



DCHS News

January Newsletter

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

Dassel-Cokato High School

4852 Reardon Ave SW,
Suite 1600
Cokato, MN 55321
320-286-4100 Ext 1800
www.dc.k12.mn.us

Principal's Message

Dean Jennissen

DCHS Students and Families,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas! As we approach the mid-point of Trimester II there are a few things I would like to highlight:

1. **Conferences**—we look forward to seeing you on January 20th between 4:00-7:00 p.m. This is a great time for you to meet teachers, talk about progress and continue to support your student's education. Students are welcome to attend as well.

2. Our Counselor, Mr. Tool has put together some great **opportunities** for parents and students to learn more about the offerings we have here at DCHS as well as plan for the future beyond high school. Please note the enclosed flyer to get the specifics. I encourage parents to take advantage of these opportunities. Having one daughter in college and the other getting close, there is so much to learn about high school and post-high school planning. We hope to see you at the one of the following **informational sessions**: College Options while in High School, Financial Aid and DCHS Registration Information. Registration for 2011-12 students will start soon and the registration session will highlight the many changes we have in store for students to include five additional classes for college credit. Your student will receive their Registration Information on January 26th and will be asked to complete their course choices and secure a parent signature prior to registering in the 1st week of February. Parents, please talk with students about their choices and make arrangements to attend the Registration Information session or consult with Mr. Tool if you have questions. Registering for the correct courses is critical as students plan for the future.

3. I have been working with our Student Cabinet, Seniors and Staff to help create a **Senior Privilege** opportunity. Over the past two years we have surveyed our students about things they feel would enhance their high school experience. Each year students have mentioned some sort of privilege that seniors could earn for making positive choices. This year's Seniors would like to have the opportunity to leave campus during one of the two Advisory Days during Trimester III providing they have met certain criteria. In this newsletter we have outlined the criteria and will need parents to approve of their students opportunity to participate by coming to school to sign a Parent Permission form in the High School Office. This permission form will also be available at Conferences for parents to sign. Seniors must have a parent's signature to participate in the Senior Privilege.

Parents, as each day goes by at school, I am reminded of the trust and faith you have placed in us to do the very best job we can with the very most important people in your lives. We do not take this lightly and are honored to have the privilege of working with young people. Please, do not hesitate to contact your student's teachers or myself if we can answer a question or provide support.

Sincerely,
Dean A. Jennissen, Principal
320-286-4100 ext. 1802 or dean.jennissen@dc.k12.mn.us

Calendar of Events

January	
No School (Teacher Workshop)	17
Parent/Teacher Conferences HS West Gym 4:00-7:00 pm	20
Final Deadline to order Yearbooks	24
February	
Variety Show Auditions	1
Snowball Week	14-18
DC Student Variety Show PAC 1:00-2:00 pm	16
Driver Ed Teen & Parent Night PAC 6:30-8:00 pm	17



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Senior Privilege

Each Thursday during Trimester III Seniors be excused at 2:25 p.m. if the school has no scheduled activity for Seniors, All Seniors will be eligible for this privilege. The following criteria would result in a Senior losing this privilege:

1. Less than 53 credits to begin Trimester III
2. Less than a "C" in any class during Trimester III
3. OSS or ISS during Trimester III
4. No parent approval signature on file with the office
5. Failure to sign-out with their Advisor each release day
6. Seniors on privilege are expected to behave appropriately in the community or if they choose to stay at school. Inappropriate behavior will result in privileges lost.
7. Other criteria such tardiness, attendance issues, etc will be reviewed by Admin and could result in a loss of the privilege. Admin reserves the right to make all decisions regarding a Senior's status.

Procedure

1. Parents must consent to their student being "on their own" on release days. A signature roster will be available for parents to access and sign during the January Conference night and each day in the High School Office leading up to the beginning of Trimester III (March 8th)
2. Eligibility will be monitored daily and verified every two weeks during Trimester III by the Office and Advisors. An ineligible list will be generated by the Dean of Students and sent to each Advisor prior to the release day each week.
3. All Seniors who have taken themselves off the eligible list must remain in their Advisory on release days
4. If there is a scheduled activity for Seniors on a Thursday, they will be released on the Wednesday of that week when possible
5. Seniors that wish to stay at school must remain in a classroom or the Commons and maintain proper behavior with minimal supervision
6. DCTV will be moved to Wednesdays during Trimester III
7. The Senior Privilege is an annual agreement with each Senior Class and school staff.
8. *The Administration reserves the right to change this agreement as necessary.*

Parent Teacher Conferences: January 20, 2011: 4:00 - 7:00 pm

HS West Gym

Please note, the following teachers schedules:

Virginia Grosser: 4:00-5:15 DCHS, 5:30-7:00 ALC

Andy Hegdahl: 4:00-5:15 DCHS, 5:30-7:00 ALC

Brian Johnson: Unavailable

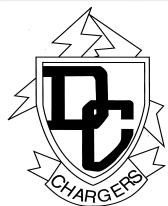
Michael Lajko: 4:00-6:00 DCHS

Derek Levno: 4:45-7:00

Laura Sellner: 4:00-5:15 DCHS, 5:30-7:00 ALC

Becky Thielsen: 4:00-5:15 DCHS, 5:30-7:00 ALC

Brian Veith: 4:00-6:00 DCHS



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Dean of Students Message

Steven Schauberger

To contact Steven Schauberger: Please call 320-286-4203 or email steven.schauberger@dc.k12.mn.us

Welcome to 2011 and the news of some exciting opportunities at DCHS!

Please note that I am always available to speak with families, parents, students about any concerns during conferences. This trimester's conferences are held on **January 20, 2010 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.** I would love to hear your ideas about our school.

Attendance: It is extremely important for your student to be in attendance every day through the last day of school. Please contact the high school office in the event that your student is sick or if he/she is going to be absent. Also, follow the call with a written note as soon as possible.

Please remember that if a student is too sick to be in school, then he/she is too sick to participate in after-school activities. If your student participates in activities and will be absent (for any period or the day) for reasons other than illness, please pre-authorize (send a note) or call Mr. Schauberger the day before the intended absence. Finally, please try to schedule student appointments after/before school and schedule any family vacations during Spring Break which is March 28 through April 1, 2011.

DCHS Snowball Week is February 14-18, 2011. Student Council is planning dress up days, lunchtime activities, the Student Variety Show and the Winter Pepfest in the PAC/East Gym. The public is welcome to attend.

Student Council Candy Gram Sales and Delivery, February 8-11 and 14th, 2011. Send a treat to that special someone!

Parking Tags: If your student drives and parks a different vehicle to and at school, please remind them to switch and display their 2010-11 yellow parking tag. Otherwise, he/she should leave a post-it note on Mr. Schauberger's door with the vehicle information and license plate number of the different vehicle.

Dassel-Cokato High School 2010-11 Mandated MN State Testing Schedule

FEBRUARY 2011

9-- GRAD Reading Re-test (Online)

10- GRAD Math Re-Test (Online)

MARCH 2011

7-- ELL Testing Begins

27-- ELL Testing Ends

28-- MTAS Reading, Math, & Science Begin

APRIL 2011

6-- GRAD Math Re-Test (Online)

7-- GRAD Reading Re-test (Online)

11-- MCA-II Reading & Math and MTELL Begin

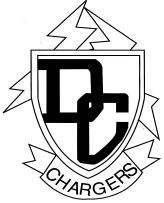
12-- MCA-II Reading & Math Grades 10 & 11: Segments 1 & 2 and GRAD Writing Grade 9

13-- MCA-II Reading & Math Grades 10 & 11: Segments 3 & 4

19-- GRAD Writing Retest (Seniors Only) and GRAD Writing Grade 9 (Make-up)

26-- GRAD Writing Retest (Seniors Only) (Make-up)

29-- MCA-II Reading & Math, MTELL, and MTAS Reading & Math End



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Summary of Student Attendance Procedures & Policies

For Upcoming State Tournament Events

D-C students and families intending to view or participate in upcoming state tournament events are strongly encouraged to read the attendance policies on pages 8-9 in the student agenda book and on the “Handbook” link posted on the left side menu of the high school website. Please plan ahead and communicate with the high school office in a timely manner. Please note the following important points of the policy:

TOURNAMENT ATTENDANCE (District Policy #563)

I. WHEN D-C HAS PARTICIPANTS IN TOURNAMENT

The official tournament squad, including varsity cheerleaders of that team, will be allowed to attend all days of the tournament. Advance make-up slips must be issued for absence to be excused. D-C spectator students will be allowed up to (2) two days attendance at each tournament event.

For the absence to be excused if the tournament play is during the normal school day, an advance make-up slip is required.

Either written or verbal permission must be given prior to the day of activity; this does **not** include the day of the activity. If permission is not given **at least one (1) day in advance**, the absence will be considered to be **unexcused** for that day.

2. TOURNAMENT EVENTS WHERE D-C DOES NOT HAVE A TEAM OR PARTICIPANT

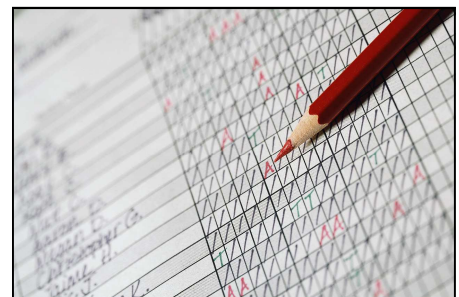
Only the official tournament squad for that activity will be allowed to attend one day either at the Region or State level. An advance make-up slip is necessary for this absence to be considered excused.

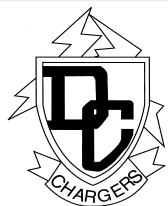
All other students will be given an unexcused absence for the periods of time they are absent, if they choose to attend. If parents are in attendance with the student, the absence will be excused.

TOURNAMENT MAKE-UP POLICY:

All work for absences must be made up. Excused absences receive full credit for work missed but no participation credit. Unexcused absences will receive no participation credit and will receive partial credit for the work made up.

Students who choose to be truant will receive “0” for each class they skip and will not receive credit for any work a teacher might require them to make up. Each teacher will determine make-up work content and due date for when work must be handed in for evaluation.





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Guidance Counselor Message

Ryan Tool

To contact Ryan Tool: Please call 320-286-4205 or email ryan.tool@dc.k12.mn.us

The New Year is upon us, and with that we would like to remind parents of some of the opportunities we will have in the next month to learn more about your child's academic progress and options beyond High School.

Parent Teacher Conferences – Thursday, January 20 from 4 to 7 pm, High School Gym

Please come and visit with your child's 2nd Trimester teachers and find out how they are progressing in class.

Financial Aid Night – Thursday, January 20 at 7 pm, High School Choir Room

Jim Rice the Director of Financial Aid at Ridgewater College will be explaining the Financial Aid process including how to complete the FAFSA. Seniors and their families should work on completing their FAFSA in the next few months to determine what financial aid they are eligible for at any college or university. FAFSA information can be found at www.fafsa.gov.

College Credit Options – Thursday, January 20 at 7:15 pm, Middle School Commons

After a student's 10th grade year they have many course options available to them. We will be discussing the various options students have to earn college credits while still in high school. We will review PSEO, Dual Enrollment courses, AP courses, and articulated credit.

2011-12 Registration Information – Thursday, January 27

- **Grades 9 through 11 at 6:45 pm, High School Choir Room**
- **Grade 8 at 7:45 pm, High School Choir Room**

High school students will be receiving their 2011-12 registration information on January 26th. We will review the updated registration guide and discuss what students must consider when they are developing their academic plan for high school and beyond. It is important that students make good choices now. They may not be able to change courses later. We encourage parents to bring their child's registration guide along with them to take notes if you would like.

Please mark your calendar now. We hope to see you at school. If these dates or times do not work out for you please feel free to contact Mr. Jennissen or Mr. Tool for further information or to set up an appointment.

ASVAB Testing – Thursday, February 24th

In February we are giving all 11th and 12th grade students the option to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). Although this test is used by the Military to determine job placement this can be an excellent tool for any student to learn more about their academic strengths and weaknesses as well as to learn about career options. The ASVAB has many subtests ranging from Reading, Math, and Science to Electronic Information, Auto and Shop Information, and Mechanical Comprehension. The test is free of charge and will take approximately 3 hours. After the test results are returned, students will receive guidance in interpreting their results and looking at career options. Students will have the choice if they would like to have their results released to the military or not. Juniors and Seniors should sign up in the Guidance Office if they would like to take the test.



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School Nurse Message

Kelly Krueger

To contact Kelly Krueger: Please call 320-286-4204 or email kelly.krueger@dc.k12.mn.us

Meningitis and Vaccinations

What is meningococcal meningitis?

Meningococcal disease, which includes meningitis, is a serious bacterial infection that strikes between 1000 to 2600 Americans each year. Although rare, meningococcal disease can cause meningitis (swelling of the brain or spinal cord) or meningococemia (blood infection). Vaccination has been available for decades and is a safe and effective way to help protect against this potentially devastating disease.

Who is at risk for getting meningococcal meningitis?

Preteens and teens are at greater risk for getting meningococcal meningitis and are more likely to die compared with other age groups. Death rates from meningococcal meningitis are up to 5 times higher in teenagers and young adults (15 through 24 years of age) compared with other age groups.

How do you get meningococcal meningitis?

Meningococcal bacteria are spread from person to person through close contact. Common everyday activities (eg, sharing drinking glasses, eating utensils, kissing, or living in close quarters) can put even healthy preteens and teens at greater risk for getting meningitis. That's why vaccination is so important.

What are symptoms of meningococcal meningitis?

Meningococcal meningitis can be hard to recognize, especially in its early stages, because symptoms are similar to those of more common viral illnesses. But unlike more common illnesses, the disease can progress quickly and may cause death within 24 hours. Symptoms may include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, confusion, vomiting, exhaustion, and/or a rash.

What can happen if you get meningococcal meningitis?

Although rare, meningococcal meningitis is serious and can potentially cause death of an otherwise healthy young person within 24 hours. About 10 percent of people who get meningococcal meningitis will die. Up to 1 in 5 survivors are left with serious medical problems, including:

- Amputation of arms, legs, fingers, and toes
- Brain damage
- Deafness
- Kidney damage

How can you help prevent your child from developing meningococcal meningitis?

Vaccination is safe and effective and the best way to help protect preteens and teens from meningococcal meningitis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other leading medical groups recommend meningococcal vaccine for:

- Preteens and teens 11 through 18 years of age
- College freshmen living in dormitories
- Children 2 through 10 years of age who are at increased risk or if elected by their health-care providers and parents

Vaccination is available for people 2 through 55 years of age who wish to reduce their risk for contracting the disease.