

# Trumbull FFA Chapter Recognizes FFA Spirit Week

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Trumbull High Students who attend the Agriscience and Biotech Center embraced their love of agriculture as they celebrated National FFA (Future Farmers of America) Spirit Week. Students participated in events such as Wear Green Day, Bring your Farm Friend to School Day, Mad Plaid Day, and Blue and Gold Day to show their support for the FFA Organization. The purpose of the week was for students at the Trumbull Agriscience and Biotechnology Center to be able to educate others at Trumbull High about the importance of the FFA and all the great experiences and opportunities FFA has afforded the students.

The FFA was founded in 1928 and according to its website cites being "...committed to the individual student, providing a path to achievement in premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education" as their primary goals for their student members. The Trumbull FFA Chapter has embraced these core values as they attend state leadership conferences, career development events, and work on their supervised agriculture experience projects. The week of George Washington's birthday was chosen to be National FFA Week by the FFA organization in 1947.

Normally, the Spirit Week occurs during Trumbull's February Break; however due to



Dr. Tremaglio meets with FFA students Maggie Quinn, Alyssa Zabin, Christy Shomski, and Amber Ferreira

its cancellation the Agriscience Students for the first time were able to participate in the celebration of this week. The Trumbull FFA officers got together to plan events for each day to help Agriscience students show their FFA pride.

Mrs. Berlekovic, Agriscience Department Chair and Teacher, felt that the cancellation did afford students the opportunity to celebrate and support FFA. "FFA Week is always held the week that we have winter break, so it is difficult to have any activities celebrating the event. If there is a silver lining to being here for vacation week, it is that our students have the opportunity to be together

and recognize that they are part of a larger picture as far as FFA and Agriscience Education," she said.

Agriscience students appreciated the fact that they were able to demonstrate their FFA pride. The students were also able to show their support for FFA as they met with Dr. Tremaglio to discuss the importance of FFA and the FFA events that happen in the Agriscience and Biotechnology program at the high school. Students discussed how the program developed work experience skills, leadership skills, team building, and the expertise needed to be successful in a career that centers around agriculture.

Students attending the Agriscience and Biotechnology program automatically become members of the FFA. Students are also elected to officer positions for the Trumbull Chapter for each year. This year's team of officers are: President Liz Tomasco, Vice President Teighe Christiano-Maher, Treasurer Miles DeAngelis; Secretary Alyssa Zabin, Historian Maggie Quinn, Parliamentarian Dominique Martin, and Reporter Alyssa Marini. The organization has afforded many of these students invaluable opportunities. Dominique Martin, the parliamentarian for the Trumbull regional chapter of the FFA said, "I really enjoy going to Ag. and being an active member of the

FFA. The FFA allows me to build leadership skills, meet new people, and also participate in career development events.

The Trumbull FFA Chapter has been a very proactive and successful chapter this year. They have students participating in many Career Development Events such as creed speaking in which students recite the FFA creed, extemporaneous or prepared public speaking, food science, veterinarian technician, environmental science and natural resources, or horse judging.

This past fall, the Horse Judging Team, consisting of members Katie Dicine, Ed Donini, Michelle Mitchell and Dominique Martin placed first in the state and will move on to regionals in September 2011 and the national competition held in Indianapolis in October 2011. In addition, all the FFA members must actively develop and work on their Supervised Agricultural Experience projects. These projects can be in the categories of research, entrepreneurship, or placement and the students must work on these projects for 200 hours each year. Some current projects include working for or running a lawn care service, caring for or working with horses at a barns in the area, working for an local agricultural businesses, or conducting an agricultural experiment.

FFA is the largest national youth organization and has given students numerous experiences and opportunities. Students were able to show their pride in the organization during the Spirit Week.