

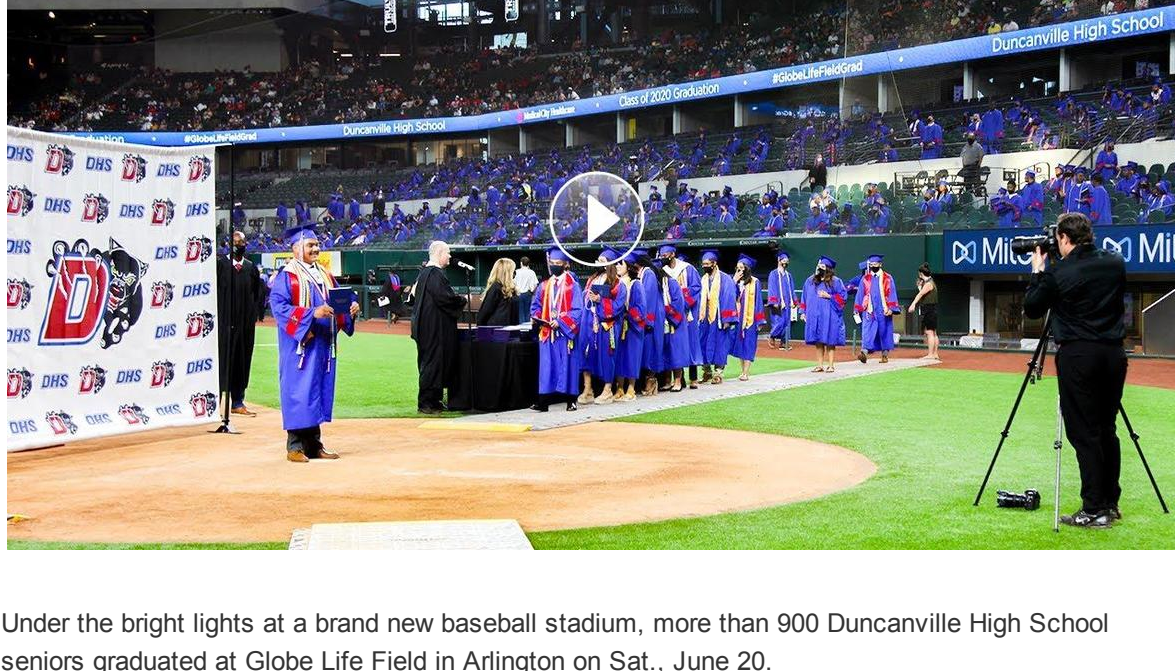


Community *Informer* Duncanville ISD



June | 22 | 2020

Class of 2020 Perseveres, Graduates in Grand Style at Globe Life Field



Under the bright lights at a brand new baseball stadium, more than 900 Duncanville High School seniors graduated at Globe Life Field in Arlington on Sat., June 20.

The ceremony, originally intended to be held indoors at the University of Texas at Arlington in May, had to be moved to an outdoor venue at a later date because of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Students and parents socially distanced and wore masks, but ultimately, despite some original doubts that an in-person ceremony was going to be possible, were able to celebrate the Class of 2020 with the traditions long-held by Duncanville High School.

Messages were shared by Superintendent Dr. Marc Smith, school board president Cassandra Phillips, Senator Royce West and Class of 2020 valedictorian Daniela Padron Castillo and salutatorian Julia Bowers.

This class, which demonstrated perseverance and resilience by finishing their senior year while learning at home, without prom and other end-of-school activities, cheered each other on and relished their graduation photos taken in the new ballpark – which has not even seen its first baseball game played because of COVID-19.

The Class of 2020 reported being offered more than \$1.5 million in scholarships and total aid. The ability to receive that information from students may have been hindered this year because of the remote learning environment students, teachers and counselors experienced at the end of the year. A total of 97-percent of students submitted at least one college application, and one graduating senior, Precious Jones, earned her Associate of Science from Mountain View College.

To view a slide show from graduation, click [here](#).

Junior Earns Associate Degree from Mountain View College

Kaleb Berry is 16 years old, but this spring, as a high school junior, he completed his associate degree at Mountain View College.

"It feels surreal – it actually hasn't set in for me," Kaleb said. "I'm really excited for what's to come though. The opportunities this will bring when I go to a four-year school."

In addition to having two years of college under his belt, Kaleb also could have finished his high school career as a junior. Instead, he opted to save a couple of classes to take next year so he can experience a senior year running cross country, attending school events and even have a traditional prom and graduation.

"I'm already a year ahead, and I didn't really want to graduate that early," Kaleb said. "I just want to enjoy myself, make memories and just enjoy my life in high school."

Read [more](#).



Men's A Capella Choir Invited to National Conference



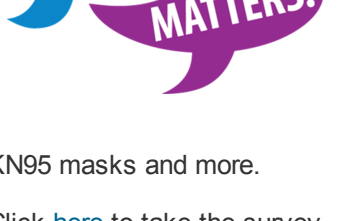
The Duncanville High School A Cappella Men's Choir has been invited to perform at the 2021 American Choral Directors Association national conference in Dallas.

The honor follows an extensive and highly-competitive audition process. The men's choir is one of just 24 total selected from more than 200 applicants across the country.

"Your work is truly outstanding and representative of the high standards of performance required of all groups invited to perform at an ACDA convention," said the conference's performing choir chairwoman Sara Lynn Baird.

The convention takes place March 17-20, 2021. More than 10,000 choir directors, performers, and exhibitors are expected to attend.

Back to School Plans: Families, Share Your Thoughts



Duncanville ISD wants to hear from you as we consider the safest way to reopen schools in August. Over the next two weeks, we will collect information from a survey focused on this topic. By sharing your thoughts, district leaders are better able to make informed decisions about educating students.

School is scheduled to begin Wednesday, Aug. 12, and we are already taking safety precautions to prepare for that date. Throughout the summer, all school facilities are undergoing extensive, deep cleaning and safety equipment is being purchased. That equipment includes infrared thermometers, additional e-mist cleaning machines,

KN95 masks and more.

Click [here](#) to take the survey.

School Year Starts in 50 Days, Time Now to Enroll



Summer has only just begun, but now is the time to check next school year's registration off your to-do list.

Enrollment for new students and registration for returning students for the 2020-2021 school year is open.

From early childhood to college and career readiness, your student will have the resources they need to achieve academic success. Click [here](#) to begin the process.

Board of Trustees Approves New Principal Hires



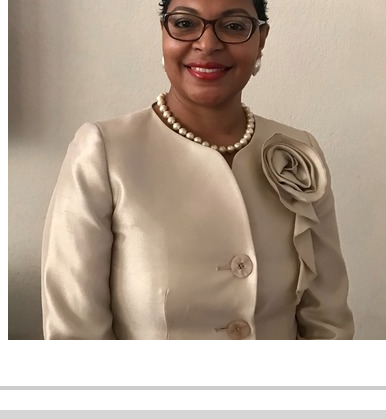
Terrence Chase will be the principal at Daniel Intermediate School. Mr. Chase has been with the district for 22 years, starting his educational career as a teacher at Acton Elementary School then Daniel Intermediate School. He then transitioned to counseling at Reed Middle School then Duncanville High School. He was most recently the assistant principal at Brandenburg Intermediate. Mr. Chase has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Northern Colorado, a Master of School Counseling from Amberton University and Principal Certification from Lamar University.

Rahien Williams will be the principal at Summit Education Center. Mr. Williams has been with the district for 14 years and in education for 16 years. He most recently served as an assistant principal at Reed Middle School and was previously an assistant principal at Duncanville High School. Mr. Williams is a graduate of the district's Principal Leadership Academy and an ambassador for the Inspiring Leadership Academy. He has a Bachelor of Arts from the College of New Rochelle and a Master of Education from Lamar University.



Jessica Linwood will be the principal at Acton Elementary School. Ms. Linwood comes from Dallas ISD where she served as an educator for more than 20 years. Her most recent role was as an assistant principal at Ann Richards STEAM Academy. Ms. Linwood has also served as assistant principal and principal at other Dallas ISD campuses. She has taught at the elementary level and has led in different capacities at the elementary, middle and high school campus levels. Ms. Linwood has a Bachelor of Science in early childhood education from the University of North Texas and a Master of Arts in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Texas at Dallas.

Dr. Tanya Jones will serve as an Interim Elementary Principal. Dr. Jones comes from Richardson ISD where she was an instructional coach at Richardson West Arts and Technology Magnet Junior High School. She has also worked in Irving ISD as a teacher and administrator. Dr. Jones has 11 years of K-12 campus administration experience and five years of central administration experience. Dr. Jones has a Bachelor of Arts in English education and a Master of Arts in PK-12 educational administration from Xavier University of Louisiana and a Doctorate of Education in educational leadership from Dallas Baptist University.



Informer will be taking a break with plans to resume publication in late July. Given the current situation, with plans for the start of school still under consideration, there will likely be a need for periodic updates, so please continue to check your inbox for important messages.

Upcoming Events:

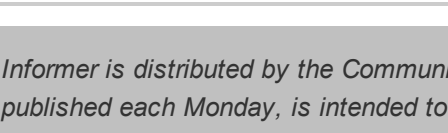
Board Work Session, on Mon., June 22 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting will be virtual due to COVID-19. Video will be available on the district website the following day.

Called Board Meeting, on Mon., June 29 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting will be virtual due to COVID-19. Video will be available on the district website the following day.

Benefits Enrollment Window, runs from July 15 to Aug. 17. For information, click [here](#).

Convocation, on Mon., Aug. 10

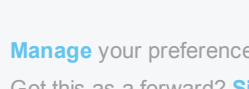
First Day of School, on Wed. Aug., 12



Informer is distributed by the Communications Department at Duncanville ISD. The weekly newsletter, published each Monday, is intended to keep the community informed about important news and events happening within the district. Story ideas or questions can be directed to: [Lari Barager](#) - Director of External Communications

news@duncanvilleisd.org

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