

Dear DPS Community:

Here are a few items of interest for the week:

District Safe and Supportive Learning Community: The district continues to work collaboratively with community partners to strengthen and grow its culture. We recognize the need for transparency, change and trust within the school district, and we are continuing to make improvements. We consider the safety and freedom from discrimination within our schools to be a top priority both in the short and longer term, as we work towards a culture where ALL students feel supported and accepted in our school communities.

We would like to highlight some of the work that is ongoing since returning to school in January:

- Holocaust Symposium
- Student Leadership Game Design with Janelle Ridley
- MIAA Anti-Bias Pledge and National Federation of High Schools online course
- MIAA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Summit
- MIAA Sportsmanship Summit
- Anti-Hazing Workshop
- Culturally Responsive Read Alouds/Texts
- Identity / Heritage Awareness Months
- ADL Implicit Bias Training (DHS February, Elementary May, and HRMS June)
- DESE Safe and Supportive Schools Training
- BlackPrint Culturally Responsive Leadership Academy
- DHS Culture, Climate and Transparency Committee
- MLK Jr Celebration
- Elementary Community Learning Workshops
- Relationship Building through Elementary SEL lessons, HRMS Project HAWK, DHS Community Block

This week, we are hosting [Northeastern University Center for the Study of Sport in Society](#) in a two-day workshop at DHS for students, staff, coaches, teachers, and members of the community. The workshop will take place at DHS on April 1st and 2nd from 9:30am to 2:30pm and includes the following topics:

- **Toxic Speech Prevention (TSP):** By engaging participants specific to the threat of language that encourages factional or genocidal behavior, TSP enables participants to distinguish and discuss the differences between playful, derogatory, and toxic speech in order to prevent the linguistic realities that have led to ethnic, political and religious genocides in the past.
- **Don't Hate the Player (DHP):** DHP uses the immense influence of sport to confront biases and address the institutionalization of racism and discrimination that exists in all societies.
- **Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP):** By empowering participants through our unique bystander approach to prevention, MVP enables communities to stand up against all forms of gender-based violence and challenges

participants to understand and embrace their roles as leaders when faced with these issues.

If you are interested, please email Mr. St. Pierre at stpierre@danvers.org.

MCAS Testing: MCAS testing began this week at Holten Richmond Middle School and Smith Elementary School. Our other elementary schools will begin MCAS testing during the week of April 4th. *Please refer to your school's recent update for a schedule of MCAS testing dates for your child.*

Kindergarten Orientation: The Danvers Public Schools will host a Kindergarten Orientation Meeting for the parents/guardians of incoming Kindergarten students on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:30pm in the Danvers High School Auditorium. At that time, teachers and administrators will present you with specific information about the academic and social curriculum of this important kindergarten year. Notification concerning school assignments for kindergarten children will be given to families at this meeting.

If you have not yet registered your incoming Kindergartner for the 2022-2023 school year, please contact us at Kregistration@danvers.org to make an appointment.

DEEP Fundraiser: DEEP is partnering with Double Good to raise funds in support of the DEEP Teacher Grant program. DEEP has created a virtual 5-day pop-up store with Double Good. DEEP will receive 50% of the profits from the sale of their ridiculously delicious gourmet popcorn. The fundraiser runs from March 29 to April 2, 2022. You order and pay online, and the popcorn gets shipped directly to your home. To order, please click here:

<https://popup.doublegood.com/s/9n8l08mi>

Best Wishes,

Keith Taverna & Mary Wermers

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