

DeBakey HSHP PTO – Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Singh at 6:30 p.m.

Principal Updates – Principal Perry highlighted several items from her recent State of the School report (posted on DeBakey website). Congratulations to DeBakey on earning an “A” rating in the 2/21/21 Houston Chronicle Report Card. Please check school website for a full listing of Debate Club and Art student awardees.

School Information and Announcements can be accessed via DeBakey and PTO website; student HUB and messages sent via text and email.

DeBakey now has a Counseling Corner and Coping Skills for Anxiety, specifically focused on helping students cope with the pandemic, its significant impact and problems related to school studies.

Parents are encouraged to have their students sign up for and attend tutorials, offered during the lunch period (11:10 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.), and at other times as scheduled with individual teachers.

Important Events/Dates:

March 12th is the end of the 3rd grading cycle. Grades are due March 16.

SAT – DeBakey will administer the SAT on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. Exam had to be rescheduled due to the recent Winter Storm. Imperative that all students make arrangements with Dean Sharkey so testing rooms can be arranged to ensure proper social distancing during the exam. Parents, please be advised: **Virtual classes for anyone not taking SAT on March 24.**

STAAR – Current HISD directive: There will be STAAR testing this year. Tests will be administered during April and May. Five areas on the exam: English I & II; Algebra, Biology and U.S. History. DeBakey will test English I on April 6 and English II April 8. STAAR exam cannot be taken at home. Dates for Algebra, Biology and U.S. History exams have not been scheduled yet.

AP Exams will be conducted in May and June. Principal Perry strongly encourages students to take their AP exams in May to allow sufficient study for Finals, which will be administered in June. AP exam costs for students enrolled in AP courses are automatically covered. FCollege Board offers three options for testing: 1) First two weeks of May - traditional paper and pencil, Face to Face (F2F); 2) Last two weeks of May – Virtual option (although certain exams, including Math, Science and some Foreign Languages) must be taken F2F; 3) June AP exams - Limited to situations where student is unavailable (e.g. due to illness), or taking multiple exams. Students will likely be responsible for an additional fee unless there’s been a verifiable student

emergency. General discussion and several questions followed. Parents should contact College Board or the AP website (on the HUB) for more information. or future referenced, students who are not enrolled in an AP course (but want to take an AP exam) must notify Dean Shargey by November and must also pay the exam fee before the test will be ordered.

Graduation is Saturday, June 12 at Garnet Stadium. Seniors should be allowed five guests.

Summer School – Will run from June 16 through July 14th. Two classes daily, Monday - Thursday; 9 – 11:30 a.m. and Noon – 2:30 p.m. Uncertain whether budget will allow for funding of student course re-takes (particularly if there is more than one course being retaken).

Scientific Symposium – Principal Perry announced decision to cancel this year’s Symposium because of classroom disruptions from the pandemic and Winter Storm.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding recording of grades. Some students report having “0” entered for assignments that have been completed. Administration expects teachers to input grades timely. Any issues regarding grade inputting should be discussed with the individual teacher and, if not resolved, brought to Principal Perry’s attention. Virtual learning environment has presented stress for everyone. Parents, please be mindful of the varied challenges and work with students and teachers to ensure that students are receiving proper credit on assignments. Technology provides us several options and advantages, but also can present issues challenges. Faculty advocate, Ms. Vargheese, reminded parents that communications and patience are key as we continue to navigate in a virtual learning environment.

Keep in mind, there are three main forms of student contact with teachers: HUB, Teams Chat and email.

Educational Tour of Greece in 2022 – Ms. McBride will hold an interest meeting Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6 p.m. A flier was sent out.

Treasurer Report – No report.

Fundraising Update – Trina Nguyen reported, the DNA Benefactor Wall has been delivered. The Wall which will be installed inside the school. Delay with installation due to delays created by the Winter Storm. We currently have 44 donors (space remains for additional donors). Parents who are willing to contribute, please email Fundraising@DeBakeyPTO.org.

Communications – No report. Andrea Simon advised that she monitors messages sent to the PTO box for reply/follow up. PTO Board elections are coming up. A brief description of open officer positions will be posted on the school website. Parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer.

Uniforms – Nellie Naidoo looking for volunteers to take over uniform sales.

Activities - Cheerleading/Basketball are still on hold. Volleyball is going well. Some students asked about starting a competitive dance group at DeBakey, in addition to Dance Club.

12th Grade Liaison Updates – PTO will have a meeting with Seniors (students and parents) Friday, March 12th to finalize plans for an outing (or other Senior activity). Fundraising Committee still has DeBakey aprons available for sale. Proceeds from the apron sale (\$15/apron) will fund Senior Class of '21

President Singh adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

(63 Participants at this evening's PTO Meeting. Attendance list, please see attached.)