



THE BLUE DEVIL NEWS

The Student-Produced Newsletter of West Haven High School

March Topics

- “You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown” Photo Collage
- DRIP Project Will Help All Students Enjoy Prom
- Muslim Student Association Brings Students of All Faiths Together
- Culinary Program Offers Students Head Start in Restaurant Business
- Student Shout Outs



WHSTW's 2022
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.



Photos courtesy of Todd Dandelske and Ashely Conza



DRIP Project Will Help All Students Enjoy Prom

By Dominic Konareski, Class of 2023

The West Haven High School Senior Prom is just weeks away and will be a night to remember. But for many students, the expense of the ticket and the outfit presents a big hurdle.

The WHHS Cheerleaders are working to address this challenge with the DRIP project, which provides seniors with complimentary outfits, beauty services, tickets and transportation for prom. Prom will be held on May 26th at the Woodwinds in Branford.



For more information please text or
call **(631) 810-9175** or email
westhavencheerleading@gmail.com

“DRIP is a project that can help everyone feel included, just like the name, Dream, Respect, Inclusion and Pride,” said Cheer Captain Emily Hennessey.

The DRIP project has hundreds of clothing options to pick from, including suits. The dresses were donated from high-end stores---Dazzle Boutique in Oxford and Blush Bridesmaid in Guilford. The DRIP project will also offer free hairstyling for women and barbers for men.

Students who would like to try on the outfits are invited to a boutique shopping event at the end of the school day on April 7th and 8th. Transportation will be provided to this boutique, which will be at the Savin Rock Parkade. Students can anonymously fill in [this Google Form](#) to get more information. The boutique will also be available on Saturday April 9 if appointments are made.

DRIP was created by cheerleading coach Bridgette Hoskie. She said she has felt the need to support others who may need assistance. Ms. Hoskie, who serves on the city council, said she encourages seniors to reach out and ask for help when they need it.

“Senior prom is a right of passage, every student should be able to attend,” Ms. Hoskie said. “I am hoping this program is a resource for kids to be able to go to prom who may not have been able to go otherwise. The hope is that not one senior is left home on May 26th.”

If you'd like to learn more about this project and see some of the dresses, [check out this video](#) produced by our school news team.

Muslim Student Association Brings Students of All Faiths Together

By Yamilette Romero, Class of 2022



The school's new Muslim Student Association is working to educate people on Islam and create a welcoming environment for people of all religions.

Club president Takiya Awwal, a junior, envisioned starting the club her freshman year, however, due to complications presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, she was unable to start the club until this year. Nevertheless, within the past few months of activity, the group has been able to accomplish holding meetings, running a fundraiser, giving a presentation, and getting access to a prayer room.

The club holds meetings every Thursday after school and is supervised by English teacher Mariam Alajjan. The purpose, says Awwal, is to help increase the understanding of Islam.

"I know there are a lot of stereotypes and misunderstandings about it, and I just want people to realize it's not a violent religion," she said. "It's really peaceful, and it's welcoming to everyone."

The club is open to everyone regardless of their religion or beliefs--the goal is to educate people on Islam and form a community, not practice the religion.

The group worked with the school's Digital Media department to share a control room as a prayer space. And social studies department head Mark Consorte has also supported the group by allowing them to use his bulletin board near the school cafeteria. The group is also grateful to English teacher Abby Goodwin for providing supplies to decorate their board.

The club has future plans in mind that include Culture Day and other activities. The group raised over \$200 in early March with a bake sale during the Parent-Teacher Conference.

In addition, the group held a presentation at the New Haven Islamic Center Mosque, where they talked to the kids about what MSA is, and taught them how to get ready for Ramadan, a religious month of fasting for all Muslims.

"We've been getting a lot done, and I really wish for MSA to continue in the future," Awwal said.

Culinary Program Offers Students Head Start in Restaurant Business

By Adriana Beams, Class of 2022



West Haven High School's culinary program offers great opportunities for students who want to work in the food industry, giving them a taste of real-world restaurant scenarios.

Students begin this program by taking "Introduction to Foods." This semester-long course teaches students the main principles of food and nutrition, all while letting them work in a professional-grade commercial kitchen. Students learn to prepare simple recipes to achieve good health and they investigate careers in the food industry.

"Students who take this class can open themselves up to different opportunities from food service, marketing, sales, from equipment to food, all different areas," said Dana Kent, the culinary instructor.

Students who do well in that course can take "Careers in Food & Nutrition." This course allows students to tackle more challenging recipes and get an in-depth investigation into careers in food service and hotel and restaurant management.

The program culminates with “Culinary Arts.” Students in this class work together to run West Haven High School’s culinary cafe, a popular lunch option for teachers. It runs on the fifth block when the students are in Mr. Kent’s class.

“We offer an array of soups, sandwiches, salads, sometimes pizzas or an entree,” he said. “We offer it to teachers to take home, or as an option for a meal program here at school.”

Students learn how to interact with teachers as if they were in a real food establishment with customers. Students who take initiative and have an interest in food are a great fit for these courses.

“It doesn’t have to be someone who wants to pursue it as a career, it has to be someone who enjoys cooking,” Mr. Kent said. “That’s what I’m looking for.”

Students in the culinary program can dual-enroll with Gateway Community College and obtain three credits for a college class called “Introduction to Food Preparation.”

Jon Cervantes, an advanced culinary student, highly recommends the WHHS culinary program.

“If you are looking to get into the culinary industry at the high school, and to get a job as a cook or a chef, I think this is for you,” he said.

Student Shout Outs

Congratulations to #5 DJ Carfora on being named to the All SCC 1st Team and #4 Ryan Bernardi and #25 Anthony Peschell on being named to the All SCC 2nd Team. Also congrats to this trio on being named 2nd Team All-State for the CT High School Coaches Association.





Congratulations to Manny Belcher, Javaun Calhoun, and Tavares Tuck on being named to the All-SCC Second Team for the 2021-2022 Boys Basketball season!



Congratulations to Meghan Dupre who has been named to the CHSGHA All State First Team and Grace Nowak who has been named to the CHSGHA All State Second Team!

