

DHSPA
Parent Guide
2017-2018



DHS INFORMATION

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION AND PHONE NUMBERS

Principal	Ellen Dunn
Assistant Principals	Jacob Greenwood Kate Dimoulas
World Language Chair	Christina Mauricio
Mathematics Chair	Felicia Bellows
Social Studies Chair	Keith Keeler
English Chair	Francis Janosco
Science Chair	TBD
Special Education Chair	Kristen O'Reilly
School Resource Officer	Bryan Wallman
DHS Main Phone:	(203) 655-3981
Attendance	Jim Smith Press #3
Administration	Press #4
Guidance	Press #5
Health Office	Press #6
Athletics	Press #7
District Music Office	Press #8
Welcome Center	Press #9

Darien Public Schools Website: www.darienps.org
 DHS Website: www.darienps.org/dhs
 Link to Administrator Information: <http://darien.finalsite.com/page.cfm?p=745>

WHOM TO SEE FOR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

CONCERN	WHO TO CONTACT
Student performance	Teacher
Curriculum/instruction/grading	Teacher, then Department Chair, then Assistant Principal
Requests for homework	Teacher
Counseling related issues	Counselor, then Director of Guidance
Discipline	Assistant Principal
Attendance	Jim Smith, Attendance Secretary
Medical issues	Nurse
Clubs	Assistant Principals
Athletics	Coach, then Athletics Director, then Principal
Personnel	Assistant Principal, then Principal, then Human Resource Director
Stolen items	Teacher or Coach, then Assistant Principal
Locker problems	Linda Cambareri, Secretary to the Principal and Assistant Principals
Job Opportunities	JOBS Office
Lost Schedule	Guidance Counselor
Lost/Found	Main Office
Personal Concerns	Guidance Counselor
Schedule Problems	Guidance Counselor, then Director of Guidance
School Records	Guidance Secretary, then Director of Guidance
Tutoring	Teacher, Department Chair

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO THE DARIEN DISTRICT CHAIN OF COMMAND AVAILABLE AT [HTTP://WWW.DARIENPS.ORG/UPLOADED/CONTENT/DISTRICT/GENERAL/CHAIN_OF_COMMUNICATION10152015.PDF](http://www.darienps.org/uploaded/content/district/general/chain_of_communication10152015.pdf)

2017-18 DHS CALENDAR

[HTTP://WWW.DARIENPS.ORG/UPLOADED/CONTENT/SCHOOLS/DHS/CALENDAR_AND_SCHEDULES/2017-18_CALENDAR.PDF?1500985685980](http://www.darienps.org/uploaded/content/schools/dhs/calendar_and_schedules/2017-18_calendar.pdf?1500985685980)

CONTACTING TEACHERS

Teachers may be contacted either through Voicemail or Email. Generally, a teacher's email address consists of the first initial of the first name, the last name and darienps.org. For example if your teacher's name is Jane Doe, her email address will be jd@daripns.org. However, since there are many duplicates of the "first initial" + "last name" rule among the faculty, staff and students across Darien, please refer to the DHS directory or the website to ensure the email address is correct. The Darien voicemail system may be accessed 24 hours at (203) 655-3981. There is a spell by name option or extensions can be found on the District website and the DHS website.

The school directory is available at <http://darien.finalsite.com/page.cfm?p=610>

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

SCHOOL BEGINS AT 7:40 AM

Students must be in their first period classroom by 7:40 a.m. Students who arrive after 7:40 a.m. should report directly to their classroom for that period. Students may report to the Attendance Secretary during non-instructional time (lunch, study hall, free period). For complete information on attendance policies including tardiness, excused and unexcused absences as well consequences for repeated offenses, please refer to the DHS Student Handbook.

IF A STUDENT IS ABSENT:

When a student is absent, parents/guardians must call the attendance line ((203)-655-3981 press # 3) that day, to leave a message giving a reason for the absence. If a phone call is not made on the day of the absence, it will be considered an unexcused absence. Students with three unexcused absences in a given course within one quarter will lose credit for the quarter. When calling the attendance line, please state the following:

- Student's first and last name and ID number located on the Student ID - spell slowly
- Grade level
- Reason for absence
- Parent/Guardian home/work phone number for verification

Doctor appointments should be made outside of school hours whenever possible. In the event that a student must be seen by a doctor during school hours, please have them bring a doctor's note to the attendance desk when signing back in. If they are not returning, the note should be dropped off the next morning. Please feel free to call the attendance desk with any concerns.

Students are responsible for making up missed homework, quizzes or tests resulting from their absence.

IF A STUDENT NEEDS TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY:

- **Bring a note from parent/guardian** to the Attendance Desk prior to **7:30 a.m.**
- A pass will be issued to the student to be released from class.
- Because the school is responsible for student's whereabouts during the school day; prior to leaving the building, every student **MUST SIGN OUT** through the **Attendance Desk**. If students do not sign out prior to leaving school grounds, disciplinary actions will follow.

NOTIFICATION OF MISSED CLASSES:

DHS has an automatic dialing service that calls home when a student has an unexcused absence recorded for that day. If you believe that your student has been marked as unexcused erroneously due to an early dismissal, late arrival or illness, please contact the Attendance Secretary (call attendance line and leave a message stating the date of the unexcused absence and the same information as given above for reporting a student's absence). If you believe your student was marked as unexcused in class when they were at school, please contact the classroom teacher.

PLC (PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY) LATE START DAYS:

There are eight school days designated as PLC days at Darien High School during the 2017-2018 school year. On these days, classes will begin at 9:10 a.m., 90 minutes later than usual, to allow scheduled meeting time for groups of teachers. On these mornings, buses will run at regular pick-up times. The library will be open for students until classes begin. The PLC dates for 2017-2018 are:

- Friday, September 22nd
- Friday, October 27th
- Friday, November 17th
- Friday, December 15th
- Friday, February 2nd
- Friday, March 9th
- Friday, April 20th
- Friday, May 18th

SCHOOL CANCELLATION

For weather delays, cancellations or emergency dismissal, you can obtain up to date information on local radio and TV stations, as well as on our website <http://www.darienps.org>. The Darien schools operate on a 2-hour delayed opening when bad weather interferes with the start of school. You will receive an e-mail from the School Messenger system if you register. Do not call the school or the central office, as the phone lines cannot handle excessive volume. Your best source of information is the media and school websites.

PARENT PICK UP AND DROP OFF

During the school day, the only entrance students may use is the main entrance; all other doors are locked. Parents may drop-off their students after 7:00 a.m. Students may be dropped off in the front of the school or in the athletic area if they have sports equipment. **Students are not to be dropped off at the library entrance as this causes a dangerous situation with teacher parking and the flow of traffic.** All parents are asked to follow the flow of traffic and not pull into an open parking space or turn in the middle of the parking lot to drop off students.

In the afternoon, High School Lane will only be one way leading into the school property from 2:10 to 2:30 p.m. In addition, cars entering from Nutmeg Lane will not be allowed to enter the athletic circle and will be directed around the front loop. Parents must exit the high school on Noroton Avenue. The speed limit on Darien High School property is 15 mph. Drivers are asked to be very alert for pedestrians.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Friday	7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Early Dismissal Days	7:00 a.m. – 12:18 p.m.

CAFETERIA

The cafeteria is open from 7:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. Hot and cold breakfast and lunch items as well as nutritious snacks are available.

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

The College and Career Center (CCC) is located on the first floor of A building. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the fall and 11 a.m. until 1p.m., two days a week in the winter and spring. The CCC contains college brochures, information about the various military branches, career information, college applications and scholarship information. College admissions representatives hold information sessions for DHS Juniors and Seniors in the CCC during the fall. In the spring, a college fair is held for juniors and underclassman where approximately 40 college representatives come to DHS during an extended lunch period to meet with students. Students of all grades can access the CCC during lunch and study halls.

JOBS OFFICE

The Jobs Office, which maintains a listing of student employment opportunities, can be accessed by students via the online DHS website. Students must register online to receive their password that then gives them 24-hour access to all available employment opportunities. The site is updated regularly and is open all year. Employers access the site directly to complete a job posting which is then reviewed before being added to the online site. Students must contact prospective employers directly as employers are not able to see student details. The link to the Jobs Office is <http://dhsjobs.dhspa.net>

WELCOME CENTER

The DHS Welcome Center, staffed by DHS Monitors, is designed to provide a central communications center for DHS visitors and callers. All visitors will sign in and receive a visitor name badge that will be worn while in the building. Visitors to DHS must wait for a host to accompany them through the building. Visitors are not allowed into classroom areas without proper authorization from the Main Office.

Items that may be dropped off at the Welcome Center:

- Lunches/food items (In bags clearly marked with the student's name);
- Assignments or school materials left at home.;
- Students must drop off sports equipment in the athletic area when they arrive in the morning. Sports bags and equipment may not be left at the Welcome Center. The Welcome Center will accept athletic equipment from parents on an emergency basis. The Welcome Center area can get very crowded and parents may be asked to deliver the equipment to the athletic area.

Arrangements to pick up lunches or items should be made in advance by the parent and the student. The school monitors will not call students to the Welcome Center to pick up these items. Due to health considerations, all lunches/food items not claimed by 2:45 p.m. will be discarded.

NO over-the-counter or prescription medication of any kind can be left at the Welcome Desk. Please see district policy "Administration of Medication" for procedures concerning student medication in schools.

LOCKERS

Every Freshman will be assigned an academic and gym locker. Students are permitted to carry backpacks in the school and in the classrooms therefore not all students choose to use a locker. Lockers are optional for students in 10th through 12th grade. An additional sports gym locker will be provided, when available, if the student is playing a sport. Remind your student to write down the locker numbers and combinations somewhere safe. **During P.E. class students should store their valuables in their locked lockers or take them to class.**

STUDENT PARKING

Seniors in good academic standing will be allowed to purchase a parking permit at the beginning of the school year. Students in other grades are not permitted to park on school grounds during the school day.

STUDENT WEAR

DHS Student Wear can be purchased during scheduled sales dates throughout the year. Sales will be announced in the DPN email blast and are generally held at the first DHSPA meeting, during Open House, at the Homecoming football game, as well as before Christmas and Graduation. Please see the current Student Wear offerings at <http://dhspa.net>.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTORY

The Darien High School Directory lists contact information for administration, faculty, staff and student information. Student/family information is organized alphabetically. Sold at Open House, the directory is a DHSPA publication and fundraiser. The information included in the directory is gathered by parent volunteers and not furnished by the school. If you wish for your family information to be included in the 2017-2018 directory, you must send an email with your family information to dhsdirectory@gmail.com by September 6th. **For parents of incoming Freshmen who attended Middlesex Middle School**, a short email directing the use of the same information supplied in the MMS Directory last year (or providing changes) will suffice. **For parents of new students**, please submit parent and student names, grades, address, telephone numbers, and email address. **For parents of returning students**, if we do not hear from you, your family information from last year's directory will be replicated. Changes or updates occurring during the year should be emailed to dhsdirectory@gmail.com.

EMAIL BLAST

The DHSPA is committed to maintaining excellent and consistent communication among parents, staff and administration. We send a weekly parent news email, called the DPN, on Wednesdays. The DPN will be the primary source of communication by the DHSPA to parents. Once you submit your directory information **and provide your email address** to dhsdirectory@gmail.com, you are automatically signed up for the DPN. If you elected not to include your email in the directory, you will need to sign-up for the DPN by submitting a request to dhsdirectory@gmail.com. If you have any questions about the DPN, please contact Pamela Ha-Stevenson at dpn@dhspa.net.

DHS WEBSITE

We strongly encourage you to check the DHS website frequently for up to date information regarding important news and activities at DHS.

On the main page, there is a calendar of important upcoming events, links to the Principals blog, Blue Wave newscasts and the DHS newspaper, NEIRAD, as well as important information regarding upcoming parent and student programs, academic news and student activities. There are also separate tabs for information pertaining directly to students and parents, faculty contacts, school programs, guidance, library, athletics as well as Darien Public Schools district information.

PARENT MEETINGS

Open House – Open House will be held in the fall (September 14) and is an opportunity for parents to attend their child's classes and receive information about each class from the teacher. This is a well-attended event. Due to the number of cars at this event, please plan to carpool with neighbors, if possible.

Class Coffees with Administration – The Parent Coffees with the Administration will be held in the fall starting with coffee before the meeting with the formal program to follow. This is an open discussion session with the school Administrators and Guidance and provides an opportunity for you to ask questions regarding any school related topic. In the fall, the Junior/Senior Coffee is October 12th and the Freshman/Sophomore Coffee is November 9th. In the second semester there will be a Junior Coffee (March 13) and a Senior Coffee (May 9).

DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION (DHSPA)

All parents are members of the Darien High School Parents Association by virtue of having a child at DHS. Meetings are open to all parents and attendance is encouraged. The DHSPA meetings are held about six times a year. Meetings feature a Principal's Report, Guidance Report, information and updates on all DHSPA committee activities, important school related information as well as special programs. More information regarding the DHSPA including contact information and meeting minutes can be found on the DHSPA website: www.dhspa.net.

SCHOOL RESOURCES

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SRO)

The School Resource Officer (SRO), Bryan Wallman, is a Darien police officer that is a valuable member of the school community and works in collaboration with school administrators, faculty, and staff to provide a safe and welcoming environment at DHS. The SRO meets with student groups, attends student activities and sporting events, visits classrooms, gives presentations and in general, works to create a positive relationship with a member of the law enforcement community.

CONNECTIONS COUNSELOR

The Connections Counselor at DHS is Joyce Sixsmith. Ms. Sixsmith is a professional trained in substance abuse counseling. She meets with students who have been referred or seek out her assistance on their own. The Connections Counselor is available to parents as a resource when struggles with substances emerge.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

School psychologists at the high school work with students experiencing problems that may interfere with achievement of educational or personal goals. School psychologists are available to meet with students regarding situational problems or when help is needed managing crises. Students or concerned parents may make an appointment directly with the psychologists or through the guidance department. A member of the professional staff may also refer a student. The psychologists at Darien High School are Beth Shapiro, at (203) 655-3981, x2333, Eileen Whalen, at (203) 655-3981, x2354 and Kathleen Williamson at (203) 655-3981, x2327.

SOCIAL WORKER

The school social worker is available for consultation regarding personal, family or school problems and, when appropriate, will facilitate referral to other community resources. The social worker meets with students both individually and in small groups to address personal issues as they relate to educational success. The school social worker makes home visits to improve a student's attendance, offers support to parents to resolve conflicts, and is available for consultations regarding links to other agencies. The social worker at Darien High School is Kathleen Gilbert, at (203) 655-3981, x2312.

A complete list of the staff at Darien High School can be found on the school website at darienps.org/dhs.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

CLASS MEETING ROTATION

There are seven class time slots per academic day. Students generally have six academic classes and physical education for a total of seven classes. Classes meet on a rotating 8-day schedule where one period drops per day.

BELL SCHEDULES

DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE

ADVISORY DAY	A DAY	REGULAR DAY	B DAY	C DAY	D DAY	E DAY	F DAY	G DAY	H DAY
7:40-8:25	2	7:40-8:28	3	4	1	2	3	4	1
8:29-9:14	3	8:32-9:20	4	1	2	3	4	1	2
Advisory 9:18-9:38	4	9:24-10:12	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
Class 9:42-10:27									
10:31-11:16	5	10:16-11:04	6	7	8	6	7	8	5
1st Lunch 11:20-11:44 Class 11:46-12:42	6	1st Lunch 11:08-11:34 Class 11:36-12:36	7	8	5	1	2	3	4
Class 11:20-11:38		Class 11:08-11:28							
2nd Lunch 11:39-12:03 Class 12:04-12:42		2nd Lunch 11:29-11:55 Class 11:56-12:36							
Class 11:20-11:58		Class 11:08-11:48							
3rd Lunch 11:59-12:23 Class 12:24-12:42		3rd Lunch 11:49-12:15 Class 12:16-12:36							
Class 11:20-12:16	Class 11:08-12:08								
4th Lunch 12:18-12:42	4th Lunch 12:10-12:36								
12:46-1:31	7	12:40-1:28	8	5	6	7	8	5	6
1:35-2:20	8	1:32-2:20	5	6	7	8	5	6	7
Drop	1	Drop	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

7/22/2016

- *First lunch – Go to lunch then class
- Second lunch – Go to class, break for lunch, go back to class
- Third lunch – Go to class, break for lunch, go back to class
- Fourth lunch- Go to class, then go to lunch

ACADEMIC QUARTER CLOSING DATES

Quarter 1	October 31, 2017
Quarter 2	January 12, 2018
Quarter 3	March 27, 2018
Quarter 4	June 6, 2018

Dates may be modified pending any emergency or storm related closings.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

There are no required school supplies at DHS. Each teacher may specify supplies needed for their class once the school year has begun.

STUDENT PROGRESS

Up to date student progress can be obtained via the student and family portals in *Aspen*. Parents and students can log in and check grades on a real time basis at any point during the quarter. Your child may already be entered into the *Aspen* system if you signed up at Middlesex. If you wish to sign up for Aspen you can go to www.darienps.org and click on the link [Aspen Parent Portal Signup](#). The “Academics” section of the DHS Student Handbook contains more information about grading, and can be found on the DHS website under “Students”.

ACADEMIC ISSUES

Students needing additional help in an academic subject should first contact their teacher. Students may also visit Learning Connections Centers during their study hall to obtain extra help from an “on duty” teacher specific to that academic subject. Students are also able to receive tutoring support through the National Honor Society.

REPORT CARDS/TRANSCRIPTS

Report cards are available on Aspen at the close of each quarter. At the end of each semester, the report card will show quarter grades, exam grades and final overall semester grades. Transcripts only reflect semester grades and GPA.

MIDYEAR EXAM SCHEDULE

Midterm and final exam grades account for 20% of a student’s semester grade.

TENTATIVE DATE*	EXAMS	TIMES
January 16, 2017	Periods 1 and 2	8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m.
January 17, 2017	Periods 3 and 4	8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m.
January 18, 2017	Periods 5 and 6	8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m.
January 19, 2017	Periods 7 and 8	8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m.
January 22, 2017	Make-up Day and Honors Testing	

- School is in session from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with two exams given each day. Students should report to school only on the days and periods when they have exams. Buses will continue with their regularly scheduled pick up times in the morning and will depart from the high school after the 12:30 dismissal time. If school is closed for an emergency during the exams, the schedule will be adjusted so that the next day of school will have the exams that were missed, and the schedule will continue in the original sequence.
- If there is a 2 hour delayed opening on an exam day, the first exam period will be from 10.00-12.00 and the second exam period will be from 12:30 to 2:30. School cancellation days during the winter months may extend the date for the last day of school. Please consider the possibility that the school year may be extended to the last week in June when making summer plans.

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

TENTATIVE DATE*	EXAMS	TIME
June, 7, 2018	Periods 1 and 2	8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m.
June 8, 2018	Periods 3 and 4	8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m.
June 11, 2018	Periods 5 and 6	8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m.
June 12, 2018	Periods 7 and 8	8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m.
June 13, 2018	Make-up Day	

COURSE SELECTION

Students begin the scheduling process for the next academic year during the second semester. Teachers recommend students for courses based on prerequisites and the student's performance from first semester. Students then have an opportunity to register for courses for the following year and to meet with their counselor to discuss their options and adjust their academic plan moving forward. Course selections are shared with parents, who are asked to sign-off on the choices. Level changes take place throughout second semester based on students' performance, potential placement testing or tutoring. In addition, counselors meet with students throughout the spring to resolve any potential scheduling conflicts. Final courses selections are sent home at the end of the school year. Teacher names and periods are included on schedules at the beginning of the next school year.

HONORS PLACEMENT

Recommendations for placement into honors/AP courses are based on placement tests, student performance, and teacher recommendations. In some instances, there might be an opportunity for students to appeal a placement decision. Additional information about the placement process will be shared with students and parents in the winter.

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE RESEARCH (ASR)

During the spring of their Freshman year, students can write an essay to seek entrance to the ASR program. The program is a three-year sequence of independent research. Sophomores begin with a review of literature, and in so doing, fine-tune their area of interest. In the process, they also identify the foremost experts in their field of study. The students approach these scholars with questions about their research and propose a mentorship. During Junior year, students perform the actual data collection with the mentor. As Seniors, they prepare their projects, meeting the goals of the Intel Science Talent Search to which they are encouraged to apply. Students apply to ASR from all academic levels and must continue the pursuit of their traditional science program.

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS IN ENGINEERING

This is a two-year, 2-credit program that begins with an introduction to engineering and culminates with a completed long-term project in the student's chosen area of engineering or technology. Students will learn technical writing and problem solving strategies, complete a series of hands-on problem solving projects, engage a mentor and review current issues in the theories and area of their study. Additionally, students are responsible for a weekly blog post and will conduct progress meetings with their instructor and class, present research and project outcomes using multiple media to the program participants and school community, and complete a final large scale project based on the chosen engineering or technology field of study.

CHINA EXCHANGE PROGRAM

DHS students live with families and attend high school in China for approximately three weeks. Chinese students then come to Darien and live with families while attending DHS.

FRESHMAN STUDY HALL

All Freshmen are assigned to a supervised study period in each period they do not have scheduled classes. Study halls will be held in classrooms and are monitored by a teacher. If students need to see an academic teacher during this period, they will obtain a pass from their teacher and present it to the study hall monitor.

LINK/ADVISORY

Students will be assigned to the same advisory group for their four years at Darien High School and are required to attend all advisory periods. Freshmen meet with Link groups and then transition to Advisory groups starting in Sophomore year. Link/Advisory sessions will meet on A days throughout the school year. The advisory program will strive to uphold the mission of Darien High School: an environment that is safe, supportive, respectful, and intellectually challenging for all students, one that promotes personal excellence through active, collaborative, and creative thinking; individual growth; and development of the skills and integrity necessary to become productive members of society.

STANDARDIZED TESTING BY GRADE

Freshman	Biology SAT Subject for some Honors Biology Students (teacher recommendation) – May
Sophomore	PSAT's – October
Junior	PSAT's – October SAT and/or ACT – Spring SAT Subject – Spring
Senior	SAT and/or ACT – Fall

STANDARDIZED TEST DESCRIPTIONS

PSAT – The Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test is given annually in October. Sophomores and juniors are able to take this test, which gives students practice on the types of questions asked on the SAT. In addition, if taken in the junior year, the PSAT is the qualifying test for many scholarship programs. PSAT scores are not put on the permanent transcript and not ordinarily reported to colleges.

SAT Reasoning– The Scholastic Assessment Test I is a three and a half-hour long, multiple choice and student produced response test. The three parts of the test are called critical reading, mathematics and writing. It is required for admission to most colleges. Most students take their first SAT in the spring of junior year and often repeat the test in the fall of senior year. Students must register for this test directly with College Board either by mail or online at www.collegeboard.com.

ACT – The ACT is a three and a half hour test that is an alternative to the SAT for virtually all colleges and universities. The ACT test consists of five tests: English, Math, Reading, Science and an optional writing test. Some students who perform poorly on the SAT find that they perform better on the ACT and vice versa. Students must register for this test directly at www.act.org.

SAT Subject– The SAT Subject Tests are one-hour long tests that measure your acquired knowledge in specific subject areas. SAT Subject Tests are offered in many different subjects and are usually taken when the student has completed, or has nearly completed, their most advanced study in a specific area. For example, some students take the Biology SAT Subject Test as soon as they complete a biology course. This could be as early as the end of the freshman or sophomore year. Registration for the SAT Subject Tests may be done by mail or online, at www.collegeboard.com.

GUIDANCE INFORMATION

THE ROLE OF GUIDANCE

Getting to know students individually is an important step counselors take to help them guide students through Darien High School. Ninth graders meet with their counselor during the first two months of school. Our primary goal is to

help students understand themselves so they will make informed decisions regarding their present and their future. In addition to meeting with students at the beginning of the year, the school counselors are also using a seminar model to meet with grade levels of students. The department will focus on one grade level per quarter and lead students through a series of lessons that will help enhance their experience at DHS. These meetings are incorporated into students' schedules, occurring once in the eight-day rotating cycle during a students' study hall and will consist of a variety of topics (goal setting, career/post-secondary planning, etc). Even though there will not be a grade issued, attendance is mandatory. The ninth grade seminar occurs during the second quarter.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS

<u>COUNSELOR</u>	<u>EMAIL CONTACT</u>	<u>PHONE EXTENSION</u>
Megan Emanuelson	memanuelson@darienps.org	2220
Joan Flaherty	jflaherty@darienps.org	2241
Peter Trombley	ptrombley@darienps.org	2370
Ann Branca	abranca@darienps.org	2330
Lisa Messineo	lmessineo@darienps.org	2288
Kaitlin Stanton	kstanton@darienps.org	2347
Paul Ribeiro, Director	pribeiro@darienps.org	2306
Debra Webb-Maloney	dwebb-maloney@darienps.org	2290
Katie Halloran-Gacek	TBD	TBD

If you need to contact your student's counselor, you can reach them directly by phone or email as indicated above. If you need assistance, please contact Guidance secretary Leslie Lajoie at 203-655-3981 ext. 2249 or Laura Hyatt at 203-655-3981 ext. 2226.

COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

The DHS College Planning Guide details the formal process of identifying appropriate institutions and opportunities as well as outlining the application process for admission. The College Planning Guide is available on the DHS website under the Guidance tab. It is recommended that students access this guide during the first semester of their Junior year. Printed copies will be available at Junior Planning Night in early November for a nominal fee.

NAVIANCE

We invite parents to explore Family Connection by Naviance which is located under the Guidance tab on the DHS website. This program allows students and families to investigate, research, track, and plan for the college admission process and other post-secondary options. The Guidance Department will use Naviance, while working with their students, through each year of high school.

To begin using Naviance, go to www.darienps.org/dhs, click on the Guidance tab, then click on the Connect to Naviance tab. Students are given a Naviance password during their second quarter seminar course.. Utilizing a student ID will provide additional options including a student profile that contains biographical data, GPA, a resume building tool, a learning style and personality inventory. Prior to receiving the student ID, Naviance can be accessed by using the guest password, which is *bluwave*. The guest login provides access to only some of the basic college search options.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ATHLETIC TEAM LISTING - V = VARSITY, JV = JUNIOR VARSITY, FR = FRESH

FALL PROGRAMS

V Cheerleading
 V Cross Country – Boys/Girls
 V, JV, FR Field Hockey – Girls
 V, JV, FR Football
 V, JV, FR Soccer – Boys/Girls
 V Swim/Dive – Girls
 V, JV, FR Volleyball – Girls

WINTER PROGRAMS

V Cheerleading
 V, JV, FR Basketball – Boys/Girls
 V, JV Ice Hockey – Boys
 V Ice Hockey – Girls
 V Indoor Track – Boys/Girls
 V Ski – Coed
 V Swim/Dive – Boys
 V, JV Wrestling
 V Gymnastics
 V Squash – Boys/Girls

SPRING PROGRAMS

V, JV, FR Baseball
 V, JV Golf – Boys/Girls
 V, JV, FR Lacrosse–Boys/Girls
 V Outdoor Track –Boys/Girls
 V, JV, FR Softball
 V, JV Tennis – Boys/ Girls
 V, JV Volleyball - Boys
 V Sailing (Coed)
 V Rugby -Boys

Note – specific information regarding the first day of each session will be communicated by school announcements and posted on the DHS website. Detailed sports information is also posted under the Athletics tab of the DHS website.

CLUBS

Darien High School encourages the formation of clubs representing a wide range of student interests. Assistant Principal Kate Dimoulas assists students and advisors in forming and running clubs. In order to utilize school facilities and resources, each club must secure a faculty advisor and file a charter for approval with the Assistant Principals at the beginning of the school year.

The following clubs and activities are some of the clubs that are open to students at DHS (when there is enough student interest):

Anatomy Club	Latin Club
Art Club	LinkClub/Link Crew
Asian Culture Club	Math Team
Ballroom Dance	Mathematical Modeling Club
Band*	Model Congress
Best Buddies	Model UN
Blue Wave News/Video Production Club	National Honor Society*
Chess Club	Neirad (School Newspaper)*
Choral Music*	Orchestra*
Community Council*	Outdoors/Ski and Snowboard Club
Current (Literary Magazine)	Paper or Popcorn
Dariannus (Yearbook)	PoeTea
Darien Animal Welfare Group (DAWG)	Programing Club

Debate Team	Quiz Bowl Team*
DECA	Rap Club
Drama (Theatre 308)*	She's The First Club
Eco-Citizens Club (Environmental Awareness)	Stage Crew
Filmmakers Club	Students to Seniors
French Club	Support Our Soldiers (SOS)
Gaming Club	Technology Student Association
Garden Club	Teen Peace Works/One Love
Gay/Straight Alliance	Theatre 308*
Global Connect	Tri-M*
iGEM	Tudor Singers
JETS	Unite For Africa

*Clubs with Audition or Prerequisite

HOME COMING

Homecoming is a school wide event held in the fall organized by Community Council and supported by clubs and organizations throughout the DHS community. The week is comprised of community and spirit building activities and events that include themed dress up days, sports team/club breakfasts, and a pep rally. The week culminates with weekend events that include the Varsity football game and an evening school wide event. All students are encouraged to participate in Homecoming activities but should keep academics as the top priority. The academic schedule is not affected by these events; teachers will continue to assign homework and schedule papers, tests, and quizzes.

Please see the DHS website for the 2017/2018 monthly calendar or the DPN, which includes the current calendar of events for each month