Deshler Public Schools
1402 3rd St ◆ PO Box 547 ◆ Deshler, NE 68340
Phone: 402-365-7272 ◆ Fax: 402-365-7560
www.DeshlerPublicSchools.org

TO: **CLASS OF 2026 & THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS**
FROM: **MRS. EPLEY, PRINCIPAL & MRS. KANE, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**
DATE: **APRIL 11, 2025**
SUBJECT: **SENIOR YEAR INFORMATION,** ***Letter saved as:*** ***https://bit.ly/DPSSENIORLETTER***

Now is the time for you and your senior to have a conversation about applying for college admission! Most colleges like students to apply for admission as early as possible so that other arrangements, such as financial aid, housing, etc. can be worked out ahead of time, giving your student optimal chances at the housing they want and the highest scholarship package available.

If your student has narrowed the college choices down to two or three schools, I encourage your child to apply to each of these schools this fall. I also encourage both you and your senior to visit each of these campuses. Then you can see first-hand how each school compares and which college might be the best fit for your student. All students should have access to EducationQuest which helps to not only narrow down options, but to answer a great deal of questions on what your child is looking for in a college.

Practically every college wants to review the student's high school transcript, so when your student applies to a college, make sure he/she stops in the guidance office and asks Mrs. Kane to send the high school transcript to the college that your child applied to, or take it with you on your visit. It's never been easier to find out about colleges and universities. Most schools have websites that provide a variety of information that can be useful, but again, EducationQuest will have all of the information you will ever want to know before applying! Please let Mrs. Kane know if you need help finding a college's website address.

SENIOR CHECKLIST BY THIS FALL:

- apply for admission to colleges of interest (some have free applications in late fall)
- set up 2-3 college visits
- start applying for national scholarships & have items ready for local scholarships
- register for the ACT test in the fall (if you need to raise your score for scholarships or college entrance)
- update your resume & personal statement essays for scholarships and college applications.

WHY WOULD YOU RETAKE THE ACT TEST?

Statistics show that 13% of students score a 27 or higher on the ACT, 42% score 22 or higher, and 27% score a 17 or lower.

Those who retake the ACT test show:

- 15% improved 3 or more points,
- 18% improved 2 or more points,
- 24% improved 1 or more point,
- 22% earned the same score, and
- 21% had scores decrease.

Register today at: https://www.act.org/.

ACT® TEST DATES & DEADLINES 2025

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Reg. Deadline
April 5, 2025	February 28, 2025	March 16, 2025
June 14, 2025	May 9, 2025	May 26, 2025
July 12, 2025	June 6, 2025	June 20, 2025
September 6, 2025	August 1, 2025	August 19, 2025
October 18, 2025	September 12, 2025	September 30, 2025
December 13, 2025	November 7, 2025	November 24, 2025

TYPES OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES BY COLLEGE

An ***undergraduate*** is a college student who has not yet earned a degree. A ***graduate student*** already has a bachelor's degree (or 4-year college degree) and is pursuing a masters or doctorate degree.

There are two major types of undergraduate degrees. An ***Associate's Degree*** is a degree awarded to a student who has completed a two-year program. These are often found at community colleges, such as Southeast Community College or Central Community College.

A ***Bachelor's Degree*** is a degree awarded to a student who has completed a four-year college course of study. Common types of bachelor degree programs include the Bachelor of Arts (BA) and the Bachelor of Sciences (BS).

Students at DPS have the option of getting many of their general education classes (called ACE requirements at UNL/UNK/UNO) out of the way while still in high school, shortening the number of college classes they have to take on campus at a fraction of the cost. This also means that students often begin taking classes in their interest area, instead of general education classes such as their math, science, english, social studies, etc. right away!

FINANCIAL AID BITS AND PIECES TO UNDERSTAND

Most colleges award PELL eligible recipients between $500 and $1500. Parents with an adjusted gross income of $**25,000 or less**, who are not required to file a 1040 tax form, have an automatic zero estimated family contribution and will be eligible for a maximum PELL award.

The Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) can only be filed electronically. No paper copies will be given to schools. Students **and** parents will need to obtain an FSA ID number to complete the FAFSA. The FSA ID replaces the PIN number that has been used in the past. ***Students are encouraged to use a non-school based email address for their FSA ID, and will want to remember their username/password for future years.***

Public schools are now required to have seniors complete the FAFSA. We will set up a time this fall for a parent & student to meet with an EducationQuest rep & complete this process once the application opens in October. DPS works with EducationQuest to offer this service on site for all of our students. Because filing the FAFSA is now a requirement, students must opt out if they do not plan to complete this. The FAFSA is a requirement for many colleges & scholarships, as it produces a **STUDENT AID REPORT** that students will download and keep for future reference as they apply. This shows their estimated contribution to their own income, as well as what parents are believed to be responsible for. To learn more, go to FAFSA.gov.

MORE TERMINOLOGY WHEN IT COMES TO COLLEGE

With the financial aid season looming, a little more terminology may be helpful:

- A **grant** is a financial award, usually given to a student who has financial need ,that does not have to be paid back. Grants are usually awarded by a government agency or a college.
- A **scholarship** is a financial award given to a student that does not have to be paid back. Scholarships may be given by colleges, foundations, or private groups. Scholarships may be awarded for academics, extra-curricular excellence, or financial need. Applications are often required, and students must meet certain requirements to apply (such as a minimum GPA or a specific EFC (estimated financial contribution) on their Student Aid Report.
- A **loan** is a financial award that does have to be paid back with interest. Loans can be awarded to students and/or parents.
- The **FAFSA** is the **F**ree **A**pplication **f**or **S**tudent **A**id. Families must use this application if they wish to receive any financial aid from the federal government. Upon completion, students will receive a STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR) to be used for scholarships and college applications.