



DCHS News

August Newsletter

Dassel-Cokato High School
4852 Reardon Ave SW,
Suite 1600
Cokato, MN 55321
320-286-4100
www.dc.k12.mn.us

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

Principal's Message

Dean Jennissen

DCHS Students and Families,

"The past is a source of knowledge, and the future is a source of hope. Love of the past implies faith in the future."
~ Stephen Ambrose

This quote is the motto selected by the Class of 2011. I like this quote because it contains some powerful words to guide not only the seniors, but our school this coming year: knowledge, hope, love and faith. Each school year begins with a positive tone, hopefulness and excitement for new opportunities, new successes and new memories. We are hopeful that if we (students and staff) truly love what we do and embrace the learning opportunities education affords; we will create a better today and a better future. To our DCHS students and families, welcome to the 2010-11 school year!

When the students return, the first thing they will notice are many new faces on our staff. Twelve new teachers will have something in common with our freshman... their first day at DCHS! Students, you are going to enjoy our new teachers. Their enthusiasm will be contagious. I know you will make them feel welcome! Our custodial staff has the building looking great... shiny floors, new windows in the Commons and Media Center and the completion of our goal to put a SMART Board in every classroom! We have also implemented a new student software system to keep track of grading, attendance, student information, etc. Students and parents will both have Portal access to view grades and progress in each class. The program is called Infinite Campus and it will enhance our ability to communicate clearly and accurately with students and parents. Parents will need to re-sign-up for Portal access and more specific information on how to do this is included in this mailing.

As we approach the 2010-11 school year, we do so with our school's "3 R's" as our guide. Our focus on Relationships, Personal Responsibility and Academic Rigor are the ideals we will strive for each day. Our success as a school really depends upon a solid relationship between students, families and staff. Last year we surveyed the student and something that really stood out was that the students felt they have great relationships with each other and with the school staff. We are very proud of this and thankful for the awesome students we have the privilege of serving!

Our activities are back in full-swing and 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 1st from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

I hope you enjoy the remaining days of summer. Please, do not hesitate to contact me if there is a way I can be of assistance as we embark upon another successful year at DCHS!

Sincerely,
Dean A. Jennissen
Principal

Dean of Student's Message

Steven Schauburger

Welcome back to what will be a great school year! Let's keep building off of the positive energy from our successes and let's learn how to improve from each other. We are looking forward to some new and exciting activities to kick off the school year! Please stay tuned for a list of Homecoming 2010 events (September 27 – October 1) from the DCHS Student Council. Please pay close attention to the newsletter items pertaining to student attendance, parking and testing with your student. It is extremely important to write and send an excuse note with your student in the event that he/she is/was/will be absent. All students that park their vehicle at DCHS must purchase and display a parking tag by Monday, September 13, 2010. Students that need to retake a Reading or Math GRAD retest should note the dates on the testing schedule.

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! I wish everyone a successful 2010-11 school year.



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DCHS Fall Testing Calendar

OCTOBER 2010

6-- GRAD Reading Re-test (Online)
7-- GRAD Math Re-Test (Online)

NOVEMBER 2010

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

DECEMBER 2010

8-- GRAD Reading Re-test (Online)
9-- GRAD Math Re-Test (Online)

New Staff at DCHS

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

* Andrew Hegdahl: Science * Joy Hudek: Special Ed * Michael Lajko: Music
* Eric Sawatzke: Agriculture * Laura Sellner: Math * Stephanie Schlangen: Communications
* Ryan Tool: Guidance Counselor * Megan Van Zuilen: ESL/Spanish * David Nord: Art * Dan Krause: PE

Guidance Counselor's Message

Ryan Tool

Welcome back! I am so excited to be working at Dassel-Cokato High School. I am new to D-C, but I have been a high school counselor for the past 10 years. I hope I can be a valuable resource for you as you determine your academic course of study, your post-secondary options, and the careers paths you would like to explore. I look forward to meeting, and working with, all of the students and families. We should have a great school year.

If you have any concerns about schedules, please see Mr. Tool during the following dates and times: Monday, August 30th or Wednesday, September 1st from 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 Mr. Tool (286-4100 ext: 1805). **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 Mr. Tool.

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

ACT Test Dates

Please note: October, February and April ACT Tests are offered at DCHS
***DCHS ACT Code: 240-500**

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 11, 2010	August 6, 2010	August 7 – 20, 2010
October 23, 2010	September 17, 2010	September 18 – October 1, 2010
December 11, 2010	November 5, 2010	November 6 – 19, 2010
February 12, 2011	January 7, 2011	January 8 – 21, 2011
April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011	March 5 – 18, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 7 – 20, 2011

Reminder: 2010 Graduates: Graduation Pictures are available in the High School Office.



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Open House & Orientation

Wednesday, September 1st from 4:00-7:00 p.m., please see the enclosed information.

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.

Supply Lists

DCHS does not 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/hs/staff> 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 notebooks.

High School Office Hours

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

High School Mailing Address Change

Please note the new high school mailing address is: 4852 Reardon Ave SW, Suite 1600, Cokato, MN 55321.

DC Activities On-Line

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

“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 27—October 1: Homecoming

September 21: Student Picture Day; Grades 9-12 (Seniors: your picture will be used for your final transcript)

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 Kelly Krueger, LSN at 286-4100 ext. 1804, or contact your physician.

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.k.12.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 voicemail.

New Student Information System & Parent & Student Portal

This year our school district is implementing a new software program, Infinite Campus, that will be used to maintain all student and family information. An exciting component of this software is a new Parent Portal, which will allow parents better access to their children's grades, lunch account balances, standardized test scores, attendance records, contact information, and immunization records. Since this software completely replaces the previous parent portal, it will be necessary for all parents to set up new accounts in the Campus Portal. Your first opportunity to do this will occur during the Open House events taking place at the Elementary Schools on September 2, the Middle School on September 1 (5th grade only) and September 2, and the High School on September 1. (Check school calendar for actual times.) To register for a new account at the High School, you will go to the Media Center, receive an identification code, and use a school computer to set up a user name and password. This process will take at least 10 minutes, so please plan your open house visit accordingly. If you have more than one child in our schools, you will only need to activate your Portal account one time.

If you are unable to attend an open house, you can activate your Portal account by visiting or calling one of the school offices any time **after September 15**.