



WELCOME DRAGON FAMILIES

Class of 2030 Parent Orientation

Division Avenue High School | Home of the Blue Dragons

Success for Every Student!

Welcome to Division Avenue High School!

Our Mission

Division Avenue High School is committed to preparing every student, academically, socially, and emotionally, for a successful future. We believe a thriving school community is built on shared responsibility between students, families, and staff.

Our PBIS Expectations



Respectful

Toward staff, peers & spaces



Responsible

Attendance, IDs, hall passes



Ready to Succeed

Prepared, engaged, and focused

Tonight's Agenda

Meet the
Team

What
Makes HS
Different

Student
Expectations

Safety

Academic
Supports

Communication

Getting
Involved

Tips & FAQs

Meet the Building Admin Team

Mr. Jeffrey Myers
Principal

Mr. Mark Curtiss
Assistant Principal for Grades 9 & 11/Interim Guidance Chairperson

Mr. Daniel Fazio
Assistant Principal for Grades 10 & 12

Ms. Jaclyn Donnellan
Dean of Students/Administrative Designee

Ms. Christin Snow
Chairperson of Special Education

Our Support Staff

School Psychologists

Dr. Melissa Horn
Dr. Kelsey McLaughlin

Social Workers

Ms. Allison Hinke
Ms. JoAnn Medina
Ms. Maria Miceli

School Nurses

Ms. Deborah Larkin
Ms. Patricia Leavy

Head Custodian

Mr. Doug Koch

Our Guidance Staff

Counselor	Last Name
Ms. Provost	A - Col
Ms. Palumbo	Con - Harrin
Ms. Shapiro	Harris - Mej
Ms. Castellano	Mel - Sa
Ms. Defendini	Sc - Z



Your child's guidance counselor will be an important source of support throughout their high school experience.

Encourage your child to get to know their counselor, build a positive relationship, and seek them out when they have questions.

What Makes High School Different



Graduation Requirements

Students must earn a specific number of credits across required subject areas to earn a New York State diploma.



Regents Exams

New York State Regents exams are required in multiple subject areas. Scores affect diploma type and graduation eligibility.



GPA & Transcripts

GPA is calculated every marking period. Transcripts follow students for college and employment.



Elective Courses

We offer a diverse selection of elective courses that students can choose from.



BOCES Opportunities

Starting in 11th grade, students have the opportunity to apply for a variety of vocational programs (GC Tech, Barry Tech, LIHSA).



Impact of Attendance

Regardless of grades, excessive absences can result in the denial of credit for a course.

What Makes High School Different



Attendance Matters

- Missing even 10% of school days is considered chronically absent
- Absences can result in loss of credit — even with passing grades
- Every class has a maximum number of allowable absences
- Tardiness accumulates and can affect credit eligibility
- Patterns established freshman year are difficult to break



College Admissions Begin Now

- Colleges review 9th grade transcripts during the admissions process
- Freshman GPA sets the foundation for academic success
- Extracurricular involvement starts building a college profile now
- Disciplinary records can be requested by colleges in some cases
- The time to start strong is September of freshman year

Student Expectations



Respectful

Treat staff, peers, and spaces
with dignity

Use appropriate language in all
settings

Resolve conflicts constructively,
not physically

Honor the diversity of our
school community



Responsible

Attend class every day and on
time

Carry your student ID and
lanyard

Follow the hall pass procedure

Complete academic work with
integrity



Ready to Succeed

Come prepared with materials
and focused mindset

Engage actively in learning

Use technology for learning, not
distraction

Student Expectations



Electronic Device Policy

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be stored and away during instructional time. Our goal is an engaged, distraction-free learning environment for every student.



Student ID & Lanyard

All students are required to wear their school-issued ID lanyard throughout the school day. IDs are needed for entry, bathroom use, library, and more.



Attendance & Tardiness

Doors open at 6:45 AM. First period begins at 7:27 AM. Tardiness is tracked. Every 3 lates (excused or unexcused) results in an absence. 3 unexcused lates results in a detention.



Academic Honesty & AI

We take academic integrity seriously. Using AI tools to complete assignments without disclosure, or submitting work that is not your own, violates our academic honesty policy.



Hall Pass Procedure

Students must carry a valid hall pass any time they are in the hallway during class. Unauthorized hallway presence may result in disciplinary action.



Dress Code

Students are expected to dress appropriately for a professional learning environment. Specific dress code details are outlined in the student handbook.

Safety First



Secure Entry

All exterior doors are secured during the school day. Entry is through a single main entrance with a buzzer and camera system.



Visitor Check-In

All visitors must present valid photo ID, sign in at the main lobby, and receive a visitor pass before entering the building.



Emergency Drills

We conduct fire, lockdown, shelter-in-place, and evacuation drills throughout the year in compliance with New York State requirements.



Emergency Response

Our emergency response team — which includes administrators, school psychologists, and law enforcement — maintains a detailed emergency response plan.

Safety First



Mental Health Supports

School psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to students who are struggling emotionally, socially, or academically.



Anonymous Reporting

Students and parents can report safety concerns anonymously through our tip line. No concern is too small — we take every report seriously.



DASA / Bullying Reporting

Under New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), bullying, harassment, and discrimination are taken seriously and investigated promptly.



Parent Partnership

You know your child best. If something feels wrong, please contact us early. Early communication is always better than waiting for a situation to escalate.

Academic Supports



Teacher Extra Help

Every teacher offers designated extra help periods either before or after school. Times can be found on our website. Students should take advantage of this before a grade becomes a problem.



Academic Intervention Services

AIS provides targeted academic support for students who are struggling to meet grade-level standards in core subjects.



School Counseling

Counselors help students navigate academic challenges, social concerns, and future planning. Students can stop in at any time to make an appointment with their counselor.



School Psychologist & Social Workers

Available for emotional, social, and behavioral support. They work with students, families, and teachers as a team.



Peer Tutoring

Our National Honor Society members tutor and offer homework help in our Library during lunch periods and after school.



Department Resources

Each academic department maintains resources and review materials to support students preparing for exams and Regents.

Spotlight: Dragons' Den

A dedicated wellness space where students can reset, regroup, and reconnect.

Staffed by trained professionals.

Designed to support the whole student; their academic, emotional, and social needs.



Staying Connected



ParentSquare

Our primary communication platform. Expect messages from teachers, administrators, and the district. Download the free app today.



School Website

The Division Avenue website is updated regularly with calendars, news, department pages, forms, and important announcements.



Email

Teachers and counselors communicate directly with families through school email. Check the Parent Portal for staff email addresses.



Progress Reports

Issued mid-marking period, progress reports give an early snapshot of academic performance. They are a tool — use them proactively.



Report Cards

Issued at the end of each marking period, report cards reflect official grades and any credit-related concerns. These are viewable in the Parent Portal.



Parent Portal

Access grades, attendance, assignments, schedules, and contact information for all your child's teachers from one centralized portal — anytime.

Who Do I Contact?

Question / Concern	Who to Contact
Grades or classroom concerns	Teacher
Schedule changes or course questions	Counselor
Attendance or absence notes	Attendance Office
Discipline or behavioral incidents	Assistant Principal
Transportation or bus issues	Transportation Office
Sports or extracurriculars	Athletic Office
Mental health or social concerns	Social Worker / Psychologist
Health or medication needs	School Nurse



When in doubt, start with the teacher or counselor. They will direct you to the right person quickly.

Always reach out early, before small concerns become big ones.

Getting Involved



Clubs & Organizations

We offer clubs across every interest — arts, academics, service, culture, and more. The Activity Fair at the start of the year is the best place to explore.



Athletics

Division Avenue offers a variety of varsity and JV sports programs. Tryout dates are announced early in the fall.



Activity Fair

Held in the fall, the Activity Fair gives every student a chance to meet club members, ask questions, sign up, and find their place in the building.



National Honor Society

NHS membership is a future goal — students become eligible based on GPA, service, leadership, and character. It begins building from freshman year.



Volunteer & Service

Many of our clubs and honor societies require or encourage community service. Service hours also strengthen college applications.



School Events

Games, dances, performances, spirit weeks, and community events make up the culture of Division Avenue.

Frequently Asked Questions



How early can students arrive?

Students may enter the building at 6:45 AM. They may be dropped off on Division Avenue or in the back by the baseball field. Cafeteria West is a supervised space that students must report to.



What if my child gets lost?

Any student who needs help can stop at the main office or ask any staff member. We are all here to help!



How does lunch work?

Students are assigned a lunch period based on their schedule. They are also assigned a designated cafeteria (we have 2). A cafeteria change must be approved by administration.



Can students leave campus?

Division Avenue is a closed campus. Students may not leave during the school day unless they are signed out by a parent/guardian. Those pickups are processed through the main lobby.

Frequently Asked Questions



How do students make schedule changes?

Schedule change requests are handled through the Guidance Office.



What if a student forgets something?

Parents may drop off items at the main lobby. Students will be notified to pick them up.



Where do buses arrive and depart?

Buses arrive and depart from Division Avenue.



What happens if a student misses school?

Parents should call the Attendance Office as soon as possible. Students must bring a valid note upon return in order for the absence to be excused. Unexcused absences may result in disciplinary action.



The transition to high school can feel overwhelming. Please know that your child is joining a community of teachers, counselors, support staff, and administrators who are genuinely committed to helping every student succeed.

We look forward to partnering with you over the next four years.

Welcome to the Dragon Family.