

CLASSROOM CORNER

A word of wisdom

SUB HEAD: DPHS ALUMNI DAY BRINGS IN FORMER STUDENTS FOR USEFUL ADVICE



Kevin Flanders photos

David Prouty High School alumni members discuss their college experiences.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
NEWS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — David Prouty High School seniors are receiving guidance from several sources as they continue with the college application process. Thanks to a visit from former Panthers last month, the seniors received some of the most helpful advice to date.

Nine former students returned to Prouty on Dec. 23 for the annual Alumni Day ceremony. Students past and present gathered in the cafeteria to meet — or in many cases to reconnect — followed by a question and answer period. Alumni members were asked an array of questions surrounding their collegiate careers, and their answers were immensely helpful to current students going through the application process.

"It means a lot to the students to hear from people their own age who have already gone through that experience," said first-year DPHS Principal Elizabeth York, who has been thrilled with the hard work and commitment she has seen from the Class of 2017. "This is a great event that gives students a chance to ask questions and learn about what it's like

to take that next step."

Alumni members are always excited to return to Prouty each year. After introducing themselves and their respective college pathways, the alumni visitors were asked about all aspects of college life — from coursework demands to what it's like to live away from home for the first time. With the major transition quickly approaching, students want to be as informed as possible before making their final decisions.

Reflecting on the anxiousness they felt a few short years ago when thinking about that transition, it was rewarding for the alumni guests to help paint a clearer picture of college life for students. Even minor details like the dining experiences at various colleges were discussed.

For school officials, it's exciting to see alumni members care enough about the DPHS community to come back and share their insights.

"Alumni Day gives current students the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have about college to students who have gone through the process," said DPHS teacher Keith Servant, who helps orga-



DPHS alumni visitors answer questions from current students as part of a Dec. 23 Alumni Day panel.

nize the program each year. "It also reaffirms to students what their teachers have been saying — that students who graduate from Prouty are successful and do well in college and in the workforce."

Additional topics discussed during the program included the college application process, extracurricular activities, majors and athletics, among others. Several teachers and their classes attended the event, along with the school's 27 National Honor Society students.

NHS President Meghan Bowen served as the MC for the program, relaying students' questions to the alumni visitors.

"Along with sharing their

experiences, it also gives alumni the opportunity to visit the school and their teachers again," Servant added. "I appreciate the nine alumni students who volunteered their time during this busy time of the year. They truly made this event a great success."

Looking ahead, school officials hope to expand the Alumni Day tradition to include a wider age range of guests. By inviting current college students, recent college graduates, and professionals with several years of experience, Prouty students can learn not only about college life but also the workforce.

"Alumni Day is open to all alumni. My plan next year is to reach out to older alumni who

have careers," Servant said. "It would be nice to have a good mix of alumni for this event."

School officials thanked the nine alumni members who attended the event: Casey Preston, Danielle Huston, Ryan Bowen, Anna Bogdan, Jackson Paul, Terry Lytle, Alexis Kunesch, Joe Esposito, and Elizabeth Pedone.

If you are a DPHS alumnus and would like to participate in a future Alumni Day program as part of the panel, call the school at 508-885-8505.

Kevin Flanders can be reached at 508-909-4140, or by e-mail at kflanders@stonebridgepress.com.