Robbins States Goals, Policies For '78—'79

By Bill Waggener

An examination of graduation requirements, an overall self-evaluation as requested by NEASC, plans for a program for academically gifted students, and a student centered around tutoring—counseling for students run by their peers, are four objectives for Darien High School in the following school year, according to Principal Donald Robbins.

Dr. Robbins, in his annual opening of the School Address, Sept. 6, announced that Edward Higgins, social studies teacher, will head the steering committee for the self-evaluation program, and William Curnin, Independent Study advisor, will head the gifted student committee that is to go into effect in the fall of 1979.

The examination of the graduation requirements committee will be headed by Science Department chairman Charles Vasquez. According to Dr. Robbins, this committee's work "will have major significance throughout the school system."

This will be seen in the staffing of schools, in the structure of the curricula, and in the costs and expenditures within the school system. Calling DHS "the flagship of the Darien school system," Dr. Robbins said that the high school "should lead by example." He mentioned the setting of standards by students at DHS, for example for the junior high and elementary schools to follow, and the many leadership roles taken by the high school faculty in the DRA.

In his speech, Dr. Robbins covered a wide variety of topics touching on some of the changes at DHS (see columns 3) and encourages all students to get involved in extra-curricular activities saying that the students involved in extra-curricular activities in high school tend to do better on the SAT's than those students who do not participate.

Dr. Robbins further advised students to read as much as possible and cut down on the viewing of television. He stated that by the time the class of 1979 graduates next June, each student will have been in school about 11,000 hours, but has watched some 18,000 hours of television. There is a correlation between reading and a student's ability to write, concluded Dr. Robbins.

Dr. Robbins expressed the feeling to perdure DHS this year saying, "we care very much that you maximize your time to learn. Time goes by very quickly and we should not waste any of it."

General Assembly Officers Start Year

By Pete Cronvota

A steering committee of the school government officers has begun to make plans for this year, emphasizing more student involvement in school activities.

The committee members for this year are Jim Cormrigh, moderator; Mike Baker, assistant moderator; Jean Kim, secretary; and Harish Bhandari, treasurer. Also included on the committee are Lisa Scull, Activities Council chairman; Kim Cannon, Operations Committee chairman; Mary Metayer, School Policies Committee chairman, and social studies teacher, Edmund Higgins, the advisor.

Two primary concerns for Cormigh are "to get some students working on graduation requirements as soon as possible. I'd also like to improve activities such as Homecoming, creating more school spirit."

Brooke Baker's responsibilities are to back up Jim and to take over the committee in his absence. Her main concerns are student involvement and school spirit. She hopes that these will increase with better communication between the G.A. and the student body, and between the G.A. and Darien.

Mr. Higgins would prefer to see the students run the G-N assembly, doing what they think best. While he would be available to advise and aid them, he doesn't think the Constitution will need many changes even though it is new and basically untested.

Said Higgins, "I would like to see the officers fulfill their own goals and in doing so, have the school population as a whole see that their school government is worthwhile."

Changes Abound in Various Rules

By JoAnne Kelley

Three major changes have been instituted at DHS for the '78-'79 school year.

Among these changes is a new five-day schedule instituted on a pilot basis. This schedule includes eight periods with no drop, replacing the former eight-day schedule which dropped one period. Period one remains stationary, two through six rotate, and at the end of the day, periods seven and eight alternate. Periods seven and eight are for students on the work-study program or for those volunteering with Reach Out and C.A.P. (Community Action Program). The periods are 45 minutes long to accommodate all eight without a drop. The new schedule also cuts one minute off the passing time, to four minutes between classes.

Dr. Robbins feels "the schedule should be used as a vehicle to achieve certain objectives. The evolving of a schedule is a process to the end."

The attendance policy is another issue with a change. The policy in the past has been one of unexcused absences: failure for the semester. In the new policy, three unexcused absences result in no credit for the quarter. The class will then have to be taken over before graduation.

New Faculty Additions At DHS; Fourteen Fill Vacant Positions

Kip Hashagen and Cathy Singer

Darien High School is currently welcoming many new faculty members to its ranks. Fourteen teachers have been hired to fill vacant positions as well as newly created jobs in the English and guidance departments.

Mark D. Berkowitz is one of many former substitutors who has been hired for permanent duties. Although he is an industrial arts teacher, Mr. Berkowitz's major interest is music. He has degrees in both fields from New York University, and when not teaching, he is a member of a band called "Crozettes." Mr. Berkowitz has taught English and mechanical drawing, in Israel, and hopes to return there in the future.

Michael Caro, the new guidance counselor at the High School. He has a degree in psychology from St. Leo College, and has been a drug counselor at the Community Correctional Center in Bridgeport. Mr. Caro says, "I enjoy working with the wide spectrum of students and teachers here." His free time is usually spent water-skiing, traveling, baking pastries or teaching karate.

Aprile A. Deluca has been hired by the music department to teach the sophomore and advanced chorus. She is also teaching music at Mather JHS, a position she has held for two years. Miss Deluca, a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, is interested in all forms of music including arranging and performing. She is "delighted" to be at DHS and finds "tremendous potential" in the school's choral groups.

Barbara Fitzpatrick joins the DHS staff as a reading teacher. She has a degree in special education, reading and administration and spent her last year on sabbatical leave as a teacher of deaf students. Outside of her work, Miss Fitzpatrick enjoys traveling, tennis continued on page 2

Assistant Moderator Brooke Baker makes a point. (Photo by Charlet Ras-Aillard)
Revised Schedule Needs Revising

The students, faculty and administration of Darien High School have now had almost three weeks to adjust to the new schedule, enough time to make a fair analysis of its effectiveness.

Unfortunately, the analysis is not good. Even more unfortunate is that it is not going to get any better. Forty-five minutes is an insufficient length of time for any real education to go on in a class, as many teachers at DHS will attest.

What’s worse is that having only four minutes passing time, a student has to literally sprint from class-to-locker-to-class to keep from being tardy. Some students whose lockers are in D-wing have been found that even this doesn’t work.

Carrying books for two or three classes is one potential solution, but some English and social studies courses require several textbooks, notebooks, and other paraphernalia for class. This is not the teacher’s fault. Why should they cut back on instruction more than they already have had due to the reduction in period length?

Conversely, this four minute passing time with the more stringent attendance and tardy policies of the school and several departments in particular, and we have students punished for something over which they have no control.

Some people are going to say that three weeks is not enough time to tell, but that students and faculty members are complaining because they aren’t yet accustomed to the schedule. We strongly disagree.

Before it gets too late (second semester), we urge the General Assembly, the administration, and the Board of Education to uncover a solution to this problem, even if it means reverting to last year’s schedule. On this end, we urge members of the Board of Education and members of the Taxpayers Association to come to DHS, attend a first period class, get to homeroom in the auditorium for a senior homeroom in two minutes, and go to a second time slot class. Then, may they try to get through the intersections from that class, to a pre-designated locker, and to another class, through the intersection one last time in four minutes.

If all else fails, we can always have a run-a-thon to raise money to put a stoplight in it.

NEIRAD

Traffic Control

Viewpoint

Traffic control, a chronic problem at DHS during the last few years, is only being exacerbated by the brevity of the new schedule’s passing times.

Instituted this September, the schedule accomplishes the task of increasing class time by eliminating lunch and passing times which were necessary to students, and available with the former schedule. For the first period class, get to homeroom in the auditorium for a senior homeroom in two minutes, and go to a second time slot class. Then, may they try to get through the intersection from that class, to a pre-designated locker, and to another class, through the intersection one last time in four minutes.

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New Teachers Initiated To DHS Ways And Means

Revisiting John Hall as a French teacher, Geraldine C. Garish comes to DHS from a position at New Canaan High School. She finds the two schools very much alike, in that both schools have students being punished for "highly motivated and interested in grades."

Mrs. Garish, who traveled around the world, hopes to be actively involved in the school and its many activities.

Judith Jaramillo has been appointed to the position of Neirad advisor and also as an English and journalism teacher. She brings a broad background in journalism, as a student, teacher, and reporter. Mrs. Jaramillo went to South America on an Inter-American Press Association grant and also taught at the International School in Chile. She hopes to bring Neirad’s excellence in high school journalism.

Like Miss Delucia, Patricia Galvin is a teacher at Mather who is working with the DHS. She teaches economics and administration of a school, both of which play an integral part in her Human Values core class. Mrs. Galvin particularly enjoys seeing her former Math students continuing on.

Another addition to the foreign language department is George Kanginis, who is teaching French. He was educated at Hunter College and also spent a year at the Sorbonne in Paris. Mr. Kanginis, who was born in Greece, hopes to start a Greek Club here at DHS, involving Greek politics and culture.

Neil Mathews is filling a newly created position in the English department. He attended McGill University in Montreal and has been a teacher in Canada for the past several years, and although he is an American citizen, his two children were born in Canada. Mr. Mathews enjoys writing poetry and short stories. One of his major objectives as a teacher is "to expand my students’ capacity for critical thinking and to help them understand the human condition."

Teri A. Koufas, another former substitute, has been hired as a Speech teacher. Adjusting to new surroundings is not unusual to Mrs. Koufas, who has moved eleven times. Her latest move was from Colorado, where she was an active skier. She still skis frequently and also enjoys tennis and traveling.

Dr. Gerald Sein is the new school psychologist, a role he plays at many of the other area schools. Dr. Sein, who received a Doctorate from the State University of New York, also teaches evening courses in psychology. In his spare time, he enjoys water sports, cooking and jogging. He enjoys traveling and experiencing the cultures of such diverse locales as New Guinea, Africa, Australia and Denmark.

Jean Shortliffe is DHS’s latest addition to the social studies department. She is currently teaching Asian Studies and CI and will teach Humanities next semester. Mrs. Shortliffe, who graduated from New York University, is also an DHS’s "friendly atmosphere" and found it similar to her hometown of Rochester, New York.

DHS has two new teachers in the Alternative Learning Program. Florence Strauss, a graduate of Boston University, is teaching mathematics in the program and says, “I find my job very flexible and creative.” She enjoys the informal atmosphere of ALP and doing a variety of activities with the students.

Barbara Thorne teaches social studies in the ALP and has been a substitute in the department for the past two years. Mrs. Thorne is a graduate of Westchester College and was the recipient of a Ford Foundation Grant at Cornell University. She is also involved in the Community Action Program and the Child Abuse Prevention Group. In her spare time, Mrs. Thorne enjoys watching baseball and is convinced that “the Red Sox are going to win it.”
Counseling Youth Duo Offers Option

By Gail Bruggemeyer

Youth Options is a youth counseling service for the teenagers and families of Darien.

The Darien office, located at Cherry Lane, is run by Cynthia Jones, director, and counselor David Padawer. Supported by local and federal funds, its services are free.

Youth Options assists young people with average everyday problems. If a person is confused, unhappy, or feeling that the world is going to end, he can call 655-8973 24 hours a day to make an appointment.

"It is a place for everyone," comments Dave. "Everyone has problems and it's healthy to realize those problems and get help." Everything that is said to the counselors is kept confidential. Dave and Cindy counsel the family to try to work things out for the benefit of everyone.

The main goal of Youth Options is to be more involved with the schools. Last year they were here every Wednesday. Dave and Cindy will visit the high school again this year. There will be further notice of the schedule. They feel it is easier for students to go see someone that they have met than to confront a stranger with their problems.

Dave stated, "We are a combination of a counselor, and an adult friend. We don't come on as heavy-duty professionals, but we do have professional training."

THREE DHS SENIORS have been named semi-finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. in its 24th annual Merit Program. The cutoff score to become a semi-finalist in Connecticut is the highest in the nation. The students are, from left, Kevin C. Walker, Eileen M. Weldon and Bruce A. Irving.

Darien Indian Festival Nears

Linda Armstrong

Douglas Paulsen, an English teacher at DHS, is this year's chairman of Darien's Sister City program, called the Mercara, India Committee, which will hold the Annual Darien Indian Day, Oct. 18.

The group, whose purpose is to promote friendship and cultural understanding between the two cities, has two events each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. On Oct. 15, the India Day will start with a tour around the town of Darien by the Indians host families at 11:00. The India Day will follow by having a pot-luck luncheon beginning at 12:30. While each host brings his own favorite dish, each Indian will bring some type of food from their homeland.

Attending the Indian event will be Indians from Darien, a delegation from the Indian Consulate in New York City, and Indians who work at the United Nations.

Don't Get Down, Get Brown

(From page 2)

...tan (tan) n. 1. A light brown. 2. The brown color rays impart to the skin. (ML. tannin.)

Now that the final days of the pseudo-warm weather have wound down and you dream of once again heading out to the beach or backyard to get that last tan of the season, keep in mind that the art of tanning has been around for more than 120 years.

There was a time when a tan subjecting you to abuse and various cat-calls. It was not true chic to have a tan, and to be less than lily-white meant that you had to work for a living. Now, a good healthy bronze is a status symbol. Sun tan in some places on earth, one may as well be a Nortile Eskimo living in an igloo in northern Alaska, eating whale.

Tanning has become so fashionable that bathing suits, for both men and women, are designed to give a tan on certain places of the physique that have not seen the light of day since the fig leaf became popular.

But looking beyond the social acceptance that comes with the ultimate tan, the bronzing process can be fun, too. For example, a truly magnificent tan can be attained by lying on the beach. Certain additions to this basic process tend to make it a little more exciting than it sounds. Things like beach balls, bikinis, canned beverages (bottles are no-no), and a few mellow tunes will help titillate the effectuation of an effective tan. As the cliche' goes: "It's not how tan you make it, it's how you make it tan."

This is not as kinky as it sound, though that does not hurt either, as Professor Emeritus of Anatomical In- fuscation at the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Delbert Nuttbrock, said. At his graduation speech at the world's first institute of higher tanning, Cappertone Community College, he said, "Kinskin has become quite a fad in the art of tanning. However, I feel that the use of such things as hot fudge and glue as tanning lotions, though imaginative, can not stick around too long."

308 Production In Rehearsal

By Lisa Evers

Theater 308 is starting off its 1978-79 school year with a fast-paced musical, "Babes in Arms," which will be presented in early November. "Babes in Arms" involves a large teenage cast, four lead roles, and parts which may include DHS faculty members. The play is about a group of young people who put on a theater production during the Depression in order to raise money.

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English teacher Douglas Paulsen boggles to the beat of some Indian music.

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Autumn Athletics Begin Fresh Campaign

FOOTBALL

The DHS football team suffered a 22-0 defeat at the hands of Brien McMahon Saturday, the 16th.
Waver trying back Mike Koenig, Jay Chandler and Kevin Leary rushed for a total of 88 yards against Brien McMahon. Koenig led the rushing attack for the Waver with 61 yards on 16 carries. McMahon backs rushed for 247 yards against the Blue Wave. Senator running back Mark Pappas ran for 137 yards and scored three touchdowns to be McMahon's leading rusher.

Darien tallied up five first downs while Brien McMahon totaled nine.
"I was disappointed in our offensive line. The players lacked confidence and didn't play up to their ability. I feel we played a strong team and that exposed our weaknesses. After the first two touchdowns I feel our defense really grew up. I want to develop a strong defense. If we've got a strong defense this will give the offense a chance to develop," said Jack Davison, head coach of the Blue Wave, after his debut on the sidelines for Darien.

VOLLEYBALL

The Darien High School girls' volleyball team began their season with a home game against Norwalk High School on September 25.
As the season gets underway the team is faced with an inexperienced squad. With the loss of nine seniors, four of whom were starters for the varsity squad, they will have a challenging season trying to better their 7-5 record of last year.
Head coach Deborah Billington is optimistic. She said, "Setting people up on the varsity and junior varsity squads will entail a great deal of trial and error to arrive at a winning combination."
This year, the varsity squad will be playing three out of five games instead of their previous two out of three games per match. Ms. Billington commented, "It will give the team an edge in aggressiveness and an opportunity to come back when they are one or two games behind."
Ms. Billington would like to end the season with a .500 record to qualify for the state tournament.

Volleyball co-captain Debbie Doughtan serves to the opponent in a recent match. (Photo by Kathy Singer)

Soccer

Carrying a number one record for the third consecutive year, the Darien High School boys' track team began their season September 29. Isidore Battino, head coach, believes the team's competition will be tough. Promising returning gymnasts include Sal Abbate, Dave Garritelli, and Tom Kraft. Kraft, who placed second at the state all around competition last season. He is the only gymnast on the team who has successfully done a Tsukahara, round off back somersault off the vaulting horse.

With the loss of last year's seniors their claim to number one may be threatened. Coach Battino seems to feel that this year's team is not as strong as last because of losing such gymnasts as Mitz, Rechhart, and Echrich. Toughest competition will include East Lyme, Greenwich, and St. Bernard.
Boys' gymnastics will start their season with a home meet against St. Bernard. The season will run to November 18, and the CIAC State Championships will be held at DHS on November 11.

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Coming off a 0-4 slump in the beginning of last season, the DHS soccer team seems to have turned the tables, racking up two wins and a tie.
On September 14, the Waveriants traveled to East Lyme for their season opener. The runners up in the state.

GIRLS' SWIMMING

Under the coaching staff of Jim Barton, the girls swim team looks very promising for their season and first dual meet against New Canaan on September 25.
Mr. Barton, who is the Physical Director of Aquatics at the YMCA, seems very optimistic about the team this year. He referred to the team saying, "They are an excellent group of swimmers, with a fine nucleus."

In the team's season, there are ten dual meets followed by the FCAIAC's State Meet, and the State Open.
Jim Barton, Tim Collins, and diving coaches Cindy Shaw and Jim Goodrich, plan on either matching or improving the win-loss record of 6-5 last year. Mr. Barton feels the toughest competition will come from New Canaan, Staples, Trumbull, and Norwalk.

BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

At the beginning of each season, a 2.8 mile race is held to determine the top seven runners. These seven then become the varsity team, while the remaining runners make up the Jr. Varsity. According to coach Bill McCarthy, the qualifying times for the twenty who participated in this event were very good. The results are as follows: Jeff Messer (1, with a time of 14:20), Mike Kolb (2), Jeff McKeen (3), Steve Vorwark (4), Scott Montgomery (5), Tony Derbyshire (6), and Jim Corigliano (7).
The cross country team, led by senior co-captains Mike Kolb and Steve Vorwark, officially started the season against Warde and Staples on Thursday, September 14. The goal for this year is to erase the lone defeat off the 1977 record of 14 wins and 1 loss.