

Many thanks in advance for retaining boilerplate language that has not changed in the past year and for preserving established margins, line-spacing, paragraph indents, fonts and font treatments, headings and subheads, bullet point styles, and numbered or alphabetized list styles, etc. All these elements provide layout cues for our designer.

This template also reflects our house style, which we follow when copyediting and occasionally fact-checking so many reports. Preserving the treatment of professional titles, organizations, programs, acronyms, number usage, dates, for example, will lessen how extensively we must copyedit your forthcoming 2023 report and thus reduce the possibility of introduced errors.

Please contact Mary Kalamaras at mkalamaras@dooverma.gov or 301-535-4566 with any report prep questions. Thank you for your assistance and partnership in publishing a great town report!

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

Ann Dever-Keegan, Interim Principal

The mission of the Dover-Sherborn Middle School (DSMS) is to meet the needs of all students through a nurturing, supportive and challenging learning environment where students, parents, caregivers and teachers embrace our core values to ensure excellence and success now and in the future.

DSMS continues to provide an outstanding educational experience and positive culture for our students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Our talented staff, the availability of state-of-the-art technology, a beautiful library, and student-friendly space makes the school a welcoming place for all students. Thanks to a supportive community and budget allocation, our staff have many resources at their disposal. Class size continues to be approximately 16 students and the daily curriculum is both challenging and exciting. DSMS is a one-to-one school and this school year all students were provided with a new ACER Chromebook that they used for the school-year. These devices provide our students with the tools and skills to research, write, collaborate, and create in real time in the classroom.

Our school theme this year is “Be Kind, Be Curious, Be You.” DSMS staff work to infuse these actions into our students' everyday experiences and ultimately create a school community that is full of kindness, curiosity and students walking their own paths.

Recognition and Awards

- **Project 351:** Once again we have two eighth-grade students representing DSMS at the Governor's youth community service organization, which promotes leadership, development, enrichment, and impact.

- **Student Leadership Awards:** At all-school assemblies our staff presents “shout-outs” to students demonstrating leadership, scholarship, citizenship and living our school values of kindness, curiosity and individuality.
- **MATHCOUNTS:** Our 2022-2023 DSMS MathCounts team was able to return to in-person competition in 2023. Twelve students attended and our team of four mathletes placed 6th at the Metrowest Chapter regional competition.

Activity Highlights

The following are just some of the curriculum enrichment activities that took place throughout the year:

- **Music and arts presentations:** DSMS Choirs, Concert Band, and Jazz Band students have the opportunity to shine at events such as the Dover-Sherborn Jazz Brunch, Winter and Spring Concerts, the Chocolate Cafe, and more, both during and after school hours. Many of these events are supported by the D-S Friends of the Performing Arts (FoPA). Term 1 general music classes shared their Band and Blues Fest culminating performances, as will the following term classes. The creative and powerful work of our visual arts students can be viewed throughout the year in our art gallery in the lobby.
- **Drama Fall musical presentation:** This past fall our very talented and dedicated DSMS cast and crew put on an incredible production of *Mary Poppins*. Our performers sang, danced, and acted as audiences were dazzled by their energetic performances as well as by the extraordinary costumes and set design.
- **Turkey Tournery:** A morning during our half-day prior to the Thanksgiving break dedicated to building community and positive school culture. Students and staff take part in door decorating, turkey toss and a turkey trot. Our morning ends with an all-school assembly featuring our student musicians, a slide show and student shout-outs.

The following groups focused on many community-service projects:

- **The Student Council** successfully hosted dances for grades 7 and 8. This group also plans and promotes many school spirit events such as Spirit Days and Weeks.
- **Help Club** has raised money for Making Stride Against Cancer, JB Keys, The Trevor Project and Riverside Community Care.
- **Grade 8 CAGs** All of our grade 8 students participate in a Citizenship Program titled Citizen Action Group (CAGs.) Throughout the first half of the year, students are exposed to various issues and concerns in our community. Students then choose which Citizenship Action Group they want to join and work on. The CAGs available include working with the environment, assisting local food pantries, supporting local veterans, addressing hunger and homelessness and mentoring and helping children in

need. Each CAG has 15-20 students and a teacher. Together they explore the issue and look at ways to address it. In May all CAGs participate in a Service Day where they go to a variety of venues in the area to provide service.

- **DSMS D1A** student group which stands for “Day One, A Block” planned and put on our first all-school assembly of the year. This annual assembly serves as a welcome to our new students as well as a welcome back to all in our school community. Through student-led activities and presentations the assembly covers all the important and exciting things our school has to offer as well as expectations for our community.
- **Washington DC Trip.** This year, after a pause due to the pandemic, we were able to successfully re-establish our annual trip to Washington DC for our eighth-grade students.

Professional Development

DSMS is committed to providing learning and growth opportunities for our staff through professional development. This year’s offerings—aligned with our District and DSMS initiatives promote a culture of data and tiered support for students, student engagement and social and emotional learning. We also have a focus on best teaching practices that deepen student engagement and learning, and on refining our curricular resources to better ensure that all students’ needs are met.

Grants

POSITIVE (Parents Offering Support In Time, Involvement, Volunteering, Enthusiasm) provided grants for academic and extracurricular enrichment. DSMS is grateful for the generous support of this group.