March 27, 2020

Downingtown East Weekly Updates from the Principal...

I hope that you and your family are doing well during these very difficult times. The administration, teachers, and counselors truly miss our students and are looking forward to the time we can all return to our school. After having completed the second week of our school closure, we are anxious to resume what will now be online instruction on Monday. While this new virtual setting may certainly present challenges, I am positive that by working together, students, teachers and families will make the most out of this new learning experience. This first week will be an adjustment for all involved, as we learn how much work is appropriate, how long it takes our students to complete their assignments, and how to measure their acquisition of the new skills and content being taught. Patience would be greatly appreciated as we collectively maneuver this new learning environment together, working collaboratively for the benefit of our students.

While the instruction will be asynchronous and not occurring in real time as our students are used to, we do ask that they respond to the attendance discussion forum questions for each class on the letter day they have it. This is the mechanism we are using to monitor attendance. Your child can expect approximately 3-4 hours of work per class, per week, for classes that meet every letter day. Below is the link to our service desk should your student have issues with their district device. If you have questions please do not hesitate to reach out to your child’s teacher, counselor, assistant principal or me. Click here for service desk

Stay Safe and Healthy,
Paul Hurley

Attention seniors:

The Senior Local Scholarship applications are now being submitted electronically via the Class of 2020 Schoology page. The deadline to submit these applications remains Monday, 3/30.

To access, go to "Materials" and click on the RED “Local Scholarship Program” folder and submit each application as you would for an assignment. We highly recommend that you save each scholarship application to your computer before submitting!

If the application requires a transcript and/or letters of recommendation, submit your completed application via Schoology and the Counseling team will attach your transcripts and letters of recommendation for you. You may want to indicate if there are specific teacher letters that you prefer to be included with each application.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your counselor!

Kristina Pantano Cole: A thru Cot – kcole@dasd.org
Stephanie Chupela: Cr thru Go – schupela@dasd.org
Heather Gallo: Gr thru Lam – hgallo@dasd.org
Angela Hanna: Lan thru Ng – ahanna@dasd.org
Michael Matta: Ni thru Re/TCHS – mmatta@dasd.org
Catherine Bond (Carol Warren): Ri thru Shi – cbond@dasd.org
Stacey Hewitt: Shk thru Z – shewitt@dasd.org
Attention Advanced Placement Students:

In an effort to reduce stress for our students due to the many unknowns regarding the new Advanced Placement tests, the Downingtown Area School District has made a decision to award AP weighting to all students enrolled in an Advanced Placement class whether they decide to take the AP exam or not.

What is known about AP Exams at this time:

Students will receive a 45-minute online free-response exam (exact timing to be announced). There will be no multiple-choice questions. Students will complete the exam at home, online, on a specified day and time. To minimize conflicts, students will be able to choose from two different test dates, one earlier or one later.

The exams will not test simple factual recall; instead they’ll be focused on skills and thematic understandings. Students will not be tested on content typically taught in the last 25% of an AP course, as laid out in the unit structure shown in the AP Course and Exam Description. Visit collegeboard.org/ap-covid19-updates for a list of which units will be included in each AP Exam this year.

Each student response will be monitored by plagiarism detection software, and students whose responses mirror content from the web or other students’ submissions will be disqualified.

Student responses will be submitted digitally and scored by remote readers. This is a similar process to the one College Board has used for years in scoring AP at-home work for college credit in courses like AP Seminar, AP Research, and AP Computer Science Principles. By April 3rd, College Board will publish the full exam schedule including the specific free-response question types that will comprise each AP exam.

Cancelling your AP Exam:

On April 3rd, College Board will announce more details about the upcoming AP Exams, including exam dates and accommodations for students with disabilities. College Board is continuing to support students with free resources through exam day and is encouraging students to wait until closer to the test date to decide about cancelling their exam.

If a student decides they would like to opt-out of their exam, College Board will waive all unused/canceled exam fees for this year.

At this time, there is no set date to cancel your AP Exam, however if there are any East students who would like to cancel their AP Exam for a full refund, please email AP Coordinator, Angela Hanna, ahanna@dasd.org.

Important SAT information:

We are aware that many of our students were signed up for the SAT in March, April and May. We have opened up Downingtown West as a testing site for the June 6th SAT. Interested students should go to College Board website and register.
Deadline to order is 3/31/2020 – Don’t Delay, Order Today!

What a great way to show pride in your 2020 graduate – and support the Post Prom Party at the same time!

Congratulations! Class of 2020
YOUR STUDENT’S NAME
Downingtown East High School
A Tradition Of Excellence

Place your order now for a 2020 DEHS Graduation Lawn Sign!

Description: a 24” X 48” wide screen-printed sign (one side only) made of corrugated plastic and complete with metal stake - ready to go right in the ground. Personalization available! $40 each

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Complete form and send with $40 check made payable to DEHS Post Prom to:
Tracy Michinok – 100 Clydesdale Court – Downingtown, PA 19335

Questions? Please email: tmichinok@comcast.net *You will be notified when signs are in and ready for pick-up.

Deadline to order is 3/31/2020 – Don’t Delay, Order Today!
Dear Downingtown East Parents and Families,

These last few weeks have been trying on all of us. New schedules, new norms, and for some of us, a few more kiddos returning home from jobs, college, and the like. Our kitchens and dining rooms have turned into online learning offices for the kids and basements have turned into dumping grounds for college dorm rooms and apartments. The grocery store bills have no doubt gone up, and perhaps so have your water and electric bills! Your children are learning how to social distance themselves from school, friends, and work.

All that being said, we are confident everyone is working towards this new "norm" during this unprecedented time in our lives. We are truly saddened that so many great events and activities have been cancelled or postponed indefinitely for our kids - everyone is. We, as a Home and School, want to let you know we understand, and feel your pain and frustration. We are closely following the DASD guidelines for determining what events and activities can still move forward, and which need to be cancelled or postponed. Updates will continue here on our new newsletter - so look for it each week on Fridays. Stay safe and well!

Your Home and School Executive Board
Libby Egnaczyk - President
Lauren Crocker - Secretary
Kristen Dunlop - Treasurer

The second "First Friday" was held on March 13th in the Cougar Den. Staff enjoyed bagels and coffee hosted by Home and School. This little treat has gone a long way in thanking everyone at DEHS for all they do! The April 3rd scheduled date is cancelled, but we hope to return for the next "First Friday" breakfast on May 1st.

More news about events on page 2 of this newsletter.

We Need Your Help

Even though our lives are on hold, we are planning the Home and School Association for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Help is needed in the smaller roles, but it’s success depends on filling three crucial executive board positions: president, vice-president, and treasurer. I found being part of the HSA is a rewarding experience. It’s given me a greater insight into the inner 'going-ons' at the school. I’ve developed relationships with staff and administration and helped coordinate and facilitate the many activities and events sponsored by HSA. Sadly, Home and School meetings are typically attended by only a few, including the executive board and Principal Hurley.

Many may think that in high school, they are no longer needed to help. This is simply not true. Should you have any interest, or want to know more, please email libbysteve@verizon.net. June is right around the corner, and I would like to have the necessary time for transition. On page 3 of this newsletter is fact sheet that will give you a snapshot of this past year and all that Home and School does and supports. Please consider and thanks everyone!

- Libby Egnaczyk
Springs Craft Show

We are sad to report that the Spring Craft Show, scheduled for April 18th will be cancelled due to the COVID 19 virus. At the time of cancellation, we had 90 crafters all signed up and ready to go. No doubt, crafters and shoppers alike will be disappointed. An event this large takes months to coordinate and plan, so we will entertain a spring craft show in 2021. Since this is the only fundraiser held by Home and School (not including the GIANT A+ program) we thought it would be a great idea to bring it back after a two-year hiatus. It will just be postponed for now. "Like and "Follow" the Spring Craft Show Facebook page for updates.

The DESIGNER BAG BINGO event on March 8th was fun afternoon of bingo, raffles, door prizes, and laughter. It successfully raised over $8,000 for the Senior Post-Prom Party! It will go a very long way towards this memorable event for our seniors and their guests! Thank you to all our volunteers who helped us! We had too many to mention by name. We do appreciate all your work to make the Bingo a success!

The AFTER-PROM PARTY for our 2020 Graduates will start at midnight until 5am on Sunday, May 17th. We are hopeful this event will still happen, so we ask you to sign up and help using the links to the right. A 2nd email about prom and the post-prom party was sent to parents of seniors on March 5th. More information will be posted here as we get closer to the date.

Learn more about donations needed and volunteer opportunities by clicking on the SignUp Geniuses below:

- Volunteers
- Food donations
- Prizes
- College Wheel Game
Mission/Goals/Strategies
The mission of the Downingtown East Home and School (DEH&S) is to encourage interaction between family and school, serve as a source of support for our teachers, staff and community, and improve our student’s overall educational experience.

Goals
- To make our school feel more welcoming and inviting.
- To provide administrative/financial support for teachers/faculty for existing/new initiatives.
- To increase communication with families, teachers, staff and community.
- To identify events and programs to add to our school year.
- To increase volunteer pool & create formal committee structure with specific roles and responsibilities for volunteers.

Strategies to support Goals
- Create a welcoming committee who will reach out to new families for support, and to enhance our school entryway to show the caring and supportive school family that we are.
- Solicit staff/administration in the form of “mini-grants” for specific needs. Identify how many will be approved each year and disburse funds thereafter.
- Create weekly or monthly (TBD) flyer or communication document to be updated as necessary and sent along with Principals Friday communication.
- Survey parents, students and teachers to identify new events/activities/topics that Home and School can offer.
- Identify and elect a volunteer coordinator to organize efforts. Document roles and responsibilities for said volunteers.
- Research and facilitate fundraisers throughout the year.

Existing Activities and Events
Giant Grocery Store Rewards
Gift Cards for families in need
Spring Craft Show
Designer Bag Bingo
Faculty Breakfast/Lunches
First Fridays – coffee and donuts
Valentine’s Day Kisses
Senior Post Prom After Party
Senior Book Scholarships
True Grit Scholarships

New Program Ideas and Roles
Improve front entryway of school
Parent to Parent Night (incoming freshman)
Additional teacher/staff breakfasts/lunches
Senior Safe Driving program before Prom
Facilitate parent/student surveys for new ideas
Identify a website/social media volunteer
Identify program committees volunteer
Identify a teacher liaison volunteer
Identify a student liaison volunteer
Identify fundraising committees volunteer

H&S Fact Sheet
Rev. 3/1/20