

Downingtown Area High School ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

The Downingtown Area High School Alumni Association was founded on April 29, 1884. The Association has been involved in the activities of the school and community for the last **140 years**, and it is recognized as one of the oldest, continuously active public high school alumni associations in the United States. In the original mission statement, the founding members set the organization's goals which included "promoting the cause of education in the interests of our **Alma Mater** and to keep those interests alive, to strengthen the bonds uniting us by social friendship and to do all in our power to make our Alma Mater the one we may feel proud of and be glad to say that from its walls the foundation of what we are and hope to be has been gathered."

We would like to encourage you to join the Downingtown Area High School Alumni Association. *We caution you with regards to any other associations or reunion groups that you may see on Social Media. The Alumni Association is NOT affiliated, nor sanctioned, approved or partnered with any reunion organizations or outside fundraising websites, either through Facebook, Classmates.com or Instagram. Any information regarding reunions or events can be found strictly on the www.downingtownalumni.org website.*

WHO'S WHO? - DHSAA Officers

President	Caryn Isabella Menna '76
1 st Vice President	Angela Kipp Baer '99
2 nd Vice President	Dianne Petermann Plaugher '72
Treasurer	Donna Lang Kneisly '71
Secretary	Fran Gasper Shaw '79
Corresponding Secretary	Caryn Isabella Menna '76
Office Manager	Ginny Law Pierce '56



HALL OF FAME

2025

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2025 Hall of Fame. Applications can be found on the website

www.downingtownalumni.org Induction for Fall 2025

Please return all applications no later than **June 30, 2025**



Join us to celebrate the **140th Anniversary** of the Downingtown Alumni Association celebration on Saturday, April 12, 2025 (1:00—4:00) at the

Downingtown Country Club, 93 Country Club Drive, Downingtown, PA

Cost: \$45.00 per person

Menu: Chicken Piccata with White Wine Lemon Caper Sauce, Baked Orange & Tarragon Salmon, Cheese Tortellini with Oven Roasted Tomatoes and Pesto Cream Sauce and a variety of desserts.

Be the Class with the most representation and win a prize!

Be sure to get your reservation to us before **March 31, 2025**. Reservation form is included with Membership form.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Congratulations!

2024 Scholarship Recipients

STEM - Saanvi Chigurupati – University of Michigan

EAST – Lauren Bell – Penn State University

WEST – Caroline Cusack – Penn State University



Please check with the coordinators of your class

Class of 1985

Friday, August 8, 2025

West Chester Golf & Country Club

111 W. Ashbridge Street

West Chester, PA 19380

Contact: Tina Watterson (via Facebook)



*A sincere
THANK YOU to
the following:*

Belaro Jewelry (Laura Wilson Imhof '78) for their donations for Homecoming

Bruton Chisnell Advisors (Jamie Bruton '87 & Ben Bruton '93 for financial advice

Valerie DiLuigi ('86) for her work with the Alumni website

Carol Dugent Reiner ('88) —for her accounting help

Caryn Menna ('76) and the scholarship committee

Miller's Insurance (Fran Gasper Shaw '79) for help throughout the year.

Downingtown Vintage (Gail Tyson) for help with fundraising throughout the year

Jeffrey Kwait from Downingtown Area School District for help with copying the mailings.

Hyland Graphics (Matt Weiss '00) for help with Hall of Fame Certificates

Superintendent Dr. Robert O'Donnell for his continued support

Downingtown Area School Board for their continued support

Blossom Boutique Exton for their help with flowers for Homecoming.

Planning a reunion? Let us help!

Send event information to

downingtownalumni@gmail.com

We will add your event to the alumni website as well as our Facebook page

We can also provide your planning committee with your class database and suggestions regarding your planning

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

Please Join the Alumni Association and help us help Downingtown students! Donations will be used for annual Scholarship to each of three high schools, sponsoring the annual Homecoming in each of the 3 high schools, the "Battle of the Brandywine" football game and the Alumni Hall of Fame.

Our goal is to be able to increase the Scholarship amount in the coming years, but we need your help!

The first \$10.00 will be applied to your membership.



Join us on FACEBOOK!





Battle of the Brandywine

Join us at the largest attended football game of the year, for EAST vs. WEST
October 24, 2025



2024 Outstanding Alumni Honoree presented at the “Battle of the Brandywine” EAST/WEST Football Game



Michael Milano and Family Class of 1971

In 1963, a group of men, led by Sonny Milano, helped start the

Downingtown Young Whippets football program. Sonny’s son, Michael was on the very first 95 pound team, creating a lifelong love of the sport.

Mike continued playing football through Junior High and Downingtown High School, graduating in 1971. Mike joined the Army following graduation and was honorably discharged in 1973 at which time he began coaching the same youth football team that gave him his start.

A few years later, Mike became the first non-faculty football coach in the district serving as an assistant coach at the junior high and then as a varsity assistant. In 1988, while working full time as a Mailman, Mike enrolled at West Chester University majoring in physical education. In 1991, He began his teaching career at Garnet Valley and coached teams at Unionville and Penncrest High Schools, capturing a District 1 title at Unionville in 1993.

In 2003 Downingtown split. Mike was named the head coach of the very first Downingtown WEST Whippets. During his 21 years at WEST, Mike’s teams won 5 Ches Mont Titles and made the District finals twice, finally capturing a coveted District 16A title in 2019.

Mike retired after the 2023 season with a career record of 211-131-1 enabling him to spend more time with his family; his wife Dodie, daughters Nikki and Dana and his two grandchildren, Natalie and Daniel. He credits them for their unwavering support through his 31 years as a head coach. Mike’s dedication to his Alma Mater, his students, his players and to our football program proves that Once a Whippet, always a Whippet! Congratulations, Michael Milano.

Year	Winning Team	Score
2003	West	13-10
2004	East	28-14
2005	East	28-0
2006	West	24-13
2007	Did not play	
2008	West	21-14
2009	West	26-14
2010	East	42-28
2011:	East	44-14
2012:	East	35-21
2013	West	29-28
2014	East	34-13
2015	East	22-14
2016	East	42-20
2017	East	28-14
2018	West	28-7
2019	West	63-35
2020	East	21-7
2021	East	35-28
2022	West	31-28
2023	East	35-7
2024	West	14-13





2024 Queens



Dinah Mukalian Escorted by **Joaquin Pilarte**

Daughter of Ron and Kim Mukalian, Dinah is on the Track and Cross-Country teams, she is active in N.O.W, Crafting for Chemo, Student Forum, BSU, Morgan's Message, Student Council, Aevium, HYPE, and PALs in Packages. She is a Student Ambassador and a Super Mentor



Natalie Roth Escorted by **Juan Colmenares-Bittar**

Natalie Roth is the daughter of Megan and Jesse Roth. She is a member of the National Honor Society and shows her school spirit by taking pictures of athletes for the STEM yearbook @nattybpics on instagram. She is an avid member of Younglife and is a proud Olive Garden and Palace Bowling employee. Natalie has played softball for 12 years and is excited to be playing in her senior year alongside one of her best friends, Olivia Gardner. She looks forward to the rest of her senior year with her friends and hopefully studying environmental science in college.



Kierstin Deamer Escorted by Caleb Laverty
Daughter of Bethany Deamer, Kierstin is active in Girls Soccer, Student Athlete Leadership Committee, Student Life and Ready Day Leader

Downingtown High School **Homecoming Dates - 2025**

WEST – Friday, September 26, 2025
EAST - Friday, October 10, 2025
STEM – TBD



Downingtown Community Education Foundation

The Downingtown Community Education Foundation is dedicated to inspiring, engaging, and enriching the Downingtown Area School District community by providing innovative educational programs and services to all 14,000 students. DCEF was formed in 2008 to provide non-tax generated funding necessary to further the Downingtown Area School District's mission to educate all children to meet the challenges of a global society. DCEF unites various constituencies within the community – students and teachers, parents and alumni, businesses and community groups – in support of educational activities and the achievement of common goals. We believe that strong schools and school districts lead to strong, vibrant communities.

DCEF works in partnership with, but financially independent, of DASD to provide supplemental funds for programs, grants and scholarships typically not funded by district. DCEF is governed by an all-volunteer board of community leaders who are passionate about public education and committed to DASD student success. An Executive Director, the DASD Superintendent, and one School Board Director serve as ex-officio members of the board.

To learn more, visit <https://www.dasd.org/about-us/community/dcef>

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

THE D.A.H.S. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SCHOLARSHIP, ANNUAL GIVING, MEMORIAL DONATION AND CONTINUED SUPPORT

Please consider becoming an active member of the association by helping on a committee. Your help can make all the difference in the work the association does for the Downingtown Community.

Committees include but are not limited to:

Homecoming Committee ~~~

Battle of the Brandywine Committee ~~~

Scholarship Committee ~~~ Hall of Fame Committee ~~~

Ways & Means Committee ~ Public Relations

For more information, visit the website at
www.downingtownumni.org **OR**
E-mail downingtownumni@gmail.com



Congratulations to the Winners of the Raffle drawings in 2024!

Jaylene Miller, Adrienne Lachowicz and Maria Mattioni

The next raffle event will be held from July to December. If you would like to purchase raffle tickets, please contact Patty Paisley at patriciapaisley777@gmail.com

We would like to remind you that the Downingtown High Schools Alumni Association will NOT share, sell, or exchange a donor's information for third party fundraising or marketing purposes .



BECOME INVOLVED

Meetings - 1st MONDAY of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Caryn Menna for more information at downingtownumni@gmail.com

