Learning the ins and outs of Computer Applications.

WHHS, Ms. MacNeil’s classes. Knowing the ins and outs of a computer will get you a job, right students? Did you know you can get an edge by starting with classes right here at our high school? Jump start your technology and computer knowledge by taking some computer classes such as Webpage Design and Mobile Applications classes taught by Ms. Deborah MacNeil in Room D207. While in high school, it is critical to be exposed to computer science, just like all the other major subjects such as Advanced English and STEM subjects, before entering college or the workplace. Not everyone will study or enter the workplace for computers only. But, being computer literate is critical because the fabric of technology with different computer applications is woven through almost all studies and careers. Let’s face it, most jobs and even tasks like paying bills or emailing a friend, need computer skills.

Now more than ever, technology and understanding the vital role of computer applications is connected to all learning opportunities. Basic technology skills have played an important function in educating and linking students to learning and careers. We are surrounded and flooded with information. The use of technologies such as virtual learning environments, allows students to participate in classrooms and opportunities way beyond four walls. It also allows one to reach far across the state, country and even the world.

Ms. MacNeil says that, “I believe the Mobil App class and club is a great way to introduce STEM. I think what I teach will compliment the STEM classes nicely.” She also adds that her half year computer courses are designed to get the students comfortable on a computer. For instance, the Webpage Design class provides students with a major emphasis on the principles and design of websites. Students master HTML and then move into Adobe Creative Suite utilizing Dreamweaver and Photoshop. Ms MacNeil adds, “I have had many students apply what they have learned from Webpage Design and make lots of money from clients they create websites for.”

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Above, Ms. MacNeil teaching one of her computer classes.
Vietnam Vet Comes To West Haven High School  By Jay Silver

Edward Mannion, a former West Haven resident, graduated from Notre Dame in 1966, flunked out of college, joined the Marine Corps in January 1970 and headed to Vietnam. After serving two years in Vietnam, Mannion returned to get degree at the University of Connecticut, teach English and educate high school students about the real war in Viet Nam.

On his visit to our school on May 6, Mannion told us about the day he arrived in Viet Nam. “When I arrived there, I put my uniform on and got my boots. The guy told me not to wear mine. He said I have to break them in once in a while before I could fully wear them. So I went to a place where all these coffins were and in the back I found the boots. I had to go dig through them to find a pair of boots in my size and not covered in blood and brain matter”.

His experience from day one in the war zone awed many in the audience. From the time he just missed getting hit by a mortar to having to relieve himself off the side of a truck on convoy patrol. One story that was particularly memorable was when he told students about a German Sheppard that was there. He said the German Sheppard remembered all of the scents of all of the men. While he seemed like an innocent dog, Mannion said they were told, “Whatever you do, you should never pet this dog. He will bite you!”

One of the things that Mannion stresses to student was that the Viet Nam was very painful. Mannion shared many experiences of his on the field. Some moments were funny, some close-to-tear jerking and most, just simply powerful. From the moments when he was close to death, to the days when he found himself going into the murk of the swamps, Mannion found a way to survive and make the most of his time there. He recalled a massive battle in January 1971, and showed us part of a mortar that landed just a few inches from his foxhole. He showed us pictures of himself while serving in the ware and of his stations, and managed to display a sense of humor as he spoke of each incident that he recalled.

Most students seemed impressed by Mannion’s presentation and willingness to share some of his experiences, good and bad. Some students said they would like to thank Mannion personally for serving his country and sharing his memories with them.

This picture is a student in the Civil Engineering STEM program using and learning about land surveying equipment in the courtyard. The course is part of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program, which currently has three course options and is expected to offer a fourth next year.
WHHS Engineering Students Participate in After School Mentoring Program

Special article written by Science teacher Mr. Michael Barracco

Several West Haven High School engineering students participated in the ACE mentoring program this year. ACE, which stands for Architecture, Construction and Engineering, is a nation-wide program founded in 1994 to inspire students to pursue careers in these important fields. With more than fifty thousands participants since its inception, it is considered one of the top mentoring programs in the country.

The students who participate in the program meet once a week at sponsored architecture firms throughout the New Haven area. The students then have the opportunity to work with industry professionals to create a real construction project using architectural and engineering design processes. As an added bonus, the mentors supply pizza and snacks every week after the meeting.

West Haven had three consistent participates for the 2013-2014 school year: Georgie Driver, Joe Miller, and Jose Chankuk. The students were given several ideas for construction projects. Georgie’s team chose to construct a library. The culmination of their hard work came on April 3rd when each student, along with their team, presented the completed project at the University of New Haven.

When asked how the ACE program impacted her Georgie simply replied, “It was a great opportunity for me to learn more about architecture and meet some really cool people.” When asked if she would recommend the program for future engineering students she said, “Absolutely! It’s a great experience, and you get free pizza… and free food is always a good thing!”

The Project Lead the Way-STEM program at the high school aims to offer as many extra curricular opportunities to the students as possible. The ACE program aligns perfectly with the Civil Engineering and Architecture class that we currently offer. We believe that offering mentoring opportunities, such as ACE, to our West Haven engineering students gives them greater access to the tools and resources they will need to become successful industry professionals in the future.
By Susie Beyl

The Humane Club here at WHHS has recently taken to the capital with their beliefs. Not too long ago, the group went up to the capital building in Hartford to lobby for animal rights bills. The club went up for an event titled, "Humane Lobby Day," which features statewide animal lovers who want their voices heard in Congress. The amazing group contacted multiple representatives, aids, and congressmen and women, such as Gayle Slossberg. Congresswoman Slossberg even sent letters to those who visited her aid on account of her being unavailable at the time of the visit. Throughout the day, the group did real lobbying— not a watered down "sample" version for students. This was right alongside other politicians and representatives! Everyone was incredibly kind and considered and admired everything everyone had to say. The group, led by WHHS teacher Dr. Milano, received the highest praise while presenting their passions to the representatives. Only through the Human Club can a regular high school student gain the experience of proposing bill passages to representatives in such a well-received way. The Human Club continues to impact its members, community, and WHHS in positive ways every day.

Congratulations to all our graduating Seniors, Class of 2014. Pictured above, the top 20 students from the graduating class. They were recently honored at a luncheon. They chose two teachers to honor too, Ms. Marcella and Mr. Schevling. Photo taken by our Principal, Mrs. Gardner.
Westie Day of Hope Fundraiser for Camp Rising Sun

Led by Mr. Kevin Dickson, WHHS Science teacher and Rich Weber, VP of Carrigan Intermediate School, students and members of the West Haven Community gathered at the high school courtyard to fundraise for this camp in Connecticut. It supports kids who have had or are currently fighting cancer. Through fundraising and pledges, $13,500. was raised for this very important cause. Many people, including students and teachers, shaved their heads and collected pledges and sponsors to support this cause. This special event included games and activities from our food services program and school and community clubs and organizations. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to have their heads shaved, to the barbers and stylists who volunteered their time to help.

For years, Camp Rising Sun was a place where kids who have cancer could have fun with young people just like them. But now since they can’t afford to let these kids stay for free, WHHS was there to help out! On May 18, 2014, from 12 O’clock noon to 4 in the afternoon, the school held a Westie Day of Hope. The place was filled with a bunch of activities from different clubs to raise money for the camp so the kids with cancer could go for free. Teachers, students and staff were getting their heads shaved! More than 20 people’s heads were shaved. Some people were helping, like Junior Jamie Kelley it because they once lost somebody from cancer. She said with the money she raised, she was going to give half to Camp Rising Sun and the other half to Yale Smilow Cancer Hospital. The Westie Day of Hope Was once again a great success. By Edward Cruz
How did your year go? Let’s hear from new teachers at our school or those that changed to new positions.

**Mr. Rice** (Science Department Head)
First half year has been really great. Inherited a great hardworking professional staff and my predecessors has been very helpful (Mrs. Robles especially). Quote from Mr. Rice, “Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character.”

**Ms. Moore** First year teacher
Ms. Moore Freshman Academy Math Teacher says this year was very exciting, enriching, lots of challenges. Her quote, “To succeed, you must always try.”

**Mrs. Marseglio** First year School Counselor.
It has been an amazing year. Love the department and my students and watching my seniors go through the process. Get involved in the student community and stay connected with your counselor.

**Ms. Barnes** First year School Counselor.
Excellent year. Very busy and I enjoy working with kids. Quote, “Never give up and always work hard.”

**Mrs. Ferraro** Transfer from Bailey.
The only thing I would convey to students in every grade, is to establish a relationship with all their teachers. Let your teachers know that you care. If you have a question about your grade, don’t be afraid to ask your teacher.

**Mrs. McCauley** Transferred from Bailey has a fantastic year. "If you can make something better, do it. If you can’t, deal with it.” I also love this: “It’s hard to take someone seriously when they leave you a note saying, ‘Your ugly.’ My ugly what?” - Cara Lynn Shultz

**Mr. Favale** First year Science teacher.
His year went great! Quote, “Teach the students and enjoy doing it!”

**Mr. Barraco** (STEM teacher)
Very rewarding. Enlightening experience. Quote, “Begin every task with the end in mind.”

**Mrs. Hartsoe** (Chemistry and Marine Biology teacher)
Completely different from private school, where I came from. Quote, “The biggest key to success is your work ethic.”

**Mr. Gast** History teacher.
Transferred from Bailey. His year went well. Quote, "What the world needs is more geniuses with humility; there are so few of us left.” - Oscar Levant

**Mrs. O’Leary** Transferred from elementary. Wonderful. Kids are really nice and I feel very welcomed here. Quote, “It has been a pleasure having you as my students.”

**Mrs. Van Deun**
Great first year. Enjoyed working at high school the best. Get involved in as many things as you possibly can.

**Mr. Knight** Transfer from Bailey.
Health teacher. The year went well. Quote "I'm always ready to step up and take that shot." — Ray Allen

**Mr. Goslin**
First year Math teacher had a great year.

**Mrs. Robles**
Assistant Principal. She used to teach Science, Great and busy year!
Another year down, another school year just over the horizon. Tips on college applications, the college experience, senior year and much, much more!

By Jamie Kelley

As the 2013-2014 school year comes to a close, the 2014-2015 school year is fast approaching. As we say goodbye to another wonderful WHHS school senior class each year, it almost seems unbelievable that senior year is something so close, something that once seemed so far away as a freshman. But it is important to stay positive, stay focused, and continue to thrive under the direction of our phenomenal staff at WHHS. As I and many other juniors will be applying to college and graduating next year, I took it upon myself to get some advice from our faculty members, senior class, and WHHS alumni regarding that final year at WHHS and college in general.

Margi Malone Mahler, theatre extraordinaire and WHHS faculty member says that the most important things for seniors to keep in mind regarding their final year at WHHS is to: 1. Finish all your college applications as soon as possible so you can refrain from stressing yourself out. 2. If there is a club that you have had your eyes on throughout your years at WHHS, JOIN IT! You’ve got nothing to lose. She says, “Did you have fun playing a tree in 4th grade? Try out for the next play! Like singing in the shower? Join the chorus! Do you write or doodle? Check out the Rostrum or West Whims! Find something different that you’ve never tried before! 3. Take chances and enjoy the ride.” She sends out her love to all of her current and past students that will be graduating this year and wishes them the very best.

Stacie Catherine Hurley, a WHHS alumni who now attends Albertus Magnus College says, “Some advice for next year’s senior class would be to get everything regarding college done and over with as soon as possible; especially the FAFSA because for a lot of students where they attend college depends on the tuition and how much financial aid they receive. Some advice to the seniors that’ll be college freshman next year is to not lose focus of what is important!”

Mark Consorte, head of WHHS’s social studies department, constantly reminds his students, “Don’t be that guy!” Stacie says that it is, “Not worth 12 years of schooling to get to college and just give up. Not only is it a waste of money, but you lose so many opportunities in the long run. Also, seize every possible opportunity; you never know what you might learn, who you might meet, or what you may want to do as a career in the future. If I never had volunteered for a political campaign, I never would have realized that I wanted to go into politics and I never would have applied for the job I have now. To both the juniors who are almost seniors and the class of 2014 enjoy every minute of the time you have whether it be at college or your final year of high school, it goes by so fast and is something you’ll always hold near and dear to your heart. Good luck to all of you!”

Marla Gagne, a graduating senior who will be attending Providence College in the fall says, “So as far as college advice for juniors, I say look at colleges over the summer, make some summer campus trips, and try to apply early action, which is sending your application in early and hearing back from the colleges earlier than regular decision. Both will help you see what schools you don’t like and ones you want to revisit and early action gives you more time to make the big college decision. As for surviving senior year, my advice is to breath. Things can get crazy and hectic all the time, but you don’t want this to overwhelm you or bring you down. Take a deep breath and enjoy your senior year because it’s your last "first" time to experience everything.”

Catherine DePino, another member of our graduating class who will be attending Fairfield University says to our WHHS juniors this, “Senior year is definitely the best year out of high school. There is a bunch of highs and lows, pull-your-brain-out stress, and some of the most exciting moments of your life. Start your college process as early as possible and don't narrow in on only a few schools because very quickly your last choice can become your first. Always do your best and accept that your best is good enough. Focus in on your studies, but also enjoy the "last" of many opportunities. Senior year is all it is hyped up to be and more, but if you blink once, you will have already missed it so enjoy it while you can.”

Samantha Gilbert, an alumni that now attends Southern Connecticut State University encourages students to, “Just do whatever you can to feel comfortable in regards to both senior year and college. Make sure you do what you love and always stay true to yourself.”

I think I speak for everyone at West Haven High School when I say, good luck to all of our Westies that are graduating, we love each and every one of you dearly and know that you’ll do great in whatever it is you choose to do for you futures. To quote our school’s endearing alma mater “For you, true blue, for white, pure light, our hearts feel grateful still to thee, West Haven’s blue and white”. Congratulations Class of 2014!
Under the direction of Student Government Advisor and Art Teacher Mrs. Patricia Thompson, students put great effort to support the Maren Sanchez Scholarship Fund. A student at Jonathan Law High School in Milford, Maren was suddenly killed at the school last month. Below, students and staff show support to the JLHS community by wearing purple, Maren’s favorite color. Students pictured to the left are Miranda Almodovar, Alexis Goodhue, Jessica Lauer, Vickie Williams, Alyssa Samperi. Missing from photo are Bruna Murta and Morgan Nelson. They spent countless hours making purple ribbons and purple cranes. They were sold for one dollar each. All monies collected went to the Maren Sanchez Scholarship Fund.

Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, May looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow. ~Author Unknown

Remembering
Jonathan Law High School
Student Maren Sanchez.