

Design and Architecture Senior High 2025 New Student Orientation

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025
5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.**

WELCOME

Dr. Maggie Rodriguez, Principal
Zuyin Companioni, Assistant Principal
Mirtha Funcia, Magnet Lead Teacher

STUDENT SERVICES

Michele Molina, Counselor (A-L)
Carlos Insignares, Counselor (M-Z)

NINTH GRADE FACULTY

Nick Britton, English
Blake Studiner, Mathematics
Dr. Angela Campbell, Science
Olmond Georges, History
Diego Gutierrez, Fine Art
Luis Gonzalez, Physical Education
Svitlana Isakova, French
Yanami Ferrer, Spanish

CLOSING REMARKS

DASH PTSA

Mirtha Funcia, Summer Preview
& Transportation Overview

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

SUMMER READING AND PROJECT

Marlene Zamora, English Chair
mzamora@dadeschools.net

Congratulations on your acceptance to DASH! We are excited to meet you and look forward to beginning work in literary analysis. Please look over the requirements below. I have chosen engaging works for you to read over the summer. It is imperative that you complete these summer reading assignments, which serve as your first language arts grades as ninth grade DASH students. Please save your typed essay files and bring a hard copy of the final essay and illustrations the first week of school. Note, you will be assessed on novel content. If you have any questions regarding your summer assignments, please feel free to contact me via email.

All 9th grade students must read:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

English 1 – ALL Students: Illustration and 350-word Essay

Illustration

Choose a **scene** you feel is central to the development of the story *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* **OR** *The Book Thief*. Illustrate the **scene** on a 11x14 stock sheet of heavy white paper. Include one important **symbol** present in *Book Thief* **OR** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Note: A **symbol** is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works, a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning.

Essay

Type a **350-word explanation** of what is occurring in the **scene** and why you feel it is important to the development of the story. Make sure you answer the following questions in your synopsis of the scene: Who is involved? What is happening? Why is the scene important to the overall telling of the story? How does the scene move the story forward (This scene is important to the plot because...)? Focus on the key **symbol** present in your drawing and explain what it represents. In your essay, analyze how that symbol functions in the novel and what it reveals about the characters or theme(s) of the novel as a whole. Note: A **theme** is an underlying message about life or human nature that a writer wants the reader to understand. **Do NOT summarize the plot.** Include **word count** at end of your essay.

Format for Essay:

Typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, 1" margins. On upper right corner of paper, single spaced: Name of student, teacher's name, period, title of novel, and author of novel.

MATHEMATICS

Blake Studiner [Algebra I & II] 333986@dadeschools.net

Dr. Prosperanta Calhoun [Geometry] 177372@dadeschools.net@dadeschools.net

The DASH math department welcomes you to the 2025 school year! Students entering 9th grade at DASH are placed in Algebra 1, or Geometry Honors (if they have already taken Algebra 1), or in Algebra 2 Honors (if they have already taken Algebra 1 and Geometry). DASH consistently earns an annual A rating from the Florida Department of Education. We look forward to continuing this successful record. We strive to give your child a strong mathematics foundation, and we appreciate your support throughout the year. Please contact your child's math teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

CALCULATORS

Students will use scientific calculators in the Algebra courses. Graphing calculators are used in advanced math and science courses. Using Graphing Calculators has been integrated into the teaching and learning of math and science at DASH for many years. The school has extra calculators. Instructions on purchasing your own (and which type is recommended) will be included in the course syllabus at the beginning of the school year.

SCIENCE

Dr. Angela Campbell [Chemistry]

angela.campbell@dadeschools.net

Laura Varela [Physical Science & Biology] 334069@dadeschools.net

At DASH unlike other high schools, we generally sequence Chemistry in 9th grade before Biology in 10th grade for the majority of students whenever appropriate. This supports our goal to strengthen everyone's math skills from freshmen year, thus improving outcomes on the state assessments. In addition to Chemistry and Biology, students must take a third equally rigorous course during their junior year. We will be offering advanced academic courses in science including Physics, AP Physics, AP Biology and AP Chemistry. In order to build a solid foundation of science concepts, reading and writing will be integrated into the science curriculum. Students will be required to complete homework assignments on a regular basis. Laboratory activities will also be an integral component. Students are expected to abide by lab safety rules at all times so that we may have an effective and efficient classroom environment. Students in advanced academics are held to a higher level of expectation and they must follow strict deadlines for Advanced Placement assignments. The application of technology will be at the center of all science content areas. During the first week of school, students will receive a list of required materials and lab fee information from their science teacher. Congratulations, and welcome to DASH!

WORLD HISTORY

Olmond Georges [World History] Ogeorges@dadeschools.net

Welcome to DASH. I am delighted that you will be in my class this coming school year. I look forward to an exciting and productive year. Join me as we make history come alive! World History develops an understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts, including interactions over time. This non-traditional approach looks at the common threads of humanity – trade, religion, politics, society, and technology – and investigates how each have changed and continued over time. The course traces the human experience from the emergence of Neolithic cultures through the 21st Century, emphasizing the habits of mind, writing skills, and content knowledge of a formal survey of history. Students will devote considerable time to critically evaluating primary and secondary sources in writing and in rigorous classroom discussion.

FINE ART

Diego Gutierrez [Fine Art 9th] DiegoGutierrez@dadeschools.net

William Charles [Fine Art 10th] 282567@dadeschools.net

Congratulations on your DASH acceptance and welcome to the start of an unparalleled art education! All DASH students complete four years of Fine Art. The 9th grade course is a foundation year full of fun and enriching arts learning. Please note that our school collects annual art fees of \$50. This covers a fraction of the many art supplies provided for every student. Please find attached to this document a list of recommended personal art supplies to shop for over the summer. Many local vendors such as Jerry's Art Supply Miami offer great back-to-school discounts and online ordering with local delivery. I look forward to meeting you all soon!

SUMMER HOMEWORK- 9th and 10th grade Summer homework is posted at dasheschool.org
Click on Admission > New Student Welcome.

A Note to Parents

During the next four years, your child will be completing a great deal of fine art and design projects. If possible, it would be to their advantage to have a dedicated, distraction-free art studio area at home where they can complete their drawing, painting, and design work.

Fine Art Shopping List

Recommended supplies to buy before the school year begins

- / Art Bin (or similar) Carrying Case



- / Large Elmer's Glue



- / Scissors



- / Drawing Art Set (i.e. Tavolozza)



- / Basic Color Set of Acrylic Paint Tubes



- / Multi Pack of Assorted Brushes



- / Basic Set of Color Pencils



FINANCIAL LITERACY / 3D Studio Art

(Various DASH Art Faculty)

Welcome to **Financial Literacy**! This course satisfies a required elective credit as well as meets the state mandate that all students complete at least one online course before graduation. Budgeting: Master the art of budgeting and learn how to make your money work for you, not against you. Credit Cards: Unravel the mysteries of credit scores, credit cards, and why they matter. Financial Investing 101: Dip your toes into the world of investing – because your money should be as ambitious as you are. Savings: Navigate the world of savings accounts, emergency funds, and financial goals. As facilitators, our responsibility is to ensure that everyone passes with the highest percentage possible.

3D Studio Art: Students explore how space, mass, balance, and form combine to create aesthetic forms or utilitarian products and structures. Instruction may include, but are not limited to, content in green or industrial design, sculpture, ceramics, or building arts. Media may include clay, wood, plaster, and paper maché.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Luis Gonzalez

gonzalezL@dadeschools.net

The primary goal of the DASH physical education program is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, capabilities, values, and enthusiasm to help maintain a healthy and physically fit active lifestyle into adulthood. Physical education can influence short term and long-term health benefits such as reduced rates of obesity, heart disease, high cholesterol, diabetes, high blood pressure and improved self-esteem. Not only does physical activity enhance health and physical appearance, it improves how we feel about ourselves. My intent and commitment is to motivate students to become physically active and provide them with the tools to live a healthy and physically active lifestyle. I want students to develop an attitude that values participation in meaningful physical activities.

DASH PE students complete half a school year of Personal Fitness, and half a school year of Team Sports. All DASH 9th grade students participate in this course. PE students are required to dress out for class in a white t-shirt, black shorts, and athletic sneakers.

SPANISH

yferrer@dadeschools.net

Yanami Ferrer

The primary goal of the Spanish Program at Design and Architecture Senior High School is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, capabilities, and confidence to communicate in the world's second-most-spoken language: Spanish. Students improve proficiency by developing reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in a nurturing atmosphere. Using print and electronic media, students will gain an understanding of the cultural similarities and differences among Spanish speakers. Technology is used to enhance the learning experience and introduce students to the geography, politics, arts, literature, history, economy, and traditional as well as contemporary aspects of the countries and peoples who make up the diverse Spanish-speaking world. As the proficiency level rises, students will be able to engage in activities that focus on meaningful and achievable communication.

Courses Offered:

Non-Native Speakers	Heritage / Native Speakers	Advanced Placement
Spanish 1	SSS 1	AP Spanish Language
Spanish 2	SSS 2	

FRENCH

Svitlana Isakova

isakova@dadeschools.net

The main goal of the French program at DASH is to give students the ability of oral and written communication in the world's second-most learned language: French. French is a language for love and reason. More than 300 million people speak French on 5 continents. The ability to speak French and English is an advantage in the international job market. France and French-speaking countries are key economic partners with the United States and are leading destinations for foreign investment. French language study provides access to an alternative view of the world. French is a fun language to learn and gives you a good base for learning other languages. The French language is very important for DASH students for several reasons. Culture: French is the international language of the arts, architecture, and fashion; Higher Education: Understanding French opens up opportunities to study at renowned French universities and business schools, ranked among the top higher education institutions in Europe and the world; Travel: France is the world's top tourist destination and attracts more than 87 million visitors per year. The ability to speak even a little French makes it so much more enjoyable to visit Paris and all regions of France and offers insight into France's culture and way of life.

Courses Offered:

French I

French 2

French 3 / French 4

AP French Language and Culture

DASH PTSA

Deborah Sanchez, PTSA President
info@dashptsa.com

Welcome new DASH incoming students and family members! Your opportunity to support DASH school spirit and student wellbeing starts today. Now that you have accepted the invitation to join the Design and Architecture Senior High family, please also accept our invitation to join as a supporting member of the Parent Teacher Student Association. The cost per student, parent, or family member is only \$10. This amount gives back direct support to all our wonderful school events, ceremonies, celebrations, catered hospitality, student scholarships, and more.

Purchase membership and merchandise online at our PTSA store:
<https://dash.memberhub.store/>

More detailed information is available on our main PTSA website:
<https://dashptsa.com/>

To OPT-IN for shared communications with DASH PTSA:
<https://dash.memberhub.com/join/93amdz>

For all the latest updates, follow us on our social media accounts:

Instagram: @dashschool

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DashPtsa/>

We are expanding ways you can get involved, including offering video conference planning meetings. This upcoming year we have openings on our PTSA Board. Parents and guardians interested in taking a more active role in extracurricular support are encouraged to get involved!

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

School Bus Program

Metro Card Program

SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM: *MDCPS Public School Transportation*

Eligibility

Public School bus transportation has been provided annually to DASH students whose official address of record is within Miami-Dade County. Students must live more than 2 miles from the nearest Metro Rail Station and more than 2 miles from DASH to be assigned public school bus transportation.

Daily Direct Rides

Students residing within Miami-Dade County in the eastern most section of the county and more than 2 miles from DASH have annually been assigned direct school bus rides between home and school. This often includes Miami Beach, Key Biscayne, and nearby neighborhoods along Biscayne Boulevard.

Daily Connecting Rides: *Local Bus Routes and Culmer Station Shuttle School Buses*

About 80% of DASH students connect between bus and train. Eligible students receive metro pass service to connect onto the Metro Rail at their nearest station. From here they ride together with other students in the early morning to Culmer Metro Rail Station. From Culmer, dedicated school bus shuttles bring students directly to DASH. The PM process is the same in reverse.

METRO CARD PROGRAM: *Miami-Dade Transit Public Transportation*

Eligibility

Miami-Dade Transit Easy Cards are provided to eligible students who request to participate in the program, who meet the eligibility requirements, and who abide by the program rules. Students must live within Miami-Dade County and more than 2 miles from DASH. Students assigned on direct school buses are not eligible to receive Metro Cards.

Program Rules

Student transit cards are funded monthly with two fares per school day. These funds may only be used for rides to and from school each school day. Transfers between bus and train are included free of charge. School transit funds may not be used for nighttime or weekend travel, or to travel to destinations other than school and home. Only the student assigned to the card may use the card. No other student or family member may use the card. District staff monitor daily student card use. Violating the program rules results in permanent ineligibility.

Access and Replacements

These Metro Transit Cards provide access to all Miami-Dade Metro Buses and Metro Rail Trains. The card is registered uniquely to the student. The student must record their name in permanent marker on the back of the card and keep record of the 20-digit card number assigned. Replacements for lost cards can be purchased for \$2 at Government Center Station with student ID.

DAILY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Annual A/B Calendar coming this August !

DASH Bell Schedule

Starting Time	Ending Time	A Days M & W	B Days T & R
7:40 a.m.	9:50 a.m.	1	2
9:55 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	3	4
11:30 a.m.	12:20 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch
12:20 p.m.	1:55 p.m.	5	6
2:00 p.m.	3:35 p.m.	7	8

Monday & Wednesday — A Days
Tuesday & Thursday — B Days
Friday — A or B Day Alternates (Check A/B Calendar)

9:15 a.m.— 9:20 a.m. Announcements

9:20 a.m. — 9:50 a.m. Reading