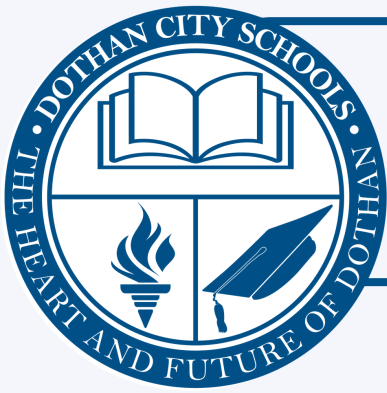




DOOTHAN CITY SCHOOLS INSIDE THE PACK



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1
JANUARY 2026

UPCOMING EVENT

**The Sleeping Beauty:
International Ballet Stars
at Dothan Civic Center Arena**

Tuesday, January 6
7:00 PM – 10:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENT

**Dothan City Schools
Board Meeting
at Central Office**

Tuesday, January 20
5:30-7:30PM

UPCOMING EVENT

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Federal Holiday**

Monday, January 19th
NO SCHOOL



WHAT'S INSIDE

**IT MEANS MORE:
DCS APPLAUDS RECENT
NATIONAL BOARD
CERTIFIED TEACHERS**

**PRINCIPAL'S PRIDE:
PRINCIPAL BRIAN RIVIERE**

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:
JADA HOUSTON**

**STAFF SALUTE:
OLICE MURRAY**

**WOLF SPOTLIGHT:
CHAD SNELL**

**WOLF PUP SPOTLIGHT:
MADISON MITCHELL**

**DCS CARES:
6,000 CANS OF FOOD
DONATED ACROSS DCS**

**BRIGHTER STUDENTS,
BRIGHTER FUTURES:
DOOTHAN PREP MILESTONES**

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

As we welcome a new year, I want to extend my gratitude to our students, families, staff, and community partners for your support, energy, and heart you bring to Dothan City Schools. Your commitment to our mission makes a meaningful difference everyday, and it sets the tone for everything we hope to accomplish together in 2026.

A new year welcomes new opportunities to learn, grow, and continue creating environments where students and staff feels seen, supported, and inspired. I am proud of the progress we've made as a district and even more excited for the work ahead. Together, we will keep moving forward and empower every student and teacher who walks through our doors.



Thank you for being part of the DCS family. I look forward to the months ahead and all that we will continue to achieve together.

— *Dr. Garrick Askeew*
Superintendent
Dothan City Schools

IT MEANS MORE

DCS APPLAUDS RECENT NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

Dothan City Schools is excited to celebrate several educators who achieved National Board Certification in December 2025. The certification is one of the highest and most rigorous honors in the teaching profession. With fewer than 3% of teachers nationwide earning this credential, this achievement showcases the incredible dedication, talent, and commitment to excellence found across our district.

Congratulations to our recently certified educators:

- **Laura Richey** – Dothan City Virtual School, High School History
- **Dana Peters** – Hidden Lake Primary, 2nd Grade
- **Dr. Peppi Cooper** – Carver MST, 6th Grade
- **Heather Dills** – Girard Elementary, Special Education (K-5)

These teachers completed a rigorous, multi-year process that highlights advanced instructional practice, content mastery, and a deep impact on student learning. Their achievement reflects a districtwide commitment to professional growth and high-quality teaching.

DCS proudly celebrates these educators for raising the bar and inspiring excellence in every classroom.



Laura Richey



Dana Peters



Dr. Peppi Cooper



Heather Dills

Principal's Pride: Principal Brian Riviere, Dothan High School

Since stepping into the role of Principal in September 2025, Brian Riviere has brought a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to student success to Dothan High School. Now in his fourth year with #WolfNation, Mr. Riviere's path in education has taken him from substitute teacher and custodian to paraprofessional, classroom teacher, and ultimately a longtime administrator. Before joining DCS, he served in Washington County, FL, where he spent 14 years as a principal, including five years leading both a high school and middle school simultaneously. Originally from Bay County, FL, Mr. Riviere holds degrees from Gulf Coast College, Florida State University, and the University of West Florida.

Mr. Riviere is passionate about building a school culture where every student and staff member feels valued, supported, and inspired to "Be The Alpha." His goals for the year focus on strengthening academic performance, boosting college-and-career readiness, and elevating the overall student experience at DHS. A proud husband and father of four, he's also an outdoor enthusiast and a devoted Florida Gators fan, despite his FSU roots. What he loves most about Dothan City Schools is the community-wide commitment to helping every student thrive and the opportunity to make a meaningful impact each day.



Employee of the Month December 2025: Jada Houston

Jada Houston, a science teacher at Carver 9th Grade Academy, exemplifies professionalism, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to student success. When an unexpected teaching vacancy arose, Mrs. Houston willingly stepped forward to take on additional classes, ensuring students experienced continuity, stability, and high-quality instruction during a challenging transition.

Despite an increased workload, Mrs. Houston maintained high instructional standards, continued to build strong relationships with her students, and recently completed her master's degree, further demonstrating her dedication to professional growth and excellence in education. Her flexibility, student-centered mindset, and commitment to learning make a lasting impact on her school community. We are proud to recognize Jada Houston as our DCS Employee of the Month, December 2025.



Staff Salute: Olice Murray



After years of faithful commitment, dedication, and pride in his work, Mr. Olice Murray, Lead Custodian at Dothan High School, retired in December following an incredible career at DHS. Throughout his time at Dothan High School, Mr. Murray cared for the campus as if it were his own home, always dependable, always humble, and always putting students and staff first.

Mr. Murray's impact will be felt long after his final day. His strong work ethic, kindness, and dedication helped create a safe and welcoming environment for all.

We thank Mr. Olice Murray for everything he gave to Dothan High School and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement. He will truly be missed.

Wolf Spotlight: Chad Snell

Chad Snell, a student at Carver 9th Grade Academy, has achieved an extraordinary milestone by becoming the first student in Dothan City Schools history to earn every Microsoft Office Specialist certification offered. His accomplishments include certifications in Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, and multiple expert-level certifications, showcasing both his dedication and advanced technical skillset.

Chad's achievement sets a new standard of excellence for students across the district and highlights the strength of DCS Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways.



His commitment, perseverance, and attention to detail reflect the qualities of a true leader and lifelong learner.

We are proud to recognize Chad Snell as our Wolf Spotlight and congratulate him on this remarkable accomplishment.

Wolf Pup Spotlight: Madison Mitchell



Madison Mitchell, a 5th grade student at Highlands Elementary School, is a high-achieving student who consistently excels both academically and through her involvement in school organizations. She serves as a Peer Helper, is a qualified LinC student, volunteers at the school store and is an active participant in community service projects.

Madison is known for her kindness, compassion, and willingness to help others in any way she can; whether encouraging a classmate, tutoring a struggling student, creating school displays, or offering comfort to a peer in need. She approaches challenges with determination, maintains a positive attitude, and leads with confidence and grace. A true friend to all, Madison brings wisdom, humor, and a caring heart to everything she does, making her a shining example of what it means to be a Wolf Pup at Dothan City Schools.

DCS CARES

Across the district, our schools rallied together throughout the 2025 holiday season to collect and donate more than 6,000 canned goods and other non-perishable food items to various Wiregrass non-profits to support families in the local area. Their generosity made a powerful impact.

Five Schools Donated to the Salvation Army

- Selma Street Elementary collected 651 cans
- Heard Elementary collected 3,131 cans
- Highlands Elementary collected 423 cans
- Morris Slingluff Elementary collected 300 cans
- Hidden Lake Primary collected 278 cans

Dothan High School donated 1,200+ cans to the Wiregrass Area Food Bank

Dothan City Virtual School donated 150 nonperishable items to Mama T's and The Girls Home



Stay Connected With DCS!

www.dothan.k12.al.us
@dothancityschools



BRIGHTER STUDENTS, BRIGHTER FUTURES: DPA MILESTONES



Dothan Preparatory Academy recently celebrated two exciting milestones on campus. In December 2025, the school hosted the grand re-opening of its newly refreshed Media Center, creating a welcoming and supportive space for students to read, research, and collaborate. The updated space is designed to encourage a love of learning while providing students with an environment that supports academic growth and curiosity.



The second celebration featured the ribbon cutting of the Bright Key® Academic Dream Room, marking the official start of Bright Key® programming at DPA. The Academic Dream Room will support students through one-on-one tutoring, learning enhancement, and enrichment opportunities designed to help them thrive academically. Bright Key® is currently seeking volunteers.

Community members interested in getting involved are encouraged to contact Mrs. Semetria Horstead at semetria.horstead@dothan.k12.al.us

COMMUNITY PARTNER



DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

This month we want to highlight our community partner, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for your support and including DCS in the tour for the Leadership Dothan Education Day in November 2025!