

# Ag Ed Parent Newsletter

## Spring 2014

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### FFA Meetings & Activities

April 25	Spring CDE Events <i>Results</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dairy Showing - Participant</li> <li>Food Science Team - 4<sup>th</sup> Place</li> <li>Milk Products Team - 4<sup>th</sup> place</li> <li>Natural Resources Team - 4<sup>th</sup> place</li> </ul>
May 1	Spring Plant Sale Begins
May 13	Officer Election
May 20-22	Ag Fair
	20 <sup>th</sup> – 9a.m. - 4p.m.
	21 <sup>st</sup> – 9a.m. - 4p.m.
	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 9a.m. - 12p.m.
May 28	FFA Award Night @ 6:00 Officer Installation
	Four tickets per family-no charge. Students should see Mrs. Roselli for tickets, available May 16. A list of award recipients will be posted.
June 24	Graduation – Class of 2014

## Finals Schedule

#### Seniors

<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Session 1</u> 7:30-9:30	<u>Session 2</u> 9:50-11:55
Fri 6/16	1B	2B
Mon 6/17	1A	2A
Tues 6/18	3B – Senior Ag Final	4B
Wed 6/19	3A	4A

#### Juniors, Sophomores & Freshmen

<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Session 1</u> 7:30-9:30	<u>Session 2</u> 9:50-11:55
Wed 6/18	3B	4B-Jr Ag Final
Thurs 6/19	3A	4A
Fri 6/20	1B	2B
Mon 6/23	1A – Freshman Ag Final	2A – Soph Final

# Food Science

**Freshmen** will be finishing the year learning about the animal aspects of Food Science. This will involve several field trips to local area livestock farms where they will be introduced to many species of food animals.

**Sophomores** have completed a "New Product Design" for a granola snack, including the nutritional math and package design. Their final project of the year will be the creation of a short documentary on GMO's

**Juniors** have completed their Digestive System Form & Function unit and are finishing the year with a unit on locally sourced food.

**Seniors** after completing a sampling of local bakery products, critiquing all of their products, the class is now preparing their original recipe to be judged by one of the owner of Mr. D's Cupcakes in Wallingford.

# Ag Mechanics

**Freshmen** began their cold Metal & Splicing project and will begin arc welding this week. They must complete 5 projects before moving onto MIG or Wire Fed welding. They have also cut metal using an oxy-acetylene torch. We will begin baseball field grooming at Steven's Elementary School following welding.

**Sophomores** recently completed disassembling and reassembling 3.5 HP BxS engines and will be moving to their Welding II unit next. The projects will be more complicated than those in Welding I.

**Juniors** finished hanging sheet rock on their 2" X 4" walls, after which they applied tape and joint compound. The next unit will be Boat Construction, where juniors will refine the woodworking skills they have acquired to date.

**Seniors** are working on various projects in the shop, in the current unit: Independent Project. These projects make use of a variety of skills established over a student's four years. Skills including welding, woodworking, engine repair, plumbing and electrical work.

# Equine Science

**Freshmen** finished Poultry unit and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their chicks. They are beginning Introduction to Cattle where they have learned about beef cattle and started identifying dairy cattle. Students have been to a beef/dairy farm where they handled beef and dairy cattle and got some hands-on experience of how a cattle farm operates.

**Sophomores** took a trip to UConn where they met with one of the animal Science professors and explored the options UConn offers in agriculture. They also got to tour the barns and facilities at UConn. They recently painted bones on Scooter, the horse.

**Juniors** have finished their Parasitology unit and after vacation began the Breeding & Genetics unit(s). They will end the year with equitation and a possible trail ride. They have just finished the skeletal system.

**Seniors** are working on an Equine First-Aid and have been preparing mini lessons and activities in the barn with the horses. Students have put splints on horses, taken temperatures and other rituals. They have pressure wrapped and treated wounds. They are anxiously awaiting their final units on Equitation and Driving. As part of the Equitation unit, students will have the opportunity to attend a reining/riding clinic either as auditors or riders.

# Small Animal Technology

**Freshmen** will be starting Introduction to Dog Grooming, where they will learn the basics of handling and safe bathing and drying practices on live dogs.

**Sophomores** are in the middle of anatomy and physiology and will complete their rat lab practical.

**Juniors** have completed animal nutrition and have started their advanced grooming unit. They have covered tools, safety restraints, and perform recently completed grooming haircuts on live dogs.

**Seniors** are completing a practical lab on male and female reproductive tracks where they explore several species' tracks and identify structures associated with folliculogenesis and spermatogenesis.

# Aquaculture

Aquaculture is proud to announce that we have about 130 new young tilapia fry. In addition, **Seniors** are moving forward with their Tilapia Reproduction and Management of Brown Trout production projects while managing the tilapia fry. **Sophomores** are wrapping up fish anatomy. The unit consisted of class discussion regarding external and internal anatomy and a fish dissection. Students that opted out of the dissection completed elaborate models (some edible) that depicted the internal organs of a bony fish. To wrap up the unit, students were paired off and assigned a different "system" (digestive, circulatory, reproductive, etc) to research and create an informational pamphlet. After the completion of the pamphlet, students taught the class their assigned "system".

# Plant Science

The plant science classes are busy preparing for the spring plant sale – **freshman** have planted spinach and seeded peas, carrots and beets in our community garden --- with the cool weather we are getting a late start this year. The students completed a soil testing project and using the results will make the proper amendments to the garden beds.

The **sophomore** class is the group primarily in charge of the Spring Plant Sale event. They are responsible for seed sowing and transplanting and designing the larger containers we sell. Each student has a greenhouse bench to organize – they are very creative with choosing the name and design elements for their "garden center" display.

The **juniors** are working on a variety of landscape design and maintenance projects --- the students finished a landscape design symbols board. The next project will include planning a landscape design for their "dream" house using landscape design principles. This class also assists with maintaining the gardens around the school.

The **seniors** are in the final phase of their wedding flower design project ---this is a culminating activity using the principles of flower design, color coordination and knowledge of flower identification to create wedding flowers for a wedding party of their choosing. After creating the flower pieces – each student prices the specific pieces they designed and completes a poster board displaying their final arrangements.

We will soon begin preparations for the Vo-Ag fair – this year the senior class chose Rio as our theme!!!

# Wildlife Biology

**Freshmen:** Our next unit is ornithology. During this unit, students will learn to identify birds based on their appearance, behavior and habitat. We will spend time in the different habitats Connecticut has to offer. Students will also prepare nutritional supplements for next winter's resident birds.

**Sophomores** are currently presenting their speeches about environmental topics. We will continue on with a quick unit about Safety in the Workplace curriculum based on the federal Work Safe-Work Smart curriculum and then finish up the year with entomology. During the entomology unit students will learn about the different orders of insects, impact insects have on our plant and animal populations, benefits insects provide and the products we can harvest from them.

**Juniors** are learning about herpetology. Soon, they will begin their research for their public presentations about the issues affecting reptiles and amphibians. Our next unit will be wildlife management where students will learn about how habitat plays a crucial role for wildlife. We will conduct a wildlife management project at the end of the unit.

**Seniors:** We are approaching the end of our UConn Early College Experience Environmental Science unit where students have had the opportunity to earn three college credits. Our next unit will be field techniques and application where students will learn practical skills such as using a GPS and other equipment used in the environmental field.

