



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.**

Jan. 6, 2019

Dear Raider Parents,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hope you all have had a blessed Christmas season and are off to an amazing 2019. Hang on tight because we have many experiences to enjoy between now and May 23rd!

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

1. A special “thank you” for all the wonderful gifts and cards you and your children gave me/sent me for Christmas. I was touched and pampered for sure. I am most grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity. I love being a part of this Raider family.
2. I am very pleased to announce that we will have two new faculty members (who are both DA Raider alumni!) when we begin second semester. We are delighted to have Mrs. Heather Isgett Judy (DA Class of 1994) return to us. Mrs. Heather will fill a vacancy in middle school science. She has two children at DA: Wyatt (10th grade) and Warren (3rd grade). In addition, Mrs. Nichole Knight Goodman (DA Class of 2002) will be joining us as an aide in kindergarten. Mrs. Nichole has three students at DA: Jared (8th grade), Bailee (4th grade), and Cooper (K4). How blessed we are to have two more loyal Raiders join our staff!
3. When our children return to school on Tuesday, Jan. 8th, they will see a NEW PLAYGROUND!! Their and our dreams have finally come true! A HUGE shout-out to School Board member Brandon McClure (Buildings and Grounds Chair) for orchestrating the purchase and erection of this amazing new “field of dreams” for our little ones. He secured the assistance of many parents and several grandparents who dedicated Saturday to making the dream a reality. A special thanks also to our PTO who helped to raise the money needed to fund this project. Most of us can easily remember our time on a school playground. Many lasting memories and friendships are made there. Providing a new and beautiful place for our children to make these memories for themselves is a testament to our desire, as leaders of a school and as parents and grandparents of these special students, to make our school a place where children want to be. There are a few more things that need to be done before we can declare the project COMPLETE, but we are getting close. Stay tuned for other improvements that will be made to our campus as the old playground is removed. 😊
4. In an effort to improve the overall security of our building, our School Board will be remodeling our front entrance. We are exploring various options to ensure the best security as well as the best aesthetics for our school and campus. Be on the look-out for Dorchester Academy’s new and improved façade.

5. To start the year off with an opportunity for you parents to share your ideas and concerns with me, I am hoping to host a "Coffee and Donuts with the HOS" evening on Jan. 23rd from 5 – 7 p.m. I need to know if you are interested in my doing this. It would be an informal kind of meeting where you would bring in your suggestions on a notecard to leave with me as well ask me questions about the direction the school is taking. You would be able to talk to me about your ideas and thoughts as time allows. (This would not be a time to talk about personal concerns. If you wish to talk to me on such a level, please just let me know you want a one-on-one conference.) If you are interested in participating in "Coffee and Donuts with the HOS," please email me at lynne.reeves@dorchesteracademy.org that you wish to come. I will prepare the refreshments according to your feedback.
6. I wish to ask parents of middle and high school students to help me share with students the need for them to use caution when posting pictures or comments on social media or allowing others to post of and for them. It has long been said that "a picture paints a thousand words," and sometimes the story that comes out is embellished or misrepresentative of the truth. Comments made without benefit of inflection and tone can also be misconstrued. Please help your children to appreciate the power of social media but recognize that it can also be a negative force if not used with caution.
7. January's tuition was due on the 1st. If you have not paid yours, please do so tomorrow.
8. We are continuing to have issues with young children sitting and playing on our stage and hovering near the court during official play at our basketball games. Our concern is for the safety of these children. Students can fall off the stage or get hurt playing on the it with no supervision. Furthermore, when a game is being played, our athletes often end up close to the stage area as well as the perimeter of the court itself. Small students could easily be "wiped out" by a player or even the basketball itself. Please be sure to help us keep your children safe during games.
9. Second quarter/first semester report cards go home on Thursday, Jan. 10th. There will be two copies, one for parents to keep and one for them to sign and return to DA.
10. Along with the report cards, you will also receive a "Report to Stakeholders," which will update you on many important facts about Dorchester Academy. Please be sure to read this as well as the Stakeholder Survey Results which will be a part of this report.
11. Dorchester Academy will host one of SCISA's Battle of the Books competitions on Thursday, Jan. 10th. Our teams are busy preparing for this competition.
12. Our next Raider Café will be held on Friday, Jan. 11th. The theme will be "Ring in the New Year: 2019." Our Class of 2019 will be providing entertainment for the event. Order forms were sent home before the holidays, but we will continue to accept orders through Wednesday. The cost is \$3. This event is being sponsored by our SIC to raise money for our library.
13. Our Fall Athletic Awards Program will be held on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 13th, at 2 p.m. in Shuler Gym. During this ceremony, the 2018 baseball team will receive their State Championship rings.
14. Our next Chapel Program will be on Wednesday, Jan. 16th. It will be led by Mrs. Ruth Anne's Religion class. Students should plan to wear nice clothes on that day.
15. Our guidance counselor, Mrs. Ruth Anne, will begin next week to schedule Individualized Graduation Plan meetings (IGPs) with underclassmen and their parents. The purpose of these yearly meetings will be to make sure students are taking the courses they need to graduate and to make their post-secondary dreams come true. Among other things, leveling, elective options,

GPR, class rank, high stakes testing, the application process, and scholarship opportunities will be discussed (depending upon grade level). Mrs. Ruth Anne has already met with all seniors and their parents. She will now begin contacting juniors and their parents and will continue by grade until she ends with 7th graders and their parents. Please be on the lookout for Mrs. Ruth Anne's invitation if you have a student in 7th through 11th grade. In addition, I will meet with the 7th graders and their parents as a group to introduce them to the concept of Carnegie units and other important aspects of being a high school student. This meeting will likely occur on a Sunday afternoon in March. I will keep you all posted as I make these plans.

16. On Monday, Jan. 21st, the Dorchester Academy staff will be trained by the Dorchester County Sheriff's Department in responding to an active shooter situation. During this training, no students can be on campus. For this reason, we will not have After Care that day, and no athletic practices can begin until 5:00 p.m. The training will last from 2:45 – 5:00. Thank you for your understanding. After Care for the week of Jan. 21st – 25th will be \$32 for the week. We chose this date for the training because Jan. 21st is the federal Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday, and we know that many parents do not have to go to work that day. We apologize in advance if this causes a challenge for anyone.
17. Dorchester Academy will sponsor a special Open House on Sunday, February 24th. This event will be an opportunity for students and families who are considering joining our Raider family for the 2019-2020 school year to come in to see our facility and meet our people (students, teachers, administration, support groups, and board members). Put this date on your calendar because everyone will be asked to come support this initiative to invite people into our school.

In sports news, Athletic Director Chris Myers reports that our basketball teams wrapped up the first half of their season before Christmas with games against Clarendon Hall and Orangeburg Prep. The results are as follows:

- **Our JV Girls under Coach Sims Weathers went 1-1, defeating CH and losing to OP. Their overall record is now 6-2 on the season. (OP is the only team these girls have lost to.)**
- **Our JV Boys and Coach Sheryle Young maintained their perfect record with victories over both teams. Their overall record is now 7-0.**
- **Our Varsity Girls under Coach Callie McClure secured a region win against CH but lost a non-region game to OP. Their record is now 7-2 (3-1) on the season.**
- **Our Varsity Boys under Coach Buddy Hartzog dropped two tough games against these teams. Their record is now 4-4 (2-2).**

Next week, we will be very busy with 3 nights of competition. On Tuesday, Jan. 8th, our Raiders travel to Patrick Henry Academy. On Thursday, Jan. 10th, they host Faith Christian. On Friday, Jan. 11th, they travel to Andrew Jackson Academy. In addition, our B-teams and C-team will begin their seasons. See below for details.

AD Chris Myers will host the Fall Sports Awards Program on Sunday, Jan. 13th at 2:00 p.m. at Shuler Gym. A special ring presentation will be made to the 2018 baseball state champs during this program.

Following are the athletic contests on our schedule for this week:

Tuesday, Jan. 8: Raiders at Patrick Henry Academy (all teams beginning at 4:00)

Wednesday, Jan. 9: B-Team girls at Holly Hill Academy at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 10: Raiders host Faith Christian (all teams beginning at 4:00, C-Team will play at halftime of varsity girls' and boys' games)

Friday, Jan. 11: Raiders at Andrew Jackson Academy (all teams beginning at 4:00)

Saturday, Jan. 12: Girls and boys B-Teams host Andrew Jackson (begins at 11:00 a.m.)

Following are other important dates you may want to make note of:

- Jan. 10: Report cards go home & Battle of the Books hosted by DA
- Jan. 11: Next Raider Café (Ring in the New Year: 2019!)
- Jan. 13: Fall Sports Awards Program and Baseball State Champs Ring Ceremony (Shuler Gym, 2 p.m.)
- Jan. 16: Chapel Day hosted by Mrs. Ruth Anne's Religion class
- Jan. 21: No After Care due to special safety training for the faculty
- Jan. 23: Possible "Coffee and Donuts with the HOS"

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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