



August | 15 | 2016

### Convocation Kicks Off 2016-2017 School Year



Dr. Marc Smith welcomed teachers and staff to the new school year at convocation where the theme was the district vision statement: "Writing Success Stories One Student at a Time."

Dr. Smith's message: Duncanville ISD puts students first. It is the responsibility of everyone in the district to support those teachers and students.

"We are in this together," Dr. Smith said. "No one person can do it alone. It takes a team."

Motivational speaker, Robert Jackson, told his personal story of perseverance despite difficult odds growing up in a rough neighborhood with parents who did not invest in his education. He

### Board Announces New Administrative Positions



**Monica Smith** - Moves from Assistant Principal at Duncanville High School to Associate Principal of Curriculum and Instruction at Duncanville High School

attributed his success to a teacher who went beyond her role as an educator to motivate him. Jackson graduated from high school, earned his college degree and returned to his old high school to teach. Mr. Jackson was awarded Teacher of the Year four times. Using his experience as an example, Jackson encouraged teachers not to give up on even the most difficult students. The Duncanville Education Foundation awarded more than \$30,000 in education grants and Duncanville High School math teacher Lily Webber won a YETI cooler valued at \$250. Click [here](#) to view a slideshow from convocation.



**Shannon Bennett** - Associate Principal of Operations at Duncanville High School

## Download District App for Sneak Peek of New Hastings Elementary



**Tamara Allen** - Assistant Principal at Duncanville High School

The new Hastings Elementary will soon be open to the public, but you can be among the first to see inside the beautiful new campus! Download the Duncanville ISD app (duncanvilleisd) on your smartphone today and take a tour of the district's newest school with Hastings students as your guides when it's released at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

You can see the campus in person at a ribbon cutting ceremony on **Thursday, August 18 at 5:30 p.m.** followed by self-guided tours. To see the time-lapse video of the old Hastings' demolition, click on the image above.



**Dr. LaSonja Flowers** - Assistant Principal at Duncanville High School



## New DHS Principal Brings Big High School Experience

When Tia Simmons talks about the students she'll be leading at Duncanville High School, she refers to them as "her babies." Simmons is in the process of learning everything she needs to know about the staff and students she'll oversee when school starts August 22.

"I think Duncanville has great people and we have

great students," Simmons said.

Simmons sees her role as both an encourager and a disciplinarian, but she said she's not interested in tough love. Her goal is to build relationships so that any corrections are well received.

"I can love and nurture as hard as I can redirect," Simmons said.

"Whatever it is we want to build and however we move forward, we have to do it together."

Read [more](#).



**Alton Jackson** - Assistant Principal at Byrd Middle School.



**Paul Zevallos** - Assistant Principal at Reed Middle School.

### Upcoming Events:

**One-Way Dual Language Night**, Tuesday, August 16, 6:00 p.m. in the Duncanville Education Plaza Boardroom at 710 South Cedar Ridge Drive, Duncanville.

**New Hastings Ribbon Cutting and Tours**, Thursday, August 18 at 5:30 p.m.

**Panther Pride Rally**, DHS Back to School event, Friday, August 19 at 7:45 p.m. at Panther Stadium, 900 West Camp Wisdom Road, Duncanville.

**Meet the Teacher**, 6-8 p.m.

**Elementary** - Thursday, August 18

**Intermediate** - Tuesday, August 23

**Middle** - Thursday, August 25

**High School** - Thursday, September 8



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