



Welcome Back to School!

It seems impossible that the summer is gone and we are already through a month of school! We would like to take this opportunity to say "Welcome back", and to wish you and your student a happy, healthy, and productive school year.

Please do not hesitate to call us for any reason. A good way to reach us is to call the Gifted Program office at **622-5383** and leave a message. Mr. Reid or Mrs. Carey will pass it along.

If you wish to have a parent conference with any or all of the team teachers, please call to schedule a meeting.

You can also reach the team by email. You can reach us at treid@easthartford.org, jdempsey@cibanet.org, ssharma@easthartford.org, or rtetreault@cibanet.org

Here's to a great year!

Sincerely,

Saroj Sharma:
Algebra II Honors
Tim Reid:
Chemistry 10 Honors
Jennifer Dempsey:
English II Honors
Ron Tetreault:
Civics & U.S. History Honors



The 10th Grade Idea Team teachers: Saroj Sharma, Tim Reid, Jennifer Dempsey, Ron Tetreault (left to right)

Algebra II Honors

Welcome Back!

My experience has been delightful working with your brilliant and gifted children. I am excited to work with them again.

Regarding Algebra 2 curriculum currently we are predicting growth / decay and finding an appropriate model to display given information . The models used are linear, exponential functions and matrices. Students will also learn all the mathematical operations with matrices. Furthermore, students will learn how to write and graph linear equations in different forms such as slope-intercept, point slope and general form. *(cont'd on page 4)*

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Important Dates:

- PSAT: October 16, 2004
(see page 3 for more information)
- Columbus Day Holiday
October 11, 2004
- Tentative: Field trip to Boston
October 21, 2004
- Election Day (no school):
November 2, 2004
- End of First Marking Period:
November 8, 2004





Sophomore Honors Chemistry

Hello, parents! I'm new to the team, and I am enjoying getting to know you, the students and the teachers. I've taught this course for twelve years now, but every year brings great new students and new challenges.

The first job we have in science is to learn the importance of careful observation and measurement. You may have already heard and seen your student working on their first lab, which we did last week.

We'll also be learning laboratory safety techniques, using balances, lighting the dreaded Bunsen burners, and measuring with other basic lab equipment. We've been reviewing the SI (metric and more) system of units, scientific notation, and other mathematical skills.

By the end of the first quarter, we will have learned more numerical problem-solving techniques, the structure of the atom in detail, and the reasons for the organization of the periodic table of elements.

Lastly, students have begun revising their long-term Experimental Project (sometimes called a SMASH project) for this semester. The final experimental design for the project is due on September 27. This is their final mandatory attempt at this, so I hope these projects reflect an expertise in solving problems using the scientific method. The type of thinking done for this project is directly tested on the CAPT science test in April. Once completed, the best projects will be fine-tuned for the EHHS science fair in January. The best eight projects from the school will enter the Connecticut State Science Fair where they are eligible to win many honors, awards, and maybe even cash — it's happened!

Also regarding the SMASH project — I will be asking for your photographic support with the project again this year. That is, I will be requiring the students to take a photograph of their project in progress to include with the final report in January. I hope that this requirement will not impose too large a burden of time or expense. More information will be sent home as the time nears.

I look forward to working with you and your student, and thanks for reading this far!

"If it disagrees with experiment, then it is wrong" -

Richard P. Feynman in Six Easy Pieces

Take the PSAT—It's FREE!

An early opportunity for your student comes up on Saturday, October 16 — the PSAT. It is highly recommended that X team sophomores take this exam for the practice and for the introduction to standardized testing it provides. The student will then take the PSAT again "for real" next October (as a junior). You can register through the guidance department. There is NO charge to take the exam—the Board of Education is picking up the tab for everyone!





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Gifted Program

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Web!
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Algebra II Honors (continued)

Students will be assigned a project each quarter. This quarter, they will be assigned a project on linear and exponential functions.

Grading Policy is as follows:

Tests	50%
Quizzes	30%
Project	10%
Home work	10%

Semester Grade will be calculated as follows:

First Quarter	40%
Second Quarter	40%
Semester 1 Exam	20%

Students can stay for extra help on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in room 106. Students should let me know during the class that they are coming for extra help.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 622-5200 Ext 6106 between 2:10 PM – 2:40 PM or via e-mail address ssharma@easthartford.org.



Civics & United States History Honors

The start of another school year... the seating charts are prepared and the coffee cup is filled. I am looking forward to working with your children. In response to a recent mandate from the state of Connecticut, each student is required to take a semester course in Civics in order to graduate. For tenth grade X team students, Civics will be taught during the first semester. The second semester will be devoted to early American history. Students wishing to take Advanced Placement U.S. History as juniors or seniors will find that they are well prepared by the tenth grade honors curriculum.

Students requesting extra help may meet with me any morning between 6:45 am and 7:20 pm, and in the afternoon from 2:15 pm to 2:45 pm. I can be found in room IB104, extension 7104.

