

VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE FROM MARCH 28 AT 8:00

A.M. THROUGH MARCH 29 AT 2:30 P.M!



STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL CANDIDATES:



CEE You in the Lab: Bringing Community, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship to Staples, Logan Goodman

Our proposal includes 2 things. First we propose the adoption of an advanced Community Engineering and Entrepreneurship (CEE) course, which will be modeled on Scarsdale High School's successful 'AT Entrepreneurship' class and become the first of its kind in Connecticut. Through working closely with Scarsdale educator Lisa Yokana, we have received a complete list of resources for this AP-weighted, project-based course, including a developed curriculum. Students will work in teams of five on a year-long project focused on sustainability, disability, equity, and wellness. Each team will identify one issue within these four key areas and partner with a community organization that is directly affected by, or helps to mitigate, the problem. For example, prior Scarsdale teams have worked with senior centers to help the hearing impaired and decrease fall risk. Throughout the year, the curriculum guides students to model, prototype, engineer, test, and iterate upon a product solution, then implement this solution within their local community. We have already enlisted the support of several current Staples science teachers who are eager to create such a program, as it fills a void in Staples course offerings. Ms. Yokana has graciously offered to support us in implementing this exciting opportunity.

Second, we propose the creation of an Engineering and Design Lab which will be open to all high school students and staff for an hour after every school day, with a teacher advisor present. CEE equipment and software will be openly available, and students may pursue projects in areas such as mechanical, electrical, computer, or audio engineering, graphic design, animation, or architecture. For individuals or small groups, students might use the space to perfect a college architecture portfolio, complete a robot for a competition, or build animation for an iOS app, for example. The Engineering and Design Lab will become a crucial collaborative space for our school community.

Free Tutors for those In Need, Ayaan Olasewere

Hi, my name is Ayaan-Olasewere. When I started the year I needed help in one of my classes and was lucky enough to get a tutor who helped me better understand the core concepts of the class, which in turn improved my insights and performance. I am proposing this program because I want other people who are struggling and cannot afford a tutor to have this opportunity as well. Tutoring allows an educator to give their full attention to students who are struggling and help fix the issue. There are students who are struggling in our classes today but they can't afford tutoring. As a result, they continue to not fully understand the work given and have nowhere to go and get the help and support they need.

With your support, I am proposing we vote to help these students with a tutoring program. Each department in the school will receive a portion of the \$20,000 from the state. This will be used to hire tutors, who will tutor the students who are struggling and qualify for this program. Staples is lucky to be in a town where many families are economically well off. However, not everyone is in a similar position. We have to ask ourselves: do we have a responsibility to help students in our school community who are struggling and can't afford tutoring? This program will give these students a much needed chance to learn based on their needs. Thanks in advance for your support in making a difference in the lives of fellow students.

Intercity Tutoring Initiative, Henry Foege

When I first heard that staples was to receive \$20,000 to spend on something the students wanted, I was frankly confused. Staples is an incredibly privileged school. We have a radio station, computers to loan to anyone who needs one, and almost every class you could want to take. So my initial reaction was to let CT give it to a school that needs it. My English teacher, a few months prior, had said one of her teacher friends (in Bridgeport), had students (6-12 year olds) in 1st grade who couldn't read. I was awestruck. I immediately thought of a way staples could take this money and not only 'gift' it, but also supply students to help out the

teachers that need it most.

So using ITI, you could provide a district or school in need of trained tutors. This would make the situation a whole lot better for these students as well as supply an unforgettable experience for staples students. Staples students could get a taste of the real world using this program and its opportunities. It would be a great way to broaden your horizons and try something new and different. The amazing perks that come along with it would be the ability to have an early highschool internship. It is also a great field experience for those looking at careers that relate. Thank you for considering ITI and I hope you vote for what you believe is right!

Refillable Water Stations, Gaby Brinck

The Zero Waste Committee submitted a proposal for voice for change and we hope to count on your vote! We would like to install 12 new water bottle filling stations on existing water fountains around our school to help reduce the amount of plastic water bottles used everyday. This would also ensure sanitary drinking water. This is a very important cause because we truly think we could make a difference and help our environment, as well as positively impact student life day to day. An Elkay study estimated that a high school can save about 10,000 to 15,000 plastic bottles per year by having at least 18 water refill stations so our 12 new units would make an incredible difference. In addition this change would provide a more sanitary approach to hydration, aiding in the support of students physical health and safety. With many of our schools water fountains that lack the bottle filler, this is something we truly need to address.

Not only would we add the twelve new water bottle filling stations but we would use the 20,000 dollars to change the filters on the existing ones. I bet you, at least once a week you want to refill your water bottle and the filter cleanliness marker is red which not only is off putting but makes Staples a less sustainable community. We can totally make a difference, and lower the number of plastic water bottles we waste a year from around 30,000, to hopefully around half of that. Want cleaner water? Help us make it happen!

Staples Student Government, Lyah Muktavaram

Many students do not feel they are adequately represented within the school: in a survey conducted the fall of 2021, 61.8% of the 170 students responded “no” when asked if Staples does a good job addressing issues that face the school. 80.6% of this same group agreed that students need to be more involved in the school administration’s decision making. TEAM Staples proposes the establishment of a student government, which would create an accessible avenue through which more students can express their concerns.

The student government will consist of representatives elected by the entire student body. Each grade will have a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Members can also create committees based on what their focus or needs are and appoint committee heads such as Director of Social Media, Mental Health, Diversity and Inclusion, etc. The elected representatives will hold monthly meetings as an entire group and biweekly meetings each grade (or as often as the group feels is necessary so long as they are meeting consistently) to discuss their ideas and concerns, share feedback they have received from their peers, and plan initiatives. The student government will also have a student lounge space within the school where they can meet; the student lounge will have the materials and resources necessary for them to carry out their purpose—computers, a printer, campaign supplies, etc. They will meet with school administrators and attend Board of Education meetings once a month to relay the issues they have talked about in their meetings and suggest changes. Your voice and the issues you care about matter!

Make Me Free, Camille Kolek, Miriam Hurley, Adeila Purcell

Make Me Free is a proposal to have free period products easily accessible in the bathrooms at Staples. Currently, the access to pads and tampons at Staples is unacceptable. The machines in the bathrooms don’t work, and nonetheless require quarters to operate. If a student forgets products at home, they have to walk all the way down to the nurses office, which takes important time out of their education. We believe that pads and tampons should be free for all. We don’t have to pay to use paper towels or toilet paper, and period products should be treated as a necessity just the same. Additionally, students should not have to miss class time

simply because they menstruate. The increased access to menstrual products that Make Me Free would bring would not only increase convenience, but also improve the mental health of students at Staples. Experiencing menstruation in itself causes a lot of stress, and if students do not have to constantly worry about bleeding into their clothes, running out of pads or tampons, having to quietly ask a classmate if they can spare any products, or slyly bringing products to the bathroom to avoid the skeptical looks from teachers, the mental and emotional toll of having a period would be lessened drastically.

The \$20,000 would go towards installing new period product dispensers in all of the girls and gender-neutral bathrooms at school. These machines would dispense period products without requiring quarters to get a pad or tampon. Additional money left over would be sufficient enough to stock the dispensers for well over a year.