

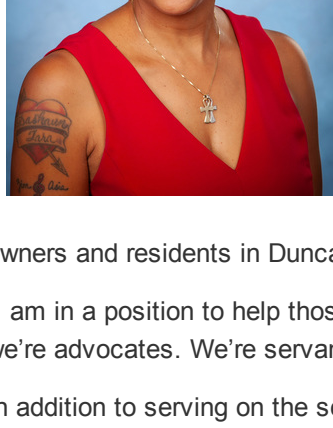


January | 11 | 2021

District Recognizes Trustees for Commitment to Students, Staff

During the month of January, we'll honor all seven Duncanville ISD trustees as part of School Board Recognition month. Each week, the district will share stories about the trustees here in the weekly e-newsletter, on the district website and on social media.

This provides our families and staff an opportunity to learn more about the trustees who are elected by the community and work in a volunteer capacity for the school district.



Trustee Phillips: Aiming to Serve and Provide a Voice

Service is an attribute Cassandra Phillips grew up seeing from her mother, and it's a quality she has instilled in her children.

"My mother volunteered in the schools, substitute teaching and always helping others in the community," said Ms. Phillips. "I learned the importance of serving and helping others at an early age. We give back and try to make a difference."

Those same attributes led Ms. Phillips to run for the Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees nearly four years ago. Today she serves as board president and is proud to be a voice for other parents, business owners and residents in Duncanville.

"I am in a position to help those who don't feel they have a voice," Ms. Phillips said. "As trustees, we're advocates. We're servants. We are connected to the community."

In addition to serving on the school board, Ms. Phillips is also a business owner operating a real estate company with her oldest daughter. Ms. Phillips is highly focused on family and was proud to see her youngest child graduate from Duncanville High School in 2020 during the global pandemic.

Read [more](#).

Trustee Savage-Martin: Duncanville Native Devoted to District

Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees vice president Joyce Savage-Martin's entire life has been intertwined with the City of Duncanville and the school district. Mrs. Savage-Martin has served for nearly a decade on the school board, but her family history in the City of Champions stretches back much further – for six generations.

Mrs. Savage-Martin's grandmother graduated from Duncanville High School in 1928, and her mother graduated in 1950. Mrs. Savage-Martin was a member of the class of 1971, and although other members of her family eventually moved away, she chose to stay.

"I think the neatest thing about Duncanville is it's kind of a hometown small town atmosphere but you have the availability of Dallas, Arlington and Fort Worth within driving distance," Mrs. Savage-Martin said. "So you have the amenities of the big city with the small town feel."

While she was a high school student, Mrs. Savage-Martin was a student council officer, a member of the National Honor Society and sang in the choir. Some of her favorite high school memories come from the four years playing girls basketball under legendary coach Sandra Meadows.

"There weren't many activities for girls back then, so as a young child you went to the games and aspired to be a Pantherette one day," Mrs. Savage-Martin said.

Read [more](#).



Spectacular Season Ends with State Semifinal



Head Football Coach Reginald Samples consoles Roderick Daniels, Jr. following loss to Southlake on Saturday

The Duncanville Panthers football team gave fans much to cheer for during this season - which presented more challenges for both the team and the crowd due to the global pandemic.

Coach Reginald Samples and his coaching staff managed to keep players healthy even as other teams canceled games due to issues with the COVID-19 virus.

The team, led by senior quarterback Grayson James, skillfully handled opponents during the season, losing only to the nation's number one team, Florida's IMG Academy in October.

Saturday's state semifinal game at Globe Life Park in Arlington was a close one - with the lead changing several times.

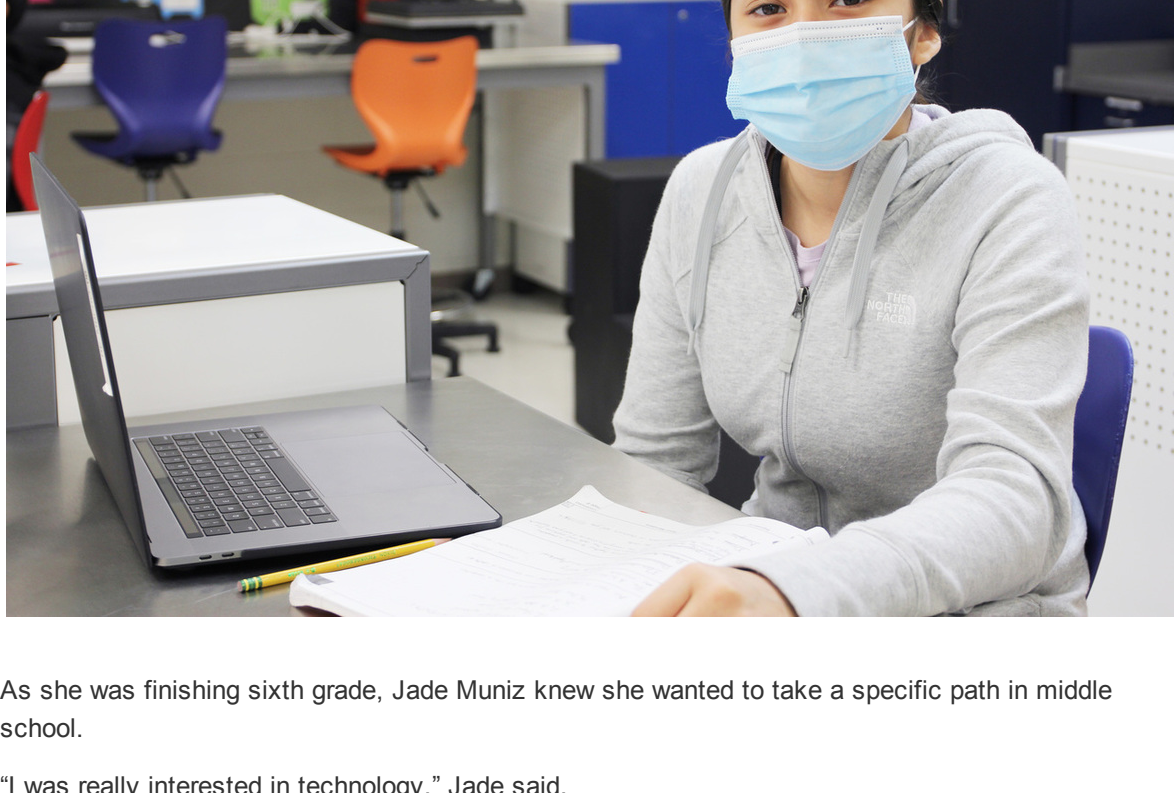
Southlake Carroll pulled ahead in the second half and went on to win the game 34-27.

Following the game, Coach Samples gathered his team on the field and gave them some words of

encouragement.

"Keep your head up, be proud of what you've done and move forward," Coach Samples said.

Apply Now: Middle School Choice Programs Offer Career Path Previews



As she was finishing sixth grade, Jade Muniz knew she wanted to take a specific path in middle school.

"I was really interested in technology," Jade said.

Jade applied for and was accepted into the Business & Technology Program at Reed Middle School.

With one semester of seventh grade complete, Jade says her favorite so far has been learning how to program a mini computer called a micro:bit. In the educational exercise, students write computer code to control a series of lights on the device.

"In my case, I made a little stick man dance," Jade said. "He was really cute and I loved it."

Duncanville ISD offers choice programs at all three middle schools. In addition to the Business & Technology Program at Reed Middle School, the district offers a Health Science Program at Byrd Middle School and The STEAM Academy at Kennemer Middle School. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math.

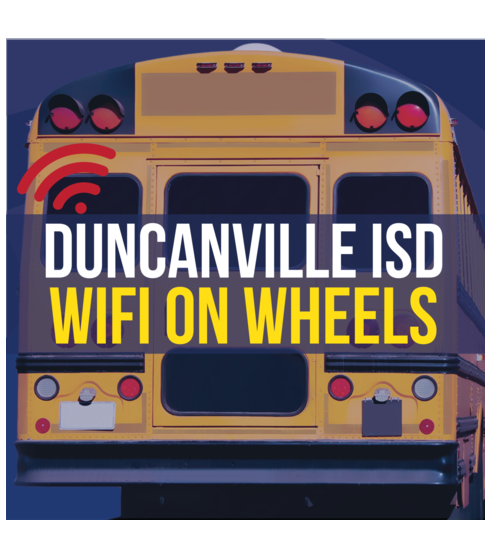
In each of those programs, students can begin earning high school credits and explore different career paths. Jade knew she had an interest in technology, and her experiences so far have confirmed her choice.

"Literally the only thing I knew before coming was there was a computer and you could do stuff on it. But now I have learned exactly what each piece of technology does and how it works and it's really cool," Jade said.

The application window for all middle school choice programs is currently open and closes Jan. 31, 2021.

Click [here](#) for more in-depth information including video recordings of recent parent informational meetings, frequently asked questions and the middle school choice application.

'WiFi on Wheels' Takes Internet Access to Students



Starting this week Duncanville ISD is putting four school buses on the road that are specifically equipped for speed - high speed internet.

A new program called 'WiFi on Wheels' is taking internet access to students who may have unreliable or no service at all.

School buses equipped with internet transmitters are now parked in four locations throughout the district in an effort to offer free wifi to as many students as possible.

Because buses are mobile, the internet access locations can be changed to meet the needs of students.

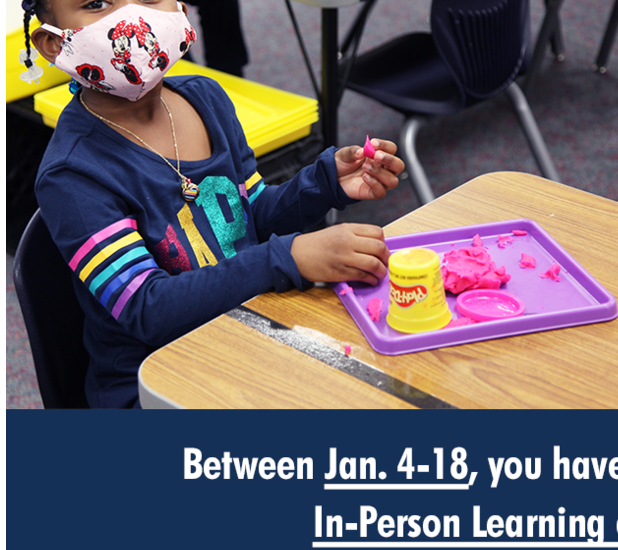
When the global pandemic started, the district ordered and distributed more than \$3 million in laptops and hotspots ensuring that each household that needs a device has one. Even though a student has a device, that doesn't mean he or she has reliable access to the internet.

"This program gives us another layer of support through different avenue," said Andrea Fields, the Duncanville ISD Chief of Staff and Chief of Operations. "People don't typically think of transportation supporting internet access for students. To complement what we've already done through the Technology Department, we hope we're helping to close the digital divide."

Thanks to WiFi on Wheels, students and their families can pull into the parking lots at the designated apartment complexes (click [here](#) for locations) and log in from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each school day. Each school bus is monitored by a bus driver.

Read [more](#).

Learning Preference Change Deadline Approaching



Between **Jan. 4-18**, you have the opportunity to choose **In-Person Learning or Virtual Learning** for the third 9-week grading period.

The new grading period begins Monday, Feb. 1.



Parents can change their scholar's learning preference between Virtual Learning and In-Person Learning for the third nine week grading period that starts on February 1.

The deadline to change your learning preference for this grading period is January 18. Click [here](#) for more information.

Tech Tok: Latest News from Technology Department



Happy New Year from the IDEA Hub! This "Sites, Bytes, and Bots" episode of Tech Tok is all about the present and future.

Join with the Instructional Tech team as they remind you to be on the lookout for and to fill out their BrightBytes survey by this Friday, January 15th and continue to earn and turn in their 6-hour technology credits. Take the survey [here](#).

Once the new quarter begins in February, Incident IQ will officially replace Eduphoria Helpdesk as the technology ticketing system. Also in the works for an early February launch is an updated technology resources page which will put all of our information and how-to "Idea Guides" in one central location.

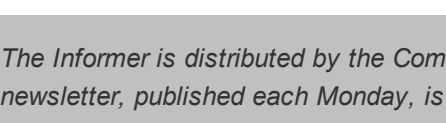
Watch the video [here](#).



Upcoming Events:

Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees Meeting, begins at 6:30 p.m. and goes into executive session, on Monday, Jan. 11 at the Duncanville ISD Education Plaza, 710 S. Cedar Ridge Rd., Duncanville. The public portion of the meeting resumes around 7:00 p.m.

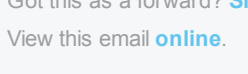
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, on Monday, Jan. 18 - Professional Development Day, no classes for students



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

news@duncanvilleisd.org

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