

Report of the **Dover-Sherborn High School**

John G. Smith, Principal

Dover-Sherborn High School (DSHS) is a community of learners whose goal is to inspire academic excellence and a commitment to personal and civic responsibility. We engage in the learning process with honesty, creativity, dedication, and respect, and seek to cultivate an atmosphere of freedom and trust in a safe and nurturing environment.

DSHS is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and consistently ranks among the top public schools for academic excellence in both Massachusetts and the nation. Our students excel in the classroom, on the stage as musicians and actors, and as athletes on the various playing fields and venues in our area. We are grateful for the support of our community and our parents and guardians.

Curriculum Requirements

In the 2022–23 school year, DSHS served approximately 660 students in grades 9 through 12. Each year, over 90% of graduating students attend four-year colleges and universities. To graduate, all students must complete four years of English, four years of mathematics, and three years each of laboratory sciences, social studies, and world language. They must also earn 18 credits in the fine and performing arts and/or technology, engineering and computer science and 12.5 credits in wellness (physical and health education). In addition, they must complete 40 hours of community service and pass the required state MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) exams.

Although DSHS offers three levels of courses in each of the academic disciplines, students are not tracked. DSHS also does not compute “rank-in-class” for its students, a policy approved by the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee.

Most departments offer a variety of courses that are heterogeneously grouped. The schedule is based on an eight-day rotation. All primary courses (and most electives) meet six times out of the eight-day cycle, and each class meets for nearly an hour. Laboratory sciences may meet up to two additional periods each cycle.

Academic Testing

PSAT

The PSAT was offered in October 2022 to juniors and sophomores. One hundred ten juniors (63% of the class) and 108 sophomores (70% of the class) took the test. Based on their scores, 21 students received National Merit Scholarship Program Letters of Commendation and two students were recognized as National Merit Semifinalists.

SAT

- **SAT I:** Seventy-nine percent of the Class of 2023 took the SAT test, with 77% of the students earning a combined score of over 1200 in Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and in Mathematics. The following table shows the average of the highest SAT test scores for the Class of 2023 and the previous senior class as calculated in

Naviance. Compared with national and state averages, DSHS students significantly outperform their peers.

SAT Mean Scores						
	Class of 2022			Class of 2023		
	DSHS	MA	US	DSHS	MA	US
Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	641	567	529	648	560	520
Mathematics	651	561	521	643	551	508

AP

Fifteen AP (Advanced Placement) courses were offered during the 2022–23 academic year. These courses are typically offered during the junior and senior years and allow students to maximize their educational opportunities within the confines of the master schedule and graduation requirements. All students receiving AP credit are expected to take the AP examination at the end of the year. In spring 2023, 223 students took 540 examinations. The results for individual courses are as follows:

AP Course	# Students	Students Scoring 3 or Higher (%)
Biology	44	100
Calculus AB	16	100
Calculus BC	24	100
Chemistry	42	100
Computer Science A	23	96
English Language and Composition (G-11)	74	92
English Literature and Composition (G-12)	51	100
French Language and Culture	11	100
Latin (Not offered in 2021–22)	05	100
Physics C: Mechanics	17	94
Spanish Language	12	100
Statistics	48	79
Studio Art: 2D Art & Design	11	82
U.S. Government and Politics (G-12)	75	92
U.S. History (G-11)	78	99

MCAS

For the 2023 MCAS exams, the Commonwealth is using the Next Generation MCAS test. The testing highlights for DSHS students are as follows:

- **English Language Arts:** Eighty-six percent of sophomores met or exceeded expectations (state average 58%).

- **Mathematics:** Eighty-eight percent of sophomores met or exceeded expectations (state average 50%).
- **Science and Technology/Engineering:** Eighty-six percent of sophomores met or exceeded expectations (state average 47%).

Graduate Post-Secondary Plans			
	Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Four-Year College	94%	93%	96%
Two-Year College	1%	2%	<1%
Post-Graduate Program	2%	2%	<1%
Other (gap year, job)	3%	3%	3%

Departmental Highlights

ENGLISH

The English Department offers courses at the college preparatory and honors levels for freshmen and sophomores, and at the college preparatory, honors, and advanced placement (AP) levels for juniors and seniors. During their freshman year, students focus on the themes of identity and self-discovery through their study of short stories, novels, drama, poetry, and nonfiction. Sophomores explore great themes in literature and hone their analytical and expository writing skills. AP courses include English Language and Composition offered to juniors, and English Literature and Composition offered to seniors. Juniors not enrolled in AP English Language take a full year of American Literature at either the college preparatory or honors level. Seniors not enrolled in AP English Literature enroll in two of five same-level courses in focused areas, such as contemporary literature, poetry, film, and nonfiction studies.

Through effective reading, writing, and critical thinking, we hope our students will use their language and communication skills to understand more about themselves, their world, their responsibility toward others, and their place in both the local and global communities.

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Department provides standard courses at college preparatory and honors levels, with Algebra 1 or Geometry in grade 9, Geometry or Algebra II in grade 10, and Algebra II or Precalculus in grade 11. Several options are offered in grade 12, depending on previous levels of proficiency attained: AP Calculus BC, AP Calculus AB, Honors Calculus, College Preparatory Calculus, AP Statistics, Probability and Statistics, and Precalculus and Applied Topics. We also continue to offer a semester-long elective course, Financial Literacy, which is available to students in grades 11 or 12 who have passed Algebra II. A new semester-long elective, Business Marketing & Public Speaking, is being developed for 2024–25.

The Dover-Sherborn Math Team, a member of the *Southeastern Massachusetts Mathematics League*, continued its strong tradition of success, placing third out of 36

schools in Southeastern Massachusetts for the 2022–23 school year. Based on our third place finish among medium-sized schools in the **Massachusetts State Championships**, our team also qualified to represent the state in an invitational meet with the **New England Association of Math Leagues**. This was the first time the team qualified to compete at this level in more than 20 years, and it finished third overall in New England in the small/medium school division.

SCIENCE

The Science Department provides a rigorous curriculum sequence at the college preparatory, honors, and AP levels, with three years of coursework required for graduation: Biology in grade 9, Chemistry in grade 10, and Physics in grade 11. Electives open to juniors and seniors are AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, Advanced Topics in Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Astronomy, Environmental Research, Forensic Science, and Marine Science.

The Science Olympiad team has been performing well in monthly West Suburban Science League competitions and is currently ranked fourth. Last year, five AP Chemistry students were nominated by their teacher to compete in the sectional competition of the **U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad**, the Avery Ashdown Exam. One student placed in the top 25 students in Eastern Massachusetts, qualifying him to compete in the National Chemistry Exam against the top 900 students in the country. Last spring, AP Physics students earned first place at the **Eastern Massachusetts Physics Olympics**. Physics students also demonstrated a quantum diamond exhibit at the Museum of Science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Courses are offered in history and the social sciences at both the college preparatory and honors levels for freshmen and sophomores, and at three levels (college preparatory, honors, and advanced placement) for juniors and seniors. World History I & II and U.S. History are required of all students. Electives include AP American Government, Government and Law, Economics, Introduction to Psychology, and Facing History.

For 2023 AP examinations, 92% of our U.S. Government students qualified with a passing score of 3 or better, while the national average was 49%. In U.S. History, 99% of our students qualified with a score of a 3 or better, while the national average was 48%.

The Social Studies Department's enrichment programs and activities included the **EPIIC Tufts Inquiry Program**; a **Model U.N. Simulation** in Boston; **Mock Trial**, in which our team finished third in the state competitions; and the **Close-Up Program**, a weeklong government studies program held in Washington, D.C. The Department's **2023 Summer Reading Program** for grades 9–12 continued to focus on themes and issues of systemic racism, various distinct cultures within American society, and the growing polarization in American politics.

Honors and Awards: Several students received honors or awards in 2023. One student received the Daughters of the American Revolution Award for excellence in character, service, leadership, and patriotism; two students each received a youth leadership award and represented DSHS at the **Hugh O'Brien Sophomore Youth Leadership Conference**; one student received the Fredrick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Community Service and Social Justice Award; and another student received the Social Studies Award presented at

the *Senior Academic Award Night*.

WORLD LANGUAGE

The World Language Department offers four-year sequential programs in French, Spanish, Latin, and Chinese, in both college preparatory and honors tracks. Students progress from novice to intermediate stages of language proficiency in French, Spanish, Latin, and Chinese. AP French Language and Culture, AP Latin, and AP Spanish Language and Culture courses are offered.

Honors and Awards: A number of World Language students received honors for the 2022–23 school year. In fall 2022, 26 students were inducted into the Dover-Sherborn World Language Honor Society for their achievement and dedication to learning world languages and cultures. In May 2023, seven students received awards from the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy: one in French and six in Spanish.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts (Theatre and Music): Courses offered include Music Theory, Guitar I and II, American Musical Theater, and Acting Workshop, newly added. Additionally, three performance ensemble courses are offered: Chorus, Concert Band, and the Jazz Band (by audition). These groups perform at many school and community events throughout the year. Course offerings and their adjacent performances seek to provide opportunities for the creation and enjoyment of music for all D-S students and community members.

Schedule changes made four years ago to improve student access to ensembles have yielded excellent results, in that the Concert Band and Chorus now consistently enroll over 60 high school students in each ensemble—more than double the enrollment numbers prior to 2020.

Visual Arts: Courses offered include Art 2D, Art 3D, Ceramics I and II, AP Studio Art, Darkroom Photography, Digital Photography, Yearbook Design I, II, and III, Computer Graphic Design, and Silkscreen Printing. These course offerings provide the opportunity for all D-S students to create and enjoy art.

Honors and Awards: D-S students and their teachers continue to distinguish themselves in activities and competitions outside the school:

- ***Scholastic Art Awards*** recognized three of our students for their artistic works. Collectively these three students received four Gold Key, one Silver Key, and two Honorable Mentions.
- ***Eastern District Senior Festivals***, sponsored by the Massachusetts Music Educators' Association (MMEA), awarded honors to six students, three of whom went on to perform at the MMEA All-State Festival at Symphony Hall in Boston, and one student also went on to perform regionally at the All-Eastern Festival.

TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

During the past nine years, the primary goal of the Technology, Engineering, and Computer Science Department has been to more strongly align the grade 6–8 and grade 9–12 curriculums to better prepare students for college courses in computer science and engineering. To build a strong foundation for their subsequent high school courses, Dover-Sherborn Middle School (DSMS) students take engineering courses at all three grade levels. Students in grades 6 and 7 take computer science, with a heavy emphasis on programming. Eighth-grade students complete a capstone-style project that combines their previously learned coding skills with a hands-on aspect, such as coding a video game and building and wiring a controller.

At the high school level, 14 new courses have been created over eight years. All course offerings, both new and previously existing, are now a continuation of the DSMS curriculum. The entire curriculum for each course offered in grades 6–12 is reviewed and updated each year. During the 2022–23 school year, we focused on cultural responsiveness and worked to add meaningful and thought-provoking units to each course. In 2023–24, we will continue thoroughly examining our curriculum units for their equality and diversity.

The Department offers the following computer courses for high school students: Social Media Literacy, Intro to CAD, Web Design Using HTML & CSS, Computer Programming with Java Script, Technology and Society, iOS App Design, Video Game Design, and a capstone AP Computer Science course for sophomores, juniors, or seniors. Our newest course offerings will include a business course and also the AP Computer Science A for the 2024–25 school year. The Department also offers engineering and technology classes, including TV Media I, II, and III, and Industrial Technology I and II. A yearlong Engineering course is offered at both the college preparatory and honors levels and may be taken for science or elective credits that count toward graduation.

WELLNESS

The Freshman Wellness Curriculum requires one semester each of Contemporary Issues covering nutrition, sexuality, mental health, and alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and one semester each of Outdoor Education (one quarter) and Fitness Development (one quarter). Students in grades 10–12 can choose from the following electives: Cardiovascular Fitness, Outdoor Pursuits, General Survival, Student Leadership Internship, Stress Management, Sport Education (Net Sports, Winter Team Sports), Dance Education, CPR/AED Training, Yoga/Pilates, Coaching, Teaching, Recreation and Leadership, Fitness Program Planning, Drugs and Society, Muscular Fitness, Sports and Society, RAD (Rape, Aggression, Defense Systems), and Target Sports.

GUIDANCE

College Counseling: Eighty-eight percent of the Class of 2023 completed some form of early decision, priority, or early action applications to colleges and universities. To respond to the growing number of early college applications, counselors facilitate a five-class seminar series for grades 11 and 12. Juniors participate in spring classes that help prepare them in advance for college applications, including completing their resumes, beginning their essays, and starting work on their Common Application. Seniors begin their seminar series during the first week of school and can complete their Common

Application online, add schools to Naviance, edit and complete their essays, and participate in mock interviews. Seminars covering stress management, high school transition, and career and personal exploration are also available to freshmen and sophomores.

Counselors meet with seniors individually and in groups. They also host representatives from more than 100 colleges and universities and spend time strengthening their working relationships. Counselors meet several times with juniors individually to discuss the college application process and to guide their post-secondary educational planning. Counselors also meet with freshmen and sophomores to discuss their academic and future career plans, as well as introduce them to online programs that aid students in college and career exploration. An overview of the guidance curriculum can be found on the high school website.

Support Programs: The Guidance Department offers several support programs:

- ***Freshman welcoming activities*** support freshmen during their transition to high school.
- ***The Peer Helper Program*** this past year trained 40 upper-class students to assist incoming freshman with healthy decision-making, respect for others, study and exam-taking strategies, social issues, and expectations for their sophomore year.
- ***The Signs of Suicide (SOS) Program*** for sophomores and seniors teaches students how to identify the symptoms of depression and suicide in themselves or their friends and encourages them to seek help.
- ***Parent-departmental meetings*** are held throughout the year to discuss important issues and concerns specific to each grade level.

LIBRARY

The DSHS library is a place where students and faculty can read, research a topic, access information, or complete a homework assignment. It is equipped with large tables for student collaboration, private study booths, and 16 computers for word-processing or online searches. The collection includes approximately 20,000 print volumes, six newspapers, and 20 periodicals. In addition, patrons can search the library catalog for a growing collection of e-books. Digital services include online databases available from Massachusetts Regional Library System and those purchased by subscription, as well as thousands of ebooks and audio-based materials via OverDrive. The library houses a portable cart with 25 iPads and 15 Chromebooks for classroom use. An average day brings approximately 300 students and teachers to the library.

ATHLETICS

The 2022–23 school year was a very successful one for D-S athletics. Student athletes and their coaches worked extremely hard, ultimately achieving a 205–97–13 record (67% wins) across all three seasons and earning second place (behind Norwell High School) in *The Boston Globe*’s D4 Ames Award given to the athletic program with the highest winning percentage in their state division.

During graduation week, the Athletic Department recognized 16 student athletes, eight female and eight male, who will each play a sport at the next level in college athletics in fall 2023.

Winter Sports: The winter sports season ran from November 2022 to March 2023, with 265 participants across 13 sports. Both Boys and Girls Basketball won TVL Small Championship titles for the first time in school history; for the girls it was their first league title ever. Boys Basketball made the MIAA D3 tournament, losing in the first round; and the Girls Basketball advanced to the MIAA D3 Elite 8 Game at Rockland. Boys Alpine Ski won the MBE League, while Girls Alpine Ski came in second. Boys Alpine Ski placed third and Girls Alpine Ski placed 12th at the MIAA State race. while Boys Ice Hockey qualified for the MIAA D4 Tournament, qualifying for the Sweet 16 Round at Sandwich after upsetting Boston Latin Academy in the MIAA D3 Round of 32. Girls Ice Hockey qualified for the MIAA D1 State Tournament at Winthrop. Boys and Girls Nordic Ski, the Boys and Girls Swim and Dive, and the Boys and Girls Indoor Track and Field teams all qualified for the MIAA State tournament. Members of Boys Basketball received TVL MVP honors.

Spring Sports: The spring sports season ran from March to June, with 301 students participating in nine sports. Girls Lacrosse, Boys Lacrosse, Boys Tennis, and Girls Tennis all won TVL Small Championship titles. In addition, Boys Lacrosse advanced to the MIAA D4 Final Four game; Boys Tennis was MIAA D3 State finalist; and Girls Tennis was MIAA D3 Final Four finalist. Baseball qualified for tournament play but lost in the MIAA D3 Round of 32. Girls Track and Field and Boy's Track and Field both broke records in the 1600 SMR: for the girls, the 3xTJ relay, and for the boys, the 4x100. Sailing competed in six races, finishing 11–18. Girls Lacrosse, Boys Lacrosse, Boys Tennis, and Boys Track and Field each had a member who earned TVL Small MVP honors. TVL Coach of the Year honors went to coaches of Girls Tennis, Boys Lacrosse, and Girls Lacrosse.

Fall Sports: The fall 2023 sports season ran from August to November, with 292 participants in seven sports. Golf, Girls Cross Country, Girls Soccer, and Field Hockey all won TVL Small Championship titles. Golf also won the MIAA D2 Sectional Championship and went on to win the MIAA D2 State Championship, its second state championship in three seasons; a sophomore team member also won the MIAA D2 Individual State Championship with a score of 72 on the day. Girls Cross Country was MIAA D2 State finalist at both Divisionals and All-States, its best finish in school history. Boys Cross Country was MIAA D2 State finalists at Divisionals, and 11th at All-States. Together the Boys and the Girls Cross Country teams had the best combined finish in school history. Both Girls Soccer and Field Hockey were MIAA D3 Final Four finalists for the second season in a row. Field Hockey Boys Soccer qualified for the MIAA D3 Elite 8 game after winning its first two games. Football placed fourth in the TVL Small. TVL MVP honors went to individual members of Golf, Girls Cross Country, Girls Soccer, and Field Hockey. Coach of the Year honors went to coaches of Girls Soccer, Girls Cross Country, and Field Hockey.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

On October 19, 2023, 47 students were inducted into the Dover-Sherborn High School Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS), bringing our D-S membership to 85

leaders and scholars. Admission to the NHS is granted to juniors and seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to academics by attaining a GPA of 3.8 or higher, and who exemplify the NHS pillars of character, leadership, and service. Admission into the National Honor Society takes years of perseverance and self-motivation, and our members are a testament to the power of Dover-Sherborn students to use their education to make a difference. Our current NHS members serve the local community by tutoring fellow students and community members, completing an individual service project, and raising money for the Greater Boston Food Bank. Information about membership requirements and the NHS application can be found on the high school's website.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Our school is proud to offer students a number of diverse clubs, organizations, and opportunities to become involved in our D-S school community. An activity fee of \$75 is required for participation in many of the clubs on campus.

- **Academic and student-life organizations:** Chess Team, Class Officers, Debate Team, Coding Club, Destination Imagination, EPIIC Tufts Inquiry, Harvard Model United Nations, Math Team, Mock Trial, National Honor Society, Robotics Team, *RUNES* literary magazine, School Newspaper, Science Olympiad, Senior Project, Student Council, and Yearbook.
- **Art, music, and drama clubs:** Two a cappella groups (DS al Coda and Noteworthy), Arts Club: Open Studios, Crew, Drama Club, Filmmaking Club, Knitting Club, Music Club, and Digital Recording Studio.
- **Social and cultural awareness groups:** AFS International Exchange Program, Health & Society, Asian Student Union (formerly CAPAY), Black Student Union, Cheer Club, Community Service Club, Down to Earth, Fitness Club, Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), Global Citizenship Program, Hispanic/ Latino Student Union, Home Economics Club, Jewish Heritage Club, MARC, Medical Club, Peer Helping, Red Cross Club, Relay for Life, STEM Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Sustainability Task Force, Volleyball Club, Women's Group, and World of Difference.

Parent and Community Groups

D-S BOOSTERS

The D-S Boosters supported the athletic program with grants for the purchase of capital items. It continues to promote community spirit and provide recognition to student athletes participating in all sports at DSHS.

D-S FRIENDS OF THE PERFORMING ARTS (FoPA)

FoPA is a 501(c)3 organization of parents and community volunteers who support the vocal and instrumental music and drama programs at the D-S Regional Schools. FoPA awards scholarships to seniors who have demonstrated excellence in the performing arts. It funds grants for workshops, equipment, and material requests, and provides production support for

the concert bands, jazz bands, a cappella groups, and drama programs and students. (More information is available at www.doversherbornfopa.org.)

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

The DSHS PTO is organized for charitable educational purposes to actively support the Administration, to promote and encourage communication between parents, teachers, and the school in matters of common interest, and to encourage spirit building initiatives among student, faculty, and community. Its ongoing efforts are managed through monthly meetings that are open to all parents and guardians of DSHS students. The board includes representatives from many parent organizations, the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee, and parents/guardians of students in each of the four grades. Meetings typically begin with an update from Principal Smith and often include teachers or administrators who talk about their areas of expertise and answer questions. Specific meeting dates, times, and locations are posted on the DSHS calendar. New faces and voices are always welcome. To learn more about the DSHS PTO, please visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/dshspto2015/>.

GUIDANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (GAC)

The Guidance Advisory Council is composed of three representatives from each grade for grades 6–12, each serving two-year terms. It serves as a communication channel between the middle and high school communities and the Guidance Office. Chaired by the Director of Guidance and a parent/guardian committee member, the Council's functions include communicating parent/guardian and community perspectives to the administration, assisting with Regional Schools tours for prospective students and families, and providing hospitality for guidance-sponsored events. Subcommittees support guidance programs and services designed to enhance the educational experience for students and parents/guardians in the Regional Schools. The Council meets five times per year: September, November, January, March, and May.