

Duxbury Public Schools

Performing Arts October Newsletter

October 7, 2026

In this Newsletter: Important Dates, Spotlight on DHS Drama, First High School Concerts.

DHS Disney Trip Information Updates

There will be an informational meeting with music teachers and chaperones when we get more details regarding the trip. There will be a zoom meeting with trip information after the holiday break. If you have any questions regarding the trip please email your respective music teacher. We will not have flight, rooming, chaperone, or performance information until we get closer to the trip departure. We are currently in the process of having students sign up for rooms for the trip. This process takes one to two months to complete. Students need to organize rooms of four. They are allowed to room with students from other groups and grades. We will send home a parent consent form for you to sign once the room lists have been completed. Keep an eye out for information regarding all of the above.

DHS Disney Trip Fundraising

During trip years, we offer fundraising opportunities for students going on the music trip. A list of current fundraisers can be found [here](#) on the Duxbury Music Website

Concert Expectations

As we approach fall concert season for the high school performance ensembles, we wanted to review concert expectations with all students and families. Concerts are an integral part of the music curriculum, as performing is the culmination of skills learned in class. This includes learning to work together as an ensemble or team with other student musicians. **Therefore, it is expected that students attend all of their respective concerts.** Please reach out to your student's music teacher with any questions. We look forward to an exciting concert season!

Relevance of the arts in public education

Engaging with art is essential to the human experience. Almost as soon as motor skills are developed, children communicate through artistic expression. The arts challenge us with different points of view, compel us to empathize with “others,” and give us the opportunity to reflect on the human condition. Empirical evidence supports these claims: Among adults, arts participation is related to behaviors that contribute to the [health of civil society](#), such as increased civic engagement, greater social tolerance, and reductions in other-regarding behavior. Yet, while we recognize art’s transformative impacts, its place in K-12 education has become increasingly tenuous.

Continue reading here:

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/new-evidence-of-the-benefits-of-arts-education/>

Important Dates

See All Duxbury Concert Dates [Here](#) (at the bottom of the page)

10/9/26 - DHS Pep Band Performance at home Football Game

10/17/26 - DHS Pep Band Performance at home Football Game

10/20/26 - DHS Fall Band Concert 7:30 PM

10/22/26 - DHS Fall String Concert 7:30 PM

10/29/26 - DHS Fall Choral Concert 7:30 PM

11/6/26 - Fall Tournament of Plays



Choral Corner

The first choral concert of the year will take place on **Thursday, October 29, 2026, at 7:30 pm at the Performing Arts Center**. This concert will feature the three curricular high school choruses, which include **Concert Choir, Chorale, and Chamber Singers**. If you have a student performing in one of these ensembles, they will need the required [concert dress](#). Please reach out to Mr. Judge with any questions!

DHS A cappella Rehearsals are beginning! Rehearsals for **Here Comes Treble** take place on Thursday evenings in the chorus room from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. **PAC Men** will also rehearse on Thursday evenings in the orchestra room from 7-8 pm. All are welcome to join!

Auditions for the DHS Musical will be taking place **Monday, October 5 from 3:00-6:00pm & Tuesday, October from 5:30-8:00pm in the PAC**. Students can show up at any point within this time frame, and audition details can be found on Schoology!

Band Banner

The first concert of the year will be on **10/20 @ 7:30 pm in the PAC** and will be the DHS Fall band concert. **The Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band will all be playing**. All these students will need their [concert dress](#) for this performance.



All groups are up and running, including all co-curricular groups: jazz bands, pep band, & steel drum band. Small group and private lessons have also started. As a reminder, **all DMS students** have to take a private lesson outside of the school day OR take a weekly small group instruction (SGI) lesson. If your child would like to switch their lesson option at any point during the year, please contact a music teacher. **Every DHS band student** is required to play in one home football game, Pep Band performance, so check with your student and make sure they are set up to play a game. There are two games left, one on 10/9 and the other on 10/17.

Orchestra is Awesome

Our first orchestra concert of the school year is the DHS Fall Orchestra concert on **Thursday, October 22th** at 7:30pm in the PAC. Students should be dressed in the approved DHS concert attire. More information can be found at [this link](#).

DMS Small Group Instruction (SGI) Lessons will begin this month! All DMS orchestra students are required to take an SGI group lesson OR a private lesson outside of school with a high school or professional teacher. These lessons are very important for students to learn instrument-specific skills and techniques.

Regular practice at home is always very important! Please continue to encourage your child to take their instrument out at home to practice a few times a week.



Private Lesson Program

We are excited to see so many of our DMS/DHS students signed up to take private lessons this year! Weekly private lessons are highly recommended to develop musicianship and learn new skills, as well as to prepare for Junior/Senior District auditions. Students can begin taking private lessons at any point during the school year.

Lists of private lesson teachers can be found on students' Schoology. To sign up for lessons with a professional teacher please contact the teacher directly to arrange a day/time that works best for you. Then go to MySchoolBucks to pay for lessons. Lessons cost \$32 for 30 minutes.

[Please click here for more details on the private lesson program in Duxbury.](#)

If you are interested in having your student study with a high school mentor, contact the student to set up the lesson. Lessons cost \$16 for 30 minutes.

Jazz + **Jazz** = Jazz

The Jazz Groups are up and running and are gearing up for their first performances at the December Concerts. Students interested in trying out for Senior or Junior District Jazz groups should see Dr. Pondaco for more information. We are still seeking additional players for the DHS Jazz Ensemble and additional players for the DHS Jazz Band, DMS Jazz Band, and Jazz Club. Students should see Dr. Pondaco or Mr. Dow if they are interested in playing in the Jazz Program. All students in an after-school group need to pay the co-curricular [user fee](#).



Drama

DHS Drama & Thespian Troupe #355 have several exciting events coming up this month!

Musical

We are so excited to begin preparing for this year's musical!

Auditions for this year's DHS Musical will be taking place **Monday, October 5th, from 3:00-6:00 pm, and Tuesday, October 6th, from 5:30-8:00 pm in the PAC**. Students can show up at any point within this time frame, and audition details can be found on Schoology! Please reach out to Ms. Barker and Mr. Judge with any questions or concerns!

States

Auditions for our State Festival Play are tentatively scheduled for later this month! Further audition information will be shared in the coming weeks!

States, otherwise known as the **Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild's High School Drama Festival**, provides students with the unique opportunity to perform for an audience of their peers, network with students from other Massachusetts high schools, and experience high-quality student-driven productions. Additionally, students have the opportunity to earn recognition for excellence in acting, directing, and technical design. It is a memorable event where lifelong friendships are made, and theatre is celebrated! All student actors, directors, designers, and technicians are encouraged to participate!



Upcoming Events:

Fall Tournament of Plays will take place on **November 6th & 7th at 7 pm, and November 8th at 1 pm** in the Black Box! Tickets will be available to purchase in advance or at the door! (More information will be shared in the coming weeks).

This Year's Theatre Season

A full schedule of this year's theatre season can be found [HERE](#). *Please note, some dates are tentative and may change as the year progresses.*

Important Parent & Guardian Information

This year, we are trying to gather parent contact information and involvement preferences right away, so we can streamline communication and ensure that everyone is kept informed! If you are comfortable doing so, please fill out [this Google Form](#) so we can communicate about upcoming shows, auditions, workshops, volunteer opportunities, field trips, events, and more!

Our parent booster group, ACT, will be holding their annual **Pizza Party Fundraiser and Fall Tournament Preview** later this month. To stay up to date with ACT and all of their upcoming events, please email Courtney Viveiros (actduxbury@gmail.com) to be added to the ACT email list.

Work Night, Crews, and Backstage Opportunities

Students who are interested in working behind the scenes with our technical crew (building sets, running lights & sound, designing costumes, etc.) are encouraged to reach out to Ms. Barker ([Jessica Barker](#)) or attend our weekly "Work Nights." Work Nights take place on Wednesdays



from 7 PM - 9 PM in the Black Box. During this time, the Thespian Troupe meets to share information about upcoming events, auditions, and other opportunities, and to prepare for upcoming productions. All high school students are welcome and encouraged to attend! No prior theatre experience is necessary!

More information about DHS Drama's upcoming auditions, performances, and events can be found on our website <https://duxdrama.carrd.co/>, our Instagram [@duxburyhighschool drama](https://www.instagram.com/duxburyhighschool drama), or our Thespian Troupe Schoology page.



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**Join us for
Work Night!**



Thespian Troupe #355 & DHS Drama invite you to attend our weekly Work Night!

When: Wednesdays from 7 PM – 9 PM

Where: DHS Black Box

All are welcome! We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Barker
(jbarker@duxbury.k12.ma.us)

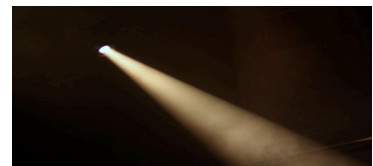
Music Lab

In the DHS music department, there are music lab courses in music technology, piano, music theory, and music business. This semester, the music theory class and two levels of music technology classes are running. We also have many students in our music theory class, and they just finished learning about major and minor scales and key signatures. Music theory class is a must for anyone considering further music study after high school.

The students in music technology have finished their introduction to the Logic music creation program and are starting to write their own drum beats. The students in Music Technology II have been learning about software automation and audio effects like equalization, reverb, and delay.

Performing Arts Student Spotlights

Maya Franke - DHS Sophomore Flutist has been studying privately and working hard in her lessons. She recently started learning to play the piccolo as well! She volunteers to help younger flutists during ASP and prepared a very strong summer audition. Maya has a positive attitude and her love for music is evident every day.



Violet DaSuta - Violet is a junior and a section leader in Chamber Singers. She comes to class each day prepared on her part and with a contagious positive attitude. We are excited to see all that Violet will accomplish this year!



Jess Hauber - Jess is a junior viola player in the DHS String Ensemble. Jess has been working diligently to improve her playing skills. Her regular practice has really had a positive impact on her playing and the whole ensemble!

Alden All-Stars

Alden's beginning instrument program and Alden Chorus are both underway and off to great starts! Instrument students are getting the hang of assembling instruments, holding them correctly, and making sounds, and now they are learning their first few notes and putting them together into songs. Alden Chorus has had a great start and is looking ahead to learning new music and working together to take their singing to the next level.

[Alden Music's Webpage](#)





Support Duxbury Music Promoters

[Join us and Support the Duxbury Music Promoters](#)

- ♪ Music Lessons
 - ♪ Travel & attendance at competitions and performances
 - ♪ Travel & attendance at in-state and out-of-state performances
 - ♪ Music equipment & instruments
 - ♪ Concert Attire
 - ♪ Student Scholarships
 - ♪ Gear (sweatshirt and jacket prizes)
 - ♪ Music Awards Night
 - ♪ Concert Dress Fitting
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- A decorative graphic at the bottom right of the page consisting of several overlapping green squares and rectangles of different shades, creating a modern, geometric look.

Disney Trip Fundraising Opportunities

September	Brother's Days! September 19th & 20th
October	Duxbury Youth Football Concessions Charleston Wrap Fundraiser
November	Hilliards Chocolates

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 3rd at 7:00 pm in the Orchestra Room

Please consider becoming a member of [Duxbury Music Promoters](#). Fill out our [Membership & Support Form](#) and join us in the Orchestra room for our next meeting on November 3, 2026, at 7:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

