

INFORMER

DUNCANVILLE Independent School District

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Pantherettes Bring Home Ninth State Championship



Ricardo Martin/Panther Prints

Spring Break is Next Week



Duncanville ISD's spring break is March 14 - 18. Classes resume Monday, March 21.

District Hires New Maintenance Director

The Duncanville Pantherettes finished their season the way they started it – undefeated – and brought home the Texas State Championship by defeating Spring Dekaney 76-42 on Saturday. Sophomore Zarielle Green was named the 6A championship game MVP while senior captains Ciera Johnson, and Madison Townley were named to the all-tournament team.

At a celebration Sunday where parents, fans, classmates and the DHS Pep Band welcomed the Pantherettes back to Duncanville, head coach Cathy Self-Morgan praised her student athletes for their hard work and determination at every practice and every game of their 39-0 season.

Read [more](#).



District Recognizes Spirit of a Champion Honorees



Duncanville ISD celebrated the district's Spirit of a Champion honorees last week. The employees were nominated by their peers for demonstrating expertise and leadership in the area of education for the betterment of our students and district. Honorees must be well-respected by their peers, act as a positive mentor, exemplary professional, and demonstrate that they are a friend of public education.

2105-2016 Spirit of a Champion honorees:

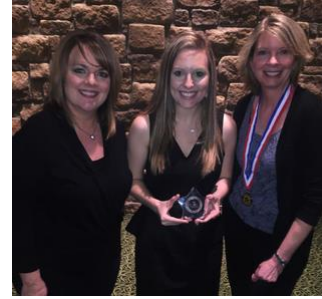
Dwight Weaver, Principal at Summit Education Center, has worked for Duncanville ISD for 8 years. Mr. Weaver is known for possessing a unique skill for working with challenged students and providing discipline with dignity. DHS Assistant Principal Tony Toynes said, "He does an extraordinary job with the three percent of our population that needs 100 percent of our attention at times."

Duncanville ISD's new Maintenance Director, Joseph Peterka, comes to the district from Temple, Texas where he was Executive Director of Operations at Belton ISD for six years. Peterka holds a Master of Science in Education Administration from the University of North Texas. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Hays, Kansas. Peterka started his career as a physical education teacher in Temple, later spending nearly 10 years as an assistant principal or principal in both Temple and Belton. Peterka said he is looking forward to providing excellent leadership in his position at Duncanville ISD and hopes the environment is safe, clean, fun and functional.

Communications Department Brings Home State Awards

Vanessa Phillips, Hastings Cafeteria Manager, calls each student by name, putting a smile on their faces. Her peers say she not only feeds students food, she also feeds them with love. Ms. Phillips leads by example, keeping change in the pocket of her apron to pay for students' meals when they don't have enough money to cover the cost.

Mari Zamora, Director of State and Federal Programs, is a leader in serving limited English-speaking students. In her 10 years with the district, Ms. Zamora's focus on helping non-native English speakers has resulted in improved services to those students and their families. Ms. Zamora also leads Duncanville ISD in the creation and management of district improvement plans.



L to R: Lari Barager, Brooke Rawlinson, Kris Hill

District Scores Well on State Nutrition Audit



Duncanville ISD Child Nutrition successfully completed a 3-month audit conducted by the Texas Department of Agriculture. The Administrative Review process, which occurs every three years, covers all areas of Child Nutrition ranging from menus, recipes, lunch applications, financial documents, onsite meal preparation and observations.

Brandenburg, Smith, and DHS staff deserve special recognition for performing exceptionally well during the audit. Even though it was a stressful time for those campuses, they conducted themselves in a professional manner and received many compliments from the auditors.

Child Nutrition strives daily to provide healthy, appetizing meals for Duncanville ISD students while meeting USDA guidelines. The staff works diligently to offer popular items students enjoy, and welcomes suggestions from students and staff.

The Duncanville ISD Communications Department brought home 11 awards from the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) conference last month. The department submitted stories, videos, photographs and the Staff News and Informer e-newsletters from the 2014 - 2015 school year to be judged by an out-of-state committee of public relations professionals. One of Duncanville ISD's submissions, a [video news package](#) edited by Kris Hill, won Best of Category. The department also received a Crystal Certificate of Merit for its 2014 Bond Election Marketing Plan.

Upcoming Events:

Duncanville ISD Education Foundation 20th Anniversary Dinner & Auction, Saturday, April 16, 6:00 - 11:00 p.m. Register [here](#).

Duncanville ISD's 3rd Annual Districtwide Art Show, Thursday, April 21, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The show will feature artwork from students kindergarten through 12th grade. Admission is FREE.

Relay for Life of Best Southwest, May 20, 2016 benefiting the American Cancer Society. Contact Gloria Lockhart at: glorialockhart63@gmail.com. More information [here](#).



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