



US Class Dean Update

November 14, 2024

To the families of the Class of 2028,

It's been wonderful getting to know both the students and all of you as the year progresses. While our focus is, of course, on the students, my role is really to support the whole family, and I'm glad to have been able to do that. I look forward to continuing our partnership in the future!

Our Parent Forum was held last night, and it was great to reconnect with so many of you and meet some of you for the first time. For those who couldn't attend—or for those who attended and would like a refresher—I've included a recap of the material below.

Parent Forum Recap (Slides [here](#))

- **Interim Comments and Grades**
 - Interim grades will be released to students and families next week. These grades provide a snapshot of each student's work and engagement in the course so far, offering insight into their current performance and identifying areas for improvement. Interim grades do not appear on transcripts and are not the students' final grades for the semester.
- **Policy regarding the A+**
 - As mentioned at the start of the year, beginning with the Class of 2028, an "A+" will no longer be awarded on interim or semester reports. This change was made to prevent the A+ from impacting students' college applications by implying a higher grade was possible. Going forward, an "A" will represent the highest grade achievable.
- **Family/Teacher Conferences**
 - Conferences will be held on December 5th and 6th in the Gym, and families will sign up for a time window rather than individual meeting slots. Each conference will last about 10 minutes, and there is no remote option. If you are unable to attend, prioritize the teachers you wish to connect with and reach out to them the following week to schedule a phone meeting about your student's progress. More details will be shared next week by the US Principal.
- **Projects and Assessments Week (PAW)**

- Instead of the traditional “midterm” and “final” exam weeks in January and June, D-E has established the week before Spring Break as Projects and Assessments Week (PAW). During PAW, students will meet with their teachers and classmates in their regular classrooms for about 2 hours each day to work on a large-scale project or assignment that will contribute to their semester two grade.
- **Student-Faculty Hearing Council**
 - In the case of significant or repeated disciplinary offenses, students may be required to attend a Student-Faculty Hearing Council, where a small group of elected faculty members and students will deliberate on the best course of action for the student's learning. More information about this process can be found on page 21 of the handbook under "Disciplinary Procedures."
- **Systems of Support**
 - As students adjust to the increasing workload, please know that our learning specialists and psychologists are excellent resources to support their academic journey.
- **College**
 - For those of you who have begun thinking about the college process, more information can be found [here](#). Our suggestion, however, is that students focus first on their academic transition into high school and building a strong foundation for their future success.

A few friendly reminders:

- All D-E parents/guardians and/or caregivers must download the School Pass app and use School Pass to indicate their child(ren)'s attendance updates and arrivals to campus whenever this happens outside of regular DropOff and PickUp times. Please click [here](#) for a School Pass info flyer (PDF). For help with School Pass please email help@d-e.org or call our D-E Technology Department at: 201-227-3177.
- If you have not already, please be sure to sign the handbook through myDE.

I recognize this was a lot of information, so please feel free to contact me with any questions. I am happy to schedule a call as well to review anything pressing. I am here to support you! Your partnership is truly appreciated, and I look forward to working together throughout the year.

Best regards,

Dylan Bryant
Dean, Class of 2028