



# DCHS News

## December 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](http://www.dc.k12.mn.us)

## Principal's Message

**Dean Jennissen**

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

We have just started our 2nd Trimester and are looking forward to two weeks of hard work at school and then a restful break! As the year continues to progress, I would like to make you aware of a few items...

### Conferences and Parent Portal

Conferences are coming up: Thursday, January 19th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. With the introduction of our Parent Portal, we are appreciative of the many parents that check academic progress weekly! However, face-to-face contact with your student's teachers is also important because it helps paint a more complete picture of your student's performance at school. We invite you to attend on the 19th! Additionally, parents will notice a slight change to the Portal Page that displays your student's grade. There are two grades present when you view the screen. One is the student's "Term" Grade which is their current grade and eventually will become their final grade. We added the words, "Mid-Term" to their Progress Grade which signifies the grade they had at approximately the mid-point of the Trimester, typically 25-28 days into the Trimester.

### Weather Related Announcements

This year we are taking full-advantage of our Campus student system and added a feature that is able to contact all of our parents and staff in a very short period of time for important announcements from school. For late-starts, early-outs and cancellations Mr. Powers will use this system. Cell phone numbers, home phone numbers and other numbers for parents will be called with the notification. Mr. Powers will also contact radio and TV stations as he has done in the past. If you need to update your contact information, please contact the DCHS Office.

### Parent Meetings in January

It is hard to wrap your head around, but we are already planning for the 2012-13 school year! In Mr. Tool's Guidance update he will list meetings to be held in January that are important for parents to attend regarding Registration, College Credit Options and Financial Aid. Planning for high school and college is radically different than it was even 10 years ago. With all there is to consider, learn and do, we want our students and parents to be informed, engaged and directive about the next 4-8 years of our their student's educational lives!

My wish for all of you this Christmas Season is more rest, family time, peace and happiness. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in some way.

Dean A. Jennissen, DCHS Principal

320-286-4202, [dean.jennissen@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:dean.jennissen@dc.k12.mn.us)

## Calendar of Events

### December

ALC Christmas Open House 3:30 - 6 pm	20
Senior Portraits Due for Yearbook	22
Winter Break	12/23-1/2
<b>January</b>	
No School (Teacher Workshop)	16
Parent/Teacher Conferences HS West Gym 4:00-7:00 pm	19
Driver Ed Teen & Parent Night PAC 6:30-8:00 pm	26
Final Deadline to Order Yearbooks	31



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## Dean of Students Message

**Steven Schauberger**

To contact Mr. Schauberger: 320-286-4203 or [steven.schauberger@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:steven.schauberger@dc.k12.mn.us)

I commend the families, students, staff and communities of Dassel-Cokato on their consistent follow through of three vital components that have led to a safe and respectful beginning of a new school year: 1.) clear, proactive communication, 2.) the alignment of shared core beliefs and actions and 3.) measuring and ensuring accountability. As a team, we continue to ask for, expect, and meet high expectations regarding student attendance, behavior, language and citizenship. Every communication in these and other areas is our most valuable and recyclable asset. It is an honor to serve you.

### **Update Your Contact, Emergency and Important Information on Parent Portal and Infinite Campus:**

Please re-verify and update your contact information (i.e. email, phone numbers, guardianship information) on parent portal. Certain information (above) on Infinite Campus can be updated only by calling the high school at 320-286-4100 ext. 1800 and notifying the secretaries to update, correct the error or change information. It is especially important to notify us if there are any changes in guardianship or contact concerns.

### **Attendance:**

Please call the high school office to report absences and follow them up with a written note! My phone extension is #1803. 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 any reason, please pre-authorize (send a note) or call Mr. Schauberger the day before the intended absence. Also, please try to schedule student appointments after/before school and schedule any family vacations during Winter/Spring Break.

### **Winter Weather Driving and Parking at DCHS/MS:**

Remind and re-teach the skills of safe winter driving to your students! Slowing down will save lives and gas! Also, students are expected to park within the painted parking stalls (when visible) in the parking lot. This may be difficult but not impossible in the winter. We need to ensure enough parking spots for all students and visitors in addition to keeping the lanes open and safe for emergency and other school transportation vehicles.

Finally, please encourage your student to finish the trimester/year strong. Discuss getting enough sleep, talk about how to reduce stress, and celebrate successes in and outside of school. I hope that the upcoming holiday season brings you good health, friends and family, and many happy memories.

### **Yearbook Orders**

Order your 2011-2012 yearbook now for **\$64.13 (tax included)**.

Make your check (cash is not accepted) payable to ISD 466, Memo: 11-12 Yearbook and bring this order form and your check to the drop-box in the high school office.

**BETTER YET:** Order your yearbook ONLINE using your credit card. To order online use the link on the high school webpage or go to [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) and type in

DASSEL COKATO as the city.



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### School Nurse Message

**Tracy Kraemer**

To contact Mrs. Kraemer: 320-286-4204 or [tracy.kraemer@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:tracy.kraemer@dc.k12.mn.us)

#### ~REMINDER ON STUDENT ILLNESSES~

Please be considerate of others when your student has been ill. To prevent the spread of illness, we remind you to please keep your student home for a MINIMUM of 24 hours after their fever breaks or after they stop vomiting, even if they are feeling better.

#### ~FLU VACCINES~

The Wright County Public Health Wellness on Wheels—WOW—Van provides low cost vaccinations for those without health insurance or with high deductibles. Vaccines are just \$10 if eligible. Call 763-682-7717 to find out if you qualify. A WOW van schedule can be found at:

<http://www.co.wright.mn.us/departments/humanservices/wowcal.asp>

#### ~HEALTH AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION~

Please remember to submit an updated health and emergency form for your family. Only ONE form is needed per family. This should be submitted yearly. Thank you! Forms can be found on our district website under: district>new student registration>health forms.

### School Social Worker

**Anne Mahoney**

To contact Mrs. Mahoney: 320-286-4206 or [anne.mahoney@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:anne.mahoney@dc.k12.mn.us)

Here is a useful resource for families. I hope you all enjoy the holiday season!

#### **ADD Your Voice**

*Sharing ideas, finding resources & support for parents/care givers of those with ADD/ADHD & related issues.*

**Where:** Buffalo Community Center (Board Room) 206 Central Avenue, Buffalo, MN 55313  
763-682-6036 (Parking & Entry in rear)

**When:** 1st Tuesday of the month (January 3 & February 7) 6:30 - 8:00

**Contact:** Elizabeth Muellerleile: 612-889-3239

### Guidance Counselor's Message

**Ryan Tool**

To contact Mr. Tool: 320-286-4205 or [ryan.tool@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:ryan.tool@dc.k12.mn.us)

#### **ACT Test Dates**

Please note: February and April ACT Tests are offered at DCHS (DCHS ACT Code: 240-500)

Please register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
February 11, 2012	January 13, 2012	January 14 – 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 – 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5 – 18, 2012



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## Guidance Counselor's Message (continued)

**Ryan Tool**

To contact Mr. Tool: 320-286-4205 or [ryan.tool@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:ryan.tool@dc.k12.mn.us)

### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Date	Time	Description	Location
1/12	7:00 PM	PLAN Parent Meeting: Grade 10	HS Choir Room
1/19	7:00 PM	Financial Aid Meeting: Grade 12	High School Choir Room
1/19	7:15 PM	High School/College Options Meeting: Grades 9-11	Middle School Commons
1/25	FLEX	Registration Materials distributed: Grades 9-11	FLEX Classroom
1/26	6:45 PM	Registration Information Meeting: Grades 9-11	High School Choir Room
1/26	7:45 PM	Registration Information Meeting: Grade 8	High School Choir Room
2/7-2/8	School Day	Registration: Grades 9-11	Tech Lab
2/9-2/14	School Day	Registration: Makeup Days	Guidance Office

### Parent Portal

As we end one trimester and began another I would like to encourage parents to use the Parent Portal. This tool is a great way to keep track of student schedules and grades. Hopefully 1st trimester was a good one, but if not please contact me. We have many great resources at DCHS to help your child be successful.

### College and Scholarships

Hopefully Seniors have been busy filling out applications and making plans for next year. I have already seen many college acceptance letters come across my desk. Applying early has many benefits: scholarship consideration, first consideration for student housing, first on the list for your program of study or major (some have limited space available). Students do not have to commit to a school until May 1st, but it is great to give themselves many options. Please continue to check the High School Guidance web page for weekly updated scholarship information.

### Financial Aid

Starting in January, families can begin submitting their FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) forms. FAFSA forms can be accessed at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). More information about Financial Aid will be coming to Seniors and their families soon. We will also have a Financial Aid night on January 19th at 7 PM in the Choir Room. Jim Rice, the Financial Aid Director from Ridgewater will be our main speaker. Everyone is welcome to attend, but this information will be particularly helpful for parents of seniors.

### Registration

We have just started second trimester but it is already time to start thinking about next year. In January we will begin the registration process for the 2012-13 school year. We will soon have our registration guide available with our new course offerings. We will have a parent meeting about registration on January 26 at 6:45 PM in the Choir Room. At this meeting we will review the graduation requirements and other information students should consider when making their course requests. We will also go over college credit options on January 19 at 7:15 PM in the Middle School Commons. During this meeting we will discuss the PSEO option as well as the College Level Courses offered at DCHS.

### PLAN

In November all Sophomores took the PLAN test. The PLAN test is a Practice ACT test. The students PLAN results can be used to predict their ACT score and see where they are at in terms of college readiness. The PLAN results also provide some very helpful career information. In January I will speak to the Sophomore classes and review the students results with them. We would also like to explain the PLAN results to parents as well. We will have a parent meeting on January 12 at 7:00 PM in the High School Choir Room.