

Academic Advisory

From the desk of Paula Osborn, Secondary Academic Advisor

ACADEMIC PLANNING SESSIONS

The master schedule is created late winter/early spring with the goal of having online course requesting open in early April. Detailed instructions on how to select courses will be communicated via email to parents and students. In the meantime, parents and students have opportunities to schedule planning sessions to go over credits earned and courses needed to graduate.

- **Current Juniors** have been meeting since January 6 to plan their Senior year. A few appointment times are still available; please visit [this link](#) to schedule yours.
- **Current 8th graders, Freshmen and Sophomores** will begin their planning sessions during Conference week, February 3, 4 and 5. Please visit [this link](#) to find an available appointment time. Additional sessions will be available beyond Conference week. Watch for details on those dates and times in a future email.
- **Current 6th and 7th graders** will have opportunities to discuss course plans via visits to the classroom, orientations and parent workshops. Details will be coming soon.

OUTSIDE GRADES/CREDITS Added to TRANSCRIPTS

Credits needed for graduation but earned off-campus, whether through DMACC, homeschooling, online or other, must be applied to your DMCS transcript. Documentation for outside grades/credits earned Semester 1 should be submitted now to Mrs. Osborn for inclusion on your transcript. *Please note the following requirements will be changing for the 15-16 school year. You will need to refer to the updated student handbook released next fall.*

- Homeschooled courses will be accepted Pass/Fail.
- Fees of \$150 p/class will be added to your student account.
- A maximum of 6 outside classes /transcript is allowed.
- You can follow [this link](#) to the DMACC website to learn how to request a transcript from them.

JANUARY 2015



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English	8 credits
Social Studies	6 credits
American Government & Economics	2 credits
Science	6 credits
Mathematics.....	6 credits
Physical Education...	2 credits
Health.....	2 credits
Speech.....	1 credit
Fine Arts.....	1 credit
Technology	2 credits
Bible	8 credits <i>(one credit each semester in attendance at DMCS)</i>
Electives.....	15 credits

Visit [this link](#) to the High School Course Guide found on our website for more specific information on courses and departments.



SEMESTER 1 GRADE REPORTS AND DMCS TRANSCRIPTS

All semester 1 report cards and updated transcripts have been posted to Netclassroom accounts. Students should be verifying for accuracy.

FILING the FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

Seniors heading to college next year should be aware of the FAFSA filing deadlines if you're interested in pursuing financial aid. Financial aid priority deadlines can vary by school, so please check with your school of choice. If you have questions or need help completing the FAFSA, here are a couple of options:

- [Iowa College Access Network \(ICAN\)](#) ... call (877) 272-4692 to make an appointment. January and February slots fill up quickly. FAFSA appointments take 30-45 minutes and are FREE.
- [AIB Cash for College](#) ... register in advance at www.iowacgs.org to receive free assistance in filing your FAFSA. Thursday, 2/19, 2-6p.m. at AIB, Keith Fenton Bldg, Rooms 301 and 302 on Fleur Drive. This event is open to all students, NOT just those planning to attend AIB.

SCHOLARSHIPS & COLLEGE INFORMATION

Information on scholarships and colleges that comes through our office is always available for students to peruse. Bright green tubs, marked accordingly, are available in Mrs. Osborn's office and/or on the tables in the Senior Lounge (Secondary Foyer).

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS & ACCEPTANCE LETTERS

Most Seniors by now should have completed at least 1 college application. Regardless of your plans for post-high school, DMCS requests that you complete a college application to a 4-year university or college. We must show that at least 80% of our students are admittable to these institutions in order to maintain our Independent Accreditation with the State of Iowa. See Mrs. Osborn if you need information regarding online applications with no fee.

Seniors who have received acceptance letters from 4-year schools need to submit a copy to our office to help us meet this requirement. Thanks for getting these turned in *as soon as possible*.

ACT TEST DATES: 2 opportunities remaining for this year

- April 18 .. Register by March 13 to avoid late fee
- June 13 .. Register by May 8 to avoid late fee

Registration is done online at the [ACT website](#) and can take up to 30 minutes to complete.