



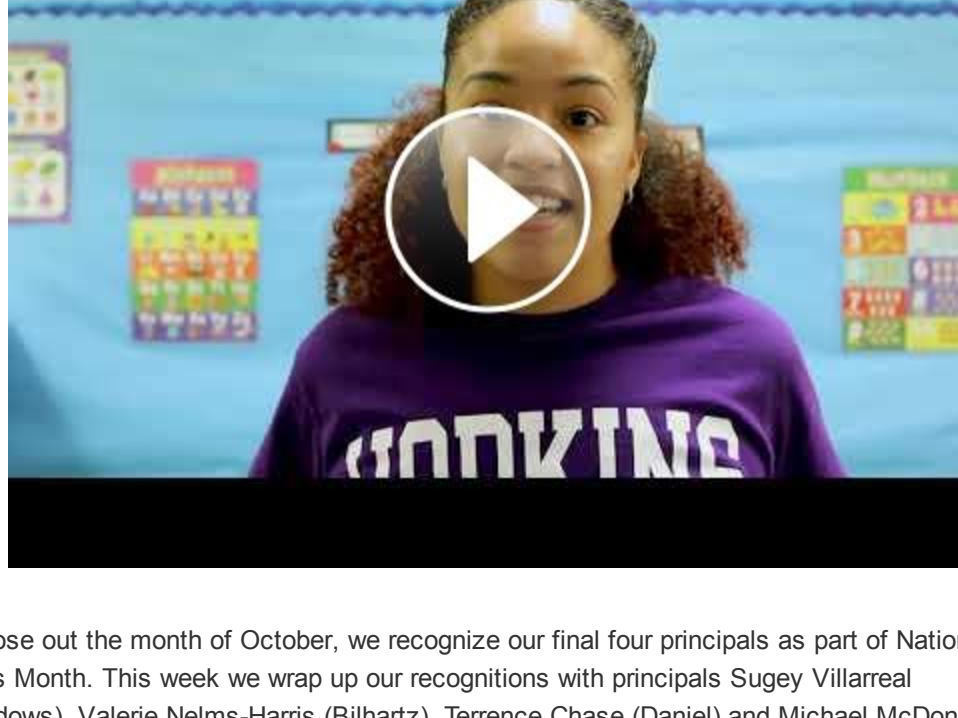
Community Informer

Duncanville ISD



October | 26 | 2020

National Principals Month Reminds Us to Celebrate Campus Leaders



As we close out the month of October, we recognize our final four principals as part of National Principals Month. This week we wrap up our recognitions with principals Suguey Villarreal (Fairmeadows), Valerie Nelms-Harris (Bilhartz), Terrence Chase (Daniel) and Michael McDonald (Duncanville High School).

Principals set the academic standards and tone for their campus, and they're the glue that holds everything together. If you have the opportunity, take a moment to thank a principal this month.

Panthers Play Prominent Role in Region 10 Magazine

How many Panthers can you spot in the Fall 2020 edition of Region 10's Reach! Magazine?

Here's a hint, it's more than just a couple. We're definitely getting noticed by our peers!

The Region 10 service center serves more than 865,000 students and 106,000 school staff in more than 130 school districts, charters and private schools across 10 north Texas counties.

The great news we're sharing with others in the education world include Duncanville ISD Superintendent being named 2020 Region 10 Superintendent of the Year, our 2020 Teachers of the Year and some award-winning student authors.

Check out the stories [here](#).



Fine Arts Department Distributes Supply Kits Districtwide



Duncanville ISD's Fine Arts Department assembled supply kits for students to make sure they have what they need to participate in classes whether they're learning from home or returning to school in person.

Art and music teachers ordered and assembled the kits for students enrolled in their classes with different supplies for each grade level.

Elementary, intermediate and middle school art students received sets of markers, paper and a watercolor set. Those same grade levels also received music supplies including an egg shaker to practice learning rhythms and a paper xylophone.

Art students at the high school received kits with supplies according to which class they're enrolled in. Some of those included colored pencil sets, watercolor sets and a brush and sketchbooks.

Sign Up Now for Free Lunch and Other Benefits



Did you know the National School Lunch Program provides more than free and reduced cost meals to our students?

When you sign up and qualify for the program, you become eligible for any future government-funded Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfers (P-EBT) similar to the \$285 per child distributed last school year. The P-EBT funds work the same way as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and are meant to help families get the food they need during the current pandemic.

The school lunch program benefits do not renew automatically each year. Families must reapply via School Café, [here](#).

In addition to providing extra food, the government bases its distribution of resources to school districts on the number of students enrolled in the National School Lunch Program. This can impact whether Duncanville ISD receives new technology, free books and discounted or free testing (SAT/ACT) for high school seniors. There are also entire programs that support students and staff that receive their funding based upon how many families sign up for the National School Lunch Program.

To make sure Duncanville ISD receives the maximum benefits from this program, please sign up before October 30.

If you have questions, please email Duncanville ISD Nutrition Services representative Kenya Brooks Robinson at kbrooksrobinson@duncanvilleisd.org.

You can also visit our Nutrition Services Department [here](#) on the district website or call them at 972-708-2328.

Learning Preference Change Deadline is Today



If you'd like to change your student's learning preference for the second 9-week grading period, **TODAY** is the last day to submit a request.

Click [here](#) to fill out the form.

The new grading period begins Monday, Nov. 9

The remaining windows to change between in-person and virtual learning are January 4 - January 18 for the third 9-week grading period and March 8 - March 22 for the fourth 9-week grading period. To read more about the process, go to the enrollment webpage [here](#).

Board Business: Review a Summary of Last Week's Meeting



The Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees hosted a regular board meeting on October 19, 2020. A video recording of the meeting can be viewed [here](#). Information shared and decisions made during that meeting include the following:

- Dr. Marc Smith began his Superintendent's Report with a recap of the second first day of school. Students who chose In-Person Learning at the beginning of the school year returned to their campus last Monday for the first time since March. Dr. Smith spoke with NBC5 at Hastings Elementary School and visited campuses throughout the day.
- Duncanville ISD's partnership with the National Math and Science Initiative and Texas Instruments paid off for 63 high school students. They were awarded \$6,000 in checks for earning a score of 3 or higher on their Advanced Placement (AP) exams in English language arts and reading.
- The Duncanville ISD Education Foundation made a generous donation of \$100,000 to support student technology needs. The Education Foundation will continue supporting students and teachers through a giving campaign that will begin with a fundraising event to raffle a convertible 2007 Chrysler Crossfire. You can find more information on how to purchase tickets [here](#).

Read more Board Business [here](#).

Log In to 'Parent University' for Virtual Learning Tips

Want to learn more about how to navigate virtual learning, back to school expectations and many more topics?

Duncanville ISD's Family and Community Engagement team now offers 'Parent University,' virtual courses that can be viewed live or recorded.

Join the next session Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to learn how to navigate learning apps Seesaw and Google Classroom. Dr. LaShonda Reid from the district's Technology Department will help familiarize families with the apps and give tips for parents to stay connected to notices for assignments and teacher communication.

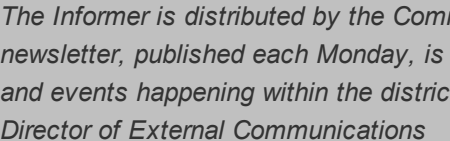
Recordings of Parent University are available [here](#) on the district's website and [here](#) on the district's YouTube channel. For more information on the Parent University program, click [here](#).

FOR STAFF: If you have facilities for topics to include, email camalbert@duncanvilleisd.org, or if your department would like to facilitate an online Parent University course, please complete this [form](#).

Upcoming Events:

Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees, meeting on Monday, Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m. for closed executive session. The public portion of the meeting begins at approximately 7:00 p.m.

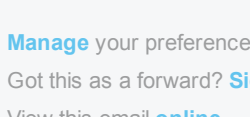
Thanksgiving break, no classes November 23-27



The Informer is distributed by the Communications Department at Duncanville ISD. The weekly newsletter, published each Monday, is intended to keep the community informed about important news and events happening within the district. Story ideas or questions can be directed to: [Lari Barager](#) - Director of External Communications

news@duncanvilleisd.org

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