



# Community Informer Duncanville ISD



August | 17 | 2020

## Start of School Spotlight: Virtual Learning and Device Distribution



The first day of school this year will look very different than in years past. Like other districts across the nation, Duncanville ISD administrators have been working hard to ensure we are prepared to welcome our students whether in person or virtually.

Preparation includes meeting our technology needs. This summer, the Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees approved \$2.8 million for our Technology Department to purchase new devices including iPads, Chromebooks, student and staff laptops and hotspots. The Technology Department has ordered almost 6,000 new devices. Due to the demand from districts throughout the state and the country, not all of those devices will be here before the start of school. As new devices arrive, they'll be deployed to students and staff.

To help increase internet connectivity throughout the district, the Technology Department is partnering with the Transportation Department to outfit four school buses with WiFi that will be parked in areas that are most in need of internet service. In addition, nearly 40 outdoor wireless antennas are being installed in campus parking lots across the district. There will be more information coming on how to access the internet through those resources.

If you have any immediate questions or concerns you can contact the Technology Department at [techsupport@duncanvilleisd.org](mailto:techsupport@duncanvilleisd.org) or 972-708-2300.

Read [more](#).

## New Teacher Welcome Includes Lunch & Swag Bag



The district officially welcomed 175 new teaching professionals last week. The 150 teachers and other teaching professionals began their virtual three day orientation with a greeting from Duncanville ISD Superintendent, Dr. Marc Smith.

During their lunch, the new employees took part in a 'hospitality hour' where they received drive-through boxed lunches and a Duncanville ISD-themed gift bag.

The district's mentoring program will support 74 of the teachers who are new to the profession. There are mentors at every campus ready to welcome and assist beginning teachers.

## Live Webinar Series to Provide School Reopening Information for Students & Families



Duncanville ISD's Family and Community Engagement team is planning a series of online tutorials to help parents and students navigate the beginning of the school year - whether in person or virtual.

There are three webinars scheduled to teach parents and students how to get the information they need before school starts. The first session will cover how to navigate the district's reopening website. The second session explains attendance expectations and the district's new COVID-related safety measures. The third will familiarize

parents and students with the apps they'll need if they select virtual learning. There will be two sessions each day - 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

- August 21: Navigating the Reopening Website
- August 28: Attendance Expectations & District Safety Measures
- September 11: Seesaw, Google Classroom & Classlink

Click [here](#) to join in English. Click [here](#) to join in Spanish.

## Upcoming Events:

**Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**, Mon., Aug. 17 at 6:30 p.m. Due to the current nationwide health pandemic, district facilities and schools remain closed, and this meeting will be conducted through video conferencing. A video recording of the meeting can be viewed here later this week.

**Benefits Enrollment**, deadline to enroll is Aug. 17. Click [here](#) for more information or to enroll

**Labor Day Holiday**, Mon., Sept. 7, no classes

**First Day of School**, Tues., Sept. 8



The *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

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