



Principal's Newsletter



Branford High School • Spring 2019

Please visit our website for important information, calendar updates, daily announcements, Program of Studies, The Guide, and the Principal's Newsletter

www.branfordhigh.org

News

Instrumental Music Notes

BAND



On February 23, the students pictured above participated in the UConn 1st Chair Honor Band. They rehearsed and performed a concert with top musicians from high schools around Connecticut.

Shown left to right are: Veronica Onumonu-Barton (flute), Christiana Doyle (alto saxophone), Elizabeth Lam (flute), and Akash Ali (percussion).

JAZZ

The Branford High School Jazz Band and the Walsh Intermediate School Jazz Band participated in the UConn Jazz festival on March 15. Each ensemble performed three pieces, received feedback from Jazz faculty, participated in masterclasses, and attended a concert.

Guitarist Sawyer Bouley won an Outstanding Musicianship Award. He is pictured at right holding his electric guitar and his certificate from UConn.



ORCHESTRA



On March 26, the BHS orchestra visited the Yale Collection of Musical Instruments and attended a New Haven Symphony Orchestra (NHSO) concert at Woolsey Hall.

During a tour of the Yale Collection of Musical Instruments, the students saw an impressive collection of bells that have been used for both musical and utilitarian purposes throughout history. They also learned about the evolution of string instruments, woodwinds, and pianos. The photo above shows students with pianos and harpsichords from the Collection. Back row, left to right: Julian Clarke-Dixon, Kutjesa Balaj, Celia Shanley, Julianna Clarke-Dixon, Alexander Sweeney, Elisio Madera and Margaret Devlin. Front row, left to right: Max Padian, Graham Reynolds, and Tony Tran.

The concert featured hip-hop violinist and NHSO Artist-in-Residence Daniel Bernard Roumain. Junior Julianna Clarke-Dixon (violin) reflected on the diverse styles of music the soloist performed: “You would think violin is for classical [music]. He made country music, he made jazz...”

“When he made his violin sound like an electric guitar, I was gone,” said junior Maggie Devlin (violin). “It was very good.”

“I think he was strumming chords on his violin, not just notes,” freshman Alex Sweeney (double bass) observed.

Junior Julian Clarke-Dixon (viola) saw and heard the professional musicians using vibrato in their playing, which is a musical effect that students in the BHS orchestra are working on adding to their own playing.

“It was different,” Julianna Clarke-Dixon said, summing up the uniqueness of the performance. “I loved it.”

Counseling Department Updates

Hello Parents & Families!

Spring has officially arrived, and we are sure everyone is excited about the warmer weather coming our way. We have just completed the registration process for grades 8-11 but as we begin wrapping up the end of this year, we will continue to work with our seniors as they make their decisions regarding their post-secondary plans. Remember to encourage your student to **finish the 4th quarter strong!**

Freshmen

The School Counseling Department will implement their third and final transition workshop with the 9th graders, asking them to reflect on this past year and redefine their goals for next year.

Sophomores

We are encouraging students to think about their summer plans and emphasizing the importance of engaging in community service and staying focused on academics. Students should challenge themselves with reading and refresh their math skills prior to the start of the first day of school.

Juniors

Khan Academy is a wonderful tool for students to use. It offers tutoring, help, and practice problems in a variety of subjects.

Students interested in taking the SAT after the school day SAT on March 27th should be reminded that registration happens on the College Board website. Counselors are available to assist students with deadlines.

Spring and summer are great times to begin touring colleges. Most schools offer tours that you can sign up for ahead of time so reserve your spot to begin your journey!

Seniors

Final school reports are automatically sent out to the college or university you are attending. Be sure to stop by and let your school counselor know your final decision so we can get this done!

Make sure you have filled out the BHS Common Scholarship Application, which was emailed to you. Stop in to see Mrs. Errante in the School Counseling Department if you did not receive it.

Reminder: May 1st, 2019 is Decision Day: the last day to tell a school that you have decided to commit to their school come the fall! This often requires sending them your acceptance letter along with a deposit to secure your spot. Don't forget!

Happy Spring! - BHS School Counseling Department

BHS Hosts Third Annual Women in Engineering Event

Engineers apply math and science in real world situations in order to propose solutions to and improve social and practical problems. To encourage and empower more females to pursue futures in engineering, BHS hosted the Third Annual Women in Engineering event on March 13th in the Library Learning Commons. Female students, grades 10-12, interested in construction and sustainability in engineering learned about careers in a variety of engineering fields at the all-day event. Representatives from Fusco Corporation, the contracting company building the new Walsh Intermediate School, attended the event and ran a breakout groups for the students to give them a taste of what types of problems their company works to solve. Their session involved a computer program evaluating the sustainability of the materials and processes used to build a structure like WIS. We also had two representatives from Talpey Construction lead the girls through a layout activity using traditional tools versus a laser robot, a chalk line art project, and a nail driving contest!



These photographs show students tackling hands-on engineering challenges. At left, Juniors Olivia Paleski, Molly Zaffino, Riley Girard, and Sydney Stutzman carefully plan out their design for their red and white chalk line art project. The artwork will eventually be displayed in the Library Learning Commons.

At right, several students in grades 10-12, including Seniors Lisa Kroeber and Kaitlyn Kaczor, work on the floor of the Library Learning Commons to layout a 7' x 7.5' "footing" with a tape measure and string line. Presenter Russ Talpey visits groups to give helpful hints. After the groups checked their layout to see if it was "square", the students got to check it with the laser robot called a Total Station and competed for best accuracy.

Young Women's Club News

On Thursday November 8, 2019, Young Women's Club members received a very special treat: Lieutenant Shelly Carter, founder of Girls Future Firefighter Camp, visited BHS and spoke about how special girls are and inspiring them to do anything they put their minds to.

Lt. Carter, a 20-year veteran of the Hartford Fire Department, shared information about her free firefighter training camp for girls. Campers are taught by Lt. Carter and other qualified fire service and EMT professionals. All are great women who volunteer their time and expertise to help teach the girls life-saving skills. The campers learn everything from CPR to running hose lines to properly activating a hydrant to many more life lessons, including becoming a good person who gives back to the community.

Lt. Carter was invited by Young Women's Club President Hailey Ortiz, who personally attended the camp in 2018. Hailey espoused these values by stating: "I want to do something with helping people in my future. This camp gives you the opportunity to learn hands on." Lt. Carter pointed out that she "wanted these young ladies to know that they are capable, strong and there is nothing they cannot do!"

Lt. Carter's Camp is free and open to all girls ages 13 to 18. The experience is rewarding and immensely fulfilling. To find out more about Girl's Future Firefighter Camp, click [here](#)



Shown in the picture above are: back row, l-r: Catallina Brown, Maddy Brissette, Skye Martino, Jackie Bacote, Emma Boyle, Julianne Dillon, Claire Bickel, Brenna Thorpe, Olivia Thompson. Middle row, l-r: Tiffanie Ly, Veronica Smith, Gabby Sapp, Ashley Duong, Lt. Carter, Mia DuPuis, Hailey Ortiz, Maribel Yanzaguano, Maya Shebell. Front row: Peyton Giordano, Ava Brunner, Sophia Exposito, Carly Ortiz, Ajla Mehmedovic, Taylor Modzelewski.

Alumni News

Dancer and choreographer Leah Castro Moriarty, BHS and ECA Class of 2006, recently modeled for a sculpture by Chris Myers. Leah had to sit perfectly still, encased in latex with straws in her nostrils to breathe, for approximately three hours while the material set. The latex mold was filled with concrete; then the hardened form was covered with mosaic mirror tiles. The finished sculpture is presently touring the United States.

Shown in photos below: at left, in the artist's Brooklyn studio, Leah is covered in shiny wet blue latex and curled into a kneeling position similar to the yoga position called "child's pose." At right, a smiling latex-free Leah taking the same pose next to the concrete form cast from the mold to show how it was done.



Photos on the following page show Leah, again curled in position, next to the finished sculpture on display in Brooklyn. The final picture shows the sculpture in a darkened corner of a Los Angeles gallery with spotlights trained on it, sending a sparkling spatter of myriad reflections onto teal-gray walls, like a shower of nighttime stars.

If you have alumni news you'd like to share in the BHS Alumni Newsletter, please email Ms. Castro at pcastropascoe@branfordschools.org.

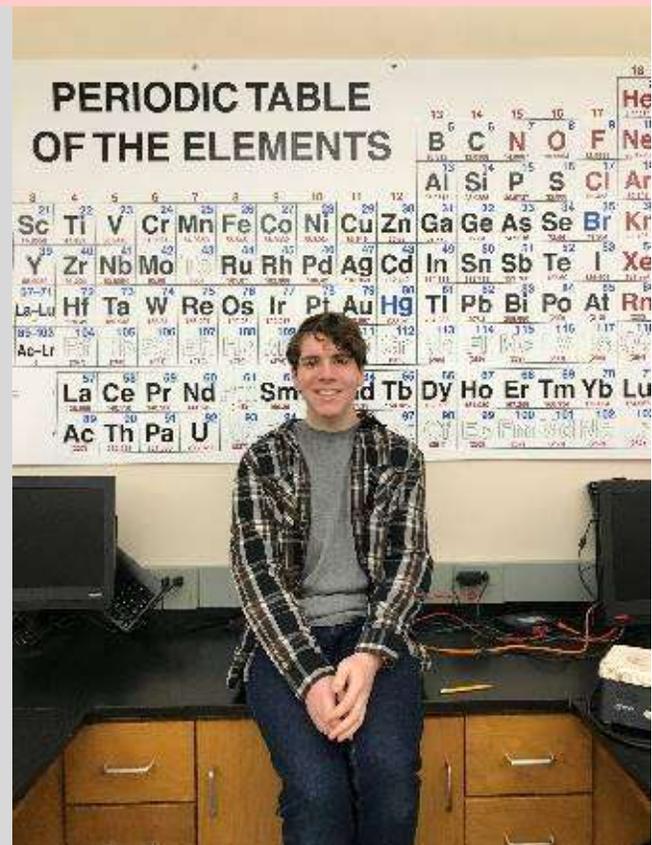


Celebrating Student Achievements

Student Selected for Yale's "Discovery to Cure" Research Program

Congratulations to BHS junior Max Padian on his acceptance to this year's Discovery to Cure summer research program for high school juniors at Yale University. The purpose of the program is to give high school students the opportunity to participate in biology/biochemistry research. Max will be part of a Yale professor's team experimenting in cutting-edge science research at Yale University full-time throughout the summer.

Max is pictured at right in a classroom sitting in front of a wall chart of the Periodic Table.



Connecticut Poetry Out Loud Competition

Congratulations to junior Hope Steen for representing BHS at the annual statewide Poetry Out Loud competition at Middlesex Community College in Middletown on March 9. Hope did an outstanding job reciting Edgar Allan Poe's "The Conqueror Worm" and Jack Collom's "Ecology" from memory, competing against 28 other students from across Connecticut. The winner of the state competition, Evan Reynolds of Lewis S. Mills High School, will represent Connecticut at the national Poetry Out Loud Competition in Washington DC in April.



Pictured at right: Hope Steen and Adrienne Jefferson of the Connecticut State Council on the Arts at the Poetry Out Loud Final.

CT Association of Schools (CAS) Arts Awards Banquet



Musician Adam Jackson and visual artist Sophia Irzyk were honored at the CAS Arts Award Banquet in February. Pictured at the banquet l-r are Dean of Students Dianne Dadio, Music teacher Mallory Legman, Adam Jackson and Sophia Irzyk holding their award plaques, and Art teacher Delia Kropiwnicki.

Welcome to Jewelry Smithing

Beginning Jewelry students work in Copper Alloys; NuGold & Nickel. Charms depicted below were created by sawing out a design with the Jeweler's Saw and then filing it to perfection. Students used hammers, drills, engravers, ferric chloride or chemical patinas to texturize their metal charms. Jumprings are made by hand; shaped, sawed and soldered seams.



Lilly Longway
Acid etch Line Design
22 Gauge Nickel



Alyssa Reilly
Hammers & Piercing
22 Gauge NuGold



Libby Keyes
Chemical Patina
22 Gauge NuGold



Juliana Torello
Drill Piercing & Engraver
22 Gauge Nickel



Stephanie Toste
Piercing, Sawing & Stamping
22 Gauge Nickel



Macey Girard
Piercing, Sawing & Engraver
22 Gauge NuGold



Joseph Torres
Piercing, Sawing & Soldering
22 Gauge Nickel

*Advanced Jewelry students work in Sterling Silver,
Setting Precious & Semi-Precious Stones.*

Stone Settings depicted below are set with silver bezel; straight or crown or prongs.

Students created bracelets, pendants and rings.

*Stones used are; amethyst, cubic zirconia, dichroic glass,
garnet, labradorite, paua shell and turq*



*Cleo Hazen
Sterling Silver
Bracelet*



*Andrea Amarante
Dichroic Glass Cabochon
Pendant and Bail*



*Maribel Yanzaguano
Faceted Amethyst set in
Sterling Silver Prongs*



*Mia DuPuis
Cubic Zirconia
Sterling Prongs*



*Shane Carvin
Garnet set in Silver
Band Ring*



*Molly Zaffino
Turquoise set in Silver
Twisted wire Bracelet*



*Kelly Tiernan
Paua Shell
Silver Ring*



*Tori How
Dichroic Glass
Crown Bezel Ring*

Please visit our website to see more Wonderful Jewelry examples! Thanks D Roy

<https://sites.google.com/a/branfordschools.org/bhs-jewelry-design/>

Upcoming Events

Project Graduation Needs Your Help

Project Graduation Upcoming Events

<http://branfordprojectgraduation.weebly.com>

branfordprojectgraduation2019@gmail.com

1. Spring Vendor Fair & Prom Expo – Saturday, April 6th from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. in The Commons at Branford High School
2. There is a senior t-shirt for sale. The names of all the seniors are listed on the back of the t-shirt. An order form was sent home to all the seniors. To access the form, please go to <http://branfordprojectgraduation.weebly.com>. All forms are due by May 15. You can send the order with payment to Project Graduation, 185 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405, or drop it off at the high school.
3. Tuxedo Fundraiser – Rent your tuxedo from Attilio's Men's Clothing at 827 Foxon Road in East Haven. Project Graduation gets \$5 for each rental.
4. Balloons for Seniors – Send your favorite senior a balloon to celebrate their graduation! Order forms are online at <http://branfordprojectgraduation.weebly.com>. All orders are due by Monday, May 13. Please send the order to Project Graduation, 185 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405 or drop it off at the high school.
5. Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Class Act Café at Branford High School. We need lots of help, especially from underclassman families.

PARENT NIGHT

Vaping, E Cigs & Juuls

What are the legalities of vaping & being caught vaping?

What are the medical ramifications to vaping, addiction & addiction services?

How do kids get access to paraphernalia & where do they hide it?

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dave Atkinson
Branford Youth Officer

Beth Capobianco
East Shore Health District

Janelle Jessee
Swim Across the Sound

Wednesday, April 24 • 6:00 - 7:30PM

@ Branford Firehouse in the Community Room

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

SPONSORS

OPEN Network
East Shore Health District
Walsh Intermediate PTO

FOR DETAILS
203-481-4248

**Opiate/Prescription/
Drug Education Network**

OPEN