
Important Information from



James B. Conant High School



(847) 755-3600 • chs.d211.org

September 2023

Dear Alumni:

Homecoming at Conant High School offers our students a week full of fun activities including the special tradition of our amazing hallway decorations! The week also offers our alumni the opportunity to learn about what's happening at Conant High School and to attend the Homecoming game!

This year's Homecoming theme is "Cougarpalooza." Activities for the week include "Name that Tune," Just Dance Competition, two student assemblies, a fundraising kickball tournament, and dress up days. Our students especially look forward to "Anything But A Backpack Day" where students can choose (almost) anything to use instead of a backpack. We enjoy seeing their creative ideas!

On Friday, September 29th at 7:30 pm the Cougars varsity football team will take on the Hoffman Hawks at the Charlie O. Feutz Field. Alumni are welcome to join us for the game and to reminisce!

If you know of any classmates who have not yet joined the Alumni Club, please encourage them to do so. Alumni Club membership and involvement keeps you in touch with classmates and up-to-date on events occurring at your alma mater. Through alumni club, we can arrange building tours for reunions. Those interested in alumni club or scheduling tours can contact John Shoro at jshoro@d211.org.

Our Cougars in Need program continues to help many families by providing food, transportation, clothing, and school supplies. If you are interested in supporting our Cougars in Need, donations are accepted through our [Conant High School Boosters](#).

Finally, we ask our alumni submit nominations for Distinguished Alumni. Distinguished Alumni will be honored as keynote speakers at Conant High School's Honor's Convocation. They will also be commemorated with a plaque in our Distinguished Alumni gallery. Please complete nominations using this [form](#). We are very eager to review your nominations and celebrate our alumni! Nominations are due December 15, 2023.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as the principal at Conant High School. Thank you for your interest in our school community. As you know, "Once a Cougar, Always a Cougar."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julie C. Nowak". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Julie C. Nowak
Principal

CONANT NEWS UPDATE – 2023

- The 2023-2024 enrollment is:

Freshmen	650
Sophomores	629
Juniors	649
Seniors	<u>594</u>
	2,522 Cougars
- Last year we had an enrollment of **2,453**.
- Please continue to let us know of any address changes and/or **exciting news** so that we may include that in next year's issue. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

Email John Shoro at jshoro@d211.org

REUNIONS!

- Class of **1983** celebrated their 40th year reunion on August 26th. Alumni received a tour of the school and then went to Busse Woods for a BBQ.

Lost and Found Class Rings

Great news! We have been very lucky to have returned four class rings to a 1968, 1970, 1983 and 2003 alumni. We have two more that we would like to return to their owners. If you are or know the following people please contact Michelle Diaz at mdiaz@d211.org.

Stephen Evans - class of 1973

Tamara "Tammy" McDermott - class of 1976



Lost and Found Diploma



A resident of Georgia has found and sent CHS the diploma of:
Sherry L. Whitehead – class of 1972

If you are or know Sherry please contact Michelle Diaz at mdiaz@d211.org.

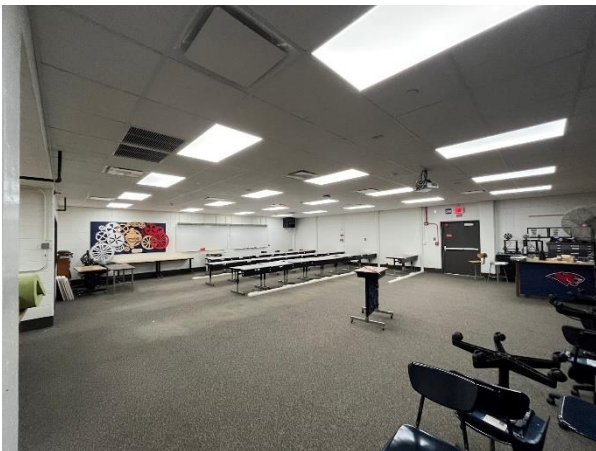
Cougar Family Memorial Park

“Once a Cougar, Always a Cougar”. There could be no better way to honor a cougar that has passed than to memorialize them in our Memorial Park. Please visit the [Cougar Family Memorial Park](#) site to order a bronze plate. The plates can be ordered for fallen military soldiers, students, support staff, teachers and administrators. Please visit the memorial park in the front of the school between doors 1 and 3 to honor those whom are no longer with us.



Updates at Conant

Summer 2023 was very busy! After *a lot* of dust and *many* hours of work, we are very excited about some amazing updates to Conant High School! Student and staff locker rooms have been completely renovated and look outstanding! Our Applied Technology Classrooms have received a new sprinkler system and air ducts, increasing safety and making it much cooler. The north gym floor was replaced and looks beautiful! Our main gym floor was refinished just in time to kick off our new school year! Conant's facilities continue to shine and welcome students and the community!





Welcome Little Cougars!

Collins Lynn Strauch
Todd Strauch (Special Ed.) & Kelsey

Gracie May Henning
Dane Henning (Admin.) & Alyssa

Lucy Rose Bacon
Ashely Bacon (Blue Team) & Dan

Camden Daniel Koopman
Katie Coopman (Family & Consumer Sci.) & Dan

Parker Jaye Marks
Matt Marks (Business Ed.) & Ilyssa

Samwise Frank Apperson-Skobel
Katie Apperson-Skobel (English) & Tom

Hadleigh Therese Avella
Anthony Avella (English) & Theresa

Johannes Otto Plach
Devin Godzicki (Music) & Colin

Congratulations to our Newlyweds!

Pamela Cullotta (Nehrke) (Student Services) & Vincent

Allie Jay (Bauch) (Math) & Tyler
(Expecting twins in December!)

Drewann Reibel (Pancratz) (Wellness) & Bradley

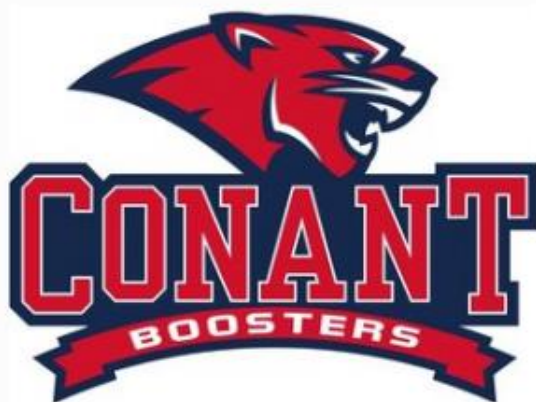


Conant Boosters

Conant Boosters are proud to support the Conant students, staff, activities, and athletics by funding scholarships, mini grants & projects that improve the experiences of the entire Conant community. To help support the Boosters and their efforts, visit their website to find out how you can make a difference. www.conantboosters.com

Looking to represent your alma mater? Consider Conant Spirit Wear! Consider short or long sleeve shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, pants and leggings, hats, and so much more!

Visit <https://www.conantboosters.com/spirit-store> to browse and purchase. Happy shopping!



Art and Media Department

Conant Art and Media Department has been hard at work! This year we welcome back our fab-five staff of Erin Garrity-Duffey, Jamie Peterson, Justin Bickus, Luke Jenner, and Brian Schroeck and are thrilled to announce the addition of full-time traveler Pablo Ramirez. Pablo travels between Fremd and Conant teaching Painting, Drawing and Printmaking 1 and Digital Media/Video 1. As a former student of CHS, Art and Media he has settled in quickly and we are so excited to have him on our team!

Last year was an eventful one for students. CHS Art & Media students were awarded over 3.5 million dollars in scholarships through ArtConnectED's Illinois High School Art Exhibition and ranked among the top 5 schools in the State for Scholarship offers through the event. Bansari Patel took Best of Show in 3D at the Harper Area Art Show and students won various awards at the 4x5, Moon Waltz, and IHSAE just to name a few. Our AP Art students also took part in an all-district art exhibition at Trickster Gallery in the Spring. Look for information on this great community event coming soon. We are looking forward to a great spring show season!



Science Department

The Science Department kicked the year off strong with parent night by sharing both our youngest (Murphy: the 18-month-old Corn Snake) and oldest (GreenGreen: the 26ish-year-old turtle) department reptiles. It was also here at parent night where we shared our Inflatable Star Dome with 360° videos playing inside. This is the same dome that we use with our classrooms, allowing our students to get immersive astronomy experiences despite our limited Chicago stars.

We also welcome Jeff Schiller to our team as a new physics teacher! Jeff is a physicist who previously was teaching English in Spain and has been an excellent addition to our team.

On top of all of this, our Freshman Biology courses have unveiled a new “Storylining” curriculum. In this style of teaching, students are presented with a real-world hook that invites students in to further investigate. Through questions, investigations, labs and instruction, students are brought through different twists and turns that connect their biology knowledge to the actual real-world results of the storyline. We are excited to see the learning and achievement that comes out of this!



GreenGreen



Star Dome



Murphy

Business Education Department

- Jacki Phillips and Kim Warford have joined Conant Business Ed.
- Matt Marks welcomed his first child, Parker Jaye, with his wife Ilyssa in April.
- Business Professionals of America (BPA): Four 1st Place finishes, Four 2nd Place finishes, and two 3rd Place finishes at the State Leadership Conference. Of the national qualifiers who attended in Anaheim, California, Siya Choudhary placed 5th in Graphic Design Promotion; Sahana Singri placed 8th in Payroll Accounting; and Isha Patel placed 9th in Business Law & Ethics. We are looking forward to another successful year with the 2024 National Leadership Conference in Chicago in May 2024!
- Business Incubator - Conant's Charlie Bittner '23 and Nicolas Simon '24 of DogLeg Apparel (@DogLegApparel_ on Twitter) were funded \$10,000 to continue their lifestyle apparel entrepreneurial venture at D211 Pitch Night. If you are interested in volunteering for our Business Incubator program as a team mentor, please contact Greg Grana at ggrana@d211.org



German Exchange 2023

Our German Exchange is back with Gymnasium München Moosach. We were very lucky to see our exchange school after 4 years. In April 2023, a group of students from Munich, Germany came and stayed with Conant families to learn about life in our school. During the two weeks, strong bonds were formed as we welcomed our new Cougars. We then had the opportunity to travel to see them again at their school in Munich. With our German partners at HEHS, we made stops in Vienna, Salzburg and Hallstatt, Austria to explore museums, palaces and salt mines. We reunited with our exchange partners in Germany to learn about their school. We spent a lot of time in the Alps and visited the Allianz Area where FC Bayern Munich plays. This was an amazing and formative experience for all our Cougars who immersed themselves in the German language and culture.



Chinese Club – IFAIR

“Compared to the previous year, it was heartening to witness a significant increase in the number of participants in the Chinese Club's Yo-Yo and Ribbon Dance performances during the IFair. This surge in interest and involvement underscored the growing enthusiasm within the school community for embracing Chinese culture and traditions. The vibrant and skillful displays by the Yo-Yo performers and ribbon dancers not only showcased their dedication but also served as an inspiring testament to the inclusive and diverse nature of the club's activities, fostering a sense of unity and appreciation among an ever-expanding group of students.”



Chinese Club – New Year Celebration

“On January 23rd, the Chinese Club hosted a lively celebration in the student cafeteria during all lunch periods to celebrate Chinese New Year and welcome the Year of the Rabbit (兔 - tù) in 2023. Activities included zodiac sign discoveries, the chopsticks game, origami, Chinese Yo-Yo and ribbon dance instruction, with an enticing photo booth backdrop of the Forbidden City. School faculty and students were encouraged to participate and explore each station. Additionally, the hallway across the girls' locker room was adorned with festive decorations, and Chinese New Year music added to the atmosphere during passing periods. The event's success not only provided Conant students with a delightful experience of Chinese culture and enriched their understanding but also contributed to a vibrant ambiance for the Chinese New Year festival, emphasizing the importance of a global perspective.”



Conant Theatre

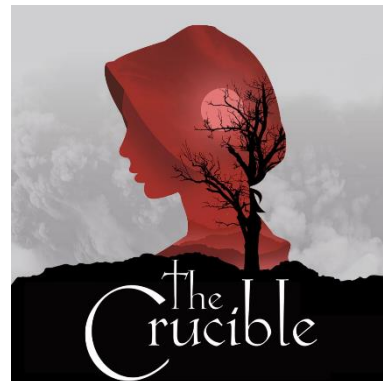


Conant Theatre is excited to be back for another exciting season! This fall, we will be presenting ***You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown***. Happiness is great musical theatre! With charm, wit, and heart, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* explores life through the eyes of Charlie Brown and his friends in the *Peanuts* gang. This revue of songs and vignettes, based on the beloved Charles Schulz comic strip, is the ideal first show for those who would like to do a musical. Musical numbers include "My Blanket and Me," "The Kite," "The Baseball Game," "Little Known Facts," "Suppertime," and "Happiness." Guaranteed to please audiences of all ages!

Performances are October 26th-28th at 7 pm and a 2 pm performance on the 28th. Tickets will be available beginning in October. Email Tim Koll at tkoll@d211.org if you have any questions.

This winter, **Conant Theatre** will produce ***The Crucible***. This classic drama is a fictional play based on the Salem witch trials which took place in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. It tells the story of a village that becomes embroiled in a witch hunt. The people of Salem live in a constant state of fear as more and more people are accused of witchcraft. The story deals with deceit, bigotry, and unrest as the citizens of Salem try to uncover the truth about who to trust and who may be a witch.

Performances are February 2nd and 3rd at 7 pm with a 2 pm show on the 3rd. Tickets will be available in January. Email director Ben Jones at bjones@d211.org if you have any questions.



In the spring, **Conant Theatre** will produce ***Peter and the Starcatcher***. This Tony Award winning play upends the century-old story of how a miserable orphan comes to be The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up (a.k.a. Peter Pan). A wildly theatrical adaptation of Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson's best-selling novels, the play explores the depths of greed and despair and the bonds of friendship, duty, and love. A young orphan and his mates are shipped off from Victorian England to a distant island ruled by the evil King Zarboff. They know nothing of the mysterious trunk in the captain's cabin, which contains precious, otherworldly cargo. At sea, the boys are discovered by a precocious young girl named Molly, a Starcatcher-in-training who realizes that the trunk's precious cargo is starstuff, a celestial substance so powerful that it must never fall into the wrong hands. When the ship is taken over by pirates – led by the fearsome Black Stache, a villain determined to claim the trunk and its treasure for his own – the journey quickly becomes a thrilling adventure.



Performances are April 19th-20th at 7 pm and a 2 pm performance on the 20th. Tickets will be available beginning in March. Email director Katherine Apperson-Skobel at kapperson@d211.org if you have any questions.

Conant Theatre's Improv Troupe

Throughout the year, **Conant Theatre's Improv Troupe** holds several performances where students take suggestions from the audience to create scenes on the spot. Laughs are sure to abound!

Show dates are Saturday December 2nd, Saturday February 24th, Saturday March 16th, and Saturday April 6th, all at 7pm. Tickets are \$7 for all or \$5 with the contribution of a non-perishable good for the Cougar Pantry. All tickets are sold at the door. Email Shayna Adelman (sadelman@d211.org) if you have any questions.



Cougar Climb

Cougar Climb rocked the concession stand at the Cougar Blue and White Night to kick off the fall sport season! Thanks to Mr. Lundquist for helping out! Ms. Smith was up in the announcer's booth!



Girls' Badminton

The 2022-2023 Girl's Badminton team won our sectional for the THIRD year in a row! Our entire sectional team competed at the IHSA State competition. The 22-23 Sectional team members (and class) were: Sruthi Sundar ('23), Katie Yu ('24), Rachel Drone ('23), Gauri Menon ('23), Cat Lodico ('24), and Parul Saxena ('25). Congratulations to the whole team on a great season!



Girls Water Polo

Girls Water polo had a phenomenal 2023 season and looks forward to a successful season in the spring of 2024. The girls won the MSL West Division title and were champions of the Titan Invite at Glenbrook South HS. The team went 16-11-1 and was ranked in the top 25 in the state of Illinois according to www.illpolo.com. The team had 4 all-conference selections in Jackie Windbiel, Allie Bland, Danielle Akinosho, and Kayla Wong. All sectional selections were Jackie Windbiel, Danielle Akinosho, and Kayla Wong, and Jackie Windbiel was selected to the IHSA All-State team and took over as a top 10 scorer in Conant history. Junior Danielle Akinosho also took over 2nd in all time steals in Conant history with 136. In July, four Conant athletes (Duncan Whiteside, Elodie Spagler, Kayla Wong, and Nora Bestor) attended and competed with area feeder NWC water polo to compete in Dallas where they qualified for the gold division and won 3 games, the most in 18U NWC history.



Boys Swimming and Diving Team

The Boys Swimming and Diving Team had another great season including more than 70 athletes working hard each practice to be successful in the meets. The Varsity Team finished 3-4 in dual meets, 2nd place at the Don Andersen Classic (Hersey Invite) and 3rd place at the Conant Cougar Classic and Maine South Invites.

The team finished 5th place at the MSL Conference Meet held at Fremd High School. At the meet Bryce Loeger (Jr.) finished 2nd in the 50 Free (21.76) and 1st in the 100 Free (47.24) breaking the pool record. Alex Seeman (So.) finished 4th in the 50 Free (22.23) and 3rd in the 100 Free (48.40). Ayden Woo (So.) finished 3rd in the 200 Free (1:47.03) and 6th in the 500 Free (5:00.22). Yimmy Caicedo (So.) finished 4th in the 500 Free (4:58.75). Dominik Kurek (Fr.) finished 5th in the 100 Breaststroke (1:02.77). Bryce Loeger, Dominik Kurek (Fr.), Ayden Woo and Alex Seeman teamed up in the 200 Free Relay and finished 3rd (1:29.07).

The team finished 4th at the IHSA Sectional Meet held at St. Charles North High School. At the meet Bryce Loeger finished 2nd in the 50 free (21.50) and 2nd in the 100 Backstroke (52.00) qualifying in both for the state meet. Yimmy Caicedo finished 6th in the 200 Free (1:46.84) and 4th in the 500 Free (4:46.51). Alex Seeman finished 5th in the 50 Free (22.08) and 3rd in the 100 Free (47.98). Ayden Woo finished 5th in the 500 Free (4:57.20). Dominik Kurek finished 4th in the 100 Breaststroke (1:03.15). Bryce Loeger, Dominik Kurek, Yuuki Sato (Sr.) and Alex Seeman teamed up in the 200 Medley and finished 3rd (1:37.11) missing the state cut by .09. Yuuki Sato, William Erne (Sr), Dominik Kurek and Ayden Woo teamed up in the 200 Free Relay and finished 6th (1:33.49). Yimmy Caicedo, Ayden Woo, Alex Seeman and Bryce Loeger teamed up in the 400 Free Relay to finish 5th (3:13.46).

At the State Meet held at the FMC Natatorium, Bryce Loeger finished 8th in the 50 Free (20.83) and 12th in the 100 Backstroke (50.17).

Bryce now holds the Varsity record in the 50 Free and 100 Backstroke as well as the pool record in the 100 backstroke (50.72).

The team also did a fundraiser during the week leading up to the Conant Cougar Classic and at the meet for Stand Up to Cancer raising a total of \$3059.35!! Incredible!!

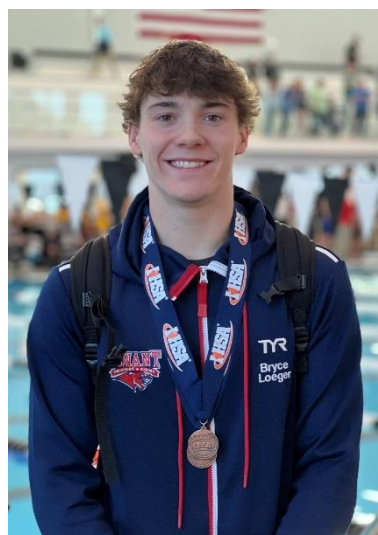
Coach Brian Drenth ('96) is excited to invite alumni back this year for our Alumni Meet held on Saturday, December 23rd beginning at 10am.

Until then, please keep up with all Boys Swimming and Diving news, meet information and results on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (@ConantSwimming).

Go Cougars!!



The 2023 Seniors after the Conant Cougar Classic



Bryce Loeger sporting his medals at the IHSA State Meet after finishing 8th in the 50 Free and 12th in the 100 Backstroke

WELCOME TO THE COUGAR FAMILY:

Eve Anzalone — English
Andy Barrientos — English
Doreen Bucaro — Principal's Secretary
Hanna Buchwak — EL
Maria Colindres — Teacher Assistant
Tori Comerford — Faculty Service
Angelica Cordova — Counselor
Kayla Favela — Counselor
Kurt Gerlach — School Safety
Edward Gosche — Math & SPED
Adrian Herrera — Attendance TA
Jeanne Herry — Counselor
Monte Holt — Administration
Gladys Madonia — Food Service
Michelle Mina — White Team Attendance
Jenna McDonald — Teacher Assistant
Maria Munoz — Food Service
Nimisha Patel — Food Service
Christy Pfaff — SPED
Jaclyn Phillips — Business
Sarika Prajapati — Teacher Assistant
Pablo Ramirez — Art
Yolanda Rios — Teacher Assistant
Jeffery Schiller — Science
Zoe Shoro — Teacher Assistant
Grant Trejo — Maintenance
Kimberly Warford — Business & FCS
Michael Venenzia — School Safety
Maria Villafana — Food Service Asst. Manager



GOODBYE RETIRED COUGARS:

Roger Carpenter — English
Pete Dudek — Student Supervisor
John Kane — Athletic Director
Laura Karbowski — Student Supervisor
Rosemary Nasti — Blue Team Support Staff
Tammy Naujokas — Food Service

*"Once a Cougar
... Always a
Cougar"*



Former Cougars Currently Working at CHS

FACULTY AND STAFF

Applied Technology

Shayna Adelman (Gerson) '06
Eric LeBlanc '94
Joe Tullo '05

Art

Justin Bickus '02
Jamie Peterson (Aulisa) '99
Pablo Ramirez '09

Business Education

Tony Miller '93

EL

Twinkle Patel '15

Mathematics

Allison Jay (Bauch) '12
Aimee Barkalow (Naatz) '94
Mark Davies '04
Harris Dibek '18
Eddy Gosche '18
Jeff Melone '01
Katherine Roberts (Hozian) '09
Christina Schweinebraten-Melone '08

Science

Lauren Pieper (Obermaier) '08
Jennifer Stanish (Pettyjohn) '99
John Shoro '82
Tracy Thornley (Schader) '96
David Torpe '03

Social Studies

Tim Harte '98
Eric Jacobsen '86
Denise Mitchell (Coniglio)
(frosh year only)
Jennifer Stearns (Meyer) '90

Special Education

Kalli Dalton '09
Josie Garcia '88
Danielle Johnson '88
Kevin Mogge '91
Jake Schlender '91
David Spizzirri '91
Todd Strauch '07
Matt Walsh '93

Student Services

Scott Altergott '89
Kelly Anderson '98
Dawna Smeltzer (Szymczak) '89

Wellness

John Powers '85
Amanda Schweinebraten '08

World Language

Heather Doan '85
Brian Drenth '96
Anthony Spizzirri '94
Carrie Halter (Werner) '97

Support Staff

John Blonde '16
Maureen Cairns '71
Samantha Gadomski '17
Jeremy Gentry '13
Lisa Gentry (Rosselli) '83
Hugh Lynch '87
Jordan Mederich '11
Jenna McDonald '19
Vivian Nordmeyer (Schwartz) '81
Zoe Shoro '16
Grant Trejo '21
Patrick Tyrrell '84
Angela Wanaski (Falbo) '92

Out of Building

Coaches/Assistants

Donald Dopka '08
Andee Hebda '71
Kristina Iozniakovic '18