

DHS News

November

2013

A publication of the DHS PTA
Davis Senior High School
315 W. 14th St., Davis, CA 95616
www.dhspta.org

Principal's Message

Greetings Blue Devil Nation,

The first quarter ends November 1, 2013. Your student's report card will be mailed approximately one week after the end of the quarter. But, why wait for grades to be delivered to your house when you can register on School Loop and have 24/7 access to your child's grades, progress reports, assignments and more? It's all at your fingertips; check it out School Loop at <http://dshs.djUSD.net/> today!

It is not too early to begin thinking about and planning for a safe and sober graduation night. Plans are in motion as we speak to make this a fantastic night for our graduating seniors. Every student eligible to walk in the ceremony is eligible to attend this event. The price is \$75; as we get closer to the end of the year the price goes up until the day of the event when the price reaches \$110. If your student is receiving free or reduced lunch, they are eligible for a reduced price and an instance of hardship should be brought to your student's counselor for consideration. Our parent coordinators would like to see as many students as possible attend this fantastic event.

November is a busy month. Please make time to come out and see our Drama Department's Presentation of the Tony Award Winning Musical, Pippin on November 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 7 p.m.; and November 10 at 2 p.m. On November 19th, catch the Davis High School Symphonic Band concert at 7:30 p.m. Then, on November 21st, our very own Davis Senior High School competition, The DHS Factor, will be presented by Student Government at 7:00 p.m. All performances will be held in the Brunelle Performance Hall. I hope to see you at one of these events.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of our fall athletes, parents and coaches for the many hours of work they put in to make the season such a success. Our Homecoming Parade, held on October 11th, was a fun and heartwarming tribute. It was exciting to see so many smiling faces eager to hear the band, wave at our student athletes and, of course, get some candy. So much student and staff effort went into this event - as well as the entire season - as a result, our teams achieved tremendous results. TOGETHER we can accomplish ANYTHING... Go Blue!!!

I wish you all well and trust that Thanksgiving provides you the chance to enjoy the company of family friends.

Sincerely,

William A. Brown
Principal



William A. Brown, Principal

DHS Contact Information

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Counselor	Ann Crook	acrook@djud.net	757-5400
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DHS Calendar

November		
Fri.	11/1	First Quarter ends
Wed	11/6	PTA Meeting—DHS Library, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Fri.	11/8	DHS Friendship Day
	11/8, 9, 14, 15, & 16	DHS Drama Dept. Presents "Pippin" – IPAB, 7:00 p.m.
Sun	11/10	DHS Drama Dept. Presents "Pippin –IPAB, 2:00 p.m.
Mon	11/11	Veteran's Day—No School
Tues.	11/12	California Mathematic League Competition #2
Mon.	11/18	DHS Blood Drive—Bloodmobiles, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tues.	11/19	Davis High School Symphonic Band concert—Brunelle, 7:30 p.m.
Wed.	11/20	DHS PTA Parent Program, "How to Pay for College"—Holmes Jr. High School Multipurpose Room, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Thurs.	11/21	DHS Student Government "The DHS Factor"—Brunelle, 7:00 p.m.
	11/25-29	Thanksgiving Break—No School
December		
Tues.	12/3	DHS College Financial Aid Workshop—Brunelle, 7:00 p.m.
Fri.	12/6	District Parent Ed Program, Author and Speaker Mike Riera—Brunelle, 7:00 p.m.

PTA President's Message

The DHS PTA, in partnership with the Counseling Department, showed the film **Race to Nowhere** on October 16th. It was a success and has opened a dialog about the stress many students at DHS face. We very much hope that these Parent Education Programs open conversations within families. One of the things I “took away” from watching **Race to Nowhere** is that there are ways for parents to support their students and help minimize their stress. One way to be more supportive is to ask your student how they are **feeling** about school rather than asking them when their tests are and how they did on each assignment. Another way is to actively set aside some time in your student’s schedule to just “be a kid”. There is value in building some “free time” into their day to pursue their hobbies and have time to dream and be creative rather than studying for hours and hours every single day. I hope that if you are interested in continuing this conversation that you will attend future programs.

Please consider attending the November General Association PTA meeting to find out about the first round of Partners In Education (PIE) grant approvals. The next PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6th at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the DHS Library Conference Room.

The DHS PTA is in need of a 1st Vice President. The PTA’s 1st VP is in charge of managing the Partners In Education Grant application process. As we are already well underway with the first round of grant applications, some of the work for this job is already complete. We very much need someone to help follow this process through until the grants are all distributed and accounted for. If you are interested in learning more about this open position on the PTA Executive Board, please contact me directly at sallyalbertson@comcast.net.

Sincerely,

Sally Albertson
DHS PTA President



Sally Albertson, PTA President

Parent Education Presents, “How to Finance College” Information Night

Does the expense of college have you a little worried? Can I save for retirement while still paying for my children’s tuition? The Davis Senior High School PTA invites you to a College Funding Presentation by Beatrice Schultz, CFP. Beatrice will share ways families can pay less, tap into financial aid where possible, and prioritize their source of college funds. You will learn steps to maximize your financial aid eligibility, gain understanding of expected family contribution, and how to determine the true cost of college.

Parents of all age students are invited to join us on Wednesday, November 20th from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Holmes Junior High School Multi-Purpose Room for this informative presentation. For questions about the program, contact Jennifer Creinin at mitchjen@comcast.net.

Counseling Corner

Some of the most resilient students on our campus are students with disabilities. We want to acknowledge their parents for the extended hours they work to assist their children in understanding their abilities, encouraging them to advocate for themselves, and assisting them with organizational strategies at home.

What is it like to have a disability?

One student said that if we could just see inside her brain then we would understand. Students with disabilities relay that every day is a struggle. They try to grasp concepts as best they can, even though they feel like their brain periodically shuts off. Sometimes, in the middle of a sentence, they go blank. There are days when they cannot make sense of our educational system. One student said it is as though the teacher gave a key of understanding to everyone else in the classroom and didn't give her a key. The work seems never-ending as they stay up long hours trying to complete homework that other students finish in one hour. It is not easy, yet, despite periodic setbacks, they try again. This is resiliency.



Courtenay Tessler, Counselor

If your student is struggling with school, here are some tips to assist them in organizing their homework:

HOMEWORK LOCATION: Designate a quiet spot in your home with good lighting, free of visual distractions, where homework is to be completed.

HOMEWORK ROUTINE: Students need a consistent time they devote to homework. Students can complete the Learning Styles Inventory on Naviance to learn about their own unique learning style. They can then set up a schedule that meets their needs.

BE YOUR CHILD'S COACH: First, ask if they want your assistance. You can offer to help them develop a time line system for completing large projects. Share how you would approach managing multiple assignments, reading a set amount each day, writing a draft essay, etc. Use encouraging words and focus on the positives.

FOLDER FOR COMPLETED HOMEWORK: Have a special folder for completed homework. Students need a consistent place they can go to in their backpack to retrieve homework.

PLANNER: Encourage your child to write all assignments in his planner. Learning how to plan a daily and weekly schedule is a skill that will benefit them in their daily life and career.

Career Center News — Financial Aid Workshop

All seniors and their parents are invited to attend Davis Senior High School's annual Financial Aid Workshop on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Richard Brunelle Performance Theater.

The purpose of the workshop is to help students and parents understand the financial aid process, learn about the many sources of financial aid, and provide instructions for completing financial aid applications. Information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Cal Grants, college-based aid, student loans and scholarships will be provided at the workshop.

All college-bound seniors are encouraged to apply for financial aid even if they think they don't qualify. Many factors besides income are taken into account to determine eligibility. By submitting the FAFSA, students will be considered for federal and state grants, loans, work study, and college-based aid. Colleges also use the FAFSA to award their own grants and scholarships.

We look forward to seeing you at this event! If you have any questions, please contact Julie Clayton at jclayton@djusd.net.

Counseling Corner

Middlebury College recently sent us the “Top Ten Things that Parents Should Remember about the College Search Process.” They stated that students and parents approach this process jointly, but the process is best when students begin demonstrating independence, a skill they will need to be successful in college.

The following suggestions are offered based on their experience with overinvolved parents:

10. **Remember that this process is not about you.** No matter how similar your children may be to you, they need to make their own decisions and observations.
9. **Support and encouragement are more appropriate than pressure and unsolicited advice.** Allow your children to seek you out and restrain yourself from imposing your viewpoint upon them.
8. **Do not use the words “we” or “our” when referring to your children’s application process.** Those little pronouns are surefire indicators that you have become too involved.
7. **Help them prepare but let them perform.** Encourage them to sleep well and put thought into a college visit, but once on campus, step back and let them drive the experience. This is a good practice for the next phase of their lives – adulthood.
6. **Encourage your children to make their own college appointments, phone calls, and e-mails.** When a family arrives at an admissions office, it’s important that the student approach the front desk, not the parents. We notice! Having control over those details gives them a sense of ownership. Don’t be tempted by the excuse that “I’m just saving them time” or “they are too busy” – students will learn to appreciate all the steps it takes to make big things happen if they do them.
5. **Allow your children to ask the questions.** They have their own set of issues that are important to them.
4. **Prepare your children for disappointment.** For many students this is the first time they could face bad news. Remind them there is no perfect school and that admissions decisions do not reflect on their worth as people or your worth as parents.
3. **Never complete any portion of the college application** – yes, even if it is just busy work. That also goes for friends, siblings, counselors, and secretaries. For many colleges, that overstep would be viewed as a violation of the honor policy at the school.
2. **Do not let stereotypes or outdated information steer your children away from schools in which they would otherwise have an interest.** Times have changed and so have colleges.
1. **Never, ever, during a college visit buy a sweatshirt or T-shirt from the bookstore in your size**—it’s a dead give-away!

The DSHS Counseling Departments extends best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Grad Night 2014

Tickets for the 2014 Davis Grad Night Celebration are now available for purchase online through the Davis Grad Night website at <http://groups.dcn.org/davisgradnight/tickets>

Don't forget to purchase a ticket for your graduating senior -- prices are \$75.00 through December 31, 2013 -- then the price increases to \$90.00. Please note, scholarship tickets are also available through school counselors. Don't delay -- purchase your ticket today; it's now easier than ever!

Upcoming Events

DHS Baroque Ensemble Fundraising Event

Music - Wine - Appetizers - Silent Action
DHS Baroque Ensemble goes to Italy
via...Monticello Seasonal Cuisine
Join us on November 10, 2013 from 5:00—7:00
p.m. at Monticello Seasonal Cuisine
Tickets are \$30.00
For tickets contact mjtruocop@gmail.com

Veterans' Day Ceremonies

The Davis Madrigal Singers invite the DSHS community to join us on Monday, November 11th at the Davis Cemetery for the annual Veteran's Day ceremony where the choir will be on hand to perform a musical tribute to Veterans and their families. Supervisor Mike McGowan and Francis Resta, a veteran of World War II, will be speaking and the Davis Firefighters will provide a BBQ following the ceremonies. This is a free event.

Car Wash Fundraiser

Come support the Madrigal Singers at a car wash fundraiser on Saturday, November 16th from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Davis Joint Unified School District parking lot on Fifth and B Streets. Spend an enjoyable Saturday visiting Downtown Davis or Farmer's Market, while these talented singers demonstrate their skill and precision with virtuoso performances featuring soap, sponges and hoses. Donations are appreciated!

Madrigal Dinner

Registration forms are now available to secure reservations for the 45th Annual Madrigal Dinner. The dinner is the premiere singing event for the choir and a wonderful holiday tradition. This is an incredible opportunity for families and our community to enjoy the talents of these gifted musicians. This year's dinner takes place on December 6th and 7th at First Baptist Church of Davis. For more information or to download a registration form, please visit <http://www.davismadrigals.com/madrigal-dinner-2013.html>.

DHS Blood Drive

Davis High School is hosting a blood drive on Monday, November 18th from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There will be sign-ups in the Quad during break or lunch. All participants will receive a free "Pay It Forward. Give Blood." tee shirt. Students age 16-17 must bring a signed Parent Consent Form. If you'd like more information, please see Mrs. Youtsey in the nurse's office.



Paying For College

The Career Center has up-to-date materials and resources regarding financial aid and scholarships for students looking for ways to fund their college education. The Scholarship Bulletin, which lists local and national scholarships, is updated every two weeks and can be found in the Career Center, the Career Center's webpage (on the DSHS website click on counseling, click on Career Center, click on Scholarship Bulletin) or on Naviance (click on Colleges, click on scholarship list).

School Loop Daily Emails—Is this a “Good Thing”?

School Loop, daily information on our student’s grades... Is this a good thing and as a parent how do I learn to moderate the flow of information so that it is useful without placing more stress on my student? These are some of the questions I’ve been asking myself since registering for School Loop.

I’m a fairly seasoned parent... I have been through college applications, had a child trek around the world and the wedding of my oldest child is eight short months away. I’ve experienced the unexpected, navigated through rough patches, and am approaching having an empty nest. My philosophy towards my children’s education has always been more process based than product based and yes, our science projects were in the back of the room and very homemade.

So I was shocked by my reaction to receiving the School Loop grade and homework emails for my students. Since both of my students’ teachers are using the system with impressive frequency, in just a few weeks I’ve watched my kiddos grades go up and down by small and large percentage points. I’ve watched a dreaded zero remain in place with no change. I’ve read through all upcoming tests, quizzes and assignments with a critical eye. I’ve asked questions with a new frequency. I’ve watched and I’ve “reminded” my students.

Now nothing is inherently wrong with any of those things, except that I forgot one important fact—IT IS ONLY OCTOBER. Why shouldn’t I expect fluctuation in my kiddos grades as they figure out new schedules, adjust to new teaching styles, and generally learn to navigate a new high school year? In previous years, I would occasionally check Zangle/Q in order to view my students’ progress and address a concern now and then, but it was in no way a weekly thing. But now, every afternoon, my inbox pings with another report measuring my student’s success... and I’m conflicted. Do I really need to read this email? Is this a good thing? Do my students need to have their parent this involved and what is the benefit to my student?

I’ve been debating these questions over and over in my mind. I’ve begun talking to other parents and listening to student feedback. For now and for my family, I’ve decided to turn off the daily reminder emails. *Did you know that you could do this?* I’m stepping back and giving my students room to breathe. I’m waiting for them to come to me, because I want them to learn to take responsibility for their education. I want them to do well because they find satisfaction in accomplishing a difficult task and find enjoyment in the learning process. I’m not going away to university or trade school or the military with my kiddos so they have to learn how to do some of this on their own—to find their feet, because otherwise I am not doing them any favors.

I’m not saying that I will never log in and check to see how classes are going for my students, but I’m going to return to the “less is more” motto that I lived by in the past. I’m going to try to remember that in the big scheme of things high school is a very small period of time and my students will find a place in life where they will be able to be productive and contribute. I’d encourage you to think about whether daily School Loop emails are a good thing for you and your student—needs vary student to student, family to family—but I hope you will have a conversation that opens the door for your student to talk to you about their views, needs and stresses.

Elizabeth Tinsley

Academic Center Awards

The Academic Center proudly presents: Academic Center Awards!

Every month ten amazing students will be recognized for their hard work throughout the previous month. If you are willing to improve your English proficiency, grades, or maintain good grades you are already in the running! These students will receive a well-earned 10-dollar gift card and an entry to win an end of the year grand prize: a Yearbook! (Three grand prizes total). These awards are open to all students.

The Academic Center's very own UCD Tutors will nominate students based on the following criteria: grades, effort, attendance, assignments, and organization. Come in to the AC to study, receive help on assignments, and meet the tutors. The AC is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Academic Center is a tutoring center at DHS that provides assistance to students in all academic subjects, from English to World History and Biology to AP Calculus. In addition, tutors also help in AVID and ACES classes. UCD Tutors can help with essays, math assignments, and class projects. We have several computers, a printer, and copies of most textbooks for student use. Tutors are able to give input regarding college choices, scholarships, and general college life. Tutors work in classrooms and in the Academic Center. Come in to study, get help, and meet the tutors!

Marie Michel
Academic Center Program Supervisor

Next PTA Meeting: November 6, 2013

Davis CA 95616

315 W 14th St.

DHS PTA