



"Effort Creates Intelligence"

335 Manor Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335
www.dasd.org

August 12, 2020

Dear STEM Academy Students and Parents/Guardians:

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year! August 31st is the first student day and as you all know we will be online through the first marking period. Our teachers have been hard at work making adaptations to lessons and preparing for a positive start to the school year. We cannot wait to see everyone albeit virtual. Please take some time and review the [Downingtown Online Learning Plan](#).

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce everyone to our new staff members. We are excited to welcome these amazing professionals to our team. Our new staff members include: **Ms. Alanna Hibbs** (Social Studies), **Mr. Jay Ciotola** (Social Studies), **Mr. Kevin Kalbach** (English), and **Mr. Lanny Schwartz** (Chemistry). We would also like to welcome two Substitute Teachers who will be filling in this year. **Ms. Jennifer DeSanto** who will be the Secondary Orchestra Teacher for Ms. Gonzalez for the entire school year and **Ms. Kelly Ickes** who will be teaching Math for Ms. Trisha Strano for the first semester. Please give each of these individuals a warm welcome to our community.

Materials Return: You should have received an email regarding the return of materials from last school year. We are in desperate need of students to return textbooks. We are going to hold one last textbook drop off. This will occur on Monday, August 17th in front of the West Gymnasium. Please let us know you are coming by using this link: [Materials Return Sign-up Genius](#). We need Chemistry and Math Analysis textbooks most importantly. Please, if you have not returned everything, please do so on the 17th of August. If that date and time frame doesn't work in your schedule please email Meghan Schell at mschell@dasd.org to arrange a drop off time. We need the books so we can disperse materials to all of our students during the week of August 24th for this upcoming school year.

Materials Pick-Up for the 2020-2021 School Year: Directions and procedures for pickup will be forthcoming. In the interim please use the following link to sign up for a pick up time: [Books and Materials Pickup Sign-Up Genius](#) *Every student will need to sign up to pick up materials.*

Construction: Our construction project is entering the final phases. Inside the building, furniture is being delivered and the final touches are wrapping up. Outside the building, paving and parking lots are in the final phases. Thank you for your flexibility over the last year. I cannot wait for the time when we can have everyone back to enjoy it.

Senior Pathways: Similar to last year, senior pathways will take place during the second and third quarter. Seniors will not be required to login and attend zoom sessions during the first marking period pathways as they have in the past. This time should be used to work on CAS, EE, practicum portfolio, and/or college applications.



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Student Schedules: Schedules will soon be available on the [Campus Portal](#). The District technology department will send a notification home to parents when the portal is opened. Please advise your son/daughter to check the Campus Portal up to the first student day of school, August 31, 2020, as schedules are subject to change. Juniors and Seniors, should also verify that they are registered for the proper number of HL and SL courses. If there is an error on your son/daughter’s schedule please call the guidance office at (610) 269-2420 x 43031 or email your counselor. At the end of this letter you will find the Online Learning class schedule for the STEM Academy.

Traffic: Information regarding traffic and parking will be sent in October.

School Hours: Please make sure your son/daughter is free during normal school hours, 7:40 am to 2:40 pm. This is not the time for students to work, or schedule other things. It is expected that students are completing school work and are on live sessions as required. Failure to comply can result in attendance consequences according to the student code of conduct. If a student is going to miss a live zoom session and has a doctor’s appointment parents should to email Ms. Sokso at dsokso@dasd.org with a note.

Technology Fee: The DASD School Board of Directors has established a technology fee for all high school students. Please review the [District 1:1 Fast Facts for Families- DASD](#) for details on technology fees, and all other device specific information. Please visit [PaySchools Central](#) in order to satisfy payment requirements.

Free & Reduced Meal Plan: Information can be found on the [Food Services website](#)

School Safety: Safety and Discipline are an essential component to any school. Students and parents are required to read the bullet points below as you will be held responsible for following school and school district policies.

- All students are required to follow all school and district policies and procedures.
 - o [Student Code of Conduct Policy](#)- please review prior to the start of school.
 - o [Student Rights and Responsibility](#)- please review prior to the start of school.

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 2021, we are currently working with your teachers to establish times and methods for completing IAs that would normally require you to be in school such as in the areas of art, science, etc. 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 out shortly explaining the process for payment which includes a pay schedule and method for payment.



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In the coming days and weeks, further communication will be sent regarding everyday expectations, counseling information, back to school night format, and other important items. Finally, this school was created on the motto ‘*Effort creates intelligence.*’ While this seems like a simple motto it is of great depth. Intelligence is not fixed. There is no limit to what an individual can accomplish with effort and support. Our school community, grounded in collaboration and teamwork, is here to support every individual and help them find their own path to success. We will continue this effort even within our online environment. If you and your child have not done so already, I encourage you to read the book *Mindset*, by Carol Dweck. This book discusses failure as well as the belief of how effort can be a powerful tool in the achievement of our goals.

Sincerely,

Art Campbell

STEM

Because our STEM Academy typically functions on a 12-day cycle, the STEM schedule will differ slightly from that of East and West. The STEM synchronous schedule will be as follows. Blue indicates live instruction.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	7:45-8:30	7:45-8:30 Instruction*		Asynch	Asynch**	7:45-8:30 Instruction*		Asynch**	7:45-8:30	7:45-8:30 Instruction*		Asynch
2	8:40-9:25	9:19-10:04 Instruction*		Asynch	Asynch**	9:19-10:04 Instruction*		Asynch**	8:40-9:25	9:19-10:04 Instruction*		Asynch
3	9:35-10:20	11:27-12:12 Instruction*		Asynch	Asynch**	11:27-12:12 Instruction*		Asynch**	9:35-10:20	11:27-12:12 Instruction*		Asynch
4	10:30-11:15	1:01-1:46 Instruction*		Asynch	Asynch**	1:01-1:46 Instruction*		Asynch**	10:30-11:15	1:01-1:46 Instruction*		Asynch
5	Asynch		7:45-8:30 Instruction*	11:55-12:40	Asynch**		7:45-8:30 Instruction*	Asynch**	Asynch		7:45-8:30 Instruction*	11:55-12:45
Advisory - Club Time			9:19-9:54				9:19-9:54				9:19-9:54	
6	Asynch		9:58-10:43 Instruction*	12:50-1:35	Asynch**		9:58-10:43 Instruction*	Asynch**	Asynch		9:58-10:43 Instruction*	9:58-10:43 Instruction*
7	Asynch		12:05-12:50 Instruction*	1:45-2:30	Asynch**		12:05-12:50 Instruction*	Asynch**	Asynch		12:05-12:50 Instruction*	1:43-2:40
Seminar Music			1:40-2:40				1:40-2:40				1:40-2:40	
<p>*Block period - direct instruction should be limited to the first 45 minutes. Rest of block should be used for student collaboration, breakout rooms, etc or students may be released to continue classwork. Teachers are expected to provide a minimum of 180 minutes of synchronous lessons per 12 day cycle for 1.0 credit classes. If teachers choose to provide more, they are limited to the highlighted slots for their class period, so as not to overwhelm students.</p> <p>**Electives will meet on E or H days Teachers are expected to provide a minimum of 135 minutes of synchronous lessons per 12 day cycle for .66 credit classes. These courses must meet E or H days as one of their live sessions. Ninth and Tenth grade Health and Wellness classes will meet a minimum of one 45 minute period per 12 days</p>												