Your Junior Year

- Graduation Requirements
- Letters of Recommendation
- Grades & GPA
- Testing
- College/Career Research & Campus Visits
Grades & GPA

◎ Transcripts: Show your GPA by year, as well as your cumulative GPA

◎ Grades in college-prep classes are a significant factor in admissions decisions

◎ Colleges look for continual improvement year-to-year. Junior Year is VERY important.

◎ Some colleges do require senior year grades!
Take good, tough courses and challenge yourself.

Senior year is NOT the time to take a light course load!
# Graduation Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Core Courses</th>
<th>Required Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (Must include Algebra I and Geometry) Required: Algebra I no later than Grade 9</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Required: Biology course in Grade 9</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Math, Science or Language</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total required Core credits = 16</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Encore &amp; Elective Courses</th>
<th>Required Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman Wellness &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>.5 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>.5 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE (2 electives)</td>
<td>.66 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Elective 6 credits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total required Encore and Elective credits = 7.66</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Project</td>
<td>.34 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Minimum Credits</strong></td>
<td>24 Credits</td>
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</table>
College Admissions Tests

SAT

The ACT
ACT

◎ Meant to assess a student’s ability to complete college-level work.
◎ Is content-based and more closely resembles the testing of curriculum taught in classes.
◎ Includes 4 sections: Reading, Math, Science, & Writing (suggested)
◎ Tests grammar
◎ Math includes algebra, geometry, and trigonometry
◎ Includes science reasoning section

ACT scores are accepted at all colleges in the United States.
SAT

◎ Meant to assess a student’s ability to complete college-level work.
◎ Tests how well students *apply* knowledge along with critical thinking skills.
◎ Includes 3 sections: Reading, Math, & Writing (suggested)
◎ Tests grammar
◎ Math focuses on algebra, solving equations, and data analysis

SAT scores are accepted at all colleges in the United States.
How Do They Compare?

**ACT**
- 215 total questions
- 3 hours, 35 minutes
- Scoring: 1-36
- Less time/question
- Questions considered less difficult
- Optional Essay

**SAT**
- 154 total questions
- 3 hours, 50 minutes
- Scoring: 400-1600
- More time/question
- Questions considered more difficult
- Optional Essay
Upcoming Test Dates

**ACT**

- **www.actstudent.org**
  - April 13 (@DWHS)
  - (register by March 8th)
  - June 8th
  - (register by May 3rd)
  - July 13th
  - (register by June 14th)

**SAT**

- **www.collegeboard.com**
  - March 9th (@DWHS)
  - (register by Feb 8th)
  - May 4th* (@DWHS)
  - (register by April 5th)
  - June 1st*
  - (register by May 3rd)
  - *Subject Tests available May & June
SAT Subject Tests

Taken in addition to SAT Reasoning or ACT Exams

◎ Be sure to consult college admission sites directly as these tests are generally only required by the most competitive colleges
◎ [Compass Prep](#) website provides comprehensive list of individual college testing recommendations
◎ One-hour timed tests
◎ 20 different subjects to choose from
◎ Up to 3 Subjects Tests may be taken on any given date
Score Reports

- **During Registration:** You can receive **four free** reports when you register for an ACT or SAT.
- **After Registration:** You can send unlimited score reports at any time from your ACT or SAT account for an additional fee.

You are responsible for sending your scores to colleges. Test scores do not appear on your transcript.
Letters of Recommendation

Should be written by someone who can describe your skills, accomplishments, and personality with enthusiasm!

◎ Check to see if your colleges require letters.
◎ Ask one or two teachers; preferably from junior year, who know you well and can speak to your skills and abilities.
◎ Provide your recommenders with an Activities Resume (available in Naviance)
◎ Ask early! End of junior year preferred, but at least one month before the earliest deadline.
◎ FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
Starting Your College Search!

Make a “Wish List” of specific aspects you want in a college.

Learn more about specific colleges by examining prospective schools’ websites and setting up campus visits.

Talk to family & friends: they know you best and may offer good insight!

Browse through college brochures and emails.

Start discussions as a family about the cost of college and related expenses that may impact college choice.

Use Naviance or visit College Board to assist in your research.
Naviance

https://student.naviance.com/downingtownhse

A web-based college research and planning tool for Downingtown students and parents

Username: Student ID (not email address)
Password: Birthdate (example: 9/7/2005 -- no “0” as placeholder)
What can I do in Naviance?

◎ Link personality type and interests with careers
◎ Indicate preferences/criteria to determine college matches
◎ Compare your academic statistics to the average statistics of your prospective colleges
◎ Predict the outcome of your application for specific colleges using Scattergrams
◎ Link your application to the Common App and manage deadlines
◎ Track application materials, including teacher recommendation letters
◎ View the schedule of colleges visiting DEHS
◎ And more!!
Selecting Where to Apply

Reach: Schools above your academic qualifications
Target: Schools where you meet admissions standards
Likely: Schools where you are above admission standards
Quotations are commonly printed as a means of inspiration and to invoke philosophical thoughts.
Junior Pre-Meeting Survey

Students looking to schedule their Junior Conference should complete the Junior Pre-Meeting Survey (under the “About Me” tab)!
Any student planning to participate in Division I or II college athletics should register with the NCAA to verify eligibility.
Final Considerations

- Open a separate email account for college correspondences
- Monitor your social media for appropriate content
- Complete resume and Junior Pre-Conference form in Naviance

- Students receiving Free/Reduced Lunch should check with counselor to see if assistance is available for applications and testing fees
- Make a list of colleges you are interested in. Don’t limit yourself!
- Attend Junior College Night and make an appt for your individual Junior Counselor Meeting after the Holiday Break

Students receiving Free/Reduced Lunch should check with counselor to see if assistance is available for applications and testing fees.
Helpful Resources

DEHS Counseling Department:  https://www.dasd.org/Page/4370
Naviance:  https://student.naviance.com/downingtownhse
NCAA:  http://eligibilitycenter.org
FAFSA:  https://fafsa.ed.gov
CSS Profile:  https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org
PHEAA:  https://www.pheaa.org
SAT:  http://collegeboard.com/sat
ACT:  http://actstudent.org

College Testing Requirements:
https://www.compassprep.com/subject-test-requirements-and-recommendations

Colleges Without Test Requirements:  http://fairtest.org/university/optional

Practice Tests:
www.khanacademy.com  www.peterson.com
www.princetonreview.com  www.ivybound.net
<table>
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<th>Counselor</th>
<th>Extension</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Student Last Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kristina Pantano</td>
<td>x5526</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpantano@dasd.org">kpantano@dasd.org</a></td>
<td>A - Coo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Chupela</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heather Gallo</td>
<td>x5528</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hgallo@dasd.org">hgallo@dasd.org</a></td>
<td>Gr - Lam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elise Crowthers</td>
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<td>Lan - Ng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Matta</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mmatta@dasd.org">mmatta@dasd.org</a></td>
<td>Ni - RI &amp; Technical College High School Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Warren</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cwarren@dasd.org">cwarren@dasd.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacey Hewitt</td>
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<td>Sn - Z</td>
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