



DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL

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Damascus, Maryland 20872

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August 6, 2018

Dear DHS Students and Families,

I hope that you have found opportunities for both rest and adventure this summer! On behalf of all of the Damascus High School staff members, I extend a heartfelt welcome to the students and families of the classes of 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. I am confident that this will be an awesome year at DHS.

I know that many of you are working hard over the summer to prepare for the upcoming fall academics, athletics and activities. We are working hard at DHS as well. School leadership collaborated to plan for the upcoming school year and stage three of our four stage HVAC project was completed. A project to enhance access and safety for all in our outdoor stadium is being completed. We are ready and eager to welcome our staff and students back for the 2018-2019 school year.

One of the most important initiatives the leadership team tackled this spring and summer was to review and revise the Damascus High School core values. Core values of a school represent the fundamental beliefs and guiding principles that help to guide our actions. Students will see and hear reminders of these core values consistently throughout the year.

DHS is Swarmin' with P.R.I.D.E.

Personal Accountability and Integrity

Respect and Relationships

Inquisitive Thinking

Dedication to Equity and Inclusion

Excellence in Academics

I believe, without a doubt, that the DHS student body is the most talented of any high school in MCPS. Our students are creative, committed and caring. The potential for our Hornets has no limits. As our students look ahead to the school year, I encourage each student to think carefully about their goals for the year and then determine what actions they will take to achieve these goals.

“A goal without a plan is just a wish”

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

ALL NEW STUDENTS are encouraged to attend the new student orientation on Thursday, August 30, 2018 from 7:45AM - 11:30AM. Bus transportation is provided and a copy of the bus schedule for this day is posted on the school website. The purpose of the orientation is to welcome our newest Hornets and to provide them an opportunity to learn about life at Damascus, to navigate the building and to meet their teachers. Orientation for all new FRESHMEN will begin in the auditorium. New students in grades 10, 11 and 12 will begin in the Media Center.

PARENTS and GUARDIANS of FRESHMEN are encouraged to attend a welcome meeting on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 6:30PM in the cafeteria. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to meet staff members and we will share important information that will help you get prepared for the upcoming school year as a Damascus High School parent. This will be a great opportunity to get answers to any questions you may have about student life at Damascus.

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 4, 2018. We will begin in homerooms on the first day. Homerooms are organized alphabetically by grade. A copy of homeroom assignments can be found on our website. Homeroom assignments will also be posted around the building to direct students on the first day of school. Students will receive their first semester schedule in homeroom on the first day of school. Students are encouraged to think carefully about how they will keep themselves organized throughout the year including keeping track of class assignments and school activities. Many students have found that using electronic planners is more effective than the paper planners.

School start and end times will remain the same. The school day begins at 7:45AM and ends at 2:30PM. Students may enter the building as early as 7:20AM. Students that remain at DHS beyond the end of the school day must be participating in a school sponsored activity. The class by class bell schedule can be found on the DHS website.

The **STUDENT HANDBOOK** is available on the school website and will be distributed to all students on the first day of school. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to review the handbook as it includes detailed information regarding school expectations and policies. Handbook topics include: bell schedules, school contact information, student conduct and discipline, late arrival, absences, eligibility, athletics procedures, parking, and use of electronics.

This school year we will welcome **NINETEEN NEW STAFF MEMBERS**. We are very excited about our new hires and are confident they will exceed our expectations.

Mr. Marc MacDonald	English
Ms. Shannon Grigsby	English and Staff Development
Mr. Kevin Tehaan	Physical Education and Career Research and Development
Mr. Ken Buffum	Social Studies Resource Teacher
Ms. Cindy Malca	Social Studies
Mr. Brian Humphrey	Math
Mr. Josh Molnar	Math
Mr. Andre Wise	Math
Ms. Bridget Sorrells	Spanish
Mr. Chris Ohm	Special Education Resource Teacher
Ms. Linda Gordon	Special Education SCB Program
Mr. Jas Rouson	Special Education LFI Program
Mr. Philip Corrdry	Special Education LFI Program
Ms. Paula Gagnon	Special Education LAD Program
Mr. Timothy Tao	Special Education SCB Program
Ms. Helen Ward	Instructional Technology Systems Specialist
Ms. Jackie Monahan	Attendance Secretary
Ms. Debra Yakubik	Pupil Personnel Worker
Ms. Karla Garcia	Speech Language Pathologist

As we move into and through the school year, I encourage you to get to know your child's teachers, counselor and administrator as they are your partners in supporting your child's success at Damascus High School. Our goal is to challenge your children intellectually, grow them socially, and guide them toward independent thinking and problem solving.

I am looking forward to the upcoming school year and to getting to know more students and families. Best wishes and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Respectfully,



Casey Crouse
Proud Principal

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ADMINISTRATOR ASSIGNMENTS have changed for the upcoming year. Administrators are no longer assigned by grade level; instead, they are assigned to students alphabetically by last name. The administrator assignments are as follows:

Ms. Tallapragada	A - Goq
Mr. Saltzman	Gor - O
Ms. Jules-Miller	P - Z

COUNSELORS will continue to be assigned to students alphabetically by last name. The assignments have been revised slightly for the upcoming year. The counselor assignments are as follows:

Mr. Higgins	A - Dia
Mrs. Djouha	Dib - Kn
Mrs. Kohajda	Ko - Rei
Mr. Jurado	Rej - Z
Mrs. Poker	Resource Counselor

SUMMER ENRICHMENT Please don't forget to complete your summer reading. Check out the DHS website for more information. Many AP courses have recommended and/or required summer preparation. Information about summer work was distributed prior to the end of the school year.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT will be held on **Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 7:00PM**. Parents will have the opportunity to walk through your child's schedule, meet his/her teachers and join the PTSA and Booster Clubs. There will also be a meeting for **parents of seniors** starting at **6:00PM** in the **auditorium** on September 13th.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH are served daily in the DHS cafeteria. The Board of Education has announced there will be no change in the prices for school cafeteria breakfast and lunch for the 2018-2019 school year. **Breakfast** will remain at **\$1.30** and **Lunch** will be **\$2.80**. Breakfast is served daily from 7:15AM to 7:40AM. Lunch begins daily at 11:10AM and ends at 12:00PM. In order to support a cleaner building, **all food must be consumed in the cafeteria, in a supervised classroom or in the courtyard (weather permitting)**. Eating is not permitted in the hallways, gym or media center.

The intention of the **WHOLE SCHOOL LUNCH** is to allow time for students to receive academic support from staff, for clubs to meet and for colleagues to work collaboratively. During lunch all students are expected to remain in the building unless they have permission to exit. While students are permitted in most areas of the building during lunch; roaming the building during is discouraged. Students may not gather in the front hallway, rotunda or main office hallway during lunch. To support a successful transition to high school, the **first week of school all ninth graders will be required to be in one of the following locations during lunch**: cafeteria, media center or gym (Thursday and Friday).

LUNCH DELIVERY to students by a parent/guardian during our lunch period is permitted. Lunches should be dropped off at the security desk by the front doors. Students are not permitted to leave the building to get lunch from a vehicle.

SENIORS off-campus lunch. Seniors who meet the established criteria and submit the permission slip signed by their parent or guardian will be permitted to leave the school campus during the lunch period. The permission slip is available on the DHS website and once completed should be turned into security for review. Once approved, the security staff will provide a sticker for the student ID card to indicate that they have the off-campus lunch privilege. Seniors must have their ID with the lunch sticker to exit the building each day. Students with off-campus lunch privileges are expected to eat during this time. They may not bring lunch back to their 5th period class. This lunch privilege may be revoked at any time in response to academic concerns or disciplinary reasons.

JUNIORS off-campus lunch. Juniors who meet the established criteria and submit a permission slip signed by a parent/guardian may earn off-campus lunch privileges during the second semester. The permission form will be available on the DHS website in January. Requests for off-campus lunch privileges for juniors will be reviewed by the security team and those that meet the criteria will be issued a sticker for their student ID. Juniors must have their ID with the lunch sticker to exit the building each day. This lunch privilege may be revoked at any time in response to academic concerns or disciplinary reasons.

STUDENT PARKING - Applications for parking are available on the DHS website and in the DHS Business Office. In order to be approved for a parking permit, a student must have a valid driver's license, meet academic eligibility, be clear of financial obligations, and have the required SSL hours for parking approved (seniors—60 & juniors—50 hours). Completed and signed applications can be dropped off at the DHS Business Office or sent via email to DHSParking@mcpsmd.org by **3:00PM on August 16, 2018**. Do not submit payment with the application. **The list of students approved for parking will be posted outside the Business Office on August 24, 2018.** All students approved for a parking permit must present a valid driver's license and the \$75 full-year parking permit fee to the DHS Business Office by **3:00PM on August 29, 2018. Student parking, by permit only, will go into effect the first day of school.** Due to limited spaces, seniors will be given priority. If there are spaces remaining after school begins, additional applications will be approved through the Business Office. For further information, refer to the schedule and application on the DHS website.

The myMCPS Parent Portal and myMCPS Classroom will continue to be the online tool that can be utilized by students and parents/guardians to access course information and to view grade reports. Updated tutorials, resources and information and about the myMCPS parent portal can be found at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mymcps-classroom/index.aspx>.

UNDERCLASSMEN PICTURES – Pictures for grades 9-11 will be taken on September 6th and 7th through social studies classes. Picture order forms will be distributed earlier that week. All students will have a picture taken even if they are not making a purchase. This picture will be used for the student ID cards and yearbook.

SENIOR PORTRAITS are arranged by appointment through our approved vendor, Victor O’Neill Studios (VOS). Appointments can be made by calling 1-800-320-2894 (press 1 for senior department). The last summer make-up session is Friday, August 17th. A portion of all picture sales help support DHS. It is important to note that all students should be photographed by Victor O’Neill for the yearbook, and there is no fee for the yearbook only pose.

GRADUATION INFORMATION – It is the tradition at DHS to hold graduation at our school, and we will do so again this year on May 31, 2019 (tentatively) for the class of 2019. However, if there is inclement weather, the ceremony cannot be held on our stadium field and will be held in the auditorium, with auditorium seating limited to two guests only. The ceremony will also be televised throughout the classrooms for the rest of our guests. Our graduation ceremony will be live streamed for those who are unable to attend.

YEARBOOK AND SENIOR AD INFO – Order your yearbook early and save \$\$\$! For families of seniors, consider ordering a Senior Ad. Senior Ads are created by the yearbook staff to leave a lasting message for your senior. Please see information and Senior Ad examples at:
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/damascushs/departments/cte/yearbook.aspx?sid=80438>

GET INVOLVED! Damascus High School offers a variety of clubs and activities. Joining one or more school clubs is a great way to get involved and to meet new friends. Early this fall there will be a school clubs fair during lunch at which you can sign-up to participate in those that match your interests.

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL) continues to be an MCPS requires graduation requirement. SSL hours that have been earned by a student are now visible on the myMCPS student portal. SSL hours must be documented using the [MCPS SSL Form](#). This form can be found in the DHS main office or on the school website. Documentation of all SSL hours is due to Ms. Loulou, DHS service learning coordinator, according the following updated timeline. Hours will only be accepted for the current school year.:

Hours completed during the summer:	Due by the last Friday in September
Hours completed during the summer and first semester:	Due by the last Friday in January
Hours for consideration of Certificate of Meritorious Service:	Due by first Friday in April
Hours completed during the summer, first and second semester:	Due by the last Friday in June

FALL ATHLETICS - All students who wish to participate in a sport must register online using the myMCPS Parent Portal. All student athletes are required to have an annual physical exam. The extracurricular activity fee has been eliminated for the 2018-2019 school year. Physical exam forms are available on the DHS website, in the athletic director's office or in the main office. In addition, students who have financial obligations will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities until these obligations are paid. Questions regarding DHS athletics should be directed to Joe Doody, athletic director, at 240-207-2388. The start of fall athletic season schedule is as follows:

Cheerleading, Varsity	August 8	2:00 p.m.	Main Gym
Cheerleading, JV	August 8	2:00 p.m.	Main Gym
Cross Country	August 8	9:00 a.m.	Damascus Regional Park
Field Hockey	August 8	9:00 a.m.	DHS Baseball Outfield
Football, JV/Varsity	August 7	1:00 p.m.	Boys Locker Room – for equipment
Football, JV/Varsity	August 8	9:00 a.m.	Stadium field
Golf	August 13	2:00 p.m.	Little Bennett Golf Course Clubhouse
Poms	August 8	4:00 p.m.	Gym
Boys Soccer – JR/SR	August 13	9:00 a.m.	Moyer Park
Boys Soccer – FR/SO	August 10	9:00 a.m.	Moyer Park
Girls Soccer	August 8	7:00 a.m.	Damascus Regional Park
Girls Volleyball	August 8	7:30 a.m.	Gym