

CASC Advisors Planner

Official Newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Student Councils



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CAS-CIAC
30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410



First live Board meeting since 2019!

Director's Corner

Happy Holidays CASC Advisors-

You did it! You made it through the first 4 months of school. And they were an exciting 4 months. Traditions have begun to come back to our schools, football games, school dances and spirit weeks. Not to mention 100% students in the building.

With all of this has come new and exciting challenges that we face as educators and SCG advisors. How do we re engage the entire building? How do we get students to join our organizations? What will our new school traditions look like? How will we integrate the last year of innovations into our schools and programs?

It is fitting that with the new year weeks away , that this is where we are. New year means new opportunities, a new start, and 6 months until summer break! There is something refreshing about the beginning of the year. It is almost as if it is the beginning of a journey. We inevitably succumb to the requisite making of new year resolutions. Promises to ourselves to be better in this new year, to let old things go and tackle challenges with a renewed sense of vigour.

Be safe, stay healthy, stay in touch, and enjoy the holiday season. And as always thank you for your continued support of Student Leadership in Connecticut.

-Christopher

Christopher Tomlin
CASC Executive Director

Upcoming State Important Dates::

January 2022:: CASC Caring for Connecticut month long project - Appreciation card project for frontline healthcare workers.

January 2:: CASC Design deadline.

From the Student Executive Board

Caring for Connecticut - State Service Project

Abby Messina, CASC Service Project Director

Caring for Connecticut is CASC's year long service project. It will include a year-long blanket initiative and two month-long projects: friendship bracelets in April and appreciation cards in January. Every month, 3,000 babies are born in Connecticut hospitals. The blanket initiative aims for CASC-associated schools to create 3,000 blankets for local hospitals. Every district will have a designated hospital for blanket delivery. Blankets should be about 30" x 30", and scrap fabric can be purchased for 50% off at many craft stores, such as Joann Fabric. Respond to the [pledge form](#) to help with the blanket initiative. [Here is an informative video to help make the blankets](#). The friendship bracelet initiative will take place in April, and students across the state will make friendship bracelets for children in Connecticut hospitals. For the appreciation card initiative, students will create appreciation cards for frontline workers in hospitals across the state.

State Awards Program

CASC Council of Excellence Award.

Has been designated to recognize and reward the achievements of outstanding Student Councils or Student Governments in our state association. This award has been created as a way of providing encouragement and support to SCGs, as well as to provide standards of effective student leadership. To be eligible, your school must provide information related to your SCG operations, fundraising, communications, service learning, etc.

Top 10 Projects Award

The top 10 project awards recognize Student Councils/Governments across Connecticut that have established a group project to better themselves, their community, or other communities. If your SCG is selected as a Top 10 Project, your SCG will be invited to present at our Spring Convention and receive recognition for your project. Submissions for this award will include a simple application, description of your project, and a 300 word essay about why your project should be considered for the award.

Dale Hawley Award

Individual student leadership contributions at the state level will be recognized this year through the Dale Hawley award. Dale D Hawley's life was dedicated to youth, service and the development of student leaders, as a principal and director of the National Association of Student Councils. This award is given based on nominations. If you have a student leader who exemplifies these values be sure to nominate them for this award.

The Ron Nedovich Advisor of the Year Award

This award is given in memory of the former Executive Director of Connecticut Association of Student Councils. Mr. Nedovich recognized the importance of leadership education, and development for all students. This award is to be given to one outstanding advisor, and will recognize the many contributions that advisors have made all over the state.

The District Project Award

This award was created to further foster collaboration among the districts. This award centers around district collaboration on projects related to service. It will function on two levels: first level will be a competition against schools within districts to choose a service project idea. The winning school will be the representative of the district on the next level where districts will compete to win the district project award title. Districts MUST work together to

complete this project and should show proof. The winning district project and overall winning district will receive recognition.

CASC Seal Redesign Contest

To help celebrate 70 years of CASC, we are looking for your help in designing a new Seal that will be used by CASC in a variety of mediums. The design must have a reference to Connecticut. It must also incorporate the phrase "CASC" or "Connecticut Association of Student Council." We want to stress that the design cannot violate copyright laws or include any watermarked logos, quotes or images. It also does not matter if the design is computer generated or hand drawn. This design must fit on t-shirts, pins, flyers, and social media platforms. If you are interested in submitting, you must submit it digitally with your name, school, advisor, and a brief description of the design. The winner of the contest will be voted on at the 2022 Spring Convention. We hope that you consider sending in your designs!

[Logo Contest Flyer](#)

[Submission Form](#)

[Rules and Guidelines](#)

Districts in Action

Please check the district lists below as some schools were moved in the recent realignment of the state.

Northern District - Northwest Catholic High School

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

District in Action: East Hartford High School



The 1/2 Day before Thanksgiving is our Day of Service.

Students in our whole school do all sorts of activities such as working at the Senior Center garden, reading to children, raking leaves, painting rocks, letters to service men and women, etc. Student Council took on 4 Connection groups and the VP and Treasurer lead the groups on how to make the blankets for those 4 hours. We created 24 blankets during that time.

District Members:

Achievement First, Aerospace & Engineering, Avon, Berlin, Bloomfield, Bristol Central, Bristol Eastern, Bulkeley, Cheney Tech, Classical Magnet, Conard, Connecticut IB Academy, Cromwell, East Catholic, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Farmington, Glastonbury, Goodwin Tech, Granby Memorial, Hall, Hartford Magnet, Trinity College Academy, Hartford Public, Manchester, Mercy, Metropolitan Learning Center, Middletown, New Britain, Newington, Northwest Catholic, Plainville, Portland, Prince Tech, Rocky Hill, Science & Innovation, Simsbury, SMSA, South Windsor, Southington, St. Paul Catholic, University, Vinal Tech, Wethersfield, Windsor, Windsor Locks, Xavier

Eastern District - Bacon Academy

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

District Members:

Academy of the Holy Family, Bacon Academy, Bolton, Coventry, Daniel Hand, East Hampton, East Lyme, Ellington, Ellis Tech, Enfield, EO Smith, Griswold, Grosso Tech, Haddam-Killingworth, Killingly, Ledyard, Lyman Memorial, Montville, Morgan, Nathan Hale Ray, New London, NFA, Norwich Tech, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Parish Hill, Plainfield, Public Safety Academy, Putnam, RHAM, Robert E. Fitch, Rockville, Somers, St. Bernard, Stafford, Stonington, Suffield, Tolland, Tourtellotte Memorial, Valley Regional, Waterford, Westbrook, Wheeler, Windham, Windham Tech, Woodstock Academy

Southern District - Notre Dame High School, West Haven

Jacob Bauer, Vice President; Cayden Drost, District Coordinator; Casey LaMonaca, Advisor

District in Action: Woodland Regional High School



District Members:

Amity, Ansonia, Branford, Bunnell, Cheshire, Coginchaug, Cooperative Arts And Humanities, Crosby, Derby, East Haven, Eli Whitney Tech, Emmet O'Brien

Tech, Engineering and Science University Magnet, Foran, Guilford, Hamden, High School In The Community, Hill Regional Career Magnet, Hillhouse, Holy Cross, John F. Kennedy, Jonathan Law, Kaynor Tech, Lauralton Hall, Lyman Hall, Maloney, Mark T. Sheehan, Metropolitan Business Academy, Naugatuck, New Haven Academy Magnet, North Branford, North Haven, Notre Dame-West Haven, Orville H. Platt, Platt Tech, Riverside Academy, Sacred Heart Academy, Seymour, Shelton, Sound School, Stratford, Waterbury Career, West Haven, Wilbur Cross, Wilby, Wilcox Tech, Wolcott, Woodland Regional

Western District - Thomaston High School

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

District Members:

Bethel, Bridgeport Central, Brien McMahon, Brookfield, Bullard Havens Tech, Canton, Danbury, Darien, Fairfield College Preparatory School, Fairfield Ludlowe, Fairfield Warde, Gilbert, Greenwich, Henry Abbott Tech, Housatonic Regional, Immaculate, Joel Barlow, Kolbe Cathedral, Lewis Mills, Litchfield, Masuk, New Canaan, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Nonnewaug, Northwestern Regional, Norwalk, Notre Dame-Fairfield, Oxford, Pomperaug, Ridgefield, Shepaug Valley, St. Joseph's, Stamford, Staples, Terryville, Thomaston, Torrington, Trinity Catholic, Trumbull, Wamogo, Watertown, Westhill, Weston, Wilton, Wolcott Tech

CT RISES:: Ideas for December

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.

CITIZENSHIP

Local Government Visit

Towns that recently elected new mayors or town councils have their inaugurations this month. It is a great opportunity to see your local government in action.

RECOGNITION

Faculty Breakfast

Surprise the Faculty, Staff and Administration with a breakfast.

INSPIRATION

Last Meeting of the Year

This is a great opportunity to evaluate your progress as a council. Have you achieved the goals you set out for yourselves in September? Were your goals too ambitious? Not ambitious enough? Is everything working the way it should? Do members need to be moved to new positions? Have you run all of the projects that you set out to run? What do you have planned in the second half of the year?

Be sure to celebrate yourselves as well! At our annual party we play a number of governmental themed holiday games from holding debates over what is the most overrated holiday movie, to who can read the holiday songs in as epic a way as possible, to converting swag into epic holiday attire. All while wearing our ugliest of ugly sweaters!

SERVICE

Week of Giving

Submitted by:: Wells Road Intermediate School
Collect items to take care of those in our immediate and extended community

Week long collection event with a different theme each day.

Monday: Students make holiday cards for veterans
Tuesday: Donate items to CCMC's wish list. Items

include Lego kits, infant/toddler toys, action figures and Crayola supplies

Wednesday: Bring a NEW pair of PJ's to donate to a child in need

Thursday: Food drive to benefit Granby Food Bank

Friday: PJ's for a Buck – donate \$1 to CCMC and wear your PJ's to school

A fantastic event that allowed people to give how and when they were able. Plus, the cards for vets could be done by everyone.

Cards for Kids

Submitted by:: Woodland Regional High School

A tradition at some schools is to make holiday cards for children who will be spending the season in hospitals rather than at home. It is a simple but meaningful way to make an impact in your community. Be careful to monitor what the cards say and to keep them positive. Use phrases such as:: Stay Strong, You are awesome, Never forget how amazing YOU are, You rock!, Be Brave, I hope you have a great day today!, You inspire me, I believe in YOU.

There are also organizations that can help you distribute the cards nationally if you don't have a local connection to a hospital.

ENGAGEMENT

Universal Human Rights Month

December is a time to honor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an international document stating the basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. These rights include freedom from discrimination, the right to equality, and the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

Use #UniversalHumanRights, #HumanRights, and #StandUp4HumanRights to post on social media. The Dignity & Respect Campaign says the best way we can celebrate Universal Human Rights Month is by working to find common ground with those around us who may

not have the same background as we do. This month, you can also:

- *Read a book about the Declaration of Human rights, or about human rights in general*
- *Spread the word on social media*
- *Go out of your way to treat everyone with respect, kindness, and equality*
- *Teach others about why human rights for everyone are so important*

SPiRiT
International Day

Submitted by:: Kennedy High School

Celebrate the diversity in our school and community.

Students in the school work in groups to represent countries all over the world. They make a poster with information and photos about the country, cook food from that country, dress in traditional clothing, and perform dances to music from the country for the whole school to enjoy.

The students look forward to representing their different ethnic backgrounds and learning about others every year.

***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

SMART GOALS:: MIDYEAR REVIEW

Adopted from <https://planonthesunrise.com>

As teachers that phrase might cause some of you bloomboard PTSD, however we all know that the concept of a mid-year review is an incredibly powerful opportunity to evaluate your progress. If you didn't create SMART Goals at the beginning of the year, you can take the opportunity to make them now, or if goals aren't your thing you can evaluate how well everyone is following their job descriptions.

Here are eight steps for an effective mid-year goals review.

1. Schedule a time for your review. It is important that the team that made the goals is at this meeting, schedule it for a non regular meeting day, or if your schedule permits set aside a regular meeting day. The important part is that everyone knows they HAVE to be there.

2. List your current goals. Start by looking at what you wrote down back before school started. If you did quarterly goal check-ins, or added more goals be sure they are listed as well.

3. Evaluate your current goals. Once you have your goals listed out, assess each one and ask your team the following questions:

- *Do these goals still resonate with us?*
- *Are any of our goals tied to long-term dreams or bucket-list items?*
- *Will we be keeping these goals on our list for the rest of the year? If not, is it time to let some of them go or perhaps table them for next year?*

4. Measure your progress. With each of the goals that you intend to keep, determine how far off you are from achieving that goal. Being half-way through the year, it is important to figure out what is a realistic time frame for reaching some of your goals, particularly if you have set the end of the year as your benchmark for reaching the goal. If it is a longer-term goal, measuring

your progress can still be a worthy exercise, since it may inspire you to change your deadline for reaching the goal to be either sooner or further down the line.

5. Identify successes and failures. If any of you have ever done Rose - Bud - Thorn, this is very similar. With each of your goals, determine if you were able to accomplish any thus far. Are some progressing well? On the other hand, are there any goals that do not seem to be working out? People often worry about admitting their failures and see them as something negative or shameful. However, failure is a necessary part of success. Any inventor, engineer, or scientist will tell you that you cannot make progress without first making mistakes. Mistakes and failures are the best teachers. So, see what did not work and learn from it! It's possible that admitting a failure in one area will lead you to see not only what went wrong, but how to change your habits and routines to make you more successful later.

6. Determine if you took any detours. So, you had a list of goals at the beginning of the year and worked on them diligently until something came up that changed everything. Then, you started working on a whole different set of goals that you hadn't anticipated. It's a detour, but that doesn't mean you got off track. Just be intentional about the direction your team wishes to take. If looking at your original goals for the year reminds you that those are what truly speak to your teams heart, and they are still realistic goals given all that's changed these past few months, it may be time to get them back on track. However, if the detour goals reflect your teams true desires, or your values have changed and these new goals speak to them, it may be time to replace some of your old goals with the newer ones. As long as they will not be overwhelmed, it may be possible to just add these to your original goals.

7. Reprioritize your goals. Once they have listed all of the goals that they intend to focus on for the second

half of the year, have them ask themselves if it is realistic to try to accomplish all of these goals by June? Should they keep them all on the list or will it become overwhelming (and self-defeating) to try to get all of these done? Figure out which of the goals are the more pressing ones for your team for this next half of the year. Then, show yourself a little grace and know that it's okay to let some goals go or set them aside until they are better able to work on them. It is better to have fewer goals on your list that are doable and lead your team to feel proud of their accomplishments than to have them spread themselves thinly with too many goals and not make progress on any of them. Remember, it's making progress on our goals that will motivate us to finish what we've started and prepare to tackle new ones.

8. List out a new goals plan. Once your team has narrowed down their goals to the ones that make sense to take these next few months, determine which projects, activities, and tasks it will take to accomplish them.

Motivating tools for a mid-year review.

Goals should be displayed where you meet so everyone can see them. In my local, when we pitch projects we need to list the SMART goal and explain how this project supports it as part of the pitch. I made sheets for each committee that lists its Smart Goal, and what are the 4 projects they developed to support that goal. These are listed in my classroom where the committees meet.

Some other ideas include::

Color-coding your goals is a great way to make to-dos and routines stand out in your planners.

You can also use small dot stickers for color coding.

You can create a chart and check off the projects that your team identified as important to reach those goals.

Remember goal planning is a rewarding way to keep yourself student leaders motivated to making positive changes in their lives and communities!

CASC Calendar

DECEMBER

December 3-5:: NAWD Annual National Conference on Student Activities. - VIRTUAL

Check www.nawd.com for more details as we get closer to this event.

JANUARY

January 2022:: CASC Caring for Connecticut month long project - Appreciation card project for frontline healthcare workers.

January 2:: CASC Design deadline.

January 12:: CASC Western District Conferences "The Art of Compromise." - VIRTUAL

We are proud to introduce our first annual District Conferences. Each of Connecticut's 4 districts will hold its own 2 hour conference that will allow for local students and advisors to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow. 9-10:30AM

January TBD:: CASC Eastern District Conferences "The Art of Compromise." - VIRTUAL

We are proud to introduce our first annual District Conferences. Each of Connecticut's 4 districts will hold its own 2 hour conference that will allow for local students and advisors to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow.

January TBD:: CASC Northern District Conference "The Art of Compromise." - VIRTUAL

We are proud to introduce our first annual District Conferences. Each of Connecticut's 4 districts will hold its own 2 hour conference that will allow for local students and advisors to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow.

January TBD:: CASC Southern District Conference "The Art of Compromise." - VIRTUAL

We are proud to introduce our first annual District Conferences. Each of Connecticut's 4 districts will hold its own 2 hour conference that will allow for local students and advisors to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow.

January 28-30:: NatStuCo LEAD Conference, Washington D.C. - TENTATIVE

NASSP will abide by the best practices regarding gatherings of large groups for our student leaders and advisors while closely monitoring and following the health guidelines set forth by the host cities and hotels. We all know that these protocols are still evolving. Please know that the health, safety, and well-being of attendees is very important to us.

FEBRUARY

February 1:: CASC Award applications due.

Council of Excellence, Top Ten Project, Dale Hawley Award, The Ron Nedovich Advisor of the Year Award, The District Project Award

February 11:: CASC Student Executive Board applications due.

February 15:: NatStuCo Council of Excellence application award deadline.

Officer candidate/parent required meeting (one to two weeks before the Convention) - VIRTUAL

February 25-27:: NatSTuCo LEAD Conference, Chicago, IL. - TENTATIVE

NASSP will abide by the best practices regarding gatherings of large groups for our student leaders and advisers while closely monitoring and following the health guidelines set forth by the host cities and hotels. We all know that these protocols are still evolving. Please know that the health, safety, and well-being of attendees is very important to us.

MARCH

March 11:: CASC Spring Convention "Unlocking the Keys to Leadership."

This year being hosted by Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls. At this time we are not certain if this will be live or virtual but are planning for all possibilities. More details to follow as we get closer.

APRIL

April 2022:: CASC Caring for Connecticut month long project - friendship bracelets.

MAY

May TBD:: CASC "Adventures in Leadership." - TENTATIVE

Held at Winding Trails in Farmington, CT. We are holding off on a date for this event until we can determine if it will be live or virtual. More details to follow as we get closer.

May TBD:: CASC Academy.

Officer Training. This will be a 2 day Virtual clinic geared towards training both student council officers and members.

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