

Herbert J. Dexter Elementary School

Principal's Corner

Greetings Dexter Families,

It is hard to believe that I have had "boots on the ground" for five weeks now. Building relationships and getting to know students at Dexter has really been fun and exciting. I still have a long way to go before I know everyone by name. However, I am actively striving to learn the unique aspects of each student.

Protocols and procedures put in place to keep everyone safe have limited my interactions with parents. While I have thoroughly enjoyed conversations with some of you during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal, I have been mulling over a few ideas to increase our interactions and will share more information on them in the next edition on February 26.

Happy reading and have a great holiday weekend!
Principal Dunn

A Note from Nurse Lynn

Welcome back... again!! It is so nice to see students in the hallways!!

I just have a couple of items to talk about... first, thank you all for wearing your masks. You guys have been awesome about following our new rules and I really appreciate that!! Since we are discussing masks ... try to remember to change your mask daily and wear a fresh, clean mask every day.

Second, remember to let your parents know when you are not feeling well. If you are not feeling well you probably should not be at school. Parents, please keep your kiddos home if they are not feeling well. If you have questions about when to keep your child home or any other health related questions... please reach out to



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Herbert J. Dexter Elementary

Motto: "where we learn from the past to create our own future"

School Colors: Blue, Red and White

Mascot: Herbie the Eagle

Nurse Lynn Swinford



me at 706-545-7770 or lynn.swinford@dodea.edu

Most of you know that I never miss an opportunity to share this particular tidbit...so.... WASH YOUR HANDS !!! :)

Warmest Regards,

Lynn Swinford, BSN RN

Dexter School Nurse



Counselor

Ms. DeShaun Howard



The DES Kindness Program was established by our counseling department in November of 2020. We are excited to announce that the program is doing very well and the students have been enjoying it.

As a staff we have noticed the students' efforts to go the extra mile in showing kindness to their peers and showing respect to everyone. This program has encouraged the students to not only show acts of kindness to their peers and to others at school, but it has also shown them that we can extend our acts of kindness to those in the community.

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Dexter has donated toothpaste/toothbrushes and canned food to shelters. The classes also made kindness posters for local nursing homes. We plan to continue to participate and spread kindness throughout Dexter Elementary and the community as the school year continues. Thank you all so much for encouraging your students to be kind and allowing them to participate in our school-wide program. Their participation has really made a

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difference here at Dexter. National Random Acts of Kindness is from February 16-19, 2021. Please be sure to check out the dates in the **Upcoming Events** section for the daily themes!

Military and Family Life Counseling (MFLC)

The Military and Family Life Counselor (MFLC) program at Dexter is excited to announce upcoming groups for Spring 2021. Deployment Buddies and Mindful Magic will relaunch the week of February 22. Mindful Magic is expanding so that 3rd graders can also join and learn lifelong stress management & relaxation skills. A New Eagles Soar celebration will be on Friday February 26th. This is an opportunity for new students to be celebrated for becoming a part of our Dexter family. The MFLC will also support Leave Your Mark, a time for students PCSing from Dexter to enjoy memories of their time at Dexter. MFLC continues to provide brief solution based counseling in person or via telehealth (virtual). Please call the MFLC at 706.969.9859 to schedule the appointment.

Regards,

Berth Bartolin, MA, LPC

Military and Family Life Counselor

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Technology Tips from Ms. Showalter

Go Noodle Brain Breaks

Brain Breaks are important for any student whether they are in the classroom or in remote learning. Students need time to get up and move to stretch their muscles and keep their brain fresh.

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Even adult learners typically need a break every 45-50 minutes.

Go Noodle has been helping teachers give students brain breaks and a chance to exercise for years with their website. Parents can access Go Noodle activities for free at:

<https://www.gonoodle.com/>

Parents can also access many of Go Noodle's most popular videos through their YouTube Channel "Go Noodle: Get Moving":

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2YBT7HYqCbbvzu3kKZ3wnw>

These kid friendly "Brain Breaks" include silly sing-alongs, dance activities, "indoor recess," fitness videos, how to videos, and techniques for relaxation. Many teachers already use Go Noodle in their classrooms, so your child may already have some Go Noodle favorites to share with you!

Math Tips from Ms. Rodriguez

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"What if" Questions for Math

The questions that start with "What if ..." are something that occurs naturally through casual discussions to provoke a deeper thinking. The same occurs when adding a "what if" question for mathematical concepts.

The benefits:

- Students access grade-level concepts from a number of perspectives, in order to see math as more than a set of mnemonics or discrete procedures.
- Students utilize core functions, in order to complete more



complex concepts and procedures

- Students use math in situations that require the application of mathematical knowledge (skills and practices).

How to add “what if” questions for math at home:

- Do not change the original question, but extend it. This can be done for word problems or practice problems. Example: Draco bought 0.6 pounds of bananas and 0.9 pounds of grapes at the farmer’s market. What is the total weight of the fruit? What if Draco also bought 3.2 pounds of apples? Example: $5 + 8 = \underline{\quad}$. What if we added 3?
- Keep it natural and to the level of your student.
- Engage your student in a conversation about their math thinking or reasoning.

Reading with Ms. Wilson and Ms. Gathers

Reading to and with your child is very important before and during their elementary years. Parents are by far the most important educators in a child’s life and it’s never too early or too late to start reading at home with your child. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better on reading tests than those who don’t, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. Reading at home can consist of reading to, reading with, asking questions before, during, and after the story. The most important thing is to READ. It is recommended that children read every day. Children can read books from school, home, or the library. Things to read can consist of books, magazines, newspapers, etc. Reading online is also an option. The goal is for children to become GOOD readers. Good Readers self-monitor, reread, ask questions, visualize, make predictions, make connections, summarize, and infer. Let's strive to make all of Dexter's Eagles GOOD readers.

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STEM with Ms. Hardy

Second Graders in Mrs. Harmon's class are investigating the properties of matter during STEM this quarter. The students have been testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose. Soon they will be envisioning and drawing their own new invention ideas!

Third through Fifth Graders are learning about the energy that things need to move. Students are exploring how energy makes things go, from powering vehicles to moving one's body. Students have experimented with rubber bands to discover the relationship between how much energy is stored in a material and how much is released. They are investigating the role that hills play in making roller coasters move and the energy transfer that happens when two objects collide. 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.

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News from the AAPS Program (Advanced Academics Programs and Services)



The Stock Market Game

Fourth and fifth grade AAPS (Advanced Academic Programs & Services) students are beginning a new investigation in financial literacy! Students who participate in the **The Stock Market Game™** program learn more than investing. As they progress, they learn core academic concepts and skills that can help them succeed in the classroom — and in life.

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Starting with a virtual cash account of \$100,000, students strive to create the best-performing portfolio using a live trading simulation. They work together in teams, practicing leadership, organization, negotiation, and cooperation as they compete for the top spot. The setup is engaging, and the learning is a natural part of the experience.

In building a portfolio, students research and evaluate stocks, and make decisions based on what they've learned. Teams trade common stocks and mutual funds from the NYSE and NASDAQ exchanges; earn interest on cash balances; pay interest if buying on margin and pay a commission on all trades. To determine why certain stocks perform the way they do, or why the broader market has moved up or down, they need to understand how the economy works, and to calculate their returns they need to do the math.



Congratulations to the stu-

dents who completed their ExploraVision projects!

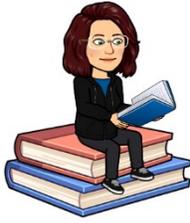
ExploraVision is a science competition for K–12 students of all interest, skill, and ability levels. The competition encourages students to combine their imaginations with the tools of science to create and explore a vision of a future technology. The fourth and fifth grade AAPS students worked in groups of two, three or four, to complete this project. Each team selected a technology, or an aspect of a technology, which is present in the home, school, or community, or any other technology relevant to their lives. They explored what the technology does, how it works, and how, when, and why it was invented. The students then projected into the future what that technology could be like 20 years from now. Teams then had to create a new invention idea using this new form of technology. Congratulations fourth and fifth grade AAPS students!

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Ms. DeShaun Howard



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 as we share our books in a “Young Authors Celebration.”

From the Admin Officer’s Desk...

The safety of our students at Dexter Elementary is our ultimate priority. A few concerns at arrival and dismissal have been noted. Here are some gentle reminders to ensure the safety of our students during arrival and dismissal each day.

Car Riders

Arrival: We begin receiving students at 8:15 each morning. All students should be dropped off at the west side of the building in the parking lot closest to Ingersoll St. When dropping off students, please pull forward to Drop Off Station #1 or the next available station. This will allow 4 cars to unload at the same time. Staff will be on duty to greet students and will help them find their way to breakfast and/or the gym.

Please do not drop students off in the Bus Lane, in the visitor parking lot, or across the street.

Dismissal: All car riders are dismissed at 3:15 on regular days and 2:15 for early dismissal. All students should be picked up on the west side of the building in the parking lot closest to Ingersoll St.

Please be sure the “Dexter Eagles Car Rider” sign is in the front car window.

Students will not be released without a “Dexter ES Car Rider” sign. Contact the office if you need additional car rider signs. If



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you are delayed and arrive after 3:45, please come to the front office to pick up your child.

Walkers

Dismissal: Students in PreK-1st grade should meet a parent/ approved adult or an older sibling in the walker dismissal area on the east side of the building closest to the visitor parking lot.

Please do not pick students up in the Bus Lane, in the visitor parking lot, or across the street.

Upcoming Events

- **Feb 15: No School** - Presidents' Day
- **Feb 16-26: Valley Rescue Mission** - Sock Drive
- **Feb 16:** "Love, Peace and Kindness (Wear Tie Dye or Rainbow Colors)
- **Feb 17:** "We Love Kindness" (Wear Pink)
- **Feb 18:** "Can You Spot My Kindness?" (Wear Polka Dots)
- **Feb 19:** "Be a Team and Show Kindness" (Wear your favorite Team's Clothing or Colors)
- **Feb 26: Pre K ONLY No School** - Pre K Report Card Day
- **March 5: No School for Students**- Teacher PD Day
- **March 24:** End of Quarter 3
- **March 26: No School for Students** - Teacher Report Card Prep