



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.

Nov. 4, 2018

Dear Raider Parents,

What a fun Halloween week we had! I love the enthusiasm and passion our students have for participating in our special events. Now on to the Cow Drop, Veterans' Day, and Thanksgiving.

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 closes today, Sunday, Nov. 4th. Please take it now if you have not already.***

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

2. 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 beginning at 6:00. 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 have asked 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. **We need all ticket money and any unsold tickets to be returned to school IMMEDIATELY!!** We have tickets that have been returned, so if you know of people interested in purchasing tickets please contact 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. **Our success in this huge project depends upon the support of ALL Raider families! We are counting on YOU!**
3. We will celebrate Veteran's Day at Dorchester Academy on Wednesday, Nov. 7th. This will be a Chapel Day, so all students and staff should come in dressy/professional attire. Our local veterans will be on campus for breakfast that morning and will be celebrated during our chapel service, which is sponsored by our Interact Club. Mr. Myers Smith will be our guest speaker, and our music teacher, Mr. Jesse Cockcroft, will lead student groups in several patriotic selections. Please call the school asap on Monday morning if you are a veteran and have not RSVPed for breakfast.

4. We want to congratulate senior Savanna Shelton for being awarded a Wendy's High School Heisman Local School Award/Scholarship and for being named as a state finalist in this program. Go, Savanna! Good luck at this second level!
5. We want to congratulate first grader Murray Lynn Dantlzer and fourth grader Jack Whetsell who each won in their division of the Dorchester County Fire and Rescue Fire Day Coloring Contest held on Saturday., Oct. 13th at the Harleyville Town Park. Excellent job, Murray Lynn and Jack!!
6. The SCISA State Head of School Conference and Teachers' Conference were held on Thursday and Friday in Lake City. I attended on Thursday afternoon and got lots of information about exciting changes and new programs that are coming to SCISA under the direction of our new leader, Dr. Spencer Jordan. I will share with you as these programs are rolled out. I sent the following teachers to programs on Friday: Bailey McAlhany and Emily McAlhany for two separate STEM trainings; Vonne Knight for a horticulture training; and Shelly Hodge for Active Shooter training. They will come back and share what they learned with others as well as help to implement these programs within our school.
7. The newly formed Dorchester Academy School Improvement Council (SIC) has selected as their goals this year to update our school library and to provide additional support to our annual Teacher Appreciation Week celebration, which is held during the first week of May. They will be rolling out these plans in the very near future. To raise money for their projects, they will sponsor books drives, a Birthday Book Club, and a monthly Raider Café. The café will be "open for business" in the gym once a month. SIC members will decorate the gym using a seasonal theme and will serve coffee, hot chocolate, milk, and a selection of breakfast items. Order forms will be sent home in advance for students who wish to participate. Middle school and high school students will be served from 7:30 – 8:00. Lower school students will be served from 8:15 – 8:45. The first Raider Café is planned for Thursday, Nov. 15th. More details will be coming soon. Anyone wishing to help with this project can email SIC president, Mrs. Kara Pendarvis (ayer.kara@gmail.com).
8. The DA girls' basketball teams are hosting a fundraiser on Tuesday, November 20th in Shuler Gym. It is an Alumni Basketball Game that is open to all guys and gals that have played basketball for our school over the years. What a fun time that promises to be! Raider alum interested in playing should email daladyraiderbasketball@gmail.com. The cost to participate is \$20, which includes a special t-shirt. Cost for admission is \$5. The games will begin at 6:30 on Nov. 20th in Shuler Gym.
9. This is a friendly reminder to check your student's lunch account. I try to send "gentle reminders" once a month so that the amounts don't shock you, but you are able to check this at any time in PowerSchool. If you have trouble with this, email Mrs. Shelly (shelly.hodge@dorchesteracademy.org) or Mrs. Renee' (renee.scruggs@dorchesteracademy.org).
10. Parents in need of After Care services on Wednesday, Nov. 20th need to alert Mrs. Sara Pope (sara.pope@dorchesteracademy.org) immediately so that plans can be made for this day. We need your request in writing. Mrs. Sara has sent home a form for you to complete. If you sign up for the service, you will be charged the \$25 fee regardless of whether your child attends. We must secure workers for that day based upon the needs you share with us in writing. After Care will not be available on Nov. 21 and 22 (Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday). 😊

In sports news, Athletic Director Chris Myers reports that our basketball teams are busy preparing for their seasons. We have had a large number of our students interested in playing, which has made our coaches very happy. Best of luck for a great year to our players and coaches Buddy Hartzog (varsity boys), Sheryle Young (jv boys), Callie McClure (varsity girls), and Sims Weathers (jv girls).

In action this week will be our Competition Cheer Team. They will compete at Hammond Academy on Saturday. Good luck to our girls and coaches Penny Fender and Bailey McAlhany!

Following are the contests on our schedule for this week:

Saturday, November 10th: Cheer competition at Hammond Academy

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

- Nov. 4th: Parent AdvancED surveys available until midnight (see link above)
- Nov. 7: Veterans' Day celebration/Chapel Day (dressy attire required)
- Nov. 8: Cow Drop/Fall Festival 6:00 until the "jobs" are done 😊
- Nov. 10: Cheer competition at Hammond Academy
- Nov. 15: First Raider Café (see details above)
- Nov. 15: State Cheer Competition (location TBA)
- Nov. 20: Alumni Basketball Game (Shuler Gym, 6:30)
- Nov. 21, 22, & 23: Thanksgiving holidays (DA will be closed)

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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