



Huskies SUCCESS 501 (c) 3 Foundation One Junior's CAS project to fund DCHS

Junior Kammer Strachan decided to take matters into his own hands after the November local and state bond measures that would have boosted capital and teacher pay for performance funding for education failed. Seeing the ramifications of budget cuts, Kammer created the Huskies SUCCESS 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to mitigating the loss of funding.

IB Matters talked with Kammer about his foundation.

Q: Kammer, tell us what spurred you to action on creating the Huskies SUCCESS non-profit organization.

A: The biggest piece for me came when we as students started to see the effects of the budget cuts firsthand (increased class sizes; a decrease in the number of courses offered; older, outdated equipment being used in classrooms, etc.). When the most recent bond failed, that provided an extra incentive for me, as it was plainly obvious at that point that things would not be improving anytime in the near future.

Q: Which DCHS teachers helped you establish your non-profit?

A: Within DCHS, Mr. Kappas has been the most help. He was the one that first referred me to the DCEF [Douglas County Educational Foundation], and he has been very supportive and very willing to work with me along the way. When I first considered starting the organization, I talked to Mr. Umbach and Dr. Fleet, who were both supportive and gave some great suggestions and advice. Since the organization actually started, Mrs. Ross (Photography/Graphic Design teacher) and Mrs. Hagan have been a tremendous help. Mrs. Ross has offered her support and her time as well as some ideas and suggestions for the future, and Mrs. Hagan has graciously volunteered to act as the chapter treasurer, which is not small commitment. Without these five members of the DCHS staff, Huskies SUCCESS would look very different from how it does now.

Q: How long did the process take and what did you have to do?

A: The actual process of setting up the non-profit took a lot less time and effort than I had first imagined. Mr. Kappas had referred me to Sean McGraw, the director of the Douglas County Educational Foundation (DCEF), so I got in touch with him and set up a meeting. He and the other DCEF staff I met with were very enthusiastic, and gave me an informational packet that included a new chapter application. This application was fairly simple, asking for the name of the chapter, the purpose it would serve, and

whether or not the concept had the support of the school community. It had to be signed by the school principal, and returned to the DCEF. When that was done, and the application was accepted, Huskies SUCCESS was created as a chapter of the Douglas County Educational Foundation.

Q: How many students work with you on Huskies SUCCESS?

A: Currently, I'm working with one other student in managing the organization, but as events come up that require more help, we work with as many as we need/are willing to help. The idea that we have right now is that as the organization grows over time, we will involve more students on the Board of Directors, with the eventual goal of having a minimum of five students be involved, and more as necessary.

Q: How does your organization work with the Douglas County Educational Foundation?

A: The chapters of the DCEF are fairly independent of the parent foundation, and much of the daily running of the chapter, how the chapter is managed, as well as what events the chapters participate in are left up to the chapter officers. The DCEF handles the relationship with the bank we use, works to maintain non-profit status for all chapters, and generally acts as a coordinator when chapters want to work together or in the community outside of their respective schools. Huskies SUCCESS, as a chapter of the DCEF, is run entirely by staff and students of DCHS, but is "overseen" by the Foundation.

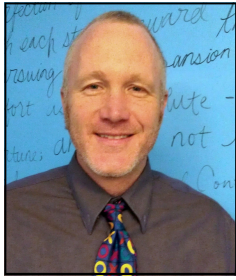
Q: Tell us about your mailing campaign that took place in December. Whose idea was that and what were the results?

A: The mailing campaign was designed to draw attention to the fact that the chapter had been started, as well as what the mission would be. I am not sure that any one person could take the credit for the original idea, but both of my parents as well as Mr. Kappas and Ms. Thompson of DCHS deserve recognition for making it happen, as do all the people who helped in stuffing the envelopes and actually getting the letters mailed, most of whom were other IB students. As of February 10, the chapter has raised about \$3,700, all from the donations of DCHS families.

Q: Wow! Are donations still coming in? What are the plans for the money?

A: The main goal had been to get families to donate before

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Coordinator's Corner

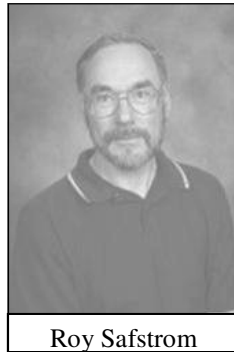
by Dr. Steve Fleet, DCHS IB Coordinator

Staying Strong through Difficult Times

Roy Safstrom offers all of us the most important reminders in education. His caring, his professionalism and his constructive criticisms came from his sincere desire for students to see themselves as performers and creators of music. Roy was my band teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver, as well as my director for the Denver All City Marching Band. The dedication that he demonstrated early in his career continued to be his passion, a passion that kept him in education and ultimately brought him to Douglas County High School. He was happy here, and the absence of his joy leaves us empty, an emptiness that lets us know how lucky we were. As we continue to grieve it is important for his students to realize that they gave Roy countless gifts as they shared in the creation and understanding of music. The kindness, the talent, the humor and the respect that Roy received from his students influenced and shaped him until the very end. This is the magic of education: the working, the sharing, the growing, the creating...the symphony that unites us. We will miss Roy always.

I understand the difficulties that always seem to arrive in the heart of winter. In the best of times, the short

cold days, the expanding workloads and the unexpected pressures place significant burdens on young, hardworking students, their families and their teachers. It is important not to compound these situations with rumors.



Roy Safstrom

Our International Baccalaureate Diploma programme continues to be respected by universities, scholarship committees and continues to be supported by the district and by our school administration. Regrettably, we have been forced to reduce some offerings (IB Music and IB Environmental Science). We hope to restore programs once funding issues begin to stabilize. We also continue to see some of our most talented teachers seek employment in more stable and predictable environments. This is the reality we face. These issues will not victimize the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme or impact the excellence of the students within the program. The dedication of our students, the talents of our teachers and the support of our parents all remain crucial components for our continued success. It is essential to remember that we depend upon each other, a dependence that continues to make us aware of the excellence that is achieved together.

IB matters

HuskieIBPO.com

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Class of 2014 IB Orientation & IB Grad Panel

Tenth grade students and parents attended the annual 10th grade IB Orientation night on January 5th. This open meeting covered the “extras,” primary components of the IB program that these students will begin in the 11th grade. As a bonus, they were treated to the insights of an awesome panel of past DCHS IB graduates who are now in the midst of their college experience.

Dr. Fleet opened the meeting with a brief discussion about the benefits of the IB program. He stated how universities perceive IB students as being able to manage tough courses and being able to “stick with it” through challenging curriculum. He followed this with an overview of the much-loved Theory of Knowledge course that all IB students take in the second semester of the junior year and fall semester of senior year. Besides the interdisciplinary nature of the course related to different kinds of knowledge and varying perspectives, he emphasized how it teaches students to approach subjects on a personal level, asking themselves “What does it mean to me?”

Following Dr. Fleet, the team of Mrs. Clever and Mr. Umbach discussed both the Extended Essay and the CAS requirement. The two Social studies teachers are Co-Coordinator for both these IB activities.

The Extended Essay is the preface to writing college papers at 4,000 words. It allows students to set their own personal goals and achievements enabling students to get to know themselves while giving them an idea what college level work is like. Students pick an advisor who is a DCHS teacher and their own topic (out of 27 categories). This gives them the freedom to investigate something they are passionate about. With the essay process beginning in winter of junior year and due on Halloween of the senior year, there are four milestones in the process. A central part of the process is the summer 4-day Essay Workshop that is held at the University of Colorado Denver campus where students are introduced to the proper way to research a paper. No Google or Wikipedia allowed!

It is a good idea to start jotting down ideas now to reference next year so you have a list of options and do not have to scramble to find a topic. Mrs. Clever encouraged everyone to “go with your passion!”

Mrs. Clever and Mr. Umbach then presented an overview of the CAS (Creativity, Action and Service) requirement. At least one large sustained collaborative project is required for CAS. It must incorporate two of the three areas. This is a way for students to make connections to the community, reflect upon their learning and become a risk-taker. An audience member asked if non-IB students can par-



ticipate in the collaborative project. Mrs. Clever responded this was a great way to get others involved, so, yes, non-IBers can participate but you may find they are not as committed to the process as fellow IB students.

Other questions from the audience were:

Q: What if you do not meet the 150 required hours?

A: In order to receive your IB diploma, you must have at least 150 hours. In the 10+ years we have had IB at DCHS, no one has not met this requirement. In fact, most students end up vastly exceeding the number of hours, some with more than 400 hours.

Q: If there are costs involved in your project, are those the student's responsibilities?

A: Yes, any costs incurred are the responsibility of the student. In the

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Our IB Grads Return for Panel

Sheridan Monroe—Miami University, Ohio

Nikki Look—CU Boulder

Adam Wheeler—New York University

Alyssa Hughey—US Air Force Academy

Caley Follmer—CSU

Mitch Whitus—CU Boulder

Samantha Albert—Colorado College

IB Grad Panel cont.

(Continued from page 3)

past, students have received donations from the community to cover costs and materials.

Q: Can you use your “regular” activities to fulfill some of the hours?

A: Yes but they cannot exceed more than 30 hours in any one category.

Q: What are some ideas of CAS activities?

A: If you play music, learn a new instrument! If you like to hike, tackle a 14er. If you’ve already climbed a 14er, why not try two in one day?

Students may begin CAS activities the summer prior to their junior year and must conclude in March of the senior year. The Huskie IBPO website lists more than 30 organizations that offer volunteer opportunities. Visit the Opportunities page of: www.huskieibpo.com.

The highlight of the evening, however, was the annual IB Graduate Panel, where past IB students return to discuss the impact IB had on their college experiences and activities. Seven students appeared on this year’s panel.

The panel was a mix of in, and out of, state colleges with most of the students entering college with at least a year of credit and one student with, I’m sure this is a record, over 60 credits! It was mentioned that most Colorado state schools offer at least 24 credits towards graduation to those with an IB diploma.

Of the benefits provided by the IB program, the most frequently mentioned was the emphasis on writing, which allowed them to tackle college papers without the fear other students encounter.

Each student presented extensive lists of their extra-curricular activities while at DCHS, and as a group stated that this was common among all IB students. They emphasized that in no way does IB preclude involvement in whatever activities interest you.

The group included members of choir, theater, two student body presidents, track and cross country, tennis, softball, basketball, volleyball, IB council, two four-year participants in marching band, including one Drum Major, FBLA and all were National Honor Society members. The students also stated their Extended Essay topics, further impressing the audience.

Mr. Umbach asked, “What made you chose IB?” As a group, they said their choice was based on the fact that they wanted to be challenged in their full range of courses, not just one or two. One grad mentioned that she wanted to take TOK (Theory of Knowledge) so much that it drove her decision to take IB. Another grad said she found her “family” in IB with a tight knit group who you could talk to and who knew what you were going through.

“If every Sophomore would choose this path, so many doors would be opened to them.”
~Father of IB Grad

After the event, the group stayed, talking to students and parents individually and giving advice. One Sophomore that attended remarked, “This was a game changer.”

The father of a member of the grad panel who came to the program reminisced about attending grad panel night when his daughter was a Sophomore. He said, “I remember sitting in the audience thinking, ‘Gee! This is a lot of work!’ But, she wanted to do it. I know now, looking back, if my daughter had not chosen IB, even though she is a hard worker, she never would have been granted all the opportunities, scholarships, honors programs, internships, etc. that she has been given. If every Sophomore would choose this path, so many doors would be opened to them.”

The final advice the grads gave to those entering the program:

- Force yourself to have fun
- Take breaks; ensure you have balance in your life
- Try everything!
- Teachers are invaluable resources
- Listen to everyone’s advice
- Enjoy it! See the glass as half-full!
- Get to know your fellow IBers



Save the Date!

5th Annual IB Celebration
Monday, April 30th
5:30pm–8:00pm


Come join us to celebrate our students' achievements!!
ALL CLASSES SHOULD ATTEND THIS FUN EVENT!

Door Prizes
 Learner Profile Awards
 Senior Recognition
 Food and drink

Parent volunteers needed for this fun event!
 Contact: volunteer@huskieibpo.com

IB Spring Dance Performance
Migration
“A Melting Pot of Dance Culture”
Thursday & Friday—March 22nd & 23rd
7:00pm

DC Auditorium
 Tickets:
 \$8.00 / adult
 \$6.00 / student, senior, child
 For advance tickets, visit:
www.seatyourself.biz/dchs



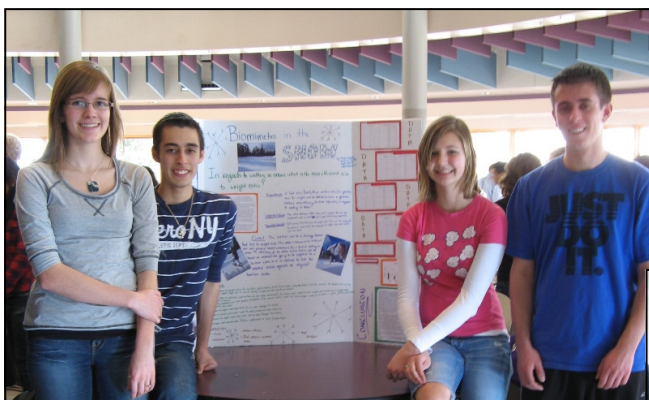
Group 4 Science Investigations

On February 1st, IB Science students displayed the results of their Group 4 science investigations in a group session held after school in the North Commons. Each year, IB students, as part of their science class choice, complete a project referred to as their Group 4 project: one of the IB internal assessments for science. The Group 4 designation refers to the fact that Experimental Science is the 4th Subject Group of the IB curriculum that all IB students must complete.

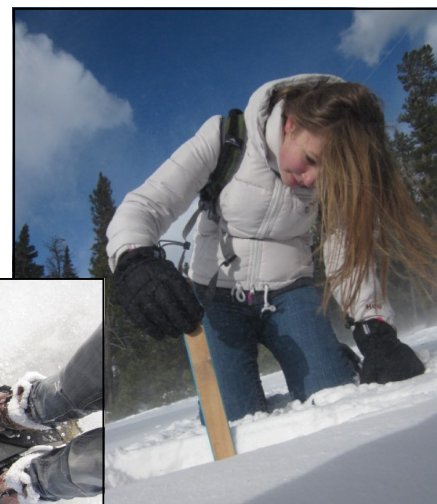
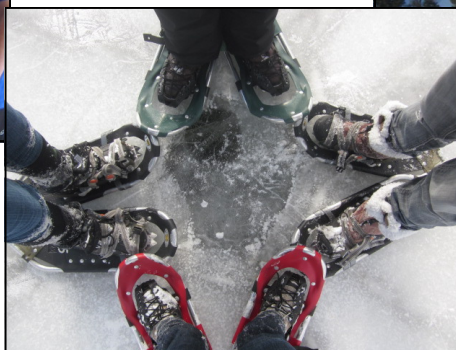
The Group 4 project includes all of the IB sciences. The project involves student groups designing conducting and analyzing an experiment on a topic of their choice, though it must relate to the overall topic. This year's topic was "Recreational Activities" and students share the results of their research in a poster session format. As part of a peer review, all those attending were asked to critique the displays, evaluating them on organization, visual format and science content. They could also comment on anything they thought was especially positive about the project.



Sophie McVicker, Eric Bryan, Caroline Ray and Madison Hensley with their "The Effect of Movie Genres on Heart Rate" Group 4 project.



Emma Reading, David Quintana, Kayleigh Tenborge and Ryan DePinto had fun in the great outdoors with their "Biometric Snow Shoes" Group 4 project.



Taking measurements for the experiment combined fun with science.

ACT TEST DATE AT DCHS—April 24!

Juniors take this test; all others have a delayed start with classes starting at 12:30pm!

All DCHS Juniors will take the state-mandated ACT exam on Wednesday, April 24th at school. The test will be held from 7:45am—11:45am. A make up exam will be held on May 8th. There is no cost for taking this exam.

Please note that the ESSAY portion of the ACT will NOT be included. Some colleges will accept the ACT without the essay but more colleges are requiring this. Check the web site of the colleges in which you are interested. If they require the essay portion, make sure to register for a second ACT test that includes the essay. To check dates and register for a test, visit:

<http://www.actstudent.org/index.html>

On this day there is a delayed start (12:30pm) for all other grades who are asked to arrange their own mid-day transportation to school and eat lunch before arriving.

Juniors will register for the test in Connect in March.

Douglas County High School—An IB World School

Hopefully you've noticed that Douglas County High School has two new additions to the main building—the big blue and white International Baccalaureate signs! By having the IB signs we promote the outstanding academic choices DCHS has to offer to current and future students. With these signs, everyone passing or entering DCHS will know this school offers wonderful educational choices and opportunities and that DCHS is a place where all students may flourish. They will also instill a sense of pride in our students and staff and hopefully the community as a whole.

The IB signs signify what DCHS is all about - Choice and a World Class Education. DCHS would like to thank the IB Parent Organization for applying and being awarded the "Fill the Gap" grant from the Douglas County Education Foundation which enabled us to fund this project. Our IB Parents are a wonderful group of parents who care about all DCHS students, their education and the community.

~ Mr. Tony Kappas, DCHS Principal



Workers install the sign
November 29, 2011



Students walk past the newly installed sign



The new interior sign has a permanent home by the IB display case

IB Students "In the News"

Junior, **Renee Craft**, was selected to be part of the Second-team girls Softball All-Continental league.

(DC News Press 12/1/11)

Senior, **Ricky Huang**, was selected to be part of the Second-team boys Soccer All-Continental league.

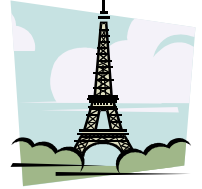
(DC News Press 12/1/11)

Ryan Day (DCHS IB '11) graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, GA.

(DC News Press 12/15/11)

News 'n Notes

Paris in the Fall!



After an almost 10 year hiatus, DCHS IB is eager to announce that we are resuming our student trips for IB students, their parents and their friends.

During fall break, 2012, Dr Fleet is leading a trip of up to 30 participants to Paris, with an optional extension to London. Mrs. Fleet and Mr. Umbach will be joining us.

We have found that these trips have a profound influence on students. It increases your international awareness, gives you confidence, enables you to experience the sites where much of the history you will be studying takes place allowus you to enter into museums with the finest collec-

tions from the ancient world.

Students can earn CAS hours (11th &and 12th graders), but the real value is exploring the places where ideas and events that shaped the world began.

We have chosen a trip with some free time, so that we can explore some of the more obscure and interesting sites from the catacombs of Paris to the embalmed body of Jeremy Bentham...and perhaps get to Asterix amusement park. *For more information, see Dr. Fleet in 31 North, call him at 303-387-1152 or visit: www.eftours.com/1189661

IMPORTANT! Parents of Juniors!

IB Exams cost an average of \$750 per student. The fee for exams is due in the fall of your student's Senior year and is billed separately from any other fees assessed by the school district.

Plan ahead now for this cost! A late fee of \$50 is charged if your student does not register for the exams before the deadline. Fees are due when the registration is turned in. Scholarships are available for Free/Reduced qualifying families.

SPRING COLLEGE FAIR

When: Sunday, April 22, 2012

Time: 1:00pm—3:30pm

Where: University of Denver

Visit with colleges and universities. Attend information sessions on the college selection process and scholarship sources.

A terrific opportunity for juniors and interested sophomores and their parents to start or further the college search.

Note: Parking is extremely limited and *not* free. Consider taking light rail as an option.

Attention Incoming IB Students!

If you are interested in participating in sports at DCHS and want to know about spring tryouts and sports camps, visit the DCHS web site and check out the Athletics page. If you do not find what you want there, contact Jan Shawcroft, the DCHS Athletics secretary at 303-387-1206.



The IB program at Douglas County High School has extended invitations to 119 students for the 2012—2013 school year

Academy Charter	3
American Academy	4
Ave Maria Catholic School	1
Castle Rock Middle School	3
Challenge to Excellence	1
Cimarron Middle School	7
Colorado Connections Academy Online	1
Core Knowledge Charter School	1
Cresthill Middle School	3
DCHS	7
Gold Rush Middle School	1
Mesa Middle School	61
Rock Canyon High School	1
Rocky Heights Middle School	5
Sagewood Middle School	14
Sierra Middle School	6

We look forward to the beginning of a great IB experience for each of these students. We sincerely thank the district high school and middle school staffs for their contributing efforts as students participated in the application process.

Huskies SUCCESS Foundation cont.

(Continued from page 1)

the end of the year, for tax purposes, but we are still receiving a few donations, though at a much slower pace than before the end of December. We are hoping to use the money somewhere where it will be noticeable to students as well as to the rest of the DCHS community, but whether it will be used to help improve the physical condition of the buildings, or to provide new textbooks for a certain class (for example), or elsewhere, I can't say at this time. However, Mr. Kappas will have the final say in where the money is spent, so any plans will have to be run by him.

Q: Is this only for DCHS or do other schools in the district benefit?

A: This chapter only benefits Douglas County High School. One of the biggest advantages of being a chapter of the DCEF is that all the money donated to a chapter stays within that chapter, rather than going into the School District's funds. While other schools do not benefit from Huskies SUCCESS, several other schools throughout Douglas County have a similar chapter set up, and are able to benefit from that organization.

Q: Are there plans for future campaigns?

A: Something that we are still trying to work out is what will come next. Honestly, at this moment I do not know what our next campaign will be, but we will certainly ensure that it will be well publicized within the school community.

Q: Is Huskies SUCCESS your only large CAS project?

A: Huskies SUCCESS is the only CAS project that I am involved in at this time, mostly due to time constraints.

Q: How many hours have you, personally, contributed to Huskies SUCCESS?

A: I really have no idea of a total count of the hours I have spent on this (I keep forgetting to keep track!). If I had to take a guess, I would say somewhere between 75 and 100 hours since the start of November. This would include meetings with the DCEF and Mr. Kappas, writing the letters and press releases that go along with the publicity side of the organization, some of the accounting and check processing that I do, among other activities. If this is any guide as to how much time this can take up, I know I personally spent between 17 and 18 hours just working on the mail-

ings (signing letters, stuffing and sealing envelopes, etc.).

Q: What do you do, on a weekly basis, for this project?

A: That really depends, as it changes from week to week. I meet with Mr. Kappas usually about once a month, and will usually check in with Mrs. Hagan once a week or so, and collect any new donations we may have received. I will also take care of any thank you letters that need to be written. For the moment, and until we start becoming more active as an organization, this is largely the extent, on a weekly basis, of what I do.

Q: What plans are you putting in place to ensure the continuation of Huskies SUCCESS after you graduate in 2013?

A: Mr. Kappas is acting as Chapter President precisely to allow the program to continue to operate. What we have in mind at the moment is to bring some of the incoming IB Juniors onto the board at the end of this school year. They would be able to help run and grow the organization for the two years that follow, including after the graduation of the Class of 2013. This could then be repeated with the juniors in the Class of 2015, and so on.

Q: If you could wish for one thing for the Huskies SUCCESS program, what would that be?

A: That's probably the toughest question to answer. If I had to pick something though, it would be that by the time I graduate, the organization is well established, with a strong support base. This support base would be composed of people who are not only willing and able to donate financially, but are willing and able to donate their time and effort to make Douglas County High School a better place for the staff and students who are here every day, as well as to make this a high school that the Castle Rock and Douglas County communities can be proud of.

Q: If someone wanted to make a donation to Huskies SUCCESS, where would they send that?

A: All donations can be sent to Huskies SUCCESS, at the same address as Douglas County High School. Alternatively, they could be delivered to Mrs. Hagan in the North Office. It also makes things easier if checks are made out to Huskies SUCCESS, rather than to DCHS or the DCEF.

Thanks, Kammer! You are truly making a difference in your community!

**Do you have an Extended Essay Advisor yet?
Juniors!**

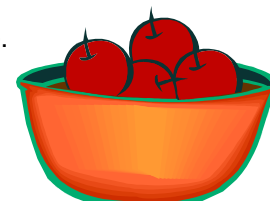
If you have not selected an Extended Essay advisor yet, you need to do so immediately. Several teachers are already "full." Do not delay any longer asking a teacher to be your advisor!

Choose "Like" for Huskie IBPO on Facebook!



IB/AP Exam Schedule for May 2012

<p>Theater-March 16, Independent Project Portfolio</p> <p>Theater- March 22, Research Investigation</p> <p>Dance- April 7</p> <p>Art & Design-April 19</p>	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	<p>Parents!</p> <p>We will be asking for donations for exam snacks as we get closer to May exam time.</p>		



DCHS IB Calendar

MARCH

16 Theater Independent Project Portfolio
 16-17 Speech State Tournament
 20 IBPO Meeting Room # 31 North Building 6pm
 22 Theater Research Investigation
 22-23 IB Dance Show 7pm (\$6 students, \$8 adults)
 26-30 **SPRING BREAK**

APRIL

7 IB Dance Assessments
 12-14 All State Band
 15-17 FBLA State Conference
 17 IBPO Meeting Room # 31 North Building 6pm
 19 Art & Design Assessment
 20 **NO SCHOOL – Teacher Comp Day**
 21 PROM @ DC Events Center 8:00pm-11:00pm
 22 Spring College fare @ DU 1:00pm-3:30pm
 24 DCHS Orchestra Concert 7pm
 ACT Test at DCHS
 26 DCHS Band Concert 7pm
 30 End of Year IB Party—North Commons 5:30pm

MAY

1 Last day of school for **IB Diploma Candidate Seniors**
IB/AP EXAMS
 2-22 One Act Festival
 3-5 Spring Arts Festival
 7-11 ACT Make-up
 8 DCHS Choir Concert 7pm
 9 Senior Finals Periods 2, 4, 6, 8
 10 Senior Finals Periods 3, 5, 7, 9
 11 Finals Period 1
 Senior Picnic 10am
 Theater Awards 7pm
 14 IBPO Meeting Room # 31 North Building 6pm
 15 Finals Periods 2, 3, 4
 18 Graduation practice 1pm
 Honors Convocation 6:30pm
21 GRADUATION 9AM (No regular school)
 22 Finals Periods 5, 6
 24 Finals Periods 7, 8 / Last day of school

JUNE

6-9 **Extended Essay Workshop—CU Denver**
 Auraria Library



Douglas County School District
 Douglas County High School
 International Baccalaureate
 2842 Front Street
 Castle Rock, CO 80104