



Hello Grade 8 Families:

We hope that your student's grade 8 year is off to a great start. I wanted to take a moment to introduce you to Danvers High School. The letter below provides information about our academics, school culture, extracurricular activities and athletics.

Interested in setting up a personalized discussion with the DHS administration? We'd love to have you visit in person to see our school. Contact us at [federico@danvers.org](mailto:federico@danvers.org) to set up a tour. We are committed to providing every student with a successful and positive learning experience. We cannot wait for your student to join the Falcon Family in the Fall of 2023!

### **Transition and Welcoming Process**

October through December - Individual tours or meetings for families and students

November 15 - DHS Assembly at HRMS with all 8th graders

October/November - [Ask an administrator sessions via Zoom](#).

January 29th - 8th Parent Course Information Night

### **DHS Academics**

DHS offers a rigorous and diverse selection of courses. Our school has been named to the Advanced Placement® Program School Honor Roll, which recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access, by the College Board. We offer many AP courses with over 23 different options that are described in our [program of studies](#). Alongside traditional academic courses DHS also has a tremendous variety of electives for all students including offerings in business, accounting, marketing, television production, journalism, graphic arts, performing and visual arts. *Project Lead the Way* courses offer career oriented experiences in growing fields like engineering, biomedical science, human body systems, computer science and cybersecurity. Lastly, Danvers High School offers a variety of travel experiences in which students visit locations around our country and the world.

### ***New courses implemented during the 2023-2024 at Danvers High School are:***

- **DECA 4: Project Management Essentials**
- **Money Matters**
- **Intro to Entrepreneurship: Design and Development**
- **Topics in World History for Creative and Visual Thinkers**
- **Intermediate Piano**
- **History of American Popular Music**
- **AP Pre-Calculus**
- **Understanding Our World Through Math**

- **Spanish for Heritage Learners and Native speakers**
- **The Criminal Mind (Grade 12 ELA Elective)**
- **Creative Writing Workshop**
- **Advanced Manufacturing II**

### **Early College Program**

Danvers High School and North Shore Community College have partnered to offer students an early college program that gives students access to college-level courses for free. Current sophomore year students will begin early college by taking the course *Understanding Higher Education and Career Pathways*. This foundational course provides students access to classes on the NSCC campus and exposure to post-secondary education while earning up to 12 college credits. As students continue into their Junior and Senior year, they are able to continue to earn credits in ELA (Speech & Composition) and Social Studies (Sociology & Psychology). These credits are transferable to all Massachusetts State Universities and all University of Massachusetts campuses.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

Extracurricular activities are an important part of life at Danvers High School and our students are able to access many different options. The clubs offer students an opportunity to socialize, create, and/or compete in a wide array of areas. If your students want to start a new club or organization, that is a possibility as well! Offerings include:

|                     |                                          |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Academy Theater     | Issues to Action                         |
| Math Team           | Percussion Club                          |
| Yearbook            | Color and Winter Guard                   |
| PRISM               | Model UN                                 |
| Jazz Band           | Ski Club                                 |
| Multicultural Club  | <i>The Flying Onion</i> School Newspaper |
| SADD                | DECA                                     |
| Science Team        | Environmental Club                       |
| Tomorrow's Teachers | Science & Environmental Club             |
| Mock Trial          | Women of the World                       |
| Best Buddies        | Student Council                          |
| Art Club            | NextGEN Leadership                       |

### **Band, Chorus and Theater**

Our music and theater programs are second to none. Both in-school courses and extracurricular activities support excellence in musicianship and the performing arts. Our Danvers High School Marching Band participates in parades and events all over the country and performs at athletic events. Our choral ensembles perform at many different school concerts and events, including the annual A Cappella Night, Graduation, and community gatherings. The award-winning DHS a cappella groups, *Falconize* and *Skywave*, compete twice every four years and have travel opportunities, community performances, and record professional studio albums when not preparing for competitions. The DHS Academy Theater Program stages plays and a musical. They also compete in the annual Massachusetts High School Theater Festival.

### **DECA**

DHS also has one of the most successful DECA programs in our state with hundreds of DHS students participating. DECA is an international organization that prepares emerging leaders in marketing, management, finance and entrepreneurship. Students can follow their passion and complete real world role plays and hands-on business projects to develop themselves as leaders using creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. DHS Students consistently place at the state level competition and compete at the national level including last year visiting Atlanta, GA.

### **Athletics**

Our athletics department continues to offer a competitive experience leading to success both on and off the playing surface. With over 25 different sports, there is a team for everyone of which to be a member. DHS athletic teams are consistently league champion contenders and very successful in postseason play. Our facilities are some of the best in eastern Massachusetts.

### **Travel Opportunities**

DHS students have many opportunities to travel both within the United States and internationally. Last year DHS students traveled to Washington D.C., the Galapagos Islands, New York City and Italy. Upcoming trips your student can access include Peru, Rome, Hawaii, Greece, Costa Rica, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City.

### **School Culture and Community**

Lastly, at Danvers High School we focus on building meaningful relationships, developing student leadership, promoting citizenship in our community, and ensuring inclusion, acceptance and understanding. Our Community Block, which meets each day, provides a supportive environment for all students to work on these priorities. During this time students attend assemblies, participate in community meetings, or engage in FOCUS time which allows for students to develop their executive functioning and organizational skills. Community meetings foster relationships as leaders from grades 11-12 exercise their leadership skills, mentor younger students, and facilitate team-building exercises. PASSION PROJECTS allow students to pursue special interests during the school day. Current projects include Finance for the Future, French Conversation, Latin, Life Skills 101, Origami, Portuguese Speakers, Spring Play, Walking for Wellness and Word/Number Puzzles. As student interests emerge, we add new opportunities.

DHS also partners with prestigious outside organizations such as the Lappin Foundation, Northeastern University, the Anti-Defamation League and many others to help ensure a supportive learning environment.

In closing, our administrative team is ready to support you and your family in the high school transition process. We are dedicated to ensuring that your student finds their success at DHS!

Sincerely,

Adam Federico