

# NEWSLETTER



## JAMES B. CONANT HIGH SCHOOL

JULIE C. NOWAK PRINCIPAL

July 2019

### From the Principal:

"IN THE SUMMER, THE DAYS WERE LONG, STRETCHING INTO EACH OTHER. OUT OF SCHOOL, EVERYTHING WAS ON PAUSE AND YET HAPPENING AT THE SAME TIME, THIS COLLECTION OF WEEKS WHEN ANYTHING WAS POSSIBLE." - SARAH DESSEN



It has been a very busy summer preparing for our upcoming year! Students are enrolled in summer school classes and athletic camps. Parents and students have been in our front offices, meeting with counselors and our freshmen, the class of 2023, are participating in their high school orientation experience. Teachers have been participating in a variety of curriculum projects and the administrative team has completed many projects relative to our safety protocols and intervention/support programs. We have also reviewed and developed a number of plans based on our analysis of critical data points. Summer construction has included some larger projects, including the final phase of field renovations.

One of the most important aspects of my job is to ensure we provide our students with the highest quality of educators and our hiring for next year is nearly complete. We are fortunate that District 211 is a place educators really want to be, and I am afforded a strong pool of applicants who want to work at Conant High School. Our new teachers are so excited to be Conant Cougars! This year we welcome the following faculty members:

- Bridget Colleran - Family & Consumer Science
- Grace Gibbs - English Teacher
- Benjamin Jones - English/ESL
- Judith Lopez - Librarian
- James Lundquist - Social Studies
- Jennifer Mikrut - Special Education
- Vincent Salas - Math
- Gabriella Stacy- Science
- Andrea Storey- World Language
- Sara Wojtasik - English

There are many resources available to you to view your child's progress and information about upcoming events. I encourage you to spend some time this summer becoming familiar with these resources.

One of the most important resources available is your child's Learning Support Team. The team room serves as a "one-stop shop" that enable students and parents to connect with their administrator, counselor, and other support staff in a setting that fosters a student-centered approach to problem solving and a shared approach to helping students plan for their future. Students are assigned to one of three teams (red/white/blue). It is important for you to know which team your child belongs to and, along with teachers, please contact your child's guidance counselor or team administrator when you need assistance or information. Please note our team rooms are not fully staffed in the summer, but administrators and counselors are available.

Red Team, Office 106	White Team, Office 104	Blue Team, Office 103
(847) 755-3670	(847) 755-3671	(847) 755-3672
Mrs. Ardell, Administrator	Mr. Mocon, Administrator	Mr. Catapano, Administrator
Mrs. Hill, Counselor/ Dept. Chair	Mr. Altergott, Counselor	Ms. Jones, Counselor
Mr. Leibman, Counselor	Mrs. Hernandez, Counselor	Mrs. Roeslein, Counselor
Mr. Wiley, Counselor	Mr. Sobey, Counselor	Mr. Bauer, Counselor
Mr. Brown, Counselor		

Infinite Campus provides important information specific to your student's progress in school. Parents and students can log into Infinite Campus through the Conant website. Please contact our technology department at 847-755-3761 if you need any assistance accessing Infinite Campus. The Conant website, [chs.d211.org](http://chs.d211.org), provides upcoming dates and events. Also, follow Conant High School on Facebook, Instagram [conantcougars](https://www.instagram.com/conantcougars), and Twitter @ConantCougars for regular updates. The links to the official sites are available on the Conant High School website.

We also offer a District 211 Mobile App, available for smartphones and tablets. The D211 Mobile App provides direct access to some of our most frequently used online tools. Users can access Infinite Campus and Schoology, sports scores and schedules, school event calendars, lunch menus, news, and much more. The App's notification feature allows users to receive alerts on their mobile devices in emergencies, such as school closings due to weather. The D211 Mobile App is available for download at the App Store and Google Play (search "District 211").

Conant High School is a very special place and Cougar pride runs deep! I look forward to working with you to ensure that we are providing our students with an excellent educational experience both inside and outside of the classroom.

Sincerely,

Julie C. Nowak  
Principal



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

7/22-25	WALK-IN REGISTRATION 7:30AM-3:00PM
7/26	WALK-IN REGISTRATION 7:30AM-12:30PM
7/23, 7/25	EVENING WALK-IN REGISTRATION 5:00PM-8:00PM
8/6	CLASS OF 2023 FRESHMAN KICK OFF 6:30PM-8:00PM CAFETERIA/MAIN GYM
8/8	TEACHER INSTITUTE – NO CLASSES
8/9	TEACHER INSTITUTE – NO CLASSES
8/12	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
8/13	JUNIOR & SENIOR YEARBOOK PHOTOS PERIODS 1-8 – AUDITORIUM
8/13	CONANT BOOSTERS MEETING 7:00PM – MEDIA CENTER
8/14	FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE YEARBOOK PHOTOS PERIODS 1-8 – AUDITORIUM
8/19	BAND PARENT MEETING 7:00PM – A160
8/20	STUDENT LATE START CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:35AM
8/23	ACTIVITY FAIR FOR STUDENTS PERIODS 3-6 – MAIN HALLWAY
8/23	SPIRIT WEAR SALES PERIODS 3-6 – COUGAR CORNER
8/24	SAT TESTING 8:00AM – 2ND FLOOR CLASSROOMS
8/26	MARCHING BAND PREVIEW CONCERT 7:30PM – STADIUM
8/29	EARLY DISMISSAL 12:30PM
8/29	PARENT OPEN HOUSE 7:00PM – 9:00PM
9/2	LABOR DAY – NO SCHOOL
9/3	STUDENT LATE START CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:35AM
9/6	SPIRIT WEAR SALES PERIODS 3-6 – COUGAR CORNER
9/9	BAND PARENT MEETING 7:00PM – A160

## NO FOOD DELIVERIES TO SCHOOL BEGINNING WITH 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

School safety and security continues to be of utmost priority. We continue to work with local law enforcement partners to evaluate and assess our practices so that we may improve and adapt to changing conditions. Every year, we conduct comprehensive safety assessments and one emerging concern that we have identified pertains to food deliveries to students during the school day.

With online food delivery services such as Uber Eats, DoorDash, and Grubhub gaining popularity, we have experienced an increase in food deliveries to students during lunch hours. As a result of the increase in such deliveries, our supervision staff is being diverted from their primary responsibilities and having to manage what has become a high volume of food deliveries. The increase in this non-essential traffic challenges our supervision staff's ability to observe and monitor entrances, supervise those entering and exiting the building, and effectively manage visitors with legitimate school business. Further, with the increasing variety of app-based delivery services, it has become challenging to verify the identity and background of all delivery drivers entering our school buildings.

Due to these concerns and the reported disruptions these deliveries cause, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, schools will no longer accept food deliveries for students during the school day. Parents and guardians are still able to make deliveries, but individual and small delivery orders from local restaurants and third-party food delivery services will no longer be permitted. Deliveries after school hours will not be impacted.

We will continue to assess our practices and find additional ways to enhance safety and security measures throughout our schools, and appreciate your cooperation as these improvements are implemented.

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### COUGAR PRIDE

Conant High School's PRIDE Program (Preparing Resourceful Individuals Determined to Excel) is a first semester student mentorship program aimed at easing the transition to high school for freshmen students. Mentors are junior and senior students who have been selected to conduct lessons four days a week for our freshmen students during the first half of their lunch period. These lessons are focused on welcoming students, providing them with resources for a successful student career, and encouraging them to get involved. The program encourages our freshmen to get involved and establish a sense of belonging at CHS. Following the first semester PRIDE program, most students will return to a full 50-minute lunch period. Freshmen students who have failed a course or received below a 2.0 grade point average, will be referred to the student's Learning Support Team for consideration of additional interventions during second semester.

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### IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT FOR SENIORS

The State of Illinois requires that all incoming 12th graders (Class of 2020) show proof of receiving their meningococcal vaccine (MCV4). The requirement states one dose on or after their 11th birthday and a second dose on or after their 16th birthday **OR** one dose after their 16th birthday. Your child will not be able to begin school until this requirement is met. No doctor appointments will be accepted. If you have a religious objection to vaccines, you must submit the state approved religious objection form.

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### IMMUNIZATIONS AND PHYSICAL EXAMS

Parents are reminded that all freshman students **must** show proof of a state mandated immunization and physical examination on the proper form before they can begin school. No doctor appointments will be accepted to release your child's schedule.

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### PE SWIMSUIT POLICY

It is the responsibility of each student during their PE swimming unit, to bring their own swimsuit. Towels will be provided through a towel service. Swimsuit guidelines are as follows:

- Girls' suits – dark colors – one piece, ½ inch wide shoulder straps, supportive, and fitted. No decorative holes or "see through" material.
- Boys' suits – boxer style suit with draw-string and mesh inner lining. No "speedo or jammer" type suits.

Students should carry suits in a plastic non-drip bag. Suits should be rinsed after class with water and placed in spinners to remove excess water. Lockers do not provide enough air circulation to dry swim suits; bacteria growth can occur. Therefore, it is advised that suits be taken home daily and air-dried or placed in the dryer. The student's PE teacher will provide additional information before the swimming unit.

9/10	CONANT BOOSTERS MEETING 7:00PM – MEDIA CENTER
9/14	ACT TESTING 8:00AM – 2ND FLOOR CLASSROOMS
9/17	STUDENT LATE START CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:35AM
9/17	FINANCIAL AID NIGHT 7:00PM – AUDITORIUM
9/20	BLOOD DRIVE 7:30AM-3:00PM – ATRIUM
9/20	SPIRIT WEAR SALES PERIODS 3-6 – COUGAR CORNER
9/20	VARIETY SHOW 7:00PM – AUDITORIUM
9/21	VARIETY SHOW 7:00PM – AUDITORIUM
9/27	CONANT MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERT 7:30PM – GYMNASIUM
9/28	CONANT BOOSTERS CRAFT FAIR 9:00AM-4:00PM – 1ST FLOOR
9/30	D211/D54 STRING FESTIVAL 7:00PM – AUDITORIUM

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE SPECIAL DATES:

- Late start days (9:35 a.m. start of school) for morning work sessions: August 20, September 3, September 17, October 8, October 22, November 5, January 21, February 4, February 18, March 3, March 17, April 21.
- Shortened days (12:35 p.m. dismissal): August 29, October 23, February 14, April 14, May 15.
- Institute Days (when school is not in session): August 8, August 9, October 15, January 6.
- Open House: August 29.
- Winter Vacation: begins December 20 at end of school day; school resumes January 7.
- First Semester Final Exams: December 18, 19, and 20.
- Spring Vacation: March 20 at end of school day; school resumes March 30.
- Second Semester Final Exams: May 20, 21, and 22.

### LOCKERS

For the 2019-2020 school year, only Freshmen will be automatically assigned a locker. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors will be permitted to request a locker by submitting an online request or visiting the Blue Team Room in person. The link to request a locker will be available beginning on August 1.

### SELECTION PROCESS TO BEGIN FOR NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Selection for membership in N.H.S. is based upon four criteria: scholarship, leadership, character, and service. All juniors and seniors with a (non-weighted) 3.0 cumulative grade point average (or above), are eligible for membership. Letters with application instructions were mailed to all eligible students. To be considered for membership, applications must be completed through a Google Form (following the application directions) by Thursday, August 15 at 3:30 p.m. No late forms will be accepted.

### FRESHMEN IPAD DISTRIBUTION

**Registered Freshmen students can pick up iPads on the following dates:**

Monday, July 22 through Thursday, July 25 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Friday, July 26 from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Monday July 29 through Thursday, August 1 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**Evening Pickup times:** Tuesday, July 23 and Thursday, July 25 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Each student has the opportunity to obtain optional District 211 iPad insurance at a cost of \$25.00, which provides repair and replacement cost coverage and protects the iPad on and off school grounds. Registration information and form is available via Infinite Campus parent portal.

### 2019-2020 FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION

Fall Sports Registration began in early July. Athletes must have a current physical within the last 13 months on file in the nurse's office to participate. The first day for practice for all levels of football and boys/girls golf is on Monday, August 12, 2019. All other fall sports begin on Wednesday, August 14, 2019. The first day of school for all students is Monday, August 12, 2019. Check the Conant website for details, <http://chs.d211.org/>

The coaches to contact for fall sports questions are:

<b>Football</b>	Bryan Stortz BStortz@d211.org	<b>Boys Cross Country</b>	John Powers jpowers@d211.org
<b>Boys Golf</b>	Scott Cieplik scieplik@d211.org	<b>Girls Cross Country</b>	Kalli Dalton KDalton@d211.org
<b>Girls Golf</b>	Megan Hebert mhebert@d211.org	<b>Girls Tennis</b>	Dave Koleno dkoleno@d211.org
<b>Boys Soccer</b>	Jason Franco jfranco@d211.org	<b>Girls Swimming</b>	Justin Bickus jbickus@d211.org
<b>Girls Volleyball</b>	Drewann Pancratz dpancratz@d211.org	<b>Cheerleading</b>	Amanda/Christina Schweinebraten aschweinebraten@d211.org cschweinebraten@d211.org

### RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to Golden Apple Award recipients Madison Aykroid and Laura Vesco.

Congratulations to Saurav Sumughan who was named to the 2018-2019 *Daily Herald* Academic Team.

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Norma Betancourt – 1st place, Fashion Construction, Patricia DeMore – 1st place, Children's Literature Presentation, Olivia Holian – 1st place, Children's Literature Presentation, Amira Malki – 1st place Children's Literature Presentation, Erin Nelli – 1st place Pastry Arts – Decorated, Margaux-Lin Rafii – 1st place Interior Design, Kayley Stoner – 1st place Children's Literature Presentation, Malgorzata Wojtowicz – 1st place Interior Design, Paige Zielinski – 1st place Fashion Construction.

### 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!

## COUGAR KIDS PRESCHOOL (AGES 3-5)

Cougar Kids Preschool will be running a fall and spring session of preschool in the morning next year. It will run on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:15-11:45 a.m. We are currently at full enrollment for next year, but we are accepting applications for our waitlist. The cost is \$150 for each session with a \$50 non-refundable deposit due with the application. Registration forms are on the Conant High School website under the Family and Consumer Sciences webpage link.

### CONANT'S BUSINESS INCUBATOR BLENDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP LESSONS WITH AN EXPERIENTIAL APPROACH TO TRADITIONAL BUSINESS SUBJECTS.

This program offers students an authentic entrepreneurship experience. In the year long course, students have the opportunity to create and fully develop their own product or service. Real entrepreneurs and business experts serve as volunteer coaches and mentors guiding student teams through the processes of developing hypotheses about a business concept, testing those hypotheses, adapting, and continually learning and improving. This cycle of experimentation is combined with foundational business content such as marketing and finance.

#### STUDENTS LEARN BY DOING

Students demonstrate their learning through explanation, interpretation and application of content to their team's real business idea. Principles and process from the LEAN START-UP movement help students test their thinking. From concept to Minimum Viable Product to Pitch, students are hypothesizing, testing, adapting and learning. Importantly, they work and learn in teams.

#### STUDENTS LEARN FROM A TEAM OF EXPERTS

A community of volunteer coaches and mentors along with the classroom teacher create a collaborative learning environment. Coaches provide authentic business expertise in a specific area. They come into the classroom for a short period of time (2-4 days) to provide all students with a real-world context for a specific curricular area. The coach and classroom teacher plan and teach together. Mentors are assigned to one team and follow them through the entire process providing students with feedback and encouragement. The mentors come in usually once a week to meet with the team during class (1st period) and also mentor them outside of class. The classroom teacher is a certified teacher that manages and is the instructional lead for the program throughout the year.

The course culminates with students presenting their business idea to an investment panel with the potential of earning funds to further pursue their business opportunity. In 2016-17, one Conant team, Green Dirt received \$20,000 of funding for their vermicomposting business converting food waste to organic fertilizer. They continued to operate their business for two years until

college internships became a priority. They have since sold off their business. This past school year, two Conant teams, Chill Bands and KidActive won \$5,000 per team. Chill Bands is a wearable cooling gel wristband or headband to keep you cool for up to 6 hours during activity, leisure events or for those individuals suffering from heat flashes or migraines. The three students plan to take the Independent Study B497 Incubator course to launch their business. For more information on Chill Bands go to: <https://chillbands.weebly.com/>. Kid Active is a youth sports camp designed for youngsters to try a variety of sports in a fun and engaging way with high school athletes as the coaches. Kid Active has partnered with local park districts, such as Mount Prospect and Elk Grove to offer their camps for parents looking to get their kids more active. You can follow them on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/KidActiveIllc/>.



If you are interested in volunteering to be a mentor or instructional coach for the Business Incubator course or want more information about the program, please contact Mr. Tony Miller, Business Incubator Teacher at [amiller@d211.org](mailto:amiller@d211.org)

Follow the Business Incubator program on Twitter @D211Inc and @ConantBusEd

## CONANT BOOSTERS

#### Do you have 4 hours? In an entire school year? To give to your school?

Conant Boosters volunteer organization is busy preparing for the 2019-2020 school year! We need as many volunteers as possible to provide our students the best year ever!

#### Who are the Conant Boosters?

Parents, staff, and community volunteers!

#### What do we do?

- Work with school administration to improve our school
- Partner with multiple groups to support our students, staff, and community
- Host events
- Support Activities
- Award Scholarships to seniors
- Award Financial Grants to staff
- Raise funds to positively impact all Conant students

#### How can you get involved?

Visit our webpage at <https://www.conantboosters.com>

- Click on MEMBERSHIP to quickly and easily register to become a Conant Booster parent

- Click on VOLUNTEER to see what opportunities feel most compelling for your time
- Click on DONATE to financially show your Cougar Spirit

Membership and Volunteer forms were also included in the District registration mailing you received this summer. Complete these forms and return to the main office.

I want to welcome you to join the Conant Boosters parents/volunteers this school year. We look forward to having you share your time and talent with us and remember, you DO NOT have to attend the monthly meetings to get involved, but we would love if you could.

Our first meeting of the 2019-2020 school year is **Tuesday, August 14 @ 7:00 pm.**

Hope to see you there!!!

Elizabeth Paveza

Conant Boosters President

Visit us at [www.conantboosters.com](http://www.conantboosters.com)

Contact us at [conantboosters@gmail.com](mailto:conantboosters@gmail.com)

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