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TheDaltonSchool®

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School Year: 2020 - 2021

Literature and Composition - Veronica Mitnacht

		Mid 2
English	Midterm 2 Grade	A

Literature and Composition - Veronica Mitnacht

What are key skills all students are working on in this class? What are the main assessments during this marking period? How can the student further develop skills in this course and meet any challenges the student has identified in the self-assessment?

This trimester, students have been working on close reading, annotation, and group discussion skills while reading selections from the Book of Genesis and the Book of Luke through a literary lens. The following assessments reflect engagement in class sessions, skill development, and performance on two written homework assignments. Please note that the majority of the written work which will determine final T2 grades in this course has not yet been assigned.

Anya has been doing outstanding work in English this trimester. She always comes to class prepared and eager to learn, and her comments in class are often two steps ahead of my lesson plan. More importantly, she shows a genuine and precocious intellectual curiosity, as well as sensitivity to the philosophical implications of the texts we're reading. Anya has mentioned note-taking to me in labs before, and she mentions in her S.A.L. that she's been using a dedicated notebook to keep track of major events in the Book of Genesis and Book of Luke. This approach strikes me as an excellent idea. Keep up the great work!

Introduction to Creative Writing - Chris Hood

		Mid 2
English	Midterm 2 Grade	A

Introduction to Creative Writing - Chris Hood

What are key skills all students are working on in this class? What are the main assessments during this marking period? How can the student further develop skills in this course and meet any challenges the student has identified in the self-assessment?

Anya, you are off to a wonderful start in the Creative Writing Program! You are a great participant in workshop, both in your speaking voice and your written responses, and you bring that same energy to Blue Flag as well. As a poet, you're working productively, and we should definitely continue to lab as the class turns toward fiction. I'm sure that I'm going to be seeing you in many Advanced-level workshops in the years to come!

Topics in World History I - Sarah Dunitz

		Mid 2
History	Midterm 2 Grade	A-

Topics in World History I - Sarah Dunitz

What are key skills all students are working on in this class? What are the main assessments during this marking period? How can the student further develop skills in this course and meet any challenges the student has identified in the self-assessment?

So far this trimester, we have continued to work on several competencies through various activities and formative assessments. Four competencies we are highlighting here in this report include the following:

Competency #1: Become an informed global citizen by asking big questions and wonder about the dynamics of power that inform history, and the exploitation and active marginalization of individuals and groups around the world

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Topics in World History I - Sarah Dunitz ...continued from previous page

Competency #2: Collaborate with members of your community. The focus is on connection: you share ideas and resources with your peers that encourage them to think more deeply.

Competency #3: Think as an historian by discovering, evaluating, and analyzing varied research sources, both primary and secondary.

Competency #4: Communicate as a historian by developing a logical, clear argument supported by well-analyzed evidence.

Thank you for sharing your SAL with me. I appreciate your insights and candor.

We continue to work on the first two competencies using several assessments. Indeed, these essential skills are embedded and woven into our curriculum writ large, and the many See/Mean/Know learning routine, annotation skills and activities have asked you to think about power relations *within* history and power relations as they *inhere in* the construction of historical narratives. These learning routines have also relied on and celebrate collaborative work, and your commitment to these practices has been good. You are a thoughtful participant in class discussions, and you help to move the conversation forward in a productive manner; thank you!

Your work on the recent Assignment 4 assessment, which involved analyzing a piece by (popular yet controversial) historian Niall Ferguson and a document ID of Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* (1776) was sophisticated and incisive. In your SAL you note that you struggle to draw connections between different sources, and I think that this is something that you can work on in your annotations and doc IDs. Try to consider how the themes relate to specific primary and secondary source material that we have read in class.

The main vehicle for engaging and realizing competencies #3 and #4 has been "The Way They Lived Then" research project, and you have approached this project in a diligent and creative manner. As you start to write the final paper, highlight a coherent, forceful argument that responds to your research question, and corroborate this with specific evidence. I look forward to providing feedback on your outline on female fertility and marriage in Renaissance Europe.

Math Team - Mrs. Lisa Borenstein

		Mid 2
Math	Midterm 2 Grade	A

Math Team - Mrs. Lisa Borenstein

What are key skills all students are working on in this class? What are the main assessments during this marking period? How can the student further develop skills in this course and meet any challenges the student has identified in the self-assessment?

This marking period students were focused on AMC(American Mathematics Competition) preparation. Students worked collaboratively on old contests and became familiar with the AOPS platform that will be used this year to give the contest digitally. This included independently completing a practice contest on this website. Student progress is measured by completing this assigned work. Anna, you will continue to learn techniques that you can apply to solving the math team problems. You will also be exposed to contests that contain various problem types and you will identify the best technique to apply.

Geometry '2A' - Mr. David Harvey

		Mid 2
Math	Midterm 2 Grade	A

Geometry '2A' - Mr. David Harvey

What are key skills all students are working on in this class? What are the main assessments during this marking period? How can the student further develop skills in this course and meet any challenges the student has identified in the self-assessment?

In Geometry 2A students continue to develop their deductive reasoning skills using logical proof to further expand the breadth and depth of their body of content knowledge. In addition to learning different proof techniques, students also learn approaches specific to content areas that allow them to make progress more readily. Students are assessed upon completion of formal written presentation of several proofs from each week's work, as well as upon peer feedback that each student must give and respond to in the form of edits and revisions of previously submitted work. Lastly, students are expected to maintain scanned images of all work in a portfolio in their google drive.

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Geometry '2A' - Mr. David Harvey ...continued from previous page

Anya is a wonderfully motivated student who brings a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and energy to the class. When I visit the breakout room she is working in I hear her voice leading the group through a problem. She follows instructions closely, and is exceptionally thorough in her work. She has mentioned that editing and revising has been useful and we will cycle through this process twice more via checklists, and continue to do this every several classes through student presentations of solutions (in which she also frequently participates). She remarks that she needs more work on justifying her work when doing Euclidean constructions using the software, though for me, I see this as an example of her setting the bar high for herself. I have no concerns about her abilities here. She's doing great work.

Biology - Alicia Reid

		Mid 2
Science	Midterm 2 Grade	A

Biology - Alicia Reid

What are key skills all students are working on in this class? What are the main assessments during this marking period? How can the student further develop skills in this course and meet any challenges the student has identified in the self-assessment?

It's a pleasure to have Anya in my Biology class! So far students have been working on grounding their inferences in observations and applying concepts such as "structure informs function" to novel contexts, like learning about different types of cells, cell structures, and cellular organelles. Students are also working on effectively using evidence to structure larger arguments, for example, a definition for life or addressing the value of studying race in Biology class. Additionally, as they engage in class activities, students are building their ability to constructively collaborate with their peers to further develop science skills such as microscopy, experimental design and data analysis. The main assessments for this trimester will include both hands-on and virtual lab investigations, written reflections on reading and class discussions, and problem sets from our Biology digital texts (iBook and Miller & Levine). It is clear that Anya takes great care and pride in her work, as evidenced by the various digital Biology journal entries and work submitted thus far. In order to further develop skills in this course and to meet the challenge of understanding the differences in size of cellular and non-cellular structures that Anya identified in the self-assessment, I encourage Anya to review her notes and assigned reading material throughout the week, organize her notes into concept maps, and check in with me periodically for Labs. I encourage Anya to continue to keep up the excellent levels of participation and engagement during small and whole group activities and discussions. All of these measures should help to increase her conceptual understanding of the course content and enhance her ability to apply her understanding to novel biological contexts. I look forward to working with Anya in Biology this year!

Spanish 2 - Verónica Valentín

		Mid 2
Language	Midterm 2 Grade	A

Spanish 2 - Verónica Valentín

What are key skills all students are working on in this class? What are the main assessments during this marking period? How can the student further develop skills in this course and meet any challenges the student has identified in the self-assessment?

As a matter of course our Spanish class focuses on developing the three modes of communication, interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive, but we have placed particular emphasis on the interpretive and the presentational modes during the ongoing trimester. For the rest of the trimester, we will also begin to incorporate more practice in the interpersonal mode.

In terms of the interpretive mode, students had to read short paragraphs and listen to native speakers talk about their daily routines. In doing so, students learned how to use and conjugate reflexive verbs, which, in Spanish, are used to express actions that one does to oneself. Furthermore, students learned how to read, distinguish, and use the verbs "ser" and "estar," which is a difficult task for Spanish learners.

In terms of the presentational mode, students had to develop their "Mi rutina" (my routine) project, which required students to self-assess their performance using a rubric. In class, students wrote, edited, and practiced their scripts before recording their videos. Their peers watched and provided comments, highlighting the similarities and differences with their own daily routines.

Anya, you did a nice job using the "verbos reflexivos," writing your "guión," and creating a video to explain your daily routine. ¡Buen trabajo!

In your SALs, you stated, "The biggest challenge for me is speaking in Spanish on the spot because I tend to become overly nervous, and then freezing up. I am

Spanish 2 - Verónica Valentín ...continued from previous page

addressing this issue by practicing situations in which I would have to use conversational Spanish skills. Since I started doing this, I have become much more comfortable participating in class, and my pronunciation has improved significantly."

Anya, I have to say that I have noticed a great improvement when you speak. That said, know that it is normal to be a bit nervous. But keep speaking and dare to make mistakes. You can strengthen your interpersonal speaking by continuing to participate actively in class, scheduling one or two labs a month, and to consistently use the "grow your language" resources. Remember the habits of an effective language learner, about which we spoke in class. Take risks, be driven, and go the extra mile to immerse yourself in the richness of the Spanish language in and outside of class. Remember to consult our weekly homework page, our class topic page, and to periodically check the resources that I post. I truly look forward to seeing your continued growth in the language!

Computer Science 1 - Molly Josephs

		Mid 2
Computer Science	Midterm 2 Grade	A

Computer Science 1 - Molly Josephs

What are key skills all students are working on in this class? What are the main assessments during this marking period? How can the student further develop skills in this course and meet any challenges the student has identified in the self-assessment?

In CS1, students have been working on making their first "code sketch" using HTML and CSS and then building on those skills to create a personal website with a coding journal and projects page that will serve as a digital portfolio for their work throughout the trimester.

Anya, it has been such a pleasure working with you thus far. You are so brave! In class, you always volunteer to share your screen and code live in front of the class. I am so grateful for your willingness to share even though it can be hard and vulnerable! Also, you are fantastic at asking for help and clarifying questions, which helps everyone, especially since most folks are too shy to ask, even when they're having the exact same problem. This courage is an amazing skill to cultivate! It'll continue to help you in this class and beyond! Keep it up!

In your SAL, you mentioned that it could be helpful to pair-program with someone else so that you have fresh eyes looking at your code. I'd love to introduce you to some people from other classes who I think would love help with this too. In addition, going forward, keep spending time independently working on your code — this practice will grow your fluency immensely. In addition, I would love to have a weekly Lab to help you get your extremely creative ideas off the ground!

Anya, thank you for being you! I look forward to continuing to work with you this year!

Zen Dance - Randi Sloan

		Mid 2
Dance	Midterm 2 Grade	A

Zen Dance - Randi Sloan

What are key skills all students are working on in this class? What are the main assessments during this marking period? How can the student further develop skills in this course and meet any challenges the student has identified in the self-assessment?

This semester we continue to focus on Meditation Yoga and Pilates, combining active flexibility, strength, balance and coordination. There is always an emphasis on alignment and mindfulness as the students execute a variety of postures. Deanna Martinez, a graduate student from NYU's dance department, will be joining us for the next two months and she will assist/lead some Pilates classes. In trimester 3, students will be taught by Sensai David in a series of Karate classes. This will be his sixth year working with Zen Dance and it is always a pleasure watching students enthusiastically practice their Front Kick (Mae Geri) or Straight Punch (Choku Zuki).

Anna, you are a diligent student who clearly benefits from the study of yoga both for the benefits of improving body awareness and learning to release tension. Technically, you can focus on opening the hips and hamstrings in order to create more freedom and mobility in your lower back. Cultivating strength in the lower abdominals will additionally help to support the lower spine, while affording you greater mobility in the limbs. Your class etiquette, positive body language, and attention to detail enhances your experience by allowing you to progress more fully over the year. You mentioned in your SAL that you are devoting the same time each day for meditation and applaud you for working on consistency to help build a solid practice. Keep up the good work!

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Peer Leadership - Nicholas Lechich

		Mid 2
Peer	Midterm 2 Grade	P

