

NEWSLETTER

211



JAMES B. CONANT HIGH SCHOOL

JULIE C. NOWAK PRINCIPAL

January 2019

From the Principal:

"YOU CAN'T CONNECT THE DOTS LOOKING FORWARD; YOU CAN ONLY CONNECT THEM LOOKING BACKWARDS. SO YOU HAVE TO TRUST THAT THE DOTS WILL SOMEHOW CONNECT IN YOUR FUTURE. YOU HAVE TO TRUST IN SOMETHING — YOUR GUT, DESTINY, LIFE, KARMA, WHATEVER. THIS APPROACH HAS NEVER LET ME DOWN, AND IT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE." -STEVE JOBS

Happy New Year! The new year is a time for renewal and it coincides with many beginnings at Conant High School. This is the first newsletter our incoming freshmen families receive. I am so pleased to welcome all of our incoming freshmen and their parents to the Conant High School community. Parents, we appreciate that you entrust us with the extremely important responsibility of preparing your children to be contributing, competitive members of society. We look forward to partnering with you and working together to ensure the best possible high school experience for your child.

As we begin a new semester following our holiday break, the new semester offers the perfect time to look back, connect the dots of our past, and make specific goals for the future. Connecting the dots of the past allows us the opportunity to take inventory of what we have done well. It also provides us with ideas for areas we might improve. Once those areas are identified, it's important to consider what specific strategies might help to accomplish these goals.

What does connecting the dots mean for our students' academic success? It might mean your child is realizing how she or he learns best. Some students determine that a commitment to accessing learning supports/tutoring services is critical to academic success. Establishing a commonplace and time to study assists with having more productive study sessions and is a key factor to academic success for many students. In addition, most students find they perform better academically when they are involved in at least two extra-curricular activities.

Take the opportunity of a new year and new semester to connect the dots and discuss learning goals for your student. I wish you a happy, healthy and productive 2019!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie C. Nowak". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Julie C. Nowak
Principal

CONANT HIGH SCHOOL WINTER DANCE!

Student Council is proud and excited to announce the return of the "Winterfest" Dance on February 2nd from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Dress for the dance will be similar to that of Homecoming; however, this is where the similarities end! We will be bringing back the inflatable "wipeout" game for students to play on throughout the evening, and developing a music playlist by our student body that will play the most popular songs. This year the proceeds of the dance will go towards funding Cougars in Need (an in-house charity dedicated to supporting families in our community). Come out and have a great time while supporting a worthwhile cause.

SEAL OF BILITERACY

Township High School District 211 students have the opportunity to earn the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy by demonstrating high levels of proficiency in English and an additional language. Interested students should pick up an application in the Student Services Department to find out school-specific testing details. Applications are due Friday, February 22, 2019 to the Student Services Department.

Illinois public universities will accept the State Seal of Biliteracy as equivalent to 2 years of foreign language coursework taken during high school if a student's high school transcript indicates that he or she received the State Seal of Biliteracy. Current languages available are Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Thai.

Students interested in taking the APPPL or STAMP exam will take it the week of March 11 - 22, 2019 during the first half of the school day. There is a \$20 fee associated with the administration of this exam. Payment and registration will need to be submitted by the end of the school day on Friday, February 22, 2019. For more information on how to earn the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy please go to <https://adc.d211.org/Page/6681>.

Please contact Brigit Cain, Director of Student Services at 847-755-3626 with questions.

Support The Conant High School Food Pantry

Conant High School has a food pantry that serves our Cougars in Need. It's called the **Cougar Cupboard** and is visited every Friday by about 15-20 students. Because of the unique needs and situations that our Cougars in Need face, our pantry needs are a little different from a typical food pantry. The highest demand items require simple to no cooking and appeal to the teenage palate.

Students Especially Appreciate the Following Items:

Slim Jims, microwave popcorn, pop-tarts, healthy chips, trail mix, mini-muffins, fruit snacks, breakfast bars, cereal, Rice Krispy treats, oatmeal, apple sauce pouches, juice boxes, fruit cups, individual macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, pasta and sauce, toiletries and personal items. Frozen foods (if you bring these items in, please bring it to the attention of the front office) such as Uncrustables, hot pockets, and individually wrapped mini pizzas.

We are so thankful for the generosity of the Conant High School community!



If you require assistance while visiting our school, please contact the assistant principal's office at (847) 755-3612.

For individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, please access the following TTD/TTY telephone number: (847) 755-3654.

dates to remember

- 1/8 OPENING DAY OF SECOND SEMESTER
- 1/8 CONANT BOOSTERS MEETING
7:00PM – MEDIA CENTER
- 1/11 SPIRIT WEAR SALES: 10:05AM - 1:40PM
COUGAR CORNER
- 1/14 BAND PARENT MEETING: 7:00PM – A160
- 1/21 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BIRTHDAY
NO SCHOOL
- 1/22 MORNING WORK SESSION
CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:35AM
- 1/22 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT
7:00PM – MEDIA CENTER
- 1/25 SPIRIT WEAR SALES: 10:05AM - 1:40PM
COUGAR CORNER
- 1/26 IMPROV PERFORMANCE: 7:00PM – CAFETERIA
- 2/1 SPIRIT WEAR SALES : 10:05AM - 1:40PM
COUGAR CORNER
- 2/2 GEMS EXTRAVAGANZA: 8:00AM - 12:30PM
- 2/2 WINTER DANCE: 7:30PM - 10:30PM
MAIN GYM
- 2/5 MORNING WORK SESSION
CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:35AM
- 2/7 BAND SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL
5:00PM - 10:00PM – MUSIC AREA
- 2/8 EARLY DISMISSAL – CLASSES RELEASE AT
12:30PM
- 2/8 WINTER PLAY: 7:00PM – AUDITORIUM
- 2/9 ACT TESTING: 8:00AM – 2ND FLOOR
CLASSROOMS
- 2/9 WINTER PLAY: 2:00PM/7:00PM – AUDITORIUM
- 2/9 DISTRICT 211 HONORS ORCHESTRA
CONCERT: 7:00PM – SCHAUMBURG HIGH
SCHOOL
- 2/11 BAND PARENT MEETING: 7:00PM – A160
- 2/12 CONANT BOOSTERS MEETING: 7:00PM
MEDIA CENTER
- 2/12 ORCHESTRA POPS CONCERT: 7:00PM
AUDITORIUM
- 2/15 SPIRIT WEAR SALES: 10:05AM - 1:40PM
COUGAR CORNER
- 2/16 LATIN NIGHT: 7:30PM - 10:00PM – CAFETERIA
- 2/16 BOOSTER MATTRESS FUNDRAISER:
10:00AM - 5:00PM – STUDENT CAFETERIA
- 2/18 PRESIDENTS' DAY - NO SCHOOL
- 2/19 MORNING WORK SESSION
CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:35AM
- 2/20 HARPER COLLEGE & OTHER POST HIGH
SCHOOL OPTIONS: 6:30PM – AUDITORIUM

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Our foremost goal is to provide a safe environment for our students, parents, staff, and visitors. Please be cautious in our parking lots. Drive slowly, yield to pedestrians and do not execute U-turns from the drop off/pick up lanes. Parking cones are put out to encourage safe driving. Also, remind your students who drive to school to be especially careful when driving in the parking lot.

HOW JAMES B. CONANT HIGH SCHOOL IS BRINGING THE VIRTUAL WORLD INTO THE REAL WORLD CLASSROOM

A virtual learning environment can foster a highly motivating, immersive experience that takes comprehension to a new level. Google Expeditions virtually transports students to distant locations and delivers an experience that is the next best thing to actually being there. With a VR development tool like Tour Creator, and the ability to upload 360° images to Google Street View, it opens up possibilities for teachers at Conant High School to create customized field trips and students to document environments they explore.

Here is an example of how VR is used in our AP Human Geography classroom: After students read about rural landscape patterns and traditional housing types, they viewed Google Earth's "This is Home" Voyage, where they chose four of the 20+ locations that highlight traditional housing from various regions of the world. In their notebooks they wrote the type of rural settlement pattern they observed from an aerial perspective, the traditional housing type they viewed, and then "stepped inside" traditional homes from around the globe. This activity was followed by investigating how geographic site locations influenced the traditional architecture of that place. Making such a connection and learning through these types of discovery makes learning more experiential and authentic.

Here is an example of how VR is used in our Spanish 4 classroom: During a unit on Barcelona, Spain, the students were taught about many important historic parts of the city, including famous buildings, the various types of architecture used in the buildings and the works of the famous architect Antonio Gaudí. As a review activity, the students became tour guides and were required to select nine places or buildings of the twenty that they studied and create a walking tour using Tour Creator. In their organized tour, they included the focal points in Spanish to help the person taking it understand what they were seeing. The activity allowed the students to explore the city using Google Street View and create an experience that they would not be able to do without actually being in Barcelona. While nothing replaces the touch, feel, and smell of our local field trips or international travel, being able to take our students across the world to see and hear places they never knew existed is PRICELESS.

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY

In late October, Conant High School introduced its 2018-2019 Digital Citizenship program to current freshmen and sophomores. Designed to help your child develop skills needed to succeed in school and to prepare for life after high school graduation, these online activities support your child's ability to make appropriate choices about the use of technology in an ever-increasing digital society.

Two modules have been made available to students using our school's Schoology platform and we encourage you to talk with your child about the activities in those modules. Your involvement can help your child process information and make real world connections to the skill sets emphasized in the Digital Citizenship program.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeannette Ardell, assistant principal at 847-755-3618 or jardell@d211.org.

GEMS EXTRAVAGANZA (GIRLS IN ENGINEERING, MATH & SCIENCE) GIRLS IN ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE (GEMS) CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 2, 2019

High School District 211 will host its ninth annual GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Mathematics, and Science) Conference for 5th and 6th grade girls in School Districts 15 and 54, and private schools within the District 211 attendance area, along with their parents. The conference will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019, at James B. Conant High School (700 E. Cougar Trail in Hoffman Estates) from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The goal is to educate girls about careers in these fields, and introduce them to female role models from the industry and those working in District 211's five high schools.

Girls will learn about careers in engineering, math, and science by actively participating in hands-on sessions. These activities will be taught by women in fields such as structural design, polymers, technology, geology, and mathematics. Some of the presenters include women from the American Chemical Society, Kraft Foods, Women Leaders in Action, and Cast Metals Institute. Participating girls also will receive a goody bag full of STEM (Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Science) information.

The conference begins with a Career Expo, featuring booths where families can learn more about STEM-related careers, including the necessary skills girls need to be successful at the high school and college level. At 9:00 a.m., girls will go to their hands-on sessions until noon. Parents should return to the Conant High School Cafeteria at noon to meet their daughters and attend the closing event of the conference. The event will conclude at 12:30 p.m.

Raffle prizes will be given away during the conference's closing remarks. These prizes, along with goody bags for the girls attending, were generously donated by organizations that include John G. Shedd Aquarium, The Scope Shoppe, Thermo-Fisher, and Pearson Prentice Hall.

Register for the 2019 GEMS Conference

More information about the event can be found at adc.d211.org.

LOST AND FOUND

Many articles of clothing are turned in to the Lost & Found throughout the semester. Students have been reminded via Schoology to recover their items in the White Team. Items not recovered by students are donated at the end of each month.

RECOGNITIONS

Conant wrestlers finished in 3rd place at the Conant Hruska Tournament; tournament champions Alex Giuliano and Nicky Amato. The wrestling team is currently 8-0 in dual meets.

The Girls Varsity Basketball Team defeated Hoffman Estates High School in a hard-fought overtime game and the team is in first place in the MSL Division.

Conant Boys Water Polo Head Coach, Tim Daniel, was named the IHSA Coach of the Year in Boys Water Polo.

The Boys Varsity Basketball team finished with a 2-2 record at the competitive St. Viator Thanksgiving Tournament.

Makiba Kurita and James Preucil were both selected for the 2018 NAFME All-National Honor Orchestra. These students qualified by participating in the 2017-2018 Illinois All-State Festival and submitting an individual audition recording to the Name All-National Honor Orchestra. This festival was hosted in Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Saanji Shah, Megan Ja, and Labdhi Jain won 1st place in the video game category at the Northeastern University Hackathon.

Amy Spizzirri, social studies teacher, was nominated for the Golden Apple Teaching Award.

Athletic Director, John Kane, was inducted to the the Illinois Wrestling and Officials Association Hall of Fame.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

We are accepting nominations for the fourth annual "Distinguished Alumni Award." Nominees will be considered from any field for their contributions, achievements or community involvement. This award will be presented at Senior Honors Convocation on May 2, 2019. A nomination form is available on the school [website](#).

"COUGAR KIDS" PRE-SCHOOL

"Cougar Kids" pre-school is currently looking for two 4 or 5 year old children to join the preschool for Spring 2019. The pre-school will meet on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, beginning Friday, January 25th and go through May 10th, 2019. The pre-school will run from 9:10am to 11:45am. Registration information is available in the main office or online under the Family & Consumer Sciences page. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Koopman or Mrs. Candia at (847)755-3736.

COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPLORATION

Scholarships for Seniors

Now that your applications have been submitted, it is time to start applying for local, national and college specific scholarships. Check out the Scholarships folder in the Conant U Schoology course. The CHS Local Scholarship List is a great place to start. These local scholarships have smaller applicant pools, so they could be potentially easier to receive. Otherwise, check out the other Scholarship Search Sites in the Scholarships folder. Here is a link to the Local Scholarship List: <https://tinyurl.com/y6vpdgtg>.

Seniors, are you planning on attending Harper?

Make sure to complete this survey so that you receive information and support to help start at Harper. Here is a link to the survey: <https://tinyurl.com/yasukkon> See Mr. Brown in the White Team Room with any questions.

Automatic Merit Based Scholarships

Looking to save thousands of dollars on your college tuition? Automatic merit based scholarships are given to students that meet certain GPA and test scores at certain schools. No need to apply for these scholarships, just get the GPA and test score they are looking for, and it is yours. They are renewable and can range from **\$1,000 - \$34,000 PER YEAR** as well as even a **FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP** at one university. Juniors and Seniors can find a list of these schools in their Conant U course on Schoology. Here is a link to the list as well: <https://tinyurl.com/y97wexr2>

Some local schools that provide merit based scholarships are:

- Western Illinois University
- Iowa State University
- University of Iowa
- Northern Michigan University
- Central Michigan University
- Miami University of Ohio
- University of Louisville
- University of Kansas
- University of Alabama
- and many others.

New Career Advisor

Looking for information about a certain career? Looking to go on a field trip to explore a future career interest? Stop down and meet our **NEW CAREER ADVISOR**, Kristen Fitzgerald. Her office is located in the media center. Mrs. Fitzgerald would be glad to assist you with the career search process, career treks to local businesses, obtaining a job or internship, resume writing, interviewing skills and much more. Welcome to Conant Mrs. Fitzgerald! Join her Schoology course for more info with the code ZHBJM-27VF3.

CONANT HS BOOSTERS VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

This is your opportunity to get involved!!!!

Thank you for supporting the Conant Boosters the first half of the 2018-19 school year! If you have not yet become a member, consider registering your \$25 membership today at www.conantboosters.com.

There are over a dozen committees working throughout the year to host events, support activities, and raise funds that positively impact all Conant students. Every dollar we raise at the Fall Craft Fair, Cougar Corner Spirit Store, outdoor Grill, indoor Concessions, and the annual Conant Social Fundraiser stays in our school!

The Boosters will be hosting a mattress fundraising event on Saturday, February 16, 2019 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm in the student cafeteria at Conant. The event will feature high quality mattresses in all sizes, styles and name brands for up to 50% below retail. We hope to see you there!

The Conant Boosters collaborate with our school's Administration to identify needs within the school and decipher how we can best help fulfill those needs. We strive to make a positive difference and continually improve Conant High School with focus on our mission to support the students, staff, and Conant community.

To accomplish all of these goals, we need you! Our volunteers are what make it all possible. Please consider sharing your time and talent with the Conant Boosters as there is something for everyone! Learn how to get involved by attending a meeting or visit our website at www.conantboosters.com.

Our next monthly Parent Meeting is Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 pm in the Media Center.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy New Year!

GO COUGARS!

Elizabeth Paveza

Conant HS Boosters President

Visit us at www.conantboosters.com

Contact us at conantboosters@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook at CONANT HIGH SCHOOL BOOSTERS

Follow us on Twitter @Conant_Boosters

FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS TEST IN APRIL
Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors Test in April

SAT

The Illinois State Board of Education's required high school level assessment, The College Board Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT), will be administered throughout Illinois on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. High School juniors must take the SAT on this date to be eligible to receive a regular high school diploma, unless eligible to take the alternative assessment which would exempt them from testing. The assessment measures student knowledge related to state standards with respect to examination purposes. This state-funded SAT can be used as a college or university entrance exam score.

Students can choose to take an additional SAT on a national test date to improve test scores. This option may be discussed with your child's school counselor to determine the benefits of additional testing and to receive information about national SAT tests and the dates and costs. You can find detailed information about the SAT online at <http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>. Fees charged by College Board for testing on national test dates are the responsibility of the individual students and/or parents. Fee waivers are available for qualifying students through the student services department.

<i>SAT National Test Dates</i>	<i>Registration Deadline</i>	<i>Late Registration</i>
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019	April 16, 2019
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 3, 2019

PSAT 10

Sophomores will be administered the PSAT 10 on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, to measure their progress in reading, writing, language, and math. You can find additional information about the PSAT 10 online at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>.

PSAT 9

On Wednesday, April 10, 2019, all freshmen will be administered the PSAT 8/9 to measure their progress in reading, writing, language, and math. For more information online about the PSAT 8/9 go to <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9>.

Performance on these assessments helps District 211 improve curriculum and instruction to ensure that all students are college and career ready upon graduation from high school. The PSAT 9 and PSAT 10 identify areas to strengthen prior to the State-required junior year assessment. Students are dismissed following the exam. Bus transportation will be available for those who normally use bus service to school and back, according to their schedule.

	<i>Freshmen</i>	<i>Sophomores</i>	<i>Juniors</i>	<i>Seniors</i>
Tuesday, April 9, 2019	Do not report to school	PSAT 10 administration, sophomore students report to school	SAT administration, junior students report to school	Do not report to school
		Students will be dismissed approximately at 12:30pm/1:15pm		
Wednesday, April 10, 2019	PSAT 9 administration, freshmen students report to school. Students will be dismissed approximately at 11:00am/11:55am	Do not report to school	Do not report to school	Do not report to school

April 15-26, 2019 Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)

The Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) is a state required science assessment administered to students enrolled in Biology I (S131, S137, and S138). The assessment is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards for Science incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Visit <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-Science-Assessment.aspx> for more information. The Illinois Science Assessment will be administered within a single period during a student's regularly scheduled Biology class between the dates of April 15 – 26, 2019.