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# DODGE COUNTY SCHOOLS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY!

*Publication of Dodge County Schools*

*SUMMER 2023*



***EDUCATING TODAY'S STUDENTS TO SUCCEED IN TOMORROW'S WORLD***

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello parents, students, community members and supporters of Dodge County Schools! I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. It has been a pleasure to see all of our students learn and excel over the course of the 2022-23 school year. We



know that when parents send their students to school, they are placing a tremendous amount of trust in us. We are committed to honoring that trust by creating a caring, supportive and strong academic and co-curricular climate. In the Dodge County School System, we are "Educating Our Students to Succeed in Tomorrow's World," and we are "Making a Difference: Every Student, Every Day!"

We look forward to the first year of consolidation for our elementary schools so that Dodge County Primary School welcomes Grades Pre-K through 2, and Dodge County Elementary School welcomes Grades 3 through 5. Each student that enters our schools and eventually walks across the stage to receive a diploma represents a success for that student, for his or her family, for our system and for our Dodge County community. We are proud that our graduation rate has been consistently 95.5% and above for many years! This is an accomplishment that would not be possible without the support of all of you and our incredible educators throughout the district. Teamwork makes the dream work, and working together, we can continue to make great things happen!

Thank you for the honor of serving as the superintendent of the best school district in the state of Georgia. I am honored to have the opportunity to work with our amazing DCSS staff and students each day! I wish you and your family a wonderful 2023-24 school year. If I can be of service, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am excited to see what we will accomplish together this upcoming school year! The best is yet to come! #DCSSProud

Dr. Susan Long  
Superintendent of Dodge County Schools

## SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD



*Back Row (Left to right): Jordyn McClendon, Emma Douglas, Adriana Randall, Caroline Southerland, Lyric Green, Chandler Paulk, Ade Murray*

*Middle Row (Left to right): Spenser Williams, Madie McCranie, Brynlie Vaughn, Scarlett Parkerson, Georgia Kate Jones, Usher Irvin Northern, Jarrod Rogers, Dr. Susan Long*

*Front Row (Left to right): Janay Davis, Aubrey Cole, Izzy Page, Emmi Rogers, Bethany Underwood, Ayla Harrell, Dennie Moore, Julie Ryals, Owen Braden*

The Superintendent's Student Advisory Board consists of students in Grades 6-12 who applied to serve on the Board and who were recommended by their schools. The SSAB will serve as advisors and act as liaisons between the superintendent and the students of Dodge County School System (DCSS).

### High School Accomplishments

JROTC ..... Region Champs in Raider Team, Color Guard and Drill Team  
 Region Champ for Automotive Service Technology ..... Ford Ashley,  
 who also placed 2nd in State at SkillsUSA competition  
 Teacher Dana Niblett presented at National Science Conference in Atlanta  
 Marching Band.....Superior Performance and Superior sight reading  
 for Georgia Music Educators Association  
 Literary ..... 1st place Region for Boys Solo; 1st Place for Quartet; State Champion  
 One Act Play ..... Region Champs

### Athletics

Competition Cheerleaders..... Region Champs  
 Girls Basketball ..... Region Champs  
 Boys Basketball..... Region Champs  
 Fast Pitch Softball ..... Region Runner Up  
 Flag Football..... Sweet 16 playoffs

## PATHWAYS LEAD TO SUCCESS

We know that preparing our students for successful futures means more than just innovative teaching that is happening every day in our classrooms. It also means meaningful opportunities for different types of learning, including real-world experiences in real businesses, and support for our students as they look beyond high school and toward the future. For most cases, these work experiences are embedded into our Career Pathways program. Pathways focus on a large variety of specific career areas and provide directed coursework and opportunities for students to earn career credentials and college credits before they leave our school. Our students can graduate with certifications in a variety of trades including EMT and firefighting, experience teaching in school classrooms and experience in automotive tech, food and nutrition, entrepreneurship and agriculture. Students leave the DCSS with direction and promise. Dodge County High School provides the following Pathways:

- Game Design Info Tech
- Business Information and Technology
- Audio/Video Tech and Film
- Work-Based Learning
- Government and Public Administration
- Agriculture
- Natural Resources and Animal Systems
- Automotive Technology (Industry Certified)
- Engineering
- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Human Services Food and Nutrition
- Emergency Medical Responder
- Firefighting

DCHS is also working with Dodge County Hospital to start a new program that will include work-based learning opportunities in reception, registration, housekeeping and grounds maintenance. These unique Career Pathway experiences are made possible by our dedicated staff and partnerships with our local businesses.

# DODGE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students at Dodge County Middle School have worked tremendously hard this year! They have excelled in every area and made Dodge County Schools proud! They are involved in a variety of activities and extracurriculars that are offered.

## Middle School

Reach Scholars.....Jakoria King, Annalynn Melton, Reed Lane, Ava Cravey  
 RESA Writing Winners.....Emilee Everhart third place, Amberlyn Cannington third place  
 RESA Math Winners....Eighth Grade Team second place - Brynlee Vaughn, Rhett Meadows, Addyson Burnham, Alyssa Likens, Michael Jackson

## Middle School Jr. Beta Club Winners

State Vice-President.....Charlotte Williams  
 2nd place - Color Photography.....Ella Walker  
 2nd place - Drawing Art.....Usher Irvin-Northern  
 4th place - Marketing and Communications team.....Emma Rogers, Ava Cravey, Ella Jones and Keely Yawn  
 2nd place - Onsite Painting.....Usher Irvin-Northern  
 2nd place - Performing Arts Small Group.....Ava Cravey, Keely Yawn, Brynlee Vaughn, Elissa Pope, Mason Johnson, Ted Hardy, Scarlett Parkerson, Piper Jones, Korbin Graham, Emily Jones and Camille Orange  
 1st place - Poetry.....Abby Snelgrove  
 4th place - Portfolio.....Scarlett Parkerson, Piper Jones, Emily Jones, Keely Yawn  
 1st place - Premier Performer Junior Dancer.....Elissa Pope  
 1st place - Premier Performer Junior Dancer.....Brynlee Vaughn  
 4th place - Service Learning Showcase.....Emma Rogers and Julie Ryals  
 4th place - Technology.....Jack Jones, Jake Milner, Mason Johnson, Harper Villegas, Korbin Graham, Elissa Pope and Dennie Moore  
 4th place - Two Dimensional Design.....Olivia Jones

# DODGE COUNTY ELEMENTARY/ NORTH DODGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Jr. Beta Winners

State Beta President.....Ryder Graham  
 1st place - Woodworking.....Gunner Pittman  
 1st place - Creative Writing.....Lyla Milner  
 1st place - Club Trading Pin.....Dylan Lopez and CJ Parkerson  
 2nd place - Battle of the Books.....Lyla Milner, Roxy Villegas, Bella King-Cruz, Gunner Hildebrand  
 2nd Place - Campaign Skit.....Shayden Smith, Eden Harrell, Bentley Thomas, Grant Newman, Lyla Milner, McKenna Mazza, Bane Rodziewicz, Sadie Sheffield, Ty Sheffield, Gunner Hildebrand, Aubrey Clark, Dylan Lopez, Bella King-Cruz  
 3rd place - Handmade Jewelry.....Izabella Page  
 3rd place - Painting.....Parker Nobles  
 3rd place - Apparel Design.....Ty Sheffield and Jaxon Lowry  
 3rd place - On-Site Painting.....Loretta Coleman  
 4th place - Hand Drawn Anime.....Loretta Coleman  
 4th place - Technology.....Greysen Sheffield  
 5th place - Quilling.....Jaci Kate Barron  
 5th place - Drawing.....Mollie Studstill  
 5th place - Color Photography.....McKenna Mazza  
 North Dodge Elementary - School of Merit & Club Key Award.....Tammy Tripp and Joni Barton

# DODGE COUNTY PRIMARY/ SOUTH DODGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Mullis and Ms. Walker’s third grade class won Discover Dairy Moo Cow Dance Challenge two years in a row! Discover Dairy is an engaging, interactive, cross-curricular educational series. Through Discover Dairy Mrs. Mullis’ class adopted Magic from farmer Katelin at Big Creek Farm.

Mrs. Kim Peterson’s second grade class learns with hands-on activities such as incubating and hatching eggs in their classroom! Students were overly excited to learn about the life cycle of chicks and learn what it’s like to take care of something from the beginning of its life.

Fourth and fifth graders were able to attend the Mobile Ag Classroom of the Georgia Ag Experience provided by the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture. They visited with the GA Farm Bureau mascot “Lucky” as part of this unique STEM-based educational program that invites students across Georgia to explore the vast opportunities in agriculture.



Jaylee Sapp earned fourth place in the RESA District Winter Writing Contest.

First grade students experienced a different kind of test. They taste-tested oroblanco! Oroblanco is a hybrid citrus fruit that tastes like sweet grapefruit. Students used their senses to rate oroblanco’s taste, texture and smell. This experience was hosted by the Dodge County School Nutrition Program as part of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant.

Dodge County students placed in the top four out of 11 other different school districts in the Heart of Georgia writing contests! Way to go!!! Jonteria Walker from second grade and Kendall Hobbs from first grade both earned second place in the recent writing contest.

South Dodge students donated 2,100 canned food items for the “Kids 4 Cans” campaign. These canned food items were sent to our local food bank and will be used to meet the needs of the families in Dodge County.

South Dodge Elementary school was awarded a \$10,000 check in person! The Georgia Foundation for Public Education awarded Shannon Taylor as a Rural Education grant winner! She plans to utilize the money for STEM activities at SDES. We look forward to seeing the academic gains that our students obtain with this program implemented!

Students in Mrs. Williams’ fifth grade science class enjoyed using a STEM kit to discover differences in chemical and physical changes with invisible ink. They also had a blast exploring how circuits operate to create electricity! Funds from the Rural Education Grant awarded to Shannon Taylor were used to purchase this activity.



Shannon Taylor, Jaclyn Colona-(GADOE), Dodge County Superintendent  
 Dr. Susan Long, Principal (SDES)  
 Russell Bazemore and Assistant Principal (SDES) Dana Brown.

# SCHOOL BOARD

Dr. Elvis Davis ..... Chair  
 Sonya Bundick ..... Vice-Chair  
 Dena Barrows ..... Member  
 LeNiece Johnson ..... Member  
 Jessie Mincey ..... Member  
 Susan Southerland ..... Member  
 Michelle Wahl ..... Member

# OUR SCHOOLS

*"We are here to serve you!"*

Dodge County High School ..... (478) 374-7711  
 350 Pearl Bates Avenue  
 Eastman, GA 31023

Dodge County Middle School ..... (478) 374-6492  
 5911 Oak Street  
 Eastman, GA 31023

Dodge County Elementary School ..... (478) 374-6690  
 167 Orphan Cemetery Road  
 Eastman, GA 31023

Dodge County Primary School ..... (478) 374-6691  
 1118 McRae Highway  
 Eastman, GA 31023

Dodge Achievement Center ..... (478) 374-4756  
 1400 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
 Eastman, GA 31023

# CONTACT US

Dodge County Schools ..... (478) 374-3783  
 720 College Street  
 Eastman, GA 31023

# OUR WEBSITE

[www.dodge.k12.ga.us](http://www.dodge.k12.ga.us)



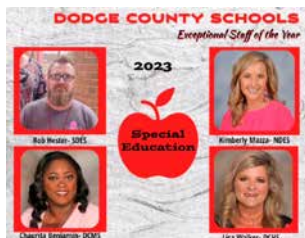
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## ELEMENTARY CONSOLIDATION BEGINS WITH THIS SCHOOL YEAR!

We are excited about our upcoming consolidation! Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, SDES, Dodge Pre-K and NDES will be consolidated in the following format: Dodge County Primary School, Pre-K - 2nd grades at the South Dodge Elementary facility; and Dodge County Elementary School: 3rd - 5th grades at the North Dodge Elementary facility. The DCSS has solicited input from our DCSS staff and from our community via surveys and other means prior to the Board of Education unanimously voting to move forward with consolidation plans. To serve our students and to meet their needs consistently, we see advantages to having all teachers and students of one grade level in one building. Some advantages of consolidation are:

1. Uniformity in having the same grade levels at the same school.
2. Emphasized teaching of phonics and reading in kindergarten through second grade so that students are reading on grade level by Grade 3.
3. Increased fidelity with use of purchased programs across the system.
4. Increased teacher collaboration for grade levels at the same school location.
5. Increased academic achievement.
6. Increased resource sharing.
7. Increased consistency with rules and procedures.
8. Decreased competition among elementary schools.
9. Additional resources for Dodge Pre-K (access to a gym, enhanced safety, etc.).
10. Improved grade level focus and parent communication.
11. Improved use of data for specific grades to guide effective and focused instruction.
12. Increased ease of transition for students from elementary school to middle school since students will already know one another.
13. Mainstreamed scheduling since seat time is different for Grades K through 2 than for Grades 3 through 5.
14. Synchronized testing so that testing for Grades 3 through 5 will not affect daily routines for K through 2.

School and district staff are diligently working to prepare the schools for our students this fall. The Dodge County School System is thankful for the students, staff, parents, community and Board of Education that work together each day to do great things for our students. If you have any questions regarding consolidation, please contact your child's school for more information.