

DENVER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL

NOVEMBER newsletter



Student Highlight: Ryan Huitt

Ryan Huitt is Denver Online High School's first student to take advantage of the DPS CareerConnect and CareerWise apprenticeship program. While there are ten career pathways for students to choose from, Ryan chose the MedConnect pathway where he is currently employed at a local nursing home while he completes his high school education, earns tuition-free college credit, and pursues his career working towards becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse. [WATCH his Student Highlight Story HERE.](#) [Find his full Student Highlight Story here.](#)

Find more information about Denver Online High School's DPS CareerConnect Program [HERE.](#) Fill out the CareerConnect Apprenticeship Program Student Interest Survey [HERE.](#)

PRINCIPAL corner

As we head into the month of November and the beginning of the holiday season, it's a great time to reflect on the first part of the school year to both celebrate the things for which we are thankful. What I love most about my job and our school this year is the community that continues to build at Denver Online. Community-building in an environment where most students spend at least 80% of their time in a digital setting instead of a traditional classroom can be challenging. This year, we've encouraged our students to take the lead.

Last spring, twelve students came together for a two-day leadership workshop called Aspire. During those two days, the students discussed what leadership means to them individually and as a school, how our learning could impact our school community, what school culture goals would be most attainable this year and what structures we could put in place to make sure we achieve our goals. Out of that, the Student Action Association (SAA) was born. In August, five key leaders of the SAA met to generate ideas for starting the year

TOTALLY DO IT. IT'S AWESOME

We took the words of DOHS student Ryan Huitt, highlighted in this newsletter, to guide this month's goal. "Totally do it. It's awesome," can be applied to so many opportunities provided for students and families within our school community. Whether that's signing up for an apprenticeship program, really taking to heart the Fill the Bag Challenge and Silent Virtual Auction to help raise food and funds for our most in-need families, or really working your tail off into earning that grade you want, if you put your heart into it, it's going to be awesome. Live the Denver Online DO MORE motto this month and just do whatever *it* is in your life that challenges you and ignites your passion.

6 Pillars to Success *-Standouts-*



was born. In August, five key leaders of the SAA met to generate ideas for starting the year. The SAA members insisted that student leadership meant that they needed to be a presence for all of the beginning-of-year activities (Orientation, Parent Orientation, Back-to-School BBQ, etc.). In addition to all of this, they planned and executed the Halloween Bash and Haunted House, an event that yielded approximately 50-75 students in attendance, and are in the processes of planning our annual Winter Holiday Party (in collaboration with the National Honor Society) that will feature food, music, games, a canned food drive and silent auction benefiting our families in need as a gesture of giving during the holiday season. Finally, the SAA is doing their best to establish a student mentor program that not only seeks to assist new students with their academic planning, but also pushes for our student body to be aware of the smaller things we have available around the school such as clubs, groups, organizations, and monthly spirit day competitions.

At this point, we have approximately 30 students who are associated with this group of student leaders and 15 students who have been heavily involved in planning our activities this year. Of course, there is always room for more voices and more hands in building the strong culture that is Denver Online. I couldn't be prouder of everything this group has accomplished thus far and am even more excited to see how they'll continue to shape the face of our school into a place that has something for everyone!

So this year, I am thankful for the SAA for their commitment to "doing more" at Denver Online and the students at Denver Online for jumping in with this group of leaders to help take our school community to the next level! On behalf of the entire team at Denver Online, I wish all of our students and families a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!



-Brayden Waller-



-Zipporah Nelson-



-Aldo Perez-

SCHOOL & PROGRAM highlights

Winter Holiday Party

One of our favorite events of this year is coming up on Friday, December 7th! This event is open to all students and their families and will include a Virtual Silent Auction (start bidding next week!), a White Elephant Gift exchange, music and dancing, food, and other fun holiday activities. Wear your best ugly sweater to compete for the ugliest sweater prize! To get in the door, all you need are 2 canned food items that will be donated back to our school's food pantry.



-Cordelia Kelly-

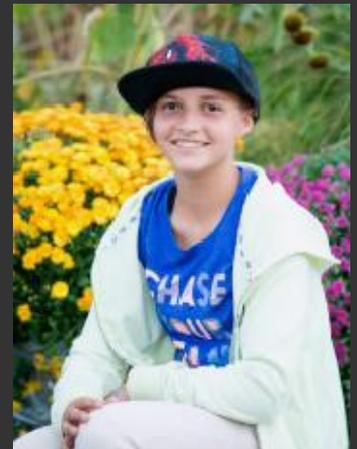
Fill the Bag Challenge

Help spread some love this holiday season by donating canned food and other non-perishable items! Students will be given maroon Denver Online High School reusable shopping bags on the November 27th Connection Day and are to return them filled (if it's feasible for your family to give and you feel called to donate) to the school by December 14th. All food will be distributed to our most in-need families before the holidays.

Should you need some extra food this season, please reach out to either Social Worker Jaime Smith (jaime_smith@dpsk12.org) or Community Development Coordinator Kaci Sintek (kaci_sintek@dpsk12.org). There are lots of resources to help!



-LeeAnn Hamilton-



-Kloey Wheeler-

Junior Achievement Personal Finance

Junior Achievement (JA) is helping students explore and prepare for their financial futures in a five week workshop series during Connection Days. Math credit is available for these workshops.

Junior Achievement Personal Finance explores the fundamental elements of personal finances: earnings, saving and investing, budgeting, credit, risk management, and giving. Students apply these elements to a personal financial plan that allows them to set specific goals for their lifelong financial needs and desired quality of life.



DPS CareerConnect

[The DPS CareerConnect Program](#)

allows students to gain relevant technical and soft skills and workplace experience with the potential to earn college credit and certifications while you are still in high school!



DENVER
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

CareerConnect
Learning Made Real

There are ten pathways for students to choose from, two of which Denver Online High School offers on-site: CreativeConnect and TechConnect.

In addition to career and technical education courses, students are also able to apply for the apprenticeship program. This is a 3 or 4-year immersive program that allows students to work at a company, get paid for their work, have the potential to earn certifications and more tuition-free college credit, all while completing high school.

We are looking for current 10th and 11th graders who are interested in attending the apprenticeship program! [Find more about the DPS youth apprenticeship program here!](#)

[Fill out the CareerConnect Apprenticeship Program](#)

[Student Interest Survey HERE.](#)



-Anna Ryan-



Parent Support Group

Our 5-part parent workshop series was developed to increase meaningful conversations for parents around how to best support their children. These conversations are guided by special guest speakers and driven by parents helping parents. Join one of our upcoming Parent Support Group sessions as we have 3 left!



- December 12th, 6-7:30pm
- January 9th, 6-7:30pm
- February 13th, 6-7:30pm



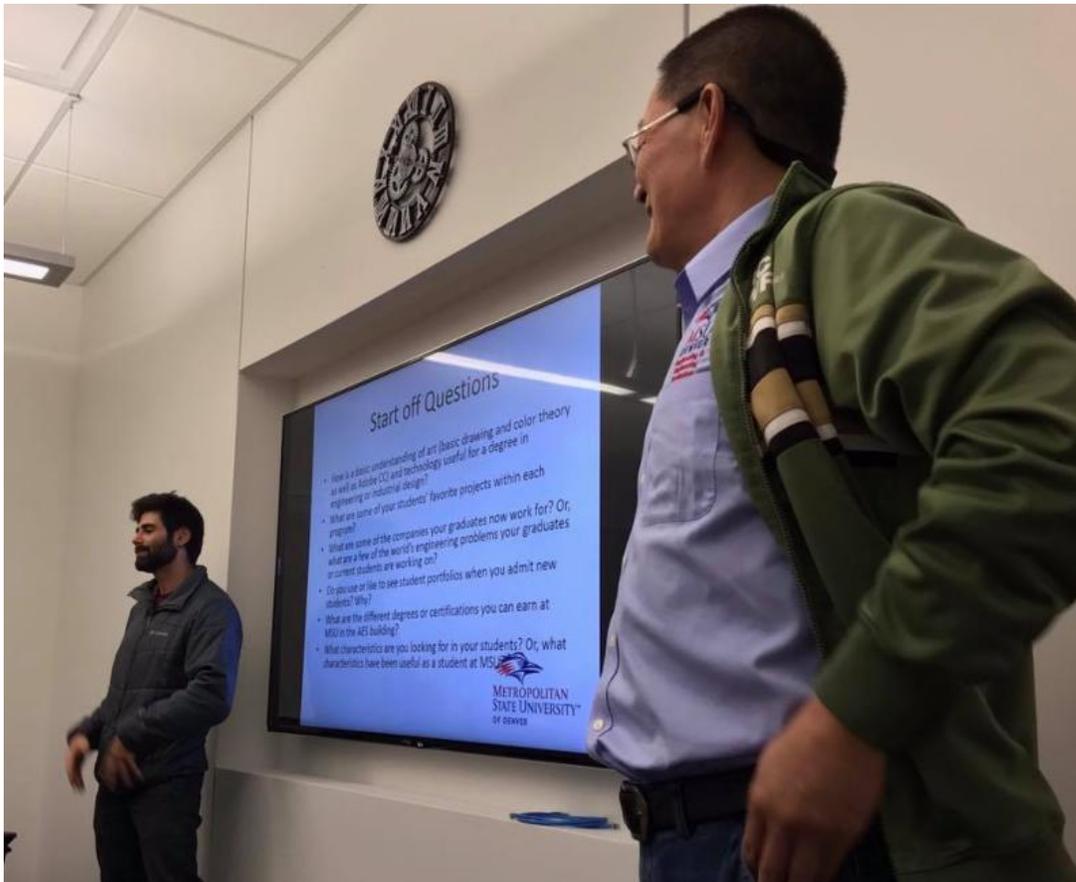
-Raina Miller-



-Xander Bowman-

latest NEWS

MSU College Visit - Industrial Design and Engineering



Our first DPS CareerConnect field trip was at MSU checking out the Industrial Design and Engineering Program in the Aerospace and Engineering Building, held on November 7th. One of the main takeaways was that art is a good foundation for industrial design and



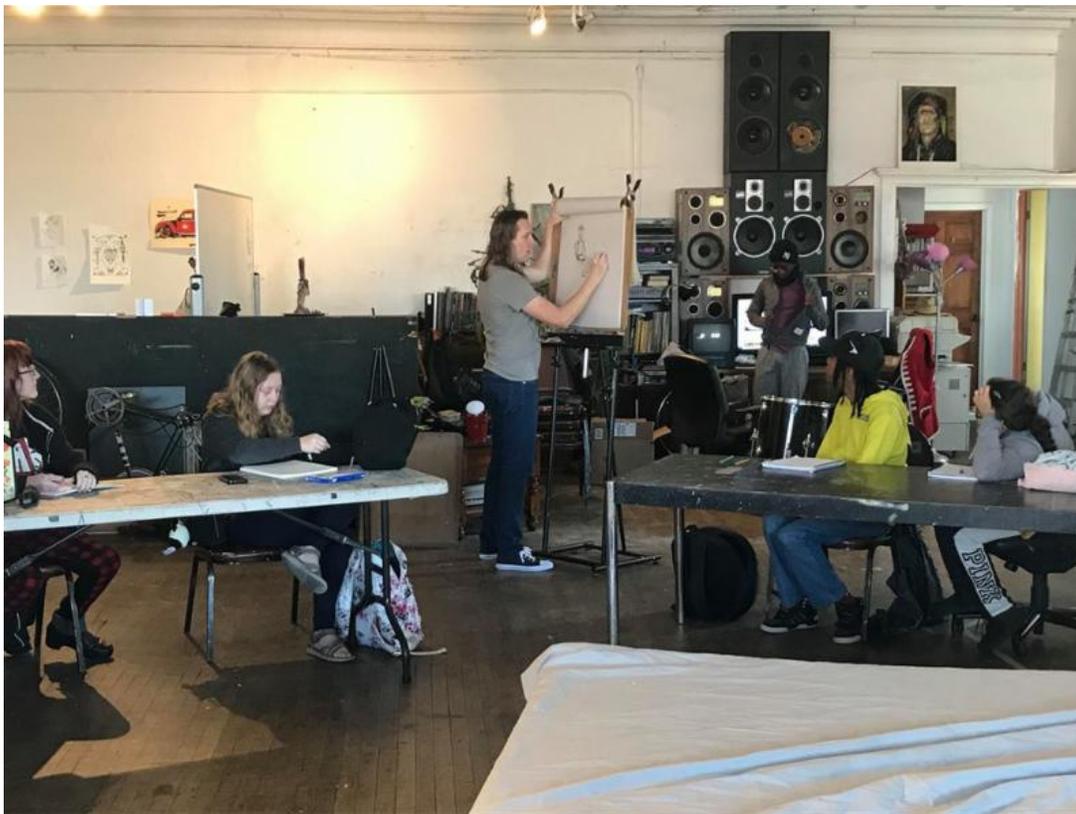
-McKayla Runels-



-Luisa McEl-

engineering. Basic drawing and knowledge of Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign will provide a clear head start to accessing these degrees and careers.

Live Figure Drawing Workshop Field Trip



Seven students headed to the Denver Art Society on November 9th for a figure drawing workshop. Students first got a little tour of the gallery and downstairs studios, and then went to the upstairs studios where the figure drawing session took place. A Denver Art Society member gave a demonstration for students and then provided some tips and pointers on completing the figure drawing. Students then started with 10 second warm-ups, a few one minute poses, then on to five, ten and twenty-five minute poses.

DPS 8th Grade Career Fair



-Tylin Williams-



-Lucien Esperanza-



-Sienna Gurule-





-Ethan Swaidner-

Others Not Pictured
-Maddie McDonald-

-Contact Us-

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[Faculty Contact Information](#)



-Stay Connected-



Denver Online participated in the DPS 8th Grade Career Fair on November 6th. DOHS representatives met with hundreds of 8th graders and hosted a photo booth for students to participate in.

November FREE Field Trip: Puzzah Escape Room





CRIME FIGHTERS

BOOK YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE AT **PUZZAH!**

Students had a great time at Puzzah Escape Room on November 14th for November's free field trip! Students divided up into four teams to try their hand at uncovering clues to "escape" from their room and unique scenario.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

[SEE FULL CALENDAR HERE](#)

Smedley CLOSED: Thanksgiving Break

- **What:** Smedley will be closed and faculty will be unavailable in order to celebrate Thanksgiving Break. However, students can still feel free to work in courses during this time should they need extra time to get ahead or catch up.
- **When:** November 19th-23rd

Fill the Bag Challenge Begins!

- **What:** On November 27th, the Fill the Bag challenge will start, where all students at Connection Day will be given a bag to take home and fill. The goal is to fill the bag with canned food and nonperishable items, and then bring it back to the school by December 14th. The homeroom with the most items per student will win a Pizza Party. All items donated through this challenge will go back to support our most in-need families inside of Denver Online High School. Should you wish to be on the list of families that receive food from this canned food drive, please simply send our Social Worker Jaime Smith (jaime_smith@dpsk12.org) a quick message stating this by December 14th. Collected food items will be delivered to families on December 18th.
- **Who:** All students and families highly encouraged to participate! You can participate by either donating food or signing up to receive the donated food!
- **When:** The challenge will start on November 27th and conclude on December 14th.
- **Where:** All students will receive a red bag to take home, fill up, and bring back to Smedley. Please take those filled red bags to your homeroom. Food bags from each homeroom will be collected and counted on December 14th.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge

- **What:** For December's field trip, we are heading to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge! Once there we will be feeding endangered Black Footed Ferrets, working together to build a bison out of bison skeleton, and go on a wildlife drive to check out the bison herd. Science credit will be available for participants.
- **Who:** All students encouraged to come! We have a limited amount of space available per field trip, so field trips will be on a first come, first served basis in most circumstances. All students must RSVP through the link below to attend. If more students RSVP than field trip space allows, then academic standing will be considered. Those students who are on track in their courses will have precedence to participate over those students who are off track in their courses. Students also must be on time for the field trip or their spot may be given to another student.
- **When:** Thursday, December 6th. Students will meet at Smedley at 9am to get on the bus shortly after. Students will arrive back at Smedley around 1:30pm.
- **Where:** Meet at Smedley to get on the bus. We will then be heading to Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge (6550 Gateway Rd, Commerce City, CO 80022).
- **RSVP Here:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gXNZ2N6>
- **Required Permission Slip:** [See attached.](#) All students participating in any field trip throughout the year must complete and return the attached permission slip form

throughout the year most complete and return the attached permission slip form. There is only one permission slip that covers all monthly free field trips. Permission slip must be returned to Kaci Sintek (kaci_sintek@dpsk12.org) in the main office before getting on the bus.

Winter Holiday Party

- **What:** Throw on your best ugly sweater (there will be a prize for the ugliest sweater!) and come to this event that's fun for the whole family! Denver Online students and their families are all welcome! The night will have music and dancing, dinner and drinks, the White Elephant Gift Exchange, and more fun activities! The night will also host a Silent Auction to raise funds to go back to support our most in-need families at Denver Online. If you would like to donate an item to the silent auction, please contact Kaci Sintek (kaci_sintek@dpsk12.org).
- **Who:** All Denver Online students and their families welcome to come!
- **When:** Friday, December 7th from 6pm-9:30pm
- **Where:** Smedley Learning Center (4250 Shoshone Street, Denver, CO 80211)
- **Cost:** Please bring 2 canned food items to get in.
- **What to Bring:** Please bring a wrapped White Elephant gift (~\$10 and under suggested cost) to exchange and 2 canned food items to get in to the party.

Parent Support Group: 5-Event Series

- **What:** This is a 5-part series of family nights hosted by Principal Ian Jones to talk more in depth with parents about how to overcome the challenges of raising a high schooler who might not fit into the traditional schooling system. This group will celebrate student differences and also offer tangible skills for parents to help students overcome the obstacles they face. These nights will also bring in guest speakers and touch on the book, Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking. Books are available for participating individuals.
- **Who:** All families are welcome!
- **When:** There are three more Parent Support Group nights to participate in: December 12th, January 9th, and February 13th. Each workshop is 6-7:30pm
- **Where:** Smedley (4250 Shoshone Street, Denver, CO 80211)
- **RSVP:** All participating parents or students must RSVP to Principal Ian Jones (ian_jones@dpsk12.org) by 4pm the day of.

Collaborative School Committee Meeting

- **What:** The CSC team meets monthly and is composed of Denver Online faculty, parents, students, and community members. The primary goal of the CSC is to align school processes, activities, and budgets to reach Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) goals.
- **Who:** Anyone is welcome to join and be part of the CSC!
- **When:** Primarily the last Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30pm
- **Where:** Attend via Zoom by clicking the following link to join the virtual meeting space: <https://dpsonline.zoom.us/j/5848668981> You can also join by phone by calling +1 646 568 7788 (US Toll) or +1 415 762 9988 (US Toll)

Smedley CLOSED

- **What:** Teachers will be grading end of semester coursework, so Smedley will be closed both Thursday, December 20th, and Friday, December 21st.
- **When:** Thursday, December 20th, and Friday, December 21st

Winter Break: Smedley CLOSED

- **What:** Smedley will be closed and faculty will be unavailable in order to celebrate Winter Break. However, students can still feel free to work in courses during this time should they need extra time to get caught up.
- **When:** December 24th-January 4th

get INVOLVED

CLUBS

Join one of our great clubs! Get involved while meeting some new friends along the way. Just contact the club leader to get a schedule of club meetings and upcoming events.

- Student Action Association-Ian Jones (ian_jones@dpsk12.org)
- National Honor Society-Casey Burton (casey_burton@dpsk12.org)
- Journalism and Newspaper Club-Jessica Glynn (jessica_glynn@dpsk12.org)
- Gender Sexual Alliance-Jaime Smith (jaime_smith@dpsk12.org)
- Gaming Club-Erica MacIntosh (erica_macintosh@dpsk12.org)
- Book Club-Jennifer White (jennifer_white2@dpsk12.org)
- Art Club-Elisa Narizhnaya (elisa_narizhnaya@dpsk12.org)
- Performance Club-Jennifer Carpenter (jennifer_carpenter@dpsk12.org)
- Balarat Outdoor Education-Nadia Coleman (nadia_coleman@dpsk12.org)
- Anxiety Group-Jaime Smith (jaime_smith@dpsk12.org)
- Pregnant and Parent Group-Florence Tracy (florence_tracy@dpsk12.org)
- The Altered Reality Club-Justin Bale (justin_bale@dpsk12.org)