

Board Report

Jim Knott – Principal

Douglas County West High School

December 16, 2024

With winter break approaching, the end of the first semester will soon be upon us. Final exams/projects will take place for high school students on Thursday and Friday, December 19th and 20th. Periods will be lengthened to approximately 90 minutes to accommodate longer comprehensive final exams and projects. Periods 1, 3, 5 & 7 will be held on Thursday, December 19, while periods 2, 4, 6, & 8 will be held on Friday, December 20.

John Baylor Test Prep classes will begin in January again this year. John and his associates will hold five ACT prep sessions during the school day in January and the first week of February to help students prepare for the March 25 ACT test. On average, DC West students have improved by two points on the ACT with Baylor Test Prep. We have also created an incentive program for all juniors in order to ensure they are as prepared as possible and give their best effort. The incentive states that students will have the opportunity to opt out of all, non-Metro final exams at the end of the second semester (May 2025) if they 1) agree to enroll and participate in John Baylor Test Prep at DC West, and 2) reach or exceed their ACT composite score goal, based on their previous PreACT performance. Baylor Test Prep is free for DC West junior students.

Although it may seem early, I am currently looking at what additional classes or subject area offerings we are lacking or could improve upon for next year and beyond. One area I am interested in exploring more are health career classes and potential health career pathways (to a health care career or an associate's degree). We currently offer a one-semester Health class (required), a two-semester online (with teacher support) Metro Health Careers class, and a two-semester Anatomy & Physiology course. Some additional classes that we don't offer but I think may draw student interest are Metro Medical Terminology 1 & 2, Metro Foundations of Public Health, Metro Nutrition 1, Metro Medical Law & Ethics, and Metro First Aid Health & Safety. I will keep you up-to-date in future board reports as I look further into these potential offerings.

I would like to wish a Happy Holiday Season to the entire DC West family!