



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

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Dear Darien Community,

At Tuesday's BOE meeting, Mrs. Ellen Dunn, the DHS administrative team, department chairs and several students presented a DHS update entitled "Student Voices on a Curriculum that Inspires: The Power of Choices". The presentation provided an incredible look at how elective offerings are expanding access to rigorous coursework, balancing diverse academic pathways, and promoting life readiness for our students. From fine arts commitments and patient-centered medical simulations to independent engineering projects like "Melvin the Robot," it was powerful to see how our high schoolers are developing analytical skills and self-directed innovation. These diverse experiences directly bring our Vision of the Graduate to life, fostering critical competencies like communication, empathy, creativity, independence, integrity, and curiosity in our students. We extend our deepest thanks to the Board of Education for supporting the elective courses that nurture our students' curiosity and honor their unique interests. Here is a [link](#) if you'd like to view the presentation.

Correction & Appreciation: Speech and Language Professionals Day

Last week, we celebrated our wonderful Speech and Language Pathologists across the district but inadvertently missed recognizing our Early Learning Program (ELP) staff. We want to officially recognize and thank Laura DiScala, Michelle Schaller, Samantha Walker, and Heather Youngquist for their extraordinary impact, dedication, and the vital support they provide to our youngest students in the ELP program. Thank you all for everything you do!

Theatre 308

Theatre 308 had a historic night this week at the 23rd Annual Halo Awards, taking home five honors out of an impressive 16 nominations for *Almost, Maine* and *The Lightning Thief*. In a program first, *Almost, Maine* was named Best Contemporary Play. This is a massive achievement, and we extend a huge congratulations to director Nick Kuell, his creative team, and the entire cast and crew. Individual honors went to junior Hannah Huang for Best Special Effects, senior Darragh Hallinan for Best Male Lead in a Contemporary Musical, and freshmen Addie Leonard and Gabby Boudo, who both earned prestigious Dance Molinari scholarships to train in NYC this summer.

We hope you will join us for another historic milestone next weekend. For the first time ever, Theatre 308 is hosting a third mainstage production, *Tick, Tick... Boom!*, which is also our first mainstage production to be directed by a student. Fresh off his Stephen Sondheim and Halo Award wins for Best Actor and Best Male Lead in a Contemporary Musical, senior Darragh Hallinan makes his directing debut with this autobiographical show about Jonathan Larson (the famed writer of *RENT*), which was recently popularized by the Netflix film adaptation. The show runs for just two nights, Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 at 7:00 PM in the Darien High School Courtyard. Tickets are sold in pairs and are on sale now at Theatre308.org. Seating is on the grass, so please review the seating chart carefully when purchasing and remember to bring blankets or chairs appropriate for your area. To learn more about Darragh's directorial debut, please read this [article](#) featured in *The Norwalk Hour*.

Darien Public Schools

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Early Learning Program

Enrollment for Darien Public Schools' Early Learning Program's Preschool is currently open for children aged 3, 4, and 5. Our play-based learning environments are designed to spark curiosity and foster a love for discovery in every young learner. We invite you to visit our [website](#) to explore our unique curriculum, view registration details, and complete your enrollment online today.

Darien Summer School and Enrichment

Registration for Darien Summer School and Enrichment (DSS&E) programming is currently open. DSS&E provides a wide variety of options including Out of this World, Globetrotters, Leap Ahead Reading, Lego Motion, Nature Explorers, and more! For more information and registration, visit [Darien Summer School](#).

Quiz Bowl

About a dozen members of the Middlesex Middle School Quiz Bowl team, along with a Hindley 5th grader, traveled to Orlando, Florida, to compete in the IAC Elementary and Middle School National Championships. Our students competed against more than 2,200 students from across the country in Math, Science, Geography, and History Bees, specialized exams, and team bowls. We had students win national championships, compete in the playoffs, quarterfinals, and semifinals, and place in the top 10. Additionally, the MMS Academic Bowl team advanced to the national playoff rounds. Congratulations to the students and Coach Romeo on their success!

Community Blood Drive at Town Hall

Join us tomorrow, Saturday, May 30, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Darien Town Hall Mather Center Café for a community blood drive. This great initiative is being organized by the Darien Health Department, DPS Nursing Services, and DHS students from the HOSA Club. It is a wonderful opportunity to support a lifesaving cause! Walk-ins are welcome, or you can register by entering code C211 at ctblood.org/drives We hope to see you there!

DHS Sports

Congratulations to all of our spring sports teams on an incredible season of hard work and Blue Wave pride! It was a thrilling week for Darien athletics as four of our varsity teams battled hard in the FCIAC Semifinals. On Tuesday, Boys Varsity Lacrosse and Varsity Baseball left everything on the field in tough matchups against Staples and Fairfield Ludlowe, wrapping up fantastic seasons. Meanwhile, two of our teams advanced to the championship round and both brought home the FCIAC title last night! Girls Varsity Lacrosse dominated New Canaan in a spectacular 13-3 victory, while Varsity Softball shut out Trumbull 2-0 to claim their championship. This weekend, our Tennis and Track and Field athletes will be competing in their respective CIAC Championships. Today, Girls Varsity Tennis travels to Amity to compete at 11:30 AM and Boys Varsity Tennis hosts Westhill High School at 4:00 PM. Track and Field heads to Willow Brook Park, where Girls Varsity competes in the Class LL Championship tomorrow at 11:00 AM, followed by Boys Varsity in the Class L Championship on Sunday at 1:00 PM. Best of luck to our athletes as they play for the championships!

Sincerely,



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