

September 16, 2022
Issue 5



STEM Academy Head of School Update

Mr. Art Campbell, Head of School

Ms. Kelly Stauffer, Admin. Asst. to the Head of School

Good Evening STEM Academy Families,

Thank you to everyone that came out for Back to School Night last evening. It was great to see so many faces moving throughout the building.

As a reminder, we will begin the Lunch & Learn Schedule, this Tuesday, September 20th. Below you will find the bell schedule for Lunch and Learn going forward to keep for future reference : [Lunch and Learn Bell Schedule](#). This information can also be accessed on the [STEM Academy Website: School Day](#). The Lunch & Learn days are as follows: A, D, E, H, I, L (or all 1-7 days).

As a reminder, from approximately 11:00 am -12:00 pm, on days A, D, E, H, I and L, students will have one hour to meet teachers for help, work with partners on projects, engage in some sort of physical activity if they choose, make up assessments, enjoy some fresh air in the stadium, and eat lunch. We are all excited for our Lunch and Learn model to begin because all students will have access to all of their teachers 6 out of 12 days in a cycle during this time. There are just a few items that we need to remind our students of:

- 1: If we all try to eat lunch at the beginning of Lunch and Learn the lines will be long. Even though we have two additional serving spaces for a total of four it is important for students to manage their time to accomplish what they need to accomplish.
- 2: Students should check their teacher's availability and location on Schoology as each teacher will be assigned a 30 minutes period to be available for help. These 30 minute periods are labeled Learn 1 and Learn 2.
- 3: We will need students to continue the wonderful job they have been doing of cleaning up trash.
- 4: We are asking students to move from tables after 30 minutes in order to make tables available for others that are eating at a later time.
- 5: The first few times will be chaotic until students figure out when to eat and when to participate in other activities.
- 6: Students may go outside at any time during this our and may eat anywhere else in the building except the gymnasium and the auditorium. If after a few times your child is having difficulty finding a seat or a place to eat, please reach out to their counselor and we can assist.
- 7: Our counseling department will be available during this hour . Our prevention specialist and our CAS and EE coordinator will also be available.
- 8: It is critically important to know that the Lunch and Learn hours, 6 times in 12 days, is sacred time for our staff to meet and be available for our students. We will not be holding any meetings with parents, other community members, or other district entities during this time. It is our commitment to be here for our students.
- 9: It is also important to know that teachers can require students to meet during the teachers learn period if the student needs to make up any work or is struggling.
- 10: Consequences for misbehavior during lunch and learn will be loss of the privilege and possibly additional student code of conduct consequences.

We are all very excited about this new venture and it is our belief that it is good for all students.

Art Campbell
Head of School

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DASD STEM Academy

335 Manor Ave.

Downingtown, PA 19335

Phone: 610-269-2420 Fax: 484-694-5590 Email: stinfo@dasd.org



Upcoming Events

September

- 19 Club Fair
- 20 Japan Iceland Info. Mtg
5:15pm Atrium
- 20 Eastern Europe Interest
Mtg. , Rm 111 6:30 pm
- 22 Costa Rica, Panama,
Colombia Trip Mtg.
Rm 214 6:00 pm
- 23 Class Officer Elections
- 26 No School/Rosh
Hashanah

[STEM Parent/Student
Handbook 2022-2023](#)

[2022-2023 District Board
Approved Calendar](#)

[22-23 Program of Study](#)

IB Updates

IB Research Specialist/CAS & EE [Ms. Alyssa Sherlock](#)

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) Updates

Senior CAS/Graduation Project Spotlight:

Katherine Sexton and Ava Greenberg (DHSE student) are visiting the elderly residents of Ashbridge Manor, having individual conversations, and creating personalized paintings for them to have in their rooms.

Class of 2023 [Seniors]:

Students should continue to upload photos and videos as evidence for the experiences. Be sure to address all three strands (C, A, and S), and all seven learning outcomes. Examples are provided on Schoology.

Extended Essay (EE)

Class of 2023 [Seniors]:

Students are starting to work with their EE Advisor to focus their RQ, review their outline and research, and refine their writing for a rough draft.

We were able to check in with the Seniors regarding CAS, EE, and Graduation Projects on September 13 during Advisory.

IB Program Requirements

Dean of Curriculum & Instruction/ Dean of 9th & 11th Grade Students [Mr. Michael Sheehan](#)

Admin. Asst. to Dean of Curr. & Instr. [Ms. Meghan Schell](#)

IB Internal Assessments: As part of the IB Course Requirements, all juniors and seniors will be completing the internal assessments required throughout the two-year program. Mr. Sheehan, *IB Coordinator*, will be sending home a communication regarding the *IB Internal Assessment requirements and due dates*. *Class of 2023 and 2024, please know that we are currently working with your teachers to establish dates and times for completing IA's. More information will be coming your way in the near future.*

IB Assessment and Curriculum Fees: Every senior, both diploma and non-diploma candidates, will take the culminating IB exams in May. Mr. Sheehan, will be sending a letter very soon explaining the process for payment which includes a pay schedule and method for payment.

STEM Student Recognition



Congratulations to the STEM Academy students that were recognized as Semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Shreyas Annagiri, Devanshi Bhargava, Ysaswini Bommareddy, Geeta Cheeti, Yaduraj Choudhary, Leon Dang, Mark Fleckser, Melody Gao, Oak Hu, Taarana Jammula, Wafiza Julkipli, Aditya Kadiyala, Lineesha Kamana, Sidanth Menon, Tejasvi Pathipati, Aneesh Raparla, Timothy Salmon, Hitaesh Saravananarajan, Kashti Satish Umare, Madeleine Snyder, Shashwat Srivastava, Ruthvik Suryapalam and Charlotte Tan

STEM Student Recognition: Newly Published Author



Congratulations to Devanshi Bhargava, Class of 2023. Since 2020, Devanshi has been working on writing, editing and publishing (including the design of the cover) her own book. She is happy to report that she is now officially a published author of a YA Novel "Cupcakes, Coffee and Cliches".

STEM Academy Counselors

[Ms. Mary Wallin:](#)
Grades 9-12: Last Names A-C

[Mr. David Stratton](#)
Grades 9-12: Last Names D-KL

[Ms. Kellie McGavin-Wiedlich](#)
Grades 9-12: Last Names Ko-Ra

[Ms. Leanne Glowik](#)
Grades 9-12: Re-Z

[Ms. Stephanie Rockowitz](#)
Counseling Secretary/Registrar

[Ms. Jennifer Stull](#)
Prevention Specialist

[Guide to Districtwide Mental Health Resources](#)

College and University Visits

September

20 Widener University 11:00 am
20 Purdue University 11:35 am
21 Duquesne University 11:00 am
21 George Mason University 11:35 am
23 Univ. of Southern CA 8:00am
27 Bucknell 11:00am
27 Hofstra University 11:35 am
28 Temple Univ. 11:00am
28 Franklin & Marshall 12:00pm
29 Univ. of Pittsburgh 8:00 am

October

3 Moravian Univ. 11:00 am
3 Ursinus College 11:35 am
4 Dartmouth College 11:00 am
4 Drexel University 11:35 am
10 Penn State Main 11:00 am
11 Utica University 8:00 am
11 University of Tampa 11:00am
11 Muhlenberg College 11:35 am
14 College of Charleston 11:00 am
14 Univ. of Scranton 11:35am
17 Fl. Institute of Tech. 11:00 am
17 Univ. of Miami 11:35 am
20 Washington & Jefferson
11:00am
20 Univ. of Pitt. Bradford 11:35am
21 Union College 11:00 am,
21 Shippensburg Univ. 11:35 am
27 Univ. of Richmond 11:00 am
27 Kean University 11:35 am
28 Lafayette College 11:00 am
28 St. Joe's University 11:35 am

STEM Counseling Department

Additional Resources from the STEM Counseling Department

- ◆ The STEM Academy Counseling department hosted our annual Financial Aid Night on Monday September 12th. The program covered topics related to financing your child's college education by discussing loans, grants, scholarships and the financial aid application process. Families are welcome to view the [PowerPoint](#) that was presented at our event. If you have any questions regarding the financial aid process, please reach out to your child's school counselor. [Financial Aid Powerpoint](#)
- ◆ On Sept. 6th and 7th, our seniors were invited to attend a presentation by their counselors about the college application process during their revision class periods. This presentation covered the transcript and letter of recommendation request process. The presentation was posted on Schoology (Class of 2023 page) for students to reference, along with how-to videos. The transcript and letter of recommendation request forms are available to pick-up in the Counseling Office.
- ◆ Service Academy Admissions Night at Valley Forge Military College will be held on Monday, September 19th, from 6-8pm. Meet representatives from West Point, Annapolis, the Air Force Academy, the Coast Guard Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. Representatives will also cover the Army Early Commissioning Program and various regional ROTC programs.
RSVP at thartley@vfmac.edu or call 610-989-1450.
- ◆ **Work Permits:** During the school year, work permits are only available during the hours of 7:15 am-3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Work permits are issued through Ms. Rockowitz in the Counseling Office.
- ◆ **University and College Visits:** Throughout the course of the year, the counseling department has coordinated many college visits for our Senior Class. All scheduled visits are now listed on the [STEM Academy Website Calendar](#). (These are updated daily and subject to change.)
- ◆ To schedule an appt. to visit your school counselor, please complete the following form: [Counseling Appointment Request Form](#)

UPDATES FROM THE NURSE

- ◆ **Online Registration:** Please remember to complete the Online Registration for your child(ren). This will provide me with updated health information as well as give permission for over the counter medication this school year. Go to [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#) to complete the process.
- ◆ **Medication:** Students are only permitted to carry emergency medication (Epinephrine, Asthma inhalers, and diabetes medication). Any medication to be administered during the school day, should follow our current medication policy (attach board policy) and complete the [authorization for medication administration](#)
- ◆ Please contact [Ms. Jennifer Mikulich](#) with any questions or concerns.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Please help us in reminding your student of the following:

- ◆ Whether your student is arriving late to school, has Senior Privileges, or has a parent note to leave early, they must sign in/out of the main office for attendance.
- ◆ All attendance inquiries throughout the school year can be directed to stemattendance@dasd.org
- ◆ Students should scan the QR Codes located outside the main office, and then upload their notes for Early Dismissal, Absence, Tardiness, and Trips.
- ◆ Please review the **attendance policy** in the [Student Code of Conduct](#): Upon 3 unlawful offenses a written notification will be sent to parent; upon 6 unlawful absences, a 2nd notification will be sent, and a School Attendance improvement plan meeting will be required.

STEM STUDENT LIFE and DASD Activities

The Downingtown STEM Academy offers opportunities for all students to nurture their relational health and wellness needs. We embrace our diverse, collaborative culture, and invite all students, families, and staff to get involved. With over 40 student-led clubs/organizations running annually, celebrated special events, HSA-sponsored activities, well attended Homecoming dances, Powder Puff game and proms, we have a good time! Below is an overview of what to expect during the fall.

[Ms. Katie Cole](#)

Dean of Academics & Student Life

[Ms. Cory Butler](#)

Administrative Asst.

Seniors began their first session of the Safe & Healthy Relationship presentations this week. The presentations will occur over three class periods during their marking period 1 Pathway classes. Presenters from the Crime Victims' Center of Chester County will provide students with skills that can help increase their self-awareness, accuracy in understanding social situations, ability to avoid risky situations and behaviors, and capacity to resolve conflict without violence.



INTERNSHIPS & PARTNERSHIPS

[Ms. Susan Boardman](#)

Internships & Partnerships Leader

[Ms. Cory Butler](#) Administrative Asst.

Interested in Partnering with The STEM Academy for the Career Exploration Program for 2023-2024?

Since the current Junior Class is the first class with 230+ students, we are looking for a few more company partners to support the additional students in summer career explorations. If interested, please fill out the form below:

<https://forms.gle/EsQhdxYTFB3i4Nhr6>

DASD MPA

From the Music Parents' Association:

We held our first MPA board meeting via zoom this past Tuesday. It was great to see all our music parents again. This year, we'll also be hosting school specific meetings each quarter. Look out for the poll about possible dates and times later this week. If you are not currently a member of our facebook group, please sign up here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/599517235084957>.

We also want to invite families to attend our Cavalcade competition on Saturday, September 24th. Bands from around the region will be competing in breathtaking halftime shows. Both East and West Marching Bands will be performing their shows as well.

Volunteers are usually able to watch several of the performances if that is an option as well. Home shows like Cavalcade and US Bands, along with concessions helps us supplement all of our music programs. If you are able to volunteer, please sign up at mpa.ivolunteer.com. Students in need of volunteer hours are also eligible to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Smith (thoughtmaster@gmail.com)

DASD Athletics

All students at STEM are encouraged to participate in athletic programs offered at their home schools.

An activity bus is available for students heading to East to participate daily, and is located in the bus loop at dismissal.

To find more information about what sports are offered at your students' homeschool, please choose one of the following that links directly to the correct Athletics page:



[Downingtown West High School Athletics](#)

[Downingtown West High School Athletics Schedule](#)



[Downingtown East High School Athletics](#)

[Downingtown East High School Athletics Schedule](#)



Save the Date!

15-20 [CVC Safe and Healthy Relationships Presentations](#)

23 College Application Drop-In Session:Advisory (First Floor Mezzanine)

30 College Application Drop-In Session:Advisory (First Floor Mezzanine)

..Important Links for Seniors...

[Early Dismissal/Late Arrival Permission form for Seniors](#)

Reminder for those with Senior Privileges:

- ◆ You MUST sign in at the main office when you arrive to school, and out prior to leaving for the day.
- ◆ You should enter through the main office.
- ◆ You must have completed the [Early Dismissal/Late Arrival Permission form for Seniors](#) and obtained appropriate approval.

SENIOR REMINDERS—CLASS OF 2023

⇒ You should have received an email containing information to begin the process of ordering the CAP/GOWN/STOLE required for the Class of 2023 Commencement Ceremony, which will be held this year, on Thursday, June 8. The deadline for ordering will be November 1, so that we can assure a timely delivery of all of the necessary items. For more information, please refer to

[STEM Senior Class of 2023 Letter from Herff Jones](#)

⇒ Seniors...Please make sure to complete the [Senior Diploma Verification Survey](#). This survey must be completed using your student DASD email address. This survey is only accessible to students using their DASD email address.

GETTING & KEEPING SENIOR PRIVILEGE

STEM ACADEMY SENIORS MUST:

➤

MAINTAIN A "C" AVERAGE OR BETTER IN ALL SUBJECTS.

➤

Have no outstanding obligations.

➡

ARRIVE ON TIME TO SCHOOL & CLASS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

➤

Be up to date with all IB internal assessments and requirements.

➤

BE IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE STEM PRACTICUM.

➤

HAVE NO SUSPENSIONS.

➤

BE ON TRACK WITH COMPLETING EE AND CAS HOURS.

2022-2023

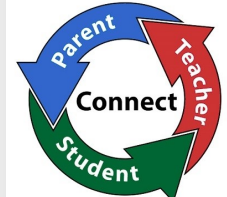
STEM HSA Board

[Michelle Smith, President](#)

[Mary Gasser, Vice-President](#)

[Kristen Wheeler, Secretary](#)

[Darah Fildore, Treasurer](#)



Upcoming

HSA Sponsored Events

October

10 Home & School Meeting
7:00 pm

****Save the date!****

Monday, April 24, 2023:

[FORE the Kids Golf Outing](#)

HSA meetings will be held throughout the year on the second Monday, of each month, beginning at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. The First meeting of the year will be in- person.

STEM HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

HSA Meeting Notice

We had our first in person parent meeting this past Monday, September 12.

We loved how many parents attended and look forward to building an amazing Home and School Community with everyone.

We will host our first Faculty Appreciation and Student Life Committee Meetings this coming Tuesday, September 20th at Estrella at 7pm. Future meetings will be held at STEM or Zoom, but we wanted a chance for folks to get to know each other.

If you are interested in attending, please fill out the sign up genius so we now how much space we will need:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0849AEAB2AA6F58-student>

If you weren't able to attend the meeting and still want to be involved, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/gDTHgrD3s5A9U4Uj7>.

There is also a question about whether folks prefer for next month's meeting to be in person or via zoom.

***If you have any questions,
please contact Michelle Smith, thoughtmaster@gmail.com***

Student Life Donations

We can't make these events possible without your generous donations.

Please go to <https://dtownstemacademy.squarespace.com/stem-donation> to make your donation today!

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YOUR CHANCE TO PRESERVE IT ALL.

Downingtown S.T.E.M. Academy

\$65

Until 01/06/2023



2 WAYS TO ORDER

1. Online at www.yearbookordercenter.com Order #13813
2. Call Herff Jones Yearbooks M-F 8am-5pm CST 1-866-287-3096 Order # 13813

JOIN US AS WE TRAVEL TO COSTA RICA, Panama, & COLOMBIA IN JUNE 2023!



Informational Meeting

Thursday, September 22nd
6:00-6:45PM
B214 @ STEM

RSVP here →



Informational Meeting Notice from Seniors Snyder:

Are you ready for adventure?

Join us in R214 on Thursday, 9/22/22 for an informational meeting about next summer's tour to Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia!

From 6:00-6:30PM we will discuss this exciting opportunity, review the tour itinerary, and share how to sign up.

This trip is open to all DASD students and will run in mid-June 2023 (exact dates TBD). While enrollment in a Spanish course is highly recommended, we welcome all students who enjoy outdoor activities like ziplining and white-water rafting, and who are adventurous eaters!

For additional information, please email ksnyder@dasd.org

DOWNINGTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESENTS

THE IMPORTANCE OF HISPANIC HERITAGE

//// //// //// //// //// FEATURING

ALISA REYES

ACTRESS, PRODUCER, RECORDING ARTIST, ENTREPRENEUR



SEPT 19
MONDAY

**REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

6PM
VIRTUAL (ZOOM)

“The Importance of Hispanic Culture” featuring Alisa Reyes will take place on Zoom at 6 p.m. on Monday, September 19. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

DOWNINGTOWN, PA — On September 19, Downingtown Area School District (DASD) students, staff and community members are invited to virtually attend a one-of-a-kind event. Actress and motivational speaker Alisa Reyes, best known for being an original cast member on the Nickelodeon sketch comedy show All That, will present an interactive zoom session entitled, “The Importance of Hispanic Culture.” The conversation, which will focus on the impact of Hispanic culture and how individuals can do their part to be inclusive of all people, is sure to leave attendees inspired and motivated.

Reyes starred on the first three seasons All That from 1994-1997 and returned as a guest star on the show’s 2020 revival. She is the voice of LeCienega Boulevardez on Disney Channel’s The Proud Family and Disney+’s The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder. Other credits include a starring role on the NBC network series One World and guest appearances on ER, Without A Trace, Six Feet Under, Strong Medicine, The American Family, NYPD Blue, and Boston Public. When she’s not acting, Reyes is producing movies, such as the documentary The Orange Year: The Nickelodeon Story, or writing. Reyes dedicates her off time to various charities such as The American Cancer Society, Peace Beads, Kids with a Cause, Para Los Ninos, Green Means Go, Ronald McDonald House, Make a Wish, Hope for Firefighters and United Nations, Children’s Hospital, National Wildlife Federation, and The Hollywood Knights celebrity charity basketball league.

What Parents Should Know About Cannabis

The cannabis that we might have known in our youth no longer exists. This presentation will provide updated, researched based insight into today's cannabis and its risk to a developing brain. Join us for an eye opening, engaging presentation.



**Tuesday,
October 11, 2022**

**7:00PM
Virtual Zoom**

[Register HERE](#)

Featured Presenter:
Gretchen Hagenbuch, M.Ed.,
CPS, Student Assistance
Program Coordinator, Caron
Treatment Centers

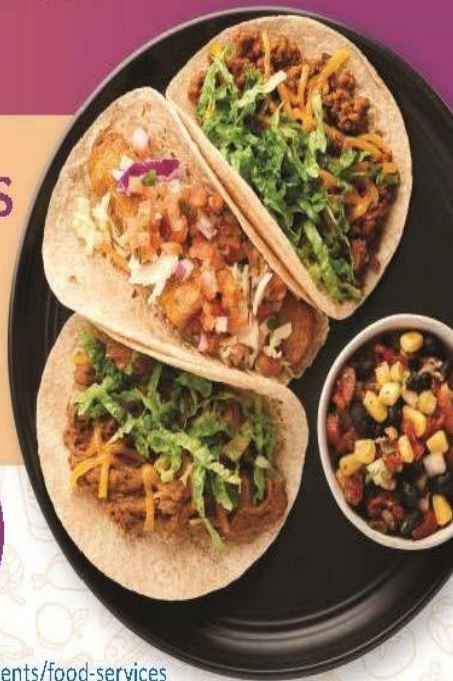


This presentation is part of the DASD Parent Speaker Series in partnership with Communities that Care of Greater Downingtown.



DON'T GET STUCK ON EMPTY

Fall Menus
Now
Available!



Or go to:

<https://www.dasd.org/departments/food-services>

Free & Reduced pricing to those who qualify

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Downingtown Area School District

NOW HIRING!

Aramark with Downingtown Area School District is hiring! We are searching for employees that have little to extensive food service experience that are willing to learn and grow with Aramark. If you enjoy working with students and are looking for a fulfilling job with development opportunities this job is for you. Our positions range from Food Service Worker, Food Service Cooks, Supply Runners with opportunity to grow to lead positions. Please reach out to the DASD Food Service Department (610-269-4400 x11756) for details. Interviews will be held in the cafeteria at Downingtown West High School. Signs will be provided to direct potential employees to the loading dock door.



**NOW
HIRING!!!!**

**Food Service
Worker, Cooks,
Supply Runner**

Part Time, Full Time

**NO NIGHTS OR
WEEKENDS –
Seasonal position**

**Contact: Food
Service (610) 269 –
4400 x11756**

**DASD WEST HIGH
SCHOOL**

445 Manor Ave,
Downingtown, PA 19335

Door 4-1 (Kitchen loading
dock – Parking lot near
tennis courts)