

# DANBURY HIGH SCHOOL

## Alternative Center for Excellence

The Alternative Center for Excellence (ACE), a school of choice, is a high school program that supports student experiences that develop individual strengths, physical and emotional health, and respect for self and others. ACE prepares its students to become competent and contributing community members.

In addition to Connecticut Common Core Standards, Ace students are able to participate in a wide variety of activities, including camping and rafting trip that foster independence and build life skills. Students at the school also engage in activities that benefit the community, such as the annual Thanksgiving dinner, an event that draws hundreds of people from the community and requires participation from every student in the preparation, service and cleaning up after the meal.

On average, half of ACE graduates go on to college, while most have a post-secondary education plan.

### Guiding Principles

- Because all students have potential to learn in a variety of ways, ACE has high expectations of its faculty.
- ACE is a place where students become more confident, caring and capable as they focus on the challenges of a meaning, well-rounded education.
- ACE is a community of learners who value service to others.
- Shared decision-making and increased skill development are the foundation for success and enhance respect for self and others.



*Experience the Danbury Difference*

*43 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury CT 06811*

## Early College Opportunity

### Diversity. Success. Respect.

Recognized as the largest high school in Connecticut, Danbury High School has a student population of nearly 3,000 students and continues to grow at a steady pace. And, to some degree, the school's size helps make DHS a place where students from all walks of life find their potentials and their passions, and gain the knowledge and skills they need to accomplish their goals. A school the size of Danbury High School has something for everyone.

DHS offers more than 230 courses, more than 50 Honors courses, and 23 Advanced Placement classes. Students are also encouraged to participate in one of several College Career Pathways. More than 80 percent of DHS graduates attend college. Some of the colleges attended by DHS graduates include Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard, Yale and Boston College.

The school also offers a variety of clubs – from robotics to engineering; organizations, such as ROTC and DECA; and sports teams. Many of these extracurricular activities are award-winning, having earned recognition from state competitions to world championships.

The high school will undergo an expansion in time for the 2017-18 school year that will add 55,000 square feet and 26 new classrooms. As Danbury continues a steady growth in student population, the district is prepared to accommodate all students with new programs, increased course offerings and additional classroom space.

### Freshman Academy

The Freshman Academy is an exciting program that will create a small learning community to support incoming ninth graders as they transition to high school. Academy faculty is focused on targeted intervention strategies, interdisciplinary learning experiences and communication with students' families. The goal of the Academy is to ensure that all students have a connection to school, are supported academically and socially through a systemic approach, and are prepared to have a successful high school experience.

In addition, DHS also offers its freshmen an opportunity to earn an Associate Degree at the same time as their high school diploma in the Danbury Early College Opportunity (DECO). DECO students take from four to six years to complete the requirements for a degree in Information Technology from Naugatuck Valley Community College. DHS was one of the first two schools in the state to offer such a program.

### Facts about Danbury High School and its students

- 20 percent of DHS students take at least one Advanced Placement class.
- Recognized as a School of Distinction by College Board in 2011 for tripling AP enrollment and maintaining qualifying scores.
- Recognized as an Innovative School by College Board in 2012.
- Student/teacher ratio 16:1.
- Based on student performance on state exit exams and available exams on college-level course work, the school has a 72 percent proficiency rating in reading and 69 percent in math.
- College Readiness Index of 31.6.
- Diversified student population: 55 percent total minority enrollment.
- Students in the Certified Nurse's Aide program routinely pass every school in the state with its high pass rates for state licensing.
- DHS students significantly outscored all high schools in reading, math and writing with limited exception.
- DHS has the lowest percentage of chronic absenteeism out of all Alliance Districts and last year has the highest overall average attendances rates out of the Alliance Districts.