



# DSA Counseling Newsletter

January  
2018

## DATES TO REMEMBER

## 2018-2019 Choice of Studies

During the spring of 2018, all returning DSA high school students will select their classes for the 2018-2019 school year. The timeline will be as follows:

### ***January 19, 2018***

All DSA students (not parents) will have their Infinite Campus password reset to prepare for the 18/19 Choice of Studies. The new login will be:  
username: six digit ID number  
password: eight digit birthday

### ***January 22, 2018***

Counseling staff will meet with each grade level in the Concert Hall. At this time, students will be shown how to log into student portal and select their 2018-2019 class choices. All students will receive a hard copy of the directions as well as their Choice of Studies Sheet. It is important to know that these are only choices. If the classes do not fill, they will not be offered. The counselors will be looking at each student's schedule making sure they are in the appropriate classes.

### ***January 22, 2017 – February 9, 2018 (at noon)***

From January 22 – February 9 at noon, Infinite Campus will be available for both parents and students to log in and select classes. Selections can be changed at any point during this 3 week window. If a family does not have internet access at home, please come use the Counseling Office computers.

### **January 12th**

Senior Baby Ads Due to Yearbook

### **January 15th**

No School for students

### **January 16th**

Senior Caps and Gowns ordering with Jostens

### **January 16th and 17th**

Academic and Arts Watch Conferences

### **February 2nd**

No School for students

### **February 9th**

Choice of Studies closes online at noon

### **February 16th**

Last day to drop a class without penalty

## Choice of Studies -What happens next?

### February-April

During these months:

- \* the master schedule will be built
- \* we will accept our incoming high school students and get their course requests
- \* counselors will build schedules for those students who did not make their class choices online during the Jan 22 – Feb 9 window
- \* the counselors will hand touch all schedules for correct class placement



### May 4, 2018

Current 6th and 7th graders will receive their 18/19 schedule.

### May 7, 2018

Each class will meet in the Concert Hall. All students will receive a hard copy of their 2018-2019 schedule along with directions. Since 18/19 Infinite Campus is not available for parents or students to view at home until July 2018, this hard copy is the only way to view a student's 18/19 schedule.

### May 7, 2018 – May 25, 2018 at noon

Students may go to the Counseling Office to sign up to see their counselor. They may not wait for a counselor. They must sign up and go back to class. Counselors will pull the students out of class in the order they signed up. Students may speak with their counselor about possible class changes. All students must make sure to leave the office with the dated and timestamped new schedule. Make sure to keep this schedule for your records.

*All schedule changes for the 2018-2019 school year must be made by noon on May 25, 2018. After this date, no adding of classes, no switching periods, adding a student assistant, adjusting of levels (example: AP US History to regular US History or 7th grade math to 8th grade math) will be made.*

*All 9th and 10th graders must be enrolled in a minimum of 7 classes. They may have one period off.*

*All 11th and 12th graders may have 2 periods off in the fall.*

## Assignment #4 for your SAT Class

This is assignment #4 for your SAT class. You have from December 15 – February 4 at 3 pm to complete the assignment. You received your SAT practice book for Assignment #1. Your assignment will be from the book.

- 1) At the back of the book, there are 8 full length practice tests.
- 2) You are to pick **one** of the tested subject areas: reading, writing and language, math – no calculator or math – calculator **I SUGGEST SELECTING YOUR WEAKEST TESTED SUBJECT**
- 3) In that area **only**, I want you to do the TIMED sections in the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 full length tests

**Pick only ONE subject and do 4 practice tests:**

### Choice 1 – Reading

**65 minutes each – do all four**

Test 1 pages 298 – 312

Test 2 pages 416 – 430

Test 3 pages 528 – 541

Test 4 pages 640 – 653

### Choice 3 – Math (no calculator)

**25 minutes each – do all four**

Test 1 pages 330 – 336

Test 2 pages 446 – 453

Test 3 pages 558 – 565

Test 4 pages 668 – 675

### Choice 2 – Writing and Language

**35 minutes each – do all four**

Test 1 pages 314 – 328

Test 2 pages 432 – 445

Test 3 pages 542 – 557

Test 4 pages 654 – 667

### Choice 4 – Math (calculator)

**55 minutes each – do all four**

Test 1 pages 338 – 352

Test 2 pages 454 – 467

Test 3 pages 566 – 581

Test 4 pages 676 – 692

**There are bubble sheets after each test. You can use these to answer & score your test.**

When you are done, use the answer key provided at the end of each test and score yourself. Hopefully, you will see a steady increase in your score.



You can do all 4 tests in one sitting or one at a time – whatever works for you. You can do them at home, school, whatever works for you. **Our advice is to do each test TIMED. The more practice you have doing it TIMED, the better.**

To get credit for the assignment, your parent needs to sign the very back page of the SAT book. The page is blank. Your parent is stating, by their signature, that you took and scored these practice tests at home/school. You need to bring your SAT book to Miss Odom's office and show her the back page of the book. She will also have you sign that you showed her the book by the February 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm deadline. Your parent will then receive an email to confirm that Miss Odom received their signature on your SAT book.

***All SATs books, with parent signature, must be shown to Miss Odom by 3 pm on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Those turned in after this date and time will not be accepted for credit for the SAT class.***

## *What to Do When Your Financial Aid Award Isn't Enough*

Colleges want to provide financial aid to their students, but they don't always have enough funds to meet the full need of every student. That means a school may not award you enough financial aid to cover all your college expenses. Or maybe your family's financial situation has changed, and you now need more aid than the college awarded you. If you're in either of these situations, follow these steps.

### 1) Contact the Financial Aid Office

Call or email the financial aid office. If someone there can't answer your question in a phone call or email, make an appointment to meet with a financial aid officer, if possible.

Talking with a financial aid officer can help you learn how you can make up the difference between what you need and what the college awarded you. Financial aid officers want to help you attend their college, so they'll work with you to find the right solution.

You can start by asking questions like the following:

- What are my options for receiving more aid?
- How can I find scholarships to help pay for college?
- Can I talk to someone at the college about finding part-time work?
- Do you have any advice about getting a private loan?

### 2) File an Appeal

If there's a significant change in your family's finances—such as a drop in income or unexpected medical expenses—you can submit an appeal asking the financial aid office to review your award. Call the office to find out what the college's standard appeals process is so you can follow it. Be ready to provide proof of the change in your circumstances, such as bank statements, pay stubs, or medical bills. But remember, it will take you time to prepare the appeal, and it will take the college time to act on it.

If your appeal isn't successful, you may want to consider applying for a private loan or explore other ways to pay for college.

### 3) Don't Be Shy About Asking for Help

No matter what your situation, don't be shy about contacting the financial aid office. Financial aid officers are there to answer your questions.

Visit [bigfuture.org](https://bigfuture.org) for more information.

