



DORCHESTER ACADEMY

A College Preparatory School

EST. 1966

**Dorchester Academy is a college preparatory school that offers a quality education to its students.
We educate the whole child by providing academic, spiritual, and social learning opportunities.**

Oct. 28, 2018

Dear Raider Parents,

The full harvest moon certainly had us all in high gear this past week! I can only imagine what fun we will have on Halloween. 😊 Our days at Dorchester Academy are never dull, and every day your children make me SMH and LOL. I need to thank them more often for enriching my life.

Following are the issues I want to share, explain, and/or clarify this week:

1. Below you will find a link that will enable you to complete our 2018 Parent Survey that is part of our AdvancED Accreditation process. We value your opinion. We will use the feedback to make decisions about our focus in terms of improvement efforts. Please be assured that your responses to this survey will be anonymous. Thank you in advance for taking the time to do this for us. **One of the ways we are evaluated by AdvanceED pertains to how many of you respond to the survey, so we ask you to please help us out by completing it.** This survey will be open to you from today, Sunday, Oct. 28th, through next Sunday, Nov. 4th.

<http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/0687270>

2. The SCISA Middle School Math Meet was held this past week. Ms. Karen Ayer and Mr. Gylan Tucker sponsored our team. Out of the 30 teams represented (total of 150 students), the DA team made the top 10! The team consisted of Lauren Creel, Mason Fender, Pearl Grooms, Dallas Wade, and Caden Weeks. Dallas won a medal for being the top student on his team and was 3 points away from tying with the top student on the top team. Congratulations, students and teachers!
3. Our lower school art program needs some volunteers. If you have an occasional day that you can plan to come in to assist our teacher, Mrs. Barbara Bilton, please let me know. You need not be an accomplished artist. A love for children and our school is all that is required. Lower School Art is held during second period every day. When we are on regular schedule, this runs from around 8:50 – 9:45.
4. We will celebrate Halloween at DA this Wednesday, Oct. 31st. We will hold Chapel on this day, but the students and staff will be encouraged to dress in a fun costume instead of in professional wear. However, all costumes should meet the following conditions:
 - a. Not be scary – Our little people are easily frightened.
 - b. Not involve a mask – This is for school safety.
 - c. Not be too revealing, tight, or suggestive for school – This includes language.
 - d. Not involve a hat unless this is truly a part of the costume

We encourage creativity with clothing and make-up. The seniors will decorate car trunks and be prepared to shower the entire student body with "Trick or Treat" candy. We will have a few contests and some fun and games as well as a traditional Chapel devotion time. The seniors would love to have some help purchasing treats for 239 students. If you would like to donate a bag of individually-wrapped candy for distribution to our student body on Halloween, please drop it by or send it in. We all will be grateful. (Thank you to the people who have already done this!!)

5. Throughout the month of October, our Fellowship of Christian Students club is taking donations of items for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. Contact Mrs. Julie McAlhany (julie.mcalhany@dorchesteracademy.org) for more information about how you can help.
6. During the coming months, Mrs. Ruth Anne and I will be conducting Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) meetings with our students in 7th – 12th grade. We will begin with the seniors and work our way down. These meetings are best conducted with parents in attendance. We will be discussing your student's future and the ways he or she can best get prepared to face life after high school. In addition, we will hold some parent meetings to help you and your students prepare for such things as signing up for appropriate high stakes testing, applying to colleges, applying for financial aid, and completing a FAFSA. Be on the lookout for our invitations.
7. This is a friendly reminder that monthly tuition payments and the second of the 60/40 payments are due this Thursday, Nov. 1st. The next quarterly payment is due on Dec. 1st. If you are unsure about how much you owe, please contact me or Mrs. Nan (nan.clayton@dorchesteracademy.org).
8. On Nov. 7th, our Interact Club will sponsor the annual Veteran's Day Breakfast and Chapel. (This will be a dress-up day.) We need your help inviting all veterans you know who are in our area. We will send home an invitation/registration form on Monday (Oct. 29th) for you to complete and send back to us so that we can get an accurate head count and be prepared to honor our local veterans.
9. It is almost time for our annual Cow Drop/Fall Festival, the biggest PTO fundraiser of the year. It will be held on Thursday evening, Nov. 8th. Our hope is that we will be able to raise significant money to give our teachers and staff a nice bonus and to contribute to our plan to upgrade our campus with the addition of a fieldhouse. We are asking all families to sell a minimum of 10 tickets, but families selling 15 or more tickets will be entered in a drawing for a \$500 tuition credit. Please get those tickets sold! **We need all ticket money and any unsold tickets to be returned to school by this Wednesday, Oct. 31st.** If you have questions, email event chair Maggi Bryant at maggi.bryant@dorchesteracademy.org. **ALSO, Tammi Wimberly, Ann Marie Varn, and Corey West are accepting donations for the Country Store that will be held during the Cow Drop event. Please call 843.563.1681 if you have homemade items to donate.** Thank you in advance for your support.

In sports news, Athletic Director Chris Myers reports that our fall sports season finished up this past Friday in Savannah where the varsity football team fell to Bethesda Academy. A special thank you to all the players, coaches, parents, booster members, and fans that made this season a success.

Two of our varsity volleyball players were selected to participate in the SCISA Volleyball All Star North-South Game held at Wilson Hall Academy in Sumter on Saturday. Senior Elizabeth Huff and junior

Savanna Varn played for the South team, which won the game in 3 sets. Congratulations, Elizabeth and Savanna!

Our Competition Cheer Team placed third in their first competition of the year, the Game-time Cheer Division at the Charger Invitational Classic at Northwood Academy on Saturday, Oct. 27th. Way to go, girls!! They will compete again on November 10th at Hammond Academy and will then be qualified to participate in the SCISA State Championship on Thursday, Nov. 15. Good luck to our Competition Cheer Team: Reagan Burns, Carly Clegg, Camryn Garris, Saylor Judy, Mary Ellis O’Cain, Savanna Shelton, Anna Catherine Sosebee, Ebby Sosebee, Abigail Weathers, Logan Weathers, Maura Weathers, and Melayna Weathers. The girls are coached by Mrs. Penny Fender and Mrs. Bailey McAlhany.

Monday, Oct. 29th marks the first practice day for winter sports. Our jv and varsity basketball teams will begin practicing then, while our b-teams will begin in January when their season officially begins. Concession stand schedules for parents and gate schedules for our staff will be posted within the next 2 weeks. Please keep an eye out for these schedules as everyone’s help is needed to make our programs successful. Thank you in advance for all you do for Raider athletics.

Coach Myers announces that Mr. Buddy Hartzog has been named our varsity boys basketball coach, and Mrs. Sheryle Young will lead our junior varsity boys’ team. We are fortunate to have been able to secure these talented coaches to join Coach Callie McClure and Coach Sims Weathers for our 2018-19 basketball season. Good luck to all our teams as they begin preparing for their first game on Tuesday, Nov. 27th at home against Orangeburg Prep.

Following are the contests on our schedule for this week:

None

Following are the dates you may want to make note of:

- Oct. 28th – Nov. 4th: Parent surveys available (See link above)
- Oct. 31: Halloween celebration (See details above)
- Oct. 31: Cow Drop ticket money and unsold tickets due
- Nov. 1: Monthly and 60/40 tuition payments due
- Nov. 7: Veterans’ Day celebration
- Nov. 8: Cow Drop/Fall Festival
- Nov. 10: Cheer competition at Hammond Academy

I am looking forward to another great week. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need to.

Sincerely,

Lynne’ Reeves

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