



US Class Dean Update

February 11, 2026

Wow! What a winter we are having. The groundhog says that we won't get relief anytime soon, but we have a lot to do before the arrival of Spring. In this Dean's Memo, I want to share important information on PAW and Course Selection, as well as a reminder about Community Service - all important things to note as we head towards our senior year together.

PAW (Projects and Assessments Week)

This year, PAW is March 16-19. School will be closed Friday, March 20 for EID.

Although these assessments are more than a month away, Ms. Lalli sent out [PAWrameters](#) and a spreadsheet of all planned assessments by subject to students this Monday. The PAWrameters document includes a blank schedule at the bottom which students can use to write out their specific schedules. As always, I am here to help with this process and answer any questions.

A new aspect of PAW this year is the addition of an exam block each morning. This time will be used for courses with multiple sections so that all students can test at the same time. All other courses will assess during the exam block which coordinates with their class meeting block. For example, if my science class usually meets DF5, I will take my science exam on Tuesday, 3/17, starting at 1:20pm. *Health & Wellness* and *Honors Seminar* courses (English and History) do not assess, but students should check the spreadsheet to see if their other minor courses will meet and what they will do during that block.

2026 PAW Schedule

	Monday 3/16	Tuesday 3/17	Wednesday 3/18	Thursday 3/19
EXAM BLOCK 8:10 - 9:40/10:25(ET)	9s: IMM 1/1H 10s: History 11s: <i>none</i> 12s: AP Lit	9s: <i>none</i> 10s: Math 11s: Math 12s: Math	9s: World Lang* 10s: Wold Lang* 11s: APUSH 12s: AP Psych	Makes up or Doubles
MORNING BLOCK 10:40-12:40	A	C	E	G
AFTERNOON BLOCK 1:20-3:20	B	D	F	H

*French 1, 2, 2H, and Spanish 1 only

Course Selection

The process of selecting courses for next year will begin with a class meeting on February 26 for students and Curriculum Night March 2 for parents. In these meetings, we will focus on the specifics of the senior course selection process and meeting graduation requirements. The *Upper School Course of Study* guide will be available on line March 9, and students will select their courses right after Spring Break. See future Dean's Memos for more information and date reminders.

Community Service

In my November Dean's Memo, I shared this service learning reminder from the Upper School Handbook:

During the upper school years, all Dwight-Englewood students are required to complete and document a minimum of 40 community service hours with a non-profit agency.

- This requirement is meant to give students experience in the real world, outside the four walls of D-E, so only 10 hours of any internal community service may be used as part of the 40 hour requirement.
- Students must complete a log of hours, have their supervisor complete an evaluation form, and submit a personal reflection on their service experience.
- This requirement must be completed by the beginning of senior year.
- Students who have not completed their service requirement will not be eligible for certain senior privileges, including parking and Come Free/Leave Free. All documentation is due by the summer before senior year.

On January 8, I emailed all students to inform them of their current community service status—whether they had completed their required hours and paperwork, were in progress, or had not yet logged any hours. Since that time, many additional students have submitted paperwork for completed service or visited the D-E Service page to access resources.

At this point, I ask that you please check in with your child(ren) to determine where they are in this process. As of today, 20 students have completed their required hours and submitted their reflections. An additional 20 students have completed their hours but have not yet submitted a reflection. Of the remaining 87 students in the class, 43 have not submitted any service hours.

While many students choose to complete their service requirement over the summer, it is important to note that students who have not completed *both* the required hours and reflection will not be eligible to apply for parking passes. Parking passes are assigned in August, prior to the start of the school year.

That's all for now. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Stay warm!

Tuc

Calendar

February 13 - Professional Development Day (NO SCHOOL)

February 16 - Presidents' Day (NO SCHOOL)

February 17 - Lunar New Year (NO SCHOOL)

March 2 - Curriculum Night, 7:30PM

March 5-7 - Winter Musical, *Carrie*

March 9 - Upper School Course of Study guide available

March 16-19 - P.A.W.

March 20-April 3 - SPRING BREAK (NO SCHOOL)

April 9 - Spring Parent Forum, Hajjar Auditorium, 8:30-10:00am

April 9 - End of Q3

April 10 - Comment Writing Day (NO SCHOOL)

April 16 - Comments released to students

April 17 - Grades and Comments released to families

Stephanie "Tuc" Tucker

Dean, Class of 2027