



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

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

December 19, 2025

Dear Darien Community,

My sincerest thanks to all who have reached out and offered support to the Hindley community during this difficult week; the level of care and kindness shown has been beyond all expectations and is deeply appreciated by our entire staff. While we often speak of the impact of our greater, unified school 'family', this week we have truly lived it; feeling the strength of your support as a community that comes together in times of need.

DHS Spectacular

Wednesday evening was another first for me as I attended the DHS Holiday Spectacular. What a show! Congratulations to all the musicians for a beautiful, fun, inspiring evening of music. Many thanks to our music teachers who did an amazing job conducting and nurturing the students this fall.

Safety

As the safety of our students remains our highest priority, I would like to take a moment to respectfully remind all drivers to strictly adhere to traffic laws and exercise extreme caution during student drop-off and pick-up times. The high volume of vehicles, combined with the presence of pedestrians and students, requires every driver to be focused and compliant with posted speed limits, traffic flow, designated drop-off/pick-up zones and the instructions of crossing guards and staff. Additionally, unpredictable winter weather coupled with darker mornings and afternoons require more caution on the roads. Your cooperation in driving safely and following all rules ensures a quick, orderly and, most importantly, safe transition for all students to and from school.

DHS Choir Enrichment

In a beautiful display of community and music, the DHS Choir visited Hindley Elementary School yesterday to perform for the staff and students. This unique "hallway concert" allowed staff and children to step out of their classrooms and be inspired by the soaring voices of our older student-musicians.

MMS Quiz Bowl

The Middlesex Quiz Bowl team had a phenomenal day on Saturday at the Southern Connecticut Regional History Bee & Bowl! Four teams competed in the Bowl and 13 students competed individually in the Bee. All

Darien Public Schools

35 Leroy Avenue • Darien, CT 06820 • T: (203) 656 7400 • F: (203) 656 3052 • darienps.org

four teams made the playoffs and qualified for Nationals in Orlando! Good luck at the next competition on January 10.

The Mather Homestead Essay Contest

Congratulations to MMS students, Kael Attonito and Mason Wang, for winning the Mather Homestead Essay Contest for their essays on *Why is it important to celebrate America 250?*

Byrne's Book Club

After the holiday break, I will be launching a book club series culminating with a community discussion. The books will vary in subject, but all will be relevant to our students and community, and serve as foundations for important topics and issues we can navigate together. Our first read will be *Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic-and What We Can Do About It* by Jennifer Breheny Wallace. The discussion will be Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 pm at Darien Public Library.

DHS Sports

It's going to be an active weekend for our winter athletes with a full slate of games and meets on the calendar! We kick things off today at 4:45 pm as freshman girls basketball heads to the Stamford High Jamboree, followed by a late-night hockey game for boys jv hockey at 8:30 pm at Stamford Twin Rinks against Notre Dame-West Haven. The momentum continues into tomorrow, with a busy morning featuring freshman boys basketball at Newtown (9:00 am), varsity wrestling at the Fairfield Ludlowe Tournament (9:00 am), and boys and girls varsity indoor track at Wilton (9:30 am). In the afternoon, catch girls varsity hockey at home at the Darien Ice House at 2:30 pm, or follow our varsity (3:00 pm) and jv boys (4:45 pm) basketball teams as they travel to Newtown. Our boys and girls varsity indoor track teams will be competing at the Jim Mitchell Invitational at the NYC Armory at 3:00 pm, while boys varsity hockey travels to Simsbury for a 6:00 pm face-off. We wrap up the weekend on Sunday with boys jv hockey traveling to West Haven for a 5:30 pm rematch. Roll Wave!

With the holiday recess next week, this will be my last Community Update of 2025. I wish all students, staff, and families who celebrate a cheerful and memorable Christmas filled with warmth and love.

Sincerely,



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