



"Effort Creates Intelligence"
335 Manor Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335
ww.dasd.org

May 19, 2020

Good Afternoon Class of 2021 Parents and Families,

First let me say thank you for your continued support of our program, our staff, and our school community. I especially appreciate your support as we have navigated the restrictions placed upon us because of the pandemic. In this letter you will find very important information regarding IB classes, IB fees, practicum experience, and other class information.

IB Information

Under normal conditions, many of the internal assessments (IA) our students are required to do would be completed by the end of junior year. Our Physics, Biology, Environmental Systems and Societies, and Sports Science teachers have worked with students to complete the preliminary work on IA's in order to conduct the required experiments in the fall. Our English teachers are working with all juniors in preparation for their IA. By the end of this school year, students should be finished except for the delivery of the presentations which we schedule with students in August if possible or in the fall when they return either in person or virtually depending on Governor Wolf's mandate. In order to balance the requirements for junior and senior year, many classes have continued with content to lessen the load in the fall. Senior year, especially the fall, is a stressful time under normal circumstances. Your child can help alleviate stress by completing a rough draft of their extended essay by the time school resumes in the fall. All students who have chosen to pursue the IB diploma have been assigned an extended essay advisor and have a subject area. I hope you will work with us to make sure your child completes what is necessary this spring and during the summer to maintain a workable senior year. I also highly recommend students read the required English texts over the summer as they have every year. These titles have been provided to our students via Schoology. If you have any questions about individual classes please contact your child's teacher or email Mr. Sheehan our IB Coordinator at msheehan@dasd.org.

IB Fees

Each year we send out a letter and set up payment installments for the IB fees. We have held off this year due to the current pandemic. Normally these fees are due by October, but we are extending that deadline and will set up monthly installments to make it easier for families to pay the fees. If you would like the specifics, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will forward the information to you. I will send out more information during the summer to all Junior families.

Art Campbell
Head of School

Katherine Cole
Dean of Student Life

Michael Sheehan
IB Coordinator

Susan Boardman
Internships & Partnerships
Leader

610.269.8460 ext. 7200
Fax: 484.694.5590



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Practicum Experience

Ms. Boardman and your son/daughter have been working diligently to determine placements for the summer practicum experience. Everything our juniors have done with MEA, pathways, the career fair, and other work with Mrs. Boardman since freshman year is so critical to our workforce development plan. The culminating piece of the plan is the practicum. Unfortunately, given the state of affairs, at this time all in person practicum experiences are suspended until Chester County has entered the green phase according to Governor Wolf's mandate. Likewise, if students were planning to travel outside of the county for their practicum experience, that geographical area, in conjunction with Chester County, would have to be in the green phase. Ms. Boardman will continue to work with students to develop virtual experiences as many of our partner companies are already in the process of setting those up. We will also work with our partners throughout the school year to create and make alternate experiences available. Students may also find their own experiences as this shows future employers just how determined and invested our STEM Academy students are in their futures. Under no circumstances will your student be asked to enter into a practicum environment in which they do not feel comfortable. I am sure there will be questions regarding the practicum such as the 21 hour mandate and graduation requirement. I can assure you that we will be flexible and work with your children. Our goal in all of this is to work with you and your child to provide the best experience possible. Thank you for your continued support of our program and our staff. Please reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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Head of School

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