

September 3, 2020

Downingtown East Weekly Updates from the Principal...



Thank you for all of your patience and cooperation during week one of online learning. It was wonderful to see our students in their virtual classrooms during Zoom sessions. I want to remind our students that it is very important to log their attendance each day. The directions for logging attendance are listed below. This Thursday is Virtual Back to School Night. Your child's teacher will send a link to their Back to School Night video where they introduce themselves to you and share important information about the curriculum and their expectations of their students. This weekend would be a great time for our seniors to view the "College Application How to Guide" created by our counseling department. Information on how to access the nearpod is listed below under Senior Announcements. I hope that everyone has a safe and relaxing holiday weekend.

1. Class Link and Schoology instructions for students...click on link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOSdBkAnQcM>

2. Students should now use the ClassLink to access applications for the systems that DASD uses most regularly. iPads and laptops *will no longer have separate apps* for systems like Schoology, Infinite Campus, IXL and Read 180. DASD's creation of a one-stop app for students to locate their tools is a direct result of parent and teacher feedback.

3. Textbook Pick-up:

Students who missed the "textbook pick-up days" will need to call the main office as soon as possible to make an appointment to pick up their materials. Please remember to wear your mask.

4. At Home Attendance Instructions for Parents and Students:

The directions for students and their parents to record attendance in Infinite Campus while learning from home are now on the [Tech FAQ Page](#). There is a video and PDF for parents and separate video and PDF for students. Students/parents can record their daily attendance (elementary) and period attendance (secondary) on school days from 7AM to 7PM. Teachers have the ability to edit or override student attendance for the current school day, plus one day later. Attendance corrections that are more than two days old will need to be submitted to the Director of Technology by the school attendance clerk.

Here are the links to take remote attendance for online learning for 20-21:

[Parent Remote Attendance Video Directions](#)

[Parent Remote Attendance Document Directions](#)

[Student Remote Attendance Video Directions](#)

[Student Remote Attendance Document Directions](#)

5. Click link for DASD Online Learning Plan: <https://www.dasd.org/Page/9378>

6. Click link for DASD Online Learning Plan FAQ's: <https://www.dasd.org/Page/9384>

7. New Final Course Grade Calculation:

As you may know, in the 2019-2020 school year, the Downingtown Area School District transitioned to a new student information system, Infinite Campus. One of the functions we use a student information system for is to record and calculate student grades in order to populate report cards. During last school year, we discovered that Infinite Campus calculated final grades differently than our historical practice. In previous years, each student's marking period grade equated to a number of grade points (i.e. A=4.0) and the total number of grade points was averaged across the year to determine the student's final grade. Rather than change a grade calculation practice mid-year, high school administrators and school counselors spent many hours calculating grades using Excel spreadsheets and entering them by hand to preserve the grade calculations families anticipated. Unfortunately, this is not a sustainable long term solution. As a result, beginning this school year, final grades will be calculated by averaging the marking period *percentage grades* to determine a final grade, rather than the grade points. Each marking period (4) counts towards 20% of the final grade (80%), and the midterm and final exam each counts towards 10% of the final grade (20%). This methodology is consistent with other high schools in our region. The grade scales themselves will remain unchanged. The percentages required to earn a particular letter grade will also remain the same. Additionally, grades earned by students up to this

point will remain unchanged. Only grades beginning in the 2020-21 school year will be calculated using this new methodology. Please see the example of the 2020-21 final grade calculation below.

Each marking period (4) counts towards 20% of the final grade (80%). The midterm and final exam each counts towards 10% of the final grade (20%). Please see the following example:

M1+	M2+ (20%)	M3+ (20%)	M4+ (20%)	Mid+ (10%)	Final = (10%)	Total	Final Grade Percent (rounded to whole #
90	82	82	86	84	91	85.5	86 %
18	16.4	16.4	17.2	8.4	9.1	85.5	86%

General Announcements:

1. The John Kane for State Senate is seeking interns. Interns are expected to work 10-15 hours per week and work will be in person out of the office in Chester County. If you are interested please email emily@kane4senate.com or sam@kane4senate.com with a resume and few lines about your interest in applying.

2. Ever thought about being an Entrepreneur?? Junior Achievement is gearing up for their virtual 2020-2021 **Junior Achievement Company Program**, a no-cost after school program that gives students a graduate level entrepreneurship experience! Develop soft skills in leadership, communication, confidence, and decision-making. Network with professionals for mentorship, and gain real day-to-day experience running your own company. The program begins November 9 and meets weekly through March. Applications can be found at <http://form.jotform.us/JAofSEPTA/JACP> . Any questions? Contact Stuart Younger – stuart.younger@ja.org.

3. Applications for Working Papers...The Pennsylvania Child Labor Law, Act 151 of 2012 resulted in changes to Work Permit Application. All students between the ages of 14 and 17 are required by Pennsylvania School Law to secure an Employment certificate, known as "Working Papers," before they may begin to work.

Students, who have reached 18, by state law, do not need working papers. Under the current Pennsylvania Child Labor Act, only one type of work permit is issued. This is a wallet-size, transferable work permit, which is valid from the time of issuance until the minor turns 18 years of age.

The minor provides a copy to the employer and retains the original. Work permits are now being processed in the school by calling 610-363-6400 and making an appointment. School hours are 7:15am to 3:15 pm. Please be sure to bring with you a copy of the required proof of age such as one item listed below: • Birth Certificate • Passport • Driver's license • Learner's permit.

4. Yearbooks...We still have Class of 2020 yearbooks available for purchase. If you are interested, please call the main office at 610-363-6400 to schedule a time to purchase one. The cost is \$70.00 and please make out the check to "The Prowl".

Attention Juniors and Seniors:

Attention parents of Juniors and Seniors- A Virtual Financial Aid Night will be hosted by the STEM Academy on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:00pm. Financial aid representatives will review the complete application process including grants/loans, FAFSA and CSS Profile applications, work study, and the determination of need and merit based scholarships by college financial aid departments. Additional information regarding access to the live presentation will be shared at a later date.

Senior Announcements:

1. The **Nearpod tutorial** that was uploaded to the Class of 2021 Schoology page on August 21st explains the initial part of the college application process in detail. From, how to fill out the Common Application, to what the Self-Reported Academic Record entails, to waiving your FERPA rights... it's a must see for any senior who is planning to apply to

colleges this fall. This coming week, the Counseling Department will release information regarding the next steps in completing the college application process, such as how to request transcripts and notifying teachers that it's time to upload your letter of recommendation. You'll get a notification on your Schoology page when this information becomes available, and your counselor will be in touch soon after to set up an individual meeting to go over your post-high school plans. The Counselors look forward to seeing their seniors and supporting them during this very exciting time in their lives!

2. Nearpod Tutorial for Class of 2021

College Application Season is here, and you need to be ready! Regardless of the fact that we are remotely starting this school year, the Counselors at DEHS are very excited to help the class of 2021 make their post-high school dreams come true. An optimistic attitude and solid plan for the next few months is key to making this remote start to the year work.

To help you, your counselors have created a Nearpod that is essentially a college application "how to" guide. By watching it, you'll learn how to: Understand the different types of apps; Determine which platform for applying is best for you; Create a Common App account and start the app process; Start to set-up Naviance so counselors can send on your behalf. There will be no question left unanswered!

This is basically 1-1 tutoring that includes everything you need to know to start your college applications, so set aside about 30 minutes of your time and get ready to claim your future... because there is a big, wide wonderful world waiting for you after Covid! Click link and use this code: BAYRC <https://nearpod.com/student/>

3. SAT's are being held at **Downingtown West High School on Saturday, October 3rd**. Interested students should visit the College Board website to register.

4. Lifetouch/Prestige Portraits will return in September for Senior Portrait sessions. Portrait sessions are being held on **September 8, 9, 10 and 11**. **Prestige Portraits** has adopted a new scheduling process to help with social distancing and crowd control, per CDC protocol.

- **Students are asked to log onto the PrestigePortraits.com website to "self-schedule" their appointment. The student would use their unique ID number to log on to select a date/time convenient to them. To help with the "No-Touch Policy, students/parents are asked to pay the sitting fee online when making their appointment, as no monetary exchanges will take place at the school/location site. If you don't receive a mailing by Tuesday, September 1, please contact Mrs. Kirkner in the Main Office by calling 610-363-6400 x5500.**

This is important, especially with the CDC guidelines that are currently in place: Each senior is limited to bringing one additional person to their session when photographed. Unfortunately, no walk-in or unconfirmed appointments can be accommodated.

Employment Opportunities:

1. **HomeSense** and **HomeGoods** in Exton is hiring! Help is needed 7 days a week 7am-10pm and everything in between! Cashiers, merchandisers, and stockroom – all positions! If you are interested please visit their website at www.jobs.TJX.com. Contact Danielle Buchter at danielle_buchter@tjx.com with any questions.

Athletics:

All sports will continue in its voluntary off-season work-out until further notice.

Important Dates:

Friday, 9/4 – Schools closed – Labor Day holiday weekend

Monday, 9/7 – Schools closed – Labor Day holiday

Wednesday, 9/9 – Class of 2021 Senior Portrait Session in auditorium from 3pm to 9pm

Wednesday, 9/9 – Virtual School Board meeting begins at 6:30pm

Thursday, 9/10 – Class of 2021 Senior Portrait Session in auditorium from 3pm to 9pm

Thursday, 9/10 – Virtual Back-to-School night at 7pm

Friday, 9/11 – Class of 2021 Senior Portrait Session in auditorium from 3pm to 9pm

Wednesday, 9/16 – 2 hour early dismissal at 12:40pm – Virtual Professional Development in PM for Faculty

Monday, 9/28 – Schools closed – Yom Kippur

Wednesday, 10/7 – Virtual Committee of the Whole School Board Meeting at 6:30pm

Monday, 10/12 – Virtual School Board Meeting at 6:30pm

Counselor Contact information:

Jessica Gutsche: (LTS for Kristina Cole) – 9th thru 11th grades: A thru Con – jgutsche@dasd.org
12th grade: A thru Cot

Stephanie Chupela: 9th thru 11th grades: Coe thru Ga – schupela@dasd.org
12th grade: Cop thru Go

Heather Gallo: 9th thru 11th grades: Ge thru Kel – hgallo@dasd.org
12th grade: Gr thru Lan

Angela Hanna: 9th thru 11th grades: Kem thru McC – ahanna@dasd.org
12th grade: Lan thru Ng

Michael Matta: 9th thru 11th grades: McD thru Pr – mmatta@dasd.org
12th grade: TCHS & Ni thru Ri

Caroline Gregory: 9th thru 11th grades: Pu thru Sta – cgregory@dasd.org
12th grade: Ro – Shi

Stacey Hewitt: 9th thru 11th grades: Ste thru Z – shewitt@dasd.org
12th grade: Shk thru Z

Administration Contact Information:

Principal: Paul E. Hurley III - phurley@dasd.org

Assistant Principal Karen Welch: 12th grade and 9th grade: A thru Hei - kwelch@dasd.org

Assistant Principal Jill Whalen: 11th grade and 9th grade: Hel thru Pa - jwhalen@dasd.org

Assistant Principal Eric McComsey: 10th grade and 9th grade: Pe thru Z – emccomsey@dasd.org

Athletic Director- Corey Sigle - csigle@dasd.org

Assistant Athletic Director: Renee Harty - rharty@dasd.org