

**DHSPA
Parent Survival
Guide
2011-2012**



SCHOOL COMMUNITY INFORMATION

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION AND PHONE NUMBERS

Principal Dan Haron
Assistant Principals Ellen Dunn
Ellen Spark
Mike Sullivan

DHS Main Phone: (203) 655-3981
Attendance Press #3
Administration Press #4
Guidance Press #5
Health Office Press #6
Welcome Center Press #9

Darien Public Schools Website: www.darienps.org
DHS Website: www.darienps.org/dhs
Up to date Sports information www.highschoolsports.net

WHO TO SEE FOR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

CONCERN

CONTACT

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Student performance | Teacher |
| Curriculum/instruction/grading | Teacher first, then Department Chair |
| Requests for homework | Teacher |
| Counseling related issues | Counselor |
| Discipline | Assistant Principal |
| Attendance | Linda Murphy, Attendance Secretary |
| Medical issues | Nurse |
| Clubs | Ellen Dunn, Assistant Principal |
| Athletics | Coach first, then Athletics Director |
| Personnel | Assistant Principal first, then Principal |
| Stolen items | Teacher or Coach, then Assistant Principal |
| Locker problems | Linda Cambareri, Secretary to the Principal and Assistant Principals |
| Job Opportunities | JOBS Office |
| Lost Schedule | Guidance Counselor |
| Lost/Found | Linda Cambareri, Secretary to the Principal and Assistant Principals |
| Personal Concerns | Guidance Counselor |
| Schedule Problems | Guidance Counselor |
| School Records | Guidance Secretary |
| Tutoring | Teacher, Department Chair |

CONTACTING TEACHERS

Teachers may be contacted either through Voicemail or Email. Generally, a teacher's email address consists of the first initial of the first name, the last name and darienps.org. For example if your teacher's name is Jane Doe, her email address will be jdoe@darienps.org. However, since there are many duplicates of the "first initial" + "last name" rule among the faculty, staff and students across Darien, please refer to the DHS directory or the website to ensure the email address is correct. The Darien voicemail system may be accessed 24 hours at (203)655-3981. There is a spell by name option or extensions can be found on the DHS website.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

IF A STUDENT IS ABSENT:

When a student is absent, parents/guardians must call the attendance line (203-655-3981 press 3) that day to give a reason for the absence. If a phone call is not made on the day of the absence, it will be considered an unexcused absence. Students with three unexcused absences in a given course within one quarter will lose credit for the quarter. When calling the attendance line, please state the following:

- Student's first and last name and spell slowly
- Grade level
- Reason for absence
- Parent/Guardian home/work phone number for verification

Students are responsible for making up missed homework, quizzes or tests resulting from their absence.

IF A STUDENT IS LATE TO SCHOOL:

Students who arrive after 7:40 will need to report to the Attendance Secretary with a note from their parent/guardian. They will be requested to sign in and will receive a late pass to class. Any student who enters the classroom after the bell, without a pass, will be marked as unexcused tardy.

IF A STUDENT NEEDS TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY:

- **Bring a note from parent/guardian** to the attendance office prior to **7:30 a.m.**
- Only valid reasons listed under excused absences will be accepted.
- A pass will be issued to the student to be released from class.
- Because we are responsible for student's whereabouts during the school day, prior to leaving the building, every student **MUST SIGN OUT** through the **Attendance Desk**. If students do not sign out prior to leaving school grounds, disciplinary actions will follow.

NOTIFICATION OF MISSED CLASSES:

DHS has an automatic dialing service that calls home when a student has an unexcused absence recorded for that day. If you believe that your student has been marked as unexcused erroneously due to an early dismissal, late arrival or illness, please contact the Attendance Secretary (call attendance line and leave a message stating the date of the unexcused absence and the same information as given above for reporting a student's absence). If you believe your student was marked as unexcused in class when they were at school, please contact the classroom teacher.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

For complete information on attendance policies including tardiness, excused and unexcused absences as well consequences for repeated offences, please refer to the DHS Student Handbook.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION

For weather delays, cancellations or emergency dismissal you can obtain up to date information on local radio and TV stations, as well as on our website <http://www.darienps.org>. You will receive an e-mail from <http://www.ctweather.com> if you register. Do not call your school or the central office, as the phone lines cannot handle excessive volume. Your best source of information is the media and websites.

PARENT PICK UP AND DROP OFF

Parents may drop-off their students after 7:00 in the morning. Students may be dropped off in the front of the school or in the athletic area if they have sports equipment. Students are not to be dropped off at the library entrance as this causes a dangerous situation with teacher parking and the flow of traffic. All parents are asked to follow the flow of traffic and not pull into an open parking space or turn in the middle of the parking lot to drop off students.

In the afternoon, High School Lane will be one way leading into the school property only from 2:10 to 2:30 p.m. In addition, cars entering from Nutmeg Lane will not be allowed to enter the athletic circle and will be directed around

the front loop. Parents must exit the high school on Noroton Avenue. The speed limit on Darien High School property is 15 mph. Drivers are asked to be very alert for pedestrians.

LIBRARY HOURS

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Monday-Friday | 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. |
| Early Dismissal Days | 7:00 a.m. – 12:18 p.m. |

CAFETERIA

The cafeteria is open from 7:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. Hot and cold breakfast and lunch items as well as nutritious snacks are available. A separate food service information packet as well as information about replenishing lunch accounts was sent to you in mid-August. Please refer to the packet for more details on food offerings and prices.

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

The College and Career Center is located on the first floor of A building. It is open Monday –Friday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the fall and 11 a.m.–1p.m. in the winter and spring. The CCC contains college brochures, information about the various military branches, career information, college applications and scholarship information. Listings of volunteer opportunities are also available. Students of all grades can access the CCC during lunch and study halls.

JOBS OFFICE

The Jobs Office, which maintains a listing of student employment opportunities, is now online at: www.darienps.org/dhsjobs or can be accessed by students via the online DHS website. Students must register online to receive their password which then gives them 24 hour access to all available employment opportunities. The site is updated regularly and is open all year. Employers access the site directly to complete a job posting which is then reviewed before being added to the online site. Students must contact prospective employers themselves as employers are not enabled to see student details. The Jobs Office can be contacted by email at dhsjobsoffice@gmail.com or by phone at 203 424 0652.

WELCOME CENTER

The DHS Welcome Center is staffed with parent volunteers to assist in directing visitors at the school. While messages or items forgotten at home can be left with the volunteer, they are not responsible for loss/theft of the items or ensuring your student picks them up. Please note that there may be times during the school day that the Welcome Center desk is unattended.

- All items dropped off at the Welcome Center should be in a bag and clearly marked with the student's name.
- Arrangements to pick up lunches or non-emergency items should be made in advance by the parent and the student.
- We will not call students to the Welcome Center to pick up these items.
- Due to health considerations, all lunches/food items not claimed by 2:45 p.m. will be discarded.
- **All sports related equipment, clothing, mouth guards, etc. should be taken to the athletic department. The Welcome Center will not take these items.**

LOCKERS

Every freshman will be assigned a locker. Students are permitted to carry backpacks in the school and in the classrooms therefore not all students choose to use a locker. Students 10th through 12th grade can opt to have a locker if they choose. Freshman students will have a gym locker in addition to their regular academic locker. An additional sports gym locker will be provided, when available, if the student is playing a fall sport. Remind your student to write down the locker numbers and combinations somewhere safe. **During P.E. classes students should store their valuables in their locked lockers or take them to class.**

STUDENT WEAR

DHS Student Wear can be purchased during scheduled sales dates throughout the year or online. Sales will be announced in the DPN email blast and are generally held at the first DHSPA meeting, during Open House, at the Homecoming football game, as well as before Christmas and Graduation. There is also a link for Student Wear sales on the DHS website located under the Parents tab.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTORY

The Darien High School Directory is a phone book with administration, faculty, and staff extensions as well as student information. The book is organized by grade and also alphabetically by student. Sold at Open House, the directory is a DHSPA publication and fund-raiser. As such, the information within is gathered by parent volunteers and is not furnished by the school. In order to secure a listing in the directory, students new to DHS should submit pertinent information according to the Directory Form included in the August school mailing or found on the DHSPA website. Alternatively, an email may be sent to DHSDirectory@gmail.com to receive further instructions.

EMAIL BLAST

The Darien High School Parent Newsletter (The "DPN") is a weekly email with school specific information that is sent only to those parents who have provided us with their email address, and have become a member of the DPN Google Group. If you are not currently receiving the DPN, please email Rebecca Lowden at dhs.parentnews@gmail.com with your child's name and grade, to receive your invitation and instructions to join the Google group.

DHS WEBSITE

We strongly encourage you to check the DHS website frequently for up to date information regarding important news and activities at DHS.

On the main page, there is a calendar of important upcoming events, the daily bulletin (announcements made to the students), daily cafeteria menu, links to the Principals newsletter, Blue Wave newscasts and the DHS newspaper, NEIRAD, as well as important information regarding upcoming parent and student programs, academic news and student activities. There are also separate tabs for information pertaining directly to students and parents, faculty contacts, school programs, guidance, library, athletics as well as Darien Public Schools district information.

PARENT MEETINGS

Open House – Open House will be held September 15th and is an opportunity for parents to attend their child's classes and receive information about each class from the teacher. This is a well-attended event. Due to the number of cars at this event, please plan to carpool with neighbors, if possible.

Class Coffees with Administration – The fall Freshman/Sophomore Class Coffee with Administration will be held on October 5th at 8:45 a.m. The fall Junior/Senior Class Coffee with Administration will be held on September 28th. This is an open discussion session with the school Administrators and Guidance and provides an opportunity for you to ask questions regarding any school related topic. Another Freshman Coffee with Administration will be held in January prior to exams and scheduling for the 2012-2013 academic year. Sophomore, Junior and Senior Coffees with Administration will take place in April or May.

DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION (DHSPA)

All parents are members of the Darien High School Parents Association by virtue of having a child at DHS. Meetings are open to all parents and attendance is encouraged. The DHSPA meetings are held monthly at 9:15 in the Auditorium. Meetings feature a Principal's Report, Guidance Report, information and updates on all DHSPA committee activities, important school related information as well as special programs. The meeting dates for 2011-2012 are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| September 20 th | February 7 th |
| October 25 th | March 27 th |
| November 29 th | May 1 st |

Dates are subject to change based on the program speaker availability. More information regarding the DHSPA including contact information and meeting minutes can be found on the DHSPA website: www.darienps.org/dhs/dhspa

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

CLASS MEETING ROTATION

There are seven class time slots per academic day. Students generally have six academic classes and physical education for a total of seven classes. Classes meet on a rotating 8 day schedule where one period drops per day. While the schedule may seem very confusing, students adapt to it very quickly and have no problem determining when their classes will meet.

BELL SCHEDULES

| TIME SLOT | REGULAR | HOMEROOM | |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7:40-8:28 | 7:40-8:25 | |
| 2 | 8:32-9:20 | 8:29-9:14 | |
| 3 | 9:24-10:12 | 9:18-10:03 | |
| 4 | 10:16-11:04 | 10:07-10:52 | |
| 5* | 1st Lunch 11:08-11:34 Class 11:36-12:36 | 1st Lunch 10:56-11:20 Class 11:22-12:18 | |
| | Class 11:08-11:28 2nd Lunch 11:29-11:55 Class 11:56-12:36 | Class 10:56-11:14 2nd Lunch 11:15-11:39 Class 11:40-12:18 | |
| | Class 11:08-11:48 3rd Lunch 11:49-12:15 Class 12:16-12:36 | Class 10:56-11:34 3rd Lunch 11:35-11:59 Class 12:00-12:18 | |
| | Class 11:08-12:08 4th Lunch 12:10-12:36 | Class 10:56-11:52 4th Lunch 11:54-12:18 | |
| | 6 | 12:39 – 1:26 | 12:21-1:05 |
| | 7 | 1:32-2:20 | Homeroom 1:11-1:31 7th Time Slot 1:35-2:20 |

| TIME SLOT | 90 MINUTE DELAY | |
|-----------|---|------------|
| 1 | 9:10-9:45 | |
| 2 | 9:49-10:24 | |
| 3 | 10:28-11:03 | |
| 4 | 1 st Lunch 11:07-11:33 Class 11:35-12:23 | |
| | Class 11:07-11:25 2 nd Lunch 11:26-11:52 Class 11:53-12:23 | |
| | Class 11:07-11:37 3 rd Lunch 11:38-12:04 Class 12:05-12:23 | |
| | Class 11:07-11:55 4 th Lunch 11:57-12:23 | |
| | 5 | 12:27-1:02 |
| | 6 | 1:06-1:41 |
| 7 | 1:45-2:20 | |

| TIME SLOT | HALF DAY |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | 7:40-8:16 |
| 2 | 8:20-8:58 |
| 3 | 9:02-9:38 |
| 4 | 9:42-10:18 |
| 5 | 10:22-10:58 |
| 6 | 11:02-11:38 |
| 7 | 11:42-12:18 |

*First lunch – Go to lunch then class
 Second lunch – Go to class, break for lunch, go back to class
 Third lunch – Go to class, break for lunch, go back to class
 Fourth lunch- Go to class, then go to lunch

MARKING PERIOD DATES

| MARKING PERIOD | MARKING PERIOD CLOSING DATE |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | October 28, 2011 |
| 2 | January 10, 2012 |
| 3 | March 23, 2012 |
| 4 | June 1, 2012 |

Dates may be modified pending any emergency or storm related closings.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

There are no required school supplies at DHS. Each teacher may specify supplies needed for their class once the school year has begun.

STUDENT PROGRESS

Up to date student progress can be obtained via the student and family portals in *Aspen*. Parents and students can log in and check grades on a real time basis at any point during the quarter. Your child may already be entered into the *Aspen* if you signed up at Middlesex. If you wish to sign up for Aspen you can go to www.darienps.org and click on the link Aspen Parent Portal Signup.

ACADEMIC ISSUES

Students needing additional help in an academic subject should first contact their teacher. Students may also visit Learning Connections Centers during their study hall to obtain extra help from an "on duty" teacher specific to that academic subject. Students are also able to receive tutoring support through the National Honor Society.

REPORT CARDS/TRANSCRIPTS

Report cards are mailed home at the close of each quarter. At the end of each semester, the report card will show quarter grades, exam grades and final overall semester grades. Transcripts only reflect semester grades and GPA.

MIDYEAR AND FINAL EXAM SCHEDULES

Midterm and final exam grades account for 20% of a student's semester grade.

| <u>TENTATIVE DATE*</u> | <u>EXAMS</u> | <u>TIMES</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| January 11, 2012 | Periods 1 and 2 | 8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m. |
| January 12, 2012 | Periods 3 and 4 | 8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m. |
| January 13, 2012 | Periods 5 and 6 | 8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m. |
| January 17, 2012 | Periods 7 and 8 | 8-10 a.m. and 10:30-12:30 p.m. |
| January 18, 2012 | Make-up Day and Honors Testing | |

- School is in session from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with two exams given each day. Students should report to school only on the days and periods when they have exams. Buses will continue with their regularly scheduled pick up times in the morning and will depart from the high school after the 12:30 dismissal time. If school is closed for an emergency during the exams, the schedule will be adjusted so that the next day of school will have the exams that were missed, and the schedule will continue in the original sequence.
- If there is a 90 minute delayed opening on an exam day, the first exam period will be from 9:30-11:30 and the second exam period will be from 12:00 to 2:00. School cancellation days during the winter months may extend the date for the last day of school. Please consider the possibility that the school year may be extended to the last week in June when making summer plans.

SCHEDULING

Each year in January/February, students will begin the scheduling process for the next academic year. Students will receive a course selection worksheet and a listing of courses offered for the year. Students and parents should review graduation requirements and course descriptions before completing the worksheet. Students will meet with each teacher individually during class time to discuss course options and the appropriate level for the student. Teachers will then sign off on the class choice. Once a student has met with all his/her teachers and chosen any elective courses, they will meet with their Guidance Counselor to ensure all academic requirements are being met. Course selections are then sent home for parents to review and approve.

HONORS TESTING FOR SOPHOMORE YEAR

Students who are in 300 level Social Studies courses and would like to be considered for Honors level classes in Sophomore year may take a placement exam in January on the exam make-up day. Students will sit for a written exam which will be reviewed by Social Studies Departments. Students will be notified later that month if they will be eligible for Honors level classes in 10th grade.

To be considered for Honors English, students must notify their English teacher of their desire to be considered for the honors level. The English Department will then evaluate each student based upon their coursework to date, 8th grade CMT scores and the teacher's recommendation. Students may also be asked to take a placement test. Students will be notified if they will be eligible for Honors level classes in 10th grade.

FRESHMAN STUDY HALL

All freshmen are assigned to a supervised study period in each period they do not have scheduled classes. Study halls will be held in classrooms and are monitored by a teacher. If students need to see an academic teacher during this period, they will obtain a pass from their teacher and present it to the study hall monitor.

HOMEROOMS

All students will be assigned a homeroom and meet regularly with their homeroom teacher during the school year. Homerooms will be used to communicate important testing dates, school, and individual class information to the students.

STANDARDIZED TESTING BY GRADE

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Freshman | Biology SAT II for some Honors Biology Students (teacher recommendation) – May |
| Sophomore | PSAT's – October CAPT* - March |
| Junior | PSAT's – October SAT and/or ACT – Spring SAT II's – Spring |
| Senior | SAT and/or ACT - Fall |

STANDARDIZED TEST DESCRIPTIONS

CAPT Testing - All grade 10 students are required to take the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). All juniors and seniors who have not mastered any section of the CAPT will be required to retake those tests. Students must reach mastery of its equivalent in order to meet graduation requirements. The results of the CAPT will be placed on the test record of a student's transcript. During CAPT testing, Freshman, Juniors and Seniors will be on a modified school schedule.

PSAT – The Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test is given annually in October. Sophomores and juniors are encouraged to take this test, which gives students practice on the types of questions asked on the SAT I. In addition,

if taken in the junior year, the PSAT is the qualifying test for many scholarship programs. PSAT scores are not put on the permanent transcript and not ordinarily reported to colleges.

SAT I – The Scholastic Assessment Test I is a three and a half-hour long, multiple choice and student produced response test. The three parts of the test are called critical reading, mathematics and writing. It is required for admission to most colleges. Most students take their first SAT I in the spring of junior year and often repeat the test in the fall of senior year. Students must register for this test directly with College Board either by mail or online at www.collegeboard.com.

ACT – The ACT is a three and a half hour test which is an alternative to the SAT for virtually all colleges and universities. The ACT test consists of five tests: English, Math, Reading, and Science reasoning and an optional writing test. Some students who perform poorly on the SAT find that they perform better on the ACT and vice versa. Students must register for this test directly at www.act.org.

SAT II – The SAT II Subject Area Tests are one-hour long tests that measure your acquired knowledge in specific subject areas. SAT II's are offered in many different subjects and are usually taken when you have completed or have nearly completed your most advanced study in a specific area. For example, some students take the Biology SAT II as soon as they complete a biology course. This could be as early as the end of the freshman or sophomore year. Registration for the SAT II may be done by mail or online.

GUIDANCE INFORMATION

THE ROLE OF GUIDANCE

The School Counselors assist students in realizing their potential for healthy growth throughout their high school careers. The counselors support students and their families in a variety of areas; revolving around academic, career and personal/social development. Guidance information is found on the DHS website under the Guidance tab.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS

| <u>COUNSELOR</u> | <u>EMAIL CONTACT</u> | <u>PHONE EXTENSION</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Michael Caro | mcaro@darienps.org | 2220 |
| Joan Flaherty | jflaherty@darienps.org | 2241 |
| Colleen (Massi) Mayo | cmayo@darienps.org | 2330 |
| Lisa Messineo | lmessineo@darienps.org | 2288 |
| Rudy Spannaus | rspannaus@darienps.org | 2347 |
| Kim Taylor | ktaylor@darienps.org | 2370 |
| Paul Ribeiro, Director | pribeiro@darienps.org | 2306 |
| Deb Webb-Maloney | dwebb-maloney@darienps.org | 2290 |

If you need to contact your student's counselor, you can reach them directly by phone or email as indicated above. If you need assistance, please contact Guidance secretary Meg Montaperto at ext. 2249 or M'Liss Conetta at ext. 2226.

NAVIANCE

We invite you to explore Family Connection by Naviance which is located under the Guidance tab on the DHS website. This program allows students and families to investigate, research, track, and plan for the college admission process and other post secondary options. The Guidance department will work more with students and their families as you progress through high school. Some of the material may not be as pertinent for ninth graders.

To begin using Naviance, go to www.darienps.org/dhs, click on the Guidance tab, then click on the Connect to Naviance tab. You may log in using the account information provided to your student or as a guest. Contact the Guidance secretary to obtain the guest password. If you login as a guest, you will have access to only some of the basic college search options. Utilizing the student id will provide additional options including a student profile which contains biographical data, GPA, a resume building tool, a learning style and a personality inventory.

COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

The DHS *College Planning Guide* details the formal process of identifying appropriate institutions and opportunities as well as making application for admission. The *College Planning Guide* is available on the DHS website under the Guidance tab. It is recommended that students access this guide during the first semester of their Junior year. Printed copies will be available at Open House for a nominal fee.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY FEE

The Board of Education (BOE) has approved a one-time (per school year) participation fee of \$100.00 per student for all extra-curricular activities. This BOE participation fee must be paid online via Paydeck located on the DHS website at <http://darienpaydeck.org> . Please note this participation fee is in addition to existing sports/club fees. Currently there are sports fees associated with ice hockey, squash and skiing.

ATHLETIC TEAM LISTING - V = VARSITY, JV = JUNIOR VARSITY, FR = FRESHMAN

FALL PROGRAMS

V Cheerleading
 V Cross Country – Boys/Girls
 V, JV, FR Field Hockey – Girls
 V, JV, FR Football
 V, JV, FR Soccer – Boys/Girls
 V Swim/Dive – Girls
 V, JV, FR Volleyball – Girls

WINTER PROGRAMS

V Cheerleading
 V, JV, FR Basketball – Boys/Girls
 V, JV Ice Hockey – Boys
 V Ice Hockey – Girls
 V Indoor Track – Boys/Girls
 V Ski – Coed
 V Swim/Dive – Boys
 V, JV Wrestling
 V Gymnastics
 V Squash - Coed

SPRING PROGRAMS

V, JV, FR Baseball
 V, JV Golf – Boys/Girls
 V, JV, FR Lacrosse–Boys/Girls
 V Outdoor Track –Boys/Girls
 V, JV, FR Softball
 V, JV Tennis – Boys/ Girls
 V, JV Volleyball - Boys
 V Sailing (Coed)

Note – specific information regarding the first day of each session will be communicated by school announcements and posted on the DHS website. Detailed sports information is also posted under the Athletics tab of the DHS website.

CLUBS

Darien High School encourages the formation of clubs representing a wide range of student interests. Ellen Dunn, Assistant Principal, assists students and advisors in forming and running clubs. In order to utilize school facilities and resources, each club must secure a faculty advisor and file a charter for approval with Ms. Dunn at the beginning of the school year. The following clubs and activities are open to students at DHS (when there is enough student interest):

Art Club
 Blue Wave News/Video Production Club
 Buddy Club
 Build On
 Chess Club
 China Connect
 Composers Club
 Computer Club
 Connecticut Challenge Quiz Bowl

Current (Literary Magazine)
 Dance Team
Darianus (Yearbook)
 Darien Animal Welfare Group (DAWG)
 Debate Team
 DHS Chore Corps
 Drama (Theatre 308)
 Eco-Citizens Club (Environmental Awareness)
 Film Club
 Foreign Language Club
 Free Thinkers Club
 Future Problem Solvers

Garden Club
 Gay/Straight Alliance
 Guitar
 Invisible Children/L.E.A.D.
 Uganda
 JETS
 Math Team
 Model UN
 Muggle Quidditch Club
 “Names“ Program
 (Human Rights)

Neirad (School Newspaper)
 Odyssey of the Mind
 Outdoors Club
 Photography Club
 Sailing Club (Fall)
 Spanish Club (AMICA)
 Stage Crew
 Student Life
 Support Our Soldiers (SOS)
 Technology Club
 Teen PeaceWorks
 Ultimate Frisbee Club

Clubs with audition or prerequisite

Band
 Community Council
 Connecticut Challenge Team
 Men’s A Cappella
 National Honor Society
NEIRAD (School Newspaper)
 Nutmeg Express
 Orchestra
 Tri-M Advisory
 Tudor Singers
 Women’s A Cappella

Clubs held at another venue.

Rugby
 Squash (Fall & Spring, Club) (Winter, Varsity Sport)

HOMECOMING

Homecoming is a school wide event held in the fall and organized by the Community Council. The week is comprised of spirit building activities and events including: theme dress up days, field day, sports team/club breakfasts, and pep rally. The week culminates with a Homecoming parade, varsity football game and homecoming dance on Saturday.

While we encourage all students to participate in Homecoming activities, academics should continue to be a student's top priority. Teachers will provide homework as well as schedule tests and quizzes during the period.

SCHOOL CALENDAR*

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| August 26 | Freshman Orientation |
| August 29 | First Day of School for Students |
| September 5 | Labor Day, No School |
| September 9 | Freshman/Sophomore Dance |
| September 15 | Open House |
| September 15, 16 | School Pictures |
| September 20 | DHSPA Meeting, 9:00 a.m. |
| September 28 | Junior/Senior Parent Coffee with Administration |
| September 29 | Rosh Hashanah, No School |
| October 5 | Freshman/Sophomore Parent Coffee with Administration |
| October 10 | Staff Development Day, No School for Students |
| October 15 | Homecoming |
| October 25 | DHSPA Meeting, 9:00 a.m. |
| November 8 | Staff Development Day, No School for Students |
| Nov. 17 - Nov. 19 | Theater 308 Production |
| November 23 | Early Dismissal |
| November 24, 25 | Thanksgiving Recess, No School |
| November 29 | DHSPA Meeting, 9:00 a.m. |
| December 2 | Tudor Singer Candlelight Concert, MMS 7:30 p.m. |
| December 14 | Holiday Concert, 7:30 p.m. |
| December 23 | Early Dismissal |
| Dec. 24 – Jan. 2 | Holiday Recess, No School |
| Jan. 11 – Jan. 18 | Mid-Term Exams |
| January 16 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School |
| February 7 | DHSPA Meeting, 9:00 a.m. |
| Feb. 20 – Feb. 24 | February Recess, No School |
| Feb. 29 | All-Town Band Festival |
| Mar. 5- Mar. 9 | CAPT Testing, delayed start for Freshmen, Juniors & Seniors |
| March 22 - March 24 | Theater 308 Production |
| March 27 | DHSPA Meeting, 9:00 a.m. |
| April 6 | Good Friday, No School |
| April 9 | Staff Development Day, No School for Students |
| April 11 | Chanticleer Youth Choral Festival |
| Apr. 16 – Apr. 20 | April Recess, No School |
| May 1 | DHSPA Meeting, 9:00 a.m. |
| May 7 – May 18 | AP Tests |
| May 17 | Spring Concert I, 7:30pm |
| May 18 | Prom |
| May 21 | Spring Concert II, 7:30pm |
| May 24 | Awards & Scholarships Ceremonies |
| May 28 | Memorial Day, No School |
| May 31 | Foreign Language Awards Night |
| June 4 - June 8 | Final Exams |
| June 11 | School Ends for Students |
| June 11 | Graduation, 5:00 p.m. |

* Calendar may be subject to change due to storm related closings

NEASC RE-ACCREDITATION

This year will mark the culmination of Darien High School's two-year preparation for the decennial accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The accreditation process began in the spring of 2010 with a self-study and will end with a visitation by a team of fifteen educators who will spend four days in Darien meeting with students, staff, parents and community members from Sunday, April 29th to Wednesday, May 2nd, 2012. Their task will be to assess how well DHS meets seven standards of educational practice and adheres to the following statement of Core Values and Beliefs and Learning Expectations:

We, the members of the [Darien High School community](#), believe that learning best occurs in an [environment](#) that is [safe](#), supportive, respectful and [intellectually challenging](#) for [all students](#), one that promotes personal excellence through active, collaborative and creative thinking; individual growth; and development of the [skills and integrity](#) necessary to become productive members of society.

Darien High School students will:

1. *think critically, [creatively, and adaptively](#) while working independently and collaboratively to gain knowledge, to identify, understand, and solve problems, and to accomplish goals;*
2. *[communicate effectively](#) in multiple contexts and for various purposes;*
3. *develop reading and [research strategies](#), observation skills, and [aesthetic awareness](#) through engagement with authentic, inquiry-based tasks;*
4. *demonstrate an awareness of multiple perspectives with a [knowledge of and sensitivity](#) to past and present cultural and individual differences;*
5. *value and demonstrate [personal responsibility](#) and [ethical decision-making](#);*
6. *develop the skills necessary to lead [a healthy and balanced life](#), as characterized by physical wellness, self-awareness, emotional maturity, and personal independence; and*
7. *demonstrate an understanding of civic rights and duties by positively and responsibly contributing to the [school and larger communities](#).*