



Mark T. Sheehan High School—Wallingford, Connecticut

# Principal's Newsletter

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## Report Cards Mailed Home November 13

The first report card will be mailed home on November 13, 2015. The report includes the student's average for the marking period, comments concerning performance, and the student's class attendance.

The student's numeric average for the marking period is converted to a letter grade as follows:

Mark	Value
A+	100-97
A	96-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63

D- 62-60  
F 59-0

The report card also notes if the student achieved honor roll status. The marking period GPA is used to determine honor roll eligibility.

There are two levels of honor roll at the high school. To achieve high honors a student must earn a marking period GPA of 3.6 or higher, and to achieve honors, a MP GPA of 3.2 or higher. Students who have an incomplete, D's, and/or F are not eligible for honor roll.

Parents are encouraged to contact the teachers if they have any questions

or concerns regarding grades and comments on the report card. Messages may be left for teachers at 203-294-5900.

### How to Handle a Bad Report Card

Show your disappointment but avoid the trap of blaming others or yelling.

Have your son/daughter own the results.

Remove those privileges that had a bearing on the grades or impacted on study habits.

Ask the teacher to give specific suggestions and advice in the development of a study plan.

### Upcoming Events:

- Staff Development for Teachers, School Closed, Nov. 2 & 3
- First Marking Period Ends, Nov. 4
- PTAC, Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., LMC
- Fall Drama Production: *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Nov. 5, 6 & 7, 7:00 p.m.
- SAT Exam, Nov. 7, 7:45 a.m.
- Internet Safety Presentation for Parents, Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m., Aud.
- Veterans Day, Nov. 11, School Closed
- Assembly Bell Schedule, Nov. 12
- Advisory Schedule, Nov. 13
- NEASC Accreditation Visit, Nov. 15-18
- Advisory Schedule, Nov. 20
- Homecoming Dance, Nov. 21, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov. 25, Early Dismissal; Nov. 26 & 27, School Closed

## American Education Week

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On behalf on the faculty, I invite you to accompany your son/daughter to classes during American Education Week, November 16-20, 2015. It is our hope that a day in school will further your appreciation of the high school educational program and provide encouragement for the schoolwork being done by your son/daughter. Even if you cannot

spend a full day with us, we believe that any part of the day you are here will be interesting to you and supportive of your son/daughter.

If you plan to join us, please notify my secretary, Ms. Kesilewski, by calling 203-294-5905. We look forward to seeing you in class.

—Rosemary Duthie

**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**

## Safety Tip Line

A top priority of the district and Sheehan High School is the safety and welfare of our students. Our ongoing efforts to provide a safe environment have led us to establish a safety tip line, 203-949-6571. This number can be used to report any concerns, including mean behavior. By working together, we can continue to provide a safe and supportive environment for all.

## Help Sheehan While Grocery Shopping

Did you know that Sheehan High School participates in community support programs offered by local supermarket chains? Shoppers who sign up for these free programs can earn points for the school every time they shop. Accrued points are redeemed by the school for supplies. If you are interested in participating in any of these community support programs, please visit the website associated with the store where you shop and follow the given directions. Your continued support of the school is appreciated.

To register your card, visit:

Stop & Shop Supermarket Company  
[www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus)

ShopRite Supermarkets  
<http://www.shopriteforeducation.com>

## TSA? Tax Sheltered Annuity?

**Not exactly**, however, it is an investment of sorts. TSA stands for Teacher Student Assistance Team which is Sheehan High School's version of the Early Intervention Program.

### How is it an investment?

The team believes that if we invest our time and commitment towards the early identification and management of students who are struggling either academically, socially, or behaviorally our investment will pay tremendous dividends.

### How does it work?

1. Teachers may refer any student that they are concerned about, grade 9 – 12. However, the earlier the students are referred the better the chances of success.
2. The team discusses the referral and brainstorms

possible solutions to the problem.

3. The student is invited to a meeting and given the opportunity to discuss their view of the problem.
4. Parents are invited to meet with the team if that is deemed appropriate and/or necessary.
5. A plan of action is developed and implemented over a specified time period.
6. The team meets again after the prescribed amount of time to review the success or failure of the plan and to make new recommendations if necessary.

### Who are the members of this team?

The core team consists of four teachers, the principal, school psychologist, and social worker. The student's school counselor and assistant principal are invited to the meeting.



## Samaha and Carini Bowls

The Samaha Bowl will be held at Lyman Hall High School on November 25 at 1:30 p.m. followed by the Carini Bowl at Sheehan High School on Thanksgiving Day, November 26 at 10:30 a.m. Tickets will be sold from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on November 23 and 24 and on November 24 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in senior court. Advance sale tickets are priced at \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students and senior citizens. All tickets purchased at the gate for both the Samaha Bowl and Carini Bowl are priced at \$7.00.



## NEASC Accreditation Visit, November 15–18

Sixteen educators will conduct an on-site accreditation visit of Mark T. Sheehan High School on November 15–18, 2015. The accreditation visit will be conducted under the direction of the Committee on Public Secondary Schools (CPSS) of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The visiting committee will be chaired by Ms. Alyson Geary, CPSS Associate Director.

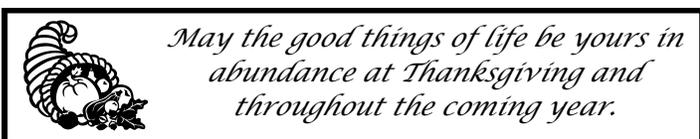
The purpose of this accreditation visit is to review and determine from an outside professional viewpoint the extent to which the school is meeting the Standards for Accreditation, which address curriculum, instruction, assessment, school culture, school resources, and community resources. As part of the evaluation, the visiting committee will meet with school constituents, review the school's self-study, visit a number of classes, and examine examples of student work submitted by the school.

### Sheehan PTAC

The next meeting of the Sheehan Parent Teacher Advisory Council (PTAC) is Thursday, November 5. The meeting will be held in the Library Media Center located on the school's lower level beginning at 6:30 p.m. Discussion topics include the NEASC accreditation visit, the school budget, and updates from System-wide PTAC. All parents are invited to attend.

### Project Graduation Needs Help

Project Graduation is a safe and well-chaperoned party for all Wallingford high school graduates. This event is planned and organized by community volunteers. The Planning Committee for Project Graduation is presently seeking assistance. All parents, not just parents of seniors, are welcome. Meetings are held at the Park and Rec Department beginning at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in helping or would like to learn more, please contact Craig Turner, Director, Youth & Social Services, at 203-294-2175.



The goal of the accreditation visit is to stimulate a continuing drive for improvement in the school and to assist the faculty in its pursuit of quality education for its students. The visiting committee will also determine if the school should be recommended for continued accreditation in the Association.

During the comprehensive self-study, the Sheehan faculty considered feedback provided by parents, students, and staff obtained through the online version of the Endicott Opinion Survey. They also identified the school's strengths and determined those areas in which changes would be beneficial. This self-study report is available on the school's website on the "About Us" page.

If you would like to learn more about NEASC and the accreditation process, visit [www.neasc.org](http://www.neasc.org).

### Homecoming Dance

The homecoming dance will be held on Saturday, November 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Tickets to this event will be sold on November 5 through November 6 immediately after school in Cafe A. The cost is \$20.00 and two canned food items per person. Advanced ticket sales are available to *seniors only* on November 4. A completed dance agreement (page 4) must be submitted at the time of purchase.

Dress for the dance is semi-formal. Students must arrive to the dance by 7:30 p.m. and remain until 10:00 p.m. unless special arrangements have been made by the parent with an administrator. Parents will be notified if their son/daughter does not arrive to the dance. Calls home will begin shortly after the arrival deadline of 7:30 p.m.

### Reminder Internet Safety Presentation for Parents

Monday, November 9, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Auditorium  
Scott Driscoll, Presenter

*Topics Covered Include*  
New Trends & Techniques that are being Used Online  
Tips to Prevent a Dangerous Situation from Happening  
Tools & Strategies to Keep Families Safe

# Mark T. Sheehan High School Agreement for School-Sponsored Dances

Attending school-sponsored dances like Prom, Homecoming and the Spring Fling can be very exciting. At Mark T. Sheehan High School, we want to make sure that your experiences at these dances are fun and memorable. To ensure that everyone attending a Sheehan High School dance is equally aware of our rules and expectations, Sheehan High School requires that you read the following guidelines, sign, and return. Completed forms must be returned when tickets for any Sheehan High School sponsored dance are purchased.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL FOLLOW THE SCHOOL GUIDELINES, SPECIFICALLY FOR THE TOPICS BELOW:

**Substance Abuse:** Students and guests attending school events must be substance free. **A violation of this policy will result in out of school suspension and police involvement.** Because substance use adversely affects the ability to drive, the administration reserves the right to call an adult to pick up those who, in their opinion, may cause disruption to the event or harm to themselves or others.

**School Rules and Regulations:** Students must comply with all legal and safety rules of the building, e.g., no smoking, no drinking, no drugs, no trespassing in areas so designated.

**Dances:** Students must arrive no later than one hour after starting time and will not be allowed to leave without parental permission prior to 10:00 p.m. No one will be allowed back into the dance after leaving. Emergencies are to be discussed with an administrator.

**Dress Code:**

School Proms are formal occasions (tuxedos and gowns). Shirts must be worn throughout the evening. Shoes must be worn at all times; bare feet will not be permitted.

Homecoming and Spring Fling are semi-formal occasions (dress shirt and tie, dress, dressy pants outfit). No jeans are permitted. Shirts must remain on throughout the evening. Shoes must be worn at all times; bare feet will not be permitted.

*Failure to abide by all school rules may result in immediate dismissal from the activity, possible disciplinary action, possible loss of future involvement in school activities and other consequences as seen appropriate.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (parent/guardian) have read and discussed these expectations with my son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_. We accept these expectations and will comply with them.

A telephone number where I can be reached:

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

**For Guests of Sheehan High School:**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_