
An abundance of information to share...

2 messages

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To: kblair@upperdarbysd.org

Tue, Nov 29, 2022 at 5:08 PM

Good evening Class of 2023 Students and Families,

I will apologize in advance as there is a LOT of information in this email...senior year is really busy!

I hope that everyone had a restorative Thanksgiving. Although this is one of my favorite times of the year, it is also an extremely busy time of the year.

For our seniors, please be sure to remain engaged in your classes and stay on top of your school work. We only have three and half weeks until winter break and then just two weeks after break until finals...so not much time left in this first semester! As we have said since our first assembly in August, June 12, 2023 will be here before we know it, which means that every day counts...do not waste your time.

(All of my weekly emails are being saved on the UDSD website under the Class of 2023 Information page which is available [HERE](#). The page contains most of the important information that I try to get out to families through these emails.)

In other news...

1. **Cap & Gown Orders:** Perhaps this was missed last week with the holiday, but graduation cap & gown packages are now available for purchase [HERE](#). I created a short video on the ordering process and would encourage students and families to view that video [HERE](#).

2. **College Applications:**

Watch your application deadlines and remember that your yellow checklist needs to be submitted to your counselor at least three weeks before the deadline. **If the deadlines are January 1st, then everything needs to be to your counselor by December 1st. Counselors will submit all documents for January 1st BEFORE they leave for winter break on December 23rd! Be sure to plan ahead.*

Simple Steps to follow:

1. Be sure to get your [release of records](#) completed and emailed to your counselor by your parent (unless you are 18 and then you can email it to them)
2. Put College/Technical School selections into Naviance
3. Complete Brag Sheet in Naviance

4. Complete Yellow Checklist and hand deliver to counselor (Virtual students complete checklist [HERE](#))

*Students who had Ms. Freeman, we have been working through the Google Form submissions that we received. If a counselor has not met with you, please know that we have a plan and are working diligently to reach out to those students who have questions. If you have not filled out the form, you can do so [HERE](#).

3. **Early Grad:** These requests need to be *made by December 15th!*

As we are a marking period away from the end of the fall semester, there may be some seniors that have met all graduation requirements and are interested in applying to be an early grad student.

To clarify what an “Early Grad” student means and doesn’t mean, please check out the Google form [HERE](#). If you/your student is interested in applying, please complete the District AR via the Google form. The counselors will need to review each request that is made to make sure that all graduation requirements are met (**which includes completing Act 158!**)

*If you decide to pursue Early Grad status, you may also want to consider being a dual enrollment student at DCCC for the spring semester. If that is something you are interested in, please reach out to your counselor for more information. You should look to make that happen very soon!

4. **Important emails:** In the coming days (and into next week), please keep a close eye on your email as I will be sending out mass emails to students and families on the following:

- a. **Diploma Name Verification** - We need to order diplomas in January, so in order to make sure we have student names listed accurately, we are asking that students/families complete the google form that will be emailed to you. You will either be verifying the name that we have on record as what should appear on your diploma OR you are selecting ‘Other’ and then writing out the name as you wish it to appear on the diploma.
- b. **Post Secondary Plan Survey** - This is another requirement from the state of PA but a very brief one! Students will receive an email asking you about your plans after high school. The survey should only take a few minutes, but it is really important that ALL seniors take time to complete the survey.
- c. **Act 158** - Some of our seniors still need to complete their Pennsylvania Act 158 graduation requirement. We are going to be emailing those students that still need to complete their videos and asking that they report to the cafeteria NEXT Tuesday, December 6th starting at 10am. Some students have reached out stating that they have completed the videos. Mr. Benditt and I will be in the cafeteria that day to work with students and verify that they have completed the requirements.

5. **Name Pronunciation for Graduation:** Your counselor has a big task come June 12th...and a stressful one at that. They have the privilege to read each and every one of their student’s names during the ceremony...and they want to get the names right!

In an effort to assist them, we are asking all seniors to please take a moment to complete the google form [HERE](#). As part of the form, students are asked to spell their name phonetically as well as to upload a recording of them saying their name. This will help our counselors be able to practice saying names so that they get them right on the big day!

**Please note that the form can ONLY be accessed by students using their UD account. It is NOT available for those outside of UDSD.*

6. Financial Aid Support: We have two upcoming evenings where families can receive support with completing FAFSA/PHEAA applications. The first is tomorrow evening, November 30th at 6pm in the library. The second will be on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 6pm in the library.

If you have not completed these financial aid applications and plan to attend either a 2 or 4 year college or trade school starting next year, you should attend one of these meetings to get assistance.

You will need to obtain a STUDENT FSA ID and PARENT FSA ID to complete the applications. To save time at the workshop, please try to get these ahead of time. View the video [HERE](#) for a step by step guide.

Students AND parents must both attend the workshop together!

7. Miscellaneous:

- Please remember that if your student is absent a note must be brought in or emailed within three days of the student returning to school. The email where absence notes can be sent is 12udhs-attendance@upperdarbysd.org
- Likewise, students that need an early dismissal should either bring in a note or have their parent email the attendance email for the early dismissal. Step 2 is that the student should come to the senior center as soon as they arrive and work with Ms. Hoskins to verify the early dismissal and then get a pass to come back to the center at their dismissal time to officially sign out. Not following these steps has led to students being written up for cutting class. Please follow the steps on the front end so that we avoid extra work for everyone (parents included) on the back end.
- [Job Opportunity](#)

Thank you

Joshua Peterkin

Assistant Principal

UDHS Class of 2023

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