

Dayton Back to School Night



Welcome!

Building Administration

Dr. Norman Francis
Principal

Dr. Lisa Ramirez
Assistant Principal

Directors & Supervisors

Mrs. Schiano - Humanities
Supervisor

Mr. Salmon - S.T.E.M. Supervisor

Mrs. Gerckens - Director of School
Counseling Services

Mr. Lepski - Director of Athletics &
Supervisor of Health and Physical
Education



"Failure is an
opportunity to grow"

GROWTH MINDSET

"I can learn to do anything I want"

"Challenges help me to grow"

"My effort and attitude
determine my abilities"

"Feedback is constructive"

"I am inspired by the success of others"

"I like to try
new things"

"Failure is the
limit of my abilities"

FIXED MINDSET

"I'm either good at it or I'm not"

"My abilities are unchanging"

"I don't like
to be challenged"

"I can either do it,
or I can't"

"My potential is predetermined"

"When I'm frustrated,
I give up"

"Feedback and criticism
are personal"

"I stick to what I know"

Student Social and Emotional Growth

Focus on the 5 Core SEL Competencies Across all Grade Levels

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Responsible Decision Making
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills

Social and emotional learning competencies are lifelong skills, essential for everyone. We strive to foster students' ability to manage emotions, focus attention, respect themselves and others, make responsible choices, and engage with their community in order to better prepare them for college, career and life success.

Dayton School Counseling Department

Meredith Gerckens
Director of
School Counseling Services
mgerckens@springfieldschools.com
[om](mailto:mgerckens@springfieldschools.com)
x5515

[JDHS Counseling Corner](#)
[News Letter](#)

Counselors - Grades 9-12

[Darlene Hill](#)
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[Jacqueline Ritter](#)
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[Stephanie Renelle](#)
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Grade 8 Transitional Counselor

Lillian Abadir-Chou
lchou@springfieldschools.com
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Therapeutic Counselor

Ashleigh Norton
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x5522

Dayton Clubs & Organizations

High School

Alternatives Club

Art Club

Book Club

Chess Club

Christian Student Union

Concert Band

Environment Club

Fall Drama

**Future Business Leaders of America
(FBLA)**

Civic Leaders of America (CLA)

Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA)

Jewish Student Union

Literary Magazine

Marching Band

Math Club

Medical Careers Club

Mock Trial Team

Model UN

Make our School Safe (M.O.S.S.)

National Honor Society

Peer Leadership

Quiz Bowl

School Newspaper

Spring Musical

STEM Club

Student Council

Music Honor Society

Theatre Club

Volunteer Club

World Language Clubs

Yearbook

Grade 8 Academy

At JDHS

- Chess Club
- Volunteer Club
- Marching Band
- Chorus
- World Language Clubs

At FMG

- National Junior Honor Society
- Peer Tutoring
- Plant Club
- Diversity Club
- Student Council
- Debate Club

**Bulldogs
Get
Involved!
!!**



DAYTON ATHLETICS

Website:

<https://jdhs.springfieldschools.com/school-links/athletics/athletics>

[Athletics Participation Agreement](#)

Fall

Football - Varsity, JV, and Frosh

Boys Soccer - Varsity, JV & Frosh

Girls Soccer - Varsity & JV

Cross Country - Boys & Girls,
Varsity

Volleyball - Varsity & JV

Gymnastics - Varsity

Cheerleading - Varsity

Girls Tennis - Varsity & JV

Grade 8 Boys & Girls Soccer

Winter

Basketball - Boys Varsity, JV & Frosh

Basketball - Girls Varsity, JV & Frosh

Indoor Track and Field - Boys & Girls
Varsity

Ice Hockey - Varsity

Cheerleading - Varsity & JV

Wrestling

Grade 8: Boys & Girls Basketball

Spring

Baseball - Varsity & JV

Softball - Varsity & JV

Girls Spring Track - Varsity & JV

Boys Spring Track - Varsity & JV

Boys Tennis - Varsity & JV

Golf - Varsity

Girls Lacrosse - JV

Boys Lacrosse - Varsity & JV

Grade 8: Baseball, Softball, Track

School Wide Title I Program

Dayton has been allotted Title 1 funds to provide academic support for students during the 2026-2027 school year.

- Support will be focused on students' successful completion NJDOE graduation assessment requirements and tutoring support:
 - Targeted remedial assistance in ELA and Mathematics
 - Student portfolio process support and completion
 - Support offered by certificated teachers and peer-tutors, supervised by certificated staff.
 - IMC after school time for quiet study and peer-tutoring

Academic Support



P.A.W.S.

Peer Academic Wellbeing Support

P.A.W.S. (Peer Academic Wellbeing Support) is an opportunity for students to support their peers by providing academic tutoring in courses where they have demonstrated success.

Need a tutor? - Email your school counselor.

Want to be a tutor? - Sign up here:

[Be a P.A.W.S. tutor!](#)



Knack Tutoring Service for Grade 8 Students

Knack connects students with **highly qualified, local college tutors** from **Kean University and Union College** who are trained to provide academic support in all subject areas.

[**Sign Up for Knack!**](#)

For technical assistance:

[**UCNJsupport@joinknack.com**](mailto:UCNJsupport@joinknack.com).



Student Expectations !

Code of Conduct

Jonathan Dayton High School
&
Grade 8 Academy

Student/Parent Handbook
2026-2027



139 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081
Telephone: (973) 376-1025
Fax: (973) 376-4570

Jonathan Dayton High School's expectations of conduct are based on two cornerstone principles:

1. **Do the right thing, simply because it is the right thing to do.**
2. **Respect Yourself, Respect Others, Respect Your School.**

Discipline Philosophy:

Growing and maturing adolescents will make mistakes or poor decisions that may result in disciplinary consequences. While students will be held accountable, they will also be counseled, supported, and encouraged to learn from their mistakes.

District Code of Conduct: 5600 - EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT/
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT (M)

Attendance



- Attendance counts towards credits - Grades 9-12
- Daily attendance is critical for successful academic experiences
- The school must be notified of absences via the Genesis Parent Portal
- School starts at 7:40am (Doors open at 7:20am)
- Excessive tardies will result in disciplinary consequences, and will impact credit in high school courses
- Chronic Absenteeism

Student ID Cards



- Must be worn by students daily, using district issued lanyard
- Critical part of our safety and security protocols
- Will be needed to print documents in the Instructional Media Center (IMC)
- Will be needed to sign in or out of school
- Replacement IDs are available for \$7
- Requests for replacement ID can be made at the following link: [Replacement ID Request](#)



BULLDOGS



STAY FOCUSED



BELL-TO-BELL: PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES AWAY



From the first bell to the last bell, personal electronic devices are **not permitted** during the school day.

THIS INCLUDES:



SMARTPHONES



CELL PHONES



SMARTWATCHES
(INCLUDING APPLE WATCH
AND SIMILAR DEVICES)



SMART EYEWEAR



HEADPHONES



EARBUDS



TABLETS AND OTHER
PERSONAL INTERNET-
ENABLED DEVICES



ANY OTHER PERSONAL
ELECTRONIC DEVICE THAT
VIOLATES THE BELL-TO-
BELL POLICY



**FOCUS ON
LEARNING**



**CONNECT WITH
OTHERS**



**MAKE EVERY
CLASS COUNT**

Be Present.

Be Engaged.

Be a Bulldog.

EVERY BELL.  EVERY CLASS.  EVERY BULLDOG.

Springfield SEPAG

Analía Henriques

What is SEPAG?

- ★ **Special Education Parent Advisory Groups (SEPAGs)** are required for all school districts in New Jersey. The purpose of these groups is to provide opportunities for parents and community members to offer input to their districts on critical issues relating to students with disabilities.
- ★ ***New Jersey Administrative Code states:*** Each board of education shall ensure that a special education parent advisory group is in place in the district to provide input to the district on issues concerning students with disabilities. (6A:14-1.2(h))
- ★ **SEPAG** is a parent-led group that serves as a vital bridge between families and our special education team, ensuring that every student receives the support and services they need to thrive academically and socially.

Why Join SEPAG?

★ Your Voice Matters

Parents offer real-life insight that helps shape better services and supports.

★ Create Positive Change

Together, parents can highlight needs, influence improvements, and strengthen district decision-making.

★ Build Community

SEPAG connects families who understand the challenges and joys of raising children with special needs.

★ Teamwork With the District

Working collaboratively with school leaders builds trust, transparency, and better outcomes for students.

What Does SEPAG Do?

- ★ Shares parent feedback with the district
- ★ Hosts workshops and informational events
- ★ Promotes inclusive practices
- ★ Supports communication between families and schools
- ★ Helps identify strengths and areas for improvement in special education

How You Can Help?

- ★ Attend meetings
- ★ Share experiences
- ★ Invite other families
- ★ Volunteer for projects or events

Join Us!

Together, we can strengthen our special education community and help every child thrive. Visit our Facebook Page, Our Springfield Board of Education Page for more information and connect with us via email:

mail: spssepag@gmail.com

SEPAG Springfield Board of Education Website



SEPAG Facebook Link





***Join the Jonathan
Dayton PTSO!***

PTSO Board

Gina Manzella, President

Stacie Sargis, Vice President

Luciana Mullman, Recording Secretary

Jessica Brendell, Treasurer

Meredith Tiger, Communications Director

PTSO website: <https://www.jdhs-ptso.org/>



Thank you!

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Dr. Ramirez - Assistant Principal

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