

The Grapevine
A GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER



October/November 2016

HAPPY HALLOWEEN AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Prudential Spirit of Community Award

Are you a student who has made a difference through volunteering? Apply for a 2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Award and you could win \$1,000 and a trip to Washington, D. C. next May. Deadline: Nov. 8. For more information and application go to <http://spirit.prudential.com>

UCONN - Husky-for-a-Day Program: Get a look at UConn's daily life. You will be matched up with a current UConn student and explore campus from the student perspective. Fall dates and times available at [Husky-for-a-day\(/content/visit/husky-day\)](http://husky-for-a-day(/content/visit/husky-day))

Uconn School of Fine Arts: An SFA Experience will take place on Monday, October 10, on the Storrs campus. The **School of Fine Arts** includes Art & Art History, Dramatic Arts, Digital Media & Design and Music. RSVP at <https://beahusky.uconn.edu/sfa-imagine-rsvp>
Questions? SFA.RSVP@uconn.edu

Grad Party Volunteers needed to prepare for this year's Graduation party. Meetings will take place in the teacher's lounge at 7:00 pm on 10/13/16, 11/10/16, 1/12/17, 2/9/17, 3/9/17, 5/11/17 and 6/8/17. Contact Olga Rella if you have any questions at olgarella@att.net

DANBURY MALL COLLEGE FAIR: Monday, October 17, 5-8:30 p.m. **TIP: Many of the colleges ask you to fill out cards with your personal information so they can put you in their system. Type a set of labels with your Name, Address, School and Email address and you can adhere it to the card saving a lot of time and the schools are better able to read the information than when it is written. P.S.** This is also the night of the NMHS National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 7 PM

Financial Aid Night: In case you missed Julie Savino’s PowerPoint presentation on Financial Aid on September 28, it is now available on our Website under the Guidance Department. Please note seniors may start to apply for FAFSA beginning October 1, this year, instead of January 1. The sooner you apply, the sooner you will receive your financial aid package. Remember to check to see if your schools also require the CSS Profile, many private schools also require this form.

GUIDANCE ON THE GO: This year the guidance department has developed a program called “Guidance on the Go”. The program is aimed at providing all students with the resources and knowledge they need to meet their educational goals. On October 4, the department began connecting with students in the cafeteria during A day lunch periods at the “kiosk” located in the back of the cafeteria in front of the windows. Here, school counselors are available to speak with students about a variety of issues. The kiosk showcases specific “trending topics” designated for each grade level at different times during the year. Many events and activities in and outside of school such as PSAT day, college fairs and college visits will be advertised and promoted. Other trending topics will include: How to access and use Naviance, scholarship opportunities, time management tips, registering for SAT, ACT and AP information, along with academic support resources within the school building, stress reduction, grade-specific action plans for preparing for college and how to make counselor appointments. Please take a moment to talk with your child about this new program and encourage them to take advantage of the valuable resource. Thank you for your support!

JUNIORS: The following is a timetable to help you prepare for your senior year and the college selection process:

October/November: Take the PSATs on Wednesday, October 19. This year the PSAT will be given during the school day. There is no registration and no fee. All sophomores and juniors will take the test beginning 1st period. Keep your grades up and think about the kinds of experiences you can include on your resume. Take a look at the college visit list in Naviance and sign up to meet with a representative if your teacher permits.

December: Receive results of PSATs - read score report and determine how you might improve. Familiarize yourself with Naviance, our guidance computer program.

January: Begin to think about colleges you would like to explore. Check college Websites and make a tentative list of colleges to research and visit.

February/March: Use the Career Center to do a college search. Email colleges and evaluate literature sent to you.

April: Visit colleges during this month. Register for SAT or ACT; SAT subject tests and/or AP. Begin eliminating choices. Parents and students should attend “College

Planning Night” on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 along with our College Fair scheduled for April 7th from 6:30-8:00 pm in the gym.

May: Attend additional college fairs. Take AP tests if appropriate. Plan visits to colleges over the summer.

June/July/August: Take SAT II subject tests (if appropriate). Visit colleges, take tours and have interviews. Volunteer in your community, and prepare a draft of your Activity Resume. Refine your list of colleges; separate it into Reach, Realistic and Safety schools.

Reminder to Seniors: Literacy Volunteers are in the Career Center Monday and Tuesday mornings to help seniors with their **essay, application process and/or financial aid** – pick up a form in the Career Center if you need help.

On Site Decision Day This year Western Connecticut State University will have their **On-Site-Decision Day** on **Wednesday, December 6th** here in the guidance office. Counselors from WCSU will meet with seniors and let them know on the spot if they have been accepted to WCSU. Students must submit their application, pay the fee, and have their transcript sent along with SAT scores by Thanksgiving. As soon as they do this, they need to make an appointment with Mrs. Neill in the Career Center to meet with the WCSU rep on December 6th to get their decision.

GREAT WEBSITES: www.mymajors.com is a great place to go to gather information about choosing a major. It provides extensive information about programs of study in a wide variety of majors. You begin with a 15 minute interview, entering data about your experience with your high school courses. Mymajors analyzes this information, matching majors to your interests and experience. You can also learn about what jobs are available to students who graduate with this major! Other websites include: www.going2college.org, <http://connection.naviance.com/nmhsct> and www.collegeboard.com which feature information about career planning, finding a college and paying for college.

SENIORS: IMPORTANT – PLEASE, PLEASE – DO NOT REQUEST A TRANSCRIPT BE SENT TO YOUR COLLEGES UNTIL YOU HAVE SENT YOUR APPLICATIONS!! This is extremely important as colleges that receive transcripts before they receive applications have nowhere to put them so they wind up in a dead file or thrown away. Also, when choosing the colleges you are applying to in Naviance, be sure to click on whether or not you are using the Common Application or the school’s application.

If you have missed your Senior Workshop in Advisory, and are planning to attend college, you need to meet with your counselor as soon as possible. Stop by the Guidance Office and schedule an appointment. **Deadlines are extremely important.**

Note: Uconn no longer has an early action date. Their application deadline is now January 15, for all students. Uconn and Western Connecticut are now part of the Common Application and any student using the Common Application MUST have the School Report completed by their guidance counselor so, please let your counselor know if you are using the Common Application

Right now is prime time for getting those college applications going. For the next eight weeks or so you may apply to any college in the country – but then you run into deadlines. The Ivy League colleges have deadlines ranging from January 1st to January 15th. If you are planning to attend a state school, apply as early as possible because there is a housing shortage at these schools and if you wait too long you may not be able to secure a room. Here is another checklist of what you should be doing in the next six weeks:

1. **Narrow your choices down to three or four**...the Naviance guidance program can help you with this or you can try some on-line websites like petersons.com, collgeboard.com or usnews.com. **Visit the colleges that interest you, if possible. Fill in applications** – or write to the college to request them (most can be obtained online) There are some college applications in the Career Center, however, most will be found online. The Common Application should be completed online.
2. **Remember – all applications should be sent by the student** either online or through the mail. After your application is sent, **you need to request a transcript through Naviance but not until you have sent out your application.**
3. **When requesting teacher recommendations, you need to not only request in person, but also you must request in Naviance, and complete your resume in order for the teachers to upload their letters. You will not be allowed to view your recommendation letters.**

DATES TO REMEMBER: SAT I & SAT II

Location	Date	Deadline	Late Fee
SAT: NMHS	Nov. 5	Oct. 7	Oct. 25
	Dec. 3	Nov. 3	Nov. 22
ACT: NMH	Dec. 10	Nov. 4	Nov.5-18

Scores available online: about 3 weeks after the test date. Official score reports are mailed

about 5 weeks after the test. Visit www.collegeboard.com for a list of approximate score availability dates.

Please Note: Many colleges (too many to name here) are holding open houses during the months of October/November. Call the schools you are interested in or check their websites for open house/information sessions. School websites are usually found by typing the name of the school then .edu. For example, fordham.edu, wcsu.edu, etc.

State School Open Houses:

Southern Connecticut - **Sunday, Oct. 23** - **11:00 – 2:30 p.m.**
Eastern Connecticut - **Saturday, Oct. 8** - **10:00 - 2:00 p.m**
Central Connecticut - **Sunday, Oct. 30** - **11:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Western Connecticut - **Sunday, Nov. 6** - **10:00 - 1:00 p.m.**
Check Websites to double check times and register.

The Visitor’s Center at the **University of Connecticut** is getting underway with their fall schedule. The Tours provide general information about the university with a group session and a tour (approximately an hour and a half) through the central part of campus. The library and one residence hall room and one classroom are shown on the tour. Please note that all tours are by reservation only! Reservations may be made by calling the **Visitor’s Center at 1-860-486-4900.**
Campus Tours: Monday through Sunday Call for times

Upcoming college visits to the Career Center are listed below:

Scheduled College Visits			
<u>College</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
<u>Gettysburg College</u>	Abby Kallin	Thu October 13, 2016	8:00 AM
<u>Wheelock College</u>	Eric Small	Thu October 13, 2016	9:15 AM
<u>Trinity College</u>	Sophie Howard	Thu October 13, 2016	10:00 AM
<u>Johnson State College</u>	Tommy O'Connor	Thu October 13, 2016	1:30 PM
<u>Norwich University</u>	Jennifer Passalacqua	Fri October 14, 2016	9:00 AM
<u>Washington University in St. Louis</u>	Christine Pritula	Fri October 14, 2016	10:30 AM

<u>Springfield College</u>	Rachael Raymond	Mon October 17, 2016	8:00 AM
<u>Tufts University</u>	Becky Styles	Mon October 17, 2016	8:30 AM
<u>Wagner College</u>	Sarah Braun	Mon October 17, 2016	9:00 AM
<u>University of New Hampshire at Durham</u>	lydia Gove	Mon October 17, 2016	9:30 AM
<u>Cedar Crest College</u>	Kathy Eggert	Mon October 17, 2016	10:00 AM
<u>Hartwick College</u>	Rhianna Blake	Mon October 17, 2016	10:30 AM
<u>Lasell College</u>	Christopher Gray	Mon October 17, 2016	11:00 AM
<u>Southern New Hampshire University</u>	Brook Porter-Jordan	Mon October 17, 2016	12:45 PM
<u>Radford University</u>	Julie Cogle	Mon October 17, 2016	1:30 PM
<u>MCPHS - Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences</u>	Christine Cormier	Tue October 18, 2016	8:00 AM
<u>Lynchburg College</u>	Becka Loftis	Tue October 18, 2016	9:30 AM
<u>University of Southern Maine</u>	Gabrielle Finger	Tue October 18, 2016	9:30 AM
<u>Marist College</u>	Milena Carrese	Tue October 18, 2016	10:00 AM
<u>Rochester Institute of Technology</u>	Devin Lamb	Tue October 18, 2016	10:00 AM
<u>St. John's University - Queens Campus</u>	Laura Fcasni	Tue October 18, 2016	11:00 AM
<u>Merrimack College</u>	Marvin Sandoval	Tue October 18, 2016	11:30 AM
<u>Quinnipiac University</u>	Michael Scaduto	Tue October 18, 2016	1:30 PM
<u>Colgate University</u>		Wed October 19, 2016	12:30 PM
<u>Siena College</u>	Colin O'Reilly	Wed October 19, 2016	1:00 PM
<u>Bryant University</u>	Nicole Zervos	Wed October 19, 2016	1:30 PM
<u>Saint Joseph's College-ME</u>	Megan Bradley	Thu October 20, 2016	9:00 AM
<u>Elmira College</u>	Ryan Schribner	Fri October 21, 2016	11:00 AM
<u>High Point University</u>	Jacee Trace	Mon October 24, 2016	12:30 PM
<u>Southern Connecticut State University</u>	Scott Ouellette	Tue October 25.	12:30

		2016	PM
<u>Central Connecticut State University</u>	Carolyn Marques	Wed October 26, 2016	10:00 AM
<u>Eastern Connecticut State University</u>	Taylor Hammond	Thu October 27, 2016	8:00 AM
<u>University of New Haven</u>	Sarah Gawronski	Tue November 1, 2016	1:30 PM
<u>Hofstra University</u>	Courtney Cyr	Fri November 4, 2016	9:00 AM
<u>Plymouth State University</u>	Danielle Mlshkit	Fri November 4, 2016	11:00 AM
<u>Lincoln College of New England</u>	Liz Donia	Mon November 7, 2016	11:00 AM
<u>Western Connecticut State University</u>	ON SITE DECISION DAY!	Tue December 6, 2016	-

PROCEDURE REGARDING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:

If your scholarship application requires **letters of recommendation**, you need to bring your application in a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mrs. Neill in the Career Center **at least one week prior to the due date**. She will enclose your transcript and letters of recommendation and mail directly to the organization.

If your application will be picked up at the high school by the organization, you do not need to put it in an envelope. However, you should return the applications **at least one week prior to their due date**. *The following scholarship applications are picked up at the high school and will be available ONLY IN NAVIANCE after January 2017. All scholarship application will be able to be printed at home*

- The Common Application – Due: April 1
- Thrift Mart – Due April 1
- Lions Club – Due Early April
- Rotary – Due April 1
- New Milford Board of Realtors – Due Mid April
- PTO - Due Mid April
- New Milford Woman’s Club – Due May 1
- John Pettibone – Due April 1
- New Milford Police Union – April 1

*Seniors Note: All local scholarships are listed in Naviance under **Scholarship List**. You can find out the deadline and in some cases click on the website for an application. However, most local scholarship applications will not be available till after **January, 2017** as sponsors update*

application forms each year and drop them off at their convenience. Many are due between April 1st and May 15th. Awards are presented in June.

Big Y Scholarship: Open to employees and their dependents, and customers and their dependents. Visit www.bigy.com, download application from Naviance or pick up an application in the Career Center. **Due: 2/1**

Elks National Foundation 2017 Most Valuable Student Scholarship: Apply online at www.elks.org - **Deadline: November 30.**

Danbury Dental Society: A \$1,000 scholarship to a student interested in studying dentistry. Award is based on an essay and interview with the committee. Submit a written essay to the address below by **April 1, 2017** describing the reasons for your interest in dentistry.
David H. Cowin, DMD, 52 North Street, Danbury, CT 06810

Boston University Trustee Scholarship Boston University Trustee Scholarship: Any student in the top 5% of the class, with a GPA of 3.5 or better, a combined score of at least 1400 on the SAT Critical Reading and Math section, a score of 700 or higher on the Writing Section and results of two SAT Subject Tests or 32 on the ACT, is eligible to be nominated for this prestigious scholarship. The nomination form is available online at the Trustee Scholar website www.bu.edu/admissions/trustee. The deadline for application is **December 1, 2017**