Greetings Dexter Families,

As you already know, April is designated as Month of the Military Child. It is a special time to publicly acknowledge the daily sacrifices military families and their children make. We recognize that your children endure the hardships of separation and deployments, assume special responsibilities, and reap the rewards of world-class citizenship that make them and their role in our society especially unique. It is our privilege to be of service to you and your family.

Our students have really enjoyed the Month of the Military Child events. We are excited about the remaining events. Next week will be full of surprises as we continue celebrating Month of the Military Child here at Dexter.

Until next time...

Principal Dunn
A Note from Nurse Lynn

We are getting soooo close to end of this school year... but we are not there yet. Let’s remember please do not come to school if you are not feeling well.

We are still having issues with pollen and those awesome insects like bees, wasps, and ants. Please encourage your children to be aware of their surroundings and let an adult know if something has bitten or stung them.

The temperature outside is starting to rise and students cannot drink from water fountains so please make sure you are sending a water bottle with your kiddos. We want them to stay hydrated. Also, please try to send your child to school each day with a fresh, clean mask.

You know I cannot just let an opportunity pass by so.....WASH YOUR HANDS!! Clean hands are the number one way to stay healthy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 706-545-7770 or lynn.swinford@dodea.edu

Warmest Regards,

Lynn Swinford BSN RN

Dexter School Nurse
Counselor

Testing Is Among Us

Summative assessments for grades 3-5 will begin next week on April 20th. During this school year, the students have been taking the interim assessments which has been great practice and preparation for the summative. We are confident that our students are ready for these assessments and will do a great job.

Just a few testing reminders for students and parents:

1. Make sure to get plenty of rest each night the week of testing.
2. Eat a healthy breakfast.
3. Be present and on time (Testing will begin each day at 9:00 AM).
4. Be sure to follow all directions during testing.
5. Don’t rush and take your time.
6. Don’t stress and do your best!

Parents talk with your student(s) about testing and its importance, as well as encourage them to do their best.

Below is a list of the testing dates for each grade level. If you have any questions about the summative assessment, please contact Ms. DeShaun Howard (Testing Coordinator) at 706-545-3424 or via email at: deshaun.howard@dodea.edu.

Grade 5:  
April 20, 2021 – Mathematics Unit 1  
April 21, 2021 – Mathematics Unit 2  
April 22, 2021 – Mathematics Unit 3  
April 23, 2021 – ELA/Literacy Unit 1
### Military and Family Life Counseling (MFLC)

Military and Family Life Counseling (MFLC) provides brief solution based, non-medical counseling in person or via telehealth (virtual). Please feel free to contact the Dexter MFLC at 706.969.9859 to schedule an appointment.

Deployment Buddies is a group held at Dexter to support children of active duty parents who are deployed. Please contact MFLC if you would like more information or for your child(ren) to join. Our last meeting for the school year will be in May.

Great News! Tea Time Tips is a virtual event and will be held on

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 26, 2021</td>
<td>ELA/Literacy Unit 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4: April 27, 2021</td>
<td>Mathematics Unit 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28, 2021</td>
<td>Mathematics Unit 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29, 2021</td>
<td>Mathematics Unit 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 2021</td>
<td>ELA/Literacy Unit 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3, 2021</td>
<td>ELA/Literacy Unit 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3: May 4, 2021</td>
<td>Mathematics Unit 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5, 2021</td>
<td>Mathematics Unit 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 2021</td>
<td>Mathematics Unit 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7, 2021</td>
<td>ELA/Literacy Unit 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10, 2021</td>
<td>ELA/Literacy Unit 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
May 12! It is an opportunity for Dexter Eagle parents to refresh skills on various topics like healthy communication as a couple, tips on navigating homework and overall wellness! Look for invites from your students!

Technology Tips from Ms. Showalter

DoDEA Summative Assessment Practice Tests

It’s just about time for Dexter students in Grades 3-5 to participate in our yearly summative assessments. Students in Grades 3-5 will be assessed in both Math and Literacy. For most students this will be a computerized test. If you are curious about what the DoDEA summative assessments look like, or if you would like to go over some of the testing tools with your child, you can see some example questions by visiting our Summative Practice Tests page at:

https://dodea.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/

Students do not need a login to access the practice tests. These practice tests are not designed to measure your students’ knowledge but to give them time to experiment with the kinds of tools and motions they may need to perform in order to answer test items such as, dragging and dropping words and phrases, or marking numbers on a number line. Giving students time to practice with the tools and allowing them time to examine the different types of test questions helps reduce test anxiety and boost confidence.
Math Tips from Ms. Rodriguez

Getting Ready for the Math Summative Assessments

Dexter students will be taking the summative assessments soon. Students in Grades 3 - 5 will be taking the DoDEA Summative Assessment and students in grades Kindergarten through 2nd will be taking the DoDEA Americas Summative Assessment. This will be the first time that students in grades K – 2nd will participate in a summative assessment. Unlike the summative assessments for grades 3 - 5, the K – 2nd assessment is paper-based and not taken on the computer. It is natural for some students to feel anxiety when it comes to taking any test, much less one that assesses what they have learned all year. Here are some tips to ease testing jitters:

- Make sure your child arrives on time
- Remember, this is only one small piece of data and it does not define your student
- Celebrate their effort, this is a big task to complete

For more great testing tips, please see Ms. Howard’s article, “Testing is Among Us.” Our Dexter students are amazing and we know that they will all do their best!

Reading with Ms. Wilson and Ms. Gathers

Read About It, Talk About It, and Think About It!

Part 2: Nonfiction Books

Talking about books is a great way to help your child build un-
derstanding and improve reading comprehension. Whether you read the book aloud or the child reads the book independently, rich discussions can foster critical thinking—a key skill for success in school as well as life. Like any conversation, talking about books can happen anywhere and at any time — in the car, at the bus stop, or over dinner.

Here are some questions that may help you to support your children’s reading and enjoyment of nonfiction books that they choose.

- What facts did you learn from this book?
- What fact did you enjoy the most? Why?
- What did you already know about this topic?
- What else would you like to learn about this topic?
- What pictures or illustrations did you find interesting? Why?
- What are the different parts of the book? (table of contents, photos, glossary, headings, captions, charts, etc.)
- What makes this a good title for this book?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What kind of research do you think the author had to do to write this book?
- Is this book like any other book that you have read? If so, how are they alike? How are they different? Which one did you like better? Why?
STEM and Gifted Education with Ms. Hardy

**Second Graders** in Mrs. Jernigan’s class are exploring changes in weather by classifying clouds and observing which types of clouds bring good weather and which ones bring about storms. They’re becoming “storm spotters” and using what they’ve learned to predict the weather.

**Third through Fifth Graders** have been learning about the energy that things need to move. Students have explored how energy makes things go, from powering vehicles to moving one’s body. While investigating energy transfer, student teams created “Rube Goldberg” chain reaction devices that utilize stored gravitational energy. Thinking about the world in terms of energy will help students make sense of how and why things speed up and slow down. Hands-on activities focus on engineering, testing hypotheses and using results to develop their ideas.
News from the AAPS Program (Advanced Academics Programs and Services)

The 2021 NSTA/Toshiba ExploraVision competition results are in and we have a team that has won “Honorable Mention” for this year! Congratulations to fourth graders Ella Donaldson and Zoey Wilson who envisioned and designed a new emotional support robot to help people with PTSD and depression.

Pictured: ExploraVision coach Ms. Hardy, Ella Donaldson, Zoey Wilson, and team mentor Mrs. Donaldson

The Stock Market Game

Fourth and fifth grade AAPS students are learning so much about financial investing while participating in The Stock Market Game™ program. In this final week of the competition, a fourth-grade team called “Money Makers” is still holding the lead. Students are describing their own ideas for both long term and short-term investing while participating in the InvestWrite essay
competition. The final draft of this essay is due no later than April 20th! For more information see:

https://www.investwrite.org

Young Authors in Our School

Did you know that we have many aspiring young authors in our school? AAPS students in grades 1 – 5 are working on a novel idea for self-publication. We cannot wait to see the completed novels this May/June as we share our books in a “Young Authors Celebration.”

Upcoming Events

- April 19: No School for Students - Teacher PD Day

- April 20-23: Week of Surprises - Students will enjoy a “Week of Surprises” for Month of the Military Child

- April 20-26: 5th Grade DoDEA Summative Assessments

- April 21: Kindness Day - Wear yellow

- April 26-30: Military Kids Soar - Students will design/make their own kites for Month of the Military Child

- April 27-May 3: 4th Grade DoDEA Summative Assessments

- May 4-10: 3rd Grade DoDEA Summative Assessments

- May 12: Accelerated Withdrawal
Need Special Services for your children?
Do you live on post and suspect your child has a disability in the areas of academics, social, emotional, physical, speech/language, and/or cognitive development?

Please contact:

Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) - if you have a child aged 0-3 with concerns in these areas.
Phone: 706-545-3835

DODEA GA/AL Schools Student Services – if you have a child aged 3-6 who is not currently enrolled in school with concerns in these areas.
Phone: 706-545-7276