

Contact Information

Denver South High School
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Denver, CO 80210
www.denversouth.org

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Counseling and Records Lulu Gonzalez.....	720-423-6066
Nurse, Sara Worley.....	720-423-6102
Psychologist, Lindsey Rutledge	720-423-6158
Psychologist, Nicole Perez	720-423-6083
Registrar, Estrella Flores.....	720-423-6080
Social Worker, Sol Sanchez	720-423-6063
Social Worker, Jacie Friel	720-423-6063
Social Worker, Ely Snyder	720-423-6045
Treasurer, Irasema Najera.....	720-423-6066

Administrative Staff

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Assistant Principals

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Elena Elder..... 720-423-6085
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Stephanie Brazinsky..... 720-423-6016
Jake Jacoby 720-423-6087
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Communication Specialist: Melina Hodzic 720-423-6009

Alumni and School Museum 720-423-6067

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Academic Awards Recognized at Graduation

The "weighted" grade point average will be used to determine each school's valedictorian and salutatorian.

The average of all eight semesters must be used to determine each school's valedictorian/salutatorian (no exceptions). Adjustments to grade point averages because of the Advanced Placement (AP) Testing Policy must be completed before determining the final grade point average.

Students must be enrolled in their school of attendance for a minimum of three years and achieve the highest grade point average in their graduating class in order to qualify and be the class valedictorian.

Valedictorian of the senior class is awarded to the senior student who has the highest cumulative GPA over at least six semesters of continuous enrollment at Denver South High School. The average of all eight semesters is used to determine the valedictorian and salutatorian.

Salutatorian of the senior class is awarded to the student who has earned the second highest cumulative GPA over at least six semesters of continuous enrollment at Denver South High School.

**Students who choose to graduate early, before completing eight semesters, must be ranked in the class with which they entered. They do not become a part of the graduating class that completed eight semesters.

Honor Cords

Honor Cords are awarded to those seniors who earn seven (7) semesters of A's in English, Math, Science, or Social Studies. Honor Cords are also awarded for National Honor Society, JROTC, Seal of Biliteracy, English Language Acquisition, Student Leadership, Vocal Music and Speech & Debate.

Academic Counseling

Students are assigned a counselor who assists with their academic, personal, and social development—including course selection and ICAP. Counselors help students with questions, difficulties in school or other challenges that interfere with academic success. The counselor has access to the student's grade records, referral records, and class schedule. Students who fail courses and do not earn credits will be required to take credit recovery courses and/or summer school. Find your Counselor:

Last Name	First Name	Students Served	Emails	Office
Rivera	Emily	Student Last Name A-CI	emily_rivera@dpsk12.net	113A
Skodol	Jodie	Student Last Name Co-Gom	jodie_skodol@dpsk12.net	113F
Brazinsky	Stephanie	Student Last Name Gon-K	stephanie_brazinsky@dpsk12.net	113G
Kowalski	Sarah	Student Last Names L-M	sarah_kowalski@dpsk12.net	113E
Elder	Elena	Student Last Name N-Sc	elena_elder@dpsk12.net	113D
Jacoby	Jake	Student Last Names Se-Z	james_jacoby@dpsk12.net	113C

Activities

Denver South High School is proud to offer a wide variety of clubs and extracurricular activities for students to explore their interests and build community. Students are encouraged to join or create new school clubs and activities. Getting involved in extracurricular activities often translates to higher academic and personal successes for students.

Activities Director: Darius Ortega

darius_ortega@dpsk12.net

(720) 423-6012

School-Sponsored Clubs, Organizations & Competitive Teams

All school-sponsored clubs and non-CHSAA competitive teams are under the direction of the Activities Director. School-sponsored clubs are allowed to utilize the South brand according to our branding guidelines, compete under the Denver South brand, and also have access to a unique account for fundraising. All school-sponsored clubs have an adult sponsor, and may still be led by students. Clubs meet during lunch or after school to organize their events. Competitive teams may require special equipment, off-site meetings, and evening and/or weekend travel. Each Spring, students who have participated and successfully met lettering requirements will receive a South Activities Letter.

Student-Led Clubs

Student-led clubs are under the direction of the Activities Director. Student-led clubs may utilize school space for meetings, but may *not* use Denver South branding for any marketing, fundraising, or recruiting purposes; these groups do not have financial accounts in the building or access to school activity fees; and these groups may not meet during an overlap of instructional time (two lunches or advisory). Student-led clubs must also have an adult sponsor and/or community partner working in collaboration with the Activities Director.

Every year, each club must complete either a New Club application, Club Renewal application or Club Charter application approved by the Activities Director before their first meeting. Club members determine, within certain parameters, the rules for membership, the frequency of meetings, and the activities that will take place. To see a complete list of current South Clubs offerings and access club applications, please visit the school website.

Activity Fees

Activity fees in the amount of \$50.00 are charged to all students at Fall registration. These fees help cover the cost of class activities, class luncheons, dances, homecoming events, student travel, and reduced admission to certain school related events.

Advanced Placement (AP) Program

Advanced Placement courses are designed to offer university-level challenges to high school students, and they require seriousness of purpose and diligence throughout the school year. Students taking multiple AP courses are encouraged to carefully evaluate the total workload they are choosing. Students taking three or more AP courses should expect a workload equal to that of freshmen at the most selective colleges.

All students who are enrolled in AP courses are encouraged to take the AP exam for each AP course on the national test dates in May. Each college and university has its own advanced placement policy which dictates how AP scores are handled in allowing credit toward graduation.

In order to ensure that students enroll in AP courses with an adequate understanding of the academic rigor of the courses, every student is required to agree to complete any summer reading assignment(s) prior to the start of school in the Fall, and must understand the financial requirements and strict exam registration deadlines associated with each course.

AP Exam Fees and Deadlines

Exam registration and payment for the AP exams is due in November. The cost per AP exam will be \$98.00 (determined by and subject to change by College Board). Fee waivers that can reduce the cost of exams (not eliminate the cost) are available through the AP Coordinator. If students register for an exam and then decide not to take the exam after the November deadline or register and don't take the exam at all, exam fees will **not** be refunded and students will be charged an additional \$40 canceled/unused exam fee (as determined by College Board). Contact the AP Coordinator for more information.

Students that drop an AP class from their schedule after the November exam registration deadline must contact the AP Coordinator directly. Students will be refunded their initial exam registration, but will still be charged the \$40 exam cancellation fee. Students are not allowed to withdraw from a class after the sixth week of a semester without receiving a "W/F" for the course per DPS Board Policy.

Anti-Harassment Policy

Harassment based on race or color, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or age, is specifically prohibited. Complaints of prohibited harassment will be promptly investigated. If the school district determines that such harassment occurred, it will promptly investigate and appropriately discipline any student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel who is found to have violated this policy, and/or appropriate action reasonably calculated to end the harassment.

If you are a student, parent, community member, or employee who needs to raise a concern of harassment or discrimination, please first contact Dean of Students, Yoana Lopez at (720) 423-6165, indicating where the conduct took place so we can address your concern at the site level immediately. Otherwise, parents and community members may contact the Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) at 720-423-3054.

Assemblies and Pep Rallies

Assembly programs and pep rallies are strategically planned for one of two different size groups; attendance by the entire student body (e.g., a winter concert) or attendance by special invitation (e.g., a science assembly).

Assemblies

Assemblies are held in the Auditorium and students are expected to be respectful, attentive to the performers or speakers on stage, and act accordingly to the program in progress. If the entire student body is to attend the assembly, an alternate schedule will be created to schedule two sessions in order to accommodate safe and comfortable seating.

Pep Rallies

Pep rallies are held in the Main Gym. All students are expected to attend pep rallies, and only South students are allowed to attend. Students are expected to act responsibly and be respectful to speakers, special performers, other classes and athletes on the court. Firecrackers, silly string, smoke/glitter bombs, or any items that could be considered weapons are not allowed at any time during a rally.

Attendance

Regular attendance has a direct impact on student progress and achievement. The Denver South High School attendance goal is to reach a 93% school-wide attendance rate. Students are also required to have 93% attendance to attend Homecoming events, Prom events, and to walk at graduation.

Parent/Guardian Notification

The IC System will make an e-mail/phone contact each evening to alert parents/guardians of student absences and tardies. Parents will be called if a student is assigned to a consequence (such as lunch/after school detention, Saturday School, etc.).

Excused Absences

Parent/guardian must call the attendance line at 720-423-6081 or e-mail Attendance_South@dpsk12.org when a student is absent. Notification must be provided when the student returns to school by a written note, doctor's note, or other documentation **within 48 hours of the absence**. The Principal has the final say in whether or not an absence is excused. If a student is absent for three days or more, a doctor's note must be provided.

It is the student's responsibility to contact each teacher and arrange for make-up work. Students missing classes for excused absences, suspension, or school business related absences are NOT excused from completing class work. Students must meet with their teacher to devise a plan to make up missing assignments/content.

Student Consequences

Students with habitual attendance issues may have different interventions put in place to improve attendance to be able to attend special events. Those interventions vary depending on the situation and come in the form of student/guardian contact, Attendance Contracts, student/guardian meetings with Counselor, schedule freezes, legal intervention through [State attendance laws](#), and referral to attendance support programs or alternative placement.

A habitually truant student over the age of 17 may be withdrawn from school by an administrator. An administrator will notify the parent/guardian by phone and U.S. mail.

Athletics

All athletic competitions sanctioned by Denver South are governed by the rules set forth by the Colorado High School Activities Association and the DPS Athletic Board of Control. In addition to CHSAA regulations, Denver South may implement standards beyond what is required by the CHSAA. Student athletes must abide by the rules set forth by the Denver Prep League and listed on the DPS Athletic Consent Form.

Students must pay the athletic participation fee of \$60.00 per sport – this pay to play fee will be paid prior to the start of the season as a part of online registration. Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch status will pay a reduced fee of \$10.

Academics are the priority at Denver South; therefore all athletes must meet weekly and cumulative academic eligibility requirements. Simply stated, athletes are required to maintain a minimum 2.0 weekly grade point average (GPA), be enrolled in at least five full-credit courses (25 credits) and not receive a weekly grade of an F in any course.

- Students who fail two classes the previous semester are ineligible for competition until the CHSAA mandated recertification date.
- Students' grades will be checked weekly. Athletes must pass all classes each week to participate (No F's).
- Students with one F in a class can become eligible if their grade improves to passing during the same week via communication with the student-athlete, teacher and Athletic Director
- Students withdrawing from a class with a failing grade will carry a "WF" for each weekly grade check for the entire semester.
- Students who withdraw carry an "F" for the remainder of the semester. Any time a student becomes enrolled in less than 25 credits, the student will become academically ineligible.
- Athletes with unexcused game-day absences are ineligible to play.
- Teachers will be made aware of any absences for student-athletes due to their attendance at an athletic event
- Athletes who are excused to attend an athletic event are required to communicate with their teacher and complete any classwork missed
- Athletes must have an up-to-date physical exam on file in the office. Physicals expire 365 days after the date of the physical.
- All student athletes must complete online athletic registration before they are permitted to participate.
- Students transferring schools without a bona fide family move are subject to restrictions set forth by CHSAA. All transfer students will need to meet with the Athletic Director to complete the CHSAA Transfer documentation
- All 9th graders are eligible at the start of their first high school year.

All requirements must be met before the student can participate in practice or competition.

In addition to athletics, the above eligibility requirements also apply for Band, Orchestra, Speech Competition, Vocal Music, Student Senate, and Cheerleading; all CHSAA governed activities.

To see a complete list of sports offered at South and access the contact list for Head Coaches and Athletics Staff, please visit the South website.

Varsity Sports

These teams compete on Varsity and Junior Varsity (JV) levels against other Denver Public High Schools, as well as non-league season games. Some teams carry three and four levels, based on the number of participants. Students interested in participating in any of the following sports should see the head coach or Athletic Director.

MEN	WOMEN
FALL	
Cross Country	Cross Country
Football	Gymnastics
Golf	Softball
Soccer	Volleyball
Tennis	Unified Bowling
WINTER	
Basketball	Basketball
Wrestling	Swimming
SPRING	
Baseball	Golf
Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Swimming	Soccer
Track and Field	Track and Field
	Tennis

Bell Schedule

South High School Bell Schedule					
Period/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	8:25 - 9:20	8:25 - 9:20	Period 1 8:25 - 10:00	Late Start Staff PD 8:05 - 9:05	8:25 - 9:20
2	9:25 - 10:15	9:25 - 10:15		Period 3 10:05 - 11:35	Period 2 9:15 - 10:45
3	10:20 - 11:10	10:20 - 11:10	Seminar 10:50 - 11:35		10:20 - 11:10
4	11:15 - 12:05	11:15 - 12:05	11:15 - 12:05		
Lunch	12:05 - 12:50	12:05 - 12:50	11:35 - 12:20	11:35 - 12:20	12:05 - 12:50
5	12:55 - 1:50	12:55 - 1:50	Period 5 12:25 - 2:00	Period 4 12:25 - 2:00	12:55 - 1:50
6	1:55 - 2:45	1:55 - 2:45	Period 7 2:05 - 3:35	Period 6 2:05 - 3:35	1:55 - 2:45
7	2:50 - 3:40	2:50 - 3:40			2:50 - 3:40
After School	Tutoring 3:40 - 4:00	Tutoring 3:40 - 4:00	Clubs 3:40 - 4:00	Tutorial / Clubs 3:40 - 4:00	Tutoring 3:40 - 4:00

Communication

Emails for staff and faculty members at Denver South High school: Firstname_Lastname@dpsk12.net.

Staff emails are also listed on the Denver South website.

Student Messages

In case of an emergency, messages may be left for students at 720-423-6000. Please do not call student cell phones. A staff member will send out for the student in these scenarios to provide an appropriate place for the student to have that conversation.

School Communication with Families

- Grades are updated weekly in Schoology. Please check student grades frequently. For more information on how to access Parent Portal and Schoology, [click here](#).
- Grades are finalized in Infinite Campus at the end of each 9 week grading period.
- Weekly announcements are emailed to families and posted on our website at <https://denversouth.dpsk12.org>
- Automated recorded phone messages alert parents of student absences
- Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled each semester. Please attend!
- School closures are announced on radio stations and local TV stations. Closures will also be listed on the DPS website www.dpsk12.org.

Care of School Property

The Denver community has provided us with a beautiful setting and facility with some outstanding equipment to enhance your educational opportunities. We ask that you share in community pride by taking care of your books, laptops, tablets, classroom equipment, furniture, and by keeping the grounds free of litter. Students will be held financially responsible for any damages to school property caused by reckless, careless, or negligent acts such as vandalism or graffiti.

Cheating Defined

Students should understand that, among other things, cheating includes communicating with another student during an exam, copying material during an exam, allowing another student to copy from their exam paper, using unauthorized notes or devices, submitting falsified information for grading purposes, obtaining and supplying a copy and/or information about an exam without the knowledge and consent of the teacher, submitting work written by another person (except as outlined below *), submitting work written by the student for another assignment without the instructor's knowledge or consent (self-plagiarism), copying another person's assignment(s), allowing another student to copy their assignment, or taking home exams without the knowledge and consent of the instructor.

* When a student submits an assignment, that assignment should be only their own work unless the teacher has specifically set up the assignment as a group project or other collaborative assignment. In such cases, the names of all students involved in the group process should be listed on the assignment. If the teacher has not designated the assignment as a group project, submitting an assignment written by more than one person is **plagiarism**.

Cheating Consequences: The consequences for cheating shall be adhered to by students and staff.

First Infraction:

1. Teacher informs the parent.
2. Referral to the dean and counselor.
3. Student(s) will receive a zero (0) on the assignment.
4. Student completes the assignment for no credit.

Second infraction:

1. Conference with assistant principal, counselor, parent, student and teacher.
2. The student will receive no higher than a 50% grade in the 9-week grading period for the second cheating infraction.
3. The student may receive a suspension.

Third infraction:

1. The student will receive a failing semester grade for the third cheating incident.
2. Conference with assistant principal, counselor, teacher, student, and parent.
3. The student may receive a suspension.

Concurrent Enrollment

Below are DPS guidelines for students who wish to participate in college classes during high school.

Eligibility

- Any student who is interested may take College classes through Concurrent Enrollment, either at South High School or on the college campus. Some courses also have eligibility requirements such as a qualifying score on SAT, Accuplacer, and/or a GPA prerequisite.

Enrollment

- Students may enroll by contacting their school counselor to begin the registration process. Students apply to the partner college, complete registration in the Dual Enroll system, and receive parent consent. A grade of C or higher must be earned to get both the high school and college credit. D grades will earn high school credit but no college credit. It is important to know that a D or F in the concurrent enrollment course will appear on the college transcript (in addition to the high school transcript) and could have negative impacts on college standing and financial aid in the future.

Connecting to DPS Networks

Personal electronic devices may be connected to the network labeled “dpsguest” while on school grounds. At no time should any personal electronic device be connected to any other DPS networks. Electronic devices issued by the school, such as chromebooks, should be connected to the “dpsstudent” network, not the “dpsguest” network. Student use of the internet while at South High School is monitored by DPS technology department and students may lose computer privileges for inappropriate use. Electronic devices distributed to students by the school (such as chromebooks) are also monitored by DPS when used off site and inappropriate use of technology may result in disciplinary action.

Course Load

Each semester, students in grades 9 and 10 will take seven (7) courses in addition to a Seminar class. 11th grade students who are on-track for an on-time graduation must take a minimum of 6 courses in addition to Seminar and 12th grade students who are on track for graduation must take a minimum of five 5-credit courses in addition to Seminar each Semester. Admin may approve changes and adjustments based on individual circumstances. Reminder: Students are not allowed to withdraw from a class after the sixth week of a semester without receiving a “W/F” for the course per DPS Board Policy.

Designated Areas Before School and During Lunch

While students may be anywhere on campus before school and during lunch, it is expected that they will behave in an appropriate manner and will be asked to leave hallways and move outside if they become

disruptive or too loud. Students will be let in the building to wait in the auditorium at 8am unless it is raining, snowing, or cold temperatures.

From 7:45 AM – 4:15 PM Denver South students will not be allowed in Washington Park.

Discipline Policies

Schools exist for educational purposes. Teachers have the right and responsibility to teach and students have the right and responsibility to learn. The discipline system is designed to provide prompt, equitable and effective consequences for students who choose to interfere with the rights of either the teacher or other students. Students, teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians must cooperate to maintain this atmosphere.

Students are expected to follow the policies, procedures and rules of each classroom teacher. Teachers are expected to follow the DPS Student Discipline Policy JK-R: This, along with the DPS Discipline Ladder & DPS Discipline Matrix can be found on the Denver Public Schools website.

Dress Code

Denver South High School respects students' rights to express themselves in the way they dress. This policy is intended to provide guidance for students, staff, and parents. Denver South High School's dress code aims to allow students to express themselves and their individuality while ensuring safety and facilitating participation in learning.

- Clothing may not depict, imply, advertise, or advocate illegal, violent, or lewd conduct, weapons, or the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or other controlled substances.
- Clothing may not depict or imply pornography, nudity, or sexual acts.
- Clothing may not display or imply vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene language or images.
- Clothing may not state, imply, or depict hate speech/imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification.
- Sunglasses may not be worn inside the building.
- Clothing and accessories that endanger student or staff safety may not be worn.

Due Process - Student Rights

Due process is a procedure, which the courts of law recognize as a necessary responsibility of the school for all students. Due process is of primary importance because it recognizes the right of individuals to recourse within a decision-making process. Due process assures the student of the following steps:

- Rules, regulations and penalties are available in writing.
- The student has a right to be informed of the specific reasons for action.
- All members of the school community are obligated to work out difficulties at the level at which they occur, if possible.
- The student has the right to have their parents/guardians present when addressing any allegations made against them.
- The student, administrator, and/or teacher have the right to request the presence of the parent/guardian.
- Proper consideration should be given to the student's right to privacy.
- Rules shall be applied uniformly and without coercion.

- Disciplinary action shall be reasonable and related to the infraction.

Before considering suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the allegations, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and an opportunity to present their version of the events. However, notice and conference will follow as soon as possible if the student's presence endangers persons or property, or threatens disruption of the academic process, and so necessitates immediate removal from the school.

Electronic Device Use at School

Students **are not permitted to use** electronic devices such as **cell phones**, tablets, music players and personal gaming devices during instructional time. Students are permitted to use school assigned laptops and tablets during instructional time. Students are also permitted to use personal electronic devices before & after school, during lunch, and during passing periods. If a student is caught using one of these devices during instructional time the following will take place.

Violations of this policy shall be subject to progressive discipline. If a student's use of an electronic signaling device causes a disruption, a school district employee on the first offense may direct the student to turn off the device or put the cellphone away. On subsequent offenses, the employee may confiscate the device and return it to the student at the end of the class period, school day or activity. If this issue continues your student's right to carry such devices may be revoked for subsequent offenses except where deemed medically necessary. Students may be subject to other disciplinary measures when their use of an electronic signaling device violates independent school rules. In School Suspension, After School Suspension, Lunch Detention, and/or Cell Contract which will require a parent meeting. As stated violations of this policy shall be subject to progressive discipline.

Electronic signaling device- Cellphones, headphones, wireless headphones, laptop, or any other device that's a distraction.

Teachers will take the following steps if a student is using a cell phone in class without permission.

- 1st time - Teacher asks the student to turn off the phone and put it in their backpack.
- 2nd time - Teacher asks for the cell phone for the rest of the period and returns to the student at the end of class. If a student does not follow expectations, the student will go to In School and you will notify parents right away.

If a student refuses to follow the cell phone policy outlined above, someone from the Culture Team will be alerted by staff and will respond with the following measures.

- That student's cell phone will remain with the Culture Team until the end of the day.
- Parents/guardians will be notified of the incident and reminded of our cell phone policy.
- If refusal to follow the cell phone policy continues to happen, the student's cell phone will remain in the Culture Team office until a parent/guardian is able to come in for a meeting around appropriate cell phone use and to pick up the student's phone.

- Depending on the situation, this meeting could result in a cell phone contract, a student being prohibited from bringing their cell phone to school, and/or In school suspension, lunch detention, after school detention, or Saturday School.

If you believe your child requires access to a personally owned device as an accommodation, please contact your child's school team [i.e, 504 Committee, Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team, English Language Committee, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (ABC'S) Team] to schedule a meeting so that the team can consider your request.

By bringing a cell phone or electronic device on campus, the student gives Denver South administration or designee the right to search the device if they have a reasonable suspicion that such a search will provide information concerning school safety, evidence of a violation of board policy, school policy, gang affiliation, drug or alcohol use, or any violation of the law. **The school is not liable for personal items that are confiscated, lost, or stolen.**

Emergencies

During fire alarms, everyone should immediately leave the building in an orderly manner and move to a designated evacuation location at least 100 feet away from the school building. Students are not to stop at their lockers or the restroom. During other emergencies, students must follow directions from their teacher. Each room has a clearly marked sign giving specific instructions on where to go and what to do. If a power failure occurs, students should remain where they are.

During a shelter in place emergency, the Site Administrator directs students and staff to Shelter-in-Place in the hallways. Students must move away from rooms on the perimeter of the building, glass-walled rooms or hallways, or rooms with skylights and go to designated Inside Safe Assembly Locations (e.g. Hallways, Basements, etc). Students should exit bathrooms. Students should then take protective positions if indicated.

During a lockdown or secure emergency, students must follow the Site Administrator's directive announcement. In a lockdown, students must cease all activities, lock classroom doors, remain quiet, and out of sight. In a secure placement, students, staff, and visitors are allowed to move within the building. All exterior doors will be locked and no one is allowed in or out of the building.

Extracurricular Activities & Field Trips

Extracurricular excursions should be educational and inspiring in nature and a natural extension of the classroom or Club activities.

- All excursions must be cleared through the Activities Director at least 3 weeks in advance (no less than 12 school/working days prior).
- Only South students are allowed to attend excursions under the supervision of South educators.
- Written parent/guardian permission must be obtained before the student may attend the excursion.
- Excursions will **not** be permitted during testing windows, during school-wide event dates or over the last month of each semester.
- Students may be denied participation in field trips based upon their academic performance, behavior, and attendance.

Fighting

Disputes between members of the school community should be settled through channels other than fighting. Students involved in fighting that endangers other students before, after, or during school hours on school property, at school activities, bus stops, or off campus areas will be suspended. Students involved in the act of agitating a fight will also be suspended. Posturing to fight can also result in suspension. Acts of assault, battery, and extortion will result in immediate suspension and the possibility of a police report being filed. If you have a problem with another student, see the Culture Team or your counselor for assistance in resolving the conflict peacefully.

Final Exams

All students are required to take final exams and/or complete final projects. All teachers will give a final exam or final project in every class during the last few days of each semester. Note that a senior Spring final exam schedule will be set once graduation has been scheduled.

Final Exam Make-up

If a student has special circumstances and needs access to final exams prior to scheduled exam days, they need to meet with their counselor who will confer with the Principal and teacher(s) for final approval. Early vacation will not be a valid reason for being excused from final exams.

Food/Drink

- Students should be mindful of the time if they are ordering from doordash, ubereats etc. If food is ordered after lunch staff will not accept food for students or let students leave the learning environment. Staff is not responsible if your food is lost while being delivered.
- Students are allowed to have small snacks (granola bar, small bag of chips) and drinks (water, gatorade, etc) in class as long as the bottle has a lid.
- Students are not allowed to eat large snacks/meals in class. This includes the period after lunch.
 - If a student shows up to class with a large snack/meal they will be directed to room 115 where they will be allowed to finish their food the first time this occurs.
 - Students will be asked to discard their food upon further infractions.

Gangs - DPS Definition/Zero Tolerance

Both the laws of Colorado and DPS School Board prohibit students from belonging to ANY gang. School Board policy defines “gang” as a group of individuals with a common interest, bond or activity characterized by criminal, delinquent or disruptive conduct. No activities associated with these organizations, including pledging, hazing, initiations, or any other acts disruptive to school operation, are permitted on school grounds or at school activities.

Participation in gang related activities could result in suspension or expulsion. See Board Policy JK for more information.

Grades

Information on grading policies and calculations are in each course’s syllabi. The following chart shows the meaning of the grades and the point value used to compute the Grade Point Average (GPA) at Denver South High. The student’s grade point average (GPA) is calculated by multiplying the number of semester credit hours of each of the student’s courses (usually 5 hours per course) by the point value for the grade earned in each course. Sums are added together then divided by the total point value by the

total semester hours. The resulting sum is the GPA. For more information on calculating GPA, see the Counseling Office. Students who fail courses and do not earn credits will be required to take credit recovery courses and/or summer school.

Unweighted (Regular) vs. Weighted Grades (Honors, AP, CE classes)		
	Traditional	Weighted
A (93% - 100%)	4.0	5.2
A- (90% - 92%)	3.67	4.77
B+ (88% - 89%)	3.33	4.33
B (83% - 87%)	3.0	3.9
B- (80% - 82%)	2.67	3.47
C+ (78% - 79%)	2.33	3
C (73% - 77%)	2.0	2.6
C- (70%-72%)	1.67	2.17
D (60% - 69%)	1.0	1.3
W/F or F	0	0

Graduation Requirements

Beginning with the Class of 2021 the State of Colorado implemented new graduation guidelines in an attempt to standardize graduation requirements across the state so all students graduate career and college ready. Review the [updated 2022 DPS graduation requirements](#).

Habitually Disruptive

A habitually disruptive student is one who has been suspended three times during the course of the school year for causing a disruption in the classroom, on school grounds, vehicles, or at school activities or events. Also a student that is not following our culture agreement, expectations in the classroom, and if more than 2 teachers have submitted a behavior referral form. Such behavior could lead to

- No extracurricular activities list
- lunch detention
- After school detention
- Saturday school or expulsion from Denver Public Schools.

Hall Passes

In order to leave a classroom, students must have a valid, dated pass signed by a teacher/staff member on an official Denver South High School pass form. Hall passes are not allowed during the first 10 and last 10 minutes of class. Each floor will have its own colored hall pass for safety reasons.

Hall pass colors by floor:

- 1st Floor - PURPLE
- 2nd Floor - TEAL
- 3rd Floor - NEON ORANGE
- 4/5th Floors - NEON PINK

Insubordination

When any staff member in the building, on school grounds, or at any school activity makes a reasonable request of a student, i.e. asking a student to identify themselves, asking a student to step away for a conversation, the student should comply. Failure to do so will be considered defiance, and subject the student to disciplinary action.

Insubordination is the following:

1. Continued, willful disobedience or open, persistent defiance of a proper authority.
2. Willful destruction or defacing of school property.
3. Behavior that is a threat to the welfare, safety, or morals of other students or staff.

Internet Usage Policy

Each parent and student must sign an internet contract at registration. Student use of the internet while at South High School is monitored by DPS technology department and students may lose computer privileges for violations of this contract. Electronic devices distributed to students by the school (such as chromebooks) are also monitored by DPS when used off site and inappropriate use of technology may result in disciplinary action.

Lockers

Every student has the option to receive a locker. If you would like a locker, please see Shanla Arellano in her office. Students should not share their locker combinations with others. Locker problems should be discussed with the Dean. Lockers are the property of the school; the administration reserves the right to check lockers when necessary.

Loitering

Any person who is not a Denver South High School student or a member of the staff and is found loitering on school grounds will be removed from the premises. Students involved in after school activities must report to the activity sponsor or coach within 15 minutes of the final school bell.

All students participating in school activities outside of the regular school day need to be out of the building and off of the campus immediately following an event. All students should be off campus and at their school sponsored after school activity by 4:15 PM.

Denver South requests your cooperation in clearing the building as soon as possible at the end of each school day, dance, or after school activity. Your assistance will permit the custodial staff to clean the building more efficiently.

Lost & Found

Lost items are placed in the Front Office at Denver South High School, under the care of office staff and will remain there for one month. Students will be asked to describe their lost items as well as whether an identifier (i.e. name, sticker, or specific attribute) exists. Please be advised the Denver South personnel are not liable for any damage, loss, or storage of lost items beyond what is outlined above. If after a reasonable effort to locate the owner of said items proves to be unsuccessful, items will be taken to Goodwill.

Missing Work

Class assignments, homework, projects and assessments provide evidence of mastery of learning and must be completed within the assigned time frame.

Failure to Submit an Assignment on Time:

It is the student's responsibility to meet promptly with the teacher to discuss a plan-of-action to resolve missing coursework regardless of whether the assignment was missed because of an excused or unexcused absence.. Students can submit any assignment 1 week after the due date for full credit. If a student turns in an assignment between 8-21 days late, it can receive a maximum of 85% credit. **All assignments will be locked and cannot be turned in 21 days after the due date has passed.** Students, families, teachers, and counselors will coordinate a response in the event of extenuating circumstances (medical emergencies, mental health concerns, etc.). Students are responsible for meeting with the teacher to address missed work caused by an absence outside of class time. Any attempted assignment will have a minimum score of 50%. Any missing assignment that was not attempted will be given a 30%.

*This grading policy applies to ALL classes except for concurrent enrollment classes.

NCAA Clearing House

All athletes interested in participating in college athletics must register online at

<https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>

Nicotine Devices, Drugs, & Alcohol

The use or possession of nicotine, alcohol, or any other harmful substances, or the illegal use of narcotics, and habit forming drugs is forbidden. Disciplinary and/or court action will be taken against any student involved in the use, possession, distribution, or sale of alcohol or narcotics. The school district requires a substance abuse contract when this situation arises. Contacting a community assistance agency may also be required. DPS Policy JK applies in these situations.

Off Periods

Off periods are only available to students who are on-track Juniors (1) and Seniors (2). Please see Course Load requirements above. Students with an off period are not allowed in the following areas:

- Gym Foyer
- In a PE class
- Parking Lot
- Hallways
- Pump House Field
- Fields on the east side of the building

Areas that are options for students to be in during an off period are:

- Future Center
- Cafeteria when Culture Team Staff are Present (Closed Period 1)
- 2nd Floor Library
- Front Lawn

If a student is found violating our off period policy it could result in lunch detention, community service, or suspension.

Parking Lots & Bicycle Racks

Student parking is permitted in the West Parking Lot only. All vehicles on school property are subject to search under Colorado State law and policies established by the DPS Board of Education. All drivers are expected to adhere to the State of Colorado driving laws.

Senior Parking Spots

At the beginning of each new school year, Seniors will have the opportunity to reserve and paint a personal parking space for the year. Please reach out to the Activities Director for more details.

Bike Racks

There are bicycle racks for student use in the front of the building. Students should lock their bicycle before leaving it in the rack. South High School is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Participation in Graduation Ceremony

It is the responsibility of the student to continually monitor student progress, grades and graduation status. A student may only participate in the Denver South High School graduation ceremony if they have completed Denver South High School graduation requirements, including the attendance requirement of a minimum of 93% and positive behavior expectations. **Students are urged to stay in close contact with their counselor for up-to-date progress and status information.**

PDA – Public Displays of Affection

Gestures of congratulations such as embraces and handshakes are examples of appropriate behavior. Gestures of an extremely intimate nature between students are not acceptable at Denver South.

Profanity/Obscenity

As part of the responsibility to the school and the community, students are expected to exercise discretion in their use of language and actions. The sensitivities of other individuals present or nearby must be given due consideration. Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner toward all adults and fellow students in the school building, on district vehicles and at school activities. Abusive language or writing, belligerent behavior and the use of obscenities and vulgarities (including gestures) will be subject to disciplinary action and/or subject to ticketing by law enforcement.

Raven Recognition & Awards

Denver South High School celebrates the academic achievement and exemplary interpersonal leadership skills of our students.

The Way of the RAVENS

R - Resilient - Ravens advance with courage despite adversity.

A- Accountable - Ravens accept personal responsibility for their actions and words towards themselves and others with integrity.

V- Visionaries - Ravens envision the world as it should be and work towards that goal to make the world a more equitable and just place for all.

E - Engaged - Ravens have a sense of investment and involvement in learning.

N - Nurturing - Ravens demonstrate compassion, respect, and empathy for self, others, and the environment through service.

S - Scholars - Ravens apply critical and creative thinking skills that have local and global significance.

Awards

To honor students who excel in academics, the administration and staff recognize students who meet the criteria to be placed on the Honor Roll. First semester students are recognized in January and in September for the second semester.

- **Principal's Honor Roll** recognizes students who earn all A grades in their classes.
- **Gold Honor Roll** recognizes students who earn A and B grades and whose semester GPA is 4.0 or higher.
- **Silver Honor Roll** recognizes students with no D or F grades and whose semester GPA is 3.5 or higher.
- **Excellence in Attendance** will be recognized at the end of each semester to students who meet the school expectation attendance rate of 93% or higher.
- **Honor Athletes** receive a 3.5 GPA or better during the active season.
- Different academic growth awards will recognize students who make notable gains in their content areas.
- Exemplary RAVENS awards recognize students nominated by their teachers and peers for exemplifying different characteristics outlined in *The Way of the RAVENS*.

RTD/School Bus Information

All students riding the RTD bus MUST have an RTD bus pass and a current Denver South ID. All of the school rules for riding school buses apply to riding the RTD. All students riding an RTD bus are expected to follow the directions of the driver for the safety of all passengers. A student who fails to maintain appropriate conduct while on the bus may be suspended from riding the bus or may be subjected to other disciplinary action. Students riding the RTD can purchase a pass in the Main Office.

Schedule Changes & Dropped Courses

NO student-initiated changes will be made to a student's schedule after classes begin. Corrections will be made to accommodate graduation requirements and balance class sizes, or accommodate teacher-directed placement changes.

Advanced Placement and Concurrent Enrollment Schedule Changes

Students in Concurrent Enrollment should be aware of Drop and Withdraw deadlines with the college partner(s). A student who discontinues a CE course between the first day of the class and the Drop deadline will be removed from the course, the course will NOT appear on their college or high school transcript, and there will be no tuition due for the course. Past the Drop deadline, if a student and the teacher believe it is in the student's academic best interest to discontinue the course, they can do so up to the college's published Withdraw deadline. The course WILL continue to appear on both the college and high school transcript as a W (withdrawal) for their final grade and the district will still be charged tuition. If the student continues on the roster after both deadlines have passed, the student will receive a failing grade on both their high school and college transcripts.

Students that drop an AP class from their schedule after the November exam registration deadline must contact the AP Coordinator directly. Students will be refunded their initial exam registration, but will still be charged the \$40 exam cancellation fee.

School Dances

The Student Senate organizes various dances during the school year. Traditionally, formal dances include the Homecoming Dance and the Junior/Senior Prom. Students must have an attendance rate of over 93% to attend these events. All dances are school events and school rules apply even if the event is off campus. Any misbehavior will result in disciplinary consequences.

All dances require that one of the individuals of a couple be a current Denver South High School student. Only current Denver South High School students are allowed to purchase tickets to dances. Purchasing tickets to a school dance requires a current and valid student ID card.

Non-Denver South students may attend if:

1. They are under 21 years of age and currently enrolled in a high school.
2. They provide notice of good standing at their current school via the successful submission of the Denver South Dance Guest Form. (Guest forms are available four weeks prior to the event and due at least one week before).
3. They provide a photocopy of their I.D. at the doors of the event.

Students and guests must provide current identification to enter a Denver South High School dance. Tickets may be sold at the door only at the homecoming dance and prom. If tickets are bought at the door, you may **not** bring a date/guest who is not a Denver South High student.

Party buses and limousines are subject to search on school property. Any student caught at a school function under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, assignment to Saturday School, school service, suspension, and/or legal prosecution.

School Issued Devices

Students will be issued a Chromebook to use in school and to take home. They are expected to bring that device to school fully charged each day. These devices should be used as learning tools to complete school related tasks and should not be used as a replacement for personal electronic devices. Students should not tamper with or otherwise attempt to bypass device controls installed by the school. Student use of these devices while at South High School is monitored by the DPS technology department and students may lose computer privileges for inappropriate use. Electronic devices distributed to students by the school (such as chromebooks) are also monitored by DPS when used off site and inappropriate use of technology may result in disciplinary action.

Search & Seizure

Searches within the school or on school grounds will be authorized by the principal or designee when there are circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to believe that the search of a particular person, place, or thing (including cell phones and other electronic information storage devices). In some cases, the search will lead to discovery of evidence of a violation of the student conduct standards contained in the policies of the Board of Education and this handbook, or a violation of Federal, State, or local laws. Any items found in the search will be seized.

Searches can be made of lockers, desks, electronic devices, storage areas, backpacks, and motor vehicles on school grounds. Personal searches of students could include the pockets of the student, or any object in the possession of the student (i.e., backpack, purse, etc.), and a "pat down" of the exterior of the student's clothing. These searches will be conducted in a private room, by a person of the same sex as the student being searched, and witnessed by one other staff member.

Searches of the person that requires removal of clothing other than a coat, jacket or footwear shall be referred to and conducted by a law enforcement officer and school personnel will not participate in such searches.

Anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with the above guidelines, which is evidence of a violation of student conduct standards may be:

- Seized and admitted as evidence in any suspension or expulsion proceeding.
- Under certain circumstances, the evidence may be destroyed if it has no significant value.
- Turned over to a law enforcement officer in accordance with established DPS Board Policy and Procedures.

The Principal or a designee may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer to:

- Search any area of the school premises, any student, or any motor vehicle on the school premises.
- Identify or dispose of contraband found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this policy.

Senior Awards Celebration

Senior Awards Night is a public celebration that takes place before Senior's last day of school. Teachers recognize Seniors who excel in the different content areas. In addition to their content area honors, teachers nominate students using the skills and leadership characteristics outlined in *The Way of the RAVENS* rubric.

Serious Infractions

Some of the more serious infractions could result in expulsion for up to one calendar year:

- Behavior, on or off school property, which is detrimental to the welfare or safety of pupils or school personnel
- Declaration as a habitually disruptive student
- Defiance of authority, use of profanity, obscenities
- Destruction or defacing of school property
- Ethnic intimidation; harassment - sexual or other
- Fighting or assault
- Gambling or possession of gambling items if used for gaming
- Gang activity
- Habitual truancy or tardiness
- Possession of a weapon or any object that looks like or is used as a weapon (includes mace, stun gun, laser pen, etc.)
- Shoplifting at any neighborhood merchant
- Starting a fire (arson) or pulling a fire alarm

- Theft, larceny, burglary
- Use, possession, or sale of illegal or dangerous substances (drugs or alcohol)
- Use, possession, or sale of tobacco products in the school building, on the campus, or at school sponsored activities
- Habitual violation of dress code, tardy policy

Sexual Harassment

The District has a legitimate and compelling interest in prohibiting sexual harassment. Further, the District has an obligation to discipline those who engage in sexually harassing behavior. The District must strive to balance the interest of those making sexual harassment complaints and those accused of sexually harassing behavior.

Denver South defines sexual harassment as actions that have a negative impact upon an individual's academic performance or create an intimidating educational environment. Sexual harassment can include comments about one's body; sexual remarks, jokes or innuendoes; personally intrusive conversations; obscene gestures; inappropriate and unwelcome touching; lifting up skirts or pulling at clothing; whistling or catcalling; pressing for dates or sexual activity; cornering or blocking the victim's passage; intentional brushing against someone's body; molestation; and rape. Sexual Harassment also takes the form of sexting, obscene graffiti, displays, or pornographic pictures or offensive sex-related objects such as condoms and sexual gossip about a victim.

Students, acting in a group or gang, who are determined to have engaged in sexual harassment of one or more students, will be subject to suspension and/or expulsion as defined by Board of Education Policy GBAA. Students who perceive that they have been sexually harassed can report their perceptions to a teacher, counselor, Culture Team member, or administrator.

Smoking or the Use of Tobacco

Students, staff, and visitors are not permitted to use tobacco in any form, including vaping, in the school building, on the school grounds, at school activities, in school vehicles, or within 1000 feet of the school campus. The school grounds include any playground, athletic field, recreation area, and parking areas. "Use" means the carrying of tobacco, whether lit or unlit, and includes the lighting, vaping, chewing, and smoking of any tobacco product. This policy is in compliance with state law (25-14-103.5).

DENVER SOUTH will treat the use of tobacco the same as the use of alcohol or drugs. Students found violating this policy will be subject to similar disciplinary action.

Student Assistant

Juniors or Seniors who are on track to graduate may apply to be a student assist, provided the teacher approves and provides an outline of duties for the assistantship. Student assists receive 2.5 credits.

Summer School

Students who have failed a course should plan to take summer school in order to stay on track for graduation. Students who master the goals of their summer school courses may receive no higher than a C as the amount of work is less than the amount of work required during the school semester. Summer School classes are conducted through Edgenuity, a credit recovery online program. Students are only able to recover two classes during summer school. Summer School is an accelerated learning environment.

Suspension/Expulsion

The principal or a designee may suspend a student when necessary to protect the safety, morals, or rights of other students or to avoid a disruption of the school program until a conference can be held involving the principal or a designee, teacher, and parent/guardian. Authority to use reasonable and prudent force and restraint for the purposes of maintaining order and for safeguarding the persons of students and school employees is delegated by the Board of Education to certificated employees.

A student who is suspended or expelled from school shall be subject to the penalties provided under Article 824 (Loitering) of the Municipal Code if they come to the school grounds, building or to school activities without permission from the principal or a designee.

- Suspension is a disciplinary means of controlling unacceptable behavior in the school environment. Suspension is used to point out to the student the seriousness of the misconduct, to inform the student's parent/guardian of the misconduct, and to ensure parental cooperation in dealing with the problem. Suspension is a temporary measure for the purpose of protecting staff and students, school property, and the orderly functioning of the school.
- The length of suspension is determined by school authorities and reflects the seriousness of the offense committed. In addition, the student may be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency. A suspended student may not loiter, be on school property, or attend any school-sponsored activities during the days of suspension.

For more information about any disciplinary guidelines and procedures, please see any Dean or the Assistant Principal in charge of Discipline. A copy of the Denver Public Schools Policy JK-R is also available in the Dean's Office.

Tardies

Students are expected to be in class when the tardy bell rings. When a student is late to class, the teacher will remind the student of the Denver South HS expectation to be on time. If a student habitually violates the tardy policy, they will be referred to the Attendance Team and may be given a consequence such as lunch detention, Saturday School, community service, etc.

Theft

Theft, larceny, or breaking and entering will result in suspension, restitution, and citation by police.

Toys

Toys, such as water guns, that are disruptive to the educational environment or those items that are determined a potential safety hazard will be confiscated and not returned.

Tutoring

Teachers provide tutoring three times per week. All teachers have tutoring on Thursdays from 3:30-4:00. Please see your class syllabi for more information. Students may also access tutoring through our Rising Ravens program. See please Theresa Harper for more information.

Valuables

Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or valuables such as rings, bracelets, electronics etc. to school. The school is not liable for loss.

Visitors

For safety reasons, families, friends and siblings of students are not permitted to visit Denver South High School. All visitors must check in with the main office. You must show a photo ID.

Weapons

Safety is the right of every student and Denver Public Schools is clear in its resolve to have a weapon free environment. The possession or use of ANY weapon shall require that proceedings for the suspension AND expulsion of the student(s) involved will immediately be initiated pursuant to the provisions of DPS Policy 1214F. This "weapon" definition is not limited to the obvious list of guns and knives, but also includes any item that can be construed as a weapon. Firecrackers, knives, chains, and similar items are considered weapons according to the Board of Education Policy. Students bringing these items to school will face school suspension/expulsion and police charges for possession.

The incident will result in the appropriate law enforcement authorities being notified and charges being filed. (This policy shall not be construed to prohibit the supervised activities of students involved in authorized training in the JROTC Program.)

Withdrawal from Classes

Students are not allowed to withdraw from a class after the sixth week of a semester without receiving a "W/F" for the course per DPS Board Policy.

#IamDenverSouth

THE HISTORY OF DENVER SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Denver South High School held its first classes in 1893 in the two rooms of the old Grant building, which is now the rebuilt Grant Middle School on Washington Street at Mexico Avenue. By 1924, enrollment neared 800, and more space was desperately needed. Funds for a new school were raised, and a corner-stone for the new building — today's Denver South High — was laid on October 31, 1924 (it's to the left of the main entrance). During the school's dedication ceremony, items were placed in the cornerstone: a Bible, an American flag, a copy of the Constitution, a book of Denver South High, signatures of the first students and teachers, and Denver's city charter. After the corner-stone was sealed, corn, wine, and oil were scattered over the stone, representing nourishment, refreshment, and joy.

The architectural firm of Fisher & Fisher designed Denver South High, following that decade's trend toward Romanesque buildings. Intended to last a century, the building cost \$1,252,000. Architect Arthur A. Fisher, who favored the use of painting and sculpture in Denver's public buildings, influenced the use of statues and terracotta figures as adornment for Denver South High.

Many of the building's interior and exterior designs were copied from well-known Italian structures; Denver South's versions were created by artist Robert Garrison. On the rooftop, over the main west entrance, is a three-and-a-half foot-tall gargoyle, the symbolic protector of Denver South, inspired by one on Italy's Spoleto Cathedral. Saint Ambrogio in Milan, Italy, served as the model for the five arched loggia beneath the gargoyle. Topping the striped poles on either side of the front entrance are figures of faculty members holding creatures representing final exams.

The creatures are about to devour the students whose heads are resting on piles of books. The two friezes above the main west door are entitled Faculty Row and Animal Spirits. The first, on the exterior of the building, shows the principal in the center of a line of the entire faculty. On his right is the assistant principal, and the now nonexistent dean of girls is on his left. The second frieze, directly above the doors, depicts creatures that symbolize unscholarly behavior such as rubber-band shooting and gum chewing.

The ornate door frame at the northwest entrance to the school bears a frieze that shows students going to school — some eagerly and others by force. The school's North Court is guarded by four winged lions, or griffins, which have since been overgrown by vines. Denver South's notable clock tower is thought to be a replica of Italy's Santa Maria Cosmedin, although there are some differences. Our clock displays the zodiac around the dial, beginning with Aries at one o'clock and running counterclockwise. Of the school's many examples of Romanesque art, signs of the most prominent may be found in the auditorium and library. The auditorium's proscenium arch is surrounded by a frieze called Protection of the Tree of Knowledge. It shows teachers guarding the tree from serpents of ignorance so that the children may eat the tree's fruit. The cornices on both sides of the auditorium have three types of figures on them: angels representing the good students; Grecian lamps, symbolizing the studious; and fantastic creatures, representing fools. In the library, birds represent the various types of students: owls stand for wisdom, roosters for punctuality, penguins for good behavior, and parrots for rote learning or mindless recitation. In 1992, Denver South High School was designated as a National Historic Landmark.