

CASC Advisors Planner

Official Newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Student Councils



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If you have an idea for an article or would like to see an article on a particular topic, please [email us](#).





Director's Corner

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us at our last event of the school year: "Adventures in Leadership." From morning yoga to afternoon Pound, and all of the team building activities inbetween it was a great way to end the school year.

And just like that, the school year is quickly coming to a close. A school year we are all simultaneously very proud of and desperate to forget about. I want to take a moment and thank you for all that you did this year to support your student leaders and your schools.

I also want to thank you for your continued support of CASC. This year CASC saw its greatest growth in membership and attendance. What to look forward to next year from CASC?

Statewide Service Project:: CASC will be introducing a Statewide Service Project and goals for the 2021-2022 school year.

CT RISES:: CASC is proud to launch this new initiative for the 2021-2022 school year. The acronym stands for Citizenship, Recognition, Inspiration, Service, Engagement, and Spirit. Each council/government is encouraged to use CT RISES as they plan their projects towards building a successful year.

Fall District Conferences:: CASC will hold its first District meetings to be held in October and November to strengthen cooperation amongst local councils/governments.

Other Leadership Opportunities:: CASC will offer training sessions for Student Officers in August and Advisors in September. (See "Upcoming Leadership Opportunities" for more details)

Return of Regular Programming:: A relaunched Presidents Luncheon, Annual Spring Convention, and Adventures in Leadership are all scheduled to return. We will know as we get closer if these will be in person (fingers crossed) or virtual.

As you end the school year exhausted from the projects your council has run, overwhelmed with exams to grade, end of year evaluation meetings to prepare for, and graduations to participate in; it is important to stop and remember to take care of yourself. If COVID has taught us anything, it is the importance of taking time for ourselves. Please embrace what you have found to be the most helpful way to rest and get ready for the next school year.

Be safe, and as always thank you for your continued support of Student Leadership in Connecticut and remember to stay above the line.

Christopher Tomlin
CASC Executive Director

From the Student Executive Board

I'm so glad to welcome the new complete CASC board to you. We had our last event in May, Adventures in Leadership, where CASC and student government members around the state engaged in various challenges and activities to build camaraderie and teamwork skills. It was a blast and I'm looking forward to doing it in person next year at the ropes course.

Emily Laput '22
Woodland Regional High School
President, Connecticut Association of Student Councils

Districts in Action

Highlights on what amazing things our Student Councils/Governments are doing around the state!

Eastern District - Bacon Academy

Matthew Kranc, Vice President; Laney Barrett, District Coordinator; Thomas Frickman, Advisor

DISTRICT UPDATE::

Working with the other districts we have prepared a Google Form that we will be sending out to Connecticut schools to collect information on how local councils/governments are organized so that we can better serve them. We have also been developing ideas for our district conference this fall. Some of the topics that we are looking into are "the art of compromise" and "changing your mindset to better handle any situation".

Central District - Northwest Catholic High School

Anna Callendrillo, Vice President; Lauren Armstrong, District Coordinator; Lorraine DeCrescenzo, Advisor

JUNE PROJECT SPOTLIGHT::

Northwest Catholic Dodges the Pandemic Blues

The Spring Student Council season at Northwest Catholic High School, in West Hartford, is usually dominated by Field Day preparations and Student Council elections. This year, however, as with all of our schools, the pandemic upended much of the plans for school-wide in-person events. Faced with protocols that require events to be outside, include a maximum of two grade cohorts at a time, and take place during a 40-minute Advisory block, the student council members had to really think outside of the box. How to have an event that wouldn't disappoint students (who typically enjoyed a 2-3 hour Field Day with Inflatables, food, and outdoor games) and boost school spirit? Council members decided to keep a traditional and much anticipated activity that had typically taken place in the gym during Field Day--the annual Dodgeball Tournament-- but to transfer it outside and make it the signature aspect of the truncated outdoor event. The council members created a google form so that students could create teams and join the playoff roster; they also promoted

the event through posters, Instagram, and personal pitches to every Advisory classroom. Over the course of two concurrent Advisory periods, students from all grades played in the tournament, watched, or played pickup games of basketball, volleyball, football, and soccer. Student council set up the event, provided music, snacks, and free ice pops. The result, was a needed boost in school spirit and joy during a week of perfect Connecticut spring weather.

“This was the first major school spirit event Northwest Catholic was able to have this year and we’re so glad it was a success!” says Anna Calendrillo, NWC Student Council Vice President and VP of the Central District. She credits the entire NWC Student Council for their help in planning, promoting, and executing a successful event.

Due to the current pandemic restrictions, Student Council elections at Northwest Catholic have been postponed to the start of the new school year so that, if all goes well, students may possibly be able to make their speeches in the auditorium in front of the student body.

Western District - Thomaston High School

Mel Shkrepi, Vice President; Hannah Lawlor, District Coordinator; Terri Franzi, Advisor

Abbott Tech, Avon, Bethel, Bridgeport Central, Brien McMahon, Brookfield, Bullard Havens Tech, Canton, Cheshire, Danbury, Darien, Fairfield Ludlowe, Fairfield Prep, Fairfield Warde, Farmington, Goodwin Tech, Greenwich, Housatonic Regional, Immaculate, Joel Barlow, Kolbe Cathedral, Lewis Mills, Litchfield, Maloney, Masuk, New Britain, New Canaan, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Nonnewaug, Norwalk, Notre Dame-Fairfield, Oxford, Plainville, Platt, Pomperaug, Ridgefield, Science & Innovation, Shelton, Shepaug Valley, Simsbury, St. Joseph’s, Stamford, Staples, Sunnyside, Terryville, Thomaston, Torrington, Trinity Catholic, Trumbull, Wamogo, Watertown, Westhill, Weston, Wilcox Tech, Wilton, Wolcott, Wolcott Tech.

CT RISES:: Ideas for this month

Remember to be focusing on your CT(citizenship), R(recognition), I(inspiration), S(service), E(engagement), S(spirit). Looking for a new project to run this month in your student council/government? Think about incorporating some of these suggestions into your calendar.

Inauguration/Awards Night

Type:: Inspiration

Hold an end of year ceremony that both recognizes your graduating seniors and what they have contributed while also recognizing the rising leadership. These ceremonies can include::

- *Farewell speeches and gifts to the seniors.*
- *Seating in new officers.*
- *Senior advice to the incoming leadership team.*
- *Passing the gavel ceremony to the new president.*

- *Certificates for seniors.*
- *Superlatives.*
- *Bestowing awards/recognitions.*
- *Food, everyone loves food.*

Summer Meetings

Type:: Inspiration

Hold a meeting in August with your Executives or Leadership team to write goals for the coming year. Be sure that the goals and values are shared by the entire group. Goals should be SMART, and consider using CT RISES when it comes to planning your projects to support the goals.

Some Councils/Governments choose to select a quote that they will use for the year as motivation. If you choose a quote be sure to display it in your meeting room, social media, and SWAG.

You may also want to use this opportunity to plan any first day of school activities to welcome back the students, faculty and staff.

***We are always looking for new and exciting projects or events to highlight, if your council has a project that you would like to see highlighted in a newsletter please submit it [here](#).*

Tips and Tools

by **Christopher Tomlin**

CT RISES:: PLANNING FOR THE YEAR

CASC is proud to launch a new initiative for the 2021-2022 school year:: CT RISES. The acronym stands for Citizenship, Recognition, Inspiration, Service, Engagement, and Spirit. Each council/government is encouraged to use CT RISES as they plan their projects towards building a successful year.

Step 1:: Make your Goals SMART

The Initiative begins with your council/government setting goals for the school year. These goals should be SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely.

Specific - Clearly state the task you are working toward

Measureable - Track your progress to see results as you work

Achievable - Set a goal that is within a reachable level

Relevant - Make the goal your own. Meet your own needs and desires for success

Timely - Use a tangible time frame to keep you on task

Think of goals as:

- What do we want to accomplish this year
- How do we want to leave our mark on the school

- Who will we influence and make a difference for this year

After brainstorming your goals for the year:

- Be sure to write the goals down – the most successful people/groups in the world are those who have written goals
- Share the goals with everyone – administrators, staff, student body
- – This will hold your group accountable
- Keep track of how you are doing with your goals
- Check off your list and CELEBRATE your accomplishments
- Evaluate

Step 2:: CTRISES – Creating Projects to support your Goals

Once your goals are written you will need projects to help you achieve them. Many times student councils get ahead of themselves and create project ideas first – don't do that! Write your goals – so you know what you want to accomplish for the school year. For example:

- Our student council will increase school spirit and pride by having more students attend homecoming dance and participate in dress up days.
- Our student council will raise 100 more dollars for the Special Olympics this year than we did last year.

Both of these goals meet the SMART guidelines on the page before. However, they do not tell HOW these goals will be accomplished. This is the job of PROJECTS (events)!

This is where the CTRISES categories come into play:

Citizenship:: Projects that promote student voice in the school and community.
Examples of Projects:: *Election with elements found in US Elections, Get out the vote campaign, School forums*

Recognition:: Projects that recognize students and staff.
Examples of Projects:: *Teacher Appreciation baskets, Teacher of the month, Support Staff of the Year*

Inspiration::Projects that teach and promote student leadership.
Examples of Projects:: *Council/Government Retreats, Leadership days, Community leader guest speaker*

Service:: Projects that serve the needs of the school and or community.
Examples of Projects:: *Cards for Hospitalized Children/ nursing homes, Blankets for Babies, Blood Drive*

Engagement:: Projects that teach students and make the school a better place.
Examples of Projects:: *Anti-Bullying Program, Mock car crash, Ban the "R" word*

Spirit:: Projects that improve school climate.

Examples of Projects:: *Movie night, Freshmen Welcome, Pep Rally*

Try to consider doing one great, well-done and specific project per month. Planning a project takes many hours of meetings and commitment on the part of your executive board, advisor and council. And remember *we are always looking for new and exciting projects or events to highlight in the newsletter, if your council has a project that you would like to see highlighted in a newsletter please submit it [here](#).*

Upcoming Leadership Opportunities for you and your Students

June 22-25:: 2021 National Student Council Conference

The National Student Council Conference is a unique opportunity for student council members and advisers to meet with their peers and enhance their leadership skills. The 2021 conference will be VIRTUAL, hosted by students from Woodbridge High School in Woodbridge, VA. [REGISTER HERE](#)

August TBD:: CASC Academy

Officer Training. This will be a 2 day Virtual clinic geared towards training both student council officers and members. [Click here to reserve your spot and sign up for updates.](#)

August 28:: NAWD National Activity Advisors' Clinic to kick-off the 2021-2022 school year

This event will be held on Saturday, August 28th. The clinic is geared towards not only student council advisors, but to class advisors, NHS advisors and service and social club advisors. Check www.nawd.com for more details as we get closer to this event.

September TBD:: CASC President's Luncheon

We will be hosting a newly revamped President's Luncheon this month that will serve as a launchpad for the upcoming CASC activities and opportunities. This is a great way for your council leadership to meet and connect with councils throughout the state.

September TBD:: CASC/NAWD Advisors Workshop

This will be a 2 hour evening clinic geared towards providing an opportunity for advisors to connect and trade best practises. More details to follow.

October/November TBD:: CASC District Conferences

We are proud to introduce our first annual District Conferences. Each of Connecticut's 3 districts will hold its own conference that will allow for local students and advisors to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow.

December 3-5:: NAWD Annual National Conference on Student Activities, Boston, MA.

A live conference at the Westin Waterfront Hotel in Boston on December 3-5, 2021. Check www.nawd.com for more details as we get closer to this event.

March TBD:: Annual CASC Spring Convention

This year being hosted by Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls. More details to follow.

May TBD:: CASC "Adventures in Leadership," Held at Winding Trails in Farmington, CT

We return to a live Ropes course designed to allow your newly elected leaders an opportunity to come together and begin to work as a team, while meeting leaders from across the state. More details to follow.

Citizenship - Recognition - Inspiration - Service - Engagement - Spirit

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