



## DHS UPDATES: November 27, 2019 - Thanksgiving Edition

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Below are reminders and updates for the week! For previous DHS Updates please visit our website here: [DHS Weekly Updates](#). All are encouraged to follow DHS on Twitter at [@TweetDHS](#) and to use the Danvers Public Schools app. and the [DHS website](#) to keep up to date on all things Falcons. Parents are always welcome to visit and/or call DHS with any and all questions and concerns. We are here to help and to be sure every student is getting what they need to succeed!

***\*DHS is closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for Thanksgiving.***

***\*\*Wednesday, December 4th is an Early Release Day. DHS students will be dismissed at 12:45 pm.***

**1. Seal of Biliteracy** - We are excited to be offering our students the opportunity to achieve the Seal of Biliteracy through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Seal provides students demonstrate language proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English and an additional language. For more information, please see the attached letter. Families who would like their student to participate in the assessment can email Dr. Amy Gerade, DHS Curriculum Director, at [gerade@danvers.org](mailto:gerade@danvers.org) by Friday, December 13th.

**2. Attendance & Tardy** - School counselors and DHS administration have reviewed first quarter absenteeism, identified students at risk of chronic absenteeism, and mailed letters home today detailing our attendance policy and supports. The term “chronic absenteeism” is defined by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as missing 10% or more of the school year, or 18 days (2 days per month) during the 180 day school year. Chronic absenteeism is associated with poor academic outcomes and a decreased likelihood of graduating high school. Please make every effort to ensure our students are present and on time to DHS every morning by 7:30 AM.

Our academic eligibility, attendance and all other policies and procedures can be found in the [DHS 2019-2020 Student Handbook](#).

**3. PROJECT GRADUATION MEETING** - There will be a DHS Project Graduation meeting on Monday, December 2 at 6:30pm at Danvers High. All are invited. Project Graduation provides a safe, chemical free environment for all graduating seniors to celebrate their graduation with all of their classmates. Students will be entertained by a DJ, Hypnotist, Caricature Artist, inflatable games, board games and other great activities. Refreshments will be provided including pizza and an ice cream sundae bar. It is a great way for our community to support the students and show that we care. Project Graduation is a volunteer run group. We are currently in need of volunteers to help staff the committee.

Please forward this information to your friends and acquaintances who are DHS parents...especially JUNIOR parents. Why? Because the best time to get involved with Project Graduation is when your child is not yet a senior! Senior parents often have family events around graduation and they should be able to enjoy those, along with prom and scholarship night and other celebrations. An ideal scenario (one I have heard is used in other communities) is when junior parents play the biggest role, paying it forward for when their child is a senior. This essentially amounts to "give a year, get a year." Of course, senior parents, as well as freshman/sophomore parents, are most welcome as well.

***IN PARTICULAR, PROJECT GRADUATION IS IN NEED OF AN EXPERIENCED TREASURER AND (SECOND) CO-CHAIR. WERE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW AN EFFECTIVE PAC PRESIDENT OR TREASURER DURING THE ELEMENTARY YEARS? PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET RE-INVOLVED. THESE PROJECT GRADUATION POSITIONS ARE LESS DEMANDING OVERALL COMPARED TO ELEMENTARY PAC BUT THEY DO REQUIRE SOME PERSISTENT ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS.***

For more information please visit [www.dhsprojectgrad.org](http://www.dhsprojectgrad.org) or email [danvershighprojectgraduation@gmail.com](mailto:danvershighprojectgraduation@gmail.com)

4. **Student Sports Passes** are now available for all Danvers High School Students. The Pass admits 1 student to ALL DHS home football, basketball and hockey games throughout the 2019-2020 school year. The cost is \$40. Cash or check (made payable to Danvers High School Athletics) are accepted. Please see Mrs. Hennessey in the Athletic Office to purchase tickets. Go Falcons!

5. Danvers High School will be begin their **Winter Sports try-outs/practices** for students who have registered, and have supplied their current physical and payment requirements on Monday, December 2nd. Below are the times and locations (which vary for each sport) for the first day:

Boys Basketball - Monday 12/2 7:00-9:00pm Field House

Girls Basketball - Monday 12/2 5:00-7:00pm Field House

Boys Ice Hockey - Monday 12/2 9:20-10:20pm Raymond Bourque Arena-Endicott College

Girls Ice Hockey - Monday 12/2 8:20-9:20pm Raymond Bourque Arena-Endicott College

Boys & Girls Swimming - Monday 12/2 6:30-7:30pm Danvers YMCA

Wrestling - Monday 12/2 3:00-5:00pm Vye Gym

Boys & Girls Winter Track - Monday 12/2 3:00-5:00pm Field House

Ice Hockey Cheer – Tuesday 12/3 3:30 – 5:30pm The Atrium

Basketball Cheer - Monday 12/2 3:00-5:00pm Vye Gym

Gymnastics – Wednesday 12/4 7:00-9:0 Yellow Jackets, Middleton

**\*\*Further information regarding practices will be communicated by the coach on the first day.**

Please contact Colette Hennessey in the Athletic Office at [colettehennessey@danvers.org](mailto:colettehennessey@danvers.org) or at 978-774-7133 x2288 with any general questions. Please contact the coach with sport specific questions:

Boys Basketball – Chris Timson [ctimson2@gmail.com](mailto:ctimson2@gmail.com)

Girls Basketball – Pat Veilleux [patrickveilleux@danvers.org](mailto:patrickveilleux@danvers.org)  
Boys Ice Hockey – Steve Baldassare [baldassare20@gmail.com](mailto:baldassare20@gmail.com)  
Girls Ice Hockey – Danielle Finocchiaro [daniellefinocchiaro@danvers.org](mailto:daniellefinocchiaro@danvers.org)  
Boys & Girls Swimming – Meghan Beaulieu [meghanbeaulieu@danvers.org](mailto:meghanbeaulieu@danvers.org)  
Wrestling – Tim Rich [timothyrich@danvers.org](mailto:timothyrich@danvers.org)  
Girls Winter Track – Jeff Bartlett [jeffreybartlett@danvers.org](mailto:jeffreybartlett@danvers.org)  
Boys Winter Track - Tom Walsh [tommywalsh127@gmail.com](mailto:tommywalsh127@gmail.com)  
Ice Hockey Cheer – Amy Waldron [alm2730@comcast.net](mailto:alm2730@comcast.net)  
Basketball Cheer – Tasha Provencher [tashaprovencher@danvers.org](mailto:tashaprovencher@danvers.org)  
Gymnastics – Jennifer Habeeb [jehabeeb@gmail.com](mailto:jehabeeb@gmail.com)

### **Closing**

We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. We are thankful for your support of all of our students!

Best,

Jason

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