



DANBURY GRASSROOTS ACADEMY

EDUCATION - CHARACTER - TENNIS - HEALTH

JANUARY 2018



OFFICE SPACE EXPANSION

We will be "breaking through" to the space next door any day now and we are very excited about having more room and additional space!

EXISTING SPACE

ADDITIONAL SPACE



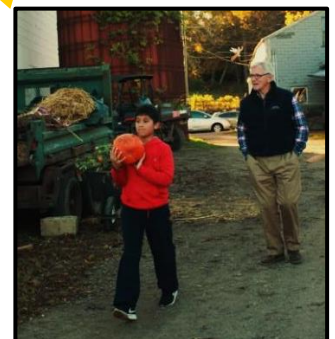
STAFF and STUDENT EXPANSION

JOE HIGGINS

Supervisor of Student Development

We would like to welcome Joe to the DGA team! He brings an education background and a lifetime of working with kids of all ages. Joe has been working with our students for over 2 months, and will support the success of DGA's overall mission by acting as a liaison between Lauren, Lynn and the students. In addition, Joe has been invaluable in assisting with many time consuming activities and individual needs of our more challenged students. He has also helped us expand services for students and families and will help us be able to take more students in! Joe has been focusing intensely on helping our elementary and middle school students master their multiplication facts and he has already taken our students on 3 field trips: The Flying Club in Southbury, The Danbury Ice Arena for some ice skating lessons, and the Hickories Farm.

Joe is a natural with kids and adults and a role model and positive presence for both males and females. He is high energy, has great ideas, and a no nonsense attitude, no excuses mentality, who expects effort and results, not perfection. We are all very happy and lucky to have Joe be a part of DGA!



Class of 2016 and 2017 Update

DGA's Class of 2017 has just completed their first semester as college freshman! Stephanie thoroughly enjoyed Fairfield University as did Felipe, Nathaniel and Maria at NVCC. We are in contact with them frequently and we are happy and proud with their transition and acclimation into college.

Our sophomores also continue to thrive! Pablo has become more and more involved at Fairfield. Lorena spent a semester abroad in Madrid through Boston College's study abroad program. Abby keeps her schedule full by volunteering, working, and studying at Earlham. Edwin has a full time job and is taking a semester off to save money to return to college. Finally, Myckland is soaking up all of the opportunities WCSU offers!



**ASML
robotics**



Fly RC (radio controlled) model airplane club



The Hickories Farm in Ridgefield

SCHOOL YEAR WORKSHOPS

WEEKLY SAT MATH WORKSHOPS: Dan and Christine Alvey, University Math professors, have been incredibly kind and supportive in carving out prep time and one hour a week for an SAT prep math workshop for *all* DGA high school students. Our students have benefited tremendously from their time and lessons.

Ridgefield Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!)

Samuel was selected to join YEA! and was very generously sponsored by Jane Scarbrough and JoAnn Kish of Ridgefield. YEA! is a "fun and exciting class that guides students through the process of starting their own REAL business, and teaches them how to make a job - not just take a job! Students learn as much about self-esteem, personal potential and leadership skills as they do about budgeting, planning and production, and have an opportunity to work directly with, and learn from local business leaders."

MS. PRESIDENT U.S.: Our 5 MS. President girls are enjoying the monthly workshops in Ridgefield. They have been focusing on civic engagement leadership skills, public speaking, diplomacy, state & federal government, and women's history. They will be given the opportunity to run for President in a local mock election and are taking a trip to the State Capital in February!

ASML: For a third time, our students were very fortunate to work with a group of very bright, fun and kind employees from ASML in Wilton. They broke up into 5 groups, designed and built their own robots, and programmed them to follow a path! Our kids love having them and are able to work on intellectual curiosity, inquisitiveness, logical reasoning, creativity, problem solving, teamwork, open mindedness, and communication skills.

FLIGHT SIMULATION: For 2 days in a row John Cutter worked with all of our students with his flight simulator. Our kids experienced the feeling of "flying a plane" without the danger of crashing! It was an awesome experience!

HVCASA: Our middle and high schoolers took part in workshops and interactive presentations on drug and substance abuse prevention, vaping, tobacco, and marijuana.

THE WOMEN'S CENTER OF GREATER DANBURY: Our middle and high school students participated in workshops discussing healthy relationships and body image and conflict resolution.

FIELD TRIPS

COLLEGE FAIR AT THE DANBURY MALL: Lynn took all of our high school students and prepared them with questions, school choices, and appropriate etiquette.

HICKORIES FARM: Our elementary and middle school students were lucky to visit the farm *twice* last fall! They "worked on the farm" and then went on a fall hayride, and ended with pumpkin picking.

FLY CLUB: November 12, eight students joined the Fly RC (radio controlled) model airplane club at Mitchell Farm in Southbury. They received a talk on basic aerodynamics and flight theory in practice, and piloting of radio controlled model airplanes including top performing planes!

ICE SKATING: Over Christmas break, Joe took 15 kids to Danbury's ice arena for 2 hours of open skating. Most of them have never been on the ice before so they had a great time!

**** SAVE THE DATES ****

Tuesday, February 6: The 4th Annual “Grassroots Gives Back.” DGA students and staff will be making lunches and cooking dinner for over 100 homeless people at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House!

Saturday, August 11: The 3rd Annual ‘Ace of a Race’ 5K/1 Mile at Tarrywile Park. Open to all.

Tuesday, September 18: The 12th Annual ‘Golfing for Grassroots’ fundraiser event at Richter Park Golf Course. 1:00 shot gun start.

THANKSGIVING TURKEYS

Thanks to some very generous donors, we were able to provide a turkey for *each* of our families again this year for Thanksgiving Day. We cannot thank the following donors enough for their generosity: The Keisling’s, The Burke’s, The Scherer’s, The Menezes’s, and Cindi Mullins.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

A very special thank you to Noelle Carr, Georgia Carrington and the preschool children and families at St. Stephens Church for once again coordinating Christmas gifts for all of our families. The gifts were beyond generous and made all of our kids happy! Thank you all very much for your incredible kindness!

SANTA’S HELPER

Kevin Haddad, a 4th grade teacher at the King Street Intermediate School, was unbelievably generous and kind to provide Christmas stockings for *all* DGA students! They were filled with school supplies, fun games, and a plethora of unique items that our kids loved! A lot of time, effort, and love were put into those stockings. Kevin has taught several of our students in the past which made everything even more endearing! Thank you Kevin!



GRANTS RECEIVED

The Union Savings Bank Foundation
The Savings Bank of Danbury Foundation
United Way of Western CT
USTA Foundation
Olde Crabs Hockey Club
The Amalia & Nicola Giuliani Foundation for Religion and the Arts

Thank you for your support & generosity!



WINTER TENNIS

For another indoor season, Greg Moran and his staff have been working with our kids on Saturdays at Four Seasons Racquet Club in Wilton. Four Seasons generously provides a considerable discount for which we are most grateful. Our high school students will be well prepared for high school tennis that start at the end of March.

APPRECIATION BOX

- **Our volunteers-** A huge thank you to our 40+ loyal, kind, and patient volunteers who help our students grow in so many ways. This program cannot operate without you!
- **Donors and funders-** Our organization can’t function or grow and thrive without the generosity of our invaluable donors!
- **CAP Mentors-** Thank you for spending so much time getting to know your mentees and helping them set goals and explore their interests.
- **Escape to the Arts-** 6 of our girls attend modern dance class at Escape every Monday for an hour. They are learning some new moves and getting exercise at the same time! Thank you so much for having our girls every week!



**** CAP MENTORS NEEDED ****

We are looking for more mentors for our CAP Program (College Acceptance Program). Mentors are paired one on one with a DGA student and help prepare, advise, and help maximize the success of the student for college or career. Mentors would play a similar role to a parent in the college prep role and work as an additional support with DGA and school counselors.

Please contact Lauren or Lynn if you are interested or if you know someone who might be interested.

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Thanks again to everyone involved with DGA. You are always welcome to stop by and see our kids in action in the office or on the courts. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Carl Bailey
Carl Bailey, President

Lauren Bailey
Lauren Bailey, Director

DGA is a federally recognized 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization

**www.danburygrassrootsacademy.org
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