

CARPE AETERNITAS  
SEIZE ETERNITY



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# ChalkMarks

Home of the Eagles



Damascus Christian School

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR  
DCS FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## How Do DCS Students Do?

In response to a recent assignment by the DCS School Commission to verify how DCS students have done and are doing, the following is a brief summary of those findings based upon the Stanford Achievement Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and solicited and unsolicited conversations with DCS teachers, parents, and graduates.

Our class of 2007 had a **Grade Point Average (GPA)** of 3.59 out of 4.00. Each year our juniors and some sophomores take the **Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)**. Of the 1.4 million who take the PSAT each year, several of our students have qualified as *Commended*, *Semi-finalists* or *Finalists* which means they score within the top 5% of all who take the test. Our class of 2006 average **Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)** scores were: Critical Reading (Verbal) 606, Math – 510, and Writing – 541. A year ago, our seniors scored significantly above the national average for college-bound students. For Critical Reading (Verbal), the national average was 501; DCS seniors scored 531. For Math, the national average was 518. Our seniors averaged 532. On Writing, the national college-bound senior average was 497; DCS seniors – 530. Our students consistently scored above the national average on the Stanford Achievement Tests. Somewhere between 93% - 100% (depending upon the year and class) of our seniors go on to college. Some begin their college career at a community college to complete their core subjects before transferring to four-year schools.

**Comments from DCS grads** – “DCS prepared me academically, athletically, and most importantly, spiritually, for college and life. My teachers took a sincere interest in my life and instilled confidence in me and a passion for learning.” Class of '91

“DCS prepares its students not only academically, but morally. In my chosen career, I will always have a position of leadership. Not only my life, but the lives of others will be in my hands. My need to make morally sound decisions is imperative. I could not ask for a better foundation than the one I received at DCS.” Class of '04, Midshipman 1<sup>st</sup> Class, US Naval Academy.

**Comments from a DCS parent** – “As a parent of a recent DCS graduate, I feel my son was very prepared academically for college. He is studying structural engineering and receiving A's in his classes. He had no problem with his entrance tests and was placed in all college-level classes; numbers of his classmates were

required to take remedial classes, especially in writing.”

**Comments from a DCS teacher** – “I have deliberately and purposefully sought out alumni that are in college and question them as to their preparedness. I also prefaced my inquiry with the desire to know honestly, for my sake as a teacher and for my current and future students' sake. Thus far, they have all felt prepared, even those that struggled academically here.”

What colleges and universities do our grads attend? Quite a list – **Christian/Christian schools** – Azusa Pacific, Biola, Bob Jones, Calvin, Capernwray, Cedarville, Colorado Christian U., Concordia, Corban, Dallas Baptist, George Fox, Gonzaga U., Grace college, Liberty U., Moody Bible Institute, Multnomah Bible College, NW Nazarene, North Park College, Pensacola Christian, Point Loma, Prairie Bible Institute, Seattle Pacific, Simpson, Taylor U., The Master's College, Trinity (Chicago), Trinity Western (BC), U. of Portland, Warner Pacific, Western Theological Seminary, Westmont, Wheaton U., Whitworth, Vanguard and Vernard College. **State Schools** – Blue Mountain CC, Central Oregon CC, Clackamas CC, Eastern Oregon U., Lane CC, Mt Hood CC, Oklahoma City U., Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon State U., Penn State, Portland CC, Portland State U., University of Idaho, U of Oregon, Wenatchee Valley CC, Western Oregon U., and Western Washington U. **Others** – Cal Tech, Chapman U., Chichton College, OHSU School of Nursing, Pepperdine U., Portland Art Institute, Syracuse U., Tennessee Tech, U of Phoenix, US Naval Academy, Western Culinary Institute, and Willamette U.

**Military Services** – Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy

We are proud of our graduates. Throughout the years, we hear of those who are forging ahead spiritually, raising strong, Christ-centered families, and making an impact in their sphere of influence in their communities. We are thankful for our parents who have taken and are taking the time to train and show by example what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ for God's glory and the building of His Kingdom.





## What About The DCS Teachers?

You may be wondering, what are the credentials and educational background of the DCS teaching staff? Are they really qualified to teach my child? Here is a thumbnail sketch of our faculty.

They are committed to the educational process of our students. They put in far more time than the 8:30 AM – 3 PM school day. Often weekends are spent in grading papers and projects, reviewing lesson plans, working on teaching ideas, being out and about gathering supplementary teaching resources, spending their own money for extra things for the students and classes, phone conferencing with parents, and a myriad of other school-related tasks. In addition, most are involved in their local church ministries serving the Lord in various ways. They also take the time on a daily basis to feed their own souls from the Word.

Of the thirty full-time teachers and administrators, twenty-one have BA's and nine have earned their Master's degrees. University majors include elementary and secondary education, psychology, biology, science ed., Bible ed., English ed., music ed., outdoor school ed., business administration, home ec ed., physical therapy, math ed., history, social science, and Christian school administration degrees. Of these, ten possess ACSI Temporary Certification, thirteen hold a Standard Certificate, five have Professional Certification, and two hold Lifetime Certification.

The DCS staff represents a diversity of personalities, experience, interests, gifting and age, but hold one thing in common – a love for the Lord and a desire to serve Him as effectively as they can.



### A Note Of Thankfulness

The following is from Jan Dauntless and her family following her cancer surgery.

*Merci*

“Words cannot express our gratitude to our friends and family at DCC and DCS for the overwhelming display of Christian love during Jan’s bout with cancer. We will give it a try, though: Thank you for the massive prayer effort, the Scripture references, listening ears, hugs, words of encouragement, phone calls, cards, flowers, gifts, visits to the hospital, visits to home, rides to-and-from school and games for Luke and Matthew, opening your homes to our boys, groceries, concern that we were taken care of during Thanksgiving, offers to do our laundry, donations to cancer

**Gracias**

*Ευχαριστώ*

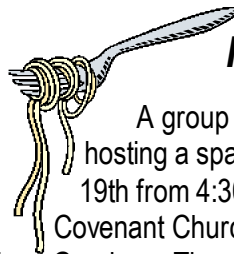
research in support of Jan, 17 days of preparation-and-delivery of complete dinners for five, a big basket of goodies, a weekend camp experience for Luke, dishwashing, kitchen cleaning, rides to and from appointments, and the regular statements we heard such as, ‘If there is anything we can do, just let us know.’ You were God’s hand extended and we are overwhelmed with gratitude. Thank you all, and God bless. In Him, Jan & Doug Dauntless and family.”

**Bedankt**

Jan is at school, easing back in to her responsibilities as Academic Advisor. Please continue to pray for a full and complete recovery.

**Thanks**

### Spaghetti Feed To Help Fund Mission Trip



A group of DCS students and alumni is hosting a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, January 19th from 4:30 to 7:30 PM at Powell Valley Covenant Church, located at 1335 SE 282nd Avenue in Gresham. The dinner will feature spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and entertainment. Dessert will be available to purchase. Tickets are \$5 for ages thirteen to adults and \$3 for those under thirteen. All proceeds will go to the group’s mission trip to an orphanage in Honduras in March. Donations are gladly accepted. For reservations or more information, call (503) 658-4100, extension 211. For more information about the orphanage, visit the website at [www.WWH2H.org](http://www.WWH2H.org).

