Spring is Here! 🌷

Spring is finally here and with that there are many exciting events coming up to mark the closing out of another great year at THS! We are coming close to the mid-way point of quarter 4. Remember to check PowerSchool regularly in order to stay on top of assignments, grades and attendance.

Many of our THS students will be taking AP Exams at the beginning of May. Taking AP courses is a great opportunity for students. To learn more about the benefits read on below.

Why Take AP Courses?

Colleges and universities prefer students who have taken AP courses because they provide a starting point for the academic rigor that the average college course demands. These courses help prepare students for advanced concepts in mathematics and science as well as essay-writing and literature analysis skills. AP courses help to improve a students’ organizational skills and helps them be better prepared for introductory college coursework.

AP courses are worth more than the average high school class. Maintaining a high GPA filled with academic rigor is just one of the many factors colleges and universities look at when students apply. A strong, solid GPA that highlights successful AP coursework shows that you’re willing to put in the effort for scholarship and fellowship opportunities. It also proves you’re willing to maintain your college GPA for potential grad school work.

See a counselor to sign-up for AP classes next year!

Important Dates in May
- May 2nd - AP Psych Exam
- May 3rd - AP Computer Science Exam
- May 4th - Blood Drive in THS Gym
- May 8th - AP Calculus Exam
- May 9th - AP English Lang. Exam
- May 18th - Early Dismissal PLC
- May 18th - Senior Outing - Boulder Ridge
- May 26th - Voice4change THS Community Service Day
- May 29 - Memorial Day - No School

THS Department Updates

TESOL Department

Many of our current and former ELs have accepted the Bilit Challenge - to test in a language other than English to demonstrate their proficiency and earn the Seal of Biliteracy. Sixty students (juniors and seniors) have been testing this week in 10 different languages: Spanish, French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Arabic, Bengali, Indonesian, and Fulani. Those students who meet proficiency on their tests will be awarded the Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation.

Science Department

Marine Biology students dissected squids in class. The Science Club had a Native Plant Sale Fundraiser that ran from March 16 - April 6. If you ordered a plant please remember that pick up is at THS on May 13 from 10-2.

On May 23rd there will be a field trip to Sharon Audubon Center to perform landscaping work and prepare the grounds for their annual outdoor fundraising event. Students will experience live animals such as snakes, turtles, hissing cockroaches and various raptors in their Nature Center and aviaries.

Sports Science class is a semester class in which students learn about several aspects to sports, coaching and playing. They are currently learning about the dangers of concussions and a brain injury related disease called CTE, which causes dementia in people who receive concussions from too many blows to the head. The students job was to design a helmet to protect the athletes head from head injuries. They will be testing their helmets using melons this week.

In Anatomy and Physiology students are exploring the nervous system and are getting ready to dissect sheep brains.

UConn Introduction to Biotechnology is a class taught here at THS, that is an actual UConn class on campus. This class introduces students to skills and content that will make them successful in a Biotechnology lab and class in the future. Skills such as: micro pipetting, serological pipetting, aseptic techniques, PCR, DNA extraction, Gel electrophoresis and more! They have covered topics such as: Protein Science, with a focus on diseases of misfolded proteins and exploring possible cures, DNA technology, how to manipulate DNA, the recent advances in all technology that give us the option to change DNA. We studied the history of Eugenics and debated if we should be
changing human DNA supporting stances with ample evidence. Students are currently learning basic microbiology techniques now. Students have learned how to safely stain and identify bacteria, and are now learning how to do a process called gram staining, which is a technique used to determine what type of cell wall a bacteria has in order to know what antibiotic can kill it. This skill also requires them to learn how to use their phones to take pictures of their microscope discoveries. They are learning the art of perseverance as it is a very detail oriented process and if not done perfectly, it will skew their data and they will need to start over. They are working up to being able to identify unknown bacteria. Enclosed are some pictures of students working hard.

AFJROTC

AFJROTC went through their accreditation process and passed with flying colors! Thanks to Colonel Coulouras, MSgt Sullivan, and the AFJROTC Executive Staff for doing an amazing job showcasing this program! On May 10th ROTC will be taking a field trip to the Westover Air Reserve Base.
Music Department

Torrington Public Schools has received the Best Communities for Music Education in America National Designation for 2023! This marks the 23rd year since 2000 that Torrington has received the National Designation of Best Community for Music Education.

Torrington High School String Quartet performed at the Warner Theatre on Sunday, April 23, 7pm as a part of the Beatles vs Stones A Musical Showdown! Aisley Harrison, Chloe Bayat, Emily Tacuri Penaranda, Rosangel Baez-Batista

Mr. Splettstoeszer received the Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Torrington/Winsted Rotary Club. THS String Quartet performed and Mr. S was introduced by THS Junior Hailey Gillotti
THS Band hosted the Tri-Town Band Festival at the Warner Theatre in March. Bristol Central and Northwestern Region 7 High School Bands also performed.

THS Music Department will be hosting its annual POPS Concert on Thursday, May 25 7pm THS GYM
More information to come soon

Some of our Choral students were able to visit the Irish Tenors. They were lucky enough to attend an open rehearsal during the afternoon and the concert later that night. The students that participated enjoyed a full day of fantastic singing and music.

Congrats to Nevaeh and Emily who were awarded the CAS Outstanding Arts Awards for THS! Nevaeh was recognized for performing arts and Emily for visual arts. We are so proud of you both!
Torrington Public Schools 2022 Best Communities for Music Education Twenty-two times since 2000 The commitment Torrington teachers, students, parents, and community members have made to music education was on display this spring at the All City Elementary Honors Orchestra & Band Concert.

thsmusic.net
World Language Department

Ms. Haas's Spanish I students wrote cards of appreciation in Spanish to their school counselors in honor of National School Counselor's Week.

World language administered the National French, Italian and Spanish Exams this month. The level 2 through level 5 students were challenged in achievement (vocabulary and grammar) and proficiency (listening and reading.) The results are then compared to all students of the appropriate level who take the test nationally. We are eagerly awaiting the results which we should receive in the first week of May. Bonne Chance/Buona Fortuna/Buena Suerte to all of our students!

School Counseling Department

In the beginning of April the School Counselors went into the Habits of Mind classes to provide a presentation and activities centered around support and planning for their success at THS and post-secondary. Students completed a Strengths Explorer activity to help them plan academic and career goals, recognize skill sets and how they relate to possible career pathways, explore interests and discover connections to possible career choices.

Our School Counselors discussed how they will later turn this information into a resume.

The School Counseling Department led our College Planning and Funding Night, with 37 students and many families in attendance. Thank you to ECMC and Holly Franquet from the College Place for presenting and congrats Chelsea on winning the $1,000 scholarship. Additionally, students were able to take a field trip to the NACAC College Fair at the Hartford Convention Center.

Our School Counseling Department kicked off their FASFA Fun with a FASFA party for all seniors who completed their FASFAs! Continuing their fun every Friday with raffles and special events.

Torrington High School

Welcome to the THS School Counseling website.

sites.google.com
English Department

The English classes are working hard preparing for our upcoming AP exams.

Prior to April break, the freshmen in Mrs. Verbickas’s classes finished up reading the Odyssey! They celebrated the Greeks by weaving (like Penelope), charting maps, identifying Epic Hero traits, and jamming to Greek music. Then they created social media posts from the perspectives of the book’s characters!

Art Department

Students in all art classes have continued to create original artworks, explore materials, and solve creative problems. As a department we took 50 art students on a field to the Museum of Modern Art in NYC. Torrington High school was well represented as students were respectful and thoughtfully engaged throughout their visit. Mr. King’s Crafts class spent time in the LMC gallery recently critiquing each others’ word collage projects.
The Social Studies Department recently held the Regional History Day competition here at THS and it was a tremendous success. For the Torrington Contest we had 122 students and 63 projects. Several local and state dignitaries attended the opening and closing ceremonies to large crowds in the Little Theatre. Several THS students placed in the competition which qualifies them for the State level History Day competition on May 6 at CCSU. Shout out to Ms. Conroy and Ms. Maquire for all their hard work coordinating and organizing the event.

Students are busy applying for acceptance into RHO Kappa, the Social Studies Honor Society for high school students. Current members are attending a field trip to the Beinecke Rare Book Library at Yale University on April 28. We are also preparing for a celebration of the legacy of John Brown who lived in our community and will discuss with THS students examining the importance of
John Brown to the history of Torrington, CT. The Presentation will take place on May 17 in the Little Theatre.

CTE Department

Our Career and Technical Education department had a busy month of events in April with many exciting to come in order to offer various opportunities for students in our Business, Child Development, Culinary and Tech Ed courses.

Students attended the Financial Reality Fair at Lewis Mills High School on Wednesday, April 19th in lieu of Financial Literacy Month. At this interactive event, students engaged in a simulation that required them to budget for their future expenses of independent living in the areas of housing, transportation, travel, entertainment, and nutrition.

On April 21st, the DECA Club traveled to the University of Hartford, to the Barney School of Business, where they heard from the Collegiate DECA program regarding life on campus and everything Collegiate DECA has to offer.

On Wednesday, April 26th, 40 students and 5 teachers headed to Wall Street, in NYC and engaged in the Wall Street Experience Tour of the Financial District! The students were super excited to visit the New York Stock Exchange, and several other pillars of the global financial hot spots that are talked about around the world!! All of these students have been participating in the Connecticut Stock Market Game, since the beginning of the year.

Students in our Child Development Classes are getting ready to participate in a Red Cross Child Care Certification Course here at THS on May 22nd. The training event will be a full-day in-school field trip here at THS. This course will train and prepare students to perform First Aid and CPR to children and provide them with an industry-recognized Red Cross Child Care Certification valid for 2 years. We plan to certify 20 students by the end of this training day in May.

Furthermore, our Power Transportation classes will travel to Bradley International Airport to shadow and tour the maintenance facility for the Connecticut Air National Guard!

The Construction class visited the living museum to study the multitude of timber framing techniques that have been used in American architecture since the inception of our nation. It was a
fabulous day of skill synthesis and enjoying life at Olde Sturbridge Village with 16 amazing students who are enrolled in Mr. Sheikh's Timber-making class!!
Math Department

We have started the final marking period and now is a good time to check PowerSchool and to ask teachers for extra help if needed. Every school day, many of our teachers are in their rooms helping students after the final bell. Ms. Machir is still having Math Club meetings during club periods; this is also a good opportunity to get extra help. Our AP Calculus and AP Computer Science students are doing the final preparations for their exams, which are coming up very soon. They have access to extra practice lessons on the College Board’s AP Classroom website and they can also get extra help from Mr. Grenfell after school. Our message to all students is to finish this school year strong.

THS Italy Trip

Over April Vacation THS students, teachers and parents traveled across Italy. Our students were responsible, engaged, and good-natured. They explored Rome with enthusiasm, walking an average of 6-10 miles a day. They fell in love with Sorrento and Pompeii, saw snow in Naples (the first in 30 years!), and made their own Margherita pizzas. They were polite and respectful always, asked
thoughtful questions, were welcoming to everyone in the group, and navigated new experiences with poise.

Some highlights of the trip included putting feet into the Mediterranean, getting a detailed history of the Colosseum and Forum, and having some quiet time at St. Paul's Basilica. One highlight was hearing multiple seniors say... "you know, it has been really nice getting to know my classmates." They really broke out of their friend groups, mingled, and merged.

The biggest highlight - I think I can speak for the group - was seeing our own Connor Sullivan "wow" the crowd in Pompeii. Encouraged by our guide to test the acoustics in the amphitheater, Connor stepped up - and what a performance it was! Check out the video below.

The "kids" - really the young adults - did us proud. Thank you for all you do for them... your dedication and hard work shine through in these unscripted moments.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6irZJN4FYT4

The SpongeBob Musical
“Apocalypse today! Oh, wait. Apocalypse tomorrow!” The news in Bikini Bottom isn't looking great as the volcano, Mt. Humongous, threatens to erupt and bury the town under tons of lava. But, do not fear, as everyone's favorite sponge, SpongeBob Squarepants, and his friends, Patrick Star and Sandy Squirrel, come to the rescue to save all the residents from not only the volcano, but Plankton's evil scheme!

The THS Student Theatre at Torrington High School are proud to present “The SpongeBob Musical” at Torrington High School's Little Theater on May 4, 5, and 6th at 7 p.m. The production is under the direction of Veronica Gelormino with musical direction by Connor Sullivan, set and technical direction by Stephen Zwart and Cassidy Maciel, choreography by (senior) Jozsef Herczeg and is produced by Cindy Zwart and student producers (seniors) Maia Wood and Lyahnize Rojas. Students have taken on the responsibilities: assistant direction by Abby Foulds (junior), set design direction/coordination by (senior) Max Vibert, prop design/stage management by (junior) Ella Campas-Hathaway, costume design by (junior) Freyja Harrel, and lighting design by (junior) Leah Fosbrook.

(Junior) Patrick Minnerly plays the always optimistic SpongeBob Squarepants and is accompanied on his quest by (sophomore) Abbey Young playing Patrick Star and (freshman) Sophia Sedlak as Sandy Squirrel. How does a squirrel, a land mammal with lungs, find a home under the ocean? That question is not important as all our heroes race against time and mother nature to stop the eruption from destroying their town and their friends!

As Bikini Bottom’s mayor, played by (senior) Lyahnize Rojas, is fooled into trusting the evil plan of Plankton, played by (sophomore) Reed Freiler, with his sidekick Karen played by (senior) Hailey Lefebvre, the residents struggle with what to bring with them (Patrick suggests snacks!) and come to realize what is really important is each other and their community. Themes of friendship, trust, and kindness are found throughout this musical which is entertaining for all ages and contains some deeper thoughts for those willing to think about them.

Our Bikini Bottom residents are as follows: (Senior) James Butler plays Mr. Krabs, owner of the Krusty Krab, and (junior) Elise Petro plays the role of his daughter Pearl. Mr. Krabs is a crab and Pearl is a whale-but as we are learning, some questions are not important. Squidward is played by (senior) Jozsef Herczeg. Intrepid Reporter Perch Perkins is played by (freshman) Luke Le. A combination of seniors and freshmen including Ace VonRichthofen, Kaitlyn Sovia, Emily Arias and Sariah Rimke are featured as residents of Bikini Bottom. A school of sardines is led by (freshman) Nate Pepler, and both (senior) Maia Wood as Patchy the Pirate and (junior) Elijah DeLeon, our guide to the underwater world as the French Narrator, help guide us on our journey. You will meet the all-girl rock band, the Electric Skates, with (junior) Caroline Sienkiewicz, (senior) Nevaeh Varney, and (sophomore) Riley McIntyre, take a romp through jellyfish fields, and climb Mt. Humongous as you follow our trio of heroes in their attempt to save lives, foil Plankton's plot, rescue their town, and perhaps...dare to dream it....become manager of the Krusty Krab-home of Bikini Bottom's famous Krabby Patty?

Join us for tons of fun and excitement May 4, 5, and 6 at Torrington High School’s Little Theater at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 for students and $15 for adults and can be purchased at the door or reserved by contacting czwart@torrington.org.
Patrick Minnerly (SpongeBob SquarePants) and Abbey Young (Patrick Star) sing "BFF"!

Patrick Minnerly (SpongeBob SquarePants) and Sophia Sedlak (Sandy Squirrel) sing "Chop to the Top"!

Jozsef Herczeg (Squidward Tentacles) sings a little snippet of "Look Out World (Cause Here I Come)"!

THS Sports Update

The spring sports season has started at THS!

Softball was temporarily displaced from their field (it is now a parking lot) to accommodate the new school building project. The coaches and players are now playing on the refurbished JV field.

The Boys and Girls tennis teams have also been disrupted by the construction of the new school. They will have no home courts until the project is completed. That's OK, they are road warriors, playing all away matches.

The rest of the teams have prepared hard for the season and are looking forward to the challenges of qualifying for the league and state championship tournaments.

Upcoming Senior Activities 2023

- Awards Night - 5/18/23 - 6:30 PM - THS Gym
- Senior Outing - 5/19/23 Boulder Ridge - 8:45 AM - 4:15 PM
- Scholarship Night - 6/1/23 - 6:30 PM - THS Gym
- Senior Breakfast - 6/1/23 - THS cafe - 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
- Prom - 6/2/23 Aquaturf - 6:30 PM - 11:39 PM
- Grad Rehearsal - 6/14/23 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM at THS
- GRADUATION - 6/15/23 - 6:00 PM at The Warner - students arrive at 5:15 PM - doors open to the public at 5:15 PM
- Gold T Banquet - To Be Determined

THS Class of 2025 Apparel Sale
If you missed out on the Torrington Apparel Sale back in March, it’s your lucky day! The THS Class of 2025 wanted to give everyone another opportunity, and have organized a second round of the online store. Click on the new link below for more details.

There is a wide range of options, colors, and sizes! 10% of all sales will directly benefit the class of 2025 and help offset the cost of their prom and other senior year activities.

The store will be open until Thursday, May 4th!

All orders will be shipped directly to your house approximately 5-6 weeks after the store closes. The first round did take a little longer than expected, but I think it was worth the wait!

**TORRINGTON HIGH SCH - Torrington High School**

Hurry, shop closes 05/04/2023!

(bsnteamsports.com)

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(ess.com)

**CLICK HERE TO VIEW UPDATES ON THE NEW TORRINGTON MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING!**
Until Next Time Raiders!

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Amanda Torres
Amanda is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters