

Canton High School Update

January 2010

Reducing School Disruptions

One thing that allows schools to maintain a focus on learning is to reduce or eliminate disruptions in class. Two common disruptions occur in the form of announcements over the intercom and phone calls into classrooms from the main office. A significant number of these disruptions are to pass along information to students related to such things as a forgotten book, lunch, or work dropped off late to school by a caring adult, as well as a relayed message from a parent or guardian about after-school activities.

In every instance we attempt to get the information to students in a timely and minimally-disruptive manner. Unfortunately, at times, the volume of requests can be overwhelming. With the desire to be helpful to both student and parent, it is tempting to use the public announcement system to call students to the office to retrieve their messages or package, but it is not fair to those teachers and students that are interrupted. In support of learning, we have decided to eliminate these school-wide announcements to only two tightly-scheduled portions of the day, specifically at 8:15 am and noon. In doing so, we believe that teachers and students will be able to remain focused on learning. Of course, we will continue to do our best to keep the attention of both teachers and students on learning, as well as get students the messages or things that they forgot, but there will be times that this is not possible.

If it is an emergency, of course, we will contact the student immediately, but for instances that are not as pressing, we ask that parents and guardians recognize the challenge of balancing the needs of the school to the needs of individual students.

Unique Learning Opportunity for Students

With bankruptcy rates soaring, obtaining credit difficult, college costs skyrocketing, and our national economy in turmoil, young people will be facing a very challenging economic future. Now more than ever students need to be prepared to handle their finances for now and in the future. With a personal finance course, students can acquire the knowledge and skills to help them make sound and knowledgeable financial decisions.

What makes this course unique is that it is taught online. Students will meet with their teacher only a limited number of times, with almost the entire curriculum being accessed via the internet.

Course Title: Personal Finance

Topics to include:

- Income—Learning to Earn
 - Career choices

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- Paycheck
- Managing Your Money
 - Financial goals
 - Budgeting
 - Banking tools
- Saving and Investing
 - Saving goals
 - Investment options
- Credit and Debt
 - Advantages and disadvantages
 - Types of credit
 - Credit history
- Financial Risk Management
 - Types of insurance

Some advantages in taking this online blended course (some classes will meet in person with all other classes taking place online):

- Able to complete coursework away from school
- Able to set own schedule and pace of coursework completion
- Develop and further reinforce time management skills
- Build confidence in independent learning to become a successful life-long learner
- Able to take advantage of web resources

This is the first such course at Canton High School, and offers a unique opportunity to learn about important fiscal matters as well as develop a familiarity with taking an online course. Many colleges are now offering online courses to their students in addition to traditional classroom learning. This CHS course will be taught by our business teacher, Mrs. Kemp, during second semester this year.

If your student is interested in taking this unique learning opportunity, please contact either their guidance counselor or Dr. Dias by January 28 for more information or to register.

SPELLING B is JAN. 22!

The 4th Annual Town Spelling Bee sponsored by the Canton Alliance for Public Education is scheduled to take place on Friday night, January 22, 2010 at the Canton High School Auditorium. At the Bee children in grades 3-12 compete against teams from other elementary schools and in other grades at the middle and high school level for bragging rights as town spelling champions for that year. Additionally, adult teams from various town and community organizations compete for their own title. There is also a team comprised of school principals, anchored by the team captain Tom "Lexicon" Laliberte.

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About Canton Alliance for Publication (CAPE): CAPE is a non-profit community-based foundation dedicated to enhancing Canton's commitment to excellence in public education. We seek to promote innovative and productive programs that challenge students and teachers to achieve their true potential. Our goal is to raise money in order to fund grants to teachers for such things as innovative programs in literacy, science, technology and student enrichment, as well as curriculum materials and professional development, all not funded in the operational budget. In the past year we have provided more than \$30,000 in grants to enhance education in our community. We're certain you're child's education has been enhanced by the many grants we've funded. Go to www.cantoneducation.org to learn more about the grants made possible because of the spelling bee and the dinner/dance. For more information on CAPE, please go here: <http://www.cantoneducation.org/> .

Upcoming CHS Dates:

January 18	Dr. Martin Luther King Day- Schools Closed
January 22	Spelling B in CHS Auditorium
January 29	Semester 1 Ends
February 1	Semester 2 (Term 3) Begins
February 3	Prof. Dev. Day- $\frac{1}{2}$ day of school for students
February 5	Mid-Year Report Cards Distributed
February 15-19	Vacation- Schools Closed