



August 19, 2021

Building Beat



School Picture Days Schedule

Smile! The following dates have been set for School Picture Days:

Central Elementary
Thursday, August 26

Gates Elementary
Thursday, August 19

Hill Elementary
Tuesday, August 31

Siple Elementary
Wednesday,
September 15

Thomson Elementary
Wednesday,
September 22

Hahn Intermediate
Tuesday, September 7

Davison Middle School
Makeup date TBA

Davison High School
Makeup Date
Tuesday, October 12

Davison Alternative Education Makeup Date
Tuesday, October 12

Students participate in 4-H activities this week at County Fair

For a 4-H member, competing in the local fair is where all the hard work and preparation hopefully pays off; it's kind of like the finale at the end of a concert.

We have several DCS students and 4-H members preparing for their big show this week at the Genesee County Fair. Students competing and participating of whom we are aware include: **Madeline Baker, Maygan Caryl, Dylan Duncan, Savanna Duncan, Andrew Racine, Gabrielle Summers, Harlan Summers, Raymond Summers, Shaylynn Summers, Carmen Whitt and Nevaeh Whitt.** If you are a student who competed, please let us know. (We'd also love to see some pictures of you and the animal you are showing or item that you are exhibiting!)

The Genesee County Fair runs through Sunday, August 22.

Delayed **Wednesday** schedule begins Sept. 1 for DHS/DAE

Late Start Wednesdays for students at Davison High School and Davison Alternative Education will begin September 1. On Early Release days, students will start school at 7:25 a.m. with the exception of October 13, which is a Delayed Day and Early Release Day for parent teacher conferences.

Here is the complete schedule:

Late Start Wednesday

September 1, 8, 15, 29

October 6, 20

*****October 13 - Early release and late start

November 3, 10, 17, 24

December 1, 15

January 5, 19, 26

February 2, 9, 16

March 9, 16, 23

April 6, 20, 27

May 11, 18, 25

June 1, 8

Early Release Wednesday (No Delayed Start—school will begin at 7:25 a.m.)

September 22

December 8

March 2

May 4

Speaker inspires, empowers staff to keep making difference

On the heels of one the toughest school years due to COVID-19, special guest speaker Dr. John Draper kick-started the 2021-22 school year by inspiring DCS



Dr. John Draper, above, was the guest speaker for the 2021-22 DCS Professional Development Day held August 10. He embraced the District's "New Year's" theme by donning a party hat. Below, Dr. Draper invites monitors from Thomson Elementary to help him solve a math equation.

staff to get back up on their feet and get down to their business of caring for kids.

"Dr. Draper was amazing," Siple Elementary Kindergarten Teacher **Rita Jones** said following the 90-minute presentation held August 10. "He was dynamic, relevant and exactly what we needed to bring us back into a new normal. He gave us a foundation of positive facts to not only encourage our mission as a district but portray what we are really about here at Davison. I also thought what he said validated a lot of what we are already doing well. It was by far the BEST opening speaker I've heard! I am so grateful our administration brought him in and anticipated exactly what we would need to begin this new year!"

Dr. Draper's presentation, "Crucial Conversations About America's Schools--the Talk, the Truth and the Crucial Conversations Educators Must Lead" focused on some of the myths that people believe when it comes to public education. One example he gave was graduation rates. If you survey people across the country, polls would indicate that the dropout rate is increasing. That is not so. In fact, more kids are graduating today than ever before.

Another fallacy that needs to be addressed is that there is no "one size fits all" when it comes to how kids learn. Draper said both educators and students need to be afforded the time to make sure concepts are truly grasped. If that means a student needs to take five years to graduate, then so be it. If that means a teacher needs to hit pause in the curriculum in order to make sure his/her class understands the lesson, then he/she should be allowed to do so without worrying about falling behind in a lesson plan.



"Good teachers know nothing is taught until something is learned," he said. "Don't teach like you were taught. Do better. If we want achievement to be a constant, then we must let time become a variable."

Another issue that schools need to tackle head on is the achievement gap that occurs among children living in poverty. While it is true that impoverished children experience many emotional and social challenges, chronic stressors, and cognitive lags due to significant changes in brain structure in areas related to memory and emotion that result in lower academic achievement and more behavioral issues in the classroom, Dr. Draper said it is not an excuse to "not teach a child who is not learning."

"Our job is to step up and help these kids make it," he said. "That's why we are here."

Dr. Draper, a native of Alabama, had the audience in stitches as he shared funny anecdotes in his southern drawl

and at other times in tears as he told powerful stories about the significant impact a teacher or other caring adult had on a student. He also stressed the importance of staying positive and the important role that each and every single staff member plays in the organization.

Davison High School Teacher **James Wilcox** said Dr. Draper's presentation left a lasting impression on him.

"One thing I will always remember is 'nothing is taught until something is learned,'" he said.

"The 'Best One We've Ever Had' is what I heard from MANY of the staff people leaving the auditorium, and I definitely agree," said **Tena Muckenthaler**, a Paraprofessional at Davison High School. "He definitely could relate to all of us and the work we do, had great advice, and was good-humored."

"Our opening day speaker was phenomenal, so entertaining and encouraging," agreed **Michelle Wilson**, Teacher at Davison Middle School. "I really enjoyed seeing the excitement of our staff to finally be together in person and start a new year!"

Central Elementary Teacher **Mindy Parrott** said her takeaway from the presentation is that she does make a difference.

"Teachers have the power to change the view of education with our words and stories we share in the communities we work in," she said.

"I loved the speaker!" Gates Elementary Counselor **Christine Glann** said. "He was so positive, and I always love it when someone can make me laugh and keep me engaged. I especially loved when he talked about sharing only positive things with people outside of the school system. I agree with him that if we all share one positive thing a week about a teacher, administrator, support staff or any other worker in our school district with a friend or family member who doesn't have any connections in a school, we will shed a positive light on schools and education."

News about our awesome Alums

Wow! Check out the accomplishments of some of our former DTV students:

- 2010 DTV alumni **Kellie Rowe** is now a morning anchor/reporter for FOX 2 in Detroit.
- 2014 Graduate and voice of Davison Football **Chris Jared** is now a Play-by-Play Announcer for the Great Lakes Loons minor league baseball team. They are the minor league affiliate for the LA Dodgers.
- 2014 Alum **Shawn Bednard** has been named Play-by-Play Announcer for the Erie Otters Hockey team in the OHL. Shawn's broadcasts will be streamed live on TV throughout Canada and the US.
- 2006 Graduate **Jordan Lange** was named Director of Creative Services & Social Media for the University of Alabama Men's Basketball team.
- 2015 DTV alum **Austin Szumowicz** was hired as a sports anchor for WBKB news in Alpena, Mich.
- 2012 Graduate **Travis Carte** is now a Multimedia Manager at ASTRO gaming in San Francisco.
- 2010 Graduate **Andrew Gerber** works as a Studio Technician for Diversified Dow Chemical in Midland .
- 2011 Graduate **Lindsay Gerber** is now an Account Executive for the PR firm Truscott Rossman, working out of Detroit.



First day of School

Let's face it, the first day of school can be a bit overwhelming. Navigating a new building, learning locker combinations, finding new friends and getting back into a routine can be exhausting after a summer of relaxation. We hope that everyone had a great first week of school and is looking forward to making the 2021-22 school year their best yet. Right, student musicians and marching band members greeted staff and students as they performed outside the main entrance. Below, DHS Teacher Trevor Smith helps a student find his homeroom class.





Left, Ryder and his mom Caitlin, pose for a first day of first grade picture. Above, Davison High School Teacher Mrs. Linda Martin helps a student find her class; below, a student gets her photo taken at Gates Elementary before heading into school





Clockwise: Mrs. Amanda Barrett's classroom at Gates Elementary; students recite the Pledge of Allegiance in Ms. Rebecca McConnell's class; students wait for class to start in Mr. Brent Prim's room at Davison High School, DHS Teacher Mrs. Sarah Seiter and one of her "kids;" above, looking pretty as a picture at Gates Elementary.

