Greetings Dexter Family,

As you may know, National Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15 – October 15 each year. This year’s theme is “Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope.” Our students will be learning about Hispanic heritage and hope through a variety of ways for the entire month of October.

Additionally, in order to help educate and raise awareness of bullying prevention, DoDEA actively acknowledges National Bullying Prevention month in October. Multiple activities will take place throughout the month including Unity Day on October 20th in which we invite all students, staff, and parents to join us in a unified show of support by wearing orange. Unity Day and Picture Day are on the same day this year. Don't worry--Your child will have another opportunity to wear orange on October 27.

Lastly, October 15 and 18 will be our parent conference days. Your child's classroom teacher will reach out to you to schedule a virtual conference. The teacher will discuss your child's performance for Quarter 1 during the conference. Expect to receive information regarding your conference date and time next week.

Until next time...

Principal Dunn

Happy Fall Ya’ll!!!!

I hope everyone was able to do something fun over the summer. I sure was... I enjoyed a relaxing beach trip and then had fun hanging around my pool while enjoying visits from family and friends. A
quick note about me, the person who has the privilege of taking care of Dexter students. I have been a registered nurse for 26 years. I have been associated with school nursing for almost 14 years. I lived the life of a military wife for 18 years. I have two boys. Sam, my oldest, is 21 and in May he will be graduating from college and getting married. My youngest, Nathan, is 18 and will be graduating from high school in May. May is going to be a busy month for me!!!

Reminders:
- Please make sure your kiddo(s) have a clean, fresh mask every morning.
- Please send your kiddo(s) to school with a water bottle.
- Please do not send your kiddo(s) to school if they are not feeling well.

I will include a Nurse’s Note in the school newsletter every couple of months to educate and inform about health concerns at Dexter and in our community. This time around I would like to share some information on food sharing and food trading.

FOOD SHARING & FOOD TRADING

Our students are supervised during breakfast and lunch times by several lunchroom monitors. The monitors do instruct students not to share food and/or trade food but occasionally it still occurs. The most important reason not to share or trade food is that here at Dexter we have several students with allergies to specific foods. We also have students who are on special diets for medical and religious reasons. Some of these food allergies can be LIFE THREATENING. For example, if “Jimmy” packs his lunch due to an allergy to a specific ingredient and “Susie” shares her chips (that happen to have that same ingredient) with Jimmy and then Jimmy gets sick, we might not know what he ate and that could prevent him getting the proper medical care. So, in the interest of keeping everyone healthy DON’T SHARE OR TRADE FOOD. Students are very surprised to learn that people can get very sick due to eating something as simple as eggs, yo-
Hello Dexter Eagles! The start of this school year has been awesome, and I can’t believe it’s October already. I began going into all classrooms for large group guidance in August, and I have really enjoyed meeting and getting to know our new students as well working with our returning eagles. During this school year many of the guidance lessons will center around our social emotional learning (SEL) focus of promoting kindness. This SEL focus is a great component to our school’s Kindness Initiative that was established last school year by the counseling department. The Kindness Initiative encourages students to be kind and respectful to others. This initiative allows students in each class to earn “kindness coins” when they are caught being kind. At the end of each month, the class with the most coins earned will be announced on WDEX and rewarded by the counseling department. In addition, a student from each class will be selected as the “DES Kind Eagle of the Month” by their teacher. Each student selected from their class will also be announced on WDEX and rewarded with a certificate and treat from the counseling department. The students have been excited about the program and earning their kindness coins.

Please be on the lookout each month for the DES Kindness Day where students and staff are asked to wear a specific color to represent kindness. The DES Kindness Day for this month is October 13th (Wear PINK).
If you ever need to speak with me or would like for me to speak with your student, please free to contact me at 706-545-3424 or via email at: deshaun.howard@dodea.edu.

Our Military Family and Life Counselor (MFLC) is also available, and she can be contacted at 706-969-9859 or via email at: bbartolin9@magellanfederal.com.

Technology Tips from Ms. Showalter

Introducing ClassLink

ClassLink is DoDEA’s new Single Sign-On (SSO) service. With ClassLink students only need to remember one username and password to access all their curriculum materials! Students may login to ClassLink by visiting: https://launchpad.classlink.com/dodea

If you have a student in Grades K-2 your child’s teacher may provide them with a Quickcard. Quickcards look like QR codes and can be used to login to the ClassLink site using your device’s camera.

Note: QuickCards only work at https://launchpad.classlink.com/dodea they will not work with your cell phone’s QR Scanner app.
Students in Grades 3-5 may sign in using their DoDEA Google account (the one that ends with @student.dodea.edu).

In addition to curricular materials, students also have access to our library resources and databases through ClassLink including: MackinVIA, Destiny Discover, PebbleGo and Gale! Ask your student to login and tell you about what they have discovered in ClassLink!

Math Tips from Ms. Rodriguez

What is the Question?

One of my favorite activities is giving students a number and asking them for possible questions. The activity is called “The answer is _____. What is the question?” It is almost like Jeopardy but it’s not a competition. This activity allows students to think backwards in understanding how to compose numbers, it has multiple access points for any student at any grade to come up with a question, and students can use their creativity. As part of a home-school connection, in the newsletter I will provide an opportunity each month to participate in “The answer is _____. What is the question?”

If you or your student chooses to participate:

- On a sheet of paper (what is available at home) write the student’s name, grade, and teacher on the back. Add the title to the top of the page: The answer is (the number I choose). What is the question?
- Your student can draw models, pictures, use words, and of course numbers to create the question. Creativity is encouraged.
- Send the problem to school in their folder and teachers will place it in my box.
• I will have a wall to showcase students’ work in the hallway.
• Your student’s work may be showcased on the WDEX morning broadcast and Facebook.
• Each month there will be a new prompt.

**Example:** The answer is 20. What is the question?
Allen counts 5 plates with 4 cookies on each plate. How many cookies did Allen count?

Here is the prompt for October:

**The answer is 15. What is the question?**

I am excited to see what students turn in!

**Reading with Ms. Wilson and Ms. Gathers**

We hope the school year has started off with a bang. We would like to encourage you to read daily to and with your child, yes even the 4th and 5th graders. Research says the more a child is exposed to print the better prepared he/she will be. Reading options can be books from home, books from the school’s media center, Post Library, and/or books online. You can ask your child questions before, during, and after reading. Also, encourage your child to write about what they read.

Our combined efforts will guide your child as they grow.

Let the reading begin!
STEM and Gifted Education with Ms. Hardy

Second Graders in Mrs. Peek’s class are investigating how animals survive in their natural habitats. Here are a few pictures of bird feeder prototype designs that the students engineered in class. Next week we plan to learn about a favorite animal using our print and digital resources in school. Our goal is to have each student create an “All About this Animal” book to share with the class!

Third through Fifth Graders are combing both science standards and technology skills to investigate a favorite animal and then produce an informative Google slideshow that will showcase their learning. Students will learn how to research using our approved digital resources and how to insert images, text, audio, and video into this informative slideshow!
AAPS students use their imagination and knowledge to solve real world problems!

ExploraVision is a STEM 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. Students work in groups of two, three or four, simulating Research and Development teams, and are guided by a team coach and an optional mentor. Each team selects 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 will explore what the technology does, how it works, and how, when, and why it was invented. The students must then project into the future what that technology could be like 20 years from now and determine what scientific breakthroughs need to occur to make it a reality. All AAPS students are working in small groups to imagine and develop their project ideas.
Other Activities at Dexter:

Technology in the Classroom

Students in Ms. Harmon, Ms. Peek and Ms. Smith’s 2nd Grade Classes were recently introduced to interactive lessons using Lumio. Lumio is a digital learning tool that transforms lessons into active, collaborative learning experiences that engage students on their own devices. Some students worked alone while others worked in groups to answer questions and create diagrams on lifecycles.
Lunch on the Lawn

Dexter students enjoyed Lunch on the Lawn on Friday, September 24th.

One More Day for Book Fair!

Dexter PTO announced that our Fall Book Fair will be open for one more day on Monday, October 4th. However, they will only be able to accept cash, check and card purchases. (Scholastic eWallet purchases will close on Friday, October 1st).

Don’t Forget to Participate in Our Parent Communication and Engagement Survey!

Dexter Parents, we want to hear from you! Please take a moment to fill out our Fall 2021 Communication and Engagement Questionnaire.

If you choose to participate in the survey, please sign the flyer that went home and return it to your child’s teacher. If 120 families participate all Dexter students will receive a treat!

Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information about how to participate.
Upcoming Events

- Oct. 7th - NED Show (Rescheduled)
- Oct. 7th - End of Quarter 1
- Oct. 8th - Teacher Report Card Prep Day - No School for Students
- Oct. 11th - Columbus Day - No School
- Oct. 13th - Kindness Day - Wear Pink
- Oct. 15th - Parent Conferences - No School for Students
- Oct. 15th - Last Day to Participate in Fall Parent Communication Survey
- Oct. 18th - Parent Conferences - No School for Students
- Oct. 19th - Early Release 2:15
- Oct. 20th - Unity Day
- Oct. 20th - Fall Picture Day
- Oct. 25th - Oct. 29th - Red Ribbon Week - Daily Themes TBA
- Oct. 27th - National Bullying Prevention - Wear orange
- Oct. 29th - PreK Report Card Prep - No School PreK Only
## Communication & Engagement Questionnaire - Fall 2021

**Dexter Elementary School**

Excellent communication is important to the Southeast District. That’s why we solicit feedback from you twice a year on how we’re doing. We use your feedback to identify what is working and ways we can improve.

Below are results from our Spring 2021 Parent Feedback Form. From it, we identified Question 2, *How well does the school inform you about your child’s academic achievement or progress?* as a focus for improvement. Thanks to your feedback, we implemented the following strategy: Systemic and Systematic Method of Communicating with Parents to improve our performance with focus on communicate with parents’ biweekly through various methods based on the preference of the parents.

### Scan QR Code

### We Want to Hear from You

![Scan QR Code]

![Click Here to Provide Fall 2021 Feedback]

### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How well does the school inform you about what your child needs to know</td>
<td>Not well</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>How frequently the school communicate with</td>
<td>Not frequently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and learn?</td>
<td>Somewhat well</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>you?</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Well</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Frequently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How well does the school inform you about your child’s academic</td>
<td>Not well</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>How much opportunity did the school give you</td>
<td>Very little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>achievement or progress?</td>
<td>Somewhat well</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>to provide input or feedback?</td>
<td>Some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Well</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quite a lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much opportunity does the school give you to be involved in your</td>
<td>Very little</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>How much do you think the school considers or</td>
<td>Very little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>child’s learning?</td>
<td>Some</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>uses your input or feedback?</td>
<td>Some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quite a lot</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quite a lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How effective are the school’s communication methods, strategies, or</td>
<td>Not effective</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>How much opportunity does the school give you</td>
<td>Very little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>techniques?</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>to participate or contribute to its mission</td>
<td>Some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Effective</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>or goals?</td>
<td>Quite a lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How valuable is the information contained in the school’s</td>
<td>Not valuable</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Overall, how satisfied are you with the</td>
<td>Not satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>communication to you?</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>quantity and quality of your school’s</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valuable</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>communication?</td>
<td>Satisfied</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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