



THE BLUE DEVIL NEWS

The Student-Produced Newsletter of West Haven High School

September Topics

- Welcome New Staff!
- School Celebrates Homecoming
- Families Welcomed at Open House
- Student Wins \$40,000 "Big Future" Scholarship
- New Philosophy Class Get Students to Ponder Important Questions
- Dungeons and Dragons Club Brings Imaginative Friends Together

Important Dates to Remember

October 5: College & Career Fair

October 12: Class of 2023 Bingo Night at Cielo

October 24: Parent-Visiting Day

October 27-29: Fall Play "You Can't Take It With You"

Welcome New Staff!



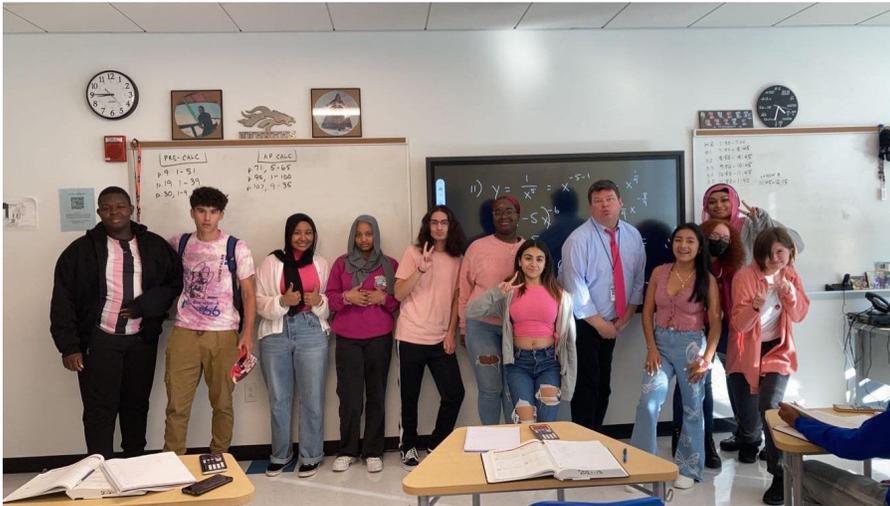
This school year we welcomed over a dozen new staff members. Pictured here on the bottom row from left to right are Kaitlyn Flanagan, social studies; Matthew Cohen, math; and Sheila Krajcir, business. And on the top row from left to right are Matthew Laydon, English; Justin Wentworth, math; Nick Post, math; and Jason Thomas, chorus. In addition to the teachers pictured, our school welcomed Nicole Vega, world language; Abigail Rogers, para (PACE); Billy Delvasto, head custodian; Raul Sanchez, custodian; Nicole Randolph, custodian; and Jennifer Merola, attendance clerk.

School Celebrates Homecoming With Pep Rally, Football Game, and Semi-Formal

By Emma Ryan, Class of 2023



The homecoming court was announced at the pep rally. Pictured above from left to right are freshman Lady Lisa Hennessey and freshman Lord Dylan Ginsberg; senior Queen Dulcemaria Castillo and senior King Daniel Patricelli; junior Prince Myles Cortes and junior Princess Nayeli Avila-Suchite; and sophomore Duke Nick Conlan and sophomore Duchess Zoe Regan (photo credit: Todd Dandelske). Pictured below is Mr. Schevling's class participating in Spirit Week's Pink Out.



The school celebrated homecoming in September with a spirit week, pep rally, football game, and semi-formal dance.

During Spirit Week, students and staff dressed up for a different theme each day of the week. The themes included a Pink Out and a Twin Day, as well as other fun themes that got students and their fashion skills involved.

On the last day of spirit week, the school held a pep rally during the final block of school. The event featured many different activities such as tug-of-war matches between the school's sports teams, a relay race between teams of students and teachers, and the announcement of the homecoming court.

That night was the homecoming football game against the Guilford Grizzlies. West Haven won the game 47-20.

Homecoming weekend was capped off with a semi-formal on that Sunday night. The dance was held from 6 pm to 10 pm at West River Hall.

Families Welcomed at Open House



West Haven High School was able to have a traditional Open House in September for the first time since the pandemic started. Students and parents strolled through the halls, meeting teachers and learning about the many programs our school has to offer.



Student Wins \$40,000 “Big Future” Scholarship



The College Board surprised a West Haven High School senior with a \$40,000 scholarship during a ceremony in the auditorium on Sept. 23.

The lucky winner, Antonio Ponton, thought he was at a regular school assembly until he was called up to the stage and presented with the massive check. Antonio was only one of two seniors from across the country to win this huge scholarship in September.

Antonio earned a chance for the scholarship by completing at least one of the key steps to plan, prepare, and pay for college through BigFuture. That's the College Board's online guide that helps students plan for life after high school.

All Class of 2023 students are eligible to win \$500 and \$40,000 scholarships. There are no requirements for an essay, test score, citizenship status, family income, or minimum GPA.

Drawings for the scholarships are held every month. Students whose families earn less than \$60,000 per year have extra chances at the scholarships.

The sooner students complete the steps and the more steps they take, the more entries they'll earn. Students can head to bigfuture.org to begin completing college planning steps and earn scholarships.

New Philosophy Class Get Students to Ponder Important Questions

By Takiya Awwal, Class of 2023



West Haven High School's new philosophy class teaches students how to navigate their emotions and behavior, giving them valuable life skills for a future inside and outside of the classroom.

This class covers a variety of topics, including some of the major philosophical thoughts throughout time, metaphysics, and differentiating what is reality and what's surreal.

“The purpose of philosophy, in general, is to try and find the solutions that aren't necessarily found in math or science,” said teacher Weston Gambardella, adding that it is something that “cannot be quantified.”

This class may help students understand themselves more, Mr. Gambardella said, noting that philosophy helps students self reflect. Philosophy encourages students to ask questions similar to, “Do I want to be like this?” Mr. Gambardella said.

Mr. Gambardella started the class because in his senior year here at West Haven High School in 2012 he took philosophy, and it gave him the tools to mold his decisions and the way he plans on achieving a goal.

He said the class helped him comprehend “the conduit between the idea of what I wanted to be and the actions that are going to bring me to that idea.”

This new philosophy class is a great addition to the studies provided at West Haven High School, said Rafael Guartazaca, a student participating in this philosophy class.

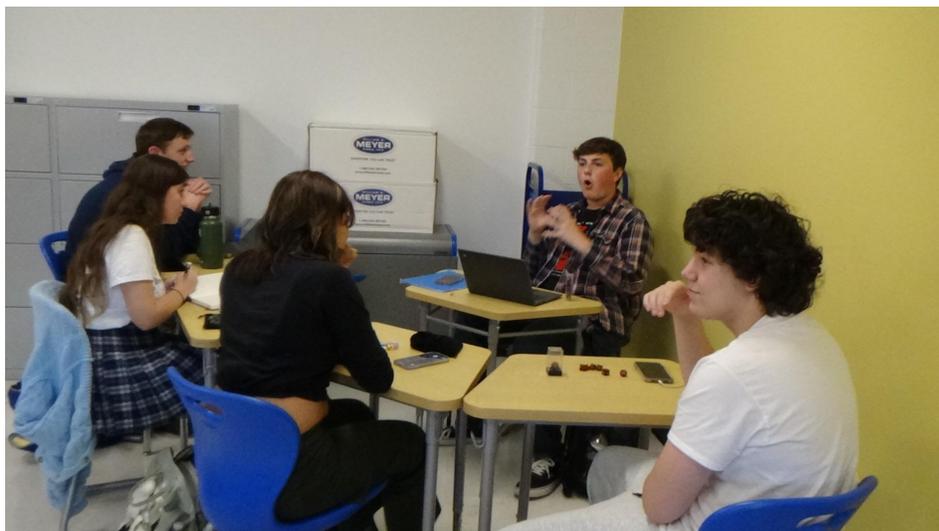
“It really broadens the mind,” he said, displaying the class’s positive impact on students.

Dungeons and Dragons Brings Together Imaginative Students

By Tyler Soules, Class of 2023

Students who want to try a fun and exciting club can check out Dungeons and Dragons.

D&D is a fantasy tabletop role-playing game made for anyone who wants to be anything, such as a musician or actor, a god-like warrior, or a world-ending wizard. Players can go on fun adventures, create story lines, and live out fantasies.



If students want to join, they can go to F215 after school every Tuesday and Thursday. The game is played with pen, paper, books, and dice. The club suggests you bring dice, but if you don't have any, there will be some extras there. The club can teach students how to play as a normal traveler or the club can even teach them how to be a Dungeon Master, the leader of the game.

The club was created and is run by Tyler Soules, Khai Outhavong and Ashton Glead.

In the Dungeons and Dragons club, students can meet new friends, have a blast and let loose. If you're still on the fence about joining then just come down for one meeting and try it out.