
THE NEWSLETTER OF DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL PTSA

Volume 3, Issue 4

January, 2008

From the Principal's Desk...

Now that we are in the beginning of 2nd semester, I would like to encourage students and parents to start setting some goals for the remainder of the school year. During the first quarter, I was so impressed with how well we did as a school. We had 90% of our students earning A, B, or C in their classes. Ninety-two percent of students were eligible and our HSA scores for last May for our current juniors were all around 90% passing.

Unfortunately we did not do as well in the 2nd quarter. I do not have all the data yet, but it was clear to me when I walked through some classes, some students weren't working as hard as they should. I realize as students they have many things on their mind that may distract them from doing well in school; however, they can do better. Recently, I shared the following comments to students via closed circuit TV.

"I expect each student to do the best they can each day...so do your teachers and your parents. I encourage each student to set high goals and strive to reach them. Getting good grades is not easy – it is hard work, but it is worth it, not only now but in your future."

Parents, I need your help to continue to support this message at home. Please continue to check Edline regularly, and if it is not updated, please ask staff to do so or let me know. We need to continue to work together.

Robert Domergue
Principal

Cell Phones Reminder

We are still having great difficulty with students using cell phones during the school day. That is a violation of school rules and causes many problems. If students need to use a phone to call your parents, they can use the office phone or they may ask to use their cell phone in the main office.



New DHS Webpage

Our new Webpage is fully operational since January 2, 2008. Please take some time and familiarize yourself with the new layout.

DATES TO REMEMBER

No School	Feb 12 & 18
AOIT Parent meeting	Feb 13
FFA Family night	Feb 21
Interims mailed home	Feb 22
Early release day	Feb 27
Spring meet the coaches night	March 12
No School	March 21
Spring Break	March 24-28

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From the Principal's Desk... (CONT.)

Changes to our Main Office Staff

Mrs. Evenson, who has been a secretary in our Main Office for 10 years, will be retiring at the end of January. She has been an integral member of our staff and a major contributor to the smooth running of our Main Office. While we are very sorry to be losing her, we wish her well in the next phase of her life.



Student Recognition

To the following students who have signed letters to attend for scholarships:

Allana Gallant – U.S. Air Force

Ryan Mullsteff – University of Loyola Chicago for Volleyball

Jamie Kauffman – West Virginia Wesleyan College for Basketball

SSL Hours

The following students are to be commended for their involvement in community activities:

Name	Earned Hours	Grade
Laura Shea	956	11 th
Christina Ritter	824	12 th
Christine Myers	800	12 th
Michelle Obendorfer	775	11 th
Michelle Lewis	681	11 th
David Salvas	664	11 th
Michelle Achiampong	652	10 th
Althea Cottrell	650	10 th

Fitzgerald Scholar Award

Allison Trotter was recently presented with the Fitzgerald Scholar award. This program recognizes outstanding work done by students in their school's literary magazines and writing classes.

Visual Arts



We wish to commend Jaclyn Leo and Kelly Vandermeeren for their excellence in the visual arts. Both artists had their original works on display in the 2nd Annual Johns Hopkins and VisArt Rockville Montgomery County High School Juried Exhibition. The competition to display was at a very high level, so congratulations to both Jaclyn and Kelly. Jaclyn Leo received Best of Show against 50 other artists. Susie Benenati and MacKenzie Hepker received honorable mention.

Thefts

At the beginning of semester 2, a letter was given to all students in PE classes regarding some recent thefts that occurred in the physical education area. Items such as Ipods, cell phones, wallets, gym clothing and shoes have been taken. **Many of the items were taken from lockers that did not have locks on them.** **Also many items were taken from backpacks that were left on the floor unsecured.** Students can secure their belongings during class time, but some are choosing not to do so. We request that parents encourage your children to not bring their valuables to school. If students must have these items at school, they should have them secured in a locker with a lock or during PE class they may lock them up in the PE office. Please discuss this issue with your students so that they become more responsible with their valuables.



SCHOLARSHIPS

2008 PTSA Scholarships

2008 PTSA Scholarship forms will be available in the career center March 1st. The deadline for submission is April 1st to the PTSA mailbox. Questions can be directed to Lynn Leach at markle33@comcast.net

What Do I do When the Bus Doesn't Come?

This is a frequently asked question, especially when the weather is bad. Please do NOT call Damascus High School. We have no communication with bus drivers. Parents and/or students should phone the Clarksburg Depot Department of Transportation at **301-353-0815** when a bus does not arrive or is extremely late. If the bus does not arrive at all and alternate transportation cannot be arranged, the absence will be excused. As with any other absence, a note should be sent when the student returns to school stating that the bus never arrived.

Student Transfer Application Season

February 1 through April 1

Montgomery County parents who wish to request a change in school assignment for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season, which will be held from February 1 through April 1, 2007.

High school students are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence and are expected to attend their home school. Assignment changes of students from one school to another are permitted under the following limited circumstances:

- Older sibling in the requested school,
- Continuation in a feeder pattern from middle school to high school, except when affected by boundary changes,
- A documented hardship situation.

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents may request an assignment change form and an information booklet that describes the process and provides useful information. Assignment change forms and the Change in School Assignment Information Booklet will be available in schools beginning the first week of February. Special programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the booklet. Every effort will be made to notify parents of the assignment decision by May 15, 2007.

For more information about the transfer process, parents are asked to contact the principal of their home school. Non-English speaking parents may receive more information by calling the Spanish Hotline (301-230-3073), the Asian Hotline (301-230-5436), and the ESOL Parent Center (301-230-0674).

Thank You to Students

Prior to the holiday break, students in the D.O.C.C.'S Program wrote over 100 cards to our military soldiers in local veteran hospital thanking them for risking their lives for us and wishing them a safe and recuperative holiday.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Post Prom (PP) Fundraisers!

Entire month of February – shop at Modell's in Germantown. You receive discount and PP receives % from Modell's. More info within this newsletter!

February 22 – Wine/Beer Tasting Bash at Butlers Orchard Store

Late April – Mystery BINGO

May 10 – **Yard Sale** in DHS parking lot, 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

You may participate in three ways:

- Purchase a space for \$25, YOU sell your "stuff" and you KEEP the \$\$.
- Donate your "stuff". WE will sell it and KEEP the \$\$.
- Come and SHOP!

Misuse of OTC Cough and Cold Meds

NAT'L SURVEY OF DRUG USE AND HEALTH (NSDUH) DATA REPORT--MISUSE OF OVER-THE COUNTER COUGH AND COLD MEDICATIONS AMONG PERSONS AGED 12 to 25



About 3.1 million people in the United States aged 12 to 25 (5.3 percent of this age group) have used over-the-counter (nonprescription) cough and cold medicines to get high at least once in their lifetime, according to a report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Newly analyzed data from the National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) show the number is comparable to those who say they have used LSD (3.1 million) and is significantly greater than the number who reported having tried methamphetamines (2.4 million).

Overdosing on many cough and cold medications may result in serious life-threatening adverse reactions. Adverse reactions include blurred vision, loss of physical coordination, intense abdominal pain, vomiting, uncontrolled violent muscle spasms, irregular heartbeat, delirium, and death.

Highlights:

- The cough suppressant dextromethorphan (DXM) is found in more than 140 over-the-counter (OTC) cough and cold medications. Dextromethorphan is generally safe when taken in recommended doses but in large amounts can cause dangerous side effects and has led to increased poison control calls involving dextromethorphan.
- Based on SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, in 2006 about 3.1 million persons aged 12 to 25 (5.3%) had ever used an over-the-counter cough and cold medication to get high; that is, used it non-medically. Nearly 1 million persons aged 12 to 25 (1.7%) had used an over-the-counter cough and cold medication to get high in the past year.
- Young adults aged 18 to 25 were more likely than youth aged 12 to 17 to have used OTC cough and cold medications non-medically in their lifetime (6.5% vs. 3.7%) but were less likely to do so in the past year (1.6% vs. 1.9%).
- Whites aged 12 to 25 (2.1%) were more likely than Hispanics (1.4%) and blacks (0.6%) to have used an over-the-counter cough and cold medication in the past year to get high

Download NSDUH Report: Misuse of Over-the-Counter Cough and Cold Medications among Persons Aged 12 to 25
http://samhsa.custhelp.com/rd?1=AvkE~wq8Dv8SYc79GoQe~yL~Jvkq~2z~~w**&2=1632
<http://samhsa.custhelp.com/rd?1=AvkE~wq8Dv8SYc79GoQe~yL~Jvkq~2z~~w**&2=1632>
http://sims.samhsa.gov/rn/images/pdf_sm2.gif
<http://sims.samhsa.gov/rn/images/pdf_sm2.gif>

- Rita B. Rumbaugh, MCPS Safe and Drug-Free Schools Specialist
14501 Avery Road, Rockville, MD 20853

"Youth aged 12 to 17 who used an illicit drug in the past year were almost twice as likely to have engaged in a violent behavior as those who did not use an illicit drug." (NSDUH Report)."

Post Prom Party Fundraising

A donation request of \$40 was sent to every family at DHS. Please accept this gentle reminder to make participation a priority. Feel free to pass our request along to grandparents and other family members that may like to participate! A tax-deductible donation in **ANY** amount may be written to DHS Post Prom Party and mailed to the school at 25921 Ridge Road, Damascus, MD 20872.

We have a long way to go but are confident we will meet our goal with everyone's help!

Damascus Library SAT Workshop

Don't forget the Damascus library is offering an SAT Essay Writing on Thursday, February 7 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. presented by Kaplan Test Preparation Services. Contact the library to register, at montgomerycountymd.gov/library and click on Calendar of Events, or call Damascus Library at 240-773-9444.

Damascus High School – Fall 2007/2008 Post Season Awards

Baseball

	Shane Boyd	Pre-Season All State
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Cross Country

	Taylor Colbert	1 st Team All-Gazette
	Wil Zahorodny	Honorable Mention All-Met Washington Post 1 st Team All-Gazette & 2 nd Team All-State MDRunning.com

Football

	Tony Edwards	1 st Team All-Met Washington Post & All-State Maryland AP Media 1 st Team All-Gazette, All-Sentinel, & All-Examiner All-League Washington Post
	Josh Francis	Honorable Mention All-State MD AP Media All-League Washington Post
	Kyle Frazier	1 st Team All-State Maryland AP Media, All-Gazette, & All-Sentinel Honorable Mention All-Met Washington Post All-League Washington Post
	Josh Fredrick	2 nd Team All-Sentinel & All-Examiner, & All-State Maryland AP Media Honorable Mention All-Met Washington Post & All-Gazette All-League Washington Post
	Lee Hertel	1 st Team All-Sentinel & 2 nd Team All-Gazette Honorable Mention All-State MD AP Media All-League Washington Post
	Marc Magas	2 nd Team All-Sentinel Honorable Mention All-Met Washington Post & All-State MD AP Media
	Dino Molina	1 st Team All-Gazette & 2 nd Team All-Sentinel 2 nd Team All-State Maryland AP Media & All-League Washington Post
	Colin Stanhope	Honorable Mention All-State MD AP Media All-League Washington Post
	Brian Wittenberger	1 st Team All-Gazette, All-Sentinel, & All-Examiner 2 nd Team All-State Maryland AP Media Honorable Mention All-Met Washington Post All-League Washington Post
	Brian Yost	2 nd Team All-Gazette Honorable Mention All-State MD AP Media All-League Washington Post
	Evan Zedler	1 st Team All-Met Washington Post & All-State Maryland AP Media 1 st Team All-Gazette, All-Sentinel, & All-Examiner The Sentinel Offensive MVP & All-League Washington Post

Soccer

	Adam Hernandez	Honorable Mention All-Gazette
	Meghan Holt	Senior All-Star Game MCPS Coaches
	Jeff Myers	Senior All-Star Game MCPS Coaches
	Christine Reges	Senior All-Star Game MCPS Coaches
	Kevin Stelter	Senior All-Star Game MCPS Coaches

Swimming

	Sara Van Doren	Honorable Mention & 2007 USA Scholastic All America Team
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Volleyball

	Samantha Bonturi	Honorable Mention All-Gazette
	Arielle Goldberg	1 st Team All-Gazette & All-Examiner 2 nd Team All-Met Washington Post



Sportsmanship Award

Congratulations to the coaches, players, and fans of the following fall DHS teams. They each won the Sportsmanship Award for their respective sport for this past fall season.

Field Hockey
Girls' Volleyball

Coach Hathaway
Coach Couch

Football
Golf

Coach Makosy
Coach Brenneman

Sports Recognition

Congratulations to the varsity football team for winning the State Championship.

Winter Track

County Champions-

Wil Zahorodny (500), Kelsse Zyzak (55 High Hurdles) and Ryan Mulsteff (High Jump)

Will Z. time of 1.05.09 in the 500 dash was the best time recorded this year in the USA.

DAMASCUS FALL AWARDS			
<u>SPORT</u>	<u>MVP</u>	<u>SPORTSMANSHIP</u>	<u>STIPE NOMINEE</u>
Cross Country–Varsity A	Will Zahorodny Taylor Colbert	Sam Weeks Chelsey McMinn	Wil Zahorodny Amanda Zyzak
Cross Country–Varsity B	Charlie Ramirez Carlye Fenner	Dylan Zablocki Kathleen Davis	
Varsity Field Hockey	Hannah Henningsgaard	Kristin Robinson	Hannah Henningsgaard
JV Field Hockey	Katie Bush	Margaret Dover	
Varsity Football	Kyle Frazier Brian Wittenberger Evan Zedler	Dino Molina	Tony Edwards
JV Football	Justin Razmic	Matt Wise	
Golf	Brett Myers	Kyle Foreman	Kathryn Humphrey
Boys' Varsity Soccer	Adam Hernandez	Juan Carlos Casal valero	Tyler Wilkinson
Boys' JV Soccer	Eric Diehl Nick May	Patrick Delaney	
Girls' Varsity Soccer	Ryann Brickley	Kyleigh Razmic	Kerry Cole
Girls' JV Soccer	Mary Hunkeler	Tori Jones	
Girls' Tennis	Elaina Iosue	Holly Jones	Ashley Urps
Girls' Varsity Volleyball	Arielle Goldberg	Colleen Francis	Colleen Francis
Girls' JV Volleyball	Sara Bleistein Connor Harrell	Kara Bausch Vivianne Dagher	

DHS Horticulture Happenings



Boxed Rose Sale

Damascus High School FFA and Horticulture Program will be selling dozen and ½ dozen boxed roses for Valentine's Day. Roses are good quality Red Charlottes a nice opening rose with a good scent and orders come with a bow, enclosure card, greens, filler and all roses are aqua-picked. Roses will be \$35.00 for a dozen and \$20.00 for ½ Dozen. They will be available for pick-up on Wednesday February 13th until 6:00pm or Thursday February 14th until 6:00pm at the Cafeteria.

Please contact Mrs. Mayhew by e-mail to place your order-- Lori_L_Mayhew@mcpsmd.org

New Course Offerings in Horticulture for 2008-2009 School Year

Damascus will be offering the following courses next year and they are open enrollment for all students in 9-12 grades.

Environmental Studies

Introduces students to specific examples of the complex relationship between humans and the natural world. Study will include current environmental issues such as population density and its affects on indigenous species and watersheds, global warming, and invasive species. Students will also explore the inter-relationship of humans and the environment.

DHS Horticulture Happenings (cont'd)

Floral Design & Interior Plants

Interior plantscaping and floral design business procedures, design principles, and production techniques will be the focus of this course. Hands on laboratory activities include designing arrangements and interior displays. Thematic design and display will also be covered in the course. Instruction includes history and basic design principles, flower and plant identification.

Greenhouse and Nursery Production

In this hands-on laboratory class students will be growing plant crops. Key course components are plant identification, Integrated Pest Management, greenhouse irrigation and nutrient management.

Landscape Maintenance

This is a broad course discussing the management of existing landscapes to maintain a healthy, clean, satisfactory environment- true to the original design. Course includes hands-on work with tools, equipment and fieldtrips to understand site evaluation and develop a maintenance plan.

DHS Horticulture Plant Sale

Mark your Calendars! DHS Horticulture Plant Sale will be April 25th and 26th and May 2nd and 3rd. Fridays 2:30 – 7:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am – 5:00pm. See you at the Greenhouse.



Beer and Wine Tasting Bash! Benefiting the DHS Post Prom Party



Friday, February 22, 8 p.m. until midnight
at the Butler's Orchard Store.

PRICE: \$30 for individuals
\$55 for couple

Highlights to include:

LIMITED tasting (from 8 p.m. – 10 p.m.) of a variety of beers and wines
Cash Bar (beer, wine, soda, bottled water)
Refreshments and Music

Themed (filled) baskets to be raffled
50/50 raffle

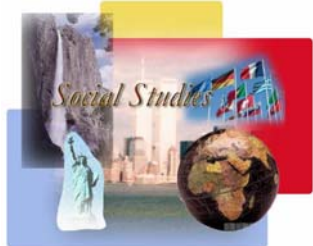
Space is limited! Purchase tickets **now** to reserve your space.

Tickets will be available only until February 15.

For more information and to purchase tickets contact
Sue Shepard, 301-482-1634, shepardr@verizon.net

Social Studies News

Now that February has arrived we will be asking students to select courses for next year. Current 8th graders will take United States History. Current 9th graders will take National, State, and Local Government. Current 10th graders will take Modern World History. Current 11th graders can take Social Studies electives.



Next-year juniors have more choices than they had as younger students. First, they can take the required class (Modern World History) at an Advance Placement (AP) level. This means that if they do well on the AP test they can qualify for college credit. Second, they are eligible to take Social Studies electives. Our electives have been very popular with many students and they are all listed in the Course Offerings that will come home with your student. Some of these electives can also be taken at the AP level and others are open to all students. If your son/daughter has done well in previous Social Studies classes and he/she **is willing to work hard** then an AP class should be in his/her future, if not during the

junior year then in the senior year. Besides the possibility of college credit (thus saving you money and getting your student a head start on others), AP classes do a better job of preparing students for the rigors of college. If you think that your student would benefit from the challenge of an AP course, but you are concerned that the homework would be too much or that your student needs more help with study skills, then consider "AP World History with College Literacy." We added this course last year and it is a great way for students to break in to AP.

Next-year sophomores can now take NSL-Government at the AP level. AP-NSL is a year long course that will prepare exceptional sophomores who are willing to work hard to take the AP American Government test that is normally given to juniors and seniors after a year of a required government class and a semester of an elective AP American government class. The course content needs to be covered both deeply and quickly so much is required of these students. The pay-off is better preparation for college and for future high school AP courses. We are also offering "AP-NSL with College Literacy" for students who want the challenge of AP, but are concerned about not having college-ready study skills.

Social Studies also would like to encourage all students to take advantage of a fresh semester. If you did not do as well as you would have liked now is the time to change your work habits. Natural ability and luck, while helpful, are not enough. Effective effort is the key to success and teachers are here to help you be successful. If you have questions about the Social Studies program please call your teacher or me at 301-253-7072.

- John Mosier

Mr. Dickie's Sociology Class Service Projects

This Spring 2008 Semester, Mr. Dickie's Sociology class will be continuing their tradition of service to the community through charitable works. In the spirit of being 'other-centered', students will help organize, run, and distribute collected items, without earning SSL hours. Their selfless giving of their time and effort to help others in need is with the idea of offering service, for the sake of helping, not for reward. One of the new areas they will be focusing on will be to collect used cell phones for the "Cell Phones For Soldiers" program (a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization started in 2004 by 2 student-siblings in MA.), whereby donated used/discarded cellphones are re-sold, with the profits going to buy phone cards to donate to U.S. Troop in Iraq & Afghanistan. So if you have recently replaced your old unwanted phone, and still have it, please drop it off to Mr. Dickie's room #134.



Another area of service will be to benefit the Lion's Club "Gift of Sight" program, where old/used/discarded eyeglasses are matched to a person with the same prescription, and donated to those needy people who cannot afford new eyeglasses. Please bring these and drop them off too! :-)

His classes are also collecting used/empty computer printer ink cartridges (which can be recycled, and the school gets \$ for them), and Campbell Soup Company product labels (Campbell's, Swansons, Pepperidge Farms, V-8...anything from Campbell's Soup Company).

As the students know, everyone is capable of helping, even to some small degree, and that help does not always have to mean writing a check for some amount, but rather spreading awareness of a need, and then trying to do whatever you can to help lessen that need. THAT is what a community is about...THAT is what a Neighbor is...THAT...is what these students are doing. Be rightfully proud of today's youths...they do incredible works.

So if you can, please ask your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, classmates & team mates (and those at your House of Worship) to look through their cluttered drawers & closets, and if they find any old unused cell phones, eye glasses, computer ink cartridges, etc...to send them over to Mr. Dickie's classroom (#134) at Damascus High School.

Robert P. Dickie, Damascus HS Social Studies Dept.



American Field Service Host Families Needed

AFS International Student Exchange has opportunities for about 15 Montgomery County families to host international high school exchange students for the 2008-2009 school year. Won't you consider it?

These are great, carefully screened kids. They come from over 40 different countries, and are eager to learn about America and take part in the activities of the host family and local high school. When you welcome a student from another country into your home, your children and family learn about the world, your AFS student takes home a part of America, and you make a personal contribution to world peace and understanding. Two and single parent households, with or without kids, are eligible. The family provides a place to sleep (not necessarily a private room) and provides meals. Students bring their own spending money and have excellent health insurance.

Now is the time to start making the arrangements. Working with an AFS volunteer, you'll select your student from several who are a good match for the family's interests and lifestyle. All AFS students are above average scholastically and speak English. To learn more, talk to current AFS exchange student Lucia Valsagna (Argentina), contact Damascus AFS volunteer Sue Patton at 301-253-1204 (sue@patton.com), call 1-800-AFS-INFO, or visit the AFS website at <http://usa.afs.org>



Music

We would like to congratulate and recognize the following students for their accomplishments:

Band/Orchestra

Robert Williams – Junior All State Band and MCPS Junior Honors Band
Calliope Sylvers – MCPS Senior Honors Orchestra
Alejandra Zelaya – MCPS Junior Honors Orchestra

Montgomery County Youth Chorus (Grades 10-12)

Megan Alburger, Emily Buras, Lauren Koeritzer, Sarah Layer, Mary Quinn, and Emily Trotter

Montgomery County Junior Honors Chorus

Jessica James, Jessica Lee, Samantha Melkonian, Emily Mize, Nicholas Stamos

Child Development: Think: WIN-WIN

- ◆ DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN?
- ◆ ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TEACHER?
- ◆ DO YOU WANT TO EARN 5-30 SSL HOURS?
- ◆ SIGN UP FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT NOW!

THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE. Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College have an Articulation Agreement that could prepare you for a career in Early Childhood Education and save you 9 credits of college tuition! See: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/cte

IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUTATION!

The Child Development Program is a two-fold educational experience in which preschool children and high school students learn together. High school students learn the basic principles of development, are introduced to theorists, and learn how to plan and implement developmentally appropriate lessons for preschool children. The young children are involved in planned, creative activities and experiences in a warm and friendly environment.

Through these experiences DHS Child Development students help children make a more gradual transition from home to kindergarten, learn to share and cooperate, become part of a group setting, and realize that school, like home, is a place where one can be loved, feel secure, and be cared for and protected.

The Child Development Program is part of the CTE Career Pathway Program of MCPS. Upon successful completion of courses outlined in this Articulation Agreement students may receive college credit when they enter the Montgomery College Early Childhood Development A.A.S. Degree program.

- Leslie Coggins, Child Development

From the PTSA's President...

A new semester brings the realization that we are half way through the school year! That means it is also time to begin our scholarship application process. Our scholarships are for seniors so please check for more details in this issue.

Come join us at our next meeting on Feb. 19th and let your voice be heard. A representative from the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, which is appointed by the County Executive, wants to meet with us to discuss the needs of high school students during after school hours. They would like to get our input on what kind of programs should be offered upcounty that might need funding.

Got businesses need chair! We would like to move forward on including advertisements in our student directories next year. I have a list of businesses that would like to be contacted; now we just need someone to organize this project. Please email me at DHSPTSA@gmail.com if you are willing to help.

We still have a few **student directories!** We will be selling our limited number of extra student directories to PTSA members for \$5.00 each. Please contact Anja Abbott by email at anja9605@verizon.net to obtain a copy.

Thank you, two simple words that can mean so much to someone else. I want to thank all the many people who volunteer around the school, baking for teacher appreciation days, helping with our music and sports programs and in other quiet ways as well. I am trying to keep tabs on this to report our hours to the county, so if you do volunteer could you let me know?

Would you like to be part of a larger than life size thank you card for our teachers? Go to www.teacherthankyoucard.org and submit your student's teachers' name and let them know we appreciate all their hard work. This is a nation wide project being sponsored by the National PTA.

Please remember if you have any questions or concerns about school issues I am happy to try to help find the answers.

Bettianne Quinn, PTSA President

MUSIC NOTES

Both the Choral and Instrumental programs are continuing to grow at DHS. All music groups had superior performances in their December concert as well as the field trip to Rocky Hill Middle School. CDs of the December concert performances are available. Please email or call Mrs. Berry or Mr. Doherty for details. Both the chorus and the band are gearing up for their spring trip (the chorus heads to NY in February and the instrumental program heads to Boston in April).

The music department has also been given the very generous gift of a baby grand piano courtesy of the class of 2007. We thank them for their support and dedication to the arts--the piano is gorgeous and will be well used!!!

Mark your calendars for the following instrumental and choral activities. Many of these activities are free of charge and very entertaining!

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|---|--|
| ♪ Choral trip to New York | February 1-3 |
| ♪ Choral Cluster Concert | Tuesday, February 19, 7:00 p.m. Auditorium |
| ♪ Band Cluster Concert | Thursday, February 28, 7:00 p.m. Auditorium |
| ♪ Strings Cluster Concert | Monday, March 3, 7:00 p.m. Auditorium |
| ♪ MCPS Choral Festival | Tuesday, March 11
(during day--hosted here at DHS!) |
| ♪ Musical: Grease* | March 13, 14, and 15 7:00 p.m. each evening
*tickets needed for admission |
| ♪ MCPS Orchestra Festival | Tuesday, March 18 (during day) |
| ♪ MCPS Band Festival | Wednesday, March 19 (during day) |
| ♪ Band trip to Boston | April 10-13 |
| ♪ Evening of Jazz:*
(featuring Duquesne Jazz Band) | Thursday, April 17
*tickets needed for admission |
| ♪ Spring Choral Concert | Wednesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. Auditorium |
| ♪ Spring Instrumental Concert | Thursday, May 8 7:00 p.m. Auditorium |

Charlie Doherty
DHS Instrumental Music Teacher



February

Sun	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1	2 Poms Host Green & Gold Competition at Seneca Valley	
3	4	5	6	7 SADD Talent Show – 7pm /Auditorium (Cancelled)	8	9 MCPS Pom Competition at Blair HS
10	11	12 Holiday – Election Day	13 AOIT Parent Mtg. – 6:30/Rm. 120	14	15	16
17	18 Holiday – President's Day – No School	19 PTSA Meeting – 7pm / Media Center Choral Cluster Concert -7-10/Aud	20	21 FFA Family Night – 7-9pm	22 Interims Mailed Home-	23 ATF Car Sale – 9-2
24	25	26	27 Early Release Day – 11:40 African-American History Assembly	28 String Cluster Concert – 7pm/Auditorium	29	

2008

March

Sun	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	
2	3 Band Cluster Concert-	4 Swim & Dive Banquet – 6-8:30 / Cafeteria	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 MCPS Choral Festival – 7:30-2:30 / Auditorium	12 Spring Meet the Coaches Night – 7:00 / Auditorium	13 Spring Team Pictures Spring Play "Grease" – 7:00	14 Spring Play "Grease" – 7:00	15 Spring Play "Grease" – 7:00
16	17	18 "Pampered Student" Day PTSA Meeting – 7:00/Media Center	19	20	21*Holiday – Good Friday – No School	22
23	24 S P	25 R I N G B R	26	27 E A	28 K!!!!!!	29
30	31					

2008

Important Phone Numbers

Damascus High School..... 301-253-7030
DHS FAX Line 301-253-7046
Athletic Director..... 301-253-7050
Attendance 301-253-7042
Business Office 301-253-7048
Career Center 301-253-7045
Guidance Office 301-253-7037
Health Room 301-253-7051
Media Center..... 301-253-7058

Website:

www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/damascushs

Emergency Website MCPS:

<http://.mcps.k12.md.us/info/emergency>



2007 – 2008

PTSA Information

**PTSA meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month in the Media Center at 7:00 pm
An open meeting to all!**

President	Bettianne Quinn	301-253-0228
1 st Vice President	Kathi Vanhoesen	301-253-2898
2 nd Vice President	Mary Jean Osborne	301-972-4581
Treasurer	Lisa Dinsmore	301-253-9169
Secretary	Jennifer McGolrick	301-253-1383
NAACP Rep.	Carolyn Gray	301-972-3866
Co-Cluster Coordinator	Kristin Tribble	301-414-2329
	Leslie Cuneo	301-414-7573
MCCPTA Delegate	Isle Light	301-414-0205
Newsletter	Beatrice Kallungal	301-414-2334
PTSA Mailings	Laura Mainhart	301-253-0608
	Darleen Melkonian	301-253-2091
Post-Prom Liaison	Sue Shepard	301-482-1634
Special Needs	Patricia Regan-Allen	301-253-4586
Staff Appreciation	JoAnn Hayes	301-528-2180
	Reina Sprankle	301-253-0936
Membership	Anja Abbott	301-253-0590

Send NEWSLETTER information/articles via email by the 3rd Friday of each month to:
bkallungal@yahoo.com

Damascus High School
Parent-Teacher-Student Association
25921 Ridge Road
Damascus, MD 20872-1891

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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DAMASCUS, MD 20872-1891

**Don't Forget
next PTSA meeting
February 19, 2008**

