



Deerfield Parent Network

“Network Notes”

DPN: Taking Sophomore Year Seriously

January 12 , 2012

Presented by Audris Griffith, DHS Principal

Principal Griffith presented some DHS news and then accepted Q and A.

DHS Senior Prom date changed from Saturday, May 21, 2012 to Saturday, April 21, 2012. Post Prom will follow. This change is due to the upcoming International G-8 Summit being held in downtown Chicago and there are many security issues. Dance Company's program date will also change as a result of this.

Tuesday, February 14 will be a 'Global Challenges' day with 15 selections of presentations/discussions for the students to choose from.

Many questions and answers took place.

Q. What is the difference between American Studies vs. U. S. History?

A. Am. Studies is an integrated history/language arts class and student receive one grade for both subjects. Students read literature which relates to the period of history they are studying. It is team-taught and a double period on the schedule. U. S. History is a state requirement for graduation (American Studies qualifies for the requirement). The A/P level US History class is also available and excellent for the student who likes an accelerated rate of content and is really into Social Studies.

Q. With all the additional stress of testing and thinking about college during junior year, how much should I push my child academically?

A. Audris stated that she encourages a very challenging academic environment for all students. It's not too early to discuss your child's goals and to look at what is required by certain colleges and universities so that your child understands how his or her course of study relates to the goal of getting into the college of choice.

Q. How helpful is the Study Strategies class offered by DHS and when should my child take the class?

A. Study Strategies is primarily geared to Juniors. It is one semester and is graded pass/fail. There is no real curriculum, but instead, students take practice ACT tests and are given a chance to analyze their results and discuss strategies for improving in certain areas. Students who are less confident about testing may want to take the class second semester so they will be further along in their class by the time they start preparing for and taking the actual ACT.

Q. I heard that the state is no longer offering the writing portion of the Prairie State (ACT) test, so now those test results cannot be submitted to colleges. Why?

A. The Prairie State is a mandatory ACT test given by the state of Illinois. MI and CO are the only other states that require it. Removing the writing portion was a financial decision and Principal Griffith, Principal Swanson (of HPHS) and Superintendent Fornero protested vehemently, but it will probably not be put back in.