



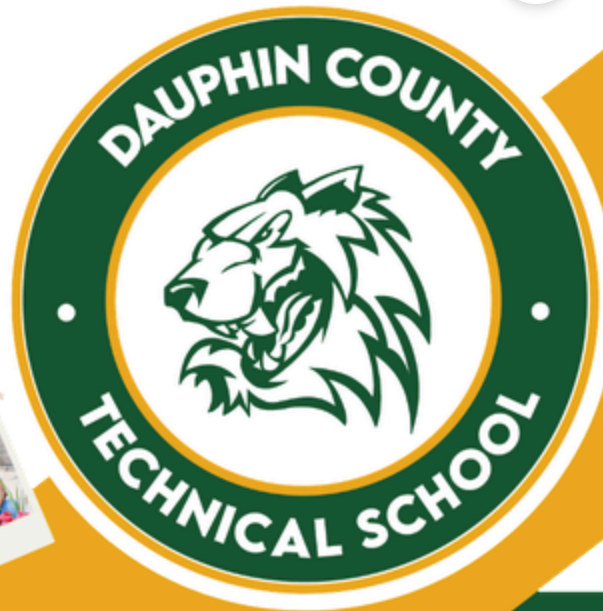
THE WOLVERINE WAY

SEPTEMBER 2026

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 www.dcts.org

 6001 Locust Lane Harrisburg, PA 17109  717.652.3170



DCTS News & Highlights

DCTS Fall Car Show Returns October 17

The DCTS Fall Car Show is back!

Join us on Saturday, October 17, 2026, for a day filled with cars, trucks, motorcycles, great food, music, and fun for the whole family. The show will be held rain or shine, so come out and spend the day with us!



Whether you're bringing a vehicle to show off or just stopping by to check everything out, there will be plenty to see and enjoy.

All proceeds from the car show benefit **DCTS Drive**, which gives our students opportunities to give back and make a difference in our community through hands-on projects.

Bring your family, invite some friends, and come enjoy a great day while supporting DCTS students. We hope to see you on October 17!

[DCTS Fall Car Show Flyer](#)

Department News

Social Studies Department

The Social Studies department is looking forward to a great 2026-2027 school year.

Even though we have only been back in school for a few weeks our department members are so excited to get to know all our new students this year and to provide engaging daily lessons for students.

This year our department is offering a variety of course offerings for students which includes American History II, American Government, World History, Psychology, Sociology, AP European History and also College In The High School: Psychology where students can receive college credit through Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Some things that we are looking forward to this year as a department include the following...

During the spring per Pennsylvania Act 35, all our 10th grade American Government students will be taking our locally developed civics assessment. Students that receive a score of 100% on the assessment will receive a certificate of achievement. Last school year, we had 140 of our students who scored a 100% on the assessment.

Also, we have received information on a local government opportunity for students. Dauphin Borough is seeking junior council member(s). This is available for any student who lives in Dauphin Borough or Middle Paxton Township.

As a department we are discussing a possible field trip for our 10th grade American Government students to the state capitol complex in Harrisburg which will provide them with the opportunity to experience political involvement while also taking in the beauty of our state capitol building.

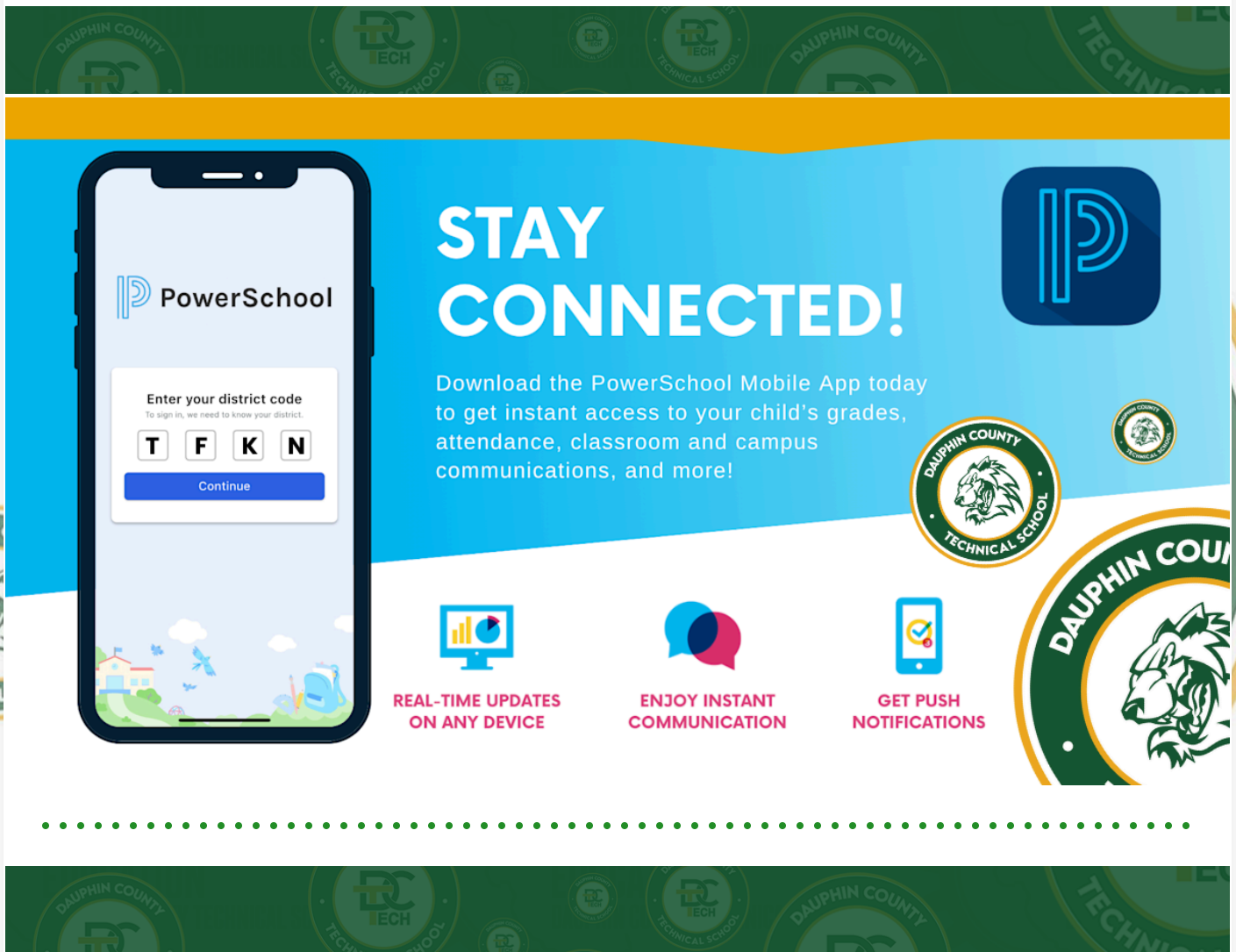
Last spring, Ms. Burton and Mr. Richards were able to take a small group of students to visit our capitol building and meet with local government officials to discuss career opportunities in civil service and politics. Students were thrilled to discuss partnerships for career development with Brian Lemille, the Legislative Director, about what occurs under the Auditor General; Jerry Mitchell, the manager of Community Engagement regarding the State Treasury; Nolan Richie, the Executive Director of the Senate Transportation Committee; and Representative Dave Madsen, who eagerly discussed human services and interests of our students. The students also received a private tour of both the meeting rooms of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate and were delighted to hear an orchestra playing in the Rotunda.

Other highlights from last school year include the following...

Students from World History along with other history classes were provided the opportunity to travel for an extended school day experience to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which offers a chronological narrative of the Holocaust through historical artifacts, photographs, and film footage. Throughout the exhibition, students also encountered personal objects and the

In mid-April last year, twenty-five students represented our school at the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Hershey. Throughout the conference, students competed across a wide range of events, participated in professional development workshops, and engaged with peers from across the state. Time was split between competitive events, sessions in the exhibitor hall, and opportunities to connect with other students who share similar career interests.

This fall, FBLA is looking forward to attending the annual Dame Evolution Leadership Conference where students have a chance to practice communication, meet professionals, and experience leadership in action. Students will also have the opportunity to attend the PA FBLA State Leadership Workshop and participate in a variety of workshops designed to build leadership and career skills in business, public speaking, communication, and teamwork.



The banner features a blue background with a white wavy line at the top. On the left, a smartphone displays the PowerSchool app login screen with the text "Enter your district code" and buttons for "T", "F", "K", and "N". To the right, the text "STAY CONNECTED!" is prominently displayed. Below this, a message encourages downloading the app for instant access to grades, attendance, and communications. At the bottom, three icons represent the app's features: real-time updates, instant communication, and push notifications. The banner is decorated with Dauphin County Technical School logos on the sides and bottom.

STAY CONNECTED!

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- REAL-TIME UPDATES ON ANY DEVICE
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- GET PUSH NOTIFICATIONS



The Director's Corner

The Strength of the Comprehensive Model

When people hear Dauphin County Technical School, their first thought is understandably career and technical education. They think about our labs, industry credentials, co-op experiences, apprenticeships, and students developing the technical skills needed to enter high-demand careers. Those things are an important part of who we are, but they are only part of the DCTS experience. One of DCTS's greatest strengths is our comprehensive model. Our students don't have to choose between rigorous academics and high-quality career and technical education. They experience both, every day, in one school.

That matters because the world our students are preparing to enter requires both.

Today's employers need people with strong technical skills, but they also need employees who can read and understand complex information, communicate effectively, solve problems, work with others, adapt to change, and keep learning throughout their careers. Students heading to college, apprenticeships, or the military need those same skills.

Our responsibility is not simply to prepare students for their first job after graduation. It is to prepare them for success throughout their lives.

"The strength of the comprehensive model is not choosing between rigorous academics and outstanding CTE. It is bringing the two together."

That happens throughout the school day at Dauphin County Technical School.

Our academic and CTE teachers serve the same students, in the same building, with the same goal: helping students succeed. The Algebra learned on an academic day can be applied to measurements, calculations, estimates, electrical systems, automotive diagnostics, construction, and countless other real-world situations during a student's CTE day. Science becomes very real when students apply it in Health Careers, Exercise and Sports Science, Landscaping, or technical labs. Reading, writing, and communication skills are reinforced when students interpret technical information, complete documentation, communicate with customers, present ideas, or work as part of a team.

Students aren't simply learning concepts. They are seeing where those concepts can take them.

That connection creates relevance, but it does not mean reducing academic rigor. In many ways, it raises the expectation. Students are expected to understand challenging academic content and then apply that knowledge in authentic situations where accuracy, problem-solving, and critical thinking matter.

That is powerful learning.

We are seeing encouraging evidence of that work in our academic performance. Our Keystone results showed significant improvement in both Literature and Algebra. We are still awaiting the complete picture in Biology, where DCTS has historically performed strongly.

Our belief that rigorous academics and career and technical education strengthen one another.

"When students understand what they are learning, why it matters, and where they can use it, learning becomes much more powerful."

But academics and technical skills are still only part of the equation.

Our comprehensive model also lets us intentionally develop the skills employers, colleges, and communities consistently tell us matter: work ethic, leadership, teamwork, respect, responsibility, communication, and pride in doing a job well.

Our A/B day schedule is another strength of the comprehensive model.

Students move between full days of academics and hands-on career and technical education, allowing them to connect classroom learning to how that knowledge applies in their technical program. That same schedule creates a significant advantage for work-based learning. Because students are available for a full day on their CTE days, industry partners can provide meaningful co-op, internship, job shadowing, and other workplace experiences without trying to fit them into short class periods. Students gain real experience with the pace, expectations, responsibilities, and routines of the workplace, while employers can count on having our students for a meaningful portion of the workday.

Those experiences aren't separate pieces of a student's education. They build upon one another.

That is why I believe so strongly in the comprehensive model.

It allows us to educate the whole student. We can challenge students academically, develop high-level technical skills, connect them with industry, provide real-world experiences, and teach the professional and personal skills they will need long after graduation.

It also keeps doors open.

A DCTS graduate may enter the workforce immediately. Another may begin a registered apprenticeship. Another may attend a two- or four-year college. Some will serve in the military. Many will do several of those things over the course of their lives.

Our job is not to decide which path a student should take. Our job is to make sure they are prepared to take advantage of whichever opportunities come next.

"We aren't simply preparing students for their first opportunity after graduation. We are preparing them for the opportunities that will come throughout their lives."

That is what success looks like at DCTS.

None of those things stands alone. Together, they create an educational experience that prepares students not just to graduate, but to succeed.

Our improved academic performance is something to celebrate, and we should be proud of the progress our students and staff have made. But it should also encourage us to keep moving forward, raise expectations, and strengthen the connections between academics, technical education, and the world beyond our doors.

Because ultimately, that is the strength of the comprehensive model.

Go Wolverines!

Jason Civitello
Administrative Director
Dauphin County Technical School



The Assistant Director's Corner

A Strong Start: DCTS Students Put Their Skills Into Action

The school year is off to an exciting start as students return to classrooms and labs, ready to learn, create, and build the skills they'll need for their future careers. Over the past few weeks, students across our CTE programs have participated in a variety of hands-on projects, collaborated with other programs, and applied their learning to real-world situations.

Our HVAC students, led by Mr. Beitman, are putting their skills to work right here at DCTS. On any given day, they can be found throughout the school, helping maintain, repair, and diagnose our heating and cooling systems. These experiences allow students to work with real equipment and better understand the responsibilities they may face as professionals in the HVAC industry. At the same time, their work makes a difference in the daily lives of our students and staff and helps us maintain and improve our building.

Mr. Brightbill and the Building Construction Technology students have begun a restoration project on the historic log cabin on City Island in Harrisburg. Through this community-based project, students are applying the construction skills they learn at DCTS while helping preserve an important part of our local history. You'll be able to see this work in action throughout the fall if you walk the path around the Island.

autobiographical details and images chosen by the students. Each day, they are displayed in the main hallway. This project provides our newest students with a creative opportunity to introduce themselves, helping the DCTS community learn more about them.

The Carpentry and Exercise and Sports Science programs, led by Mr. Groff and Mr. Shireman, recently collaborated to practice Stop the Bleed and splinting procedures. Using hands-on models and realistic emergency scenarios, students applied skills to situations they could encounter on a job site. This experience helped strengthen communication and leadership skills while building students' confidence in responding to emergencies. It also reinforced the importance of being prepared to help others when every second counts.

Mr. Liddick's Masonry students are also putting their skills to work on a real-world project by building new dog kennels for the Veterinary Assistant program. Students are gaining hands-on experience with layout, block laying, teamwork, and proper job-site practices while creating something that will be used right here at our school. This is a great opportunity for students to see how the skills they are learning in their program can be used to complete a project from start to finish and help another program along the way!

These experiences are not just about developing technical skills. They also provide students with opportunities to demonstrate the Wolverine Way and our Five Keys to Success: Teamwork, Respect, Leadership, Work Ethic, and Pride. Students learn that success in school, the workplace, and the community depends on combining technical knowledge with responsibility, collaboration, and a commitment to helping others. These projects also demonstrate the value of DCTS's comprehensive learning model, where academic instruction and career and technical education work together. Skills developed in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and other academic courses help students communicate effectively, solve problems, understand technical concepts, and make informed decisions in their CTE programs. By connecting classroom learning with authentic, hands-on experiences, students gain a deeper understanding of both while preparing for success in college, careers, and life.

These are just a few examples of the amazing hands-on, real-world connections our students build in their programs every day. We are proud of the strong start they've made and grateful to our faculty, staff, families, sending schools, and community and industry partners who help make these opportunities possible. We look forward to seeing what our students accomplish throughout the school year!

Claire Dacko
Assistant Director
Dauphin County Technical School



Schedule Changes

The Counseling Office is wrapping up schedule changes for the 2026–27 school year.

After Friday, September 11, no additional schedule changes will be made.

Over the next few weeks, we will visit senior English classes to review the college planning and application process and provide students with important information and resources as they prepare for life after graduation. Please be sure to reference our website for resources:

Scholarships: [Scholarship Opportunities - DCTS](#)

We encourage seniors to check this page regularly as scholarship opportunities are added and close throughout the year. It is never too early to start searching for “free money” to help fund your education!

[School Counseling - DCTS](#) (scroll to college resources)

PSAT

Thinking about attending college after high school? While many colleges and universities have adopted test-optional admission policies, students considering college may still want to explore taking the **PSAT (Preliminary SAT)**.

DCTS will administer the PSAT on **Thursday, October 22, 2026**.

- **Cost:** \$18.00
- **Registration & Payment Deadline:** Friday, September 25, 2026, by 3:00 p.m.
- **Payment:** Non-refundable payment must be submitted to the Business Office by the deadline.

Students with questions about the PSAT should see **Mrs. Short in the School Counseling Office**.

ASVAB:

Students in **grades 10–12** will have the opportunity to take the **ASVAB** on **November 17, 2026**. The ASVAB is more than a military entrance exam—it can also be a valuable **career exploration tool**, helping students identify their strengths and explore potential career pathways.

Students will receive an email with information about how to sign up.



NOCTI and Keystone tests. NOCTI are completed every year by students before they graduate from DCTS and complete their program of study. This unique exam has both a performance and knowledge portion, allowing students to highlight both their technical skills and procedural knowledge relating to the program study. Significantly, students' score on this test is not an average of these two sections: rather they must demonstrate proficiencies in both areas in order to be awarded either a competent or advanced score.

This mirrors the needs of our industry partners, who are looking for students who have both the skills and knowledge in order to be successful in their fields. One or the other by themselves isn't quite enough. Resulting from the dedication of our teachers and teaching assistants, who tirelessly support our students in their programs, employers can be confident that students are being exposed to both the skills and knowledge they need to thrive.

Just so, either academic or technical knowledge on its own is not enough to ensure our student's success after graduation. At DCTS, students gain both, integrated together throughout their development. Students' technical training gives them the confidence to jump into problem solving feet first, and respond to changing circumstances and feedback. Students' academic training helps them to parse information, effectively organize it and make a plan of action.

As such, we also want to celebrate our students' success on their Keystone exams. These tests evaluate students' understanding of meaning making and communication (Literature), problem solving (Algebra I), and complex system interactions (Biology). Students and teachers worked hard together to produce a 5% increase in our Literature scores and a 9% increase in our Algebra I scores. Our academic teachers are constantly finding novel ways to boost student understanding, connecting academic concepts to technical skills.

Our staff is united by a shared purpose to give students as many skills and tools as possible towards success. We are not preparing students for college OR the workforce OR the military. Our goal is to prepare every student for whatever opportunities they choose to pursue after graduation. The Wolverine Way is there to guide the first steps students take towards their future: the greater variety of skills and knowledge students have developed, the more prepared for whatever path they find themselves on.



DCTS *Find your* **DIRECTION**
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
www.dcts.foundation

JOIN NOW

The **DCTS Education Foundation** is an incredible organization supporting our students through scholarships and unique opportunities to enhance their educational experience.

The Foundation actively seeks new members to join its mission of making a difference. Recently, we've welcomed two student members, a junior and a senior—who bring valuable perspectives and energy to the team.

We're always looking for alumni and community members to join the Foundation and contribute to the success of future Wolverines. Together, we can continue to provide life-changing opportunities for our students and build a stronger community.

For more information visit www.dcts.foundation

JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE INFORMATION



Dauphin County Technical School (DCTS) is governed in accordance with the Articles of Agreement approved by its seven participating school districts: Central

dcts.org

New Policy Platform!

Learn More About Our Policies Here!

Event Information

Upcoming JOC Board Meeting

When?

Wednesday, Oct 14, 2026, 07:00 PM

Where?

Dauphin County Technical School, Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA, USA

[Open maps](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DCTS EVENTS CALENDAR

2026-2027 Upcoming Events

- Picture Day – September 29th
- FFA Chicken BBQ – October 9th
- No School (Columbus Day) - October 12th
- JOC Meeting - October 14th
- Wolverine Garage Car Show - October 17th
- Sensory Friendly Trick or Treat followed by the FBLA Haunted Trails & Truck or Treat – October 24th

DOWNLOAD THE 2026-2027 DCTS SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Dauphin County Technical School

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