



SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

Dartmouth High's newsletter featuring the latest news, info and highlights.

From the Principal's Desk:

Le deuxième semestre se déroule avec tous nos efforts concentrés uniquement sur l'apprentissage, le bien-être et l'épanouissement de nos élèves. Déjà dans le mois de février et, c'est la première opportunité qui se présente pour vous souhaiter une bonne année 2023! Mieux tard que jamais! Second semester is off to a good start! I take advantage of this time to wish you all a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous New Year! The majority of our students remain academically focussed and taking advantage of instructional time in the classroom to solidify their learning.

Semester two began on **January 30** and semester one report cards were sent electronically on **Tuesday, February 01**. We are pleased to report that, for the most part, students have had a successful academic semester. There should not have been any surprises, given the ability for parents/guardians to access PowerSchool to monitor in real time, the academic progress and attendance of their child. **Curriculum Night** for second semester will be held **Thursday, on February 16**. We look forward to a good turn out for Curriculum Night.



Note that the Communication Plan for semester two courses is posted in Google Classroom. The yearlong courses remain the same. This document offers information on learning outcomes to be achieved, assessments and evaluation methods as well as student expectations for each course in which your child is enrolled. Please discuss accessibility to Google classroom with your child if you have not been logging on to it yourself.

The Credit Recovery program is underway, allowing students to complete learning activities or tasks associated with unachieved learning outcomes to earn the minimum passing grade (50%) in a subject in which the student was previously unsuccessful. This provides students with the opportunity to stay on track for graduation. Students involved were given a letter about the program to share with their parents/guardians. It is recommended that any students pursuing post-secondary options consider re-taking the course to improve their mark.

~ Mme E. Monard

upcoming DATES

Wednesday, February 8th
GRADE 11 & 12 INFO NIGHT
6:00 - 7:15 pm

Thursday, February 9th
INCOMING GRADE 10 INFO NIGHT
6:00pm start for FI parents
6:30-7:30pm for English parents

Thursday, February 16th
Curriculum Night

Monday, February 20th
Heritage Day - No School

Monday, February 27th
SAC Meeting – 5:30pm

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Academic Recognition

We are pleased to inform you that **Student of the Month** certificates and buttons for the months of November and December were awarded last week and we are gathering information to recognize students for the month of January for this recognition. As well, academic recognition certificates have been prepared and will be distributed for **Principal List** (90-100%), **Academic Distinction** (80-89%) and **Merit Certificate** (70-79%) to acknowledge students for second semester of the 2021-2022 academic year over the next few days. Students who fall within any of the aforementioned category for this past semester one of 2022-2023 will be acknowledged in April/May 2023. We congratulate all recipients.

Mathematics Course Selection

When choosing mathematics courses and pathways, we encourage students to choose courses and the pathway that best fits their interests and plans after high school. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has provided a [Mathematics Pathways Document](#) to support students/families in these decisions. This document outlines typical pathways and alternate pathways. Alternate pathways are considered when choosing a course to best meet the needs of the student. For example, a student intending on entering a post-secondary academic program that requires pre-calculus for admission may consider going directly into Pre-calculus 11 after completing Mathematics 10 and not take Mathematics 11. **Mathematics 11 is recommended prior to Pre-calculus 11 but not a pre-requisite.** There may also be situations where the best option for a student is outside the typical or alternate pathway. We consider individual circumstances in these situations and will have conversations with students/families about individual student's learning plans to be successful in their chosen course.

February 20 is Heritage Day

This year's Heritage Day honours Elder Rita (Bernard) Joe, a member of the We'koqma'q Mi'kmaq Community and published author, who was instrumental in paving the way for other Mi'kmaq authors. Her greatest wish was to see more writings come from her people and "that the children would read it." Learn more [here](#).

DHS COURSE SELECTION 2023-24

Our grade 9, 10 and 11 students are in the process of selecting courses for next year and are supported by their respective guidance counsellor throughout this process. The course selection sheet provided helps students to think about, and visually consider their choices for next year. Additionally, their personal credit check form may be consulted as a quick reference to remind them of the courses they have taken successfully to date and courses they will need in order to fulfill the NS graduation requirement.

Grades 11 and 12 course selection assembly takes place on February 8. Parents/guardians are invited to come in at 6 p.m. For incoming grade 10s, we invite parents/guardians of FI students to meet @ 6:00 p.m. The regular meeting will take place at 6:30 pm for all grade 10s including our French Immersion students.

To support your child, parents of BIPOC students and immigrant families may reach out to the ANS Student Support Worker (Ashley Taylor), Mi'kmaq Student Support Worker (Matt Watt), YMCA (Achala Hewaarachchi) or the EAL teacher and the Guidance Counsellors if they have any questions or concerns.

French Immersion Program

If your child is registered in the French Immersion program, they are required to take courses offered in French to meet the requirement for their FI certificate upon graduating. It is important to note that seats in English classes are reserved for students in the English program who live in the DHS catchment area. I should also mention that if an Out of Area French Immersion student opts out of the French Immersion program, they will need to enrol immediately in their neighbourhood school.



Student Council and Club Activities

Spirit Week

- Monday, February 13 – Tropical/beach day (bake sale at lunch with tropical drinks)
- Tuesday, February 14 – Colour Wars Day! Grade 12 – Pink; Grade 11 - Purple; Grade 10 – Red; Grade 9 – White. (Dating game at lunch in Keating Hall)
- Wednesday, February 15 – Mismatched socks and shoes day. (Bingo at lunch in Keating Hall).
- Thursday, February 16 – Dress your type day. (Love songs Karaoke at lunch).
- Friday, February 17 – Cozy/PJ day. Talent Show in Keating Hall.

Noon hour Activities - Clubs

Monday – Reach team, Peer Tutoring

Tuesday – Film Club, Jazz Band, Peer Tutoring

Wednesday – Council meeting in Keating

Thursday – Debate Club, Unified Sport, GSA, Improv team

Friday – Multicultural Club, Woodwind Ensemble, Best Buddies, Sound and Light

School Closure due to Inclement Weather

When is the decision made? Making the decision to alter the regular operations of school and/or school buses due to inclement weather is never an easy task. HRCE's goal is to make the decision as close to 6 a.m. as possible.

A 6 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and all bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If the weather deteriorates through the school day, the HRCE can decide to dismiss early. In the event of an early dismissal, the decision will be communicated as close to 11 a.m. as possible.

An 11 a.m. dismissal means:

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly-scheduled lunch hour.

How will families be notified?

- Families will receive an email and text message (*opt-in is required: text Y to 978338*)*
- Check our website at www.hrce.ca
- Follow us on Twitter at [@HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- Call the HRCE information line at 902-464-INFO (4636)
- All local radio stations are informed

[Click here](#) for a printable PDF of our guidelines.



ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

AP courses are internationally accredited courses, offered in high school but are taught at the university-level, exposing students to the rigors of post-secondary academic life. They give students the added edge they need to stand out on a university application. Students can earn a college credit if they score well on an AP Exam, potentially saving thousands of dollars in tuition fees. The courses are offered at the grade 12 level and the line-up of courses for next year are: AP Seminar 11 (English), AP Research 12 (English Adv.), AP English (English 12), AP Art History 12, AP Chemistry 12, AP Physics One, AP Physics Two and AP Economics 12 (Micro). Any interested students or parents should contact Cassie Arsenault, AP Coordinator carsenault@hrce.ca or call 902-464-2457.

African Heritage Month

This year's theme, *Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore*, recognizes the resiliency, strength, and determination of people of African descent from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia – with the Atlantic Ocean being the everlasting connection. Learn more [here](#).



To kick off African Heritage Month at DHS, Mr. Diabo arranged for 45 students to attend an interactive Calypso concert at Pier 21 on **Feb. 2** and invited Mme Monard as a chaperone. The students were well entertained and learned a great deal about the evolution of Calypso music and its influence on other types of afro Caribbean and North American music. They were fascinated by the steel pan drum and had an interesting exchange of Q & A at the end of the session. Great cultural and musical learning!

In addition to our daily African Heritage Month trivia to be held over a 2-week period, we will also hold our much anticipated second annual African Heritage Month Historical/ Cultural Contest. The contest will begin around the second week of February. This will provide an educational opportunity for students to demonstrate their creativity and understanding of the historical and cultural achievements of people of African Descent while celebrating African Heritage.

We are pleased to share that on **February 6 & 7**, Ms. Toria Aidoo will be offering African Drumming at Dartmouth High to various music and non music classes as part of our African Heritage month celebration. Ms. Aidoo will return on **February 22** with a Master drummer for school wide assemblies African drumming workshops. It is our hope that this will culminate in the start of an African Drumming ensemble at DHS.

A group of students will have the opportunity to attend an Introduction to Stepping Workshops at the Dalhousie School of Performing Arts on Thursday, **February 23rd** 2023 at 11:00 a.m. The **Montreal Steppers** are rooted in the African traditions of storytelling and call and response. This black diasporic dance that uses the body as an instrument with a combination of powerful and energetic stomps, claps, and a vocal ensemble to illustrate Canadian History. We look forward to exposing our students to this art form. They are also performing for the public on Saturday, February 25 at 3 p.m. and at 8 p.m. at the Dalhousie School of Performing Arts. This particular production will illustrate the long journey of Black folks to Canada through slavery, The Underground Railroad, and migration.

Lastly, a number of classroom teachers are modifying their lessons to include aspects of African Canadian cultural heritage and achievements. Last, but not least, we are also hoping to host our annual school-wide concerts with local musical artists. This may or may not come together as planned, but we are hopeful.

Here are some suggestions if you are looking for ways to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month:

- Attend events happening throughout the month at your local [Halifax Public Library](#).
- While you're at the library, [borrow books](#) that will inspire the whole family to learn more about African heritage.

Visit local heritage sites, such as the [Black Cultural Centre](#), [the Africville Museum](#), and the [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#).

Student Engagement and Expectation Guidelines

All students are expected to be enrolled on a full-time basis. A full-time student is required to take **8 courses in Grade 10; 7 courses in Grade 11 and 6 courses in Grade 12 - a minimum of three courses in each semester. Students who do not follow these required guidelines may not be eligible to participate in extra curricular activities.** Students are not permitted to drop courses after the established deadline dates. They risk having the accumulated mark reflected on the transcript, which will affect their overall average. Students should be aware that reducing course schedules may limit post secondary options. On a case by case basis, special consideration will be given to returning graduates seeking to upgrade or fulfill eligibility requirements for post secondary institutions or the workforce depending on available spaces in courses.

NS Student Loans/Assistance Presentation



The Nova Scotia Student Assistance program has created a 22 minute presentation that is the full-length presentation they normally deliver to Grade 11/12 Students about the student loans program. Please note this narrated presentation cannot be searched publicly on YouTube but the link is available here: <https://youtu.be/ETW9HuEnEY8>

Runtime: ~22 mins.

Topics covered in this presentation include:

- Eligibility criteria
- Student-focused features of the program that make it different than traditional financial borrowing
- How the Canada Student Financial Aid Program (federal program) and the Nova Scotia Student Assistance Program (provincial program) calculate financial need
- Total loan and grant funding available through each program
- Loan Forgiveness and other reasons it makes more financial sense than ever to study and stay in Nova Scotia
- How to ask questions, now and later, including specific help for students with disabilities.

Coming next...the 2023 How to Apply video:

- The information required to fully complete an application
- Step-by-Step instructions including sample screenshots of the application and the MyPATH student self-service online portal
- Tips to make the process go smoothly
- How and when funding is released to schools and students

SAC Meeting

We are grateful for the engagement of the parents, student, teachers and support staff serving on the SAC. Our next SAC meeting will be held on **Monday Feb. 27 @ 5:30 p.m.** The meetings are open to all. It is a great way to learn more about the school and to learn how you may possibly impact positively on policies and decisions on the education of students.