



SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

Dartmouth High's newsletter featuring the latest news, info and highlights.

J'espere que vous avez passe de belle vacances d'été! Je profite de cette occasion de vous saluer et de vous accueillir toutes et tous au nom de mes collègues de l'Ecole Dartmouth High ainsi qu'au nom de la direction. A warm welcome (back) is extended to all on behalf of the staff and school administration. I must first report to you that our enrolment has significantly increased this year and we are making the necessary adjustments in anticipation of a great year! Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have had an unusual start to the school year. Despite this fact, it was evident in our grade level kick off assemblies with the student body that our students want to have a successful year. To this end, we will endeavour to minimize interruptions to the learning environment as much as possible. The Spartan pride is definitely at the forefront with lots of positive energy and enthusiasm for learning and growing in the various aspects of school life!

I would like to reassure you that we have a very dedicated staff whose priority is to meet the learning needs of all students. Our staff has had a longstanding tradition and reputation for being caring and committed individuals who work collaboratively to maximize student achievement. Having said that, we work with students to empower them to take ownership of their learning. Great care is being taken to maintain smaller class sizes in keeping with provincial guidelines. Though we appreciate the smaller classes, we find that the cap on class sizes tends to limit students' ability to make course changes.



We encourage students to plan and put a lot of thought into the courses they will need to fulfil their post-secondary requirements. Students must work with their guidance counsellor to ensure that they are registered in the appropriate courses well in advance to avoid disappointments.

There are a few new staff members this year (see below). A reminder that VP Rosella Winship and Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Adams work with the students whose surnames fall between A-L. And VP Randolph Sullivan and Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Cameron work predominantly with students whose surnames begin with M-Z. Having said that both teams are committed to work with all students in any capacity.

I take this opportunity to introduce the following staff members, new to Dartmouth High:

Ms. Lori Baines - Resource
Ms. Sarah Conde-MacDonald - Math teacher
Mr. Jonathan Forsythe - Math & Science teacher
Ms. Alicia Hennessey - Science teacher
Mr. Patrick MacAdam - Language Arts teacher
Ms. Natalie Pelley - Social Studies & Fine Arts teacher
Mr. Matt Serieys - Math teacher
Ms. Danielle Thompson - Science teacher

Ms. Lori Kruger - EPA
Ms. Joyce Pardy - EPA
Mr. Anthony Thomas - EPA

upcoming DATES

Thursday, Sept 19
Curriculum Night
6:30pm @ DHS

Friday, Sept 27th
PD Day
~No Classes ~

Monday, Sept 30
SAC Meeting
5:30pm @ DHS

this ISSUE

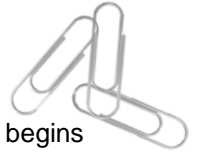
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Curriculum Night



Parents and guardians are invited to join us on **Thursday, September 19th @ 6:30 p.m.** The evening begins in Keating Hall where the administrative team and the SAC chair will welcome you, after which you will have an opportunity to meet each of your child's teachers. You will follow an abbreviated version of your child's schedule as you travel to each of the classrooms. **You will need to bring your child's Day A schedule with you.** I would like to emphasize that the purpose of this rendezvous is for teachers to share expectation and information about their respective courses for the semester. Teachers are still getting to know their students, so this is not a time for individual reporting on student progress. We thank you for your support in advance and we look forward to another great turn out this year.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We encourage students to get involved in school life, as they will tend to enjoy their school career more if they are connected to activities outside of the classroom setting. Getting involved is not only great for their personal development, but it also allows for making lifelong friendships and creating lasting memories.

Tryouts for some of our fall teams have been ongoing and some teams have already played their first game. Last year, the Spartans brought home numerous banners and several provincial championships, consequently, confidence levels are high! Without a doubt, some teams are looking to defend their championship title. Go Spartans Go! The show of support for the community is very encouraging. The Spartan spirit is alive and well as the air is filled with anticipation for the 2019-2020 school year!

Extracurricular Activities Fair

Our annual Extracurricular Activities Fair is taking place on **Friday, September 18** and allows students to see what clubs/teams/events are happening this year and provide the opportunity to sign up. And with so many sports and clubs available, there should be something for everyone! However, we are always open to fresh ideas if students want to start a new club. Know that we encourage parents/community members to coach sport teams and lead clubs when the opportunity presents itself!

Students are encouraged to pay special attention to morning announcements so they do not miss out on important information about clubs and sports. Anyone who may have missed the morning announcements may check the office binder with the daily announcements during the lunch hour or an off block. Information regarding clubs and sports teams is also disseminated via our D-APP and attempt is made to post important announcements on the monitor in the cafeteria! Please do not hesitate to contact someone in the office if you would like information or confirmation about an event, etc.



SAC

This is a legislated advisory body made up of staff, parents and students. Our first SAC meeting will be held on **Monday, September 30th at 5:30 p.m.** These are public meetings and will provide you with first hand information about programs and the operation of the school. Please consult information about the SAC and their involvement with the school on the school's website. Please feel free to join us at any of the meetings. Your presence would be much appreciated.



EDUCATION IS THE PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE, FOR TOMORROW BELONGS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT TODAY.

~ Malcolm X



Travel Opportunities (Grades 10-12)

For the last few years, we have been offering two overseas travel possibilities to our students; both of which are a once in a lifetime opportunity to travel and share some special moments and bonding experiences with friends on their high school journey.

We offer a trip to Europe each year and this year's 11-day trip (over March Break) will take us to visit Southern Europe and include picturesque places such as Cinque Terre, Nice, Monaco, Barcelona and Madrid! This is a great opportunity for students to see and experience these beautiful cities and have a taste of European culture. There are still a few spots left. EF Tours is offering a \$125 discount for all registrations before the end of September. Please call the school if you would like more details.



Our annual Service Trip is a life-changing experience! This trip to the Dominican Republic is hosted by our Interact Club each year and is open to all students. Check out the following link to learn more about this annual service trip: <http://globalnews.ca/video/3736516/pasos-de-esperanza> This trip is taking place again this year over the Christmas holidays. If interested in this trip, please communicate with M. Richard Heroux at the school.

PowerSchool

For parents and students new to the HRCE, please be informed that students are able to access their academic real time information by logging on to their individual private account in the student portal. Parents may use their assigned password to access their child's information, which includes attendance, grades, assignments, teacher's comments, and upcoming school events. Students and parents will be able to log on at home, work or school; anywhere there is Internet access. Please contact Ms. Sayer in Student Services jsayer@hrce.ca if you do not have an assigned pass code to log on.

Student Engagement & Guidelines

Students attending Dartmouth High are expected to be enrolled on a full-time basis. A student may be scheduled for a maximum of 8 credits in any academic year, however the minimum course load for a full-time student is:

- **Grade 10** - Eight courses (four courses each semester)
- **Grade 11** - Seven courses (three courses one semester/four the next semester or vice versa)
- **Grade 12** - Six courses (three each semester)

Students who do not follow these required guidelines may not be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. Note that third year students are normally enrolled in a minimum of three courses in each semester. These guidelines serve to optimize student achievement and preparation for post-secondary options and opportunities.



COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

We feel strongly that the key to solving problems is by identifying them early and take the necessary steps to find positive and timely solutions. If you have a concern or a question about your child's evaluation or program of study, we would ask that you make contact with the individual classroom teacher first. Contact information for subject teachers are listed on the school's website and in your child's Student Agenda. The teacher is the main person and first line of communication in your child's education. The department head would be the next level of contact if you are not able to resolve the issue with the teacher.

Our Department Heads and other members of the administrative team and coordinators are:

Ms. Tara Arseneau – English & French Language Arts
 Mr. Sandy Gillis – Fine Arts, Bus. Tech.
 Mr. Phillip MacEachern – Student Services
 Ms. Jennifer Adams – Guid. Couns. (A-L)
 Ms. Wendy Cameron – Guid. Couns. (M-Z)
 Ms. Allison Bolton – Student Council Advisor
 Ms. Kristen Amiro – Social Studies & Personal Development

Mr. Kevin Epp – Coop Program
 Ms. Patricia Irving – Math
 Ms. Shelley Courtney – Registrar
 Ms. Erin Corbett – EAL
 Mr. Bruce Abriel – Skilled Trades
 Mr. Mike Bourque, O2 lead teacher



Tobacco Policy

Tobacco products are not permitted on or within 4 metres of school property as per Provincial and School board policy. If you are a smoker or chewer and you are thinking about stopping or reducing your tobacco use, **call the Smokers' Helpline 1-877-513-5333** for free telephone support, self help booklets, websites & referral to local group programs Mon.–Thurs. 9am–10pm, Fri.9am-7pm, Weekends 10am-6pm. **You may also go online to www.gosmokefree.ca** for e-mail support or self help stop smoking programs for youth or adults. Click *<Quit Smoking>* if you are thinking about quitting. Click *<Quit Now>* if you are ready to quit.

Join an effective, free stop smoking group program in the community. Based on your dependence on tobacco, nicotine replacement therapy may be provided at no cost. Call 424-2025. **Visit your school Youth Health Centre** for quit smoking information. The tobacco industry says they don't want kids to smoke but... When asked who R.J. Reynolds was targeting – junior high school kids or younger? The reply was, "They got lips? We want them." –Terrence Sullivan, Sales Representative RJ Reynolds, 1990.

Exam Exemption Policy

Exam exemptions have been re-instated at Dartmouth High and it is our hope that students will take advantage of the opportunity to opt out of one exam each semester by adhering to the following items.

A student is eligible for an exam exemption if he/she has:

- A full semester enrolment in no fewer than 3 courses
- No more than six explained absences or lates in each course.
- Completed all major tests and major pieces of evaluation in each course.
- Never been suspended from school during the semester of eligibility.

Please note that Math and English courses at all levels as well as AP coursed are not exemptible.



French Immersion Transfers to English

Dartmouth High will not be able to accommodate "out of area" students wanting to switch from the FI program to the English program. Consequently, students enrolled in the FI program who live out of area and wish to switch to the English program will be required to enrol in the English program in their neighbourhood school. To obtain the FI certificate, FI students are required to take core courses offered in the French Immersion program to meet requirements for the FI Certificate and must take a minimum of 9 courses in the French language.

Student Success & Attendance

Reducing a course schedule may limit post-secondary options and as such, we do not encourage students to drop courses in which they are enrolled. In the event a student drops a course by refusing to attend the class or complete assigned work, the accumulated mark to that point will be reflected on the transcript and will affect the student's overall average. This will also apply to students who are enrolled in courses but refuse to attend classes.

Please note that students risk losing a credit for a course in which they have missed 18 classes (20% of the course material). Proactively, we keep a close eye on students' attendance and will have regular conversations with students and parents so we are all on the same page. If students are disengaged because it is felt that their learning needs are not being met, we encourage students and parents to bring this to the attention of the school. We encourage self-advocacy on the part of the students to articulate their learning needs as academic supports are available. This year, we have instituted a Study Hall, equipped with subject area teachers for every block. This is a place for students to receive one-on-one assistance, makeup a missed assignment or test (*within reason*). While teachers will normally refer students for Study Hall, Grades 11 and 12 students can also self-refer and report to Study Hall on their off block.

STUDENT SUCCESS PLAN



Last year, we embarked on year-one of a new Student Success Plan. As a Professional Learning Community, collaborative time was spent among colleagues in subject specific departments, and with the staff as a whole to identify the learning needs of our student population over the course of the year. The SSP team lead in facilitating an assessment and analysis of the data to determine common trends emanating from the various professional conversations among the groups.

The recurring theme was centred on aspects of communication in Math and Literacy as well as social and emotional learning emerged as a goal to address our school climate. Guided by educational experts in professional development sessions, the team along with key staff members were able to broaden their knowledge base and insights into social and emotional learning. Ongoing professional development will enrich and solidify our learning as we move forward with our implementation plan.

School goals:

Goal 1: To improve student achievement in math and literacy by strengthening communication, comprehension and interpretation skills.

Goal 2: To improve student achievement through continued development of skills related to social and emotional learning.

Personal Development Credit



The Italian Language School at the Italian Canadian Cultural Association of Nova Scotia in Halifax (ICCANS) has been approved for a second five-year term as a provider of a Personal Development Credits in Italian Language and Culture for grades 10, 11 and 12. Classes take place on Saturday mornings from 10 to 12 from October 5th to May 9th. In addition to learning Italian language and culture, students also have the opportunity of being involved in all the activities that occur at the centre during the attendance of the course. For more information, contact Italiana Language School Principal Laura Nardi or her Assistant Federica Belluccini @ 902.453.5327 or 902.453.1852 icca@eastlink.ca

