

## *Sophomore Year: Checking In & Looking Ahead*

January 28, 2015

Principal Audris Griffith

### 1. Summer School

- There is a lot of talk and sometimes pressure to take summer school and Audris feels that it really depends on your child and their needs. She said this must be a family decision that takes into consideration the learning style of the student
- She emphasized that junior year is a very tough year and while taking summer school will lighten the load kids who do not take summer school will get through it – it is a personal decision
- Many kids take US history over the summer to ease junior year, but Audris emphasized that it is very hard, almost impossible, to properly teach US History in this short time frame – She added that there are usually two different teachers and their teaching styles vary.
- Audris did not know how children are placed into summer classes and deferred to either Sue Hebson or Dan Chamberlin for additional information

### 2. AP Classes, College Readiness

- She said that many students stress over college and she feels that the community can add stress – she said that there is a great college match for everyone and she believes that there may be shifting trends in terms of college within the next 10 years. She believes that we will see more kids take advantage of the GAP year moving forward
- Should my child take AP classes? Audris said that students should take classes that push them just outside of their comfort zone but not too much challenge for them that they will be stressed out. Each student should do what is right for them rather than succumb to the community pressure
- Audris suggested that all students consider taking at least 1 AP class during their high school career. Taking this class will offer them a chance to see what a college level class would be like. Most kids will take either AP Environmental Science or AP Psychology and she believes that these are good ones to take. Overall, she said that AP classes are a nice reality check for kids but not for everyone.

### 3. How much should parents LET GO?

- Audris said not to let go that kids need their parents more than ever. They are still developing emotionally and psychologically and although they may seem physically grown up, they are still developing in their frontal cortex until they are over 21.
- Kids still need you and parents should know their kids and their kids friends...who they are hanging out with, etc.
- Parents should have clear boundaries and expectations. Kids count on their parents to be the adults in their life

### 4. Early Bird

- There is always a high demand for early bird classes – the program has two main constraints for additional offerings are space and staff
- There is not enough classroom space to offer more early bird and also many teachers teach 5 classes per day and adding an additional class would be too much

### 5. SAT/ACT

- Many DHS students take the ACT and few take the SAT.
- The high school offers a study strategies class that is just like a free ACT prep class.
- This class is highly recommended as it offers a way to practice the test which could help students learn how to take the test and ultimately improve their score
- This class is offered both first and second semester and only at DHS (not HPHS)

### 6. Safety

- Safety is the #1 priority for Audris and the DHS staff
- There is an alarming increasing use of marijuana - drugs are a concern and kids are subject to much more potent and unfiltered drugs than in past generations
- Audris emphasized this is of great concern to her and she and her team are consistently looking at ways to educate and address this issue

**DHS Resources** for home link to the Parent Resource page: <http://bit.ly/homeresources> Also another Parent Resources site with a new free web tool students can use for ACT or SAT test prep is called Prep Factory and can be found at the following link: <http://www.prepfactory.com/>

*Empowering Parents  
in the Communities of Deerfield, Riverwoods, Bannockburn, and Highland Park*

