Dillard Alternative High School (DAHS) is an online school that offers an afternoon vocational program. The DAHS enters its second year of existence in the Winston-Dillard School District. DAHS can be described as a magnet school of Douglas High School that offers an alternative form of education. Students receive all of their core class instruction via online learning. One full time instructor takes students to Douglas High School (DHS), using the facilities at DHS in offering courses in both metals and woods. Students in the recent past have produced metal art projects such as insects, sculptures and have made a forged bell as a class project.

Dillard Alternative High School principal, Craig Anderson, has done a magnificent job in the creation of opportunities for the students at DAHS. An experienced Winston Dillard School District employee, Craig has led Dillard Alternative High School since its inception in 2013-2014. In previous years, Craig has been a Special Education teacher and coach in the district. Mr. Anderson has brought many former teachers back into the fold in helping students connect with curriculum. DAHS has used Computer-Aided Design (CAD), led by a former CAD teacher to make metal signs for local businesses. The goal is to partner with local businesses and Umpqua Community College to earn credits towards a vocational certificate and the high school diploma at the same time. Mr. Anderson has also used retired teachers in providing tutors to meet specific needs of students at Dillard Alternative High School.

There are many other local businesses who have joined this mix. These partnerships have included Wildlife Safari, which teaches Math, English, and Science to DAHS students and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Umpqua Bank, Classic Cuts, and Umpqua Training and Employment. With these types of opportunities, the Dillard Alternative High School hopes to be open to students in the Winston-Dillard School District giving them vocational opportunities and job skills for the work force. Other possible options would include drama and culinary arts along with the vocations that are currently offered.

So, what is the goal? Give students opportunities and options at gaining skills and knowledge to enter the workforce. Dillard Alternative High School looks to create successes in the educational lives of students where previous attempts may have failed. Local businesses in partnership with local schools to create connections and interests that public school could not offer. Dillard Alternative High School looks to give kids a head start on vital workforce skills in partnership with local businesses that will positively influence these students’ lives. The exposure of inner workings in business combined with valuable skills via hands-on learning will allow these students the vital preparation needed for future jobs in our community.

The mission at Dillard Alternative High School is to promote a safe, nurturing learning environment for every student. The intention is to guide each student in the development of knowledge and essential skill to become a competent, responsible, and compassionate citizen within our community.