



# DCHS News

## August Newsletter

Dassel-Cokato High School  
4852 Reardon Ave. SW  
PO Box 1600  
Cokato, MN 55321  
320-286-4100

*Promoting positive relationships, personal responsibility and academic rigor to prepare students for success in a changing world.*

### Principal's Message

Dean Jennissen

#### New Staff at DCHS

Dear Parents and Students,  
Welcome to the 2009-10 school year! I am excited to be starting my third year at DCHS!

There has been a steady stream of visitors to the office...I can feel the excitement building. I cannot wait to see students and parents at Open House on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

When students return to school they will find the building in great condition due to the outstanding effort of our top-notch custodial staff. The building has undergone a thorough cleaning and there is new paint in many rooms. Be sure to check out the new Charger Closet located next to Mrs. Kosloski's room. We also added over 10 SMART Boards to classrooms and students will enjoy the new technology their teachers have learned to use. You will also notice a revamped school website shortly. It will contain all of the helpful information you are used to accessing as well as many enhancements. I took a couple of

technology classes this summer and plan to make use of pod-casting to share a monthly "Principal's Message".

Students will also become very aware of our school's newly-developed Mission and Vision Statements. Staff and students will be focusing on Positive Relationships, Personal Responsibility and Academic Rigor. It is our intention as school staff to expect this of ourselves, model it for our students and encourage them to embrace the same ideals. We believe when 700 students and 100 staff are all rowing in the same direction there is nothing we cannot achieve!

Have a great rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you at Open House! Please, do not hesitate to contact me if there is a way I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,  
Dean A. Jennissen  
Principal

Students will find some new faces upon their return. Please help them feel welcome:

David Pennertz – Math at DCHS and the ALC

Martha Christensen – FOCUS

Richie Dahlberg – FOCUS

Vinne Pokornowski – Adapted Physical Education

Stephanie Savoy – Science at DCHS and the ALC

Christine Lawyer – School Nurse

Rachel Latt – Media Center Paraprofessional

### Dean of Student's Message

Steven Schauberger

It is great to see students, families and staff in the building once again. After all, it is people and relationships that truly make a building come to life as a community of learners. We are looking forward to some exciting activities to kick off the new school year! Please stay tuned for a list of Homecoming 2009 events from the DCHS Student Council. This list will be posted on the DC high school website as soon as possible. Please review the newsletter items pertaining to student attendance, parking and testing with your student.

Our utmost goal is to ensure the safety of your student at school. It is very important that all students, families and staff respect, listen to and communicate with each other. The best part of my job is working with students, families and staff to continuously improve how we serve the needs of people and make an impact for kids!

**Student Parking:** Students that drive to and park at DCHS will be required to purchase and display a parking permit tag on the rearview mirror in order to park their vehicle in the one (south) designated high school lot.

#### Procedures

1. Fill out a data entry form and purchase a parking tag from the high school office. You must provide your license plate number and the year/make/model of your vehicle.

2. The cost for the permit tag is \$75 per school year.
3. If you use the district's new online E-Pay system, you must bring the verification receipt to the office, fill out the data entry form and secure a parking tag.

**Students must purchase and display a parking tag on or before Monday, September 14, 2009.** If you cannot make full payment by this date, contact the Dean of Students, Mr. Schauberger.

#### DCHS Testing Calendar-

##### OCTOBER 2009

7-- GRAD Reading Re-test (Online)

8-- GRAD Math Re-Test (Online)

##### NOVEMBER 2009

3-- GRAD Writing Retest Grades 10-12

10-- GRAD Writing Retest Grades 10-12 (Make-up)

##### DECEMBER 2009

8-- GRAD Reading Re-test (Online)

9-- GRAD Math Re-Test (Online)

I wish everyone a successful 2009-10 school year.

### Guidance Counselor's Message

Cassie Vogt

Welcome Back! If you have any concerns about schedules, please see Ms. Vogt during the following dates and times: Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

If these times do not work for you, please call and schedule an appointment with Ms. Vogt. **Unfortunately, we will not have time to make any schedule changes the night of Open House.**

Please remember we will not make schedule changes unless unique circumstances warrant the changes.

**Seniors, please review your schedule to be sure your courses fulfill all of your graduation requirements.** If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Vogt. If you are planning to do an independent study, teacher aide, or work program, this will not be reflected on your schedule until you have completed the forms.

PSEO Students, please check your schedule with Ms. Vogt to be sure you are fulfilling all of your graduation requirements.

Here are some upcoming dates that may be useful in post-secondary planning.

#### ACT test dates

Saturday, October 24, 2009-must register by September 18, 2009

Saturday, December 12, 2009-must register by November 6, 2009

Saturday, February 6, 2010- must register by January 5, 2010

Saturday, April 10, 2010-must register by March 5, 2010

Saturday, June 12, 2010-must register by May 7, 2010

**Seniors retaking the ACT should try to test in October or December. Juniors planning to attend a four-year college should plan on testing in either April or June.**

Reminder: 2009 Graduates: Graduation Pictures are available in the High School Office.

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## Open House & Orientation

Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30-7:30 p.m., please see the enclosed information.

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## Attendance Guidelines—Please read the entire policy in the student handbook

1. Parents/Guardians are asked to call the high school office (320) 286-4100 ext.1800 on the day their student is absent from school and indicate the reason for the absence.
2. All students are required to present a written note from their parents/guardians on the day they return to school after an absence.
3. If students are late to school they must report to the office before going to class. Excessive tardiness to school or class may result in appropriate consequences by the instructor and/or detention.
4. If a student is to leave school during the day, a note from the parents/guardians must be presented to the office in the morning for issuance of a blue “**Leave the Building Pass**”. **Any student leaving the building without proper authorization shall be considered truant regardless of the reason.**
5. Students will not be permitted to leave the school grounds during their lunch period to eat lunch. Leaving for this purpose shall be considered a truancy and treated accordingly.
6. Parents/Guardians who have questions regarding whether or not an absence would be excused are asked to call the High School Office for clarification prior to the absence.
7. Students may lose credit in classes, if they exceed the 3-day unexcused attendance policy.

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## Supply Lists

DCHS doesn't publish a school supply list like is done at the elementary or middle level. What is required for each class varies. Please visit our teacher web pages at: <http://www.dc.k12.mn.us/hschool/> then click on the teacher's individual class according to the student's schedule. If the teacher has not listed the supplies needed, feel free to email them to receive specific information. Generally, high school students go through the typical supplies: pens, pencils, highlighters, folders, three-ring binders and tablets.

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## High School Office Hours

The High School Office is open 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

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## Address Changes

Please contact the High School Office at 286-4100 ext.1800.

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## DC Activities On-Line

You have instant access to all Dassel-Cokato Athletic and Activities Schedules on our website.

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## “Back to School” Supplement

The “**Back to School**” Supplement will be coming to you later this month as well as the official school calendar. These are the two documents that will provide information that will be helpful to you during the school year. If by the beginning of the school year you have not received these two documents, please contact the high school office and we will see that you receive them.

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## Upcoming Events

Following are some events for the beginning of the school year:

September 25<sup>th</sup>: Homecoming

September 30<sup>th</sup>: Student Picture Day; Grades 9-12

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## Medication Policy Reminder

Please keep in mind that if your child needs medication while in school, certain guidelines must be followed.

- ❖ Medication must be stored in the health office. (Exceptions are made for inhalers; this must first be cleared with licensed school nurse.)
- ❖ The medication needs to be in the original bottle with the students name clearly marked on it (no medication sent in baggies will be accepted!)
- ❖ A permission slip must be completed and signed by the parent.
- ❖ A signed order from the physician is needed for all prescriptions medications.
- ❖ Health assistants will distribute medications only after being reviewed by the school nurse.

**These guidelines are in place for the health and safety of all students. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.** If you have any questions, feel free to contact Christine Lawyer, RN at 286-4100 ext. 1804, or contact your physician.

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## Communication

Communication between the home and school is important and an area that can continually be improved. We are open to any suggestions that you may have that would increase our effectiveness in this area.

Several tools that are available for your use are the district and school website, e-mail, and phone. The district website is located at [www.dc.k12.mn.us](http://www.dc.k12.mn.us). From this site you can access information not only for the district, but also for each of the school buildings in the district. In addition to the website, if you want to contact a specific teacher, each teacher has an e-mail address as well as a phone located in his or her classroom. This information can be accessed on the school website. If you do not have a computer and you want to speak to a specific teacher at the high school, please call the high school office at 320-286-4100, ext. 1800, and we will provide you with the appropriate extension number and also connect you to that teacher. If the teacher is not available, you can leave a message on his or her voice mail.