

THE PANTHER PRESS

O.H. PLATT HIGH SCHOOL

APRIL 2019

PLATT HIGH SCHOOL FAFSA BREAKFAST

On Friday, March 8, 2019, Platt High School seniors were treated to a breakfast celebrating their completion of the FAFSA before February 28th. The FAFSA is an important part of the college process allowing them to gain federal scholarships many students need to be able to afford college on top of any scholarships or grants received from the school or other sources.

In recent years, Platt's Guidance Department has stepped up to help students more with college applications as well as career planning and have created these types of incentives, such as the Common App Breakfast and FAFSA Breakfast to encourage students to submit all materials before the deadlines so they have the greatest advantage when it comes to acceptances, financial aid, and later career success. Without these programs, many students could be confused or stressed out about the college application process,

but the Guidance Department has taken away some of this confusion and stress.

"If you didn't come to the breakfast, you missed out on some really good food and a great first period," said Jennifer Melnik, Platt High School counselor.

If you are an underclassman looking forward to enjoying these senior events, begin by figuring out what you'd want to study in college and where you'd want your school to be. During your

junior year, you should finalize these plans so that it's easier for you during senior year when you begin to actually apply. Share with your counselor because they are there to help you. When it comes to your Senior year, start your FAFSA as soon as it's open in October and attend the events at school to help with applications. If you have any questions contact your guidance counselor.

-Ariana Munoz-



NATIONAL SANDY HOOK PROMISE

Over Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend Platt junior Angel-Lee Hart and social studies teacher Marisa Volo traveled to Raleigh, North Carolina, to plan for the National Sandy Hook Promise/SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Summit taking place on April 13, in Concord, North Carolina. Angel and eleven other students from around the country met to discuss their



progress in bringing Sandy Hook Promise and SAVE activities and events to Platt. Angel and these eleven other students were chosen on a national-level for their commitment and passion to ending school violence and social isolation, and bringing awareness to mental health in their communities through the use of Sandy Hook Promise/SAVE programs. Platt also took part in the Sandy Hook Promise/SAVE

Call-to-Action week (Say Something Week), from February 25 to March 1, which focused on making students aware of the signs and signals of violence and the steps to take action to make Meriden schools a safer place to learn and work for all. Along with this, Angel helped organize an event with Lincoln and Washington students to help them learn how they can bring a SAVE Promise Club to their schools.

- Marisa Volo

MPS Cares
SPEAK UP Against

- Bullying
- Planned fights
- Threats of violence
- Students in crisis
- Weapons brought to school

Email, Text, or Call - 24/7
Email: speakup@meridenk12.org
Text or Call: (203) 694-0746

BIBLE CLUB HOSTS GUEST SPEAKER

On Friday March 8th., Keith Brilliant from the Hope Pregnancy Center, located in Cheshire, CT, came and spoke to Platt's Bible Club. Mr. Brilliant was invited by Mr. Laskowski, who runs the Bible Club.

Brilliant, who helps run the Hope Pregnancy Center, talked about the work that

the agency does. HPC provides expectant mothers and fathers with parenting classes and free services/care like baby clothes, cribs and support for the caretakers. Not only does HPC provide free services, but it also provides housing to young expecting mothers. According to Keith at Platt's Bible Club

Meeting, "HPC provides maternity housing to young mothers."

Platt's Bible Club meets every Friday at 2:00pm, unless otherwise announced. See Mr. Laskowski for more information.

- Ariana Parker

April 2019

NEWS

PLATT THEATER PRESENTS *NORTH OF BOSTON*

PLATT HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE: *NORTH OF BOSTON*

The Theatre Department at Orville H. Platt High School recently performed the play *North of Boston* in the Platt auditorium on February 28, 2019 to March 1, 2019.

The Platt Theatre Department began working on *North of Boston* right after the winter break. They practiced every day from 2pm to 4:30pm. From the start to opening night, the crew had been fixing and adjusting things. The theater department showed a lot of commitment showing up to rehearsals, making props and so on. On stage they showed a lot of effort and talent.

"I loved the play, it was interesting and different but fun," said Platt senior Dallas Vargas, who acted in the play as Puck as well as the narrator.

"Crew work is fun, I get along with the crew kids. I personally didn't understand the play, but it was a collection of Robert Frost excerpts from his poem," said Platt junior Alayna Pagan. Alayna may have not been in the play, but contributed her time in paint crew, light crew and light board.

-Emily Perez

NORTH OF BOSTON'S LAST STOP: CDA

Platt Theater Club finished their journey with *North of Boston*, but not before presenting it at the Connecticut Drama Festival where every year high schools from all of Connecticut present the plays they've worked so hard for months. The festival took place March 8 and 9, at Joel Barlow High School.

March 8th came and people started loading the truck with the set pieces, props and costumes. The adventure began there. This is not Platt's first time attending the event; they even had the chance of hosting it last year! However, for some actors it was their first time. The expectations were high. "I think we are going to have a great time and do very well. I hope we win one of the important awards," Seth, who plays Warren in the production, reported during the bus ride.

The first day went well; it was relaxed. They didn't perform on Friday. They got to sit back and enjoy all of the splendid productions the other schools had brought. Saturday came and, with that, their performance time. There were some complications along the way. A platform fell and one of the actors, Cristina

Naranjo-Aranda, who plays Mother in the play, had gotten sick the night before. She was contemplating whether or not she'd go on stage and perform. Luckily, everything worked out. They were able to fix the platform and the actor decided to go ahead and give her best shot.

After all, it was one of the best performances they had done to date. The participants were ecstatic and the judges congratulated them on their hard and impressive work. They had their best mark on strike too, which made them feel more confident. It took only 3.16 minutes out of 5 to take their set pieces off the stage.

In the end they were awarded an Honorable Mention in Sound and Poetry and one of the students, Skylar Mitchell, got Honorable Mention in Acting. Although they had expected more, everyone was very happy. The experience was worth it.

-Cristina Naranjo Aranda



SCHOOL SHOULD START LATER

TEENAGERS' SLEEP NEEDS



Teens need at least **8** hours of sleep per night.



Younger students need at least **9** hours.



2 out of **3**
U.S. high school students sleep less than 8 hours on school nights.

Adolescents who do not get enough sleep are more likely to

- be overweight



- not get enough physical activity



- suffer from depressive symptoms



- engage in unhealthy risk behaviors such as drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco, and using illicit drugs



- perform poorly in school.



SOURCE: CDC
IMAGES: iStock

EDUCATION WEEK

In recent years there has been a lot of talk around changing school start times an hour or two later to benefit students. Schools in 45 states have adopted a type of policy that allow students to get the recommended amount of sleep and still be able to have a full day of school. With this change teachers and administrators have noticed students are more focused and have better mornings among other positive impacts. So why doesn't every school system start later?

Studies show that most teens are sleep deprived and get, at most, seven hours of sleep and don't meet the recommended minimum of eight to nine hours. Many students are staying up too late because of after school commitments, like sports and

clubs, along with homework. Other students have jobs on top of that and don't get out until 9 or 10 pm. All of these should be taken into consideration when deciding start times of schools. Students who do not get enough sleep are more likely to be overweight, suffer from depression, perform poorly in school and be at risk to begin bad behaviors like drinking or doing drugs. If something as simple as starting school an hour or two later can help stop these problems before they start, we should acknowledge this and find a solution.

Though starting later has its benefits, many parents and teachers argue about how much of a difference this switch will create in their lives. Parents who need

to drop their children off at school before work don't have the option to change their schedules to accommodate the new opening time. If they can't bring their students to school and they have no other means of transportation, it's next to impossible to get to school.

Another issue is the scheduling of sports and after school activities. In this situation, there would be plenty of time for students to have practice before school since a lot of sports do conditioning and workouts before school already. Game schedules can be rearranged with opposing schools to find a compromise.

-Ariana Munoz

CHEATING IN SCHOOL IS A PROBLEM

Cheating in school is a problem because students are cheating on tests that are important for them to succeed in life. Students also aren't really getting the information they need and aren't learning.

Surveys were taken from students and most stated that students were cheating or have cheated at least once. At the Josephson Institute Center for Ethics, they "surveyed 43,000 high school students and found that 59% cheated once on a test, and 34% of all students cheated more than once on multiple tests." Professor Michael Bishop, Chair of the Iowa State University Department of Philosophy and Religion, found that "53% of

my upper-class students have cheated on a test or plagiarized a paper while at Iowa State, 91% know someone who has, and 18% know someone who has been punished for academic dishonesty. The figures on my first-year students are, respectively, 19%, 71%, and 10%". This data shows that students are openly admitting to cheating, even if they aren't putting their names on the surveys they take. Since all these students are cheating, we don't know if teachers are actually getting through to these students, or if the students are learning.

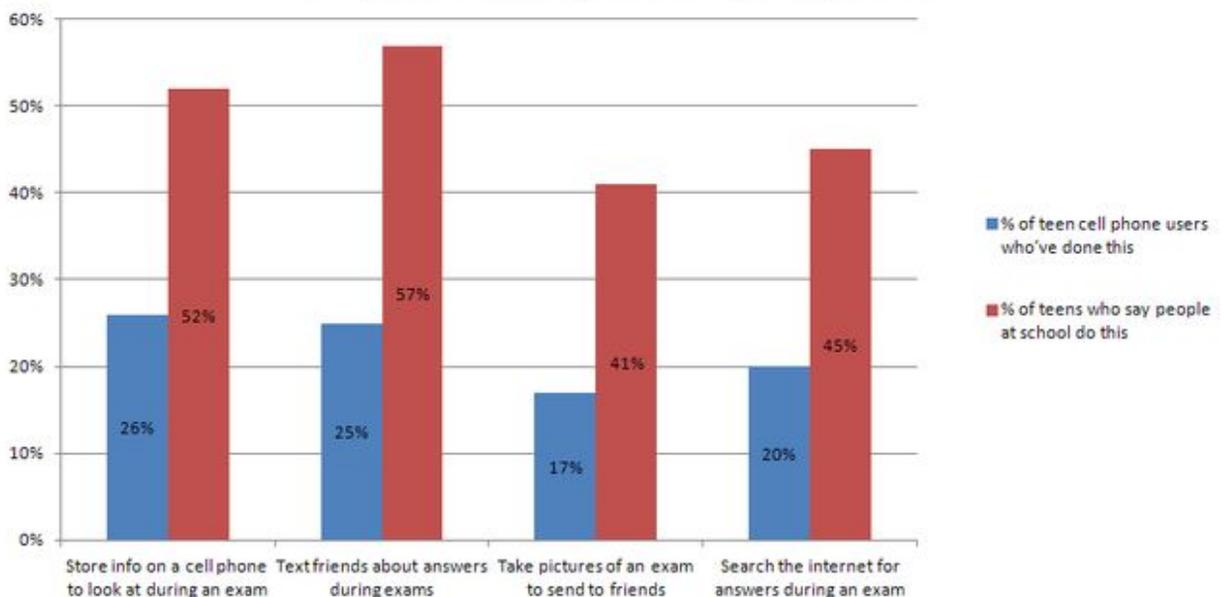
Some people don't think

cheating is becoming a problem. The reasoning to that is people think just because they cheat they are going to get a higher GPA, but cheating can also make students fail and not get a grade to make their GPA higher. They might be getting better grades but what are they learning in the end?

Cheating is a problem because students need their education to succeed in life. If they are cheating, they aren't learning the skills they are going to need in everyday life. Even though cheating is the easy way out, students should still think before they do it.

- Ricky D'Aniello

Cell phone cheating: Student participation



Source: Common Sense Media's Hi-Tech Cheating: Cell Phones and Cheating in Schools: A National Poll

April 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 The Sound of Music	3 The Sound of Music	4 The Sound of Music
5	6 AP Exams	7 AP Exams	8 AP Exams	9 AP Exams	10 AP Exams	11 Junior Prom
12	13 AP Exams	14	15 AP Exams	16 Hick's Speaking and Essay Contest	17 AP Exams	18 Senior Prom
19	20	21	22 Senior & Underclassmen Awards/Scholarship Night	23 Senior Signing Day Spring Pops Concert	24 Senior Outing	25
26	27 No School - Memorial Day	28 4-1-1-5-6-8 Seniors- Per 1 Final	29 3-4-4-5-7-8 Seniors- Per 4 Final	30 2-3-3-6-7-8 Seniors- Per 3 Final Project Excel Top Ten Banquet	31 1-2-3-5-6-6 Everyone- Per 6 Final	

June 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Final Exams – Periods 2 & 7	4 Final Exams – Periods 5 & 8	5 Final Exams – Periods 1 & 4 Seniors- Graduation Rehearsal	6 Final Exams – Periods 3 & Make up Seniors- Graduation Rehearsal	7 Graduation	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

April 2019

MAY HOROSCOPES

FUN

www.horoscope2019.guru**Aries (Mar. 21 – April 19)**

Be ready for a potential setback in your finances. You have several options for solving the problem using the talents of your Aries nature. Toward the end of the month you feel an urge to move around, meet new people, visit with neighbors or write letters. You're more sensitive than usual to beauty, harmony and love; take time to appreciate them.

Taurus (Apr. 20 – May 20)

Get ready for an active month. Business affairs could be settled in your favor. You may revamp your wardrobe, try a new hairstyle, or shed a few pounds. This month, you want to make changes in life direction, but your timing may be off. Another potential this month is that you'll think you are in a better position than you really are.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun. 20)

Relationship difficulties are likely to come in the form of power struggles. Learn or practice any discipline combining physical action with contemplation, like yoga or martial arts this month. These can channel difficult energies in a constructive direction. Use your gift of adaptability to formulate new personal goals.

Cancer (Jun. 21 – Jul. 22)

This month could be tricky. You could speak your mind and risk alienating someone, or you could keep quiet and miss out on saying something important. It won't be easy to see which way it will go! Keeping everything out in the open gives you a better shot at success. A welcome but unexpected surge of energy arrives toward month's end. You might find that a complicated problem from the past has a satisfying resolution. Expect difficult but beneficial changes in your life as you face your limitations.

Leo (Jul. 23 – Aug. 22)

This month is a great time for goal-seeking activities. Maintain control but avoid being overly assertive. This month places extra focus on your career; benefits arrive along with frustrations. There is potential for betrayal from an unexpected source, but they can only harm you if you let them.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

This time span finds you interacting with authority figures, and it will benefit you to have the right attitude. If you've been doing the right thing up to now, you'll gain recognition and appreciation. Begin a new field of study or continue your education this month. Travel or spend time with someone from another background. Expand your horizons, experience new things. Later this month, people really seem to notice you! You'll have a couple of days where you just look great and get along fine with everyone.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

Start thinking seriously about the most significant issues in life. Honesty is the best policy where financial matters are concerned. This month, you could be attracted to study with a broad view; long-distance communication and travel have high potential for rewards. Your mind is more open and you'll be better able to explain complex concepts. Avoid conflict as much as possible. Instead, put your energy into growth and development. Enjoy nature and outdoor activities.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

Complications might arise within an important partnership. The demands you make upon one another could seem restrictive, and arguments are likely. Although difficult, the situation can give you a greater awareness of others, teaching you how to be tolerant and patient. Think about what you want five or ten years from now, then break the larger goals down into smaller increments.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

Pay attention to your daily habits; you're likely to feel lazy and self-indulgent. Now is an excellent time to select clothing that makes you look your very best. This is a good month for getting things done at home and at work. You can persuade others to your side. More than ever, you're practical and efficient; mentally sharp and clear. Shun unnecessary strife, especially if it concerns a rival; compromise, or just avoid this person.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Now is a perfect time for a vacation, especially one involving your favorite hobby. If you can't get away, stay busy with creative activities, entertainment, or games. Expect financial delays this month. Take care before making any major changes. Avoid heavy risk-taking. Hard work and discipline applied to enterprising ventures will bring the most rewards now.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

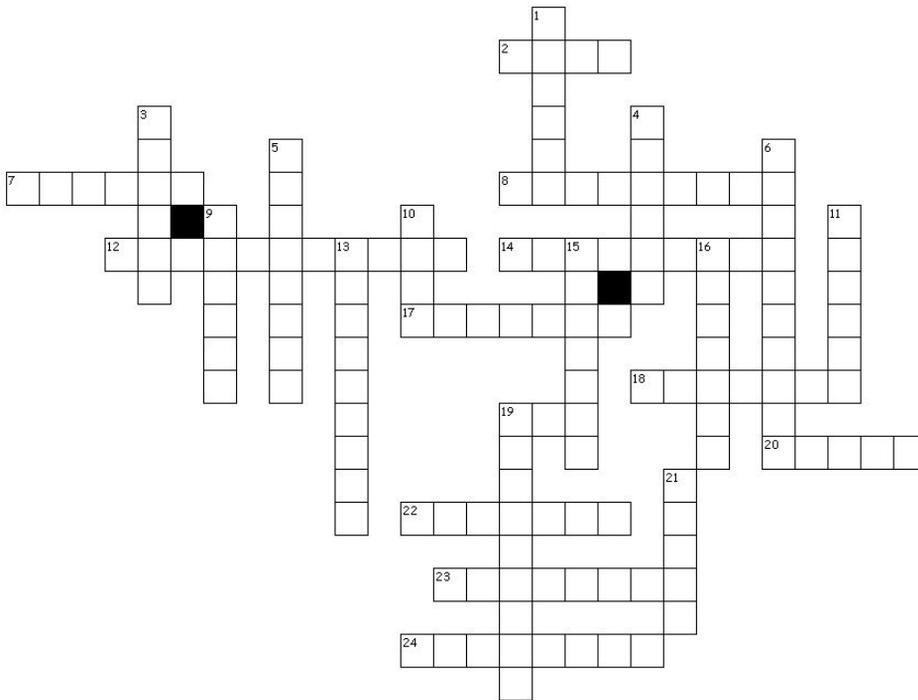
You feel the urge to establish a solid foundation, and your interests center on home and family. Tackle some projects you've been putting off. Old behavior patterns can foster arguments that may make no sense. You could feel irritable and not know why. Prevent unnecessary disagreements by keeping quiet and giving some extra thought to where it's coming from.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – Mar. 20)

You'll be thinking of home this month. Use this focus to improve your domestic life. Evaluate your lifestyle; make plans to make daily living more satisfying. Creativity and fun are in your stars! Enjoy yourself by pursuing artistic interests. Focus on self-expression to feel you're in harmony with the rest of the universe. Don't doubt your worth, even when you see things you don't want to see. If you look carefully, you'll see that the worst traits have a positive side, and can turn out to be assets in disguise.

The first student to return this page to Mrs. Hanson, completed correctly, will win a gift card!

PHS Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. How many English credits do you need to graduate? (spell out)
- 7. Once you graduate, you will be a part of the PHS .
- 8. CTE stands for Career and Education
- 12. To see your grades, you should login to ____.
- 14. The Class of 2021 is the class.
- 17. The PHS Library Media Specialist, Mr. .
- 18. What is the name of Platt's cross-town rival school?
- 19. The address of PHS is 220 Ave.
- 20. This year, we began using an ____ period schedule (spelled out).
- 22. The superintendent of Meriden Public Schools is Mark .
- 23. The Class of 2022 is the class.
- 24. What year did PHS open? (in Roman numbers)

DOWN

- 1. Many classes use this online platform for assignments.
- 3. The class of 2019 is the class.
- 4. The Class of 2020 is the ____ class.
- 5. What is the "P" of PLE?
- 6. Each morning, we pledge to the flag.
- 9. Assistant Principal, Mr. .
- 10. The PHS colors are blue and .
- 11. How many hours of community service do you need to graduate? (spelled out)
- 13. The "H" of O.H. Platt
- 15. The mascot of PHS
- 16. The "O" of O.H. Platt
- 19. Assistant Principal, Mr. .
- 21. The PHS Drama Department is performing "The ____ of Music."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knure

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PEYMT

AVEBO

HNCTER

ECTNED

Print your answer here: ○ ○ ○ ○

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Print on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jumble>

It's colder out today than I thought it would be. My fingers are numb!

No problem, I have an extra pair of gloves in the glove compartment.

HAVING AN EXTRA SET OF GLOVES IN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT WAS _____

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Sudoku

1	8			6	4		
		6		9		8	7
5							
2	6	9	5				8
			4	9			
	8			2	7	9	1
							5
6	4		7		2		
		1	2		9		3