Haddam Killingworth High School
March | April 2026 Newsletter



From the Principal:

We hope everyone had a wonderful spring break and had a chance to rest up for the "home stretch" of the school year.

As the temperatures rise, HKHS is also heating up! Student learning is coming to its academic peak and we are rapidly approaching a full season of celebrations to showcase our students' excellence! Seniors have finished presenting their senior portfolios, having come to know themselves better as learners, and are poised to take that raised awareness with them to their next ventures. I am delighted to share this update on a myriad of HKHS activities and accomplishments and hope that you can appreciate the **Cougar spirit** in these pages!

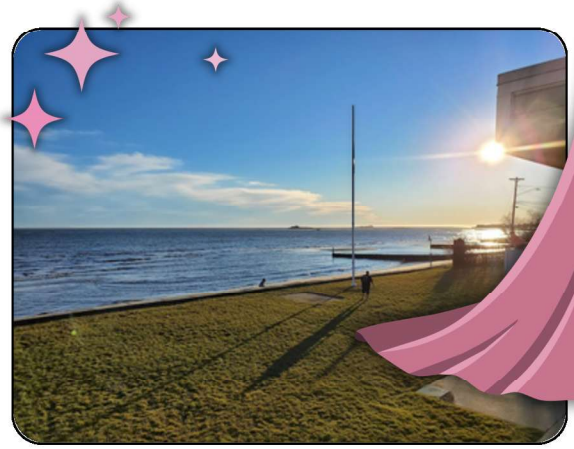
Junior & Senior Prom Season

The HKHS junior prom will be held at the **Westbrooks Elks Club** in Westbrook on Friday, May 15th from 6pm to 10pm with a theme of **Masquerade**! Ticket sales will run from April 20th through May 1st and all Outside Guest Forms must be turned in **by** May 1st to Mr. Todzia or Mrs. Siciliano. **No late form submissions will be accepted.**

The HKHS senior prom is set for Saturday, May 30th at **St. Clements Castle** in Portland from 6:30pm to 10pm. The theme will be the **ROARING 20s** and tickets will be sold from May 4th through 8th. All Outside Guest Forms are due **no later** than May 1st and should be turned in to Mr. Wilcox or Mr. Bergantino. **No late form submissions will be accepted.**

NOTE: All UFOs must be cleared [*items returned or paid for*] **before** students can purchase prom tickets.

To purchase senior prom tickets, seniors must have **all** required community service hours submitted **and** approved.









HKHS Student Wins **NATIONAL** Scholarship to France!

Cannes You Believe It? How Nice!

We are thrilled to announce that our very own **Tristen Papuga** was awarded the 2026 AATF & AFS-USA Student Scholarship, this *highly competitive* award given to (1) single high school French student each year. This national competition recognizes dedicated, passionate, and accomplished students from across the country. **The award covers the entire cost of a month-long summer language camp in the south of France!** Tristen will be enriching his already impressive French with first-hand experience in the country of this beautiful language. ***Félicitations, Tristan!***

This amazing opportunity is sponsored by the *American Association of Teachers of French* [AATF] and *AFS Intercultural Programs USA*. The **AATF** is the only national association devoted exclusively to the needs of French teachers at all levels. Their community of French educators works to promote and defend French programs, create and disseminate useful materials for the classroom, and provide opportunities to recognize professional excellence and student achievement. **AFS-USA** [*also known as the American Field Service*] empowers people to become globally engaged citizens by delivering meaningful intercultural experiences that provide the knowledge and skills needed to help create a more just and peaceful world.

Speaking of Summer...

Quarter 4 is here and summer will be hear before we know it. Quarter 3 grades will be available this week along with Honor Roll and High Honor Roll. Parents/guardians will be emailed their student's report cards and the full Honor Roll list can be found on the HKHS website [on the *Home & Info tab*].



2025-2026 TESTING DATES

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS

Mon, 5/4/2026	Tue, 5/5/2026	Wed, 5/6/2026	Thu, 5/7/2026	Fri, 5/9/2026
Biology (@ 8am) European History & Microeconomics (@ 12pm)	Human Geography and Chemistry (@ 8am) US Government (@ 12pm)	English Literature & Composition (@ 8am)	Statistics (@ 12pm)	United States History (@ 8am) Macroeconomics (@ 12pm)
Mon, 5/11/2026	**Tue, 5/12/2026**	**Wed, 5/13/2026**	**Thu, 5/14/2026**	**Fri, 5/15/2026**
Calculus AB and Calculus BC (@ 8am)	French Language & Culture (@ 8am) Psychology (@ 12pm)	English Language & Composition (@ 8am) Physics C: Mechanics (@ 12pm)	Spanish Language (@ 8am) Physics C: E&M and Computer Science Principles (@ 12pm)	Computer Science A (@ 12pm)

ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) EXAMS
May 19, 2026 - May 21, 2026
[applicable to some but not all upperclassmen World Language students]

Please make sure you are familiar with these important testing dates!

Please remember that you can log into your PowerSchool Parent Portal account at any time to check on your student's grades. The last grade check-in before final report cards will be Q4 Progress Reports which will be ready in early May. If you have any questions, please reach out to individual teachers. The format for teacher email addresses is firstinitiallastname@rsd17.org. If you need assistance setting up or accessing your PowerSchool Parent Portal account, please email agiarnella@rsd17.org.



The cast and crew of the spring musical, **Little Shop of Horrors,** invite you to attend our show on May 1st & 2nd at 7pm!



Tickets are on sale through students or you can purchase your ticket at the door.
Wanna grab some electronically? Use this link: https://gofan.co/app/school/CT17399.

While We're On Stage...

Let's all congratulate the three HKHS music students, **Juliette Harriman, Adam Livingston, and Christopher Sanders-Roberts** [*pictured left to right*], who advanced to the **Connecticut All-State Music Festival.**

The festival was held from March 26th to 28th at the Hartford Convention Center and the students had an amazing experience!



YEARBOOKS are Going Fast...Don't Miss Out



Yearbook sales are ongoing but time is running out! ALL students who want a yearbook must order one as senior dues do not include a yearbook. There is a finite number of yearbooks available so once those have all been spoken for, no further orders can be placed.

Don't wait! Click HERE to our yours today!

HK Math Team RANKS!

On March 31st the HKHS math team participated in the **Small School State Championship** earning 5th place overall. We were only bested by three elite private schools plus Rocky Hill High School; making HKHS the #2 in the "Small Public School" category in all of Connecticut!

Small School State Championship

		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Team	Total
1	Brunswick School	18	16	9	15	15	12	18	103
2	Greenwich Academy	13	12	9	12	4	10	12	72
3	Hopkins	7	12	7	15	7	7	15	70
4	Rocky Hill High School	12	9	8	13	9	8	9	68
5	Haddam-Killingworth High School	7	7	4	15	5	8	12	58
6	Hamden Hall	6	7	7	12	1	7	12	52
7	Waterford High School	6	4	5	9	7	8	12	51
8	Saint Luke's School	9	10	6	9	2		6	49
	Greenwich Country [illegible] School	7	6	4	9	2		12	45
	King Sc[illegible]l	4			12	1		6	45
	[illegible]ens [illegible]ms Aca[illegible]	8		4	7				
	[illegible]				12				
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	[illegible]AM Hi[illegible] School	0			4				11
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JV & Varsity Teams [pictured left to right]:
Sylvie Peese, Alyssa McCue, Bruce Peese, Tetsuya Imai, Coach Zac Cropper-Alt, Tyler Medina, Matthew Medina, Dylan Brown, Owen Voeglti, and Jameson Conte. Not pictured: Emma Castiglione, Alex Harlow, Daniel Tinker, Mason Bergman, AJ Livingston, Carina Perez, & Amelia Riggs

Additionally, Jameson Conte earned the rank of the #6 senior in the entire state, Bruce Peese is now the #3 junior in Connecticut, and Owen Voeglti is the #3 freshman for CT!

Prior to states, the team secured the #1 spot, for both our JV & varsity teams, within our local organization, the Greater Middlesex County Math League. Jameson Conte was the league's Top Senior winning a prize of $500! Dylan Brown was the Top Junior as well as earning the Varsity Top Score while Bruce Peese was the Top Junior ~ 2nd Place. Owen Voegtli brought home the JV Top Score, JV Top Freshmen, AND Varsity Top Underclassman while Alex Harlow earned the Top Freshmen ~ 3rd Place award.

Their success this season has secured them a place at the New England Championship held in MA in May, hosted by the New England Association of Math Leagues. Last year we attended for the first time and placed as the #2 "Small Public School" in all of New England. The team is very excited to participate again this year where we hope to be #1!

CSAML

In ADDITION to that...

...several of our advanced math students participated in the 2026 [MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge] to answer this year's Challenge Problem:

"The Rise of Online Gambling: What's at Stake?"



Senior Team *[pictured above, left to right]: Tetsuya Imai, Jameson Conte, Chloe Engler, Maggie Miller, & Amelia Riggs*

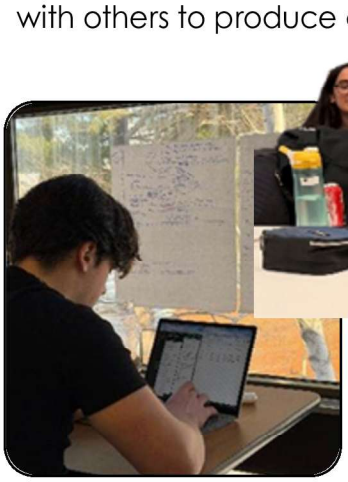


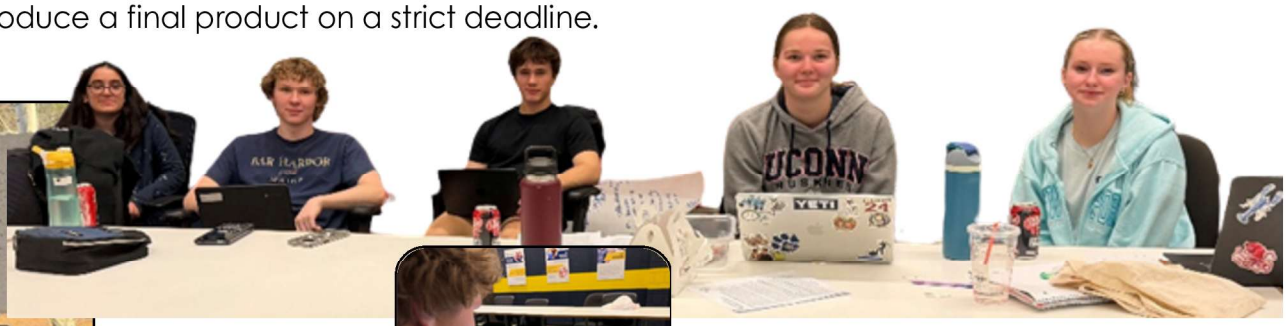


Junior Team *[pictured above, left to right]: Aaron Richwine, Safina Hussain, Sarah Thomen, Maizie Irons, & Dylan Brown*

The students met on the morning of March 1st, and at 7:15am, downloaded the problem they would spend the next **14 HOURS** considering. Both our junior and senior teams brainstormed, researched, conducted mathematical modeling, and took occasional food breaks before finally submitting their solution papers.

This award-winning international high school math competition provides an opportunity for students working in small teams to use math and data to represent, analyze, make predictions about, and provide insight into a current world issue. It serves as a wonderful opportunity for students to experience a challenge that requires them to think outside the box, apply math to a real-world situation, and work with others to produce a final product on a strict deadline.







Congrats to both teams!

MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge
A program of SIAM

Haddam Killingworth Has Honor!



Tis the season for nationally recognized honor societies to induct their newest members. Over the past month, we have inducted 57 students across four different organizations!



Student Television Network [STN] Honor Society

In recognition of outstanding achievement in student media production, Christopher Sanders-Roberts [left] and Jonathan Saraceno [right] were inducted into the Student Television Network Honor Society. This honor reflects excellence in storytelling, innovation, and commitment to broadcast journalism.

National Honor Society [NHS]

The purpose of the National Honor Society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to recognize outstanding students, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools. The HKHS National Honor Society induction ceremony was held on April 8th and it was an excellent opportunity to honor our newest members. Friends, family, and faculty members all applauded the newest group of juniors and seniors to earn this honor. Students who gain entry into this society must demonstrate the four pillars of Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Service. **This year's group is a most-deserving crowd!**









Senior Inductees: *Joshua Frith, Avery Maxwell, Faith Santamaria, & Rowan Simonelli*

Junior Inductees: *Chloe Abarientos, Zi Abbott, Audrey Bailey, Charlotte Behnke, Evan Berardino, Dylan Brown, Alexandra Catalano, Molly Celentano, Mason Eighmy, Brody Ferguson, Olive Forristall, Ava Geissler, Juliette Harriman, Safina Hussain, Mazie Irons, Elna Krasniqi, Sophia Langer, Camryn Lisitano-Rode, Mia Lomuntad, Audrey Macy, Mia McLaughlin, Isla Poapst, Aaron Richwine, Madelyn Ruocco, Christopher Sanders-Roberts, Aoife Sidlow, & Wyatt Voegtli*



World Language Welcomes 2026 Inductees

On April 6th, the HKHS auditorium proudly hosted the induction ceremony for both the French and Spanish Honor Societies. The event brought together students and families, to celebrate the achievements and dedication of our newest inductees. Families gathered for this special occasion, joined by the advisors, Mrs. Christine Kehrley for French and Mr. Jovan Marrero for Spanish, who led the ceremony. The evening recognized students for their commitment to excellence in language learning, cultural appreciation, and academic achievement. We congratulate all newly inducted members and look forward to their continued success and contributions to the HKHS community.





The **Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica** [SHH], or Spanish National Honor Society, is an academic honor society for high school students focused on Spanish and Portuguese language excellence, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

The 2026 HKHS Spanish National Honor Society inductees are:

Eleanor Barry, Rachel Burt, Emma Castiglioni, Carter Commerford, Camryn Danaher, Thomas Downing, Ethan Eddinger, Mason Eighmy, Lyla Ford, Gabrielle Lajoie, Aubrey Lonergan, Keira Lundt, Matthew Medina, Tyler Medina, Lucas Packtor, Samantha Panzella, Eliza Sturges, & Aaron Torres

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The **Société Honoraire de Français** [SHF] is the National French Honor Society for high schoolers. High school chapters provide a vehicle to focus activities around French language and Francophone literatures and cultures, and to encourage participation in the annual writing contest and travel grant competition. In addition, students can acquire leadership skills by serving as officers, directing the initiation ceremony, or leading other chapter events.







The 2026 HKHS National French Honor Society inductees are:

Lucy Dysinger, Crystal Lin, Tristan Papuga, Karissa Sehl-Albert, Sophie Snow, & Lauren Thebeau

What Time Is It? TIME to BRAG!

Our very own Maizie Irons was voted the March 17th winner of the **Gametime ATHLETE of the WEEK!**



Maizie is a junior at HKHS with a long list of accomplishments, both on and off the court. She is a **Shoreline Scholar-Athlete** for 2026 and was also named a **1st Team All-Shoreline Athlete**, the first HKHS girls basketball player in almost 10 years to do so! She recently recorded a "triple double", which is **20 points + 10 rebounds + 10 blocks**, against North Branford. In the Division V Quarterfinals she scored 16 points to help ensure a win for HKHS.



Off the court, Maizie serves her community in a variety of ways including as an **HKHS Ambassador** and as the **Blood Drive Coordinator** for Student Council. In that position, she ran the most successful year of blood drives in recent Student Council history with 99 pints of blood collected across this year's fall and spring drives. Maizie was also the driving force behind the foundation of the **Juniorettes**, a subcommittee of the Killingworth Women's Organization that exists to provide a space where local teenage girls could step into leadership, serve their community, and build confidence. Maizie serves as their president and under her leadership, the group has grown to 17 members – an incredible accomplishment considering they were only federated in February. The Juniorettes are active contributors to KWO projects as well as planning a number of fresh, creative events to benefit the community. **To find out more, visit www.kwoct.org/juniorettes/.**



Congrats Victoria!



Freshmen Victoria Saczynski recently competed in the **2026 SCC/Shoreline Gymnastics Championship** – a partnership between the Southern Connecticut Conference and the Shoreline Athletic Conference that we participate in with our co-op program.









The HK Co-op Team took 3rd Place overall and Victoria was named **1st Team All-Conference!**

When in ~~Rome~~...HIGGANUM?





In April of this year, seven Haddam Killingworth High School families hosted **exchange students from France**. Our French guests shadowed HKHS students from April 6th through April 10th. We welcomed them in true HK style with luncheons hosted by both the French Honor Society & International Culture Club. Additionally, they had the honor of judging French cuisine made by one of our foods classes; making ceramic animals in the art wing; and even participating in our HK Morning News.





Our guests were quite impressed at the variety of HKHS's programming, as schools in France are much more limited. The exchange students and host students also joined our partner school, The Morgan School, on a day trip to Boston.



A highlight of the students' time at HK was the pep rally on their last day. Overall, they were able to experience academics, extracurriculars, and HK school spirit at its very best. Host families, host students, and members of our community stated that this was an experience that they will never forget. Our gracious host students included Norah Reeps, Amelia Riggs, Delaney Aronson & AJ Livingston, Emma Kowalski, Chloe Abarientos, Dylan Brown, and Bruce Peese.

Pi-Day Pie-K!





This year's 3rd annual **Pi-Day Pie-K** was not as well attended due to the extremely cold weather; however there were some die-hards math fans who braved the cold. We even had a few that ran the entire 3.14 km! Upon finishing the 3.14 km, each participant received a mini pie to cap off the chilly event.



Medals of honor were bestowed for a variety of reasons. **Owen Voegtli** was awarded a medal for running with a spoon for the pie he would eat after finishing the race. **Reese Ciociola** was honored for being a leader and motivator by keeping her friends going. And last but certainly not least, **Chloe Anderson** was awarded a medal for her enthusiasm and great support for this event. Several teachers were able to join us for the walk as well and the feedback was positive. Students had a great time and this is an event they look forward to every year.



We've Got Rhythm...

On February 21st, four HKHS band members participated in **UConn Band Together,** a collaborative initiative hosted by the University of Connecticut Music department.



Ian McLean rehearsing on timpani, or kettledrums, [also known as vessel drums and semispherical drums] which are large orchestral percussion instruments played with mallets, featuring copper bowls and tuneable plastic/skin heads.



Victoria Saczynski with her clarinet

Emily Dellasala with her clarinet & Maxim Bergman with his alto saxophone





High school students from throughout the state rehearsed with the **UConn Symphonic Wind Ensemble** and participated in workshops on conducting, leadership, and musical opportunities after high school. They ended the day with a side-by-side concert with the UConn Symphonic Wind Ensemble.



...We've Got [sheet] Music!

Mason Bergman composed a piece of music that was featured in the **2nd Annual Student Composition Gallery** at the 78th Annual Connecticut Music Educators Association In-Service Conference. Mason wrote the piece as an honors project for his Concert Band class.

Scan the QR code to hear an early version of Mason's composition! To see and hear a revised draft of the piece, titled **Adelante**, click this link.

To listen to the work of more of the amazing student composers who participated in this event, visit this link!



Guest Speakers in the ~~House~~ Classroom!

Erin Saglimbeni came in to speak to our Anatomy & Physiology classes about her pathway to becoming a **Nurse Anesthetist**. She taught students about accessing an airway and the technique to intubate a patient. Each student, including Grace Natanzon who is pictured here, was able to attempt the procedure themselves!





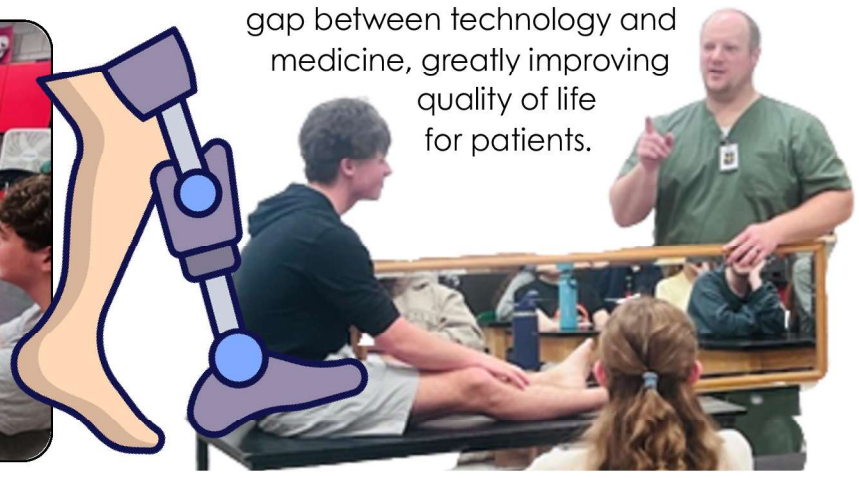
Ted Dinesmore, a resident of Killingworth, came in to share his **Augmented Reality software** - also with our Anatomy & Physiology students. The students were able to use the equipment [including Chase Bruno pictured here] which allowed them to visualize and manipulate three-dimensional representations 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 concussions.

HKHS alumni, Kerri Peoples, joined our Anatomy classes recently to share her pathway to **dental school** and her love of learning about the human body. She is a proud member of the **Class of 2019** and is currently in her second year of dental school at NYU. Kerri encouraged the students to never be afraid to ask questions because that is what has lead to all of the opportunities she has had up to this point in her educational career. She also made sure to put in a plug about the importance of having good dental hygiene.



Kerri wasn't alone however because we also had **Class of 2006 alumni Devin Bell** visit to speak to Anatomy & Physiology students about his career as a **prosthetic engineer**. Devin brought an array of artificial limbs and assistive devices to give students a real-world look at how this field can bridge the gap between technology and medicine, greatly improving quality of life for patients.





MEDIA DAY! with Steady PHOTOGRAPHY



Our spring sports teams participated in their first **Media Day** experience with [John Steady Photography](): What a way to celebrate our athletes, see them shine in front of a camera like they do on the athletic field, all while getting great shots for the yearbook and social media! Both prints & electronic photos are available for purchase through each team's head coach.











SHORELINE Arts ALLIANCE

HK Shows Off at the Future Choices Art Show!

FUTURE CHOICES
High School Visual Arts Competition

Shoreline Arts Alliance holds an annual arts competition that recognizes talented students from 24 towns across the region. Students may submit works in the categories of ceramics, drawing, mixed media, painting, photography, prints, sculpture, digital art, and/or video.

HKHS students recognized this year include:

Digital Media

Digital Media ~ 3rd Place: *Woven Seascape* by Liam Jordan

Drawing

Drawing ~ Honorable Mention: *Still Life Drawing* by Seth Coulombe

Drawing ~ Honorable Mention: *The Studio* by Ryleigh Degnan

Drawing ~ Honorable Mention: *Self-Portrait* by Christian Tolliver

Mixed Media

Mixed Media ~ 2nd Place: *Last Exit for Forgotten* by Lawton Duch

Photography

Photography ~ 2nd Place: *Untitled* by Michael Johnson

Photography ~ Honorable Mention: *Black-Eyed Susan* by Karissa Sehl-Albert

Printmaking

Printmaking ~ 1st Place: *Roadkill* by Ryleigh Degnan

Printmaking ~ 2nd Place: *The Proud Retaliation and Sharing of Wealth* by Lawton Duch

Printmaking ~ 3rd Place: *The Chaos of Despair* by Rebecca Mitchell

Printmaking ~ Honorable Mention: *Plight of the Pigeon* by Norah Ridgeway

A HUGE congratulations also goes out to our very own **Mrs. Megan Martin & Mr. Jason Cannan** who won the **2026 Judy Streeter Outstanding School Award**!

*Please consider supporting these amazing students by visiting the exhibit at the **Flat Rock Gallery** at 314 Flat Rock Place, Suites F135 & F140 in Westbrook. The exhibit is open from April 22nd - May 2nd on Wednesdays through Fridays from 3-6pm + Saturdays & Sundays from 12pm-4pm. There will also be an **Awards & Artists' Reception** on Saturday, April 25th from 9am to 12pm with the ceremony itself beginning at 10am.*

Future Choices High School Art Exhibit

HK Shows Off...some more!

Mark your calendars for the **HKHS Art Show ~ Opening Reception** on May 7th from 4:30-6:30pm. Come to see the artwork of our talented students from grades 9th through 12th that will be displayed in our auditorium lobby!

Make sure to also stop by the Brainerd Memorial Library [920 Saybrook Rd. in Haddam] between April 25th to April 30th to check out the **HKHS Senior Art Show** they will be hosting. The artwork of selected seniors will be on display and an Artist's Reception will be held on April 28th from 4:30-6pm.

BRAINERD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

HKHS SENIOR ART SHOW

Featured Artists:

Emma Kowalski
Delaney Aronson
Ivy Zheng
Lily Austin
Norah Ridgeway
Ryleigh Degnan
Stephanie Coleman
Emily Spong
Faith Santamaria
Grace Mitchell
Margret DiNapoli
Isabela Kelly
Liam Jordan
Sophia Carone
Brielle Kent
Owen Mitchell

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

CARDIOVASCULAR TRAINING & GOAL SETTING

Our Physical Education I classes have been focusing on cardiovascular training and goal setting. Students have been experimenting with and implementing various pacing strategies that will help them to achieve their own personal goal of increased cardiovascular endurance. Students have used their ¼ mile and ½ mile splits to set a personal goal for the mile run. We are proud of the effort they are putting in.

Mr. Baklik
Ms. Mayer
Mr. Bergantino



Cupcake WARS



The always spirited annual **Cupcake Wars** took place this month and it was as impressive as ever. Students in our Foods 1 & Foods 2 classes battled fiercely with a **Strawberry Pistachio** cupcake by Brianna Schaefer [*pictured left*] & Gianna Dabkowski & [*right*] leading the way. **They will be heading to The Morgan School on April 24th to compete in the Regional Cupcake Wars!**



This is a...

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The entire HKTV team is proud to recognize **Myra Cortes** for earning **Honorable Mention** in the "3 Ways" High School Division PSA Contest through the **Academy of Scholastic Broadcasting [ASB]**. The purpose of the contest is to address issues surrounding mental health and to promote hope, connection, and help-seeking.



HKTV

Myra created a powerful social media public service announcement focused on authentic youth voice, titled "**3 Ways to Help a Friend Who Is Struggling.**" Her PSA highlights the importance of empathy, awareness, and taking action to support your peers during difficult times. **You can watch it here!**

PSA #2: Giving Blood Saves Lives!

The HKHS spring blood drive was a HUGE success, thanks in large part to the work of Blood Drive Coordinator, Maizie Irons. **In total, 49 pints were collected which will save 147 lives!** That brings the total for the 2025-26 school year to 99 pints; enough to save 297 lives! As always, this is a student-led event run by Student Council and it wouldn't be possible without a LOT of hard work and our partnership with The Red Cross.



College & Career Fair



HKHS held our annual **College & Career Fair** on Wednesday, April 8th during Advisory. Students in grades 9th - 11th attended with their advisory groups along with any undecided 12th grade students.

We hosted representatives from nearly 60 colleges and universities, as well as representatives from local trade schools and employers, various branches of the military, the Connecticut State Police, AND **alumni from the Class of 2024 — Luke Dooley & Bryce O'Linn** who joined us to represent the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Department.









Also on hand were voting registrars from the towns of both Haddam & Killingworth to spread the word about the importance of voting and to register interested students over the age of 18. **Overall, Haddam had 13 students register to vote and Killingworth had two.**

The event was very successful but we are always looking for ways for it to improve! If you or someone you know in the community would be interested in attending on behalf of a local employer or other training program, please reach out to Amy Giarnella in the counseling office at agiarnella@rsd17.org.





The counseling office has also sent out information about other local upcoming College Fair opportunities. **This is a great time of year to learn more about college options, including visiting college campuses while students are still on campus this spring!**







- **Spring Musical ~ Little Shop of Horrors** | Friday, May 1st & Saturday, May 2nd
- **SATs** | Saturday, May 2nd - [*non-HK event*]
- **Q4 Progress Reports** | Wednesday, May 6th – Check PowerSchool for grades!
- **Advanced Placement Testing** | Monday, May 4th through Friday, May 15th
- **Art Show + Art Honor Society Induction** | Thursday, May 7th
  - *Show at 4:30pm + Induction at 6:30pm*
- **Spring Chorus & Band Concert** | Thursday, May 14th
- **Junior Prom** | Friday, May 15th
- **2025-2026 Awards Night** | Monday, May 18th
  - *If your student will be receiving an award, an email invitation will be sent*
- **AAPPL Testing** | Tuesday, May 19th through Thursday, May 21st
- **Memorial Day** | Monday, May 25th – ***District closed!***
- **STREETFEST** | Wednesday, May 27th
- **Senior Outing @ Brownstone Quarry** | Friday, May 29th
- **Senior Prom** | Saturday, May 30th
- **SATs** | Saturday, June 6th - [*non-HK event*]
- Class of 2026 Scholarship Night | Monday, June 8th
  - *If your student will be receiving a scholarship an invitation will be sent*
- **Quarter 4 Ends** | Thursday, June 11th
- **Final Exams [*tentatively*]** | Friday, June 12lh through Wednesay, June 17th
  - *11:55am dismissal each day for students!*
- **TENTATIVE Last Day of School** | Thursday, June 18th
- **TENTATIVE Graduation Day** | Thursday, June 18th ~ **EXACT TIME TBD**
- **ACTs** | Saturday, June 13th - [*non-HK event*]

Visit the **Calendars** tab on the RSD17 website for all details on HKHS events!
https://www.rsd17.org/calendar/hkhs-calendar

As always, 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 L. Hayward,
Principal

◦ Guidance Counseling Dept Update ◦



SENIOR FAMILIES!

We have many scholarship opportunities for our students and so far, we are not seeing as many applications come through as in previous years **which means money WILL be left on the table!** Seniors should seek out opportunities through SchooLinks using the single sign-on feature through their Google account. Seniors should be sure to read all scholarship directions carefully and request any needed documents [such as their letters of recommendation] from Mrs. Giarnella in the Counseling Office as early as possible to allow time for processing.

It is vital that students and parents/guardians understand that all available scholarships are not going to be listed in SchooLinks [only the ones we are told about] and that we do the best we can to update deadlines, requirements, etc. as we find out more information. Students have been told that it is their responsibility to review and confirm scholarship details. Many scholarships are available to apply to online but many others can only be completed on paper and mailed or handed in to the school directly. It is important that students take the time to read the requirements ahead of deadlines, with many between 4/30-5/15. **PLEASE encourage your student to apply for scholarships!**

<<< REMINDER: FAFSA Completion Graduation Requirement >>>

Starting with the Class of 2025, the RSD17 Board of Education set completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA] as a requirement for graduation. ALL members of the Class of 2026 are required to complete the FAFSA **OR** complete a waiver exempting them from doing so in order to graduate, as stated in both the 2025-2026 Opportunities Book and the 2026-2027 Opportunities Book. The school counseling office will provide waivers this spring and will notify senior families once the waivers are available. If you have not yet completed the FAFSA, we will be reaching out to you in the coming weeks about completing a waiver prior to graduation.



JUNIOR FAMILIES!

School counselors have been holding **Junior Planning Meetings** this semester. Parents & guardians are invited to attend, whether in-person or virtually. If you have not already had a meeting, please reach out to your student's school counselor at your earliest convenience to schedule an appointment

Students who are applying to college typically submit their applications in the fall of their senior year. **Below are a list of suggestions for your student to work on this spring and summer in order to help them navigate application season successfully (*and with less stress!*):**

- **Finish Junior year STRONG!** The grades earned **this year** will be the most recent shared with colleges as part of the initial application in the fall.
- **Sign up for a Saturday administration of the SATs!** Many students take the SAT more than once in order to try to improve their scores. Students can sign up for additional sittings through their College Board accounts. Students may also consider signing up for the ACT.
- **Make time to work on your college applications!** Most students apply to college through the Common App, which allows them to submit one application to multiple colleges. This also includes writing a first draft of your college essay and asking for feedback!



8TH GRADERS VISIT HKHS!



Eighth graders from Haddam Killingworth Middle School joined us this week to visit the high school to tour the building, meet their future teachers, and learn about the opportunities ahead of them for next year. This is a great chance for them to get a feel for what high school will be like and get a look at their future classrooms!

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDENTS!

AP testing season is fast approaching! 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 [UnFulfilled Obligation]. Multiple exams can be paid for with a single check. It is important to note that students will not be able to purchase prom tickets or attend prom if they have a UFO and seniors will not be able to attend the senior outing if they still have an unresolved UFO. **For any questions or concerns regarding UFOs, please email dbartolotta@rsd17.org.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: All AP students taking an 8:00am exam **MUST** be present in the appropriate classroom **by 7:25am**. All students taking an 12:00pm exam **MUST** be present in the appropriate classroom **by 11:30am**. More information will be shared in the near future so students know exactly where to arrive for each test. As always, it is the student's responsiblity to arrive prepared for their exams.

◦ IMPORTANT UPDATE ◦



It is vital that we have accurate demographic and emergency contact information for our students at all times. **Please remember that if there is any change to your phone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts, etc. we should be notified as soon as possible.** If there is a change to where and/or who the student is physically living with, that is important information for us to have as well. If a change is made to an address within the district, updated proof of residency documents will be required. This would also apply if a secondary address changes from out of district back into the district.

Typically in April each year, **"Student Information" forms** were mailed out over spring break with the current information we have on file in PowerSchool. **This practice has been discontinued as of this year.** Prior to the start of the 2026-2027 school year, electronic requests will be made for you to confirm / update all demographic and emergency contact information. ***MORE INFO ON THIS TO COME!***

As a reminder, ALL parents/guardians should each have their own **PowerSchool Parent Portal account**. Many important communications from the school, such as report card notifications and other information is linked to those accounts. Logging into your student's account will not provide the same level off access. Any RSD17 parent or guardian can set up an account by visiting https://rsd17.powerschool.com/public/ and clicking the **Create Account** option. This link can also be found in the banner of each school's website labeled "PowerSchool". In order to create your account, you will need your student's access details which can be obtained by contacting counseling secretary Amy Giarnella at agiarnella@rsd17.org. Once you have an account set up, you'll be able to log in at any time to check on your student's grades or schedule, view demographic info, and more.