



## DHS UPDATES: December 13, 2019

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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!

**1. Cookies & Cocoa** - We are continuing our DHS tradition this year on Friday, December 20th. This event depends on all of us to make it a fantastic time to celebrate our students! The school will provide the cocoa. We are ***asking families to bring in holiday cookies*** to celebrate this wonderful time of year. Cookies can be brought into the DHS Main Office on Wednesday (12/18), Thursday (12/19) or first thing Friday morning. All are encouraged to wear an ugly sweater to school on 12/20.

**2. 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 an opportunity to 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 (Today!).

**3. DHS Guidance December Newsletter** - please see the following newsletter for important information regarding college applications, PSATs/SATs, grades, financial aid, scholarships and community service. Families are encouraged to reach out to our guidance counselors with any and all questions. [DHS Guidance December Newsletter](#)

**4. Attendance** - Each week DHS school counselors and administration review attendance and tardy reports, to identify students at risk of chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism is associated with poor academic outcomes and a decreased likelihood of graduating from high school. School counselors and administration will continue to communicate through letters, phone calls, and student/parent meetings. Interventions and supports can include attendance action plans, attendance intervention plans, and consequences outlined in the Attendance Policy of the student handbook [DHS 2019-2020 Student Handbook](#).

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. 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](#).

**Closing**

Have a great week!

Best,

Jason

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