Darien Public Schools

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

October 16, 2026

Dear Darien Community,

On Wednesday, I visited Mr. Turiago's seventh-period, 8th-grade ELA class. The invitation to visit came as the result of a conversation about the shift away from Chromebooks. He shared that his students were 'different' using old-school methods and relying less on Chromebooks. Two days ago, I saw it firsthand as I observed students at the tail end of a memoir writing unit. I listened in on powerful discussions between students as they 'turned and talked', sharing their ideas with each other. Several students shared the difference they are seeing in their own handwriting, and Mr. Turiago shared that he has noticed an impact on idea generation, with students writing on a wider range of topics than he had previously experienced. I thoroughly enjoyed the visit!

Darien Foundation Gift of Interactive Flat Panels at DHS
On behalf of Darien High School, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Darien Foundation for awarding the District an incredibly generous grant of $158,561 to support the purchase and installation of ViewSonic Interactive Flat Panels at the high school. With this funding, we were already able to install 32 panels in classrooms for this school year and have plans to install 27 additional panels for the 2027-2028 school year. These panels support student learning by promoting communication, deeper learning and critical thinking through the advanced technological features they offer, and enhance opportunities for collaboration both within classrooms and across the school. We are incredibly grateful to the Darien Foundation for their partnership and generosity - thank you for supporting our students and their academic growth!

Re-Registration Forms in Aspen
If you have not filled out the annual re-registration forms in Aspen yet, please do so as soon as possible! These forms are very important documents for schools to have on file, and our school administrators and staff rely on them for pertinent and up-to-date student information. If you have any questions or encounter any difficulties in completing the forms, reference this document which walks through the process of accessing and filling them out. There will be an email sent on Monday to any families that have any outstanding forms left to be completed.

The Tokeneke Pumpkin Carnival Is HERE! Saturday, October 17, 10 AM–4 PM
The wait is over! The Tokeneke Pumpkin Carnival is back this Saturday for a day packed with fall fun for the whole family! Get ready for thrilling amusement rides, exciting carnival games, slime-making, delicious food from Heights and BSF, and treats from our always-popular bake sale!

Early Access: Families with children with special needs are welcome to enjoy the Carnival beginning at 9:30 AM.

IMPORTANT PARKING INFORMATION: Parking is available at 100 and 120 Tokeneke Road, as well as along Tokeneke Road where permitted. Please do not park along the fencing at 120 Tokeneke Road, and be sure to follow all posted parking signs and restrictions.

Bring your family, bring your friends, and get ready for a fantastic day of fall fun!

Around Town

Museum of Darien Tavern Night
The Museum of Darien is hosting an old-fashioned Tavern Night tomorrow, Saturday, October 17th at 7:00 PM. Tickets are $40 and can be purchased at https://museumofdarien.org/.

"Building Resilience" Series at the Darien Community Association
The Darien Community Association is hosting "Building Resilience," a three-part series designed to help parents navigate important life transitions and milestones with greater understanding, connection, and confidence. The first panel on October 20 at 6:30PM will focus on parenting high school students and the college application process. Panelists include Phyllis Weihs-Yavner, LPC; Dr. Steve Yavner, Founder of Spark Your College Story; Meaghan Hetherington; Judith Nedelle, College Advisor; Pamela Paulmann, Student Wellness Coordinator; and Julia Smith, LCSW. This event is free to attend, but registration is required at dariendca.org.

Norwalk Symphony Orchestra
The Norwalk Symphony Orchestra opens its season on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. at Norwalk Concert Hall (125 East Avenue, Norwalk) with an evening devoted to Tchaikovsky. Tickets (only $10 for children/students) and more information are available at norwalksymphony.org. The Norwalk Symphony Orchestra has hosted several assemblies and workshops in our Darien schools in recent years, and this opportunity will aid students in building on what they learned during those visits!

Clean Team 06820 Community Clean Up Day - November 3
Join Clean Team 06820, a student-run organization that is dedicated to keeping our beaches and parks clean, for a community clean up day on Tuesday, November 3rd at 11:00 AM at Pear Tree Beach! All are welcome to help clean up the beach and keep our community clean. For more information, follow Clean Team 06820 on Instagram (@clean_team_06820).

Athletic Schedule
It's a busy weekend for Blue Wave athletics! Check out the schedule for Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17:

Friday, October 16:
Football vs. Staples High School: 5:00 PM, Staples High School
Girls Soccer vs. Wilton High School: 4:30 PM, Wilton High School
Cheerleading vs. TBA: 7:00 PM, Staples High School

Saturday, October 17:
Girls Volleyball vs. Norwalk: 10:00 AM, DHS Gym
Field Hockey vs. Brien McMahon High School: 11:00 AM, Brien McMahon High School
Boys Soccer vs. Wilton High School: 3:00 PM, DHS Stadium Field

Have a terrific weekend!

Sincerely,



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