Haddam Killingworth High School
May | June 2026 Newsletter

From the Principal:

We are thrilled to have had a successful (***and dry!***) send off for the Class of 2026 at their graduation yesterday; we all greatly enjoyed celebrating them along with their friends and families!

As you will see, May and June have been been quite busy here at HKHS as we've wrapped up the 2025-26 academic year. We have been celebrating the successes of both our students and staff and hope you enjoy this year's final edition of the Haddam Killingworth High School newsletter.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 Valedictorian & Salutatorian!



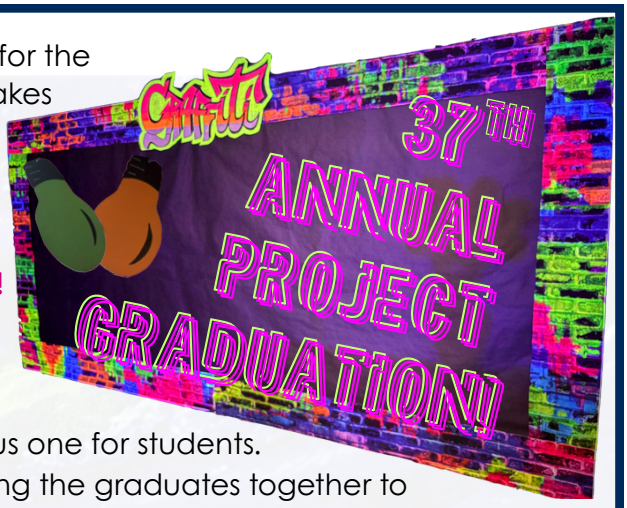


Tetsuya Imai, son of Masami & Sue Imai, is the Valedictorian for the Haddam Killingworth High School Class of 2026. Tetsuya has consistently pursued the most rigorous courses available at HKHS as well as independently seeking out additional academic opportunities to further challenge himself. Over the years he has demonstrated exceptional intellectual ability, creativity, and curiosity, contributing meaningfully to classroom discussions through thoughtful questions and interdisciplinary thinking. Tetsuya has a particular interest in chemical engineering, specifically renewable energy and climate change mitigation, which reflects both his strong analytical aptitude and a commitment to applying innovation to complex global challenges. Beyond academics, he is an extraordinary leader and role model, and his accomplishments and recognition span academics, leadership, athletics, and service. What truly distinguishes Tetsuya, however, is the character behind these achievements. Tetsuya will be attending Harvard University in the fall where he intends to major in mechanical engineering.

Amelia Riggs, daughter of Matthew & Tiffany Riggs, is the Salutatorian for the Haddam Killingworth High School Class of 2026. Amelia has consistently challenged herself through a rigorous academic program at HKHS, pursuing advanced coursework in engineering, science, and mathematics, in addition to music and world languages. Throughout high school, she has demonstrated strong intellectual curiosity, creativity, and a dedicated work ethic. Amelia has been an active participant and leader within the HKHS community as well and her accomplishments, both in the classroom and on the field, are reflected in the recognition she has received over the years. During her time at HKHS, she has earned the Yale Book Award, All-State for Concert Choir Honors, 1st Team All-Shoreline and All-State honors in cross country, and multiple other academic awards for excellence in Advanced Placement, Project Lead The Way, and UConn courses. Amelia also completed an engineering internship with Zygo Corporation's Optical Systems Group which only cemented her decision to major in engineering at Tufts University where she will be attending this fall.

Read more about Tetsuya & Amelia plus the rest of our Top 10 by clicking here!

This all-night graduation party is held every year in the fieldhouse for the graduates of Haddam Killingworth High School. The celebration takes place on the night of graduation leading into the following day. The event includes inflatables, games, swimming, contests, PRIZES, and other activities to surprise and entertain the graduates. Unlimited food and beverages are provided all night long. **Every graduate receives a gift AND gets to participate in the prize raffle!** Parents, guardians, and community members work on this event throughout the entire fall, winter, and spring to plan and organize this drug & alcohol-free celebration.





Graduation night can be a perilous one for students. It is the committee's mission to bring the graduates together to celebrate their achievements in a safe environment. **Over the last 36 years, Project Grad has hosted over 2,300 HKHS graduates!** During that time, our communities have not experienced a single graduation night tragedy.





The Class of 2026 had an amazing time last night as they were treated to spectacular decor & food, mini golf & other games of all kinds, a graffiti wall, inflatables, entertainers, and **SO MANY INCREDIBLE PRIZES** like TVs, Bluetooth speakers, dorm supplies like fans & bedding, camping supplies, GIFT CARDS, **and so much more!**

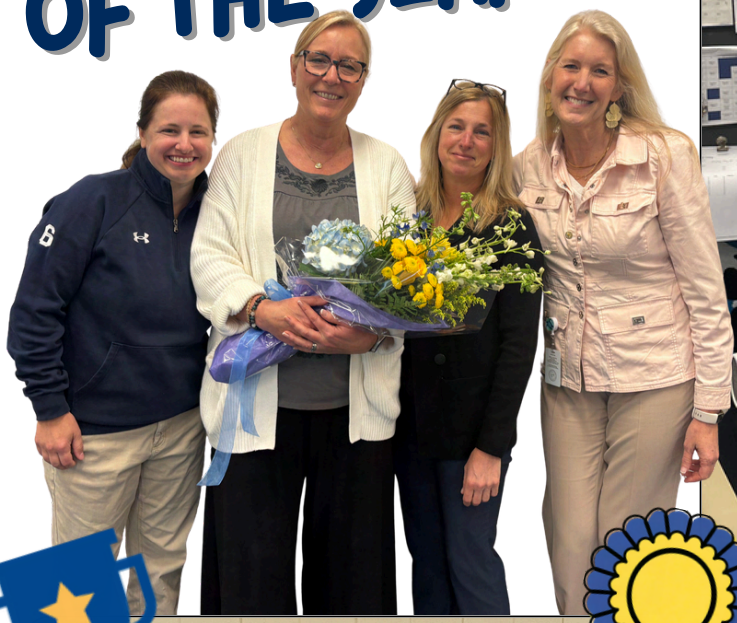


Please consider helping with next year's Project Grad!

There is always a need for more committee members, occasional volunteers, donations, and much more. Visit www.hkprojectgrad.org/ for more information including how to sign-up, join their email list, find out about fundraisers, or make a donation. If you'd like to find out more or have other questions, please email hkprojectgraduation@gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS
are in order for our...

TEACHER OF THE YEAR!





We are thrilled to announce Wendy Adamczyk as the 2025-26 Teacher of the Year and Susan Kummer as the 2025-26 Staff Member of the Year!

Mrs. Adamczyk has been teaching math at Haddam Killingworth High School for an incredible **37 years**! We are sad to say that she is retiring and will not return in the fall. ***We will all miss her greatly as her incredible presence in our halls will be beyond difficult to replace!***



STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR!

Ms. Kummer has served as the assistant principal's secretary & the HKHS bookkeeper for the past four years. **She is a pivotal member of our staff whose dedication is unmatched.** Whether it is juggling purchase orders, helping out with attendance, greeting visitors, or making sure meetings run on time, her attention to detail and eagerness to support our teachers, students, and families makes HKHS a more cheerful, welcoming, and efficient place for all!



It's that time again...TIME to BRAG about our...

High School Academic All-Americans!





HKHS is thrilled to announce that we have TWO student-athletes that have qualified for the 2026 Academic All-American Team!

This honor is awarded to student-athletes for combining elite athletic participation with outstanding classroom performance.



Congrats to Victoria Saczynski for this honor in gymnastics as a FRESHMAN!

NHSCA

The National High School Coaches Association [NHSCA] received a record number of applicants this year and the selection process was extremely competitive. The NHSCA is proud to honor the very best student athletes in the country, representing 22 sports.



Congrats to Tetsuya Imai for this honor for TWO sports, soccer AND lacrosse!



Congratulations Sadie!

HKHS's own Sadie Mallon was voted as a **Buffalo Wild Wings Softball Player of the Week** for the STATE by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association [CHSCA] for Week 4!

Sadie is a freshman who was also selected 1st Team All-Shoreline AND 1st Team All-State for Class S. As part of the HKHS team awards, she was appropriately named "**Rookie of the Year**"!

She led the team in many offensive categories as well including highest batting average of .507, most hits at 37, and slugging average. See a full list of all winners HERE.

BUFFALO WILD WINGS

TUNE IN to What's Happening in the HK Music Dept!



The annual **Band & Choir Spring Concert** was held on May 14th and was a culminating performance showcasing the work students have been doing in and out of class all year.





It was also an opportunity to honor our graduating seniors. Our graduating band members are: Gabriel Blair, Adam Livingston, Ian McLean*, Olivia Panzella*. Choir seniors include: Francesca Ciociola, Zachery Goldfarb, Ashley Kelly, and Elijah Sorrentino*. *Students with an asterisk are "**legacy seniors**" who were part of band or choir for all four years at HKHS!*

HK on the Move





To the left is the whole group at Burr and pictured above are select choir members singing at Commonwealth Senior Living.

On May 18th, jazz band and select choir students went "**on tour**" in the community and performed at HK Intermediate School, Burr Elementary School, and Commonwealth Senior Living. They worked as a team to load and unload equipment and share their music with students and senior citizens alike.

Memorial Day Dedication

It may have been rainy, but the Haddam Memorial Day Parade takes place rain OR shine. Due to the inclement weather and the damage that rain can cause to woodwind instruments, our band did not end up performing. Two dedicated trumpet players came out on their day off however to honor veterans by playing Taps.



Pictured here (from left to right) are Owen Voegtli and Mason Bergman warming up under the gazebo.



Special [MUSICAL] Guests!

Recently, our band has had visits from many "special guests." On May 4th, **Aaron Burgess, music professor at Ithaca College**, worked with our full band to help us polish our music for the spring concert. Pictured here is professor Burgess conducting our band playing an excerpt of **March to the Scaffold**, which is part of the piece Symphonie Fantastique by Hector Berlioz.



On May 12th, we had a visit from members of the **102d Army Band, the official band of the Connecticut Army National Guard** based out of Rockville, CT. These military musicians worked with our students one-on-one and in small group sectionals. They also played alongside our band members as we rehearsed an armed forces medley that we were preparing for Memorial Day. **They concluded their visit by performing as a quintet for us – *which felt like a private concert!***

On May 26th, the B period band class had a "**Percussion Appreciation Day**." Professor Andy Kolar, from Sacred Heart University, taught all students – including woodwind and brass players – fundamental percussion techniques. He also provided more advanced instruction for the percussionist in the class so everyone got to learn something new!

Let's RUN It Back Y'all...
HKHS Earns National Accolades for 2nd Year In A Row!

The NAMM Foundation just named Regional School District 17 as one of the nation's **Best Communities for Music Education (BCME)** programs for the **2nd year in a row**! This national recognition program is the signature offering of the NAMM Foundation that recognizes and celebrates schools and districts for their support and commitment to music education and efforts to assure access to music for all students as part of a well-rounded education. This program gives districts and schools tools to increase visibility and support for their music programs. Like any community, a thriving music education community requires broad participation, a sense of belonging, and structure. The Best Communities for Music Education Award recognizes that a healthy music community is defined by a wealth of passion and commitment from leaders who leverage every resource to expand opportunities for children to learn and grow through music-making.

Throughout the award's 27 years, the Foundation has recognized thousands of school districts and schools in 46 states. From rural to metropolitan, large and small, public and non-public. The NAMM Foundation proudly honors the diversity of educational communities that support students' musical growth. **Winning this award highlights our district's dedication to music education and is intended to strengthen community pride and advocacy for music programs.** [You can read more here!]

PLTW (continues to) Lead the Way

For the **2nd year in a row**, Haddam Killingworth High School has received national recognition as a **Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School** for 2025-2026 for our commitment to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in PLTW engineering programs.

For nearly 30 years, PLTW has empowered millions of students across the U.S. to unlock their potential by developing the in-demand, real-world knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in life beyond the classroom. This award is given to schools who demonstrate high student engagement and retention in their PLTW engineering programs. PLTW enables schools to design scalable, future-focused programs that inspire students, empower educators, and connect learning to life after graduation. **HKHS is proud to offer 7 unique courses and has been participating in PLTW for over 20 years!**

Criteria for this award include running at least three PLTW high school courses, having at least 25% of students in the school participating in PLTW courses, or at least 33% taking two courses or more, and strategies to ensure students have opportunities to participate in PLTW programs. **HKHS is one of only 10 high schools in Connecticut to earn this distinction in 2025-2026!** Congrats to all involved in creating and sustaining this program! You can read more about what PLTW has to offer at [https://www.pltw.org/].



HK Explores the Outdoors!

As a culminating activity to a successful inaugural rollout of the **Haddam Killingworth High School Leadership Academy**, students participated in the Connecticut Association of Schools [CASC] "Adventures in Leadership" day at Winding Trails in Farmington. This highly interactive outdoor program focuses on team-building, collaboration, and communication skills.



Horticulture & Marine Biology Field Trip to Hammonasset State Park

At the end of April, students from our Horticulture and Marine Biology classes visited Hammonasset Beach State Park to learn about the importance of Connecticut's salt marsh ecosystems. Students discovered how marshes help improve water quality, reduce erosion, mitigate storm impacts, and provide critical nesting and migratory stopover habitat for many bird species.

Students participated in an interactive activity that demonstrated the effects of habitat fragmentation on migratory birds. Using hula hoops to represent marsh habitats and stopover sites, students "migrated" from hoop to hoop. After each round, several hoops were removed to represent the loss of habitat due to development and environmental changes. As available habitats decreased, students experienced firsthand how birds must travel farther distances to find food, shelter, and resting areas during migration. The activity helped illustrate how continued habitat loss can negatively impact bird populations and the ecosystems that depend on them.





This valuable hands-on learning experience helped students better understand the importance of conservation and protecting coastal habitats for future generations. We are grateful to Audubon Connecticut for funding this educational field trip and making this opportunity possible for our students.

Learning Is Fun At Lake Compounce!

On May 28th Haddam Killingworth physics students once again participated in the **Lake Compounce "Education Days"**. All physics students were invited to witness the principles of mechanics in action and use their knowledge from the classroom to understand what makes the rides work and have some fun in the process.







Education Days is an annual program where the park is only open to students, giving them access to apply the principles they have learned in physics class to the amusement rides. This year marked the 4th visit by HKHS in the last five years. **The students would like to send a big thank you to all of our chaperones who made this possible!**

HKTV Takes On The Big Apple!

The HKTV students traveled to NYC on April 24th to visit NBC Studios. They were given a behind-the-scenes look at how television is produced. They walked through working studios where shows like Saturday Night Live and The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon are filmed, learned about the production process (directing, lighting, sound, & broadcasting), and explored the history of NBC. **Fun Fact: NBC was founded in 1926 and turned 100 years old this year!**





Students also participated in an interactive experience where they created their own mini TV segment, giving them a hands-on understanding of what it's like to work in a live studio environment.

It was a fabulous and unique experience!





The one downside was that the only picture they allowed during the tour was of the famous NBC carpet in the elevator.



Women in STEM Club is in EFFECT!



This spring the HKHS "**Women in STEM**" Club was officially off the ground and taking flight! The group is focused around encouraging and exposing young women to science, technology, engineering, and math degrees and careers. The group uses in-school STEM experiences, guest speakers, and field trips to introduce young women to opportunities they may not have known existed, empower them through shared interests with other students, and to create relationships with mentors and businesses outside of the school for their future.



In May, we had our first guest speaker, Lindsay West, who is an engineer for Burns & McDonald and an HKHS alumni! Lindsay was an integral part in the creation of the group and gave an excellent presentation about her pathway in high school, college, and her early career experiences.

BURNS McDONNELL

Additionally, the group took a special field trip to the **Pratt & Whitney Customer Training Center** on a special tour through the facility with female engineers, customer service representatives, and mechanical trainers. Students were able to get REAL up close with a Pratt & Whitney engine and personal to ask individualized questions.



The group is open to all HKHS students! Anyone interested in joining should see Mr. Kish for more details.

Interested in being a guest speaker or having our group visit you / your employer? Please reach out to Mr. Kish at rkish@rsd17.org to get involved!

HKHS Students Are Making an Impact STATE-WIDE!







Tyler & Matthew Medina are two 10th grade students here at HKHS who happen to be twins. They recently took it upon themselves to make an impact on state laws for both their own sake AND for all other twins around the state! They proposed a change to current **Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL)** laws and how they affect siblings. Previously, new teen drivers were prohibited from carrying passengers other than parents or legal guardians for a set period of time. **CT SB 234, "An Act Concerning Passenger Restrictions For Youth Instruction Permit Holders"**, will now allow 16- & 17-year-old drivers with a learner's permit to drive with a permitted, similarly-aged sibling (***such as a twin***), provided a licensed driver over the age of 20 is also in the vehicle.

CT SB 234 passed out of the Transportation Committee with unanimous support before it was held to a vote and passed earlier this month. Matthew and Tyler were in attendance, and when introduced on the floor, they received a standing ovation! They also got to meet with Senator Cohen and Leader Candelora, two of the legislators who helped get the bill passed. Many legislators, representatives, and Senators agreed that this was a common-sense change that would benefit families across the state.

Congratulations to both Matthew & Tyler on their success!

You can read more about the bill here. To view Matthew's testimony to the committee, **please click here!** For Tyler's testimony, **click here!**

Teen Safe Driving VIDEO CONTEST

Watch their PSA here!

Reagan Aronson & Adam Livingston recently won the ***Award of Distinction*** in the **CT DMV Teen Safe Driving Video Contest**!



The contest, *which saw a 28 percent increase in submissions from last year*, puts teens in the spotlight to create compelling safe driving messages to their peers on what "drives" them to be safe. **Out of 160 PSAs theirs was chosen! Congratulations to Reagan & Adam!**

HKTV

¿Qué es esto? Qui a fait quoi?

Congratulations to the following HKHS students who have earned the **Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy,** an honor offered by the **Connecticut Council of Language Teachers**, known as CT COLT. They facilitate the State Seal of Biliteracy which is given to graduating seniors who attain high proficiency in English and one or more additional languages. Read more about the organization **here!**

Students earning the Seal of Biliteracy in French:

Amelia Riggs, Chloe Abarientos, Evan Berardino, Dylan Brown, Maizie Irons, Audrey LaRosa, Mia Lomuntad, Tristan Papuga, Frieda Petersen, Wyatt Voegtli, Delaney Aronson, Emma Giaccone, Grace Mitchell, Luke Frohlich, & Emma Kowalski

Students earning the Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish:

Gabriel Blair, Chloe Felder, Lily Austin, Ryleigh Degnan, Zi Abbott, Audrey Bailey, Charlotte Behnke, Mathias Carroll, Emma Castiglioni, Peyton Dixon, Mason Eighmy, Jake Favalora, Brody Ferguson, Ava Geissler, Safina Hussain, Elna Krasniqi, Aidan Lena, Camryn Lisitano-Rode, Audrey Macy, Isabella McGinley, Ella Mitchell, Christopher Sanders-Roberts, Lea Rubino, Emilia Schweitzer, Aoife Sidlow, Devin Weems, & Paul Birkmeyer

And an **EXTRA special congratulations** to two students who earned their Seal of Biliteracy in two separate languages each. **Magdalen Miller for French AND German & Bruce Peese for French AND Japanese!**

HKTV wins "Best Performance" at the Quiet Corner Film Fest

Congratulations to **Maggie DiNapoli** for winning "**Best Performance**" at the recent 10th annual Quiet Corner Film Festival. Her performance was in a short film titled "**Long Story Short**", produced by Reagan Aronson.







QUIET CORNER FILM FESTIVAL 2026



This recognition highlights the creativity and talent of our young filmmakers. Students walked the red carpet and it was an amazing experience overall! You can read more about the **festival here** and you can **click here to watch** the film itself in the HKTV Video Library.

Congratulations to all our HKTV students!

Speaking of Awards...



The CT High School Halo Awards were established in 1993 to celebrate excellence in high school plays and musicals. Judges travel across CT to attend and evaluate performances at more than 100 participating high schools.

HK Drama was nominated for 14 awards this year!

- **BEST PERFORMANCE IN A FEATURED MALE ROLE IN A MUSICAL**: Nicholas Stegman as Orin Scrivello, DDS in Little Shop of Horrors
- **BEST LIGHTING DESIGN AND/OR EXECUTION**: Chloe Abarientos for Arsenic & Old Lace
- **BEST SCENIC DESIGN AND/OR EXECUTION**: Faith Santamaria & Matthias Carroll for Arsenic & Old Lace & Little Shop of Horrors
- **BEST PROPS DESIGN**: Rebecca Mitchell, Sophie Snow, and Norah Ridgeway for Little Shop of Horrors
- **BEST DANCING**: HKHS for Little Shop of Horrors
- **BEST FEATURED DANCER(S)**: Olive Forristal, Stephanie Coleman, Ashley Kelly, and Kaylee Chlodnicki for Little Shop of Horrors
- **BEST CHORUS**: HKHS for Little Shop of Horrors
- **BEST PERFORMANCE IN A LEADING FEMALE ROLE IN A CLASSICAL MUSICAL**: Juliette Harriman as Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors
- **BEST CLASSICAL PLAY**: HKHS for Arsenic & Old Lace

...and we came away with THREE wins!

- **BEST SPECIALTY ENSEMBLE:** Maggie DiNapoli, Eliza Sturges, Emma Castiglioni, Willow Whiteside, Hailey Buckie, and Madeline Therrien as The Urchins in Little Shop of Horrors
- **BEST PERFORMANCE IN A LEADING FEMALE ROLE IN A CLASSICAL PLAY**: Emma Castiglioni as Martha Brewster in Arsenic & Old Lace
- **SPECIALTY AWARDS ~ The Voice Behind the Audrey 2**: Christopher Sanders-Roberts in Little Shop of Horrors

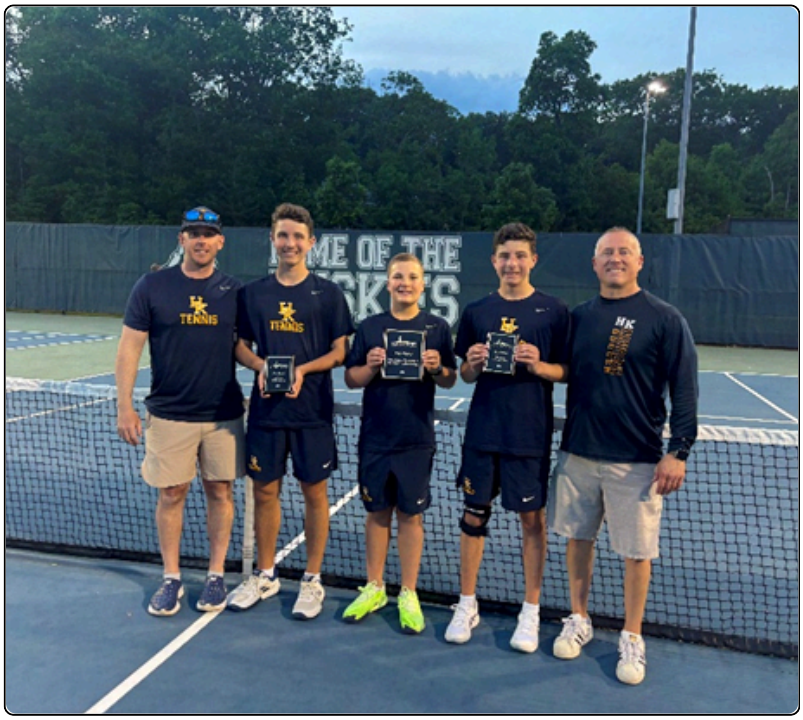




Congrats to all!



Shoreline Tennis Champion in the House!



Freshman Cooper Broder went **undefeated** as our third singles player and defeated Dylan Miller from Morgan High School to win the **Shoreline Championship!** Cooper was also selected First Team All-Conference!

The boys tennis team also had three players earn All-Conference this year. Congratulations to **Cooper Broder, Matthew Medina, and Tyler Medina.**

HK Entertains at the Hartford Yard Goats!

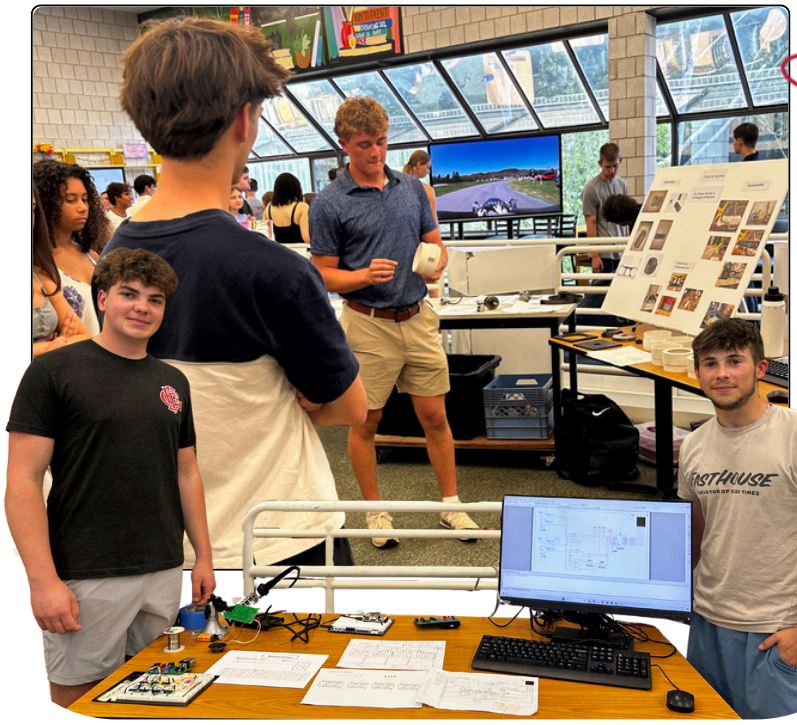
Members of the 2025-2026 HKHS choir classes joined together (on unicorn night!) to sing at the Hartford Yard Goats game on May 26th.





The choir participated in a pre-show concert along with several other schools singing, "Stand by Me" to an appreciative audience.

PLTW Students Show Off at Annual Trade Show!



Students from our Project Lead The Way courses, specifically the capstone course **Engineering Design & Development**, presented at our annual **Engineering Trade Show.**



It was a highly informative event for all!



Students in this course identify real-word problems and research solutions that already exist as well as develop possible solutions of their own. The event was held in our media center and both staff and students visited to learn more about the projects being developed.



HK Staff Have Something To Say!



Haddam Killingworth High School writer-in-residence has a new publication coming out! English teacher Alan Rice's short story "***A Scrap of Paper***" is included in **Entrance and Exits**, an anthology of short fiction published by The Brussels Review, based in Belgium. Alan has published numerous stories in different magazines and journals since his "retirement" three years ago. The Brussels Review is a fledgling journal that in its short life has already garnered significant notice for its sophisticated artwork, prose, and poetry.



"A Scrap of Paper" is about a very ordinary man who unexpectedly finds himself at the center of a series of violent, inexplicable events. His calm, predictable world, where everything was safe and secure, no longer makes any sense. If interested in reading more, it is available through The Brussels Review website. Alan's own collection of short fiction, ***"Are You Okay?" and Other Stories***, was published last year and is available from Barnes and Noble.

FINAL REPORT CARDS + HONOR ROLL



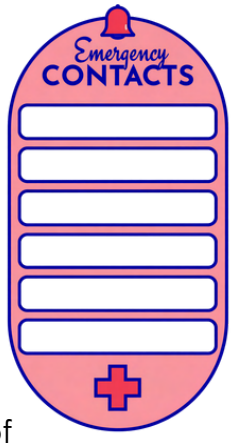
The 4th quarter ended on June 11th and final exams are now complete. Final grades should be ready by June 26th along with final report cards that will be sent out by mail the week of June 29th. Q4 honor roll we also be posted on the website the week of June 29rd.

SENIOR PORTRAITS!

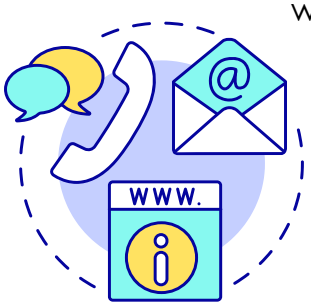
Rising Seniors of the Class of 2027 – senior portrait sessions with Steady Photography should be booked soon! Schedule them early for the best selection of dates. They will be on-site at the high school on both July 22nd & August 12th, however all portraits must be taken before the start of the 2026-2027 school year, **so don't delay!**

Please **click here for additional information** on dates, times, cost, and more. If you have questions about senior portraits, please reach out to Steady Photography directly at **studio@steadyphotography.com**.

Updating Demographic Information + Emergency Contacts



It is vital that we have accurate demographic and emergency contact information for our students. In previous years, we have mailed home paper copies of "Student Information" forms in April that needed to be returned to the school. We are in the process of modernizing this process, however, so forms were not sent out this spring. ***Please stay tuned for more information on exciting changes that will make this process easier for all involved!***

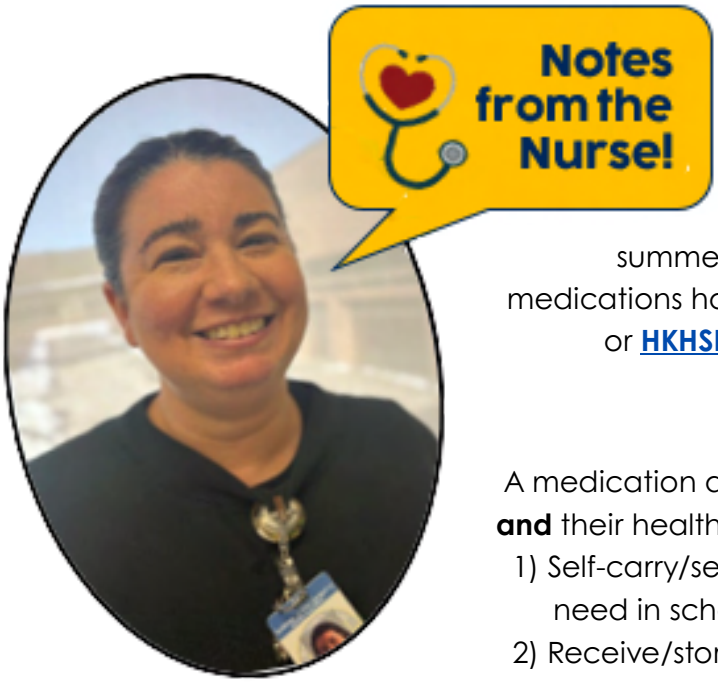


Please note: If you have moved, you will need to submit proof of residency documents for your new address. This applies to a new address within the district OR if you lived outside of the district and have moved back into it, even if there is already another parent/guardian of the student who currently lives within the district.

PARKING PERMITS!



All HKHS students are required to earn 30 hours of community service in order to graduate. **Please note that ALL students are required to earn ALL 30 hours of community service in order to receive a parking permit or participate in other senior privileges (such as senior prom, senior outing, etc.).** The exception to this rule is transfer students who have a prorated requirement. Students must also have at least 50% of their hours submitted AND approved before they are eligible to purchase tickets for Junior Prom. Rising juniors & seniors should be sure to get their required hours completed ASAP if they intend to apply for a parking space for the fall. **NOTE: rising juniors are NOT guaranteed parking spots.**



End of Year Health Office Reminder:

If your child has medication stored in the health office that has not yet been picked up, it must be picked up **TODAY, Friday, June 19th**. Medications are **not** allowed to be stored in the health office over the summer. Students without self-carry orders are unable to take medications home. Nurse Lori can be reached at 860-345-8541 x3333 or HKHSNurse@rsd17.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Preparing for '26-'27 Health Needs:

A medication authorization form completed by parents/guardians **and** their healthcare provider is required for students to:

1) Self-carry/self-administer medications they may need in school ***(including inhalers!)***
2) Receive/store medications in the health office.



If you anticipate needing medications (aside from Tylenol) please work with your health care provider to obtain the necessary paperwork over the summer. If needed, Nurse Lori can provide it to you upon request, but most providers have it electronically.

10th Grade Physicals:

We have had 62% of the incoming 10th grade class submit their state required physical exam documentation to the health office this year. In order for rising 10th graders to begin school on August 27th, 2026, this documentation **must be submitted** to the school nurse for review **prior** to the start of the school year. If your student has their appointment during the summer, please submit the completed form when it is available. It can be brought in by your student, emailed to HKHSNurse@rsd17.org, or faxed to 860-345-8252. **Thank you for your attention!**

Health Education & Promotion:

Getting outside after a snowy winter is a New England delight that has numerous physical and mental health benefits. A consideration for students and their families while heading out is tick bite prevention. Ticks are active year-round if there's sustained temperatures above freezing. In CT, April - October is their time of greatest activity. 16 different types of ticks have been identified here, with the black-legged/deer tick being the one that gets the most attention as it can cause Lyme Disease. There are also other tick-borne illnesses that can arise from a bite from an infected tick.



We can safely enjoy our favorite outdoor activities with these preventative measures:

1. Wear insect repellant.
2. Wear light colored long-sleeved shirts and pants to better see ticks.
3. Tuck your pants into your socks.
4. Carefully check your body, clothes, and equipment when you come inside. If you had a pet outside with you, check them too. Change out of the clothes you were wearing.
1. Shower within a few hours of coming in to wash off unattached ticks. This will also give you an opportunity to do a full body check. Ticks are often found under arms, around ears, behind knees, between legs, on your head, or inside the belly button.
2. Keep your grass cut and take precautions around leaf and brush piles.

Here are more resources for tick bite prevention, removal of attached ticks, and after care:
CCMC: Keeping Kids Safe from Ticks and **CDC: What to Do After a Tick Bite** **Tick Removal Video**



- **Steady Photography Senior Photo Sessions** | July 22nd & Aug 12th
  - On-site at the high school for both sessions
- **Freshmen Orientation** | Thursday, Aug 20th @ HKHS
  - Invitations will be going out to 8th grade families in July!
- **1st Day of School** | Thursday, Aug 27th
- **Professional Development Day** | Friday, Sept 4th ~ *No school for students!*
- **Labor Day** | Monday, Sept 7th ~ *District closed!*

Visit the **Calendars** tab on the RSD17 website at **https://www.rsd17.org/calendar** for all details on HKHS and district wide events!

We are thrilled to be bringing the 2025-26 school year to a successful close and we hope you have a fantastic summer break!

Last, but certainly not least, please click the link below to enjoy an amazing slideshow put together by our photography students:

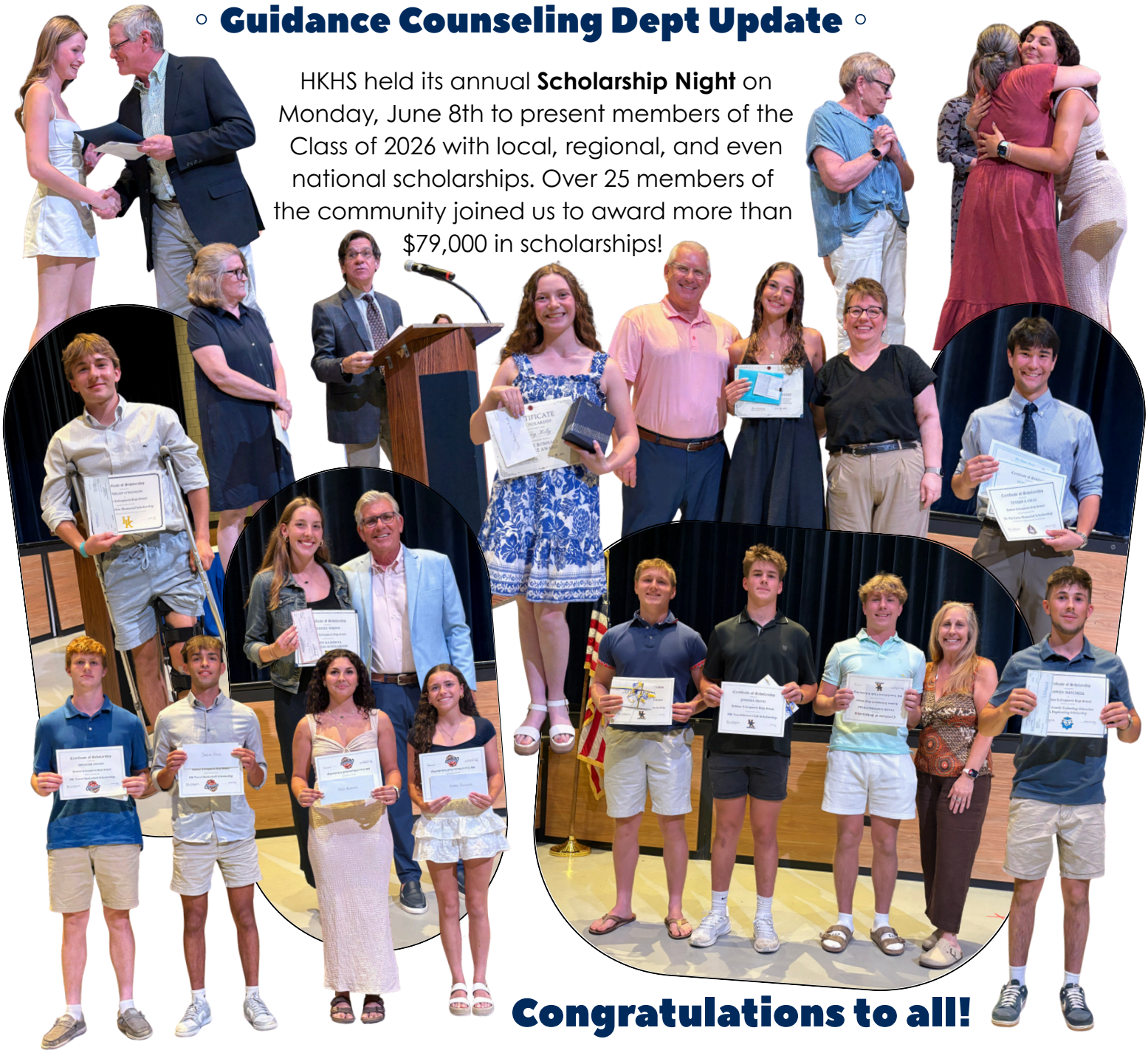
HKHS 2025-2026 Year in Review!

Respectfully,

Donna L. Hayward,
Principal

◦ Guidance Counseling Dept Update ◦

HKHS held its annual **Scholarship Night** on Monday, June 8th to present members of the Class of 2026 with local, regional, and even national scholarships. Over 25 members of the community joined us to award more than $79,000 in scholarships!



Congratulations to all!



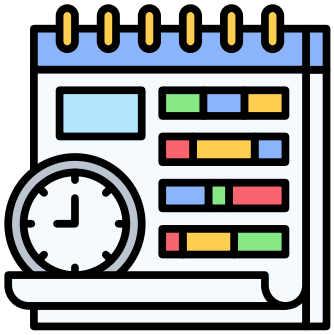
Senior Transcripts

Final HKHS transcripts for seniors will **automatically** be sent out by school counselors once final grades are complete. Seniors should have indicated where they will be attending college by meeting with their school counselor who will use that information to send out transcripts. This is also the case for NCAA student athletes. Students do **not** need to request this to be done and do **not** need to call or email their counselors to follow up.

Colleges will routinely send reminder emails each week but students should not be concerned unless they receive notice their transcript has still not been received by **early to mid-July**. Please note that even after we have sent final transcripts, a student's portal may still say their transcript is needed for several days to a week+. This is because the colleges have to manually download the transcript AND update their portal indicating it was received. If you believe there is an issue or have questions over the summer, please contact counseling secretary Amy Giarnella at 860.554.5750 or agiarnella@rsd17.org for assistance.

UConn ECE Transcripts

Seniors who have taken UConn ECE courses and need a UConn transcript sent to their college or university - **must order it themselves directly through UConn**. Information about this process **can be found here**. If your student is currently enrolled in a UConn ECE class (for the 2025-26 school year or a spring 2026 course) they should not try to request their transcript until after July 1st.



Student Schedules

All current juniors, sophomores, and freshmen have received their schedules for the 2026-27 school year. Current 8th graders who will be freshmen in the fall will received their schedules orientation in August.

All students will have the opportunity to make changes to their schedule, if possible, up until the Add/Drop Deadline of Friday, Sept 11th.

Advanced Placement Students!

Please note that students scheduled for Advanced Placement (AP) courses for 2026-2027 ***may*** have summer work that is required for their incoming course. However, not all teachers assign summer work so it will depend on the specific class(es) in which the student is enrolled. AP teachers have been meeting with their AP students to review these details. If a student has any questions they should reach out the corresponding teacher(s).

COMMUNITY SERVICE Opportunities!

Haddam Killingworth Youth & Family Services strives to meet the needs (as they learn about them!) of teens in our community. One concern from parents and guardians with rising freshman or underclassmen was finding ways to connect their kids with opportunities to fulfill their required community service hours.

Students should visit the Haddam Killingworth Youth & Family Services website at **www.hkyfs.org** for a list of local opportunities, including volunteering for HKYFS themselves. If you are in need of help yourself, you can connect HKYFS to sign up for their Neighbors Helping Neighbors program that matching volunteers with community members. If you are involved with a non-profit that needs volunteers, you can also submit a request on their website to be added to their list!

SENIORS!

This upcoming year will be an exceptional busy time so **any rising senior who has not yet completed their community service hours required to graduate should make every effort to complete them over the summer.** As a reminder, all hours must be completed for **NON-PROFIT** organizations unless a student has **PRIOR approval** from their counselor.

