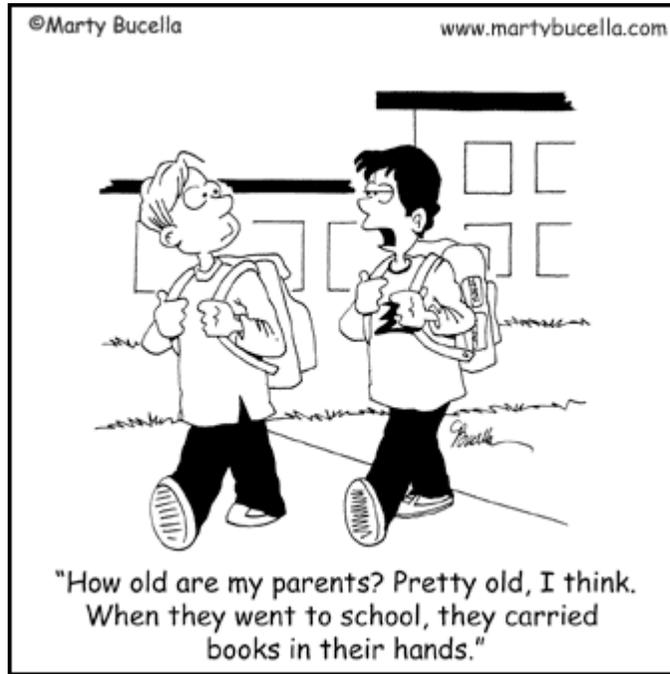


TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN



UPDATE FOR 5/10/15

JUMP TO SCHOOL UPDATES:

[Birch Grove](#)

[TIS](#)

[TMS](#)

[THS](#)

SUPERINTENDENT' NOTES FOR THE WEEK

- We have brought in an organization (CREC) to do an “assessment audit.” We are asking them to interview different groups, and to review our assessments for overlapping or excessive administrations. As part of this process, I would like them to talk to parents to get your perspective. They are coming May 13th, 6:00 PM to the Central Office 51 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT 06029. I would love to have you participate – it will take an hour or less. Please contact Jen Palumbo @ 860-870-6850 extension 1 if you can come! Give me a call if you have any questions.

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INFO TO KNOW:

[2015 Wheelchair Basketball Camp](#)

[Tolland Youth Football and Cheerleading](#)

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Seven Steps to Building Relationships with Teens

In this *Virginia Journal of Education* article, award-winning high-school music teacher David Webb says he's always believed that positive rapport with students is essential to classroom success. His suggestions:

- *Meet them where they are.* “Teenagers want desperately to be treated like adults,” says Webb. It may be true that their frontal lobes won't fully mature for another decade and that they're hard-wired to be impulsive and rebellious and need constant adult guidance. But an authoritarian approach doesn't work. The best thing is to forgive teens their developmental circumstances and talk to them as equals.
- *Get to know them.* Teens crave approval or at the very least being noticed. “Engage your students in conversation,” says Webb. “Open your room/office to them during non-class time.” Chat. Eat together. Get to know more about them.
- *Don't demonize the things they think of as normal.* “Our students do not know a world in which they find information in books, have to go to the library to do research, have to wait until later to answer a question from someone not in the room, or can't simply touch a screen to get almost anything they want instantly,” says Webb. “Society will never go backward – it is our job to assimilate to their world, not vice versa.” Ditto for tattoos and piercings.
- *Your reputation precedes you.* “It is very difficult to shake a perception that people have of you based on what other people report,” he says – on the bus, in the cafeteria, online, from parents. *She's really cool. He's mean and overreacts to everything.* “What's being said about you?”
- *Know what you're talking about.* “Kids can spot a phony a mile away with blindfolds on,” says Webb. “They may not know the material you're supposed to be teaching them just yet, but they can certainly tell when you don't know it!” Admitting ignorance when you're not sure of something is an excellent strategy.
- *Teach with passion.* “Show your kids why you love what you're teaching,” he advises. “[T]hey won't be engaged by people who aren't engaged themselves.” Webb remembers the dramatic improvement in his own high-school math achievement when he moved from one math classroom to another.

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

- *Like them.* That doesn't mean being lax on standards, but it does mean communicating genuine acceptance and affection, being positive about expectations ("Do this" versus "Thou shalt not"), and always explaining why.

"Getting Along with Teenagers" by David Webb in *Virginia Journal of Education*, November 2014 (Vol. 108, p. 8-12), <http://www.veanea.org/home/2461.htm>, spotted in *Education Digest*, May 2015 (Vol. 80, #9)

Tolland High School Weekly Bulletin 5-8-15

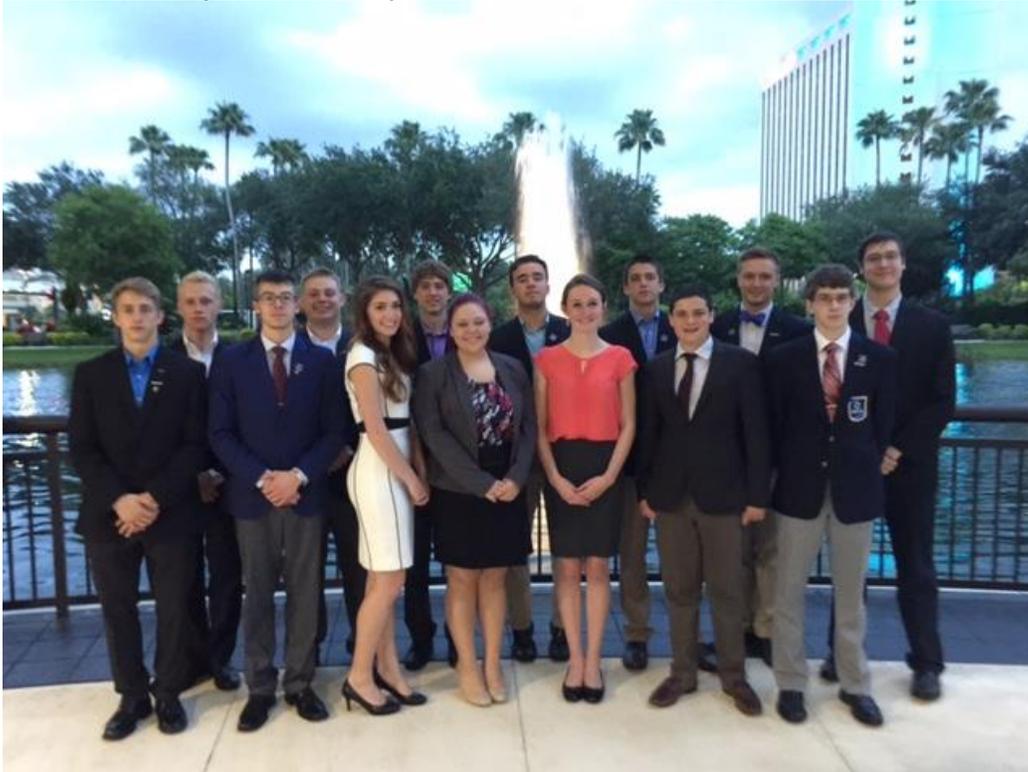
DECA at ICDC

Fourteen Tolland High School students involved in DECA recently competed in the International Career and Development Conference held on April 25-29, 2015 in Orlando, Florida. During the school year, approximately 120,000 of DECA's 211,000 student members take part in the organization's competitive events program, allowing them to compete for local and regional titles. The competitions are designed to simulate real-life business scenarios and test students' academic understanding and skills development. The top state and provincial winners put their talents to the test during the program's final competition in Orlando. The DECA International Career and Development Conference was the pinnacle of competition where nearly 18,000 students vied for international honors. Nearly \$500,000 in scholarships and awards were presented to students and teachers for their achievements. The #DECAICDC opening session featured Chief Executive Officer & Director of HSN Inc. Mindy Grossman who oversees a \$3.4 billion direct-to-consumer retail portfolio that includes HSN and the Cornerstone portfolio of home and family lifestyle brands.

Ten students, Brandon Antil, Liam Barry, Devan Carmody, Stavros Evripidou, Hunter Muhlhauser, Matt Schoen, Emily Warrington, juniors Matt Holyst and Jack Yates, and freshman Joshua Walls competed at the international level. In addition to career-based competition, DECA members engaged in leadership academies and networking opportunities with over 60 internationally recognized businesses. The following THS students were selected to attend: Corey Jenkins, Connor Parent, Peter Mayer, and Kayleigh McManaman. Of the ten that completed, six received recognition at the international level while four others attending emerging leadership seminars. One student, Hunter Muhlhauser was named as an International Finalist in the Quick Serve Restaurant Management Series. International Finalists earn the right to compete in the final round of the competition as they are considered one of the top 20 competitors in their event. Other students who received a Certificate of Excellence for finishing in the top 20% of their competitive category at the international level were as follows: Brandon Antil, Devan Carmody, Emily Warrington – Community Service Project
Liam Barry and Stavros Evripidou – Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making Event
Matt Holyst – Marketing Management Series
Matt Schoen – Business Services Marketing Series

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. DECA enhances the preparation for college and careers by providing co-curricular programs that integrate into classroom instruction, apply learning, connect to business, and promote competition.



Fourteen of our THS DECA members at ICDC in Orlando, Florida.

THS Yearbook Earns Award

The 2014 Tolland High School yearbook was recognized for "Highest Achievement" by the New England Scholastic Press Association (NESPA). Although so many pages of the 2014 THS Yearbook were exceptional in content and creativity, Class of 2014 graduate and Editor Hannah Bernardi's sports spread, "Girls' Basketball", was the award-winning piece. NESPA is based at the Boston University College of Communication and adjudicates yearbooks and other student media from all over the region. This year's contest received a total of 842 entries in a variety of categories and presented 122 awards in total. Congratulations goes out to Hannah, the entire 2014 THS yearbook staff, and advisors Mrs. Sue Fontaine and Mr. Ernie Fontaine. Their hard work throughout the entire 2013-2014 school year was certainly a contributing factor in receiving this prestigious award.

IMPORTANT DATES

May 13 – Half Day Session In-Service

May 15 – Prom 6:00 – 11:00

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

May 15 – Progress Reports

May 18 – LAST Booster Club Meeting of the year

May 25 – Memorial Day – No School

May 27 – Half Day Session In-Service

June 1 – Class Day for Seniors

June 2 – An Evening of Excellence – 6:30 p.m. Auditorium

June 5 – Class Night for Seniors

June 9 – Music Concert 7:00 p.m.

June 17 – End of Quarter 4

June 17 – Exams for block 3 and block 4 (SENIORS ONLY) regular day

June 18 – Exams for block 1 and block 2 (everybody) exam schedule

June 19 – Exams for block 3 and block 4 (9, 10 & 11th graders) exam schedule

June 19 – Graduation rehearsal in the morning

June 19 – Last day of school – half day

June 19 – Graduation 6:00 p.m. THS Gymnasium

THS BRACELETS

Back by popular demand. The THS Booster Club will be selling THS bracelets. These are silver plated bracelets that fit nicely with the popular Alex & Ani collectible bracelets.

Bracelets are available in the office at THS and can be purchased for \$25 each. Orders can be placed with Karen Lester in the main office. If your purchase is a secret, you can call or email Karen Lester at klester@tolland.k12.ct.us (860-870-6818) to arrange for purchase and pick up.

PROM

Reminder: Prom is an official school function and all school rules apply. Students are expected to be in school for the entire day on the day of the prom. This should leave adequate time after 1:45 for appointments. Any use or evidence of alcohol or illegal substances will result in serious consequences. We will be conducting a breathalyzer test for alcohol at the entry to the prom site this year. Any students or guests who test positive for the presence of alcohol on their breath will not be admitted to the prom. We are taking this added step of precaution to assure that all students will have a safe, healthy and happy prom. The prom will begin at 6:00 P.M. No one will be admitted after 6:45 P.M., unless prior arrangements have been approved by the school administrators.

Please be careful after the prom whether it be driving home, spending the next day at the beach, or meeting with friends. We hope you all have an enjoyable experience.

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

BOOSTER CLUB

The last Booster Club meeting of the school year is Monday, May 18th, at 7:00 in the THS Main Office Conference room. We are in desperate need of a new President and Treasurer for the next school year. If we do not fill these positions, the THS Booster Club will no longer operate in the 2015-16 school year. Please consider volunteering for this worthy cause. You will not only be helping your school and the teachers, but also your children. Any questions, please contact Karen Lester at klester@tolland.k12.ct.us.