



DALAT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

JUNIOR SENIOR

EXPERIENCE



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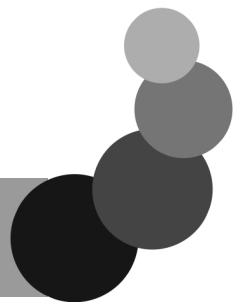
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Dear Parents,

Dalat offers a unique experience for students in their last two years of high school. This handbook is designed to give you insight into what the junior and senior class experience is, why some things are done the way they are, and provide insight into what your student will glean from the activities. We would appreciate you investing the time to read carefully through this information as your support and understanding will help make the experience a success for your student.

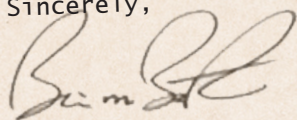
In the United States, we refer to grade 11 as the junior year and grade 12 as the senior year. This is a time when students are becoming increasingly independent and are learning skills which shape their perspective on life after high school. To launch students successfully, students need to be challenged and learn how to achieve success in reaching goals. Success is not necessarily defined by academic accomplishments, prestigious university degrees, and high salary jobs, but rather in the ability to weather the experiences of life, build positive relationships, and to live a healthy, balanced lifestyle in which to thrive and find contentment.

Dalat believes so strongly in supporting this period of time in a teenager's life that the school runs a program specifically geared to juniors and seniors which is the junior and senior class experience. It is staffed by a team of school personnel who commit to two years of volunteer work with your students. These dedicated people invest a great deal of time and energy into juniors and seniors by serving as mentors and coaches. This experience is unique to Dalat and has been a part of the school curriculum for more than 50 years. It is undoubtedly an important component to Dalat's mission "education for life." When students reminisce about their time at Dalat, this experience is often one of their proudest as well as fondest memories.

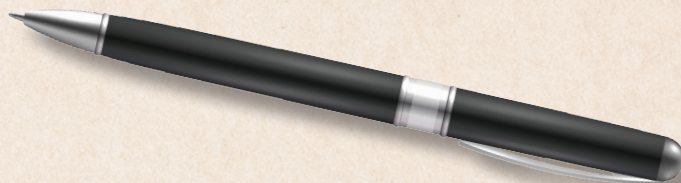
The junior and senior experience allows students to learn outside the classroom and to participate in activities which are not possible in a traditional school setting. Activities that range from running a small business to event planning are skills and experiences that will benefit students far beyond high school. They learn about character issues such as integrity, compassion, and thoughtfulness. They learn to put others above themselves by practicing honoring others.

In the next few pages you will see how this is accomplished. It is not simple. It takes hours of work and sacrifice from both students and staff. But in the end, the results speak for themselves and we are proud of this part of the educational experience at Dalat. Thank you for taking the time to learn about the program so that you understand all that it means to your student.

Sincerely,



Brian Brewster
High School Principal



VISION & GOALS



The vision of the high school class experience is to provide real-life situations for students in order to better prepare them for life after high school. During the **freshman** year, students learn to work together to plan events for their class. During the **sophomore** year, students run the SophoStore at lunch, plan the all-high school Christmas Banquet, and organize fun class and high school events. During the **junior** year, students focus on the basics of operating a small business, learning the ins and outs of a job, organizing a variety of fundraising activities, hosting several functions/dinners, providing school community service, and honoring the seniors through special events. In the **senior** year, students give back to their community through a variety of service projects, participate in activities with underclassmen, plan their senior trip, and coordinate the special activities of their graduation week.

Through the process of striving for and achieving the above-mentioned goals, students learn a variety of personal and professional skills and experience tangible benefits including:

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- Coordinating and overseeing tasks
- Casting vision and presenting ideas so that others catch that vision
- Effectively communicating (e.g. writing letters, note-taking, news blurbs, advertisements)
- Public speaking (e.g. giving speeches, emceeing events)
- Celebrating achievement
- Saying thank you, conveying appreciation
- Setting the example
- Taking responsibility

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

- Relational bonding as a class
- Cooperatively working as a group
- Working outside one's comfort zone, working with different people
- Applying skills in conflict resolution
- Expressing a need and/or asking for help
- Honoring and encouraging classmates and other students

- Working as a liaison
- Soliciting input from peers
- Working in committees
- Fulfilling a commitment
- Learning to write a letter, thank you note
- Expanding creativity
- Working within a budget
- Persevering and finding joy in challenging situations
- Making new friends
- Knowing when to rest
- Interacting with people of all ages
- Giving to others
- Appreciating others' talents and skills
- Finishing well

BUSINESS SKILLS

- Salesmanship
- Script and speech writing
- Strategizing
- Practicing ethical finance management, fiscal responsibility and stewardship
- Fund-raising, earning money through work
- Advertising and marketing
- Conducting product research and development
- Negotiating, working with contracts
- Applying the basics of supply and demand economics
- Public relations
- Setting price points
- Recording effective inventory, storage and display
- Applying for store jobs and learning a simple trade
- Hospitality and service industry training

WORK ETHIC

- Fulfilling obligations and responsibilities
- Working with integrity
- Using time wisely, being on time
- Working hard for your money
- Learning how to work with non-contributors

COMMUNITY SERVICE SKILLS

- Learning the value of community outreach
- Practicing hospitality
- Gaining service industry training
- Finding experts

MANAGEMENT SKILLS

- Public relations
- Organizing
- Creativity and resourcefulness
- Customer service
- Meal service and etiquette
- Learning the basics of food service industry and hygiene standards
- Event planning
- Decorating
- Set design, set-up and tear-down
- Menu planning, cooking and proper clean-up
- Developing ideas and presenting those ideas to others
- Planning and using time wisely
- Writing an agenda

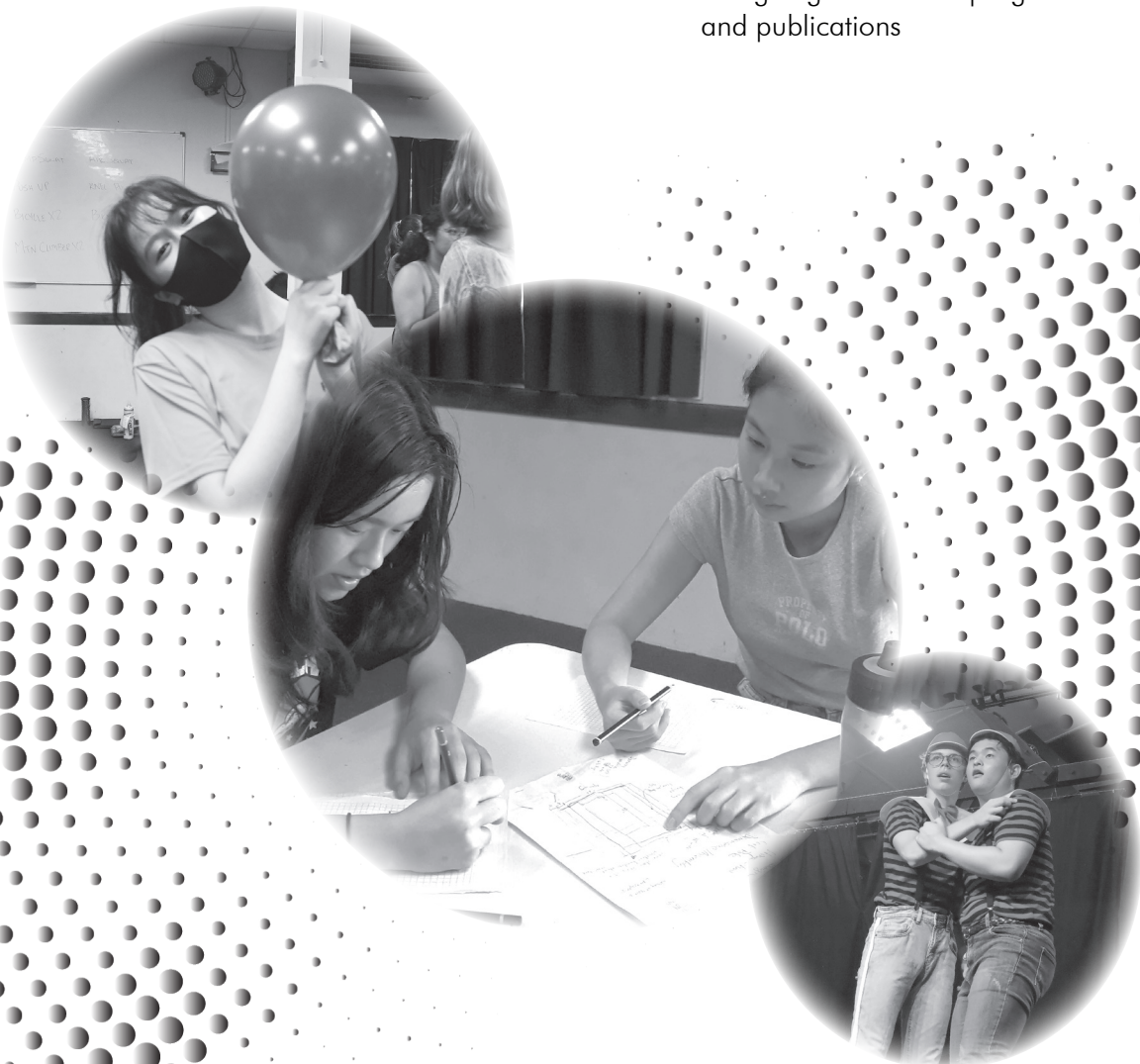
- Problem-solving
- Contingency planning
- Budgeting, finance management, projecting expenses

ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS

- Setting and accomplishing goals
- Delegating tasks
- Working in committees
- Honoring commitments and practicing good time management
- Creating a timeline
- Looking ahead, planning appropriately
- Knowing who to involve
- Accounting practices
- Keeping proper records
- Travel planning, booking hotel and transportation

MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

- Using social media
- Creating photo montages and videos
- Using photo-editing software
- Designing artwork for programs and publications



SUPERVISION & STRUCTURE

FRESHMAN, SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, SENIOR

The freshman and sophomore classes each have two staff sponsors. They work with the elected student government to achieve the goals of the year. The sponsors guide the students as they grow to be more independent in planning events.

During the freshman year, the class is responsible for the following functions and activities:

- Designing and ordering a class T-shirt
- Planning a freshman class party
- Working with the seniors to plan an all-high school event

During the sophomore year, the class is responsible for the following functions and activities:

- Operating the sophomore class store at lunch time
- Maintaining the staff and student snack refrigerators
- Planning the annual Christmas Banquet (CB) for the high school
- Planning class parties
- Planning an all-high school event

The junior and senior classes each have six staff sponsors. These sponsors are announced by the high school principal just before the Junior Senior Banquet (JSB) of the students' sophomore year. The six sponsors will work with the students through both their junior and senior years of high school.

In May, the sponsors of each class organize elections. Freshman students run for a generic "class officer" position, while older students run for specific offices. Excom members include the president, vice-president, administrative assistant, treasurer, food coordinator, store manager, marketing and new product developer, and photojournalist. The elected officers begin serving in the new school year. The class excom meets weekly to plan class meetings and other events, as well as oversee committees and projects. Meeting minutes are posted electronically for class members to read.

To be elected as a class officer, students should:

- Have been enrolled as a student at Dalat for at least one semester.
- Maintain good grades so as not to be on academic probation or the No Fly list.

- Exhibit high moral standards and qualities of strong character and positive leadership.
- Not hold another appointed or elected office (e.g. yearbook editor, student council officer, etc.)
- Demonstrate good time management and organizational skills being able to juggle the demands of school, extra-curricular activities and class responsibilities, including being on time for meetings and events.
- Get the approval of their parents and at least two class sponsors.

Student Testimony

My junior and senior years at Dalat were incredible. I really felt like all the traditions from past years brought our class together - all the planning, sneaking, working, having fun.... they were all long-standing traditions of Dalat that should always be around. Saying goodbye to my class and sponsors was like saying goodbye to family because we had grown sooooo much together over the past 2 years. I will always treasure those memories, and I also see how much those experiences changed me as a person. I learned about leadership in excom, I learned how to work hard, and I saw how working hard and being dedicated really pays off, and how rewarding it can be. And I really learned about myself. I learned who I am, what I like, what I am good at, and what I struggle with. I learned how important it is to have people you can depend on, people you feel bonded with."

Students running for office each year must have endorsement from the sponsors and are expected to have exhibited a good work ethic, integrity in honoring commitments, a strong moral character, and positive teamwork in the previous year. A student who has not participated actively in his/her previous year should not expect to run for office the next year.

Students are encouraged but not required to attend class meetings which are held on designated Saturdays, X blocks, or lunch times throughout the school year. Excom members have a greater degree of responsibility and attend both class meetings and excom meetings. Students may also sign up for a choice of roles and responsibilities throughout the year to assist in the process of fundraising and planning activities (e.g. working in the store, making freezies and baked goods, working concession stands at events, etc.). Students are asked to participate in committee work for planning a variety of activities (e.g. after-sneak dinner, JSB, graduation, etc.).

Students should sign up in areas they feel comfortable with, are gifted in, or that work well for them in regards to time-management and other commitments. Students may be challenged to step out of their comfort zone at times to promote personal growth and acquire new skills. Each committee is usually chaired by an excom member and overseen by a

sponsor. In general, the more students are able to invest in the junior-senior class experience, the more they will benefit from it.

During the junior year, the class is responsible for the following functions and activities:

- Operating the junior class store
- Concession sales at various school events (sports, PTO, etc.)
- After-sneak dinner
- Servathon
- Junior for Hire
- Junior Senior Banquet (JSB)

During the senior year, the class is responsible for the following functions and activities:

- Senior trip
- After-JSB dinner
- Service projects
- Senior gift to the school
- Senior chapel
- Graduation



EXPECTATIONS

General expectations for students for the junior-senior experience:

- *Bring a positive attitude.* Students get out of the experience what they put into it. Positive memories are directly tied to attitude and perspective.
- *Fulfill commitments.* Students must be conscientious about responsibilities and commitments. They must be careful not to overcommit and learn to honor the commitments they have made.
- *Participate when possible.* Students should come to meetings as often and regularly as they can. However, if they have family commitments or other obligations, they should honor those and let the sponsors know in advance.

General expectations for parents for the junior-senior experience:

- *Be positive about the experience.* Encourage your son or daughter to participate. The more students invest in the program, the more they will get out of it.
- *Be aware and involved.* Help your student learn to manage time wisely. Part of growing up is learning how to manage responsibilities and commitments. Help your student know when to say 'yes' and when to say 'no.' When he or she says 'yes,' encourage your student to persevere and stick with the commitment.
- *Communicate.* If you are unsure about something, ask a sponsor. If you are wondering about how your student is spending his/her time, ask.
- *Volunteer.* When sponsors extend an invitation, be open to using your gifts and talents to contribute.
- *Provide.* Contribute to fundraising activities such as donating candy and Kool-Aid to the junior class store and helping your son or daughter with addresses for servathon letters. Keep in mind, fundraising only happens in the junior year. No donations may be accepted after the end of the school year. Being helpful with fundraising goes a long way.

Sponsors will communicate with parents periodically throughout the semester regarding upcoming activities. Parents should feel free to ask questions of the sponsors and may volunteer to help in a variety of ways.

KEY EVENTS: JUNIOR YEAR

There are a number of traditions that accompany the junior class experience. These traditions enrich the whole experience and are part of the fun.

The Junior Class Store

A significant factor in learning life skills is accomplished through operating the junior class store. The store provides opportunity to teach students a basic trade, the fundamentals of small business, and having a job. Dalat believes wholeheartedly in the value of work and work ethic; students learn by the commitment and labor associated with a job. By working in the junior class store, students have that opportunity. The income generated is for the benefit of the whole class rather than one individual. By working in the store and serving customers at concession sales, students learn a job. Sponsors may choose to require training and certification for specific services, awarding certificates, and laying the foundation for early resume-writing.

After-Sneak Dinner

For the juniors, the after-sneak dinner provides a practice run of the JSB on a small scale in the first semester of the junior year. Students plan all aspects of the dinner including choosing a theme, creating an invitation, writing the script for a short and simple program, menu-planning, making food, decorating the venue and tables, and choosing a gift/memento for seniors and their sponsors. Traditionally juniors keep the theme a secret and the seniors enjoy the surprise and fun of the evening. Students are not allowed to miss class to practice or prepare for this event.

Servathon

The servathon is the most important fundraiser of the junior year and an important part of class bonding, community service, and developing a strong work

ethic. The class prepares a letter which each student mails to people he or she knows who may pledge money for the hours of work (as an alternate, a pledge sign-up form may be used). The class performs a service project with a local organization. The project typically lasts about six to eight hours and is noted on the school calendar. Participation is expected and money raised will help pay for future service projects. A thank you note from the student is sent to every donor.

Junior for Hire

The Junior for Hire is another significant fundraiser for the junior class. Juniors offer a service (e.g. babysitting, web design, teaching a child some basketball skills, doing yard work, music lessons, tutoring, etc.) which is purchased in the form of a live auction. The event is for the Dalat community only and not for the general public. The process is done

like an auction (a commonly accepted fundraiser in the U.S.) during which the juniors are hired to the highest bidder. Juniors offer three hours of service in return for a donation to their junior class. Together the junior and the bidder work out a date and time for the three hours of service.

Junior Senior Banquet (JSB)

The JSB is a long-standing tradition at Dalat and is full of time-honored aspects. The purpose of the JSB is to honor the seniors and senior class sponsors and celebrate their school legacy. In the process, the junior class will develop class unity, uphold special school traditions, and learn a significant variety of skills in planning, managing, and hosting the event. The JSB is normally held on a Friday night in mid-April. It lasts approximately six hours and is typically hosted at a local hotel. Juniors do not share the location or theme of the JSB as it adds to the suspense and fun of the event.

Dalat staff and students in grades 10-12 are invited to attend. No one may invite dates who are not Dalat students. Grade 9 students are not allowed to be asked as dates. A limit for ticket cost is currently RM 80. Cost that goes above this must be supplemented by the junior class.

Student Testimonies

"The best memory for me as a junior was the feeling of great unity amongst our class whenever we came together to make and sell candy or stuff at the store or the work days. My favorite project would be the after-sneak dinner; that was our first big thing together and that was really fun. It helped me go out of the way to get to know my class and make really meaningful relationships. And as difficult as it was sometimes to do those things, it meant a lot to me that I could strengthen my friendship with my class."

"The best thing about the Junior/Senior class experience was how close our class became and how much we bonded through working and serving together. It was definitely a challenge, but the experiences and friendships we gained were so worth it."

KEY EVENTS: SENIOR YEAR

Senior Trip ("Sneak") and Mini-Sneak

This long-standing school tradition, in the senior year, gives students and sponsors the chance to bond together on a trip away from Penang to a vacation destination where they will laugh, share time together, and develop lifelong friendships. Scheduled during the first semester of the senior year, students travel together to a location that gives them the opportunity to rest and play. The trip is often combined with a service project or missions trip and provides a highlight in the junior and senior class experience. Seniors may have two school days excused and schedule the trip on a long weekend, allowing for five days. If seniors are scheduled to do a service project, an additional day is allowed.

If sufficient funds remain in the second semester of the senior year, the excom may request having a mini-sneak or to do a series of monthly class activities. This is an opportunity to get away from school and spend time together. Activities in the past have included bowling, movie, water park, paintball, an overnight at a resort, etc.

After-JSB Dinners

Seniors invite juniors to the after-JSB dinner as a token of appreciation for the time and work put into planning and hosting the JSB. The event is planned and prepared in one day – the Saturday immediately following the JSB. Traditionally, the program is a light-hearted spoof on the previous evening's festivities. Seniors use decorations from the JSB and create some simple ones of their own as they work through the theme, program and dinner. Similar to the after-sneak dinner, the food is prepared and served by seniors. It is a night of laughter and fun as both juniors and seniors celebrate the JSB and enjoy spending time together in a less formal atmosphere.

Graduation Week

The week of graduation is quite busy with a number of different senior class activities. The reason so many activities are condensed into a short amount of time is to allow parents who are coming from out-of-town to attend and participate in the events. The senior chapel is typically planned for the last week of the semester. This is an opportunity for the seniors to

present to the high school, incoming high school students, and staff what God has taught them as individuals as well as the class as a whole. Seniors communicate a testimony, words of wisdom, and challenge to the student body.

The senior gift is often presented during graduation week (but may be done so earlier in the school year). This gift is paid for with senior class funds (raised during the junior year) and is a benefit to the school campus. Some recent gifts include stained glass windows in the library, clock tower, concession stand by the gym, water bottle refill station, plants and shrubbery around campus, swings, the anchor, patio tables and chairs, and a soft-serve ice cream machine.

The senior parent tea is a time set aside for seniors, their families, and staff. Reflections, a tribute from the staff honoring each student, are read during the tea. At the end of the evening seniors also receive several gifts from the school.

Baccalaureate and commencement services are school functions for which the seniors have input in the planning and participation of the ceremony. The head of school and the high school principal oversee both events and the respective practices; all seniors and participating



parents are required to attend. At the conclusion of graduation, seniors and sponsors gather on campus for a final farewell party.

SERVICE PROJECTS

The purpose of class service projects is to work together, honor God, and make a positive impact on the school campus and the wider community. Service projects associated with the junior-senior experience include a servathon held during the junior year and various service projects during the senior year. Juniors also provide concession stands at tournaments and other parent teacher organization and school events contributing to the aspect of giving back to the school community. Seniors enjoy planning give-back activities for elementary and middle school students (e.g. ice cream parties, grade 8 buddies, kindergarten pen pals, etc.) and national staff (e.g. catered lunch) in addition to providing the school with a class gift. Seniors also have the option of including a service component to their senior trip.

The junior-senior experience is not intended to duplicate or compete with service opportunities expected and/or required for graduation, nor for the service hours awarded at the awards assembly at the end of each year. Dalat students have ample opportunity to be involved in local organizations, scouts, Care and Share, local churches, summer missions programs, and more which may fulfill those expectations of service.

Below is a sample listing of class projects initiated and completed by students during their junior-senior experience.

Class of 2014: Juniors worked scraping, power-washing and painting six playgrounds in the neighborhood after receiving permission from the Tanjung Bunga Residents Association. At Christmas, the juniors hosted a Christmas party for over 50 children from two orphanages in Kulim. They partnered with the Dreamz Foundation who collected donations from various local companies to fill gift bags with clothes, school supplies, gift vouchers and snacks. Staple food was donated to both orphanages.



Class of 2015: At the request of the local government, the juniors took on a historic project in Pearl Hill Park. There are several bunkers left from WWII, and the government wanted the area to be refurbished and used by local residents. The juniors first scraped down and cleaned several of the bunkers. Then, the students repainted them in camouflage-style in the colors of dark red, yellow, and gray.

Class of 2016: Juniors spent the day working at the Agape Shalom Orphanage in Kulim, cleaning, scraping, painting internal and external walls and gates, and painted a mural at a home for the elderly. During their senior trip, students poured concrete for a road joining an island village to the Belakang Padang Primary School in Teluk Bakau, in the Riau Islands of Indonesia. They also spent time teaching English songs and games to the children.

Class of 2017: Juniors worked hard at SKTT, a local Malaysian school, where classrooms and hallways were painted in various colors. Several murals were created to enhance the walls, as well as basic fresh coats of paint to brighten the classrooms. On their senior trip the class had an excellent time teaching English at the Koh Samui School in Thailand. The students did a great job interacting, teaching, and getting to know the approximately 200 Thai kids. During the different intervals with these Thai students they sang songs, played a game, and then spent time working with them on their English.

Class of 2018: On their senior trip, the class worked with students at a local Thai school teaching English, painting walls, and playing soccer. During the senior year, the class hosted both a local children's home and a school for special needs students on campus at Dalat for fun and interactive games.

Class of 2019: Juniors worked scraping, power-washing and painting five playgrounds in the neighborhood after receiving permission from the Tanjung Bunga Residents Association. Due to tropical storm damage from Cyclone Damphrey, juniors also helped pick up branches and other debris in the parks. Seniors used funds to buy construction tools and equipment to help build a road in Tanjung Sesup in the Riau Islands of Indonesia. With arrangements from Telunas staff, students spent a day clearing vegetation, laying rocks, mixing and pouring cement with water pulled by bucket from a well. Afterwards they spent time teaching English and playing volleyball and sharing coconut drinks with the local children. The seniors hosted a Splash 'n Dash Fun Run to help raise money for the Annual Fund and organized a day of working at Island Hospital in the pediatric ward, reading books, showing magic tricks,

sharing balloon animals, and bringing coloring and sticker books to the children.

Class of 2020: Juniors served at the Batu Grace Orphanage, which allowed them to have a significant impact at their facility in preparation for an upcoming inspection. By doing quite a bit of cleaning, painting, fence-fixing along with interacting with the children through football, crafts, and games, the class hoped to leave an impact on them that would outlast their time there. Seniors went to a school on PhiPhi island, about an hour's walk from their hotel on their senior trip. While students did some painting outside (and a mural inside), the majority of their time was spent with students, playing football, eating and talking together (as much as the language barrier made that possible).

Class of 2021: Juniors spent several days working at the Penang Women's Welfare Council. First, they prepped the wall around the compound for painting. Then, they painted the compound walls, the buildings, and the playground equipment. Students cleaned ceiling fans and windows throughout the buildings. Students also did a great deal of yard work around the facilities.

Class of 2022: Due to the restrictions of the Covid-19 global pandemic, juniors completed a number of service projects on campus including painting the swing set, tables and benches, outdoor court walls, and the retaining wall to lower campus. They also washed vehicles and washed and cleaned garbage bins and dumpsters around campus.

Parent Testimony

"The junior-senior class experience at Dalat is truly life-changing for our students. Not only do they get the chance to bond with classmates through a variety of worthwhile, service-oriented activities; they also learn many life skills, such as casting a vision for large-scale events, collaborating to see long-term projects succeed, and persevering through challenges. Every student contributes a unique piece of the puzzle, and every student benefits from the accomplishments achieved."

GENERAL TIMELINE

OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

FRESHMAN YEAR (GRADE 9)

August - Elected excom members attend the student leadership retreat. Excom begins regular meetings through the school year and various event committees are launched. Students sign up for working in the store and for concession sales at school events.

September - Design class T-shirts.

October - Plan a class party.

SOPHOMORE YEAR (GRADE 10)

August - Elected excom members attend the student leadership retreat. Excom begins regular meetings through the school year and various event committees are launched. Students sign up for working in the store.

Parent Testimonies

"As a junior and senior at Dalat, my daughter found a sense of purpose and a way to connect with her classmates that she had not experienced prior to her junior year. As a normally quiet student, she gained a sense of belonging and personal identity that would have never materialized without the specific activities that characterized her junior and senior years at Dalat."

"Thank you for your leadership and investment in our teens. We are noticing a spiritual maturing in our daughter that encourages me. God is using Dalat School and activities like the servathon to shape her character and build deep friendships with her classmates in the crucible of ministry. We praise the Lord for your investment!"

October - Begin CB planning process, which continues through December.

January - Provide concession sales at on-campus sports tournaments.

March - The high school principal assigns a team of staff sponsors for the junior year.

April - Class sponsors are announced the evening of the JSB.

May - Class sponsors conduct a class meeting to introduce the junior and senior year class experience and talk about expectations. Class sponsors encourage qualified students to consider running for office and class elections take place.

June-July - Juniors are encouraged to bring back candy and Kool-Aid from home countries for sale in the junior class store.

JUNIOR YEAR (GRADE 11)

August - Elected excom members attend the student leadership retreat. Excom begins regular meetings through the school year and various event committees are launched. Students sign up for working in the store and for concession sales at school events.

September - Juniors plan for the after-sneak dinner for the seniors.

October - Students continue to work on fundraising projects and events including concessions sales at tournaments. This is also the month in which juniors typically have their servathon project. This project is discussed and decided upon as a class. Students bring addresses for sponsorship letters.

November - Juniors continue to work in the store and in other fundraising efforts including the PTO Food Fair. The class begins discussing theme and location ideas for the JSB.

December - Juniors may sell candy grams to the school community with special Christmas greetings and a candy cane delivered to student lockers and classrooms. Students are encouraged to continue to bring food donations from home countries for the store.

January - Juniors break into committee work for the JSB. The store re-opens after Christmas break.

February-March - JSB committee work continues in earnest. Juniors take part in the Junior for Hire at the PTO Food and Fun Fair. Juniors may sell singing Valentines as a fundraiser.

April - Juniors host the much-anticipated JSB. The following evening the juniors are invited by the senior class to attend the after-JSB dinner.

May - Class sponsors conduct class elections for senior year. Some senior year committee work begins (e.g. class verse, class polo shirts, class rings, etc.). Fundraising ceases.

SENIOR YEAR (GRADE 12)

August - Elected excom and student council members attend the senior leadership retreat. Excom begins regular meetings through the school year and complete plans for the senior trip. The senior trip takes place in August or September.

September - Seniors welcome the juniors back to campus after their servathon work day.

October-November - Seniors plan service and school community events.

December-January - Seniors work in consultation with the high school principal and head of school on the planning process for graduation. They create committees for the various aspects of graduation week including senior gift, wills, chapel, Baccalaureate, Commencement, and class party.

February-March - If class funds are sufficient, seniors may opt to take a mini-sneak or have class activities. In-school service projects continue.

April - Seniors mail graduation announcements and continue graduation committee work. Seniors have a fitting for graduation caps and gowns. Seniors host the after-JSB dinner the evening following the JSB.

May - All seniors are required to attend rehearsals for the graduation services and other events such as the senior chapel, senior parent tea, and the high school awards assembly. Seniors may present the senior gift to the school. Seniors are expected to attend the senior class party the night of graduation.

This concludes two years of purposeful activities that prepare students for life after high school. They leave with great memories and lasting relationships.



FINANCES

Fundraising may quite possibly be the most challenging and least attractive aspect of the junior and senior class experience, but it offers so much more than we see on the surface. It is an important component for students as they learn the importance of providing service to their community and the benefits of a strong work ethic. These are important skills for life.

Students have one year to raise funds needed for two years worth of activities and projects. All the money earned is raised through work done the junior year. In order to finance the activities of the junior and senior years, the junior class will attempt to raise approximately RM 2,000 of profit per student in that class. For example, a class of 40 will need to raise a profit of RM 80,000 and a class of 60, RM 120,000.

Juniors work in a variety of ways to achieve their goals including operating the junior class store, serving concession sales at events, requesting sponsorship for the servathon, and auctioning work hours at the Junior for Hire. Traditionally, the servathon and Junior for Hire have the potential for raising approximately RM 20,000 each, depending on level of participation and effort. A concession sales event raises about RM 500-1500 depending on the event. Weekly profit in the store may bring in approximately RM 500-750. The class treasurer prepares an internal report once a quarter but all of the students in the class learn financial accountability.

Expenses for the two years include the after-sneak dinner, servathon, JSB, service projects, senior trip, class gift, after-JSB dinner, and graduation. Small events may cost approximately RM 2,000-3,000 and the largest event, the JSB, will run about RM 20,000-25,000. Currently RM 5-6,000 is reserved for graduation and another RM5-10,000 for a gift to the school. Students are encouraged to set aside a portion of income for community service projects and to help others in need according to biblical guidelines. Remaining funds are used for the senior trip.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Does my student have to participate in the junior and senior class experience?

A: Participation is not required, but please keep in mind that all the activities work towards one common goal and that is to work as a class towards a successful graduation from high school. The more engaged they are, the richer and more fulfilling the experience will be. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work." The more students involved, the more the workload is shared, balanced and manageable. Students share in the experiences, bond as classmates, and deepen friendships. All the fundraising, service projects, special events, and senior trip are designed for the class to work together to meet a common goal. Non-participation in the junior-senior experience will be detrimental to a student's friendships, character training and life skills; these traits are what the junior-senior experience teach so well.

Q: What is the main purpose of the junior-senior experience?

A: Teaching how to work hard for what you have; learning the importance of serving others; setting goals and working towards them; creating memories and friendships to last a lifetime.

Q: Can parents sit in on excom or class meetings?

A: Class meetings are an opportunity for students to learn leadership, independence, and a host of other skills, therefore, parents are not invited to attend. Students are growing in their ability to make decisions, answer for the consequences of those decisions, and solve their own problems with the guidance and supervision of their sponsors. In the very near future, they will have to do all of these things without the protective umbrella of family or school. We would like them to experience this level of independence in a safe and gracious environment and make mistakes while the cost is low. If not given that opportunity, they may not learn some of these important lessons; when they make these mistakes in the "real world," the cost is much higher.

Q: Can juniors and seniors do more class community service?

A: The junior-senior experience is not intended to duplicate or compete with service opportunities expected and/or required for graduation nor for the service hours awarded at the awards assembly at the end of each year. Service projects are just one part of the junior-senior experience and not one of the major goals. Students have ample opportunity to be involved in local organizations, scouts, local churches, summer missions programs and more as parents and students choose.

Student Testimony

"Needless to say, one big thing I learned was how to work with people. And not just doing some couple of hours worth of "team-work" that teachers would try to put us into for group projects, but actually spending a big chunk of waking hours with the same faces day in and day out. Especially when the deadline for JSB was closing in, we'd spend time every day after school up in the shop; and to be honest it wasn't all that fun and easy. In retrospect, I can see how it taught me to be patient and to see things in a more clear perspective, recognizing that there are things bigger than myself and I need to give up some of my self-comforts. And of course, the conversations and relationships built during those crazy hours are probably the highlights of my high school years."

Q: Can juniors do other projects than what are listed above?

A: Yes. If you have a work project that you would like to see the juniors be involved in, please bring your idea to the sponsors. Students are very open to new ideas. The last couple of years the PTO has hired the junior class to work the PTO barbeque and provide security at the garage sale. It's a time and energy benefit to PTO and a great work opportunity for the juniors.

Q: Can the class treasurer post a financial report for parents to see?

A: Students are still learning how to budget, manage finances and report it. Sponsors work closely and carefully with students as they learn this process. Cash and charges go through the finance office and are viewed by the school's CFO. Specific financial information is divulged to the excom and general

financial information is shared with the class. Students will learn about the process of public financial reporting in time; however, at this point we believe they deserve to do so in a limited capacity and in a safe environment.

Q: Why are there multiple work days every month?

A: Big events such as the after-sneak dinner and the JSB require committee work. Students choose to sign up for committees which are often led by an excom member learning leadership skills. Each committee is also given oversight by a sponsor. Students work together to decide upon work days and times according to the needs and tasks chosen. Class work days are only scheduled as needed. Certain events require certain amounts of work, specifically the JSB in April. As a parent you may choose which days your student can participate. Help your student to choose wisely, to follow through on commitments, to be honest with you regarding time spent, and to be respectful of his or her classmates.

Q: Can parents be involved in work days?

A: Parents may be involved in work days for a specific purpose or to play a particular role as requested by the sponsors. These are made known through emails from the sponsors. We find that students rise to the occasion and surprise themselves with their forethought, creativity, and resourcefulness when they are allowed to think and solve problems themselves. Oftentimes we as well-meaning adults and parents truncate that process or rob them of the experience by stepping in too early or doing a task for them. Learning these important skills is what the junior-senior experience is all about. This is a time when students are learning to be independent, make decisions, delegate, and work as a team.

There are many opportunities for parents to be involved in a supportive role. This can vary from bringing baked goods to the store, helping sell at concessions, bringing candy from home countries, helping collect addresses for servathon letters, making coffee freezies at home, and more. Feel free to ask your student's sponsors about opportunities to help.

Q: How can I confirm my student attended the class meeting or the work day?

A: Email or call a sponsor. Attendance is taken at events. However, students come and go as they please and are not directly supervised at all times.

Sponsor Testimony

"Having sponsored three different classes at Dalat, I can say without hesitation that class sponsorship has undoubtedly been the best experience for teaching life lessons in my 20+ year career. Classes focus on projects both within and outside the Dalat community, raising funds for a variety of ways to help others that most people never see. The prolonged emphasis on serving others, particularly the junior class honoring the seniors, is a wonderful blessing - high school students spending their time and resources to give another group of people a wonderful banquet is highly unusual and laudable. Dalat has perpetuated a unique culture that provides leadership responsibilities with money and time; and each student has the opportunity, if taken, to expand his/her skills in a variety of ways that will assist him or her in their future endeavors. While the road was not always easy, all of my children went through the class experience in leadership roles; and they wouldn't trade those years or experiences for anything. I believe the class sponsorship is among the strongest assets Dalat has to offer."

Q: Can the junior class store sell healthy foods at the store?

A: The junior class store is student-driven and serves the needs and preferences of the store customers - children. Children like to buy sweets. That doesn't limit the selection to only sweets. The students come up with the product ideas, some of which are tasty, healthier foods. Many of their ideas are fueled by requests from classmates and peers.

Q: If my student was not here in grade 11, is there a way we can contribute to the senior year?

A: Yes. There is an additional student activity fee of RM 500 for new seniors. This will help towards the cost of the senior trip and graduation as your particular student was not included in the projected numbers when planning and fundraising took place in the junior year.

Q: Why all the fundraising in the junior year?

A: To accomplish the goals of the junior-senior experience, it takes a certain amount of money for each student to take part in the JSB, the senior trip, buy the class gift, conduct service projects, and hold graduation. Plus many of the skills the junior-senior experience teaches happen through the process of having to work for that reward. Every fundraiser involves the juniors having to do some work for the money they receive. We want the juniors to learn that they have to earn what they spend and not have money handed to them. In addition, many of the junior class fundraisers are service-minded tasks that benefit the Dalat community such as concession sales at tournaments, game booths at a food fair, and service projects.

Q: Why isn't profit from the store enough?

A: Profits from the junior class store are insufficient to cover the funds needed. Although they do earn money, the overhead expenses are significant. We also want students to be involved in service-minded tasks and this helps them be creative and thoughtful in their fund-raising.



Q: Instead of fundraising, couldn't each family just pay a single fee?

A: No, because Dalat believes strongly in teaching students to work for these funds and the life lessons and skills gained through that process. Dalat's mission "education for life" is clearly seen in the unwritten curriculum of the junior and senior class experience.

Q: What is the money used for?

A: The money raised is for both the junior and senior years and covers a variety of events and service projects. There are four major expenses: the JSB, the senior trip, service projects, and graduation. These events are the major milestones in which all Dalat students have an opportunity to participate in and gain the satisfaction of working hard to make these milestones successful.

Q: Why don't students begin fundraising in grade 9?

A: We believe that students need time and maturity to handle the rigors, expectations, and responsibilities of fundraising. We also want to limit the fundraising to one year for each class. It is a goal and a responsibility for the junior year, then the next class carries the responsibility.

Q: Does a student have to participate in all the fundraisers?

A: Participation is not required for any fundraiser; however, we encourage every student to participate because of the lessons and skills they learn through the fundraisers. Junior for Hire is a specific fundraiser that always raises questions. We understand the challenges for families who live far away or who have limited discretionary funds to participate in a live auction. The reality is that an auction improves and increases money spent as good-natured competition incurs amongst the bidders. Oftentimes families will join together in bidding. Sponsors talk the event over with the juniors thoroughly, explaining that some will yield higher bids than others. However, the focus is on earning money as a class even though the auctioned work will be done individually. Students are comfortable with the process. Making it fun, silly and light-hearted helps calm the nerves, and the camaraderie helps boost courage for the event. The concept of live auction is largely Western. Parents of dorm kids may give permission for dorm parents to bid on their behalf. Parents who have questions or concerns about any event or fundraiser may contact the sponsors.

Q: Why do sophomores attend the JSB?

A: We believe that grade 10 students, sophomores, deserve the opportunity to attend JSB and see first-hand how the event functions. They will be expected to host the event the following year and having the first-hand experience of attending the JSB will go a long way in facilitating the vision and planning process.



Q: Why is the JSB theme and location a secret?

A: The theme and location are a secret partly because of tradition and mostly because that's what the students want to do – to reserve it as a surprise. It is historically part of the JSB fun and excitement. With larger classes, this has become more difficult to do and inevitably word leaks out. However, the seniors do not want to know! They want to be surprised.

The secret serves another purpose. By keeping the theme and location a secret, it allows the juniors to work on it independently, with direction from their class sponsors. The juniors must rely on their own creativity and resourcefulness without the comments and suggestions from others who mean well and wish to help.

Q: Can seniors ask a non-Dalat student as a date for the JSB?

A: No, although it was practiced in previous years, we have found that non-Dalat dates find it difficult to understand many of the traditions and it creates a unique strain on the Dalat senior to explain and help his/her date feel a part of the evening. We want the focus to be on the Dalat senior as we celebrate his or her life.

Q: Is there a sense of trying to outdo the previous class's JSB?

A: The intent is to honor the seniors, not to outdo them. This is repeatedly talked about in class meetings as sponsors remind juniors of the purpose of the JSB. Students, more often than not, catch this vision and focus on honoring the seniors. In their desire to honor, they want to do their best. The JSB is a reflection of passion and thought. The ambition and creativity of the class is driven by the students, not at the prodding of sponsors. Sponsors will help students think through the logistics and expenses and will guide and mentor them through this process, continually reminding them of the purpose.

Q: Do students have to have a date for JSB?

A: Dates are optional. Students are seated according to grade level and friendship groups. For families who wish for their students to have opportunity for a date, this is a positive option. Either way, students have ample time to mingle, talk, and take photos with friends and groups of friends. It is also an opportunity for boys to behave in chivalrous ways including opening doors, pulling out a chair, buying the girl flowers, etc. This is a family decision, and parents should talk it over with their son or daughter beforehand.

Q: Why is JSB so expensive?

A: A common concern parents have about the JSB is the cost of tickets. Dalat makes a tremendous effort to keep the price affordable. However, please understand that ballroom and food prices continue to escalate making this increasingly difficult. The School Management Team sets a maximum ticket price, and the remainder is subsidized by funds from the junior class. Boys are not required to pay for a date's ticket, although it's widely accepted. The costs of transportation, the meal and professional photographer are included in the price of the ticket. Senior students and sponsors are not required to pay. Students who choose to buy boutonnieres, corsages and bouquets do so on their own volition and with minimal, if any, help from the school. In addition, students who choose to buy gifts for one another do so by choice and with no encouragement or expectation from the school. As a matter of fact, each year the administration talks to students and encourages them not to overspend money. To put this in perspective, the U.S. traditional prom currently costs US\$919 (over RM 3,500) per teenager according to a 2015 survey.

Q: Why doesn't Dalat have a dance at the JSB like they do at most proms?

A: The purpose of the JSB is to honor the seniors. It's much more than a dinner and a dance. Dancing is an exclusionary activity and often one in which students feel uncomfortable or left out. The event is quite long.

Sponsor Testimony

"The junior and senior class experience is unique to Dalat and is rich in traditions and memories that students reminisce about for a lifetime. It is the single most rewarding ministry I've been privileged to be a part of. It's an amazing opportunity to invest in the lives of students in regular and meaningful ways, teaching life skills, learning to solve problems, and making ideas come to life. It is a tremendous time commitment, but I can think of no better way to really get to know the kids. Years after being sponsors, we still get wedding invitations, and baby announcements; and these grown-up kids give us the chance to share in their lives long after they've graduated."

(about 5-6 hours) so adding yet another component would make it far too lengthy. The other reason is that Dalat does not host school-sponsored dances. However, choreographed group dances are acceptable when overseen by the sponsors and pre-approved by the administration.

Q: Can parents attend JSB?

A: No. This is a student event, hosted by students in honor of students. Another practical reason is the limited number of ballrooms in Penang that have the space to accommodate the current number of students and staff who are invited. Staff are invited as chaperones but not required to attend. Parents may access photos and videos of the event which may be posted on the school's website or through another social media forum. In addition, parents are welcome to come to campus that evening to see the students as they gather for the event.

Q: Why is the senior trip referred to as "sneak?"

A: Sneak is a term used for when senior students would "sneak" away from school for their senior trip. Years ago they slipped away without anyone but the head of school knowing their location and it was a big thrill. That was easier done when all the students lived in the dorms. Nowadays, for safety and communication purposes the senior trip is put on the school calendar. Students, however, still desire to keep their location a secret for many of the same reasons they want to keep the theme and location of JSB a secret.

Q: What is the purpose of the senior trip?

A: The purpose for the trip is to bond as a class, to celebrate the achievements of the class, and for the opportunity of including an optional service component. The senior trip is a celebratory culmination of high school.

Q: How does the class determine where to go for the senior trip?

A: Students have anticipated this trip for many years, and it is an opportunity for wonderful class bonding and memories that will last a lifetime. Penang is a small island for which many are all-too familiar. Their choice is to go elsewhere, oftentimes choosing a place many have not yet had opportunity to visit. Students are not limited to choices in Malaysia, although Malaysia boasts a number of lovely destinations. Once the class chooses several destinations, the logistics and practicality are worked through with sponsors and excom members. Location and dates must be approved by the high school principal and head of school.

Q: Can seniors raise money at the beginning of the senior year to cover senior trip expenses?

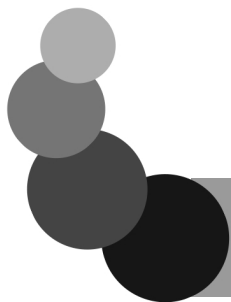
A: No. Fundraising ceases in May of the junior year. Then seniors have the responsibility and consequence of living within their means.



Dalat International School educates children from preschool through grade 12 with a robust American curriculum and a biblical worldview. Located in Penang, Malaysia, Dalat now educates students from more than 20 nations.

Dalat began its work as a school for missionary children in Da Lat, Vietnam in 1929. It relocated to Bangkok, Thailand, for a year before moving to the Cameron Highlands, Malaysia, in 1966. The school has operated on its current seaside location in Penang since 1971.

Dalat prepares students for a university education and adult life. The school's academic and boarding programs are fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).





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