



UPWARD BOUND, EXCEL, THE DANBURY COLLABORATIVE,
EDUCATIONAL ACCESS & ACHIEVEMENT BRIDGE PROGRAM,
PROMOTING ACADEMICALLY SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

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Remote Mentorship



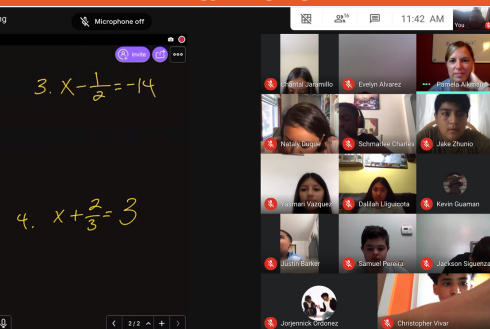
Skeleton Sam



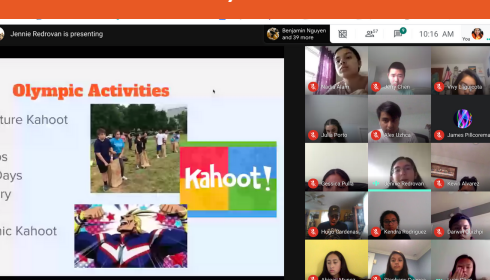
Student Lounge, Fall 2020



Student Success Center,
Fall 2020



Math Class, Summer 2020



Kahoot!, Summer 2020

ROB POTE

DIRECTOR

"A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence."

- James N. Watkins

This newsletter will bring you up to speed on what our department has been doing since last March. Well, to begin with, remote learning is a change from our regular course of action. However, our staff has been busy all summer into fall connecting with our students in a variety of ways, which will be showcased in this newsletter.

Remember we're always here to help, you just have to reach out! We've been so glad to see, and continue working with you this fall semester! Together we will make this a wonderful year full of meaningful experiences.

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JESSICA CORONEL

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Distance Learning! Power outages! We survived it all!

Our Middle School and High School students were able to get ahead during the summer by taking virtual classes in different subjects. Students attended a 7-week Virtual Summer Program, taking classes such as Math, English, Science, College Counseling, SAT Prep, and more. They also had the opportunity to connect with different Alumni attending different colleges such as Western Connecticut State University, University of Connecticut, Southern Connecticut State University, Boston University, and Northeastern University. Apart from academics, our students engaged in the 2020 Summer Olympic activities with the academic and pop culture trivia game Kahoot!, playing chess online, and physical activities such as push-ups and wall sits. As a program tradition, we finished the summer program with our Virtual Talent Show. The students had the option to pre-record videos of their talents using Flip Grid. Overall, our students know how to succeed in challenging times! If you would like to see pictures or videos of our summer program, check out our Facebook and Instagram @Upward Bound/Excel.

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CARMEN CORNACCHIA

UPWARD BOUND SITE ADVISOR

Continuing to utilize Google Meet, Upward Bound forges ahead with "business as usual". In wrapping up the academic school year, group meetings along with Upward Bound's enrichment activities were still being held virtually. Senior Final Decision Meetings also were accomplished successfully. Upward Bound's 2020 cohort is now committed to universities and colleges. Of the 30 students in the cohort, 21 have committed to the CT State Universities (NVC, WCSU, UCONN), 6 students will attend private universities, 2 are going to religious colleges, and 1 student will attend a Fine Arts College. Many of the students were awarded generous scholarships and grants that helped solidify their final choices.

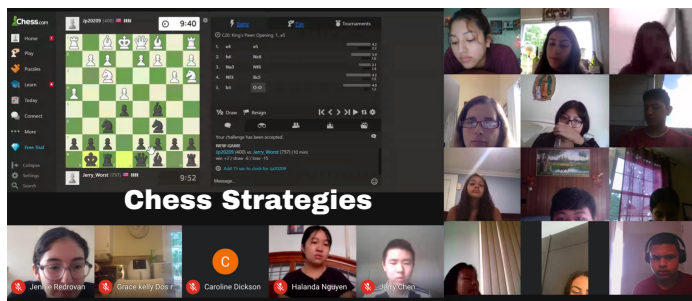
As we transitioned the Seniors, virtual summer planning was in full swing for Upward Bound Summer 2020. In keeping with the core curriculum this summer, enrichment sessions also were incorporated. The UBBC Book Club was expanded to 4 groups for the summer, as all students were required to participate. The books chosen to be studied were *Game*, *The Alchemist*, *The House on Mango Street* and *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, all written by diverse authors.

A newly formed Debate Club was created to learn the principles of persuasive communication. Our popular *Girls with Goals* continues to empower female students, while *Males that Motivate* welcomed PCAAP Alumni, to share their insights on college success. The WCSU Financial Aid office kicked off our college counseling class as we began our "college journey." WCSU faculty also explained the expectations of a college professor. Our Upward Bound students in response, interactively ascertained all the information, and asked poignant questions.

Rounding up the summer, we continued our college visits. Ten universities joined us virtually as we attended informationals, met the Admissions Representatives, and took tours.

Looking forward to the academic year, and as always, stay safe and Healthy!!

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YARA ZOCCARATO

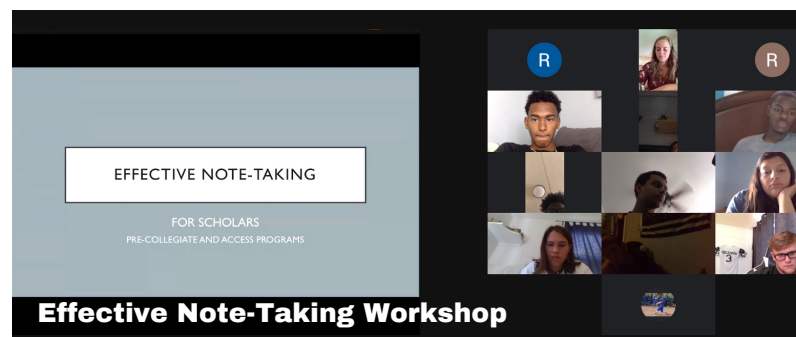
EA²P BRIDGE & PASS STUDENT SUPPORT LIAISON

Hello WCSU Community. Despite the transition to a virtual platform from the spring semester into the summer sessions, I am proud to say that our PCAAP team has consistently continued to execute our program activities and support for our students. The switch to online mentoring and other obstacles presented by COVID-19 did not deter Mentors and students from continuing with their individual mentoring sessions.

Our Promoting Academically Successful Student (PASS) Mentors continued their Peer Mentoring sessions virtually until the end of the spring semester, to ensure our students were given the support and motivation to successfully complete their semester. In the same way we are proud of our PASS Mentors, we are also proud of our students who demonstrated their dedication to learning throughout the spring semester.

We have also transformed the Educational Achievement and Access (EA²P) Bridge Program from a five week summer program to a 15-week fall semester program. Also, we have re-arranged our computers and tables in our Student Success Center to allow for social distancing and save academic learning on campus. We have developed a student course schedule convenient for our residential and commuting students, and we continue to work with WCSU Student Services to provide EA²P Bridge scholars with an engaging and supportive academic environment. In preparation for their Freshmen year and for a hybrid campus, our EA²P Bridge scholars have completed workshops on utilizing Banner Web, accessing and using Open/Close, student e-mail etiquette, college note-taking, and college math readiness. Since the semester began, our students have been introduced to Blackboard and Aleks, so that they would be familiar with the campus's academic platforms before classes began. We were excited to welcome our new and returning students to campus and to our PCAAP office. We have a great semester planned and will continue to provide services for our students on campus and virtually.

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VIRTUAL RESOURCES

Danbury Public Schools

- * **District Website:** <https://www.danbury.k12.ct.us/>
- * **Danbury High School:** <https://dhs.danbury.k12.ct.us/>
- * **Broadview Middle School:** <https://sites.google.com/a/danbury.k12.ct.us/broadview-middle-school/>
- * **Rogers Park Middle School:** <https://sites.google.com/a/danbury.k12.ct.us/rpms/>
- * **Westside Middle School Academy:** <https://sites.google.com/danbury.k12.ct.us/wsmsa/home>
- * **Powerschool Portal:** <https://danbury.powerschool.com/public/home.html>
- * **Google Classroom:** <https://classroom.google.com/>
- * **Khan Academy:** <https://www.khanacademy.org/>



Western Connecticut State University

- * **Anzell Commons:** <https://www.wcsu.edu/anzell-commons/>
- * **Library:** <http://library.wcsu.edu>
- * **Math Clinic:**
 - <https://www.wcsu.edu/math/math-clinic/math-clinic-remote/>
 - <https://www.wcsu.edu/math/math-clinic/>
 - <https://libguides.wcsu.edu/librarycontinuity>
- * **Math Emporium:** <https://www.wcsu.edu/math/math-emporium/>
- * **Tutoring Resource Center:**
 - <https://www.wcsu.edu/trc/>
 - <https://wcsu.edu/trc/online-tutoring>
 - <https://wcsu.mywconline.net>
- * **Writing Center:** <https://www.wcsu.edu/writingcenter/>