

Darien High School Parents Association
January 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Call to order by Lori Olson at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of minutes from Sept 24 and Nov 26:

9/24: Sarah Neumann motioned; Ryann Pegler seconded; all approved.

11/26: Sarah Neumann motioned; Carolina McGoey seconded; all approved.

Co-Chair report: Upcoming events on the website.

Committee Reports and Announcements:

CCC - College Fair is March 30. Students will have the opportunity to meet colleges during lunch waves.

Communications - DHSPA.net - please follow us; sign up for Senior Send-Off!

Wellness Fair is January 30, during lunch waves (for students).

Nominating: Therese Vogt – Please consider volunteering with the DHSPA. The season has started with plenty of openings from graduating parents; check out the slate - dhspa.net. In particular, we need a Fairs Chair - for someone super organized.

Program: Today's *Electives Expo* is being recorded and should be up on the DHS website shortly. Meghan Emanuelson, Director of Guidance, welcomed everyone.

Electives Expo Panel Department Chairs: Christian Dockum, Science; Felicia Bellows, Math; Francis Janosco, English; Keith Keeler, History; Jaelyn Sammis, Art; Rick Sadlon, Music; Christina Mauricio, World Language.

Registration Timeline

Conversations in classrooms: Feb 5-7; Advisory - Feb 10; Students enter electives on Aspen - Feb 14-Feb 23; Students meet with counselor: 2/24-3/13

Graduation requirements for Class of 2023 have changed slightly. Resources are being updated - in the handbook but not yet on the guidance website (soon).

Science electives: Authentic Science Research - current freshmen apply for this three-year program. Science dept offers several one-semester electives, some seniors take two electives to make fourth-year science requirement. APs: Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics.

Math: Math is a sequentially driven program. Some sophomores take two math classes to accelerate their program (geometry and algebra 2 simultaneously). More options as students reach junior and senior year, including APs and Statistics. Most students take four or more years of math at DHS.

English: Media studies, writing, and senior “electives” (required for all non-AP seniors).

History: several full-year (China Exchange, APs) and one-semester electives (including humanities, economics, philosophy, psychology, America Since 1945, Contemporary Issues)

Art: 21 courses available, 11 available to freshmen. There are several paths to AP Art:: drawing and painting; ceramics/sculpture; photography/digital.

Music: music ensembles: band, choir, orchestra, percussion. Auditions for honors ensembles are happening now, concurrent with midterms. Music Technology, Music Theory and AP Music Theory.

World Languages: French, Latin, Mandarin and Spanish. APs offered in French and Spanish; DHS participates in a poetry recitation contest and language honor societies. Rising 9th graders studying Spanish may enter DHS studying level 2, level 3 or level 3 honors.

Business, Computer Science, Technology and Engineering: Business electives (4) and DECA club for future business majors; Computer Science - APs and Tech Club; Tech and Engineering - lots of offerings including DIY, fundamentals of engineering.

Reading and Study Skills: one-semester class that can be taken repeatedly; focused on reading strategies and organization skills class.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Williams
DHSPA Secretary