:00pm in the DHS auditorium. This is your chance to hear selections from each of the DHS Band, Chorus, and Orchestra all in the same concert! The concert

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will be livestreamed and recorded. The link will be posted on the [music website](#) when it is available. Break a leg!

State Standardized Assessments

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is transitioning to electronic distribution for the Individual Student Score Reports for the State Standardized Assessments - Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) and Next Generation Science Standards Assessment (NGSS). The annual District assessment letter is linked [here](#). The assessment letter includes directions for families to access the score reports from the Aspen portal. The assessment letter and Individual Score Reports were posted on the Aspen Portal today. If you require a paper copy of your child's Individual Score Report, please contact your child's school.

Back to School Open House

Thank you to our middle school parents and guardians for attending open house this week. It was great to see such a strong turnout from our community at the back to school events these last two weeks. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support of our students, faculty and staff. Dr. Fedigan and I truly enjoyed meeting so many of you. A special thank you to our teachers for their comprehensive presentations.

From the Board of Education - Superintendent Search

Community members are invited to provide their input to help develop the ideal candidate's qualifications and skills by completing [this brief survey](#) by October 3, 2025. Your participation is an important part of this process and appreciated. Community updates and information regarding the search can also be found on the District [website](#).

Around Town

On Sunday, September 21st at 12:00 pm, Darien High School students will host a campus walk in the Stadium in honor of Miles and Jeremy Clark, twin brothers and fellow Darien High School students who suffer from Dravet Syndrome - a medication resistant severe form of epilepsy. The event will raise much needed funds for The Dravet Syndrome Foundation. Immediately beforehand, the Blue Wave football team will host their annual carwash from 10:00-12:00 at the high school and will be donating a percentage of proceeds to the Dravet Syndrome Foundation. Both amazing displays of empathy and caring by our high school students.

Also, on Sunday, the 2025 Darien Road Race & Family Fun Day, benefitting The Community Fund, is at Pear Tree Beach from 8:30-11:00 am. This community fall event features two races—a 1.5-mile Timed Fun Run and a 5-mile Timed Race—plus family-friendly activities under a big tent. Every dollar raised supports essential youth and family social service programs in Darien, Norwalk, and Stamford. Register to participate in the

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walk/run in advanced [here](#) or at the race, no registration required for the Family Fun Day activities.

Weekend DHS Sports & Homecoming September 19

We have another packed weekend of athletic events! Today our girls varsity soccer team plays Bridgeport Central High School at home at 4 pm and the much anticipated varsity homecoming football game is tonight at 7:00 pm against Brien McMahon. A reminder to parents/guardians of middle and elementary school parents that the game is not a drop off event. In the interest of safety, all middle and elementary school students must be accompanied by a supervising adult. On Saturday, girls freshman field hockey plays at Trumbull High School at 9:00 am, boys junior varsity football play Fairfield prep in Fairfield at 10:00 am, girls junior varsity and varsity volleyball play in Stamford beginning at 11:00 am, girls varsity soccer team plays at home at 1:00 pm against Holy Cross, boys cross county run in Farmington at 1:30 pm, girls freshman volleyball play in Stamford at 2:00 pm and girls varsity field hockey play in Pennsylvania over the weekend . Go Blue Wave!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,



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