



Mark T. Sheehan High School—Wallingford, Connecticut

Principal's Newsletter

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Credit for Life Fair



On February 22, all sophomores will have the opportunity to participate in the Credit for Life Fair, which will be held at Zandri's Stillwood Inn. The fair teaches students basic financial management skills. The students will receive background information on their life based on their chosen career (based on their results from the Career Interest Inventory, which they completed previously with the school counselors). The students visit vendor booths and purchase what is required to

live while paying their bills and keeping a positive account.

The primary goal for this day is for students to start thinking about how career choices, salaries, and budgets fit together and how both big career decisions and daily financial decisions affect the quality of their life. This event is possible due to the collaboration of Wallingford schools, businesses, and community members as part of the HUBCAP Wallingford. We are very excited to offer this event to our sophomore students and believe it is a great place for them to start thinking about their lives after high school.

Coming this March - Office 45

Beginning in March 2016 and continuing through May 2016, Sheehan and Lyman Hall High Schools will pilot the implementation of a modified office hour during the school day. Twice each month, students and teachers will be unscheduled for 45 minutes. This time period will be used to facilitate different kinds of academic teacher-student interactions as well as student-student interactions outside of a typical classroom experience. Students can use this time for extra-help sessions, one-on-one writing conferences with their teachers, college and career planning with their counselors and/or college & career specialist, group work with classmates, peer tutoring, and self-directed work. It also provides time for students who have been absent to check in with their teachers to secure make-up work. The inclusion of bi-monthly office hours, or Office 45, will enable us to better meet our students' needs.

Cancellation Information

In the event there is no school, a late opening, or an early dismissal, the radio stations to listen to are: WTIC 1080 AM, WZMK 93.7 FM, WTIC 96.5 FM, and WRCH 100.5 FM. This information is also broadcast on WSFB—CBS, WTNH—ABC, WVIT—NBC, and WTIC—FOX. Our own district website, www.wallingford.k12.ct.us, will also post school cancellation information due to inclement weather as will our Twitter accounts: @wpschools and @MTSheehanHS. Please Note: If school is cancelled, when school resumes, the day that was missed will be run.

Upcoming Events

- *Junior Scheduling Portal Open, Feb. 1–8*
- *Report Cards Mailed Home, Feb. 3*
- *Cap & Gown Orders, Feb. 4, Cafe A (snow date Feb. 5), 8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.*
- *PTAC, Feb. 4, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., LMC*
- *Advisory Schedule, Feb. 5 (snow date Feb. 8)*
- *Counselors Conduct Scheduling Conferences with Grade 11 Students, Feb. 9–22*
- *Winter Vacation, Feb. 12, Half Day Schedule; Feb. 15, School Closed*
- *Sophomore Scheduling Portal Open, Feb. 16–23*
- *Advisory Schedule, Feb. 19, (snow date Feb. 22)*
- *Counselors Conduct Scheduling Conferences with Grade 10 Students, Feb. 24–Mar. 8*
- *Advisory Schedule, Feb. 26 (snow date Feb. 29)*
- *Third Interim Ends, Mar. 1*

Mark T. Sheehan High School provides a challenging and supportive environment that inspires students to be critical thinkers, effective communicators, and responsible, contributing members of a dynamic global society.

Post-High School Planning Night



A post-high school planning seminar for juniors and their parents will be held on Tuesday March 8 in the high school auditorium (snow date: March 9). The program begins at 6:30 p.m. and should conclude by 8:00 p.m. A panel of college representatives from public and private colleges in Connecticut and New

England will present. School counselors from Sheehan and Lyman Hall will also be available.

Each family will receive a copy of their son's/daughter's unofficial transcript that evening. Some of the topics to be discussed include: assessing the student's high school record, what to look for in a college, the college search, thinking about financial aid, and the application process.

It's Part of Their Digital Footprint

1 in 10 admissions officers from the top 500 colleges check out applicants' social networking profiles during their decision making process. In addition, approximately half of employers screen applicants' social media presences. (2011 ASCD)

Scholarship News from the School Counseling Department

The Sheehan School Counseling Department encourages students and parents to visit the *Naviance* platform to discover scholarship opportunities available to seniors. Parents can view the posted scholarships as a guest by completing the following steps:

- Log on to the Wallingford Public Schools website, www.wallingford.k12.ct.us
- Locate Mark T. Sheehan in the *Our Schools* tab
- At the top of the opening page click on the NAVIANCE logo
- Select, "I'm a guest"
- Enter as a guest
- Click on "Document Library"
- Click on "Scholarship Application"

The scholarship page is updated frequently so it is a good practice for students and parents to check back often. Eligibility requirements are listed and we strongly encourage eligible students to process an application.

Posted scholarships are from various sources and have different application methods:

- Some scholarships link students directly to a website to complete and return the application to its

source. Supporting school documents usually require an official student transcript to be submitted for this type of application. Notify the counseling clerk, Ms. Smith, of this need and be sure to inform her of a mailing address for the supporting documents.

- Other scholarships are local and require students to complete the Sheehan Common Application (a paper hard copy), which students complete and return to the counseling office. The office forwards the application to an outside committee who determines eventual awardees.

Scholarships may also be provided from a family's place of employment. In this case, students complete the application and request supportive documents from the counseling office. The student's transcript will be placed into a sealed envelope and returned to the student for processing.

Students are urged to follow the directions specified on the scholarship application form and submit their requests to the counseling office well in advance of stated deadlines. Local scholarships will be distributed to awardees at Sheehan's Academic and Scholarship Awards Night, which is held in May.

Sheehan PTAC Meeting

The next meeting of the Sheehan Parent Teacher Advisory Council (PTAC) is Thursday, February 4. The meeting will be held in the Library Media Center located on the school's lower level beginning at 6:30 p.m. The agenda topics include the Habits of Work rubric, news from system-wide PTAC, and other topics requested by the members in attendance. All parents are invited to attend.

School Budget

Information concerning the proposed 2016-2017 school budget can be found on the district website (District Information tab).