



August | 24 | 2020

School Year to Begin With Four Weeks Online



Starting with the first day of school on Tuesday, Sept., 8, **all Duncanville ISD students will begin districtwide in the Virtual Learning program.** Students – including those who committed to In-Person Learning during enrollment - will be virtual for the first four weeks of school.

All students enrolled in prekindergarten through eighth grade will be in the Virtual Learning program. A limited number of Duncanville High School students, whose courses require in-person training and access to technology and equipment that can only be provided on campus, will participate in a hybrid model that will include both Virtual Learning and In-Person Learning.

During the next month, the district will continue to evaluate the data related to COVID-19 to determine how to proceed in October at the conclusion of the first four weeks of school.

Read [more](#).

Convocation Kicks Off New & Different School Year



To launch the new school year, Convocation 2020 may have looked a little different but still carried the same commitment to celebrating our school family and setting the tone for an one-of-a-kind school year.

The entire ceremony was held on individual campuses because of the need to socially distance. Instead of being live and in person at Duncanville High School's Alexander Auditorium, each small group viewed a pre-recorded video of convocation.

The theme for this school year is "One Team. One Mission. One Heart."

The convocation video opened with the 2020 Elementary District Teacher of the Year Adam Conant (Fairmeadows Elementary) and 2019 Secondary District Teacher of the Year Luzviminda Pascasio (Kennemer Middle) co-hosting the festivities. The conducted the department and campus roll call and announced raffle prize winners. Then the two introduced Duncanville ISD Superintendent Dr. Marc Smith.

Dr. Marc Smith delivered a powerful message about the progress we have made as a district. He acknowledged the challenges the COVID-19 virus has presented for our schools and the social unrest our country has been experiencing. In an effort to have a better understanding of our community and the students our district serves, Dr. Smith introduced "Courageous Conversations About Race" as a book study for district leaders and other staff.

"As we move on from today, let's love our students; let's not judge our students. Let's understand our students; let's have patience with our students," Dr. Smith said. "If we do that, we are going to prepare them to be successful not only right now in school but in their future as they move forward."

After hearing from Dr. Smith, employees districtwide enjoyed a complimentary breakfast and received a few gifts - a district-branded tote bag along with hand sanitizer and custom Duncanville ISD masks.

Click [here](#) to see photo gallery.

In the News: Duncanville Graduates Recognized for Writing and Illustrating Award-winning Book



Recent Duncanville High School graduates were featured on a local news station for their accomplishment of publishing a book together. Diana Reyes and Kelly Gutierrez wrote and illustrated "The House Kitty," a national award-winning book which is now available on Amazon.

Click the video above to see how their success story was shared on NBC5's morning newscast in a special segment called 'Something Good.'

Board Business: Updates from August Meeting

The Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees hosted a regular board meeting on August 17, 2020.

At the meeting, the board approved beginning the school year with four weeks of virtual instruction.

In the superintendent's report, Dr. Marc Smith welcomed 190 new educators to Duncanville ISD. Dr. Smith also talked about the annual leadership retreat where the district's leadership team including principals and directors set the tone for the new school year with the theme - 'One Team. One Mission. One Heart.'

A video recording of the meeting can be viewed [here](#) on the district website under Board of Trustees.

Upcoming Events:

Labor Day Holiday, Mon., Sept. 7, no classes

First Day of School, Tues., Sept. 8



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

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