



Dr. Barker’s Weekly Report

Message from Dr. Barker

Good Evening WEST.

This week WEST is will be administering the PSAT on Wednesday, October 13th, to all Sophomores and Juniors. During this time, seniors will be working in Naviance and completing their college essays. Freshmen will use this time to hear more about the Technical College High School programs, participate in a presentation from Mr. Justin Brown focused on kindness, empathy, and inclusion, and work to complete their 9th Grade Career Readiness Portfolio items.

Parents—Please know that we have been working with students as they ease back into many of the expectations we took for granted prior to COVID. Arrival times have been challenging. We continue to be short a number of bus drivers, but all student drivers need to make sure they are arriving in time to be in their 1st period class by 7:40. Some student attire has been questionable—we are asking for your help in making sure that their clothes are school appropriate.

Stress management—we are seeing some students exhibiting stress related to time management, organization, and assessments. Students became accustomed to completing open-note assessments and having flexible deadlines last year. Some are now struggling to re-establish study skills and meet existing timelines for completion. Please encourage your students to persevere and reach out to their teachers for assistance as needed. We want to help—please let us know.

We are all working together to provide a positive experience at WEST this year. I am excited by the energy and enthusiasm I have seen thus far, and I look forward to working with all of you as we move one step closer to normalcy.

Take care and have a great week WEST!

A. Kurt Barker Ed.D.

Principal - DHS WEST *“Where Everyone Stands Together”*

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Weekly Schedule

- **October 13 - PSATs for Grades 10 and 11**
- **October 13 - 2 hour Early Dismissal Day**



Whippet News

- The Biology Drop In Center is now available to help your students. Below is a link to a form that allows students to schedule one-to-one help with a Biology teacher during periods 1-7. <https://forms.gle/acthdDu4BXo1Eb4i6>
- NHS Monthly meeting is Tuesday, October 12th at 6:45PM in the Cafeteria. All Petitions for Officers are due to Mrs. Hanft no later than 2:40 PM on Monday, 10/11. A short speech needs to be made at our meeting and voting will take place at the end of the meeting.
- **PICTURE RETAKE DAY-** All students who did not have their picture taken in August should plan to come down when called, this will be how you get an ID Card. You can pre-order a package at mylife-touch.com with our code EVTNBHB2W. If you want your pictures retaken, you must return your original package to the photographer on Retake Day - **Tuesday, October 19, 2021.**
- **LOOKING FOR HOMEWORK HELP?** Come to Homework Club every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:45pm – 3:15 pm. No need to sign-up, just drop-in.

Room 171 - Science and Math
Room 161 - English and All other subjects
- **2022 West Yearbooks are now on sale!** [Visit our Yearbook Order Center](#) to order your book at our early bird price of \$75.

Student Reminders

Student Parking Reminder: Any students parking in the Band Lot will need to move their car to the Wagner Gym Lot or the Kottmeyer Stadium Lot **by 3:00 pm** to allow the Marching Band to practice. Vehicles left in the band lot will be towed at the owner's expense.

Graduation Project information for proposals and presentations can be found below:

[Graduation Project Information](#)

Catch up on the latest West news at our student newspaper site, [The West Side Beat](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) for new article updates.

Interested in what is going on in the Music world check out our [Music Parents Association page](#).

Parent Reminders

Please review the following Traffic Pattern Links: [AM & PM Traffic Patterns](#)

DASD Food Service will once again offer **FREE** breakfast and lunch meals for students during the 21-22 school year! For more information, please view the [attached flyer](#).

2021-2022 device fees are now available to pay for all district issued laptops on [PaySchools* Central](#).

*Meet your
Senior Class
Officers
for the*



Jamie DiMedio
Senior Class President 2021-2022

Lauren Tinson
Senior Class Vice President 2021-2022



Lauren Ade
Senior Class Secretary 2021-2022

Gaby Robino
Senior Class Treasurer 2021-2022

2021-2022 School Year!

Class of 2022 Announcements

- **Senior Portrait Poses:** Senior portrait poses must be selected by Friday, October 22. Requirements and more information are with the senior portrait proofs sent by Lifetouch following the portrait session. Please contact Lifetouch/Prestige at UCAnswers@lifetouch.com or 410-644-7700 if you need assistance with accessing or selecting a senior portrait pose. Thank you.
- **Attention 2022 Yearbook Baby Ad sales are underway!** Commemorate your senior's childhood in this important piece of West history. The deadline to build and place your order is **Friday, October 15, 2021**. [Visit our Yearbook Order Center](#) to create your yearbook ad. Access detailed instructions [here](#). 2022 Yearbooks are also for sale in the order center at our Early Bird Price of \$75. Don't delay!
- **Attention Class of 2022! 2022 Post Prom Party** - Please join us for our first meeting for planning for the 2022 Post Prom Party on **October 12 at 7 pm in the West Library**. We are looking forward to planning a memorable event for this year's Senior Class. Parents from ALL classes are encouraged to help. Any questions contact us at DTownWestPostProm@gmail.com.
- **REMINDERS TO CLASS OF 2022:** The Diploma Name Verification form is now past due. If you haven't submitted this information, please email Mrs. Tuerk @ stuerk@dasd.org.

Whippet Inside Story

Midterms and Finals will not be given this year. Each Marking Period will be worth 25% of the final grade. Because we calculate grades based on percentages, any student who fails a marking period **AND** earns less than a 45% will have their marking period grade reflected as a 45% - this is the lowest percentage a student can earn. The rationale for using this percentage is that by assigning a 45% a student can still mathematically recover for the year if they have an exceptionally uncharacteristic marking period.

Special Announcements

- **AP Exam Payment**—PaySchools Central opened Tuesday, October 5 and all payments are due by Friday, October 29 for AP Exam payments. Your child's account will show an AP Exam fee for each AP course they are taking. You should pay for the exam(s) that your child wants to take in the spring. Any exams ordered AFTER College Board's deadline OR exams that are CANCELED/ UNUSED will incur a \$40 penalty by College Board. Click [here](#) for more information.

Career Center News

Upcoming College Visits

Monday, 10/11

No Visits Scheduled

Tuesday, 10/12:

8:40 -- Widener University
9:35 -- Florida Atlantic University (Virtual)
10:25 -- Bucknell University
11:20 -- Albright University
1:00 -- Gannon University

Wednesday, 10/13: Early Dismissal

No Visits Scheduled

Thursday, 10/14:

8:40 -- Lebanon Valley College
9:35 -- Chatham University
10:25 -- Clarion University
11:20 -- Arcadia University
1:00 -- University of South Carolina

Friday, 10/15:

8:40 -- Stevens Institute of Technology (Virtual)
9:35 -- Temple University -- Library
10:25 -- Bryant University
11:20 -- Villanova (Virtual)
1:00 -- Princeton University (Virtual)

(Please Note: The Career Center has a NEW location -- Room 166 -- across the hall from the Counseling Department!)

COLLEGE VISITS: College admission representatives started their visits last week! The complete schedule of college visits is posted on [Naviance](#) under the College tab. Juniors and Seniors are invited to meet the representatives by signing up on Naviance and requesting teacher permission to participate. Visits may be in person or virtual this fall. For virtual visits, students may use the Career Center or check with the Library for space to view the presentation with headphones. Thank you!

Please Note: Zoom links will be shared with students before each session via the West College and Career Center Course in Schoology: **Access Code: KJCV-FRBC-GS98C**

The Chester County Intermediate Unit will host a FREE Virtual College Fair on October 19th, 5-8 p.m. Student registration opens on September 30th at www.cciu.org/college-fair.



College & Career Bound!

Career Readiness by Dr. Podell

*To assist all students with career options, we will be posting **Career Cafe** interviews hosted by Dr. Podell and others over the next few months in the College & Career Center Schoology Course. We hope students will tune in to learn from these professionals who share their field of expertise and how they got there!*

***If you would like to connect with a professional in any field to find out more about what they do, please reach out to Dr. Podell at tpodell@dasd.org to make it happen.

Attention students and parents: We are proud to announce that as of last week, our students have access to a new Writing Center. Students can conference 1:1 with a specially-trained Writing Center Advisor to help improve their writing in any of their subjects. Students should email west-writingcenter@dasd.org to make an appointment, or just stop by the Library on their lunch period.

Employment / Volunteer / Career Opportunities

- The **Camphill School** in Glenmoore, a K-12 private school for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is looking for volunteers to help with recreational horse riding, assisting with mounting and dismounting, and leading the horse after school -- Hours are flexible. Contact Sarah Downs if you are interested at sdowns@camphillschool.org or 610-469-9236 x133.
- **Pomodoro** in Downingtown has several positions open -- hostess, bussers, cashiers and baker assistants! Must be available to work weekdays and/or weekends for lunch and dinner shifts. Text 610-350-6542 if you are interested.



Click the DASD logo to view a copy of the 2021-2022 Board Approved District Calendar.

*Aerial View of
Downingtown West
High School*



Employment / Volunteer / Career Opportunities

- **Snap Custom** Pizza is hiring in their Exton location! \$12.50-\$17.50/hour plus \$300 signing bonus. Flexible scheduling and free meal at every shift! Apply online at www.snapcustompizza.com.
- **Tel Hai** retirement community is still hiring for Part Time Servers in their Culinary Department and just added a \$500 Sign on Bonus! Contact Luann Thomas at lthomas@telhai.org or 610-273-4611.
- **Countryside Kennels** in Downingtown needs help with fall leaf and flower beds cleanup – contact Suzie Fry at 610-269-4898 for more details on hours and pay!
- **Dog Lovers! To Love A Canine** needs volunteers on Oct 3rd for their Miles for Mutts event at Wilson Farm Park in Berwyn (right near Gateway Shopping Center) from 7 a.m to Noon. If you can help, contact Marie Coladonato at Marie@TLCrescuePA.com and visit <https://www.tlcrecuepa.com/milesformutts2021> for more information!
- **Thinking of teaching for your future?** The Well, located in the heart of Downingtown, needs Study Buddies to assist their students with homework help on Mondays and Wednesdays. Grades K-2 and 3-6 meet 4:15-5 p.m., grades 6-8 meet 5-6 p.m. Reach out to Sarah McGarahan at saramagarahan@gmail.com if you can help!
- Retired school teacher and academic advisor needs tech-savvy student to assist with various tech requirements for a virtual class she is developing for the Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium, including videotaping, Zoom, Power Point and website help. This would make a great graduation project! If you can help, please contact Lee Reinert at lee.reinert@gmail.com.

WEST: Where Everyone Stands Together!

Student Council Updates

Your Student Council Officers are Alex Bigelow and Brynn Wolf (Co-Presidents), Anushka Levaku (VP), Devon Batty (Treasurer), Isabelle Feathers (Secretary)

Week one of the **#dwspirit wars** has come to a close! Currently, the class of 2023 is the lead by a few mere points. Look for future updates about the spirit days during the East v. West spirit week. Final winning announcement and spirit stick ceremony will be held during the Pep Rally.

With the **East v. West** game right around the corner, we're beginning to pre-sell shirts! This year we will be having a black out for the game! Shirts are \$10.00. If you would like to pre-order a shirt, please fill out the [following form](#), and return it as well as cash or check to Brittany McGregor in room 209. Checks can be made out to Downingtown West Student Council.

Upcoming Events

- October 9 - Marching Band Competition at Marple Newtown High School
- October 10 - 1st Annual 5K Run/Walk & Free Kid Run for Life
- October 13 - 2 HR Early Dismissal
- October 13 - 10th/11th Grade PSAT testing
- October 15-17 - LINK Weekend
- October 19 - Picture Makeup Day
- October 21 - East vs. West Bonfire - 7:00 pm
- October 21 - Home & School Meeting (Zoom) - 7:00 pm
- October 22 - Fall Pep Rally

Athletics

Home Varsity Competitions listed below—For all other competitions, please visit the WEST Athletics webpage.

- **Monday, 10/11/21**
 - ◆ Field Hockey vs. Cardinal O'Hara @ Kottmeyer Stadium @ 5:00 pm
- **Tuesday, 10/12/21**
 - ◆ Boys Soccer vs. West Chester East HS @ DiSerafino @ 3:45 pm
- **Wednesday, 10/13/21**
 - ◆ Boys/Girls Cross Country vs. CHES-MONT CHAMPIONSHIP @ DWHS CAMPUS @2:00 pm
- **Thursday, 10/14/21**
 - ◆ Boys Soccer vs. WC Henderson High School @ DiSerafino Stadium @ 7:00 pm
- **Friday, 10/15/21**
 - ◆ Boys Soccer vs. Boyertown High School @ DiSerafino @ 3:45 pm
- West Swim & Dive Team: Any students looking to return or join the West Swim and Dive Team please email Maria Dennin at dwestswimanddive@gmail.com. Please include your grade, name, your email, and at least one parent email as well. We will be sending out an email with some basic team information. Look for a team meeting date in the next few weeks as well as a team "Get To Know You" party date.



School Photographer: Our Year Yearbook staff

Calendar Information:

To download a copy of the West Calendar (including letter days) to your device, click here: <https://www.dasd.org/Page/38#calendar22/20200918/month>

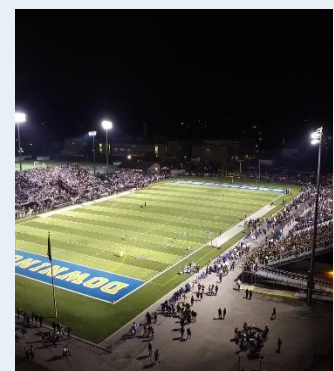
Next, click on the Link icon for links to your type of device:

iCal Feed Instructions:

- [iOS Devices \(iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad\)](#)
- [Android Devices and Google Calendar](#)
- [Microsoft Outlook](#)
- [Other Calendar Programs](#)

Students, parents, and community members are reminded that ALL district property and school events are drug, alcohol, and tobacco free. All Downingtown High School students who attend home football games will be subject to our passive Breathalyzer as they enter the football stadium.

ALL sporting events after 5:00 pm are subject to an entrance fee of \$3.00 for students and \$5.00 for adults, except football games, all tickets are \$5.00.



Fundraising Information

- Join the [Senior Class at "On the Border"](#) for their Class of 2022 fundraiser on October 19th.

Downingtown West Home and School Association

The HSA is looking for volunteers to help organize the Designer Bag Bingo that's tentatively scheduled for November 12, 2021 at 7pm. This is the biggest fundraiser for the HSA that supports the students, families and staff at West! We are in need of people to help with marketing, raffle organization, food and beverage coordination and registration. Please reach out to Katherine at Karchibald711@gmail.com. You will work with a wonderful group of parents!!

2022 Post Prom Party - Please join us for our first meeting for planning for the 2022 Post Prom Party on **October 12 at 7 pm in the West Library**. We are looking forward to planning a memorable event for this year's Senior Class. Parents from ALL classes are encouraged to help. Any questions contact us at DTownWestPostProm@gmail.com.

The Home and School and Revolution Prep are hosting SAT and ACT practice exams via zoom. This is the perfect opportunity for your student to take a proctored practice exam for the upcoming SAT/ACT tests. The student will receive their score almost immediately and can meet virtually with a representative to review specific content of the exam results.

SAT test date: November 13, 2021 at 9am

ACT test date: November 20, 2021 at 9am

Links coming soon!!

For information on upcoming events click here anytime (or type <https://www.dasd.org/Page/9538> into your browser). Questions? Email Katherine at Karchibald711@gmail.com. Looking forward to a phenomenal year!



Please welcome the 2021-2022 Dwest Home and School Executive Board:

President:
Katherine Archibald

Vice President:
Michele Helveston

Treasurer:
Michelle Nielsen

Secretary:
Lisa Valaitis

Joint Home & School Representative:
Maria Dennin

All H&S Meetings will be held via [Zoom](#).

Meeting ID: 458 737 0146

Password: 1yVAMq

DATES:
October 21st
November 18th
January 20th
March 17th
April 21st
May 19th

Downingtown High School West
Campus

DHS West offers a diverse program of study. Our students are involved in academics at all levels. Academic, AP, Honors, Basic, Business Education, Industrial Arts Technology and Vocational-Technical courses are offered throughout our program. [Click here to learn more about our school.](#)

West Photographers: Lifetouch School Portraits, Mr. Hassel, Ms. Shovlin, Mr. Soler (Downingtownsports.com) and West Publications Class

Student Resources

This year DASD school staff are working to teach students about mental health and how to seek help if they are worried about themselves or a friend. This program is called SOS - Signs of Suicide. More information can be found in this letter from the District about the [SOS program](#).

- Attached are two informational handouts that are referenced in the above letter: [ACT Infographic Parents 2020](#) and [ACT Parent Handout 2020](#)

Please review [West Mental Health Resources](#) for all resources that are available to all WEST students throughout the year.

If your student needs additional resources following the recent losses in our community, please contact the Counseling Office at 610-269-4400 x 81422.

Counseling Department student caseloads and [counselor assignments](#) for the 2021-2022 school year will be listed on the Counseling Website.

Message Continued from Dr. Barker

