



Program of Studies 2009-2010

CSD 13: Deer Isle-Stonington Schools

Mission

Deer Isle-Stonington Schools: launching lifelong learners and responsible citizens able to keep our island community vital.

Vision

Every student on the Deer Isle-Stonington campus is engaged in the excitement of learning. Impassioned and committed teachers develop in students a hunger for understanding and teach them the skills for navigating the complexities of the world. Students participate in the governance of the school, working alongside educators and community members to create a deep sense of ownership. All decisions are based on the belief that students come first.

Our schools value and promote the unique strengths and heritage of our island: the natural environment, the marine trades and the arts. The community values the role our schools play in creating a thriving future for everyone. Our students exhibit and deepen those qualities characteristic of our island community--such as ingenuity, independence, and entrepreneurship—which are needed for them to prosper on land and on sea. Students are exposed to a variety of options, and are fully prepared to succeed at whatever they choose.

Individual educational plans prepare students for college, work, and community life. The plans also foster high aspirations, teamwork, and respect for a diversity of people and ideas. Students are surrounded by adults who inspire them to achieve, and encourage them to take positive risks and to learn from their mistakes. The schools are a magnet for students and families interested in developing these unique strengths and values, and the success of our students builds and sustains the future of the island community.

Affirmative Action Statement:

It is the intent of the Deer Isle-Stonington School District that no discrimination shall occur in any of its educational or co-curricular programs. Discrimination against and harassment of student because of race, color, religion, disability, sex, age, national origin, ancestry or sexual orientation is prohibited. This affirmative action policy will apply, but not be limited to, assignment to classes, co-curricular activities, grading, awards, scholarships, as well as other educational opportunities for students. Inquiries can be made directly to the Affirmative Action Coordinator through the Union 76 Superintendent's Office, the Affirmative Action Officer at the Maine Department of Education, or the Maine Human Rights Commission.

DEER ISLE-STONINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Launching lifelong learners and responsible citizens able to keep our island community vital.

Todd West, Principal
Mike Wood, Asst. Principal

Matt Larsen, Athletic Director
Martha Jordan, Student Services Director

February 2009

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the 2009-2010 Deer Isle-Stonington High School Program of Studies. We hope that the Program of Studies will serve as a guide as you select the courses that you are going to take in the 2009-10 school year at DISHS. Scheduling for the 2009-2010 school year will begin in early March and conclude in early April. Students can expect to have a preliminary schedule before June. However, please realize that this document is prepared several months prior to the start of the school year. Every course listed here may not be offered because of enrollment or registration patterns and staffing assignments. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Jordan or Roberta Johnson in our Student Services Office for clarification. They will be happy to assist you.

The 2009-10 school year will mark the beginning of some significant changes to the academic program at Deer Isle-Stonington High School as we begin implementing a “standards-based diploma.” Put simply, a standards-based diploma means that, in addition to earning 23 credits and 40 hours of community service, students will have to demonstrate achievement of DISHS's school-wide academic expectations in order to earn a diploma. Our school-wide expectations, “Creative and Practical Problem Solver” and “Clear and Effective Communicator,” represent achievement of essential skills that we feel students need to master in order to be prepared for whichever post-secondary options they choose to pursue. DISHS students will demonstrate achievement of the school-wide expectations through a Graduation Portfolio that is compiled through coursework in grades 9 - 11 and a Senior Exhibition prior to graduation. Please see page 12 of this document for more information.

I encourage students to consider their options fully and plan to take advantage of the course offerings contained in the Program of Studies. We are lucky that DISHS can offer such a broad offering of courses in such a personalized learning environment. The Deer Isle-Stonington Schools strategic plan encourages students to graduate from high school “prepared to succeed at whatever they choose.” At DISHS, you will find courses as well as extra- and co-curricular activities that will truly prepare you for any future road you intend to travel. My advice is to choose the challenging or interesting extra class and make the most of your studies at Deer Isle-Stonington High School.

Here's to a successful and rewarding 2009-2010 school year!

Sincerely,

Todd West, Principal

www.dishs.org

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