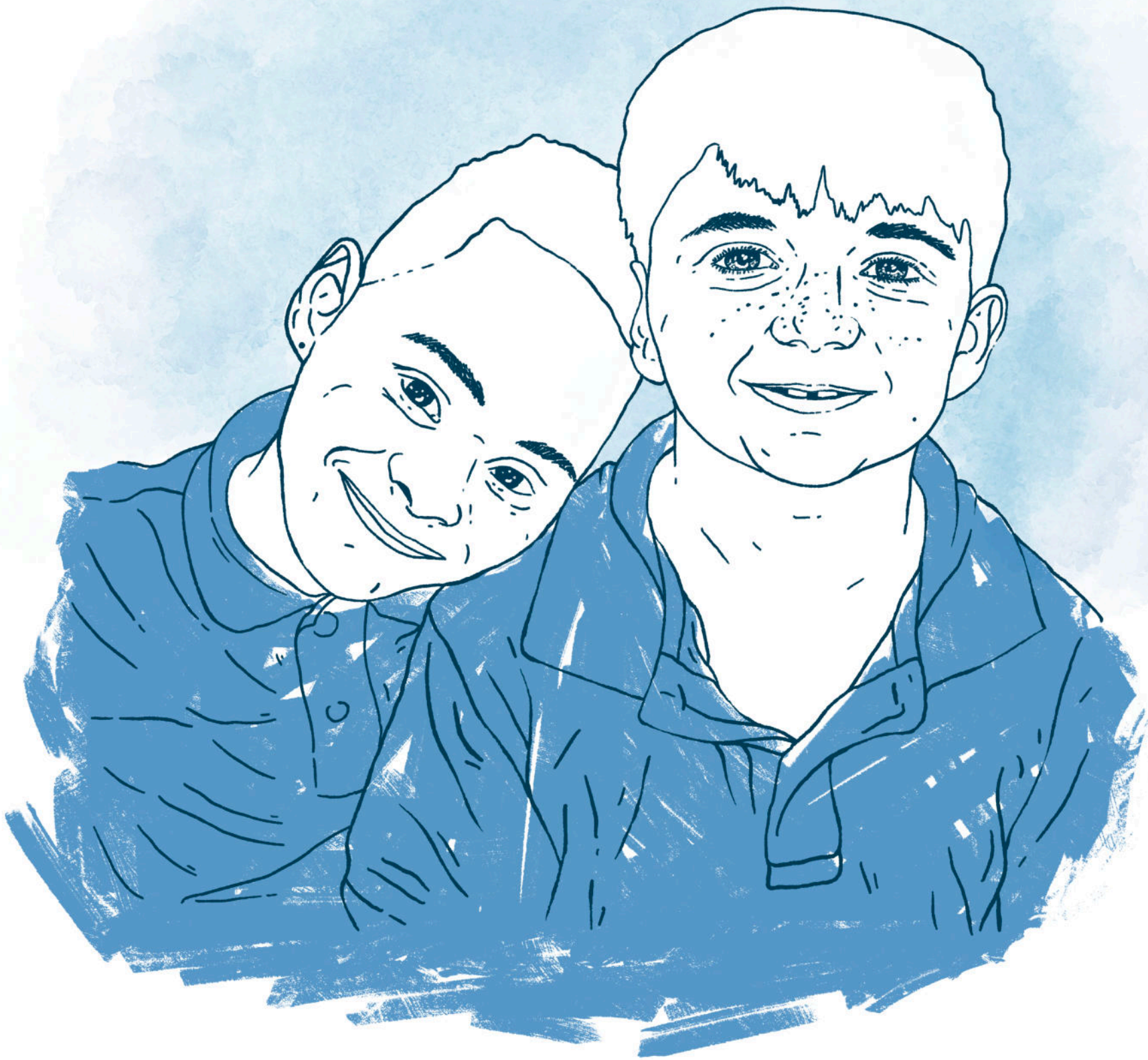


ISSUE 01
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DOTHAN CITY SCHOOLS
POINTS OF PRIDE

Introduction

Located in Southeast Alabama, Dothan City Schools serves over 8,800 students in 17 schools. Class offerings provide students with an array of rigorous coursework to help prepare them for advanced learning, and a wide range of career opportunities through a variety of Signature School options. Career clusters expose students to hands-on training in the following areas: building construction; arts; audio-video technology; and communications.

The vision of Dothan City Schools is to challenge all students with an exciting, extremely thorough and relevant delivery of curricula designed to prepare them for the challenges they will face in the 21st-century global economy. This common vision is rooted in the belief that all children matter and can learn when challenged by rigorous and relevant 21st-century information to improve their knowledge and skills.

The mission of the Dothan City Schools is to empower all students for the choices and challenges of the future. We believe that we should teach students to:

- Respect themselves, others, and the environment
- Participate productively and responsibly in a rapidly changing society
- Communicate effectively
- Use cooperative and independent learning strategies
- Apply problem-solving processes
- Set and meet high standards



Mission Statement

Dothan City Schools' mission is to prepare all students for the choices and challenges of the 21st Century (the future). Our goal is to prepare all students to participate productively and responsibly in a rapidly changing society.



Belief Statements

1. All decisions will be made with the best interest of students first.
2. All students will be successful learners.
3. All students will be taught to respect themselves and others.
4. All students will be taught to communicate effectively.
5. All students will meet and exceed high standards.

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Greetings to the City of Dothan and Surrounding Communities,

Dothan City Schools is pleased to share with you our first City-Wide newsletter. Through this newsletter, we hope you join us as we talk about the Points of Pride for our schools, introduce you to school traditions (new and old) and join us as we come together as a community to celebrate our students and their achievements.

Dothan City has a strong sense of community, which is demonstrated in many acts of kindness. As I entered this position, I heard many city leaders and community members, state how important the education of our children is to the ultimate well-being of Dothan. Let this newsletter be your window inside of our schools and the great things our students are accomplishing every day. Our schools have so much to be proud of and we look forward to the continuous growth and improvement of both our system goals and our students' educational achievements.

Since the end of last school year, our schools have seen many transformational changes and we are enthusiastic about the new direction. Educational opportunities for our students have been expanded and new traditions are being created. Dothan City Schools is not only changing how our students achieve in academics but we are also creating a new culture. That of which each student, teacher, parent and community member can be proud.

At Dothan City Schools, we are truly building a new culture. We are building a culture of high expectations and results that require people working within the school system to be willing to readjust and learn new ways to deliver instruction. It is also the same regarding ancillary services for students; such as transportation, clean and safe surroundings in which to learn and support services, so that students may be successful.

Building a culture of high expectations and results also requires the support of the parents and community – at large. Schools are a microcosm of society. We have students from all walks of life, with different learning styles, different home experiences, and different needs. It is our job to meet children where they are and take them to new heights

As we build this culture of high expectations, Dothan City Schools will also continue to celebrate our successes! Our students, teachers, and staff should be congratulated for the hard work they have done and will continue to accomplish the remainder of this school year. You will read more in this newsletter about some of our Points of Pride but here are a few notable ones:

- Dothan City Schools moved up on the reporting system from the State. Dothan City Schools now has an overall score of B for the entire system. There is no doubt that as we address and review student data, performance and attendance, individual and school grades will climb.
- Attendance is up 95% across the system.
- There are 1/3 more Advancement Placement Offerings at the High School.
- Dothan City Schools now has an Early Childhood Learning Center for our four-year-old learners.

- Our Dothan High School Athletic teams knocked it out of the park their first year, including our Football, Volleyball, Cross Country and Swim teams all competing at a state level.

- Schools are receiving new HVAC units, new lights, new roofs, and air quality issues are being addressed. Some schools will also receive secure vestibules to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

- ADA issues will begin to be addressed with the addition of elevators and ramps.

- Teachers received a \$600 supply gift card for use in their classrooms.

- Student Resource Officers and School Protection Officers are at the schools daily for the protection of the students.

- The Code of Conduct was strengthened and is being enforced across the system

- Honeysuckle, one of the closed schools, is being prepared to house the central office staff, which will be a savings of over \$150,000 in the next school year.

- New buses were purchased; allowing Dothan City to have close to half of the fleet less than 10 years old.

- Dothan City School Board Policies and job descriptions have all been reviewed and upgraded.

- Every Media Center in Dothan City Schools received additional dollars and is now an exciting place for children to enter and work throughout the day.

- Spanish instruction is being delivered from K-6.

As we begin to close out our school year, we hope we can continue to count on your support of our students, our teachers, and our schools. In order for change and the successes of this magnitude, hearts have to be touched. In this community, as well as most places, we must show up for our students and support that ALL students are important and should be valued. If you have the opportunity, I implore you to attend our community events, support our school sporting events or even attend our Board of Education meetings to learn more about what is going on in Dothan City Schools.

We appreciate your continued support of Dothan City Schools.

Sincerely,



Dr. Phyllis Edwards
Superintendent

Mentors Make Powerful Impact in City Schools

Some people talk a lot about making a difference. Patricia Hart is doing it.

Hart is one of the founders of Inspire to Aspire, a mentorship program providing support to young men at Beverlye Intermediate School. The program holds sessions once a week to allow volunteer mentors speak to the students about issues such as making good choices, self-esteem, conflict resolution and other challenges teenagers face.

“We need to address these problems now instead of pushing them away,” Hart said. “If we want our children to have a prosperous future, we need to start talking to them now.”

The mentors participating in the program – largely drawn from a group of retirees – have surprisingly made real connections with the student they are working with. A recent session began with one of the students walking up to Hart and giving her a hug.

“A lot of it is just building them up,” Hart said. “Many of them don’t get as much praise as they should get. I want to show them that we have confidence in them.”

Presidente Jones, a student in the program, said, “I like that they spend time with us, trying to teach us to do right.”

Veterans play a big role in the program, as retired members of the military command almost automatic respect from young men in many communities like Dothan.

Melvin Hart, Patricia’s husband, and Robert Durr are veterans participating in the program. Hart and Durr said they try to share some of the things they learned in the military with students – courtesy, the value of a job done well, and self-discipline.

Melvin said many young men don’t have enough positive male influences in their lives. That’s where he and Durr try to contribute.

“Kids that age need a lot of attention, and many of them aren’t getting it,” Durr said.

Patricia Hart said that she can see evidence that the program is making an impact, and that the encouragement and positive reinforcement her fellow mentors provide is convincing students to make the right choices.

“We had a young man who said he just couldn’t change, he just couldn’t do better,” she said. “I told him we weren’t giving up on him. At a participation event where we were rewarding students with good behavior, I gave him a gift card and told him I was trusting him to do better. From that day forward, he did change.”

Hart’s program is just one of several mentoring programs making a difference in the Dothan City Schools. According to Beverlye Intermediate School Principal James Williams, mentors don’t have to be millionaires or famous, mostly, they just have to believe in students’ ability to succeed.

“Having people who invest in students and care about them can make a powerful difference,” he said.

If we want our children to have a prosperous future, we need to start talking to them now



Succeeding Together: City Schools Efforts Yield Results For Students With Disabilities

The Dothan City School system invests in providing quality learning opportunities to all students, and offers a wide range of programs to support students with physical and learning disabilities.

The city school system serves more than 1,300 students with disabilities covering a wide range of challenges. Some services include assistive technology, audiology services, counseling, early identification, interpreting services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, psychological testing. The goal of these services is to provide students with the opportunity to learn in the least restrictive environment possible.

Some of the resources the city school system uses to support these students include facilities to support students with severe autism, medically fragile students, as well as funding for severely behavioral challenged students. A significant amount of work is also done to work with parents to prepare Individual Education Plans for students with disabilities, plans of instruction to meet the specific needs of these students.

“This is the best way for most students because they learn more incidentally when educated alongside their same-aged peers in general education classes,” Alicia S. Hales, Exceptional Services Supervisor for the Dothan City Schools, said. “The peers become models for social-emotional skills, as well as academics. In the future, these peers will become their co-workers.”

Success stories from the various programs the city schools offer to support these students are many. A sixth-grader with severe emotional issues recently was the student with the highest math score at his school. A high school student with a hearing impairment recently went to a state culinary competition after winning a local one at Dothan Technology Center. Everyday instruction is also yielding results in preparing students with instruction in etiquette and independent living skills.

According to the city schools, much of the system’s support of students with disabilities is insufficiently supported by the state and federal government, leaving the system to fund much of this important work on its own. For example, while the state supplies \$3 million to support medically fragile students, the city school system kicks in \$7 million to provide adequate services to these students. The city school system employs 26 nurses to accommodate the needs of all students in the system.

The city school system provides the best education opportunities for many students with special needs, as most private schools lack the resources to offer similar support.

“Private schools are not required to provide these services because they do not receive federal funds,” Hales said. “We feel no one really matches the services we provide, because we dedicated our experienced and well-trained personnel for these children.”

**We feel no one really matches
the services we provide**



Dothan City Schools Provides Greater Range of Educational Opportunities

The 2019-2020 school year has been a time of great change for the Dothan City Schools as the system has implemented a restructuring plan that has closed some schools, repurposed others, and provided a wider range of opportunities for students.

Re-focusing the resources available to the city schools was a major aim of the plan, which maximized utilization of facilities and reduced maintenance costs by shuttering under-used schools. By better allocation of resources, the system hopes to provide improved service to students, as well as a wider range of academic opportunities.

“Every single thing we did, we looked at, we examined, and we decided what path we wanted to take, then we put it back together,” Dothan City Schools Superintendent Phyllis Edwards said. “... I want this year to be the best year. I want 95 to 96 percent attendance, because if you’re not here, you can’t learn. I want more emphasis placed on ACT scores and career prep. Communication is also a part of it, and we also need to focus on transparency, training, and customer service.”

Creating signature schools was a major component of the restructuring plan. The plan gives schools a theme and a limited number of students are allowed to leave their zoned school for a signature school of their choice.

A+ Arts schools integrate the arts, including dance, drama, music, creative writing and visual arts, into all subjects. Hidden Lake Primary and Beverlye Intermediate are the system’s two A+ Arts schools.

Some examples of the work going on in A+ Arts schools include partnerships with the Wiregrass Museum of Art and Patti Rutland Jazz Company to provide hands-on arts training experiences. At Highlands Elementary School, a multiple intelligences team is working with classroom teachers to support integration of the arts in all content areas.

Expeditionary Learning schools use hands-on, project-based lessons to engage students in work that is challenging, adventurous, and meaningful. Highlands Elementary, Heard Elementary, Selma Street Elementary, and Morris Slingluff Elementary are the system’s Expeditionary Learning schools.

A few examples of the kind of activities provided at Expeditionary Learning Schools include growing participation in community and charitable projects at Morris Slingluff Elementary School and a trip to Fort Toulouse to see living history exhibits by Highlands Elementary School students.

STEM schools incorporate science, technology, engineering, and math into all areas of learning. These schools heavily emphasize project-based, group learning. Jerry Lee Faine Elementary is the system’s STEM school. At Faine students have state-of-the-art PITSCO STEM labs and also have opportunities to use 3-D printers and to learn coding.

International Baccalaureate schools lead students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world. Instructional Planning is done thematically and Alabama content standards are plugged into the following six interdisciplinary themes: who we are, how the world works, where we are in places and time, how we organize ourselves, how we express ourselves, and . IB schools include Girard Primary, Girard Intermediate, Kelly Springs Elementary. Schools must go through an accreditation process to become recognized as IB schools, and all of Dothan’s IB schools are in the candidacy stage of this process. At the IB schools students are getting early exposure to foreign language classes and a variety of challenging coursework that is expanding their critical thinking skills. At Girard Primary School, the school has partnered with Aunt Katie’s Garden to provide students with the experience of planting, growing, and harvesting their own fruits and vegetables. Kelly Springs has a long-running relationship with the Confucius Institute that allows it to provide Chinese language and cultural instruction.

Math, Science and Technology schools heavily emphasize investigation and discovery and seek to prepare students for STEM-related college and career pathways. Carver Intermediate School is the system’s Math, Science and Technology School. It retains a competitive admission policy, where students are accepted based on test scores.

Some examples of the work going on at Carver includes a project by fourth-graders at Carver to use circuit testers to find hidden circuits, as well as a dedicated lab space that provides weekly lab instruction to students.

A+ College Ready schools partner high schools with and feeder schools to create cultures of academic expectations for all students, teachers, and administrators. A+ College Ready schools develop a diverse pipeline of students prepared for rigorous high school coursework and promote Advanced Placement courses, so that more Alabama graduates will be prepared for college, the workforce and life. Dothan Preparatory Academy and Dothan High School are the city’s A+ College Ready schools.

In its restructuring, the Dothan City Schools developed the new Dothan City Early Education Center to provide pre-K services to children in the district. This new school, to be housed in the old Honeysuckle Middle School, will provide kindergarten preparation for young children. The Head Start center also remains open to provide pre-K instruction to young children.

Beyond the signatures, the restructuring of the city schools has allowed the Dothan City Schools system to improve utilization of the Dothan Technology Center, offer more extracurricular activities, and offer more opportunities such as the dual enrollment program. These changes give students greater opportunity to find something they can excel at, which will keep them more engaged in school.



Beverlye Intermediate School - A+ Arts School

We are Beverlye Intermediate School of Arts. We are an A+ Arts School certified by the A+ Arts Schools of North Carolina. We are one of the two A+ Arts Schools in the State of Alabama. As an A+ Arts School, our program is built on the following eight core essentials: Arts, Curriculum, Multiple Pathways to Learning, Experiential Learning, Enriched Assessment, Collaboration, Infrastructure, and Climate.

During the 19-20 school year, we are focusing on two of the eight essentials, curriculum, and climate. The A+ Arts curriculum focuses on developing teacher skills in creating effective, engaging, integrated standards-aligned instruction. To accomplish this our teachers participated in a five-day training during the Summer of 2019, and continue to participate in professional development throughout this school year. It has been stated that an A+ School has a distinctive hum. At BISA we are nurturing our school climate by building collaborative skills that create an environment of respect and support. We are striving daily to develop a creative community that is fun and engaging for teachers and students.

There are several exciting things that are going on here at Beverlye Intermediate School. We are committed to instilling in our students' positive character traits and skills that are needed to be successful and grow into responsible respectful citizens. We are particularly proud of our BISA Culture Initiatives. Each morning our students attend Family Meetings led by their homeroom teacher. Family Meetings provide an opportunity for our teachers and students to engage in meaningful character education discussions and activities. We also have weekly Champion Group Meetings. These groups are to ensure that each student understands that he or she has an adult advocate on campus. Our Champion Groups find their motivation from Rita Pierson, a retired educator who stated, "Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, one who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best they can be." Each day our students start their day with the following affirmation: "I am somebody. I was somebody when I came. I'll be a better somebody when I leave. I am powerful. I am strong. I deserve the education I get here!"

We provide our students with rich extracurricular experiences. Each week our students attend Music Class, Spanish Class, Art Class, Media Center, and 4H. Our Library Media Center has been remodeled and redesigned to better serve our 21st Century Learners. Through the Media Center, our students get to participate in creative play through critical thinking puzzles, a maker space station, and various educational technologies.

To further extend our Art Signature, we have a community partnership with the Wiregrass Museum of Arts and Patti Rutland Jazz Dance Company. The partnership with the Wiregrass Museum of Arts provides our students with two visits to the museum during the school year. While at the museum, the students tour the exhibits and participate in a hands-on art activity. Our partnership with Patti Rutland Jazz Company provides our students with two days of dance lessons during PE each week. We are excited about our community partnerships.

Through the LinC Program, our students have been exploring multiple intelligences. They completed a multiple intelligences assessment online that revealed their strongest area of intelligence, and learned how to better understand how they can use those strengths educationally to help them reach their full potential academically. Our students are learning that "No one is great at everything, but everyone is great at something." Our 4th Grade LinC students have been introduced to computer science by coding using Chromebooks. In order to incorporate performing arts (music and dance), we utilized the website code.org/dance.

5th and 6th Grade students have been introduced to the Socratic seminar process. This is a process where students participate in a formal discussion, based on a text, in which the leader asks open-ended questions. Students listen closely to the comments of others, thinking critically for themselves, and articulate their own thoughts and their responses to the thoughts of others. They have been learning to work cooperatively and question intelligently and civilly.

6th Grade LinC students built their own news crew from the ground up, complete with scriptwriters, newscasters, videographers, and video editors. We also implemented the use of green screen technology. BSN (BISA SCHOOL NEWS) is shared on the first of every month.

Our SGA Elections were a success! Students officers are Braelynn Napier (President), Gavin Wells (Vice-President), and Haleigh Copeland (Secretary). Classroom Representatives are Logan Holland, Hollie Patterson, Kadynce Caldwell, Vada Stephens, Kaden Falls, Alexa Wilson, Cheston Sampson, Stephen Colvin, Eisleigh Stevens, Paisley Klein, Jayda Palm, Madison Gibson, Brianna Powell, Tristinn Johnson, Makayla McIntyre, Keyonna Vickers, MaKayla Brown, Hayleigh Chavez, Raonna Walker, Maddax Sellers, Alexis Shaw, Stephanie Jackson, Miracle Wimbush, MaKayjah Mitchell, Kasai Williams.

Our teachers are hard-working and dedicated to the success of all of our students, and it shows when they participate in A+ Arts professional development. We are excited to be BISA!



Hidden Lake Primary School - A+ Art School

Hidden Lake Primary School for the Arts is an A+ Certified School. As an A+ School we provide students with an engaging creative learning environment in which the arts are continuously woven into every child's learning experience. Students are exposed to and educated in visual arts, dance, drama, music and creative writing.

At Hidden Lake Primary, we identify the needs of each student and personalize their education to align with those needs. Through arts integration, we are able to set the stage for engagement in the classroom and ensure each student is able to showcase their knowledge through multiple pathways. The visual learner, kinesthetic learner and auditory learner are all reached on a daily basis. The visual learner is able to use paintings and pictures to recreate stories or photosynthesis. Auditory learners are able to listen to song lyrics or create songs to talk about main ideas or key details of stories. Kinesthetic learners are able to move around and act things out to demonstrate their knowledge rather than listening to lectures.

Students learn they can be 'smart' in a myriad of ways. Students demonstrate learning using the Multiple Intelligences model: Word Smart, Picture Smart, Self Smart, Nature Smart, Music Smart, People Smart, Reasoning Smart and Body Smart. We are excited to have a

Multiple Intelligences Team to serve and support our students. Our MI team is made up of Mrs. Palmer (art), Mrs. Jones (Spanish), and Mrs. Spencer (music). The MIT works collaboratively with classroom teachers to support the integration of the arts across all content areas.

We have a beautiful outdoor classroom complete with a picnic area and Koi pond. This area provides students a space to explore nature, grow a garden, participate in projects on the messier side, and let's not forget family picnics!

HLP is proud and honored to have been awarded one of ten teacher grants from Dothan Education Foundation in October. We will now be able to add an outdoor xylophone called "Melody" to our beautiful outdoor classroom! Studies show that playing a musical instrument is like a full body workout for the brain. Every area of the brain is active while playing an instrument. Playing music physically changes the brain for the better, which impacts every area of a child's academic success!

We encourage the involvement of family and community. A few of our events include Grandparents' Day Tea, Literacy and Lunch Picnic, holiday luncheons for each grade level, field day, and PTO performances throughout the year. We hope to see you!



Faine Elementary School - STEM

Faine Elementary School is preparing learners for S.T.E.M centered pathways and innovative thinking to lead them into limitless futures using real-world solutions. The primary goal of our kindergarten through sixth grade elementary school is to focus on integrating science, technology, engineering and mathematics into all subjects-all day. As the only PITSCO school in the southeast, Faine Elementary's future is sure to be a success. With two state of the art Pitsco Science labs, a full time STEM coordinator, highly trained and qualified educators, community support, and excited learners, Faine is ready to make history. Each grade level adds spice to our S.T.E.M signature. From kindergarten taking the leap into reading to our sixth graders deep into coding, each student at Faine is vested in our signature. Students have created amazing items in our 3D printer and our S.T.E.M lab is full of excitement each day as students take leadership roles in their group projects.

Positive behavior supports are in place to ensure all students are productive and successful citizens both in school and in our community. P.A.W.S (Faine's Positive Behavior Plan) is practiced daily. Students work

towards earning Bulldog Bucks which can be spent in their monthly Bulldog Buck store. This store is a work of heart for the community. All prizes have been donated by the community of Dothan. Students can be seen earning Bulldog Bucks by exemplifying our positive characteristics for success.

Our LinC program is thankful to have received a grant for our students to create F.N.N (Faine News Network). The Faine News Network is written, produced, filmed and edited by 6th grade students each month. These Youtube broadcasts allow students to use social media in a positive light. Soon, viewers will be able to follow the FNN monthly podcasts. We have also received grants for our outdoor classroom and hydroponics garden. This classroom is a work in progress and a work of love for our teachers and community members. By providing our students with the excitement of growing their own fruits and vegetables, as well as engaging lessons on the production of gardening, students will see the true fruits of their labor.



Girard Primary School - International Baccalaureate

Girard Primary School is your GPS to learning, and this is our travel plan. Come along as we guide you through our journey to become an International Baccalaureate World School!

So what does IB mean, and how does it look at our school? An IB school is one that strives to develop critical thinkers who work together to solve problems and serve as active participants in their learning. The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is the first step in engaging children ages 3-12 in a curriculum that provides students with a global perspective while instilling character habits that will benefit them throughout school and beyond. When you walk into our school, you will see examples of traits from the “Learner Profile,” where students demonstrate inquiry, communication, thinking and reflection, in their daily learning. You will see students engaged in hands-on activities such as the construction of landforms, exploring the inside of a pumpkin in a study of its life cycle, or greeting one another through sharing information in a morning meeting. Whatever the activity, the purpose is to foster a love for learning new things about their world and developing a caring, knowledgeable, open-minded student who is principled and balanced but comfortable taking appropriate risks along the way.

Want to know more about our quest? Just look at our hallways and school shirts! With our great state of Alabama turning 200 this year, we are celebrating Alabama’s journey as well. Each area of the school boasts annual celebrations held throughout the state. To “Celebrate Alabama and Celebrate Learning,” we will utilize a \$5,000.00 grant awarded from the Bicentennial Committee to continue a community partnership with

Aunt Katie’s Garden where students will plant, grow and harvest their own fruits and vegetables. GPS students will participate in the Farm City Poster contest to gain an understanding of the community connection of the farm to the table.

To make a connection with our country, second graders participated in the Liberty Legacy program as well as gave a special presentation on Veteran’s Day to honor those who have served in the U.S. military. Instilling pride in their own country is vital to creating a successful, global-minded student.

So how do we extend our journey around the world to study the cultures and traditions of international places? We just walk down the hallway to our media center. The media center has books that help us make connections to people all over the planet by learning about our differences and what we also have in common. Our Spanish class exposes students to a new language, and art classes encourage a creative outlet for students to express their learning.

As you can tell, we are well on our way in the PYP journey. Over the course of three years, we will continue to seek authorization as an IB school which provides an engaging curriculum through the PYP framework. Would you like to stay informed about our learning adventure? Be sure to like our page on Facebook and find us on Instagram. Check out our website, too! Set your GPS and travel with us this year...we still have many places to go before our school year ends.



Girard Intermediate School - International Baccalaureate

Girard Intermediate School welcomes you and your children to our inaugural year as we continue our candidacy for our signature program, the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP). Our IB PYB program will take action by constructing understanding through our units of inquiry, using the learner profile to develop ourselves as global citizens, and taking action to solve problems and improve situations.

Girard Intermediate School provides a comprehensive curriculum, including reading, math, science, social studies, the arts, physical education, and foreign language, within the framework of the IB Program of Inquiry (POI). We differentiate instruction so that all students can experience high levels of success. We are a safe and caring community where students can grow socially and emotionally, as well as physically and academically. Girard Intermediate School is committed to the belief that all children can and will learn and academically achieve.

With our mission, parents, teachers, students, and the community are partners dedicated to helping students grow into healthy, happy, and successful individuals.

This Fall, Girard Intermediate School recently held Executive Council Elections. Officers selected by the student body were: Maylee Lancaster - Executive Council Vice President, Sadie Slingluff - Chief Executive Officer, Grayson Barbaree - Deputy Director Peace and Public Relations, Deputy Director Secretary - Ma’Ziyah Vickers, Javon Gonzales - Deputy Director/Treasurer

Girard Intermediate Students also participated in the DHS Homecoming Parade. Students enjoyed having the school mascot, a Mustang, as the parade mode of transportation! Thank you to Mr. Todd Whaley for sharing his beautiful Mustang!



Kelly Springs Elementary School - International Baccalaureate

We are Kelly Springs Elementary School serving approximately 550 students in grades K-6. Our signature is International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. We are excited about becoming an IB school. The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end, the organization works with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

At Kelly Springs, we strive to create a family atmosphere between our students, parents, and staff. We offer many opportunities for parents to be part of the school. Cook-outs, carnivals, open houses, learning nights, and picnics are just a few of the activities we host to give parents and families an opportunity to be involved. We are blessed to have a very active PTO, and they have many fun activities planned for this year.

We are happy to announce that our report card grade improved from 77 last year to 82 this year due to the hard work and dedication of all stakeholders. While our achievement is not where we want it to be, we are very proud of the amount of growth our students have shown.

We are so excited to have the addition of Spanish and Art in our curriculum. For many years, we have seen the importance of learning about other cultures because we have a very diverse population. We have partnered with Confucius Institute through Troy University for the past five years to expose our students to another culture and language. It has

now been expanded to Highlands Elementary as well. We have students as young as second grade passing Chinese language proficiency exams.

Michelin is a longtime community partner with our school. Many of Michelin's employees volunteer as tutors for our students. There are also volunteers from Michelin who teach STEM activities to our classes.

We are excited about a new project we are starting this year. Stephanie McCorkel received a grant from Dothan Education Foundation to fund a garden project in which the students will be harvesting worms, composting, and growing vegetables and fruit trees. This project called Sprouts to Mouths will allow all of our students to have an active role working in the garden. The produce will be donated to local food banks to help feed the needy.

Kelly Springs recognizes students who go above and beyond through our Ambassadors of Excellence program. Students who are chosen as Ambassadors of Excellence serve as guides for visitors and greeters for activities. Each person chosen is given a t-shirt to wear to identify them as leaders in the school.

Our students participate in many competitions to include science fairs, Fire Prevention Poster contests, Peanut Festival coloring contests, Sumdog Math competitions, Stock Market competitions, Chess competitions, and Perennial Math Competition.

Kelly Springs Elementary or as we affectionately call it, The Hidden Gem, is a great place to attend school. We welcome all visitors who would like to come out and see all the great things happening in our school.



Dothan Preparatory Academy - A+ College Ready

We've had an exciting first semester at Dothan Preparatory Academy (DPA). DPA has provided many enriching opportunities for students including athletics, academic extracurricular competitions, Liberty Learning, and (10) electives to name a few. Several 9th grade students have completed their first steps in becoming Microsoft credentialed. DPA is now offering a wide variety of Career Technical class offerings like App Creator, Computer Science Essentials, Introduction to Robotics, Orientation to Health Science, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), Multimedia Publications and Multimedia Design.

We are very proud of our award winning and internationally ranked robotics team, as well as the opportunity on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays that give our DPA students the opportunity to choose from 45 different clubs that are available to them based on their interest.

Preparations are already underway to make our students' second semester even more productive and enriching. The staff has begun work to develop their grade level themes. Seventh grade's theme is "Space," eighth grade's theme is "Diving Deeper", and ninth grade's theme is "House". Students in all grade levels will participate in painting and decorating their halls and classrooms according to their themes. Each grade level has planned projects, competitions, and field trips to further support their themes.

In February 2020, DPA will present our first group of Red Jacket Scholars. These are students who have had perfect attendance and all A's for the 1st semester. On their special day, they will receive their red jackets and be showered with gift cards, lunch and other surprises. We are excited about the opportunities that we are offering our students at Dothan Prep Academy.



Dothan High School - A+ College Ready

At the new Dothan High School (DHS), we have had a great start and have experienced many successes during our first semester. We are excited to see what the future holds for our wolves. Student-centered learning is taking place all over campus, sports teams are coming together and doing great things, many new clubs have been formed, and students have seamlessly formed the new DHS Wolf Pack.

We are proud of the rigorous course of study our students are receiving. With the combination of the two high schools, we are able to offer our students more class offerings. Dothan High School is now an A+ College Ready Signature School that prepares our students for the next step of their academic journey. Our Advanced Placement (AP) students are now offered 14 AP subjects with over 25 courses being taught in the 2019-2020 school year. On Saturdays, our AP participate in Saturday study sessions to prepare them for the end of the year exam. In addition to AP courses, we have 200 students enrolled in our Dual Enrollment program earning credit towards their college degree through 34 Dual Enrollment Courses. This Fall, we also inducted many of our students into the National Honor Society.

In addition to the academics, our students are embracing their new school culture and traditions. We have students like Senior Christian Drakes, who was named WTVY Wiregrass Area Student of the Month in

September, that helps shape the student body at DHS. At Dothan High, we have shown how successfully our students have come together to build the Wolfpack culture while embracing old traditions and creating new ones. Our first Wolves Homecoming was a great success with all Dothan City Schools participating in Homecoming Dress-Up Days and parade. It was a great sight to see the City of Dothan covered in Cardinal, Gold and Black truly embodying our motto #OneCityOneTeam.

We are looking forward to seeing many great things from our sports teams. Our Volleyball team went to the Regional Championship finishing as 6A Area 3 Champions, the Football team finished their season as Region 2 6A Champions and our Cross Country Team and members of our Swim Team competed in state competitions with Dothan High Swimmer, Kai Zhang finishing Top 8 for Breaststroke and Top 16 IM in 6A-7A at State. Our bowling and basketball teams are also showing their Wolfpack pride in their respective sport! And we are incredibly proud to have an awesome student section that has formed with students from each of the previous high schools to create one great group that can be seen and heard at every sports event.

We hope you continue to support Dothan High School and support ONE CITY! ONE TEAM!



Heard Elementary School - Expeditionary Learning

Heard Elementary School is a kindergarten through sixth grade elementary school in the Dothan City Schools District. Heard Elementary School was erected in 1962, having 57 great years of educating Dothan's youth. Our school encompasses a very diverse population of approximately 360 students.

This year begins our journey as an EL Education school. What is EL Education, formerly known as Expeditionary Learning? EL Education promotes excellence by increasing student engagement and elevating student achievement within the three core areas of mastery of knowledge and skills, high-quality student work, and character. EL Education truly inspires teachers to "create classrooms where children can achieve more than they think is possible", and motivates students to "become active contributors to building a better world". The goal of EL Education is to be the channel that engages teachers and students into work that is meaningful, challenging, collaborative, and adventurous. We are proud to be a part of EL Education where learning and achievement flourish.

The Department of Exceptional Student Services is making some welcoming changes as we work to better serve our special needs population to include our students with severe Autism. Three Autism units have been developed throughout our district, and we are honored

to have one of these units at our school. Our Autism students have access to a learning environment with a low student to teacher ratio where students are able to participate and interact with a curriculum centered around academics and specific life skills that cater to their individual and unique needs.

Heard Elementary School takes pride in being able to offer our students the opportunity to learn the Spanish language, and participate in Fine Arts programs such as Music and Art. In addition to these engaging experiences, our students are able to participate in our comprehensive Physical Education program that promotes character development, leadership, and physical fitness.

As a means of supporting our parents, Heard Elementary School offers an extended day program Monday through Friday from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Through this program, students have access to homework assistance, peer tutoring opportunities, and enrichment activities that build upon what is taking place in the classrooms.

We highly encourage our community to come out and witness first-hand the great things that are happening at Heard Elementary School! #WeAreCrew



Highlands Elementary School - Expeditionary Learning

At Highlands Elementary it is our vision to empower all students for the choices and challenges of the 21st century by providing a meaningful, challenging, and engaging education for all students while building healthy school and home relationships. Through the hard work of students, their families, and our teachers we continue to see growth in our students. As a result of this work, Highlands has climbed 11 points on the school report card over the course of three years. For the 2018-19 school year, we earned a score of 94/A.

We are an EL Education School which means our signature is full of rich texts and exciting topics that encourage students to enjoy learning. EL incorporates a variety of learning strategies that inspire students to take ownership of their learning, which will foster life-long learners. Protocols are an important part of the curriculum's strategies to support collaboration and student-led learning.

This fall, Highlands held their first Jr. Beta Induction Ceremony in November 2019. Around 40 students were inducted into the National Jr. Beta Club. Jr. Beta celebrates the academic achievement of high

performing students. This organization is student-centered and seeks ways to develop and nurture elementary school students by providing opportunities and experiences that demonstrate the ideals of achievement, character, leadership, and service. We look forward to starting this wonderful tradition of Jr. Beta at Highlands Elementary.

Highlands offers various clubs/teams and events to be a part of outside the classroom. A few examples would be; Archery Team, Science Olympiad, Chess Team, Yearbook Club, School News Club, Math Team, and SGA. This year our LInC students and parents entered the "Scarecrows in the Garden". Their entry won 2 blue ribbons at the Botanical Gardens.

Mrs. Melissa Bailey, a 4th-grade teacher at Highlands, was a grant recipient from Dothan Education Foundation. Mrs. Bailey wrote a grant to fund a grade-level field trip to Fort Toulouse. Fort Toulouse provides living history events, where students can experience life in old Alabama. Each November, they host Alabama Frontier Days, which is one of the largest living history events in the state!



Morris Slingluff Elementary School - Expeditionary Learning

Slingluff Elementary School serves 338 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. At Slingluff, our vision is to build a culture of future leaders who will become productive citizens. We strive to provide our students with the skills that they will need to responsibly participate in a rapidly changing society.

This year, Slingluff adopted the "EL" curriculum. As an EL school, our mission is to create classrooms where teachers can fulfill their highest aspirations and students can achieve more than they think possible, allowing them to ultimately become active contributors to a better world. The EL curriculum promotes excellence by increasing student engagement, in the mastery of knowledge and skills, high quality student work, and character building. We encourage our students to become leaders of their own learning. We also adhere to a "Crew" philosophy of relationship building, caring for one another and supporting students socially, emotionally and academically.

Slingluff students are aware of their responsibility to our community, and are involved in various community and charitable projects. Students are also growing through participation in SGA and 4-H activities.

We are excited to offer Art, Music and Spanish as part of our new curriculum.

Slingluff is proud to announce that we have increased our State School Report Card grade consistently over the last three years.

These results are due to the hard work of our students, teachers, and community stakeholders.

Slingluff is the home to the Dothan City Schools Medically Fragile Units for elementary schools. Our students in the medically fragile units are the community's most medically challenged children. Our school loves having these students as members of our Slingluff Crew.

Slingluff is a community school and shares in many productive collaborations within our community. We have volunteers that include parents and grandparents, the Foster Grandparents Program, Troy University, the Education and Training Program at the Dothan Technology Center and local area churches. The effective use of these community resources have resulted in Slingluff being nominated as a CLAS Banner School, a program that recognizes school programs that can be used as models throughout Alabama.

Slingluff families are very important to the continued growth and the success of our students. We recently hosted a Thanksgiving Family Feast that was attended by a great majority of our families. We also have an active PTO.

It's these types of relationships that further strengthen our Slingluff Crew. If you would like to join our Crew, please visit our website or Facebook page or call us at 334-794-1479.



Selma Street Elementary School - Expeditionary Learning

Selma Street Elementary is an EL Education school. This means that we are increasing student engagement while elevating and expanding student achievement by focusing on student excellence in three core areas: Mastery of Knowledge & Skills, Character, and High-Quality Student Work. Our students show mastery in a body of knowledge and skills within each discipline, and transfer that knowledge to meaningful tasks. They analyze, evaluate, and synthesize complex ideas while considering multiple perspectives. They work hard to become ethical people by putting their learning to use to improve their communities. Finally, our students produce high-quality work that is meaningful to the community beyond our school. Take a look at what we are accomplishing within the hallways of Selma Street Elementary!

Crew Circle is "a time of coming together as a school in celebration of values, efforts, and tradition!" At Selma Street, we have monthly Crew Circles to celebrate the contributions students and teachers are making toward ensuring that all feel valued, respected, safe, and included regardless of our differences! Together, we celebrate our accomplishments and motivate one another to achieve even more and at higher levels!

An EL Education school culture is planned for, developed, and sustained through practices that bring the community together, promote shared understandings, and encourage all community members to become crew, not passengers. Students in EL schools are known well and supported by adults. At Selma Street, each student is known well by at least one adult within the school. One structure for developing this relationship—and supporting students socially, emotionally, and academically—is crew.

The structure of the crew allows for relationship building, academic progress monitoring, and character development. Crews allows students to build positive connections with their peers and with their crew leader. Crew leaders strategically plan crews to address and assess



Head Start - Early Education

Dothan City Schools Head Start is a federally funded program that serves 324 children at 5 different sites: Powell Street, Dothan/ Ashford Elementary/ Webb Elementary/ Cottonwood Elementary and Rehobeth Elementary. These 5 sites equal a total of 17 classrooms with 20 students maximum per class.

At Head Start, our mission is giving students the skills needed for kindergarten readiness. We strive to ensure that we promote growth and offer support in each of the following domains: cognitive, social and emotional development. Our goals include children being prepared for school, families supporting their children's learning, and collaboration with elementary schools as children transition into kindergarten.

We are an income-based, full-day, full-year program that follows the DCS calendar. Our program provides many different resources to our children and families including free breakfast, lunch, and snacks for each child

these multiple goals. Outside of school, mentoring, internships, and apprenticeships foster relationships between students and community members. Each morning, every classroom across our campus is engaged in Crew Meetings!

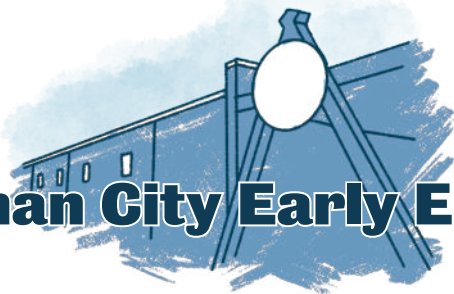
During this 1st quarter, EL Education Module lessons have been implemented across all grade levels. Students have been engaged in establishing and setting classroom norms, collaborative discussions, learning opportunities, and identifying and solving challenges. They have been learning about other parts of the world, and are able to make relevant comparisons of their own life to that of other students around the world. Each grade level has been participating in a novel study as part of the curriculum model, and can use the information gleaned from the text to empathize and problem solve with others.

For example, our 2nd Grade students read *Off to Class*, which features incredible and unusual schools around the world. They learned about some of the difficulties children in areas such as Bangladesh and parts of Africa experience just to be able to get an education. During their learning time, students had discussions centered around challenges these other countries faced, and synergized within groups to identify a solution for the problem. One student even brought in a pair of authentic African shoes that her family owned! In this 2nd Grade class, as well as all others, learning came to life for the students!

Building meaningful relationships with our community is at the top of Selma Street's list! Principal Blair is very active in soliciting community feedback and support. We have several members and organizations within the community that have partnered with Selma Street to help support the success of our students and we are thankful for their support. Remember that old adage, "It takes a village to raise a child?" Well, you are part of that village and we covet and appreciate your support!

every day, parent education workshops, field trips with no cost to students or parents, free limited transportation, supplies provided annually for each classroom and student as well as the vast amount of Family Services. Some of these include crisis intervention, housing assistance, domestic violence training, parenting education, financial education, and mental health assistance.

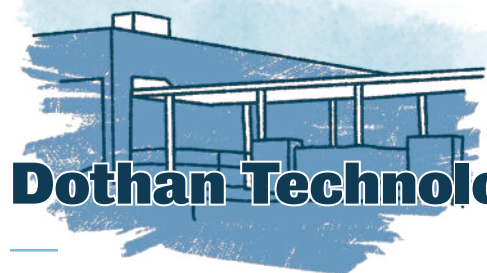
Head Start slots are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis and applications are opened online each year in February for the upcoming year. The impact that Head Start has on the families we serve is overwhelmingly positive and can change a family dynamic completely. Focusing on the whole child will change the world. It changes the world one student, one classroom, one school and one community at a time. We, along with the Early Education Center, are working towards ensuring that every child gets the early education opportunity they deserve!



Dothan City Early Education Center - Early Education

Dothan City Early Education Center (DCEEC) is setting the stage for students to become life-long learners. DCEEC provides a safe, nurturing environment where students are loved and encouraged to reach their full potential. The primary goal of DCEEC is to provide high-quality Pre-K experiences for students who reside in Dothan with an emphasis on kindergarten readiness. Programming focuses on social-emotional, academic and physical skills thereby building a foundation for students to be well equipped for life beyond Pre-K.

The instructional scope at the Dothan City Early Education Center adheres to the Alabama Developmental Standards for Preschool Children. In addition, instruction is provided in Art, Foreign Language, and Music by certified teachers in these specialty areas. Students have access to an expansive playground area, a courtyard with swings and grass areas for outdoor instruction. A pod layout fosters a family atmosphere where students feel safe and connected. The classrooms are connected by a large multi-use room which affords opportunities for extracurriculars and rainy day activities.



Dothan Technology Center - Career Technology Education

At Dothan Tech Center, we are taking our students beyond the classroom to provide valuable future members of the workforce while instilling the values of productive citizens. Dothan Tech Center offers career and technical programs that link essential skills with business and industry needs. Each CTE program provides hands-on activities that require problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. The programs also help students develop skills currently noted by business and industry as lacking in today's workforce: teamwork, communication, professionalism, and a positive work ethic. Students have the opportunity to gain workplace skills that enable them to reach their full potential and ensure they graduate college and career ready.

With the recognition of a labor shortage, Dothan Tech Center is emerging as one of the largest developers of high school students for entry into the workforce and/or post-secondary education. With over 950 students currently participating in our 16 programs, we continue to explore additional opportunities to support the regional workforce. Having business and industry partnerships that provide input for each program is vital to its success. Opportunities to support programs at Dothan Tech include but are not limited to serving on advisory board members, being a guest speaker, mentorships, industry tours, job shadows, internships and support with resources.

This fall, three teams of Culinary Arts students had the unique opportunity to compete to make delicious meals from ingredients found in the lunch room with a small budget. The winning team competed at the state level at Auburn High School and came in 3rd place overall.

We are grateful to have received one of two school grants awarded by the Dothan Education Foundation and we are especially excited about the addition of the 'Tinker Factory'. The Tinker Factory will be a perfect catalyst for developing and nurturing student's problem-solving skills. Children are natural tinkerers. They enjoy taking things apart to see how they work and being challenged to put them back together. By providing a variety of intriguing materials, students can create something unique to be proud of. We aim for our students to be motivated through real-world experiences in an environment where they are limited only by their imaginations.

Working in partnership with the Dothan City Schools Headstart Center, the vision of ECE programs in our system is to ensure school readiness for all students by building a foundation for sustained success.

Each of the Dothan Tech programs have a Career Tech Student Organization (CTSO) for students to learn how to be a leader in their program and better serve our community. Our students participate in SkillsUSA, HOSA, TSA, FCCLA, FFA, and FBLA. For the second year in a row we have a state officer, Hunter Howell, in SkillsUSA.

At Dothan Tech we count on our industry partners to enhance our program curriculums by speaking to our classes about their experiences, demonstrating a skill, or sponsoring a field trip. In August, Dothan Tech and Southeast Health announced a monumental business and education partnership that enhanced the current learning opportunities available for students at the Dothan Tech Center and established an Academy of Health Sciences and Biomedical Science at Dothan Technology Center.

The new partnership provides advanced learning opportunities for students and it is the first industry partnership of this magnitude in the career tech arena for Dothan City Schools. Through the partnership, students enrolled in the two academies will learn firsthand through a variety of opportunities including Job Shadowing and Observations, Internships and Mentoring, Tours (Hospital, Clinics and Medical School), Speakers, Employment opportunities. In addition to the learning opportunities for the students, Southeast Health has also pledged the donation of surplus medical equipment as available as well as a three-year investment of \$130,000, a \$5,000 upfront investment to simulate the Southeast Health workplace and a \$20,000 per year for equipment supplies, classroom, and technology needs for each program. Thank you Southeast Health for stepping in to help develop our students and Dothan's future workforce.



Carver School for Math, Science, and Technology - Math, Science, and Technology

We are Carver School for Math, Science, Technology with a competitive enrollment process with students from the top percentile testing in the 75th percentile and above in the system grades three through sixth.

At Carver, we have two specialized science classrooms hosted by science teacher, Jessica Freeman. We have a weekly lab schedule that allows each grade-level science teacher to bring their students to the lab space at least once a week, in addition to the science instruction that occurs in the general classroom. The laboratory classroom is set up like a classical lab space and allows students to work in collaborative groups. We are fortunate to have state-of-the-art Vernier LabQuests in our science lab. The students can use a variety of scientific probes with the Vernier equipment, such as thermometers, gas sensors, and heart rate sensors. Students are able to perform a variety of technical, scientific experiments and tests using this equipment. Furthermore, students are able to practice their data analysis skills by connecting the probes to Chromebooks to create graphs and charts.

The other classroom is set up with group tables and is designed to encourage collaboration among our students. We are excited to see all of the things our students have learned this year and can't wait to see their scientific discoveries in the future!

This Fall, Carver third-graders read a story where a group of young explorers found a tiger at the zoo that had slipped into a pit. We knew we couldn't lift a 600-pound tiger! Our third-grade engineers learned about forces, work, and mechanical advantage to save the tiger. Students used VEX IQ kits to design an inclined plane. They built models of all the simple machines in order to solve the problem of rescuing the tiger which required a complex machine.

One of our first-year teachers, Jenna Walzer, has already created an extremely happy classroom culture! As a culmination of their poetry unit, students presented the poems they have written over the past several weeks. Students presented poems in a variety of formats, including haiku, free verse, limerick, and cinquain. Ms. Walzer's "Open Mic Day" was accompanied by a real microphone and flickering battery-operated candles to create a real-world atmosphere! Ms. Walzer and her students

have also created a poetry blog to further showcase their hard work: jewalzer.wixsite.com/poetry

Our Pod B 5th-grade teachers, Cynthia Austin, Ehren Johnson, and Tonya Norris, incorporated engineering skills into social studies by having students design models of traditional Native American housing structures, like hogans, longhouses, and igloos. The students received a bag of materials, a picture of the structure, and a description of the structure. Then, students had to work collaboratively to design a replica of the picture that met certain specifications. The students had a blast working together to engineer these models while learning about the difficulties Native Americans faced in the past when building actual home-sized structures!

At the end of each month, we recognize our students who have worked diligently on our ALEKS and IXL individualized learning platforms. Pictured in front of our ALEKS recognition board, are our ALEKS Course Masters for the month of September. These students have completed all of the objectives in at least one grade level ALEKS course. The Carver School uses the ALEKS learning system to continually challenge students to achieve new math skills on their learning path. By using this math program, students can refresh their knowledge of skills from previous grades, practice grade-level skills, and even work ahead to advanced skills! The Carver School utilizes the IXL personalized learning platform to provide our students with an individualized curriculum in reading, English grammar, writing, and vocabulary.

Third-grade students used Vernier probeware in Carver's specialized science lab to capture temperature data during three scientific tests. After performing the three experiments, students analyzed the data to determine the difference between the Celsius and Fahrenheit temperature scales. Students learned that numerical data can be represented differently depending on the measurement scale.

As part of a unit on electricity, fourth-grade Carver scientists in Mrs. McClenney's class used circuit testers to find two hidden circuits in each box. Students worked collaboratively to find the two mystery circuits and recorded the data on a table. Students continued this inquiry by going to our science lab to learn more about series and parallel circuits.

Jump Starting Careers

Cameron Payne isn't afraid to get his hands dirty. And the Dothan City Schools system is happy to let him and like-minded students indulge their passion for hands-on work in its vocational dual enrollment programs.

Several of Payne's family members picked up the mechanic's trade in the military, and Payne grew up around folks doing hard, honest and rewarding work. As Payne grew closer to completing high school, he began considering pursuing a career in auto mechanic work. When he heard that Dothan High offered a dual enrollment course in automotive technology, signing up for the course was a no-brainer.

"I like that it gives us an early start, so we can complete some courses early on and get into the workforce sooner," he said.

Dual enrollment courses allow students to earn simultaneous college and high school credit for college-level work. Students take the courses to complete core academic or career tech courses while they're in high school, which often allows them to save money by shortening their time in college. In addition to the financial advantage dual enrollment provides, the program also allows students to get accommodated with the increased rigor of college courses. About 165 students in the Dothan City Schools are taking dual enrollment courses in the 2019-2020 academic year.

I like that it gives us an early start, so we can complete some courses early on and get into the workforce sooner

"We're giving them an opportunity to gain credits and take courses, so when they graduate they're going to be ahead of everyone who didn't take advantage of this opportunity," Chris Duke, director of Career Technical Education & Workforce Development for the Dothan City Schools, said.

Students typically pay for dual enrollment courses, although some may obtain scholarships. Students taking core academic courses usually take them from local community colleges, allowing them to save money as the same courses usually cost more at four-year institutions.

Dothan High partners with Wallace Community College to offer academic and career tech dual enrollment courses. Grants cover the cost of the program for students taking career tech courses and some low-income students. A few academic courses are taught at Dothan High, but

the majority of dual enrollment courses are taught at Wallace. The career tech courses are taught at Dothan Technology Center, with the support of Wallace Community College and Alabama Aviation College, a division of Enterprise State Community College.

Payne said the program has provided him with practical training that he'll need on the job. He's learned some auto repair basics such as changing brakes, tire rotation, and spark plug replacement, and had the opportunity to use diagnostic tools to analyze engine problems.

Duke said providing students with a head start on academic and vocational training will help meet local needs for skilled workers. With regard to the program's vocational offerings, Duke said the system identified automotive and aviation courses as training programs needed by local industry to fill their need for skilled workers.

"We know that both of these programs will provide opportunities for students to be successful and work in these industries and make good money," he said.

For more information, including video interviews, please see the Latest News section at dothan.k12.al.us



Social Worker Sees Higher Calling in Dothan City Schools Job

For Donald Curry, his job as a social worker at Dothan Prep isn't just a chance to make a difference, it's also an opportunity to put his faith into action.

"This is my form of ministry, even though it's not tied to any kind of church," he said.

For the past year, Curry has been working with Dothan Prep students and their families, providing the help he can give as a therapist and directing them to other resources for their varied needs. Social workers are a new addition to the Dothan City Schools, added after administrators determined that there was an unmet need for mental health services within the system.

It's a job that involves a lot of paperwork, and it's also a job that requires a lot of interaction with students facing difficult challenges. Curry currently has a caseload of about 60 students, and that number is growing as he becomes more established within the school system.

"There's definitely a need here," he said. "I see a lot of kids with anxiety and issues with mood and depression."

Curry's involvement with students usually begins at the recommendation of a guidance counselor. Curry will assess students referred to him and determine what resources they need. For many, it's individual and group therapy sessions at school. For others, it can be a referral for psychiatric or other services.

Curry, who completed an undergraduate degree at Tougaloo College and a master's degree in social work from Louisiana State University, has a significant amount of experience in working with at-risk youth. He spent several years working as a home care coordinator, helping to determine if children with behavioral problems would best be served by remaining at home or juvenile justice programs.

In his new role, Curry said he is seeing progress among the students he works with. He said that many are learning new coping skills and strategies to deal with issues they're facing.

**This is my form of ministry,
even though it's not tied to
any kind of church**

"Trauma can be a lot of different things," he said. "It can be the loss of a loved one, being in an accident, it just depends."

Curry also hopes that parents of students in the city school system are coming to view him as an ally.

"When I was growing up, people thought a social worker was someone who was trying to remove the kids from the home or getting in your business," he said. "That's not the case."

For Curry, who grew up wanting to be a minister before discovering his talents were best suited for psychology, small day-to-day victories – seeing students open up in group therapy or making better choices – make his work worthwhile.

"This has always been something that I wanted to do," he said. "I've always been that person who could talk to people when they were at their lowest point without making them feel judged – really hearing what they had to say."



"We're Planting Seeds Here." Local Businesses, Schools Make Outstanding Partners

Drew Marchman prepares a presentation for students much like he'd prepare a menu. He flavors it with a range of options that will get his audience's attention and appeal to a variety of tastes.

Marchman, the corporate chef for Ben E. Keith Foods, a company that provides food and beverages to the restaurant industry, and Mike Carroll, a business development manager for the company, recently spoke to students in Dothan Technology Center's culinary arts program. Marchman and Carroll's presentation dealt with some practical skills like the proper way to cut produce, but it also provided an informative look at the multiple career paths that exist in the food service industry.

"The job opportunities are endless – finance, IT, mechanics, warehouse work, you name it," he said.

Carroll said, "I went to school for marine biology and now I sell groceries, and make a good living doing it.

Demonstrations like Marchman's and Carroll's are part of efforts by the Dothan City Schools to forge closer bonds with local industry. The system benefits by providing students with real-life experiences and insider knowledge of career fields they may wish to explore. The businesses benefit from the opportunity to build relationships with young people who may wish to join their companies in the future.

"We're planting seeds here," Carroll said. "It may not always resonate now, but a few years down the line the experience may ring a bell with them."

Dothan Technology offers a variety of career training programs, many of which are designed to match the labor needs of local industry. The Dothan City Schools system has had an enthusiastic response from a variety of local businesses. These businesses have supported the system with equipment donations, as well as facility visits and other experiences for the students.



"Our kids are excited because they're seeing buy-in from their local community," Chris Duke, director of Career Technical Education & Workforce Development for the Dothan City Schools, said. "That says something to them. It says that you're important to us."

Melanie Hill, of Southeast Alabama Works, said building these bridges between students and local industry will help guide those students to well-paying work that will allow them to stay here, rather than having to seek a good lifestyle elsewhere. Hill said the recent reorganization of the school system enables business to more efficiently collaborate with the school system.

It may not always resonate now, but a few years down the line the experience may ring a bell with them

"Businesses are excited because we have one high school and one junior high, making it easier for them to get behind the schools," she said. Kay Blackwell is a student in Dothan Technology Center's culinary arts program. Blackwell said that she learned all the basics of restaurant work from the program, and that it's already paid off for her in her current work.

"I learned a lot of things here, so my bosses didn't have to tell me about them when I started work," she said. "Keeping your hair out of your face, washing your hands – commonsense stuff that you don't want your boss to have to tell you about."

Dothan Technology Center career tech opportunities:

Agriscience	Logistics
Education and Training	Business/Marketing
Automotive Technology (DE)	Pre-Engineering
Graphic Arts	Cosmetology
Aviation (DE)	Television Productions
Health Science	Culinary Arts
Biomedical Science	Welding
JROTC	Work Based Learning
Building Construction	Computer Science
DE = Dual Enrollment	

For more information, including video interviews, please see the Latest News section at dothan.k12.al.us

AP Courses Offer Greater Challenge, Greater Reward

Delani Benjamin is getting a major head start on her college career thanks to advanced placement (AP) courses offered by Dothan High School.

While many students take just one or two AP courses per semester, Benjamin is making the most of the opportunity the program provides by taking five: AP literature and composition, AP biology, AP macroeconomics, AP U.S. government, and AP calculus.

“I loved the idea of being able to take high school classes as college courses,” she said. “If I’m able to do well enough on the AP exams, that’s thousands of dollars I’ll save on college.”

Considering the rising cost of college in Alabama and the nation, Benjamin is making a smart move by taking full advantage of this valuable program offered by Dothan High. AP courses give high school students the chance to take college-level courses. At the end of an AP course students take an exam, and if they score well enough on the exam they receive college credit for that course at institutions that recognize AP courses. Many students use them to knock out introductory courses before they start college, saving them time and money.

“Advanced Placement courses are designed to provide the same rigor as a college course,” Dothan High Principal Bill Singleton said. “At the end of the year students take the AP exam to see if they earn college credit. If a student passes with a score of 3, 4, or 5 colleges and universities may award credit for specific classes.”

Nearly 500 students – close to a third of enrollment – are taking AP courses at Dothan High. Although the program is popular, it’s no easy A for students. AP coursework challenges students and requires self-motivation and active engagement.

Benjamin said she feels that the tougher classes are preparing her for the more challenging pace of learning in college.

“There is a lot more writing and discussion than there is in regular classes,” Benjamin said. “Teachers try to get students to dig deeper than the surface level. The answer isn’t going to be one word or a multiple choice selection.”

Katie Baker, who is taking three AP classes, agrees. Baker said the courses have pushed her to improve her writing and reasoning.

“In AP class you write a lot more and there are more discussions,” she said. “There’s no spoon-feeding going on.”

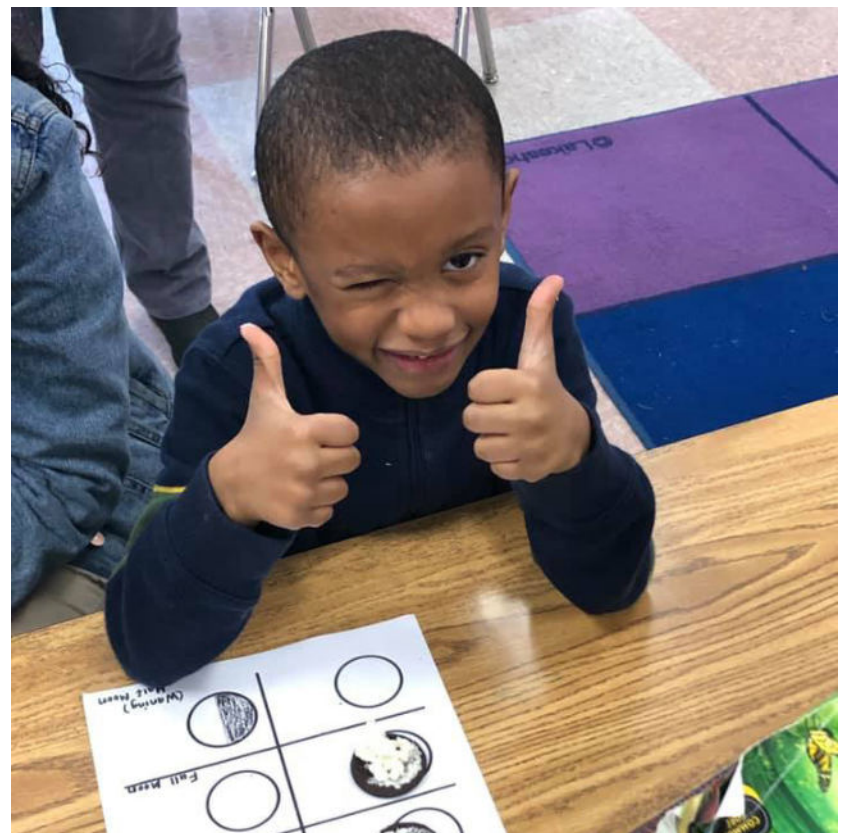
Baker said that having the chance to complete introductory courses inexpensively and early were a big selling point for the AP program, but she also liked the opportunity the courses provide to dig a little deeper into subjects she enjoys.

“I really enjoy history, so I thought I’d like to challenge myself,” she said. “It does take a lot more study and practice, though.”



I loved the idea of being able to take high school classes as college courses

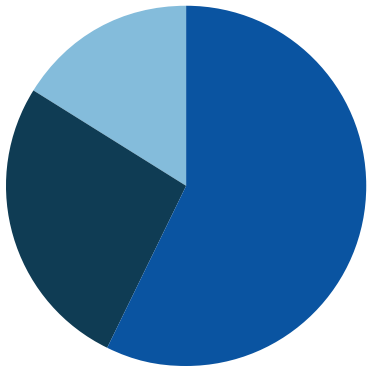
For more information, including video interviews, please see the Latest News section at dothan.k12.al.us





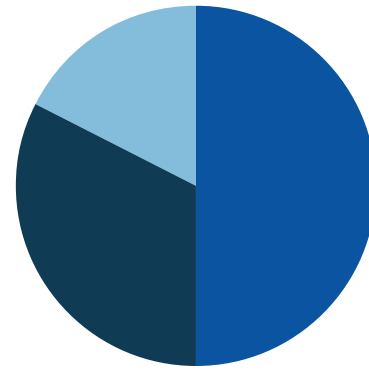
Annual District Profile

As of November 2019



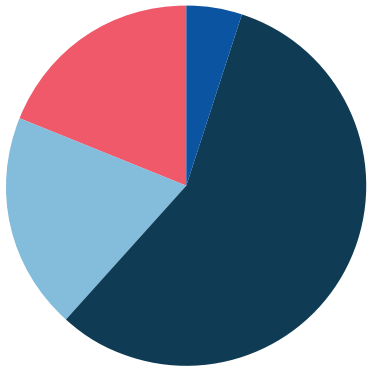
Financial:

57.30% - State Funded
26.60% - Locally Funded
16.10% - Federally Funded
 -
\$74,680,220 - Operating Budget
\$9,087 - Per Pupil Expenditure



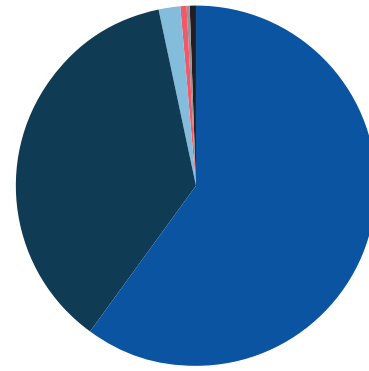
Employees:

1,128 - Total
 -
686 - Certified / Licensed
442 - Classified / Staff
237 - Volunteers



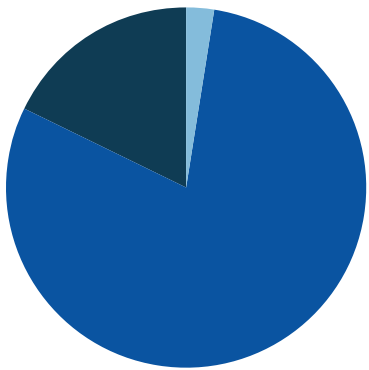
Students:

8,914 - Total
 -
447 - Preschool & Pre-K
5,062 - Elementary
1,729 - Junior High
1,676 - High School
 -
71.87% - Free / Reduced Lunch



Student Demographics:

60.10% - African American
36.70% - White
1.90% - Asian
0.50% - American Indian / Alaskan Native
0.50% - Multi Race
0.30% - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander



Student Populations:

70.40% - Economic Disadvantaged
15.50% - Special Education
2.40% - Limited English
 -
255 - English Second Language

Transportation Department:

4,280 - Total miles per day
4,558 - Students transported daily
97 - Buses
76% - Buses 10 years old or newer
232 - Routes
1,200+ - Bus stops
53 - Students per bus (State Average)

Provided Daily for our Students:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 20 - Nurses | 9 - School Protection Officers | 16 - Speech Therapists |
| 2 - In-School Social Workers | 8 - Parental Involvement Specialists | 68 - Certified Special Education Teachers |
| 8 - Student Resource Officers | 4 - Behavior Specialists | 7 - ESL Staff Members |

Services Available For Our Students:

At Dothan City Schools, we provide specialized instructional services, and supplementary aids and services to students suspected of or identified as having disabilities. In compliance with state and federal regulations, these disabilities adversely affect educational performance and result in a need for special education and related services.

Services available to students may include:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Assistive Technology | Orientation and Mobility Services | Special Transportation |
| Audiology Services | Parent Counseling and Training | Speech and Language Pathology |
| Counseling Services | Physical Therapy | Therapeutic Services |
| Early Identification and Assessment of Children with Disabilities | Psychological Services | Other services as needed to meet a student's education needs as determined on a case by case basis. |
| Interpreting Services | Recreation | |
| Medical Services for Diagnostic and Evaluation Purposes | Rehabilitative Counseling Services | |
| Occupational Therapy | Social Health Services | |
| | School Nurse Services | |
| | Social Work Services in Schools | |

Academics

Career Technology Programs

Agriscience	Business / Marketing	Graphic Arts	Television Productions
Automotive Technology (DE)	Cosmetology	Health Science	Welding
Aviation (DE)	Culinary Arts	JROTC	Computer Science
Biomedical Science	Work Based Learning	Logistics	
Building Construction	Education & Training	Pre-Engineering	

DE = Dual Enrollment

16 - Career tech programs

1,320 - Students enrolled in career tech programs (361 Dothan Prep, 135 DHS JROTC, 824 DTC Classes)

Advanced Placement Courses (AP)

AP English / Literature	AP Biology	AP Chemistry	AP Psychology
AP English / Language	AP Environmental Science	AP U.S. History	AP Seminar
AP Calculus	AP Spanish	AP U.S. Government	
AP Statistics	AP Physics I	AP Macroeconomics	

26 - AP courses being taught 2019-20

486 - Students enrolled in advanced placement 2019-20

Dual Enrollment Courses

Technical Preparation	C++ Programming	American Literature II	Basic Concepts of Interpersona
Materials and Processes	Principles of Macroeconomics	English Literature I	Laboratory Procedures II
Art Appreciation	Emergency Medical Technician	World Literature I	Precalculus Algebra
Fundamentals of Automotive Tech	English Composition	Western Civilization I	Precalculus Trigonometry
Electrical Fundamentals	English Composition II	United States History I	General Psychology
Principles of Biology I	Intermediate College Algebra	United States History II	Fundamentals of Public Speaking
Introduction to Business	Music Appreciation	Medical Terminology	Aviation
Mircrocomputer Applications	American National Government	Medical Assisting Theory I	Automotive Technology
Introduction to Computer Logic	American Literature I	Medical Assisting Theory II	

200 - Students enrolled in dual enrollment 2019-20

Athletic Opportunities

Baseball	Softball	Girls Basketball	Volleyball
Bowling	Swimming & Diving	Girls Soccer	Dance Team
Boys Basketball	Tennis	Golf	
Boys Soccer	Cross Country	Wrestling	
Cheerleading	Football	Track & Field	

700 - Students participating in athletic opportunities

Dothan Prep Clubs

Technology Student Association	Creative Hearts (Art) Club	Board not Bored	Junior Citivan
Model United Nation	Across the Musical Spectrum Club	Vocal Solo & Ensemble Club	Tri-M Music Honor Society
American Sign Language	Survival Skills Club	Mileage Club	Art Club
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Drama Team	Computer Club	DPA Clean Sweep
Multicultural Club	Kiwanis Builders Club	6 String Club	
Crafty Crafters	Future Problem Solving Team	Friendship Club	
Chess	Creative / Writing	First Priority	

Dothan High Clubs

Reading Club	Art Club	Jr. Civitan	Environmental Club
Science Club	Comic Book Club	Paws	Gaming Club
SADD - Students Against	Basketball Club	Student Government Association	Guitar Club
Destructive Decisions	Creative Writing Club	Quiz Game Club	Key Club
Spanish Club	Debate Club	AP Club	
Theater Club	Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Christian Worship	
Z Club	Fishing Club	Coupon Club	



2020 Calendar

January:

- 6 - Students return
- 17 - End of 2nd grading period (44 days)
- 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day (School Out)
- 22 - Report Cards

February:

- 17 - President's Day / Weather Day (School Out)
- 19 - Progress Reports
- 27 - State of Education

March:

- 17 – 20 - Mid term exams
- 20 - End of 3rd grading period (43 days)
- 23 – 27- Spring Break

April:

- 10 - Good Friday (School Out)
- 29 - Progress Reports

May:

- 25 - Memorial Day (School Out)

June:

- 4 - Report Cards
- 1 – 4 - Final exams
- 4 - End of 4th grading period (47 days) / Last day for students
- 5 - Teacher Work Day
- 5 - DHS graduation

Regular meetings are normally held on the 3rd Monday of each month. All regular meetings are scheduled for 5:00 P.M. and Board Work Sessions are scheduled for 2:00 P.M., at the Central Office at Honeysuckle, 1665 Honeysuckle Road, Dothan, Alabama 36301, unless otherwise announced. Meeting dates and/or times are occasionally changed due to holidays or conflicts. Additional special meetings are held as needed and are announced in local media and on the Dothan City Schools' website: www.dothan.k12.al.us

@DothanCitySchools

