



CONNECTICUT
ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

Student Activity Programs 2020-2021

CAS Student Activities is pleased to present our line-up of programs for the 2020-2021 school year! Our activity series is grounded in the research from 21st century skills that participation in co-curricular activities increases academic achievement, improves communication skills, and helps students make better life decisions! Please review these offerings and select some quality activities to link your work with ours!

Your Guides,

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****PLEASE NOTE, ALL FALL STUDENT ACTIVITY PROGRAMS WILL BE VIRTUAL****

SEPT 29 CASC President's Luncheon

To help kick off the school year, we will be having a virtual presidents lunch/dinner on September 29th from 5 to 7pm. In addition, to being able to meet and connect with students leaders from around the state, the attendees will learn about new initiatives being launched in the state from the Student Executive Board as well as the Executive Director. For more information, please contact Christopher Tomlin at ctomilin@casciac.org.

SEPT-JUNE Student Advisory Council on Education

In 1998, the CT State Legislature created the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) to give Connecticut students a voice in education planning and enable the state board of education, the commissioner of education, state department of education personnel, the governor, and state legislators to **become familiar with high school students' perspectives on key issues. SSACE meets regularly with CAS** director of student activities, the education commissioner, and on occasion with the Governor, to reflect **student opinion on matters of concern to the state's high schools. The Council meets ten times per year.** Members write position papers on important topics in education; conduct the statewide Challenge to Educational Citizenship Awards Program; and, through their discussions and activities, learn from each other about citizenship, leadership, and responsibility.

For the past twenty-two years, SSACE has dedicated monthly meetings to influencing legislation and adapting it to the changing needs of Connecticut students. It has conducted action research recommendations on critical topics such as reducing the achievement gap, reforming standardized testing, teacher diversity in schools, how to cultivate an interest in teaching in Connecticut, and instituting programs promoting health and wellness. Applications are sent to principals for selections in May. For more information, contact Cheresse Miller at cmiller@casciac.org.



SEPT-MAY ESports

Esports has taken off rapidly in the state of Connecticut. January 2019, Connecticut held the first Esports state championship ever at Maloney High School in Meriden, CT.

Esports is a great way for students to build character, collaboration, community and respect. All while competing in fun and safe video games monitored by coaches. For more information on Esports please contact Cheresse Miller at cmiller@casciac.org or Seth Reinhart at seth@playvs.com.



Sept-May Student Equity Advisory Board

CAS-CIAC is excited to announce a Student Equity Advisory Board. The SEAB will bring awareness to inequity in Connecticut schools and collaborate on ways to enhance inclusion in schools for all students. Students will also develop and implement ideas and action plans to bring back to their respective leagues, schools, and communities.

Student Equity Advisory Board Meeting Dates 2020-2021:

October 14, November 11, & December 9, 2020;

January 20, February 10, March 10, April 7, & May 12, 2021

Inquiries to Chereese Miller at cmiller@casciac.org or Henry Rondon at hrondon@casciac.org.

OCT TBA High School Dance Coaches Clinic

Hamden High School will host the annual dance coaches clinic at 6:00 PM – a must attend event to network with coaches, review the NFHS Spirit Rules, CT Dance Competitions, CT State Championship guidelines, judging and scoring procedures. Both new and veteran coaches will have a unique opportunity to have questions answered from the CAS Dance Committee which will prove to be invaluable. Inquiries to Kathy Swillinger at kscoach32@gmail.com or Chereese Miller at cmiller@casciac.org.

SAVE THE DATE: High School Dance Championship, TBA

OCT-APR The “Little Leader” Conferences

Recognizing that young children in 2nd & 3rd grades show great potential for thinking abilities, these “Little Leader” mini-conferences showcase interactive lessons led by teachers, administrators, and high school students designed to introduce young students to finding his/her best way of developing leadership skills. The conferences will take place at various elementary schools. Inquiries to Chereese Miller at cmiller@casciac.org.

OCT-JUNE Look For The Good Presentations

The “Look For The Good Project” offers a two-week, school-wide gratitude campaign to help K-6 students and teachers express gratitude for themselves, each other, and the people who matter to them. This will be held at the CT Association of Schools, Cheshire, CT. These presentations will feature CEO and Founder Anne Kubitsky sharing the steps to implement the program which has generated over one million messages of gratitude featuring participation by over 44,000 students! Presenters will **have everything you’ll need to implement your kick off assembly and plan your customized campaign** which is totally run by students! Inquiries with Anne at info@lookforthegood.org or Chereese Miller at cmiller@casciac.org.

OCT - MAR High School Debate

The Connecticut Debate Association (CDA) is the premier high school debate league in Connecticut. CDA has sponsored a regular program of competition for over 30 years. Our debate format is cross-examination policy debate, but we change the resolution for each tournament and limit research so we have more in common with parliamentary debate at the high school and college level. The CDA season begins with a novice scrimmage in September to introduce new debaters to the format. We follow with tournaments one Saturday each month from October through March, followed by a state finals championship tournament. Debaters qualify for state finals by their performance at the monthly tournaments. With as many as 500 debaters participating in some months, we run tournaments at two or three schools on each date to provide space for all, and, with luck, reduce travel time. Each tournament has a varsity and novice division to accommodate different levels of skill and experience. Inquiries to Everett Rutan, Executive Director at ejrutan3@ctdebate.org.

OCT-JUNE

Student Athletic Advisory Board Meetings

CAS-CIAC is excited to announce the third year of the Student Athletic Advisory Board. Class Act schools will continue to be able to have a statewide advisory board of students to promote good sportsmanship within their leagues and to address other issues regarding athletics.

In addition, students will be able to share highlights within their leagues so that they can learn from each other and take great ideas back to their leagues. Students will continue to have a voice to educate and promote respect, teamwork, and character in all of our Class Act schools and beyond. Selections for new board members are due from commissioners by October 1, 2020.

Meeting dates for 2020/2021 are: Oct. 15, 2020, Jan. 28, March 17, and June 2, 2021.

Inquires and selection to Cherese Miller at cmiller@casciac.org or Henry Rondon at hrondon@casciac.org.



TBA Cheer Coaches & Judges Professional Development Workshops

Cheerleading coaches, assistant coaches, and judges are encouraged to attend the score sheet professional development day in June (Coaches) and October (Judges) at the CAS office (30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT). Coaches and judges will become familiarized with the score sheet, review NFHS Spirit Rules, CT Cheer Competitions, CT State Championship guidelines, and judging and scoring procedures. In addition, have the opportunity to spend time with the head of the score sheet committee for an overview and Q&A time. Inquires to missz14@sbcglobal.net, cegriswold00@yahoo.com or BTrch1@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATE: High School Cheerleading Championship, March 6, 2021

OCT - APR Middle School Debate

The Connecticut Middle School Debate League (CTMSDL) is an organization that hosts competitive interscholastic Parliamentary Debate tournaments for Middle School-aged students throughout Connecticut during the academic year. The year begins with a scrimmage in the early Fall and continues with three tournaments throughout the year at host schools. Middle School Debate is the fastest growing student activity in CT! The CTMSDL follows the Middle School Public Debate Program (MSPDP) format begun in 2002 in Southern California. Motions to be debated are released weeks ahead of scrimmages and tournaments. Debaters prepare both proposition (for the motion) and opposition (against the motion) cases ahead of competitions. Each team is composed of three students. On competition days, teams subsequently debate on both the prop and opp sides of the motion. High School debaters serve as judges whenever possible. Inquiries to Jen Posner, Executive Director at jen.posner@ctmsdebate.org.

DEC TBA Connecticut Association of National Honor Societies Adviser Conference (CANHS)

The annual CANHS advisers conference, which will be held virtually, provides new NHS and NJHS advisers with support and guidance to navigate the challenges of overseeing a new or existing chapter at their school. The conference will review foundation information, selecting faculty advisors, student election process, community service hours, and hosting inductions, etc. For more information please contact, Nadine Miller at nmills@casciac.org.

DEC 4

High School Leadership Conference

High School student leaders and their advisers will convene virtually for a half day of intensive leadership training. Various motivational speakers and life coaches will lead the impressive line-up which will include sessions that center on collaboration, communication, diversity awareness, problem solving, and decision making; all tailored to bring out the unique talents and leadership skills to the fullest. Inquiries to Cherese Miller at cmiller@casciac.org.



JAN 6 & 8

Middle Level Student Leadership Conferences (Virtual)



These annual conferences at Sacred Heart University and Trinity College will demonstrate the use of multiple-talented approaches to help middle level learners develop four important leadership skills – productive thinking, communication, creative problem solving and decision making. The breakout sessions will be led by top notch teachers, counselors, high school students and administrators. Inquiries to Cherese Miller cmiller@casciac.org.

JAN 5 - 14

Elementary Student Leadership Conferences (Virtual)

These annual conferences provide students in grades 4- 6 with a unique opportunity to develop leadership skills. Participants will be engaged in hands-on activities designed to foster 21st century leadership skills – the four strands are: creative problem solving, communication, decision making, and productive thinking. 2021 dates will be determined. Inquiries to Cherese Miller cmiller@casciac.org.



FEB **The Battle Of The Fans**

Does your high school's student section demonstrate the best mix of spirit, creativity, and sportsmanship? CAS Student Activities and CIAC invite you to produce a short video which displays positive fan behavior, school spirit, and a "Class Act" overall approach to the value of education-based school athletic programs. It's never too early to start collecting video footage from Fall sports to virtual pep rallies to other service related initiatives leading up to and throughout the winter athletic season. Please note: videos need to be submitted by late January, date TBD. Winner will be recognized at the C.I.A.C basketball state championships. Inquiries to Chereese Miller at cmiller@casciac.org or Joel Cookson at jcookson@casciac.org.

FEB **Middle Level Arthur Director Leadership Award Application**

The Arthur Director Leadership Award Program is open to all schools participating in the Middle School Leadership Training Conference. This award, named for the founder of Connecticut Lighting Centers, is presented to the school that shows superior application of the concepts learned at the leadership conference. To be considered for the award, schools need to submit an application with supporting documentation (no more than 3 pages). For more information please contact Chereese Miller at cmiller@casciac.org.

Mar TBA **CASC Spring Virtual Convention**

Join Student Leaders and advisors from across the state for a day of learning, inspiration, sharing, leadership and fun. During the day student leaders and advisors will have the opportunity to attend motivational speakers, large and small workshops, Resolution Sessions, as well as participate in a convention wide service project. This Convention is unique in that it offers opportunities to authentically explore leadership and the democratic principles of our American government through Council/Government sponsored workshops and resolutions. For more information contact Christopher Tomlin at ctomlin@casciac.org.

MAR - APR **CAS-CIAC Endowment Grant Program (Suspended for 2021)**

Through the generosity of our sponsors, the CAS-CIAC Endowment and Flanagan Grant Program is able to **annually provide grants to new or existing projects that meet the endowment's and fund's requirements and** would not otherwise be afforded by CAS member schools. In order to ensure the best use of funding, programs must be sustainable through future Board of Education budgets, have a broad and far-reaching impact, and address a need within the school, district, and/or athletic league. Awards made by the CAS-CIAC Endowment and Flanagan Grant Program may be used to expand existing programs in new and innovative ways, or develop other worthy projects or programs. Member schools may look for the annual RFP in late February for the highly competitive application process. Inquiries to Chereese Miller cmiller@casciac.org.

MAR - JUNE **KIDSMARATHON**

KIDSMARATHON, an amazing life fitness program, features an 8-10 week nutrition and running regimen for students ages 5-12, running incremental distances which culminate in regional, final mile celebrations in May and June witnessed by hundreds of parents and fans modeled after the Olympic Marathon. CAS will partner with the Rod Dixon Foundation for the 10th consecutive year as over 5,000 runners are expected to participate in the popular program. The mantra is "Finishing Is Winning – Winning Is Finishing" and complements the curriculum in PE/Health for our schools. Inquiries to Chereese Miller cmillerc@sciacy.org.



APR School Secretaries & Administrative Assistants' Conference

This annual conference at the Aqua Turf Club, Southington is designed to support the daily work of school **secretaries and administrative assistants and their important contributions to a school's positive culture and** learning environment. Included will be up-to-date information on issues such as legal issues, electronic communication devices, student records retention, special education, state and federal laws and regulations and receive practical suggestions to help secretaries do their job even better. Inquiries Bobbi O'Connor at boconnor@casciac.org.

MAY TBA Student Council Leadership Conference

This annual conference is an ideal opportunity for Student Council Student members and Advisers to get together to build adventure and excitement for the CT Student Council, create community service action plans, and enhance and promote leadership activities while focusing on student character building strategies.

Inquiries to Christopher Tomlin at ctomlin@casciac.org or Cheresse Miller at cmiller@casciac.org.



APR - TBA CAS National Honor Societies State Conference

This annual conference is an ideal opportunity for NHS Student members, Faculty Council and Advisers to come together to create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service locally, and enhance and promote leadership activities while focusing on student character building strategies. Inquiries Nadine Mills at nmills@casciac.org or to Cheresse Miller at cmiller@casciac.org.



SAVE THE DATE: 21st Annual NHS State Conference TBA

MAY - TBA High School Robotics Championship

The annual CAS – NE FIRST Robotics **State Championship is the ultimate "Sport of the Mind"** where imagination and innovation come together as over 30 high schools will vie for the coveted state championship. By combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology, teams are challenged to design and build a robot to perform specific tasks against a field of competitors. Inquiries to Cheresse Miller cmiller@casciac.org.



May TBA

Arts in the Middle

Arts In The Middle is an all-day conference for outstanding art students. Connecticut middle schools are invited to send art students and an art teacher to the annual **“Arts in the Middle”** conference, sponsored by the University of Hartford School of Arts. The event features hands-on workshops taught by practicing artists from around the state. The goals of the program are to: give statewide visibility to the fine arts and promote the arts among middle level students, provide opportunities for art students from diverse backgrounds to work together, offer middle level art students a high caliber artistic challenge and give art teachers an opportunity to create their own works. For more information please contact Cheresse Miller at cmiller@casciac.org.



JUNE 9

Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Ceremony

The State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) is pleased to offer schools throughout Connecticut the opportunity to apply for recognition in the annual Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award program. This program was the “brain child” of the 1996 edition of SSACE as a way of promoting citizenship through co-curricular programs. The recipients embody the spirit of citizenship and commitment to serving others, as well as altruism. Submitted projects are judged by the high school student members of the council. The submissions are evaluated on the basis of the depth, breadth, and quality of impact on others in the school community. Applications will be sent out to school principals at the end of February. For more information, please contact Cheresse Miller at cmiller@casciac.org.

JULY TBA

New England Student Leadership Conference

Each summer, student-athletes and school activities participants from CAS-CIAC member schools have the unique opportunity to network with students from Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont at the annual New England Student Leadership Conference at Worcester State University. Incredible attention is being paid to high school athletics and activities programs today. Participants in these programs are looked up to as leaders because of their position on the team or club. The impact that these young people have on the climate and culture of their schools, fellow students and community is tremendous. In fact, studies show that more than one-half of high school students participate in some form of school activity or athletic program. The involvement of these students in the success of a high school is paramount and critical. For more information on the NESLC please contact cmiller@casciac.org.



July 19-21 National Student Leadership Summit, Indianapolis, IN

Each year CAS-CIAC offers a very unique opportunity for students within our membership groups to apply to go on an all expense paid leadership trip to the NSLS in Indiana. This 3 day intensive student leadership initiative, the National Student Leadership Summit (NSLS) is one of the most unique opportunities a student could experience. The NSLS will focus on relevant and contemporary issues. Students will hone their leadership skills and realize the privilege and power of their influence in their school, community and state. For more information please contact Cheresse Miller at cmiller@casciac.org.



Class Act League Development Workshops

Interested in starting league development workshops for your top student-athletes? Improve your league's respect, teamwork, character and positive sportsmanship by having student leaders be the voice of your schools. In addition, students will be able to conduct quality and productive "Class Act" sub-committee meetings monthly. For more information contact Cheresse Miller at cmiller@casciac.org today!



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