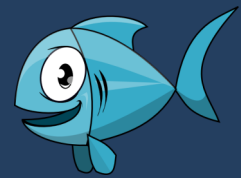


# MSMHS FISH TALES



**BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION!**

*that are true from the desk of Dr. Spera*

*Week of September 12, 2016*

## MSMHS RANKED 3rd IN THE STATE IN ELA SAT & TOP 500 IN US!

GROTON, CT - For the **FIFTH** year in a row, the teachers and students worked tirelessly to achieve greatness! With the mindset of **'effort creates ability'** along with the **grit** to battle through tough concepts and skills needed for success, the class of 2017 outperformed all but two high schools in the entire state of Connecticut on the Language Arts section of the SAT!

This is not the first time the class of 2017 has shown brilliance. Last year, they broke school records in goal percentage and above with 82.6% and percentage of students scoring an 'Advanced' (5) on the science CAPT with 60.9% (previous record was 51.9%).

For the first time in school history, our school has been ranked by each of the three publications who rank high schools nationally: World News and Report (Silver Medalist), Washington Post (9th in the state), and now Newsweek. A few weeks ago, *Newsweek* released their high school rankings for the top 500 high schools in the nation in two categories: Overall and Beating the Odds. MSMHS was nationally ranked on the 'Beating the Odds' List at #491. Beating the Odds is a list of the top 500 schools in the nation that 'do an excellent job of preparing their students for college while also overcoming the obstacles posed by students at an economic disadvantage.' MSMHS is one of three high schools in the state listed on this list along with the Gilbert School and Connecticut IB Academy.

Please take time to reflect on the tremendous efforts that were put forth by our teachers students, and parents which made these results a reality. **EFFORT DOES CREATE ABILITY!** This is a great example of what happens when **ALL stakeholders give tireless support. and amazing school pride!** Thank you for continuing to make MSMHS great with all your efforts.

### TOP 5 HS IN CT - ELA SAT

1	New Canaan High School <i>New Canaan</i>
2	Darien High School <i>Darien</i>
3	<b>MSMHS</b> <b>LEARN</b>
4	Daniel Hand High School <i>Madison</i>
5	Wilton High School <i>Wilton</i>



## Mr. L Named LEARN Teacher of the Year



EAST HARTFORD, CT - Last week, Mr. Litvinoff was honored at the LEARN Convocation as the 2017 LEARN Teacher of the Year. As one of the founding teachers when MSMHS opened its doors in 2011, he was named the 2012 Teacher of the Year. Known affectionately as DJ Aquaman because of his willingness to DJ every school dance and prom along with his Director of Aquaculture responsibilities, he has only missed 20 calendar days at

MSMHS. He has never missed a school day and has worked 1,805 days in just 5 years because remember... WE GOT FISH!

As an instructor, he is exemplary and uses technology and authentic tasks to enhance student learning. He has led professional development in technology and the collaboration of scoring rubrics and creating them based on the research and professional development he received at Stanford University. In 2015, he was selected to study brine pools in the Gulf of Mexico with Dr. Bob Ballard and the Ocean Exploration Trust group. This past weekend, he presented at the Marine Aquarium Society of North America with Mystic Aquarium on *Aquaculturing the Next Generation of Marine Aquarist*.

With all of this, his greatest work is in the relationships he has with students. He does whatever it takes for them to succeed in and out of the classroom. You are a superhero Aquaman!

## NESS & PROJECT O TRIP SCHEDULE COMING SOON

GROTON, CT - In the upcoming weeks, MSMHS students will begin the first and second round of boat trips for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors in collaboration with New England Sailing and Science (NESS) in Stonington, CT and Project Oceanology in Groton, CT. Freshmen will be introduced to the Project O boat, water testing, and have an opportunity to see what is living in Long Island Sound. Our sophomores will drive small vessels at NESS which will allow them to use the skills and knowledge from the boat simulator to the water. **Be sure to dress warm this month when heading out on the Long Island Sound!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS/PROGRAMS

### Next PTO Meeting

Monday, October 3rd @ 6:30 pm

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, September 22, 2016  
8 am to 1 pm

Call the Main Office to Sign Up

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>th</sup>

Back to School Night @ 6:00 pm

*Meet all of your student's teachers by following your student's schedule from Advisory through Block 8!*

### Upcoming Project O Schedule:

Date	Classes Attending
9-14 (A)	Per 1 – Marine Studies I – Howard (19) Per 2 – Marine Studies I - Fritz (10) Per 4 – Marine Studies I – Howard (18)
9-15 (B)	Per 5 – Marine Studies I – Howard (14) Per 8 – Marine Studies I - Howard (14)