

November | 09 | 2020

Superintendent Shares Learning Preference Message



Duncanville ISD family,

This week is the start of the second 9-week grading period and the first day of in-person school for another group of students who recently made a learning preference change. Parents have the option of In-Person Learning or Virtual Learning and are able to make that change at the start of each nine-week grading period. You can learn more about the process for making a learning preference change on this [enrollment webpage](#). To view an online version of the district calendar, go to DuncanvilleISD.org/Calendar.

I am excited to see students back in the classroom, ready to engage and learn. The smiling faces of students – even behind masks – remind us all why we chose a career in education. At the

same time, I know that more people on campus means more opportunity for exposure to COVID-19. For students and staff to remain healthy, it is important that everyone follow the district guidelines.

- Wear a mask or face covering
- Maintain a social distance of 6 feet when possible
- Wash hands frequently and use hand sanitizer
- Monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms
- Don't go to school if you have a fever

My staff and I will continue to listen to our community, evaluate data provided by the health experts and use that information to make decisions in the best interest of students and staff. I appreciate your patience, support and grace as we work together. We are D'ville.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marc Smith
Superintendent of Schools
Duncanville ISD

Celebrating November's "Made with Pride" Honorees



Each month, Duncanville ISD honors a student, staff member and teacher who go above and beyond. They are chosen from nominations submitted by coworkers, classmates or community members. These individuals reflect the excellence and pride of our district and they are Made with Pride in Duncanville.

Ashley Yanez is the "Made with Pride in Duncanville" student of the month. Ashley is a senior at Duncanville High School who is a dedicated student and talented artist. One of her teachers said Ashley 'exemplifies the high school motto – excellence, everywhere every day.' Another teacher said, 'Ashley is one of the most reliable, respectful, consistent and hard-working people she's ever had in her classroom.' She is one of the first to volunteer for community service projects with National Art Honor Society.

Warehouse drivers **Joe Hannah, Marcel Wills, Montrell Edwards and Quentin Lott** are the "Made with Pride in Duncanville" staff of the month. During the COVID-19 pandemic, warehouse drivers returned to work earlier than most to address the backlog of deliveries that were holding at the warehouse. Considered essential employees, these drivers delivered thousands of masks, hand sanitizers, disinfectant equipment, face shields, desk shields and other personal protective equipment.

Alyson Spear-Lambrecht is the "Made with Pride in Duncanville" teacher of the month. Ms. Spear-Lambrecht is a first grade teacher at Merrifield Elementary School. A parent who nominated Mrs. Spear-Lambrecht said, "My daughter was so nervous about going to first grade. When we met Ms. Lambrecht last year, the first thing that she asked my daughter was, 'How can I make first grade fun for you? My daughter wanted her teacher to do a cartwheel in the class. I didn't think she would. About two days later, my daughter came home laughing and said, 'Ms. Lambrecht did it mama.' The smile on her face was priceless! Throughout the school year, she supported us on our journey as parents of a hearing impaired child and even in our personal family life."

Read more about this month's "Made with Pride in Duncanville" honorees [here](#).

Automotive Students Repair Roadster for Foundation Fundraiser



Duncanville High School Automotive Technology students are accustomed to rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty while working on cars in their garage classroom. Recently, they've been focusing on a special project - making repairs to a vehicle that's a raffle prize to raise money for the Duncanville ISD Education Foundation.

The education foundation is selling raffle tickets to win a 2007 Chrysler Crossfire in a Facebook live event on December 18 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$100 each and only 500 tickets are being sold. Learn more [here](#) on the education foundation website.

The automotive students heading up this repair project are enrolled in the high school's Career Technical Education program where they acquire skills that allow them to find work as soon as they graduate.

"This is a real life application," said Automotive Technology teacher Jeff Thorpe. "It doesn't get any more real than this. They're really doing wire repairs, they're really doing break jobs, getting dirty and it helps them determine – do I really want to do that?"

Duncanville High School Senior Brian Escamilla decided early in his high school career that he wanted to pursue automotive technology for his future.

"Everything I'm learning here from all four years has been the basics, so I can go to a dealership and work my way up in my career" Brian said.

Read [more](#).

Panther Angel Tree to Help Students in Need

It's the season of giving, and we are launching the Panther Angel Tree program a few weeks earlier than in years past. Our hope is to help students whose families have been impacted by the pandemic.

Campus counselors provided the names of students in need, and there are approximately 100 Panther Angels who have requested clothes, gift cards and more this holiday season.

Anyone in the district can adopt a Panther Angel. The panthers include the student's age, gender and the school they attend along with their requests.

If you'd like to adopt a Panther Angel and you work outside the Plaza (where the tree is located) contact Luci Lopez in Communications at lulopez@duncanvilleisd.org or x2017, and she can provide an angel for you.

For more on how the Panther Angel Tree works, click [here](#).



Tech Tok: Technology Coordinators Launch Monthly Video Series to Talk Tech



As the school year rolls along, your Instructional Technology Coordinators (ITCs) are here to help keep you informed and up to date on how to maximize the potential that our technology tools have to offer. This week, Episode 2 of Duncanville's Tech Tok premiered on the Technology YouTube channel.

In this episode, the ITC team provides updates on Google Meet, distributing the Dell "hockey puck" adapter and shows appreciation to those providing content for the live tech webinar series. They also provide a "Tech Tok" challenge to teachers to use Google Drawings with their students.

Upcoming Events:

Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees, meeting on Monday, Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m. for closed executive session. The public portion of the meeting begins at approximately 7:00 p.m.

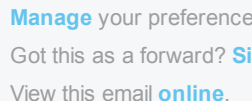
Thanksgiving break, no classes November 23-27



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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