

**Information  
Night  
2022-23**



# What kind of student thrives in the Distinguished Scholars Academy?

Self-  
motivated

Inquisitive

Eager

Willing to try  
new things

Excited about  
learning

Curious

Persistent  
and resilient

# Where do DS students go when they graduate?

- American University
- California Institute of Technology
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Creighton University
- DePaul University
- Drake University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Kansas City Art Institute
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- Ohio State University
- Princeton University
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Stanford University
- University of Arkansas
- University of Chicago
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Illinois-Champaign
- University of Minnesota
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Southern California
- University of Texas-Dallas
- University of Virginia
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University

# What fields do DS students enter after college?

- Actuarial science
- Advertising
- Aeronautics
- Chemistry
- Computer science
- Education (elementary through university)
- Engineering
- Film
- Graphic design
- Journalism
- Law
- Marketing
- Medical illustration
- Medicine
- Physics
- Politics
- Publishing
- Physics
- Studio art
- Textile design
- Theatre

**Distinguished  
Scholars  
Freshman Expedition  
(DSFE)**

# What is the purpose of DSFE?



- A first year cohort that establishes a sense belonging and connection
- Creates a community of learners that benefits upper level classes
- A class that helps students grow personally and academically

# What skills are developed in DSFE?

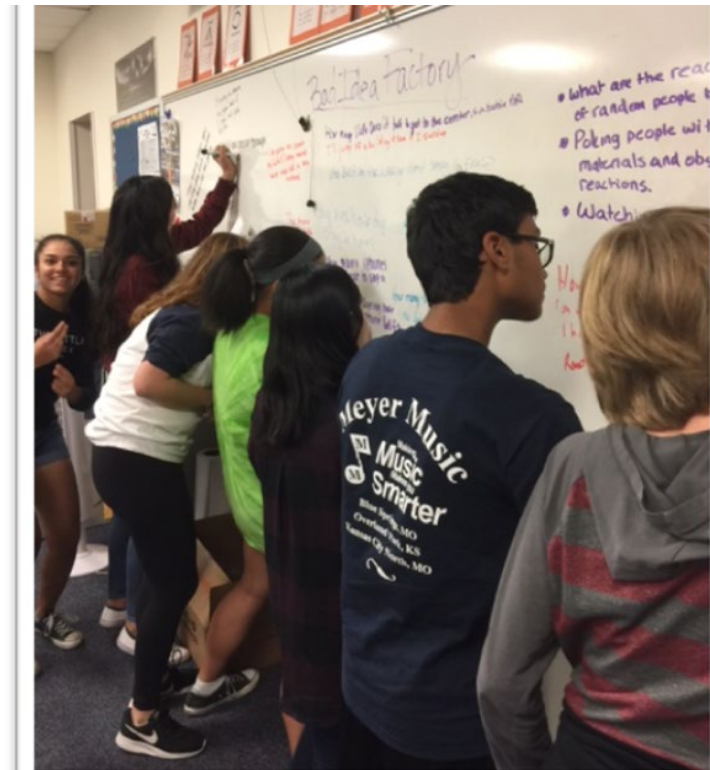
- A better understanding of self and strengths
- Reading, writing, research and presentation skills
- Collaboration
- Academic perseverance and grit
- A stronger cultural awareness



# DSFE Day-to-Day

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- Working on independent projects
- Collaboration and discussions with peers
- Readings
- Class presentations
- Writing as self-exploration





# Genius Hour Projects



- The World Through Dance: Dance and Cultural Expression
- Media and Politics: How Each Affect One Another
- Art for the Senses: Creating an Immersive Art Piece
- Podcasting: How to Create Your Own Podcast
- Rosin on a Budget: Creating Violin Rosin for Low-Income Schools
- Written Advice: Author Advice and a Month-Long Story Project
- Visual Revolution: Exploring Power and Injustice Through Multimedia Art



Rendez vous en

# FRANCE

All The Background You Need When Visiting The Most Beautiful Country On Earth

- Government
- People
- Attractions

And More Inside

FEATURED DESTINATION

*The Beauty of Paris*

APRIL 2021  
ISSUE 01

# PERU

**FLAG FACTS**  
LEARN THE COLORS OF THE PERUVIAN FLAG, AND THEIR SECRET MEANING!

**LATEST HITS**  
EXPERIENCE THE FOOD AND MUSIC NATIVE TO THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY OF PERU.

INTERVIEW

We also interviewed someone from Pakistan to hear about the country.

# PAKISTAN

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Just some info about Pakistan, like their economy or politics.

RACE AGAINST HUNGER

A brand New Organization that tackles Hunger in Pakistan!

# Cultural Publication

**Distinguished Scholars  
Language Arts  
(DSLAs)**

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# What kind of student is best suited for DSLA?

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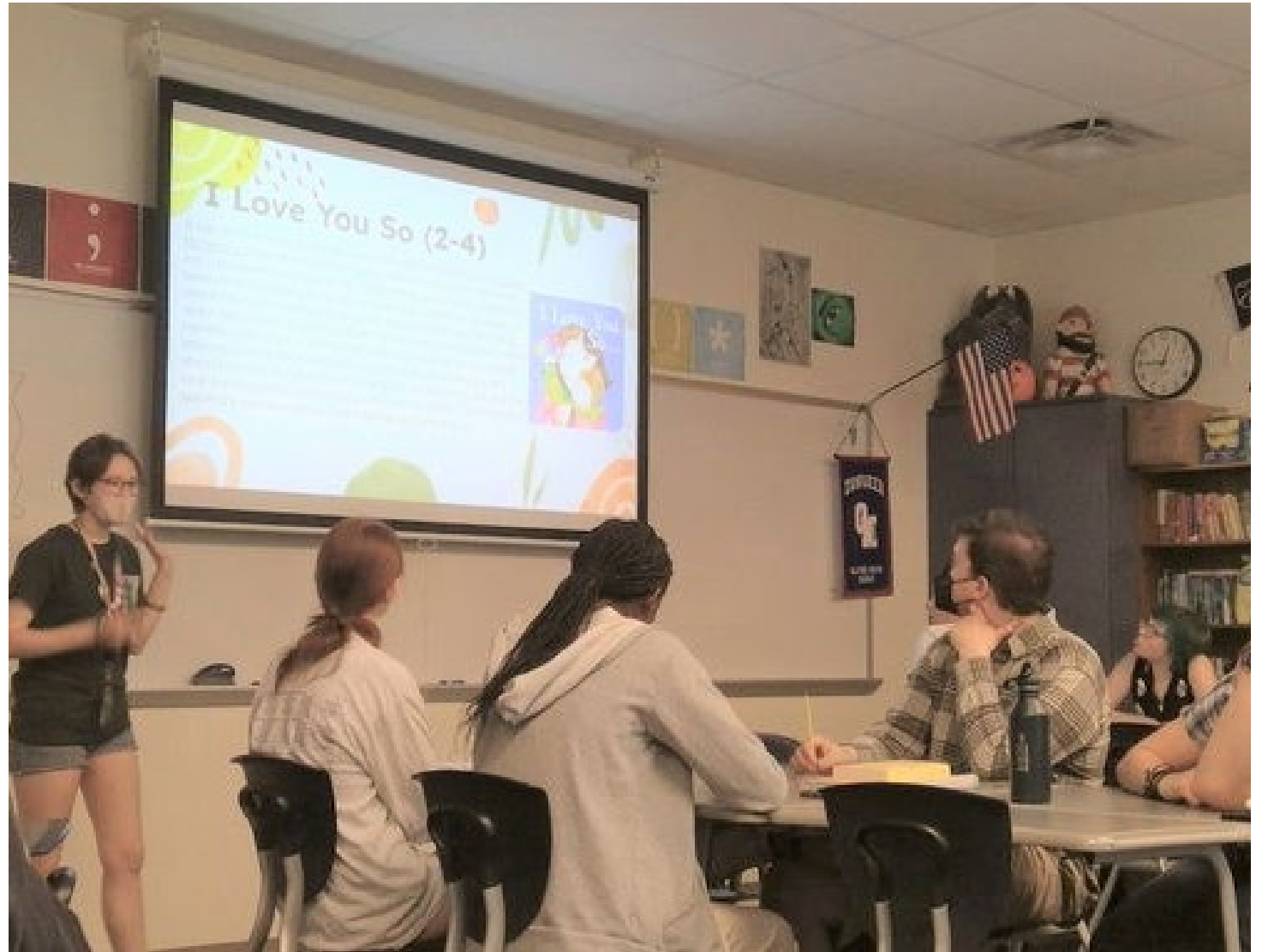
- Identifies as a reader
- Appreciates beautifully-composed language
- Gets excited talking about a good book
- Enjoys expressing ideas through words
- Interested in reading a variety of texts
- Loves the smell and feel of a book



# Sophomore & Junior Years

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- Read and discuss contemporary and classic works in a variety of genres
- Write and revise original pieces
- Examine authors' choices to inform our own writing
- Study language in-depth
- Explore various literary topics in depth, such as mythology or fairy tales
- Learn literary theories and read critical analysis



# Senior Capstone Projects

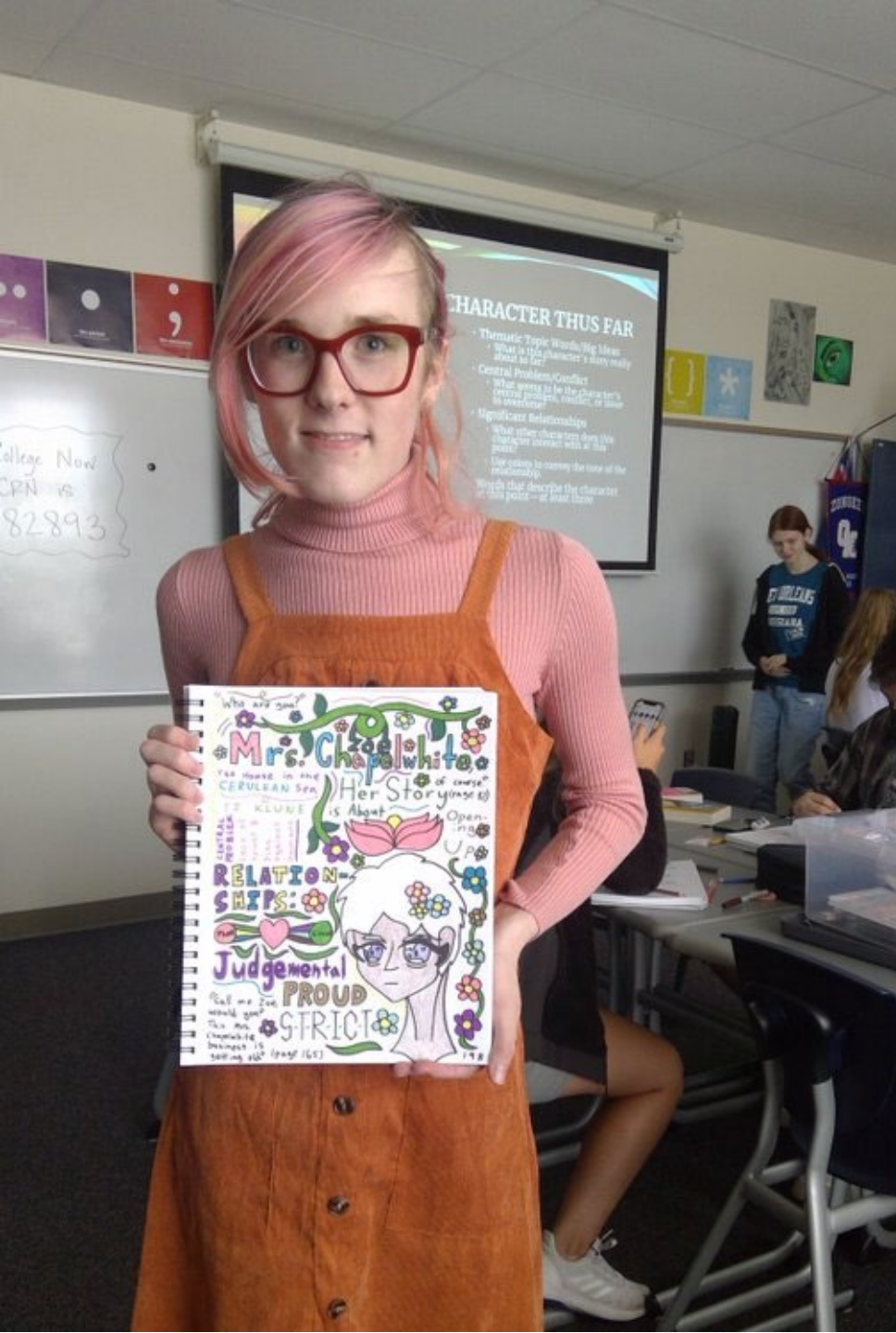
- The Empowerment of Student Leaders and Advocates Through Arts Education
- The Summit: A Journey Through the Treacherous Lands of Imagination
- Imbroglio of the Scholars: A Mockumentary
- 1318: A Memoir in Verse
- The American Literary Magazine: Genres, Biases, and Why They Won't Publish Me
- Refracted Reflections: Prose Inspired by Five Broken Writers



# DSL Enrichment

- Workshops with local and national authors
- Field trip and workshop in Special Collections at KU Spencer Research Library
- Writing workshop with Coterie Theater
- Attending author and writing conferences such as LitUp
- Skyping with authors and publishers
- Attending theatre performances
- Attending author events through Rainy Day Books, Kansas City Public Library, and Johnson County Public Library
- Scholastic Writing Competition





# DSL A Day-to-Day

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- Responding to writing prompts
- Writing and revising original works
- Discussing readings
- Art journaling about readings
- Researching focus topics
- Working in writer groups
- Memorizing & reciting poetry
- Diagramming sentences



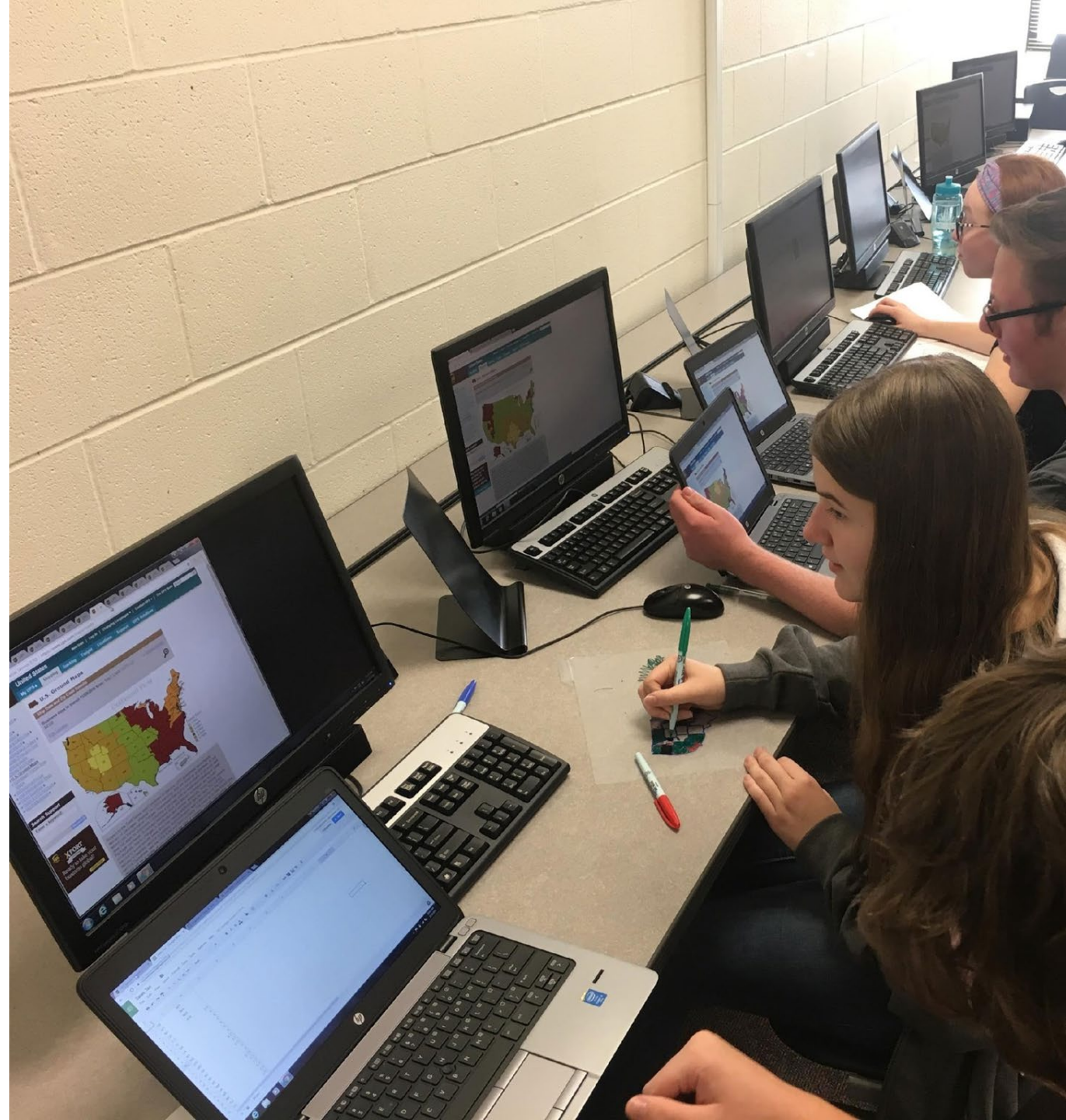


# **Distinguished Scholars Math**

# What kind of student is best suited for DS Math?

## One who

- has an interest in math, science, and/or computers
- possesses “number sense”
- tends to be analytical and logical



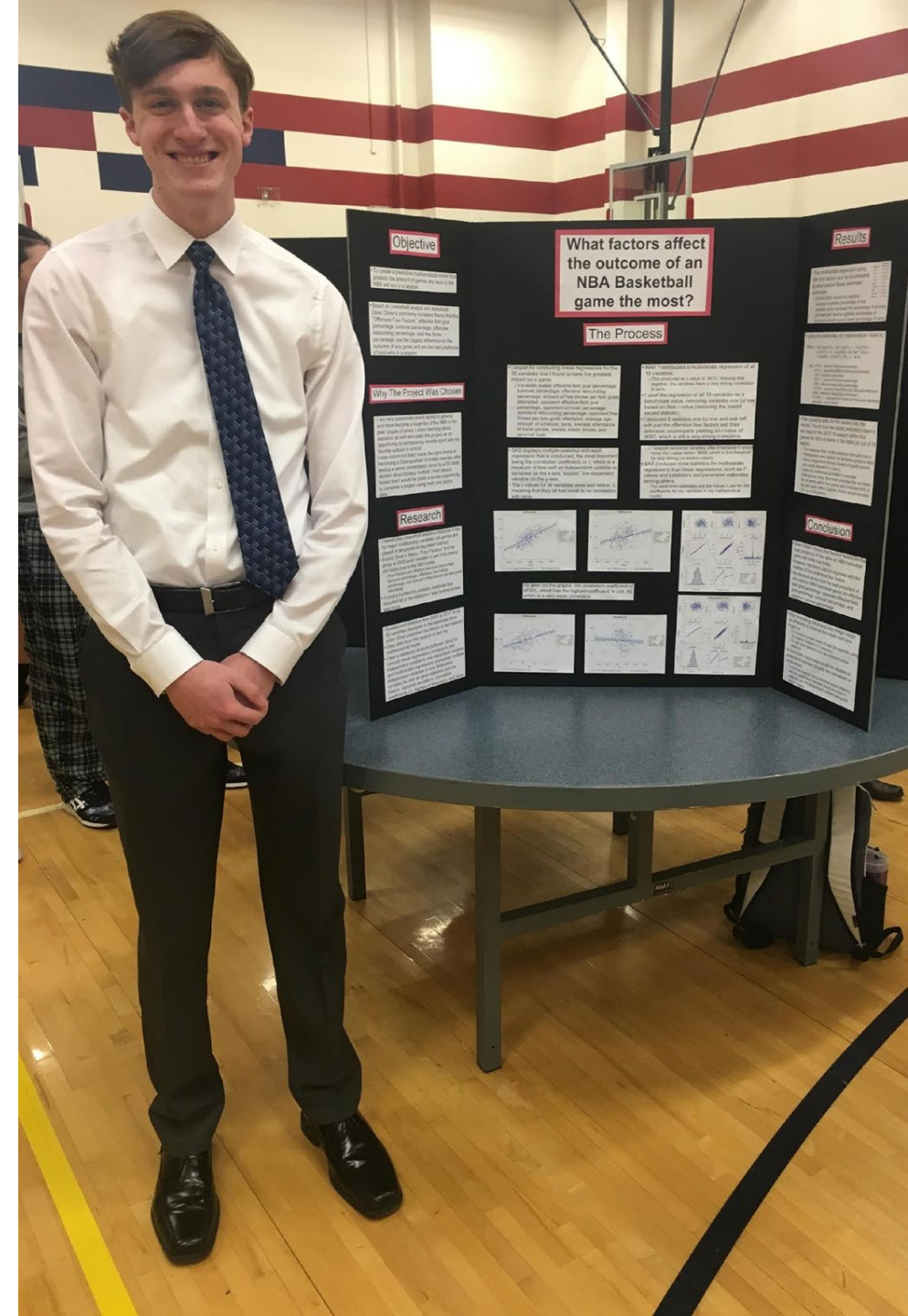


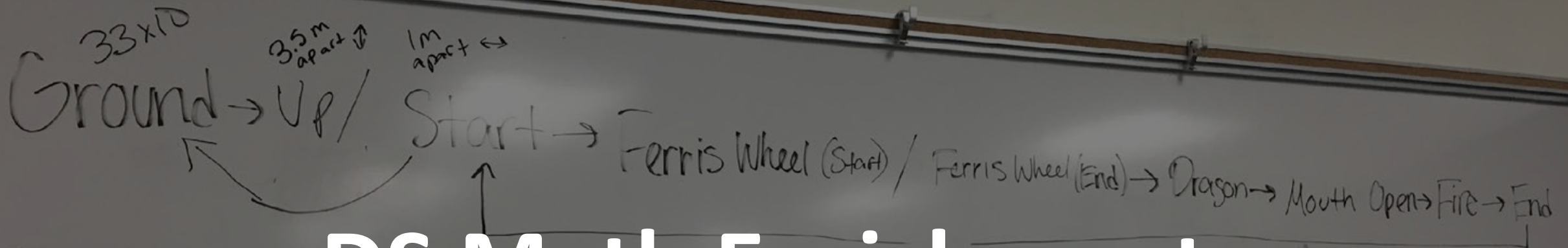
# Sophomore & Junior Years

- Mathematical modeling
- Broad math topics
  - Pure math (number theory, geometries)
  - Applications of math (statistics, surveying)
- Book studies

# Senior Capstone Projects

- Techniques for improving focus and concentration
- Reducing radar signatures via physical characteristics
- Strategies for tire replacement in Formula 1 race situations
- Cybersecurity in server situations
- Visualizations of non-Euclidean geometries
- Power iterations as models for Google search page ranks
- Time to learn another instrument to proficiency
- Factors that can predict home runs in MLB players





# DS Math Enrichment

High School Mathematical Competition in Modeling (HiMCM)

Total Drones: 230

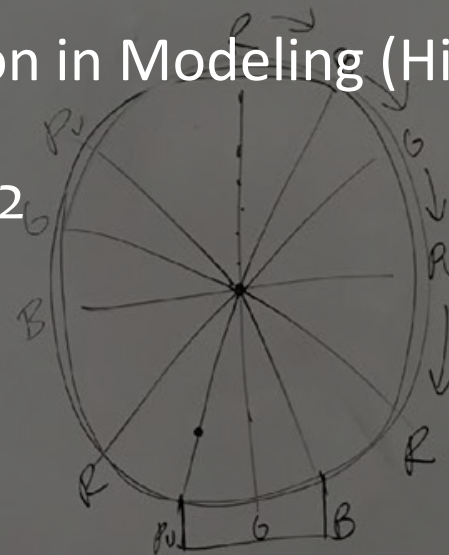
Final: front plane ~ 91 drones  
 back plane ~ 139 drones

FW: Outside: 126  
 Inside: 204

- Cost analysis
- Planes are 11x

AMC 10/AMC 12

So best seen from \* points (keep in mid if skyscrapers but we are placing best viewing on ground)

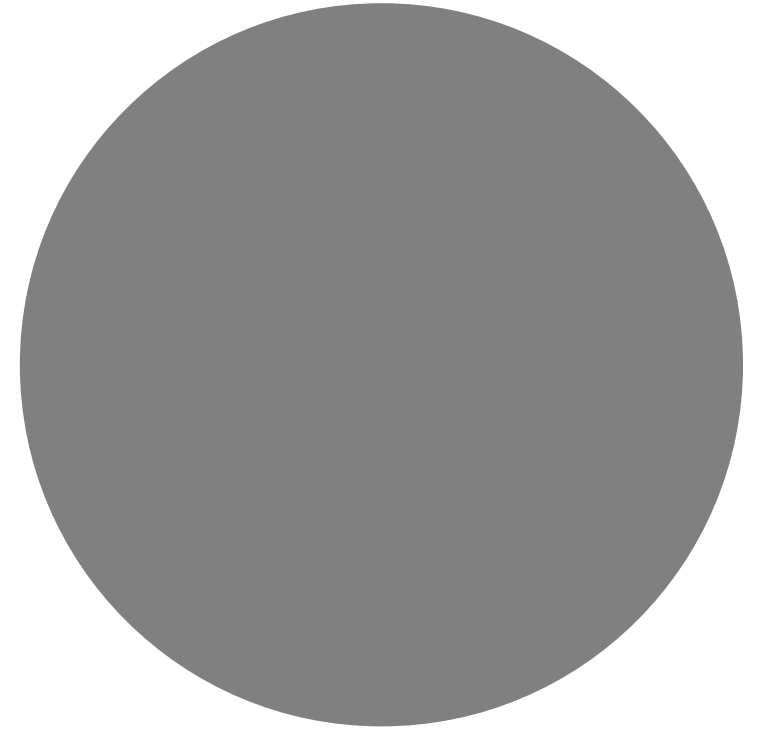
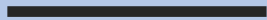




- Projects about mathematical topics such as quadratics, complex numbers, topology, or hyperbolic geometry
- Learning about and discussing new mathematical discoveries

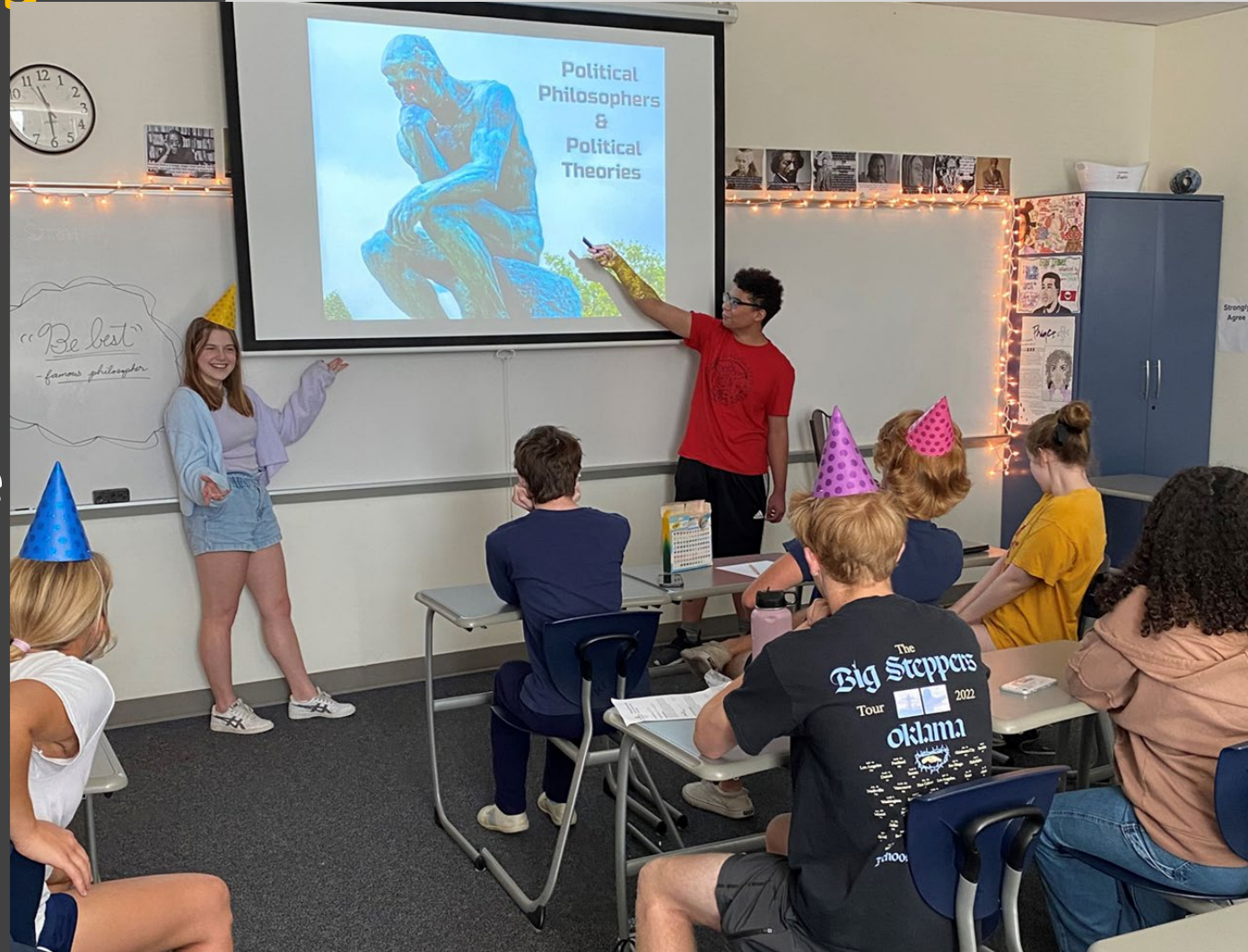
# DS Math Day-to-Day

# **Distinguished Scholars Political Science (DSPS)**

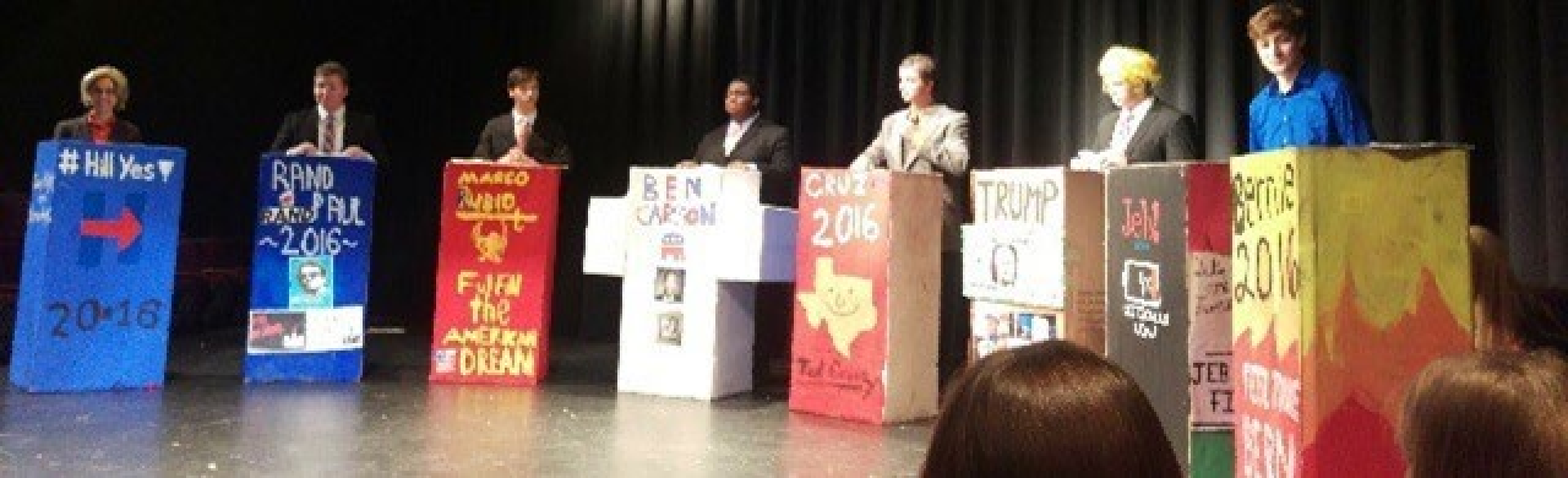


# What kind of student is best suited for DSPS?

- Interested in current affairs, politics, and history
- Passionate about leadership
- Enjoys discussion and debate
- Analyzes information and trends
- Has strong oral and written communication skills







## **Sophomore & Junior Years**

- Develop research, writing and discussion skills
- Learn to critically read documents
- Assess the validity of arguments
- Interact with current events and politics
- Improve presentation skills

# Senior Capstone Projects

- Historical Driving Tour of Olathe
- Redlining & Health in Kansas City
- Political Power & Relations to Subsidiary Institutions
- Exhibit Building: History of Olathe North Exhibit at Mahaffie Farmstead
- The Rise of Minority Women in Politics
- Historical Perspectives on Race and Marriage Genealogy

# DSPS Enrichment

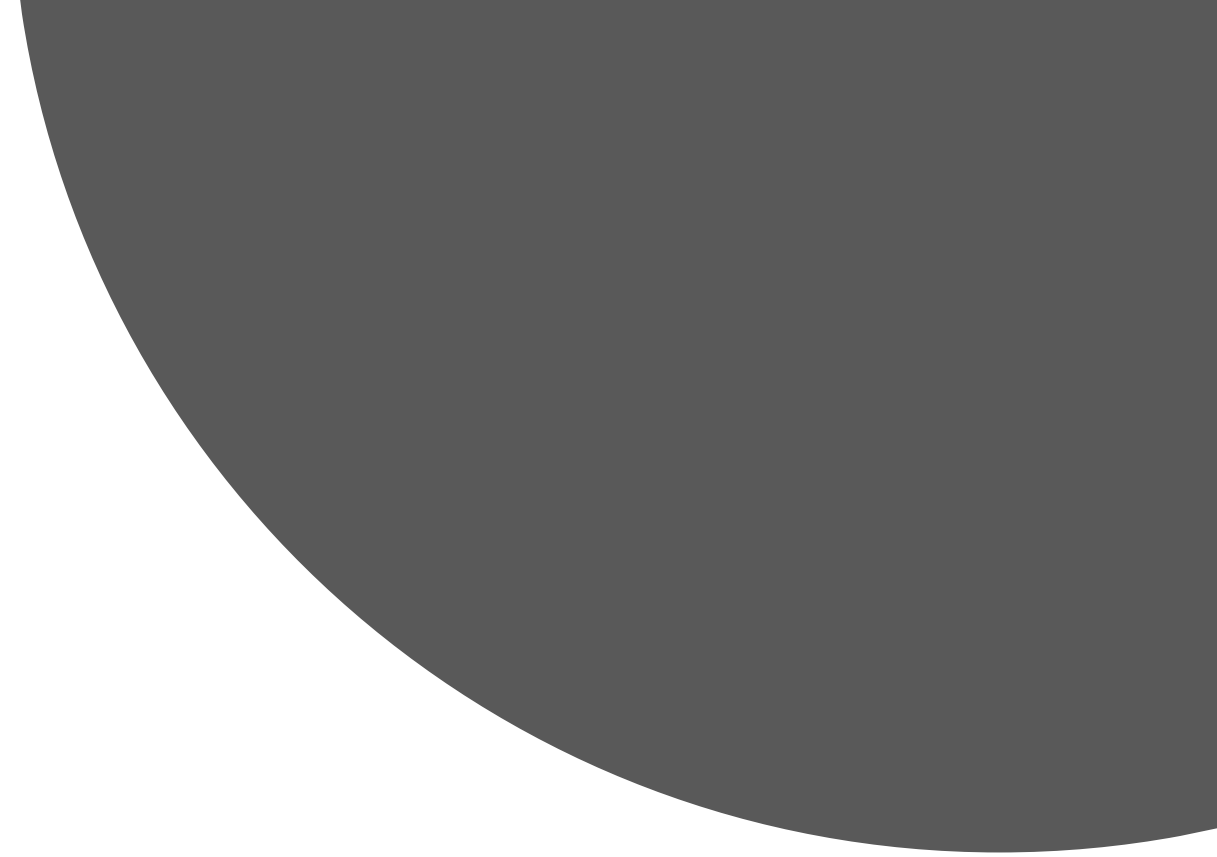
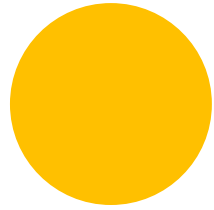
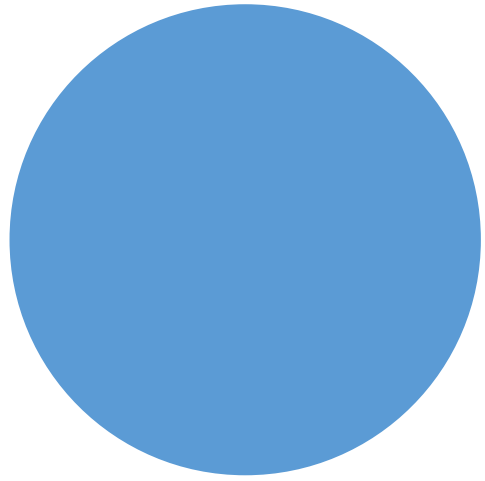
- American Public Square
- Truman Decision Center
- The Race Project
- WorldQuest Competition
- Visiting Johnson County Courthouse and Jail
- First Amendment Foundation
- Guest speakers, including Rep. Sharice Davids, Rep. Kevin Yoder, Rep. Cindy Holscher, campaign workers, judges, and lawyers





# DSPS Day-to-Day

- Research, projects, and discussions on:
  - Current affairs
  - Constitutional issues
  - Criminal justice
  - Social justice
  - Political theory
  - Public policy
  - Advocacy
  - International relations
  - History



Distinguished  
Scholars Science



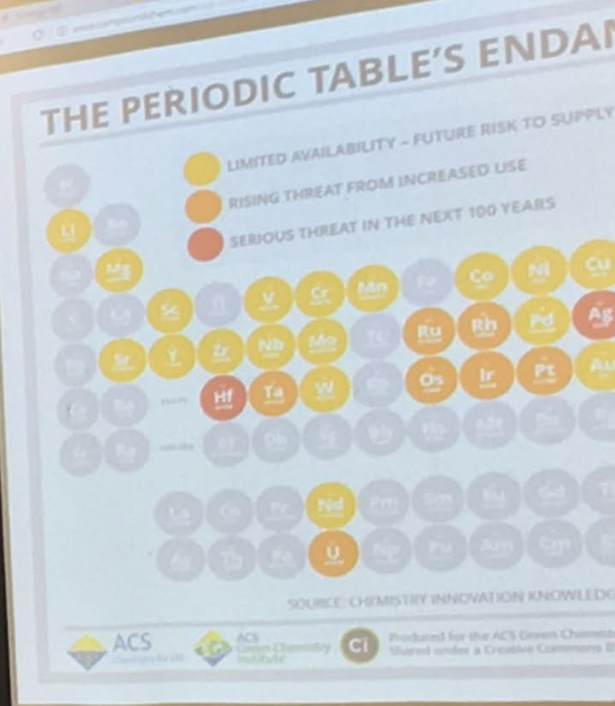
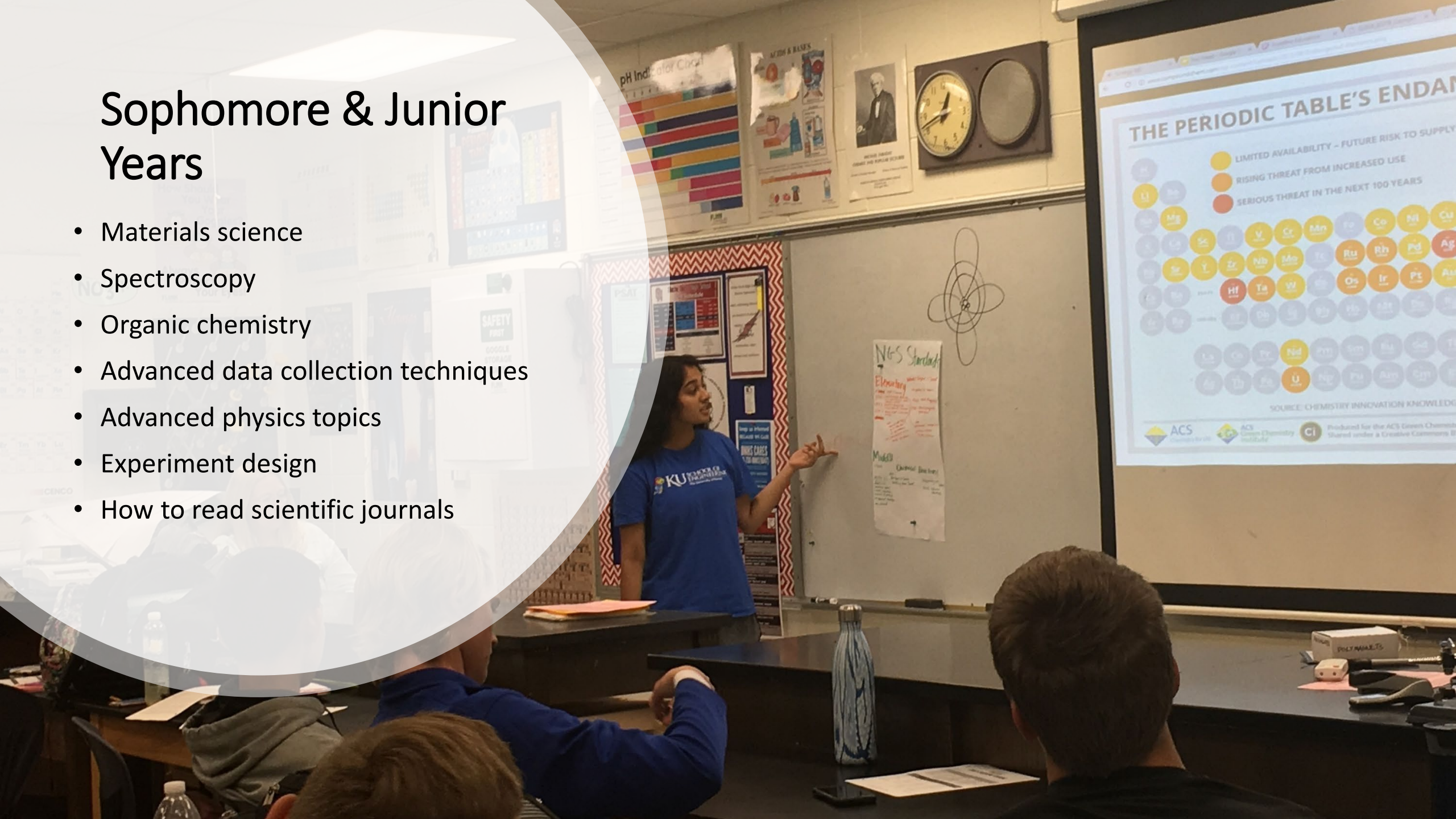
# What kind of student is best suited to DS Science?

- Has a passion for exploring
- Enjoys tinkering
- Wants to know the “why” behind the physical world
- Pays attention to details
- Has strong reasoning skills



# Sophomore & Junior Years

- Materials science
- Spectroscopy
- Organic chemistry
- Advanced data collection techniques
- Advanced physics topics
- Experiment design
- How to read scientific journals



# Senior Capstone Projects

- Azole Inhibition of CYP51-32C Enzyme for Leishmaniasis Control
- Twitter Algorithm Analysis: Account Reliability and Bot Detection
- The Effect of Various Glazes Fired onto Ceramic Bodies on Compressive Strength
- Identification of Genetically Modified Organisms through Test Strips
- The Intensity of Light Reflected off of Prussian Blue Pigment Dyed Cotton at Various Temperatures

## Degradation of Bisphenol A in Water by $TiO_2$ Photocatalyst

Ellie Miller  
City of Olathe Environmental Laboratory

**Materials**

**Results**

**Conclusion**

**References**

**Acknowledgement**

DeWayne McAllister  
Laboratory Manager  
City of Olathe  
Environmental Laboratory  
Olathe, KS 66466  
Phone: 913-971-8400

**Introduction**

**Procedure**

**Chemical Structure**

Oc1ccc(cc1)C(C)(C)c2ccc(O)cc2





# DS Science Enrichment

- Battle of the Brains
- Guest speakers
- Internships at university labs
- Research opportunities
- Connections with alumni at top science and engineering universities and national labs

# DS Science Day-to-Day



- Working in the lab
- Experimenting
- Tinkering
- Asking “What if” and testing it out
- Discussing hypotheses and current research


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**Distinguished  
Scholars  
Visual Arts  
(DSVA)**

## What kind of student is best suited for DSVA?

- Creative
- Passionate about art
- Interested in exploring different artistic materials
- Enjoys researching artists and ideas
- Likes expressing ideas through artistic media

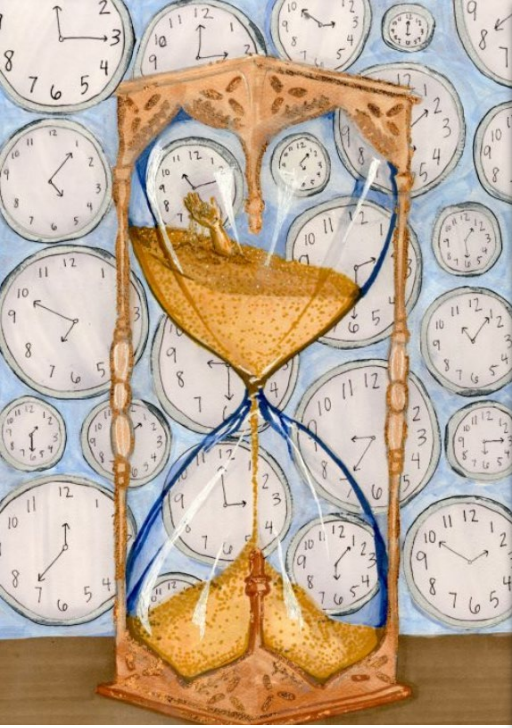




## **Sophomore & Junior Years**

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- **Exploring different art materials**
- **Learning about different artists**
- **Learning different artistic techniques**
- **Building personal portfolios**
- **Learning how to document personal artwork and creative research**
- **Exploring artistic careers**



# Senior Capstone Projects

- How does life change as one grows out of childhood?
- How can I visually display the correlation between sports and art?
- How can I express how anxiety has impacted my/others life in 3D artworks?

# DSVA Enrichment

- Museum trips
- Guest artists
- DSVA-funded summer art class between junior & senior years
- Dedicated studio art space throughout DSVA career
- Personalized access to materials and supplies based on individual portfolio development and interests





# DSVA Day-to-Day

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- Materials exploration
- Drawing
- Painting
- Sculpting
- Ceramics
- Photography
- Digital artwork



# Application Process



November 17 – Online Application Opens



December 6 – Online Application Closes



December 13 – Interviews Scheduled



January 13 – Invitations Available Online



January 18 – Deadline to Accept or Decline

https://www.olatheschools.org/21stcenturyacademies

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [olatheschools.org/21stcenturyacademies](https://www.olatheschools.org/21stcenturyacademies). The navigation menu is highlighted in red and includes links for Home, About Us, Academies, Application (circled), Partners, Endorsement, Community Open Houses, Real World Learning, and DISTRICT. Below the navigation menu, the page features a large red graphic with a globe and the text "21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ACADEMIES OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS". To the right of this graphic, the text "21st Century Academies" is displayed, followed by the tagline "See How Innovative Your High School Education Can Be". Below this, there is a section titled "Celebrating 20 Years" with a video player showing students in a laboratory and on a school bus. The video player includes a "LEARN MORE" button and navigation controls. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screen.