

Shelton High School

Highlights by Department Quarter 1, 2017-2018

Art

- ❖ The Art Club held their first fundraiser – selling Henna tattoos. The club raised close to \$300.00 with half of it donated to our pink week fundraiser for The Valley Goes Pink.
- ❖ Art Appreciation class studied classical Greek figure sculpture and compared that to the contemporary figures by the artist Mark Jenkins. Students worked collaboratively to create their own tape sculptures and created an art installation in the Library/Media center.
- ❖ Art Foundations class finished their graphic unit which included an art accordion book, a zentangle animal design and a graphic landscape project. The zentangle animal designs are being displayed on the fourth floor board.

Career and Technical Education

- ❖ Mrs. Huber and Mr. Merati attended an HCC Faculty and High School Teacher/Guidance Counselor Meeting to kick off the upcoming academic year.
- ❖ FBLA ran a formal interview process to determine FBLA leadership positions for the upcoming 2017-2018 year. Mr. Merati and a person from the community served as judges, offering the students an authentic interview experience.
- ❖ Mrs. Huber's Business students wrote a formal business letter to a company of their choice. The students hope to get responses back and will share them in class.
- ❖ DECA, FBLA and Boys and Girls Cross Country focused on the planning and marketing for the "Shelton's Crazy 4 Color 5K Run and Family Fun Run" which took place on November 11. The clubs collaborated on various marketing initiatives as well as runner registrations: presented to PTSO to invite them to participate in Shelton's Crazy 4 Color; went to Shelton Intermediate School to perform a skit live on their morning news to promote Shelton's Crazy 4 Color; created an ad for The Gael News; visited the Shelton Vets to invite them to the Shelton's Crazy 4 Color to be honored; held a ring toss activity utilizing leftover colored rubber bracelets from a past event with winners given chance to enter raffle for free race day entrance registration; splatter face painting with volunteers given the chance to enter raffle for Pancheros gift card; met with Sergeant Penrod to discuss Veterans involvement in Shelton's Crazy 4 Color; marketed Shelton's Crazy 4 Color at the SHS Pink Game; stuffed racing day bags.
- ❖ The department sponsored a guest speaker from a major Personal Care Product Consumer Goods Company, a scientist, who plays a vital role in identifying counterfeit and black market products
- ❖ FBLA contributed to Pink Week designing signs and helping STUCO hang posters for Pink Week; attended FBLA Leadership Conference; and participated in Trick or Trunk.

- ❖ Business Management Students analyzed the start- up costs of opening a gym where they compared original estimates before analysis to post analysis estimates. The students learned the value of a thoughtful analysis, typically done in a business plan, in trying to arrive at a more comprehensive estimate. The students will be creating their own product or business and building a business plan around it.
- ❖ HCC Marketing students and Sports and Entertainment students prepared a SWOT analysis on the a company of their choice assessing the internal and external factors as part of a situational analysis.
- ❖ HCC Marketing and Sports and Entertainment Marketing analyzed a company’s mission statement and found evidence of said mission in the respective company's 4Ps.
- ❖ Introduction to Business students learned the concept of Social Responsibility and compared and contrasted the various ways in which companies show their social responsibility. They took a deeper look at Walmart and their efforts around sustainability with respect to manufacturing of the Walmart brand sour cream and the boxes for the Walmart ready serve pizza.
- ❖ Introduction to Business students learned about ethics, and Codes of Conduct. They compared and contrasted two major corporate accounting scandals (that drove Sarbanes Oxley regulations) identifying similarities in these two companies leading up to the scandals of incredible growth rates, larger than life CEO figures to name a few.
- ❖ Sikorsky teamsters visited and spoke to students across all CTE courses
- ❖ Mrs. Del Buono organized a visit from the Johnson and Wales University Admissions office. George Malavasic came and spoke with all Family and Consumer Science classes and completed a cooking demonstration.
- ❖ Mr. Merati and Mrs. Del Buono organized the 6th Annual Stuff the Truck Food Drive benefitting the Audrey Dreyer Food Bank on November 10th at the senior night football game at Finn Stadium. Cooperative Work Experience students organized and ran the event successfully.
- ❖ Mr. Merati’s Financial Planning students acted as Financial Consultants and made multiple recommendations to decrease Mr. Merati’s food expenditures budget. Students also investigated various credit card offers and made decisions for themselves about which credit cards were the most desirable.
- ❖ The CTE department launched the school’s first ever Esports club. Shelton High School is one of 10 schools across Connecticut to participate in the inaugural pilot season. Esports is backed by the CIAC, and the EGF, the Electronic Gaming Federation. Connecticut is the 1st state in the country to recognize Esports as a legitimate competitive sport. We are on the cutting edge of something that is innovative and gaining momentum across the nation. Special thank you goes out to Doug Williams who is the advisor of our club and competitive team.

English

- ❖ Grade 9 completed the Story Elements Rigorous Curriculum Design Unit.
- ❖ During their study of the classic novel *Frankenstein*, Mrs. Moore's ninth-grade classes studied the difference between the concept of beauty today and in the past, using old

family photographs and current graphic images. The students concluded that the definition of beauty is relative.

- ❖ Mr. Gavin's classes had a literary grammar lesson by identifying different parts of speech in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Telltale Heart."
- ❖ Mrs. Danielski's classes studied the novels *Flowers for Algernon* and *Frankenstein* in the Story Elements literature unit, examining themes and the universal messages that can be found in literature.
- ❖ Grade 10 completed the Expository Rigorous Curriculum Design Unit and wrote essays using Google Docs. Classes also worked in cooperative learning groups to complete historical research presentations before reading the novels *Of Mice and Men* and *Night*. To conclude the marking period, Mr. Kovach also taught a mini horror unit focusing on the works of Edgar Allen Poe, H.P Lovecraft, and Charlotte Perkins Stetson and a "horribly" creative project.
- ❖ Grade 11 students completed the Author's Craft Rigorous Curriculum Design Unit and wrote persuasive pieces as characters from the texts incorporating figurative language and rhetoric. Students were exposed to the SAT writing multiple choice section in conjunction with their first grammar unit, Crafting Better Sentences.
- ❖ Ms. Coffin, Mrs. Finley, Ms. Jeanette, and Mr. Kovach are participating in an independent reading program, Reading (R)evolution, with their students to inspire students to become stronger readers, to increase reading stamina, and to encourage a deeper appreciation for reading.
- ❖ Grade 12 completed the Epic Rigorous Curriculum Design Unit and wrote narratives in relation to the texts they read. Students also wrote about their lives as personal journeys, which assisted some of them in writing their college essays.
- ❖ Mrs. Webster's journalism classes participated in various journalism workshops and got a taste of campus life during Journalism Day at SCSU. They also published the first issue of *The Gael* magazine.

Guidance

- ❖ The Guidance Department hosted a very successful College Fair with over 160 colleges and universities in attendance.
- ❖ The Guidance Department offered seniors the opportunity to discuss the college admissions process, resume writing and the college essay in our "Senior Seminar" series.
- ❖ The Guidance Department oversaw administration of the PSAT to grade 10 and 11 students.
- ❖ The Guidance Department offered the Catalyst bootcamp for SAT preparation.
- ❖ The Guidance Department hosted the 9th grade parents in our "Coffee with the Counselors" program.
- ❖ The Guidance Department hosted over 50 college representatives to visit with students and inform of programs offered at their individual schools.
- ❖ The Guidance Department conducted Student Success Plan lessons during our Advisor/Advisee program for grade 9 – "Making High School Count", grade 10 and 11 – PSAT pre registrations, and grade 12 – College Recommendation Survey/Capstone.

- ❖ The Guidance Department hosted a Financial Aid night for parents.
- ❖ The Guidance Department coordinated an informational session for the American Legion oratorical contest.
- ❖ Counselors attended professional development days at the College Board, UCONN and Valley Regional Adult Education.
- ❖ The Guidance Department coordinated a month-long anti-bullying campaign in October.
- ❖ Three Shelton High School students were named Barton Weller finalists.

Library/Media

- ❖ The SHS Library/Media Center has implemented Maker Space in its facility. Students used 250 Rubik's cubes to create a mosaic of our mascot, The Gael. That mosaic was entered into a Rubik contest to win some cubes for our library. The Makerspace has been a great place for students to connect and collaborate with some thought-provoking activities. They explored "Fall"ing into creativity activities and solving puzzles and cubes.
- ❖ In October, the focus books were graphic novels and strange happenings.
- ❖ Michelle Piccolo attended a conference sponsored by CASL, Connecticut Association of School Librarians. She shared ideas with librarians from all over the state. There were also many great tech stations that had ideas that Michele can bring to the staff.

Math

- ❖ Math Club participated in Math Madness through AreteLabs. They competed in an online math competition against schools all over the United States.
- ❖ AP Computer Science is continuing to code and learn new information in preparation for the AP Exam.
- ❖ The math department had a guest speaker come from Berkeley College to discuss 'Banking on Your Future'.
- ❖ Geometry classes applied what they learned in Unit 1 on constructions to design airports and parking lots for their very own aviation experience. Students finished their first engaging learning experience, creating airport parking lots and runways using knowledge they acquired about constructions, parallel lines, and angles. Students also finished their first CFA on the first unit of study.
- ❖ Algebra 1 students collectively logged over 66 hours of IXL practice and have shown growth in 67 skills.
- ❖ In Programming, students went from coding their first program, printing out "Hello World" to creating programs where users can interact with the program by inputting answers to questions. Students created programs that can find the radius of a circle, and your weight on another planet. By completing exercises and labs students have learned how to make useful comments in their programs, correct syntax errors, and use tab features to create tables in Java.
- ❖ Algebra 2 Academic completed a Punkin' Chunkin' catapult project to end our unit on quadratic graphs. Students built, tested and modeled the flight of mini candy pumpkins.
- ❖ AP Statistics completed a CSI style investigation using linear regression, created a human dotplot involving students' heights to determine location/ percentile in a distribution.

Music

- ❖ The Concert Choir sang the National Anthem at various events such as the Hall of Fame Dinner, pep rallies and various school assemblies. The choir is now gearing up for the Winter Concert and the After Hours.
- ❖ The Marching Band has performed at school assemblies and the Hall of Fame Dinner. In addition to the home football games they had an active field show season.
- ❖ The band performed at our Veteran's Day ceremonies.

Physical Education

- ❖ Welcome 2016 Shelton teacher of the year, Brad Piccirillo to the department.
- ❖ Students completed mandated CT State Fitness testing,
- ❖ The PE Department introduced new PE units: touch rugby and field hockey.
- ❖ Freshman Devin Wildman set a new female PACER school record of 112 laps.
- ❖ The department had a guest speaker from the Milford Rape Crisis Center who spoke about sexual assault.
- ❖ Teachers received a \$700 grant from the VITAHLS organization to hold a PEntathlon Fitness competition.

Science

- ❖ The Fundamentals of Health Science began this year. Students attended orientation at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport on October 5th. Students in the class have been gaining clinical experience by participating in a job shadowing experience every other day for 2 hours. They began their offsite clinical experience on October 10th and will continue for 14 weeks in their assigned department. Some departments include ICU, the surgical unit, the Inpatient rehab unit, Oncology, Radiology, the Stroke medical unit, Behavioral Health Clinic, and nutrition services. While there, the students have seen many intense cases and have been involved in helping to make patients comfortable, transport or position patients, as well as assist medical personnel with procedures such as EKG, vital sign monitoring, IV insertion, and charting. For the course, Mrs. McNamara solicited donations for an onsite medical lab at Shelton High School, which is up and running to allow students in Fundamentals of Health Science to practice their skills on one another, as well as our new mannequin resident. This class provides students with invaluable experience to help prepare them for a career in the health science field and supports Shelton's School to Career Pathway initiative.



- ❖ SHS UCONN Physics students along with their teacher Mr. Goddard participated for the first time in the Annual University of Connecticut Cardboard Boat Race, against other UCONN Physics classes from around the state of Connecticut. This was the 7th Annual Race held at UCONN's Avery Point campus. The competition was designed to enhance students learning of Archimedes Principles via the boat race made of only cardboard and duct tape. SHS UCONN Physics classes were divided up into lab groups and designed a cardboard boat, reported this out on a poster for other classes to observe and vote. The top two were selected and were built in a matter of one day. They did remarkably well as each boat placed 4th in each of their heats. Each heat had 10 boats and the top 3 moved on to the final competition. The group was happy they did not sink, and placing as well as they did for our first attempt was a success. The class did not come home empty handed as our school was voted the **most spirited** of all the schools present and took home a first place certificate in team spirit!
- ❖ Four students from Mr. Pagliaro's AP Physics 2 class participated in the annual Yale Physics Olympics on October 14, 2017.
- ❖ Students in Mr. Pagliaro's Chemistry class made three-dimensional graphs using straws to show the trends that occur for atomic radii and ionization energy as you move across a period and down a group on the periodic table.
- ❖ Chalk markers have been an exciting new tool teachers in the department are using to build on 21st century learning skills and NGSS science and engineering practices. Mr. Pagliaro's AP Physics 2, Chemistry/Lab, and Physics/Lab classes have done this through comparing and contrasting electricity and magnetism, categorizing elements, compounds and mixtures, analyzing scenarios involving one and two dimensional motion, and simplifying complex circuits. Ms. Clark's AP Biology class has been using the chalk markers to model cell structures, compare and contrast photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Students are able to work collaboratively and communicate their ideas to share with peers and teachers.
- ❖ Biology II students used their knowledge of botany to design their dream yard by completing a landscape design project. Local plant species were used to attract wildlife and pollinators. A multidisciplinary approach was included as financial aspects were included.

- ❖ Rigorous Curriculum Design curriculum revisions have been ongoing. Curriculum teams worked on biology, chemistry and physics units to make modifications to curriculum and have units comply with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
- ❖ Biology teachers attended a three-hour professional learning Gizmos workshop. This is part of an explore learning website and consists of many virtual lab activities to use in their classes that are supportive of the science and engineering practices and NGSS. The biology teachers in the department have been given a trial subscription for the 2nd and 3rd marking periods.

Social Studies

- ❖ A.P. Psychology students completed field work on Developmental Psychology.
- ❖ 11th Grade Students attended a program with visiting author and State Department Official Christopher Teal.
- ❖ Mr. Hill attended the Red, White, and Blue Schools Program Kickoff sponsored by the State Department of Education and Secretary of State's Office.
- ❖ U.S History I students completed research projects on contemporary issues.
- ❖ Students attended a field trip to the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York.
- ❖ J.S.A. (Junior Statesmen of America) co-sponsored a Meet the Candidates Night with Board of Education candidates addressing questions about their stance on issues.
- ❖ Students attended a program by D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) on Shelton's Bicentennial Quilt at Plumb Library.

Special Education

- ❖ Students took a field trip to Wells Hollow.
- ❖ Teachers and students participated in the DECA Crazy for Kids Color Run.
- ❖ Sciences classes created Powerpoint presentations and created tombstones for famous scientists in honor of Halloween. They also created Elemental Menus and atomic models.
- ❖ Collaborative English 3 completed lessons on Vocabulary and analyzed the Reading Inventory results.
- ❖ Best Buddies has held several activities including their bake sale at Back to School Night, participation in Trick or Trunk and Shelton Day, among others.

World Languages

- ❖ Mrs. Giordano's Spanish IV classes designed and decorated Talavera Tiles as they learned about the craft from the Catilla-La Mancha region of Spain. These tiles have been submitted by students to be entered into a contest judged by parents, teachers, Central Office members and Administration.
- ❖ Mrs. Giordano's Spanish III classes designed ceramic skulls for el Día de los Muertos. They also enjoyed authentic Pan del Muerto, a sweet bread, baked especially for this holiday.



- ❖ The International Word of the Week Wall is growing with each new vocabulary word and is located on the third floor by room 109.



- ❖ Mrs. Yaglowksi's Period 1 Spanish I students are learning about the culture of Puerto Rico. They were fortunate to have a guest speaker, Pastor Jerry Martinez, father of Daja Martinez, visit their class to discuss his personal connection with Puerto Rico and the aftermath of hurricane María.
- ❖ Students in Mrs. Sargent's Spanish II classes learned that the Mexican muralists often represented the history of Mexico in their murals. Students then created their own mural representing their school history and explained their murals to the class.



- ❖ Mrs. Sargent's Spanish II classes began the year by creating posters about themselves and used them to introduce themselves to the class.



- ❖ Italian IV students worked hard the beginning of this year on multiple projects. They have been working on bell ringers, an activity to begin class with, for all levels of Italian to use during the month of October, Italian Heritage Month. They also created educational video clips that were aired on the Gael news that plays every morning. These videos included information about Italian heritage so that we can appreciate it together as a school.
- ❖ The SHS Italian Club had a busy start to the school year, beginning with an officers' meeting during the second week of school to discuss events for the upcoming school year. Within the first couple weeks they started sign-ups for the club and had over 100 students sign up. So far officers and members have participated in:
 - Annual Oronoque Pie Fundraiser in which club members sell pie vouchers.
 - Back to School Night - Officers sold Italian Club breast cancer awareness t-shirts and pie vouchers.
 - T-Shirt Sale – Students sold breast cancer awareness t-shirts where they raised \$300. They wore their shirts during pink week to represent the Italian club and raise breast cancer awareness.



- Italian Club officers attended “Il Giorno Italiano”, a cultural event in Southington CT. This event is centered on the Italian culture, language and fun which included discussions from Italian authors. Our officers helped children of the community



make Carnevale masks and stuff cannoli.

School-wide information:

- ❖ The year started with a revamped Freshmen Orientation that received rave reviews. Video Production students completed a video of the day.
- ❖ The inaugural SHS Hall of Fame Induction dinner was held on September 16, 2017 with 12 inductees and over 200 guests in attendance.
- ❖ Christopher Teal, biographer of Ebenezer Bassett, the first black diplomat from the US who grew up in the Valley, provided an assembly at SHS on October 13.
- ❖ SHS raised \$2011 in support of the Connecticut Association of Schools Hurricane Heroes Relief Fund to benefit the Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico hurricane victims.
- ❖ A \$2000 donation was received by a former SHS teacher for instructional supplies in the math department.
- ❖ SHS received a donation from CAS for the purchase and installation of a pixallot camera in the gymnasium.
- ❖ SHS received a \$4000 donation from the Weller Foundation for the purchase of an aerospace flight simulator.
- ❖ There was an all-school effort to support the Valley Goes Pink during the month of October. Many school events, such as *t-shirt sales*, decorated pumpkins, club face painting, etc. and fundraisers from clubs, booster clubs and staff all supported the effort. Over \$6200 was raised in 1 week to support the Valley Goes Pink.