

INFORMER

DUNCANVILLE Independent School District

January | 26 | 2016

Brandenburg Students Sweep Robotics Competition



Brandenburg Intermediate sixth-grade students brought home the top awards from the Texas Computer Education Association's Area 10 Robotics Competition on Saturday, January 16. The 13 students were divided up into teams and used Lego Mindstorm EV3 robots to complete tasks. In the "Food Frenzy" scenario, students programmed the robots to move pretend food (represented by pieces of plastic

Ciera Johnson Named to McDonald's Team



Duncanville Pantherettes senior Ciera Johnson is one of four players from the DFW area to be named to the prestigious McDonald's All American Game roster.

pipe and whiffle golf balls) to score points. Brandenburg students were behind after the first two rounds, but they used teamwork and problem solving skills to bring home the top three awards. Read [more](#).

Technology Department Keeps District Connected

Hundreds of Duncanville ISD teachers are using the latest technology in their classrooms and have the training they need thanks to ongoing efforts by the district's Technology Department. This school year, Chief Technology Officer Kyle Berger and his staff have provided nearly 3,000 individual training sessions on how to use new laptops, interactive projectors, document cameras and the software that makes the equipment run. "Staying on top of technology trends allows our teachers to engage students in exciting and innovative ways," said Mr. Berger. "We are working towards bridging the gap between the way our students live and learn. Technology is a tool that can level the playing field for all students."

The excitement over new technology is also being welcomed by teachers.

"Every time something new comes out, I'm on the bandwagon. If it's a benefit, why not use it?" said Duncanville High School AP Government teacher, Dianne Williams.

When the Duncanville community passed the \$102.545 million bond in November of 2014, the district received \$17.6 million to upgrade technology. During the summer of 2015, the Technology Department completed \$13 million in network updates in 65 days. Technicians installed new phones, increased the district's network speed, expanded wireless capabilities and added video conferencing for teachers and staff.

At the beginning of the 2015 – 2016 school year, Duncanville's 834 teachers received new tablet-laptops. Throughout the year, technicians have been installing new mounted projectors, document cameras, sound systems with microphones and interactive projector software in every classroom throughout the district. The Technology Department has established new classroom standards for technology. The policies make sure students in all classrooms throughout the district have the same level of access to technology. Read [more](#).



Kyle Berger

Johnson is averaging 15 points per game this season and is a big reason the team is beating opponents by double digits. She is committed to play for Louisville next year. The McDonald's game will be played on March 30th at the United Center in Chicago.

District Hires New Science Coordinator and Director of Accounting

Dr. Fanta Fridia is Duncanville ISD's new Science Coordinator. She comes to the district with more than 10 years in education – most recently as Science Department Chair at Cedar Hill ISD. Dr. Fridia earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology at Xavier University of Louisiana and received her Doctorate of Chiropractic from Parker College of Chiropractic.

Marcy Moran is Duncanville ISD's new Director of Accounting. Ms. Moran was most recently employed with the Cedar Hill Independent School District as Director of Business Services. Ms. Moran received her Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Texas – Arlington.

Upcoming Events

Financial Planning for

Students: Tuesday, January



Teachers receive new laptops from Technology Department

26, 2016, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Duncanville High School's Alexander Auditorium, more info [here](#).

College Fair: Saturday, January 30, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, 115 W. Beltline Rd, Desoto. More info [here](#).

Love & Logic parent education classes at Merrifield Elementary: February 2 - March 8, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. More info [here](#).

Convirtiendose en un Amor y la Lógica de los Padres en [español](#).

FREE SAT Math Prep: February 6, 13, 20, 27 at DHS. More info [here](#).

Editor's Note: Every month the Communication Department will publish a feature to "Shine a Light" on a department at Duncanville ISD in an effort to better acquaint all of us with our coworkers and learn how they contribute to our success. Please enjoy this third in our series of stories on the people of Duncanville ISD.

DHS Culinary Students Serve Lunch to Local Senior Citizens

Input Sought on District Calendar

Monday we launched a survey that requests employee and community feedback on the 2016-2017 school district calendar. State legislative changes to how a school day is calculated offered options for improving student education.



Based on feedback from the District Calendar Planning Committee, two calendars were created that provide regular "Design Days," or dates when teachers will have the opportunity on their campus to train across their grade level and subject. These are days when there are no students in the classroom and the training is driven by your campus need.

This survey is an opportunity to choose between the two calendars, A and B, each has two options for semester lengths. This year was the first time that we utilized two semester dates for secondary and elementary grades. One unanticipated outcome was that retirees who choose to retire mid-year were impacted.

To access the survey, click on this [link](#). The survey ends **Friday, February 5, 2016**. Your feedback will be provided to the Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees during their next meeting on Monday, February 8, 2016.



Duncanville High School Culinary Arts students hosted the second monthly Career Technical Education (CTE) Community Connection Initiative luncheon on Wednesday, January 20. Culinary students prepared, served and hosted lunch for approximately 50 Duncanville senior citizens. Guests enjoyed an "All-

YAG Students Meet Shark Tank Entrepreneur

Duncanville High School's Youth and Government students met world class entrepreneur,

Daymond John, from ABC's Shark Tank on Friday at a seminar hosted by the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth. Mr. John inspired the students with his story about how he grew his FUBU athletic wear company from next to nothing to, at its peak, more than \$350 million in sales. The students were inspired as Mr. John shared his struggles growing up in Queens, New York and spoke about the hard work and dedication that propelled him to success that he is today.

Youth and Government strives to expose its members to life changing experiences like their meeting with Mr. John, who has become a renowned motivational speaker and reality TV star. Participating students from DHS were: Melanie Hernandez, Stephanie Gonzalez, Jenelle Murata, Blessing Adeleke, Kalaya Sibling, Evan Melton, Maggie Medina, and Benjamin Arellano.



American" meal consisting of salad, pot roast, mashed potatoes and apple pie with ice cream.

DHS Students Selected as Junior Counselors



Three Duncanville High School students were selected to act as junior counselors at upcoming leadership workshops for the Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC). Jessica Yanes, Sharif Long and Madison Cooper were among just 39 students chosen from across the state. Duncanville High School is one of two schools sending three 'junior counselor' students to the workshops.



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