



Community Announcements September 28, 2011

As is the annual process, this Friday, September 30, is the official "count" day for the state of Colorado. This count day determines final funding for our schools. We are asking, to the best of your ability, to have your child in school, all day, this Friday, September 30th. We acknowledge that Thursday and Friday are Jewish Holidays and we ask that you call your students absence into the attendance line to excuse this absence.

This is a reminder for all seniors and juniors. Last week, at the junior and senior class meetings, all juniors and seniors received class ring ordering information from Jostens. Students will be ordering their class rings from Jostens at school on Thursday & Friday during lunch in the main hall. Extra ordering packets are available in the main office. Feel free to contact DSA's Jostens representative, Nils Erickson, with any questions. The local Jostens number is 303 985 0095.

Infinite Campus will not be unavailable beginning at 7:00 PM Friday, September 30 for October Count processing and a system upgrade. It will be available again on Monday, October 3 at 7:00 am.

DSA's Gifted and Talented Coordinator is working to offer a workshop entitled "SENG" (Social Emotional Needs of Gifted) Workshop for Parents. In order to have this workshop we are in need of seven more parents. The commitment for this workshop is seven weeks. The workshop is scheduled to begin on Tuesday October 4th at 7:00 pm. If we are not able to find the additional parents, we may need to postpone this workshop until after the start of the New Year. If you are interested in participating you may contact Mary Ellen Sweeney at mary_sweeney@dpsk12.org.

DSA will be hosting our own "Arts College Night" on October 3rd from 6 pm until 8:30 pm. Come meet college admissions representatives from great art colleges around the country. Art colleges will be doing formal presentations in classrooms and portfolio reviews in the Commons. Don't miss it!

All junior (11th) grade students will be taking a district required Kaplan practice ACT test on Thursday, October 6th from 7:30 am – 12:00 pm. This test will be administered at on the Johnson and Wales Campus. Ms. Odom will be providing specific information to junior students in the next week.

The end of the first grading period is approaching rapidly. The first quarter will close on Friday, October 7th and quarter grades will be available on Infinite Campus by Wednesday, October 12th.

Junior and sophomore students who signed up to take the PSAT test will be taking this exam at Johnson and Wales on Wednesday, October 12th from 7:30 – 11:30 am. Ms. Odom will be providing specific information to students who have signed up to take the PSAT test on Wednesday, September 28, 2011.

As part of the DPS Personal Education Plan process (required activities in 6-12th grade), all DPS 8th grade students will participate in a Career Fair to help plan their future using a backwards design model. DSA 8th grade students will be transported by school bus to the National Western Complex on Wednesday, October 12th. Busses will leave DSA at 9:40 am and students will return to DSA at approximately 11:15 am. Additionally, all 8th grade students are expected to complete the *Career Cluster Finder on CollegeInColorado.org at least one week before the Career Fair* in order to explore career interests. The results from this survey will be used to help guide students through the Career Fair. DSA 8th grade students will be out of school for approximately 2 hours, including transportation time, to participate in the Career Fair. The Post Secondary Readiness Support Services Office has already reserved DPS busses for the Career Fair. Additional documents show how many busses the PSR Department can pay for according to school. Individual schools are responsible for ensuring there is 1 adult chaperone per bus and class coverage at the school. At the Fair, 8th grade students will have approximately 1 hour to visit at least: 3 career tables, 1 post secondary school/college table and 1 high school table. Students will use a Career Fair booklet to record answers from the tables they visit. A video of the Career Fair and sample booklet are available on the DPS Counseling Website at www.dpsk12.org.

Two of Denver's largest and best Out of State College Fairs are coming soon!

Thursday, October 13th from 6:30-8:30 at John F. Kennedy High School (for a list of schools attending visit <http://collegefairsdenver.org/colleges.html>)

The Denver Center for Performing Arts is also hosting a "Performing and Visual Arts College Fair" on October 18th from 7:00-9:00pm at the DCPA Ballroom. Visit <http://dsathefuture.wordpress.com/college-fairs/> for more information.

On October 19, 2011, Denver Public Schools (DPS) is hosting the Middle & High School Expo, providing families with the opportunity to visit with principals, teachers and students from traditional, magnet, charter and pathways schools. The event will take place from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Infinity Park Event Center (4400 E. Kentucky Ave., Glendale, CO 80246). All families with children in ECE through 8th grade are encouraged to attend to explore middle and high school options within DPS. In addition, families will have the opportunity to learn about the new School Choice enrollment process and access services such as Transportation, Gifted & Talented and Special Education. Interpreters will be available to provide language assistance. For additional information, please call (720) 423-3414 or visit <http://www.dpsk12.org/expo/>.

Denver Public Schools is piloting **LEAP**--Leading Effective Academic Practice. This is our new comprehensive system for supporting, coaching, and developing our teachers and the pilot is underway in nearly all DPS schools. We are using the 2011-12 school year to further develop and gather feedback on the LEAP system including things like Student Perception Surveys, which give students the chance to share input on their teachers' professional practice. LEAP takes into account that students know when they have a great teacher. The Student Perception Survey portion of LEAP uses student feedback regarding the classroom environment and their teachers' instructional practice. The feedback is mapped to our research-based Framework for Effective Teaching. Student Perception Surveys will be administered twice at LEAP pilot schools, in English or in Spanish, during the 2011-12 school year. Round one will occur in late September/early October for students in grades 1-12; then all students, ECE-12th grades, will complete another round of surveys in late February. All responses are anonymous and there is no negative consequence to students regardless of what they say in the survey. Teachers will get survey results approximately one month after survey administration and can use their student perception data for reflection and to guide improvements in their practice. These surveys will be administered at DSA in period three classes on Monday, October 10th and period two classes on Monday, October 11th.