



November | 02 | 2020

Employee One-time Payment to Arrive This Week



Duncanville ISD family –

As part of the budget approval process this summer, the Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees approved a one-time payment of \$2,000 for all district staff who were employed as of Sept. 1, 2020.

On Friday, Nov. 6, employees will receive the payment of \$2,000 with taxes removed. This payment was approved by the Board of Trustees as an expression of gratitude to you - our employees - for your dedication and commitment to our students during the current health pandemic.

The Board of Trustees and your district leaders want you to know that your efforts are appreciated, and that together, we will continue serving our students and families. We Are Dville.

Sincerely,
Dr. Marc Smith
Superintendent of Schools
Duncanville ISD

Always a Panther: Graduate Goes from Struggling Student to Successful Entrepreneur

One of Michael Ray Newman's favorite memories from elementary school is the day his fifth grade team won field day. You can hear the excitement in his voice when he talks about how his Merrifield Mustangs pulled off a victory in a round of tug-of-war.

"I weighed like 85 pounds then," Michael said. "We smoked 'em!"

Michael says for years he struggled with academics. He didn't know it at the time, but he has learning differences - dyslexia and dysgraphia - that make reading and writing more difficult for him. School wasn't easy, but Michael says the experience of trying to make up for his disability was not all bad.

"I can pay close attention to verbal instruction," Michael said. "It made me overcompensate in other areas."

Since graduating from Duncanville High School in 1985, Newman has excelled in many ways. He now employs more than 2,000 people and has accumulated enough wealth to positively impact generations of his family.

"I run my companies like I run my family," Michael said. "You don't build a business; you build people, and the people build a business."

Read [more](#).



Brandenburg Teacher Celebrated by WNBA's Dallas Wings



The WNBA's Dallas Wings are surprising teachers across the Metroplex to recognize their hard work and extra commitment during this time,

Last Thursday, representatives from the professional women's basketball team came to Brandenburg Intermediate School to celebrate teacher Jesus Rodriguez.

The Wings accepted nominations on their social media platforms and chose nine teachers from across north Texas to recognize. Mr. Rodriguez, who teaches bilingual 5th grade math and science at Brandenburg, is one of those selected.

"I am grateful to be allowed to influence our future generation," said Mr. Rodriguez. "I enjoy seeing the students walking through the door eager to see their friends and to learn. Especially with these times that we're going through. Their families have trusted us to keep their children safe."

Fellow teacher Claudia Ruiz submitted Mr. Rodriguez's name for consideration.

"Mr. Rodriguez always goes above and beyond his duties," Ms. Ruiz said. "He mentors kids in our Boys to Men Program, sponsors kids in the gardening club, helps with soccer intramural games and provides his colleagues with goodies from pancakes to burgers or fajitas. Above all, he makes learning fun for his students!"

To see news coverage of the surprise visit, go [here](#).

Board of Trustees Launches Third Annual Coat Drive



The Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees is partnering with Operation Warm for its third annual student coat drive.

Through the years, this annual coat drive has provided more than 400 coats to students in need. This year's giving campaign is expected to extend our community's generosity even further to reach more students.

The Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees and Operation Warm share some of the same beliefs: every child deserves to feel the warmth, confidence and hope that comes from a new coat. This year, because of social-distancing requirements, the board will be accepting donations of money to purchase the coats. Operation Warm offers a safe environment for all participants, including students.

Click [here](#) for more information on how to donate. The deadline is **December 1, 2020**.

Basketball Ticket Sales Limited to Players' Families, Staff

In an effort to protect students, coaches and fans from the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Duncanville ISD is closing girls and boys basketball games to the general public.

The decision is necessary with basketball because games are played indoors and crowds are typically large. The intent is to ensure student athletes are afforded the opportunity to play a safe - and hopefully complete - season.



Allowances will be made for the following:

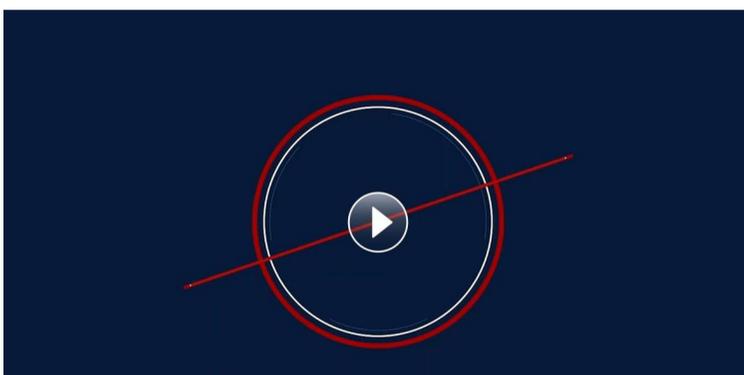
- Players' families will be allowed to purchase 4 tickets per player for varsity, 3 tickets per player for JV and 2 tickets per player for freshmen
- No more than 50 staff members will be allowed to purchase 1 ticket each and 1 for a guest
- Opposing team tickets and coaches' family tickets outlined [here](#) on the Athletics Department website

Both teams' scrimmages are completely closed to anyone except players and coaches.

Home games will be streamed live on the NFHS network. Click [here](#) for information on the subscription-based media service.

Click [here](#) for more ticket information.

Counseling Department Encourages Us to Look for the Good



During this month, the Counseling Department encourages you to stop, reflect and acknowledge ways to be grateful. We are grateful for the opportunity to influence lives in a safe and loving environment. Watch this short video to see greatness in action. Click [here](#) to read the complete newsletter.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."-Helen Keller

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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