



DORCHESTER ACADEMY

A College Preparatory School

EST. 1966

All Dorchester Academy students will maximize their personal potential to become productive, responsible citizens through our academic, athletic, spiritual, and leadership opportunities.

Our mission is to provide a safe, Christian environment for educating and training students to become their best selves equipped with the knowledge, skills, and habits for leading a successful life as contributing members of a global community.

Feb. 24, 2019

Dear Raider Parents,

We had an exciting week at Dorchester Academy! We spent a lot of after-school hours in Sumter supporting our varsity basketball teams as they competed in the state tournament, and our dance teams competed in the SCISA Dance Competition. Exciting details of the results are contained below. We have another fun week planned as Dr. Seuss spreads his magic “love-for-reading” spell at DA.

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

1. Our school board recently adopted new vision and mission statements for our school. They are listed in bold above. They were developed with the assistance of members of the board, the PTO, the SIC, and our faculty. These statements will be on our website, handbooks, stationery, etc. by the start of the next school year.
2. Under the direction of dance instructor Mrs. Bailey McAlhany, our dance teams competed in the SCISA Dance Competition. Seniors Carly Clegg and Mary Ellis O’Cain won **1st Place** for their lyrical duet to “Find Your Wings.” Our Dance 1 class (Isabella Ammons, Lauren Creel, Pearl Grooms, Shala Guess, Abigail Holmes, Hannah Jeffers, and Harley Myers) did a great job in their first competition with a dance skit to *Annie’s* “It’s A Hard-Knock Life.”
3. Our Lower School will be participating this week in the national “Read Across America Program.” They will spend a week dressing in special ways and participating in fun activities that promote reading. Be on the lookout for some great pictures on Facebook! A **love** for reading is what opens the door for children to learn. Children who do not learn to **love** to read are at a significant disadvantage in this life. Dorchester Academy wants to make sure this does not happen to OUR children.
4. The final tuition payment for 2018-2019 is due on March 1st. This includes monthly contracts and quarterly contracts. A letter was sent through snail mail to let all families who fall in these categories know EXACTLY what they owe to finish the financial obligations of the contract. Because of bookkeeping challenges, we will not be able to accept checks or payments that are not exact. We would need to get you to redo the payment for the exact amount. Please be on the lookout for this letter that gives you the information you need in order to make this final 2018-2019 payment.

5. Our 2019-2020 tuition contracts will be coming out in the next two weeks. Please be on the look-out. In order to receive the "Early Bird" discount, our current families will need to return completed contracts no later than Monday, April 1st. Since we have a waiting list for some classes, not returning your contract by Wednesday, April 10th could result in your students losing a spot in a class that is already full. For families who opt to pay monthly, the first regular payment for 2019-2020 is due on April 1st. For families opting to make a one-time full payment, a two-time 60/40 payment, or a quarterly payment, the first regular payment will be due on Monday, June 3rd (since June 1st falls on a Saturday). Our contracts this year will involve making a small non-refundable deposit as completed contracts are turned in. This is so that we can be sure that you truly plan to be a part of our family next year. This deposit will be subtracted from your first regular payment. For families who pay monthly, you will just make the first regular payment. For families who make the first regular payment in June, the deposit will be deducted from the June payment.
6. Dorchester Academy 2019 yearbooks are now on sale for \$75. Please reserve your copy today! Send a check made out to "Dorchester Academy" to school with your student. Please be sure it gets to Mrs. Julie McAlhany (Julie.mcalhany@dorchesteracademy.org).
7. Twenty-six of our Student Government members will attend the SCISA Student Association Conference next week, from March 3 – 5 in Myrtle Beach. They will leave on Sunday and return on Tuesday. At the conference, two of our students will run for state office. Colby Weeks will run for 1st Vice-President, and Melayna Weathers will run for Recording Secretary. Please wish them GOOD LUCK when you see them. Our group will also compete in the annual Volleyball tournament as well as the debate. This year's topics are as follows:
 - a. Be it resolved that all SCISA schools take a pro-active stance in supporting limits for all state and federal elected officials, including US Supreme Court Justices.
 - b. Be it resolved that all SCSA students shall pass the Unite.
 - c. Be it resolved that all SCISA schools shall establish (as a requirement for graduation) participation in an entrepreneurial project which delivers real products or services.The Student Government has been busy completing Adopt-A-Highway on Monday, hosting chapel on Wednesday, and preparing for this conference. 😊
8. On Mar. 9th, our Booster Club will host its annual BIG BUCKS Steak Dinner and Auction. This year's event will be held again at the Santee Convention Center and will begin at 5:30 p.m. Tickets, which include a delicious meal and beverages, are \$120 per couple. The meal will again be prepared by Tonya's Catering. There is currently a Facebook page open that enables you to invite all your friends to this special and fun event and to keep up with the many great items that will be auctioned off that evening. (Search "Dorchester Academy Booster Club Big Bucks Steak Dinner.") Please help us spread the word as this is a great opportunity to celebrate who we are as a school and to invite other people to come in to see how special we are. You can see any Booster Club member or varsity head coach for tickets. Proceeds raised will help to fund our athletic program. Thanks in advance for supporting our Raider athletes. TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED IN THE FRONT OFFICE OR FROM ANY HEAD COACH OR BOOSTER CLUB OFFICER. THEY MUST BE PURCHASED BY SUNDAY, MAR. 1st SO THAT OUR CATERER CAN HAVE NECESSARY COUNTS TO PREPARE THE DELICIOUS MEAL! This is truly a fun evening of bonding and celebrating what it means to be in the Raider family. You won't want to miss it.
9. Information for Summer Camp 2019 is going out. If you are interested, please be on the look out for information coming home. Dorchester Academy families will be given first option to participate, but this will end on April 30th. Beginning May 1st, we will offer any remaining spots

to the public. Please contact Mrs. Bailey McAlhany (bailey.mcalhany@dorchesteracademy.org) if you have questions.

In sports news, Athletic Director Chris Myers reports that our varsity basketball teams finished their impressive seasons strong. Our varsity boys defeated Laurens Academy to advance to the second round of playoffs but then were defeated by Cathedral Academy (State Runners-Up) on Tuesday in Sumter at Wilson Hall. They ended their season with a 14 – 8 record and in the top 8 in SCISA Class A. Congratulations to our guys and their coaches Mr. Buddy Hartzog, Mr. Jason Byron, and Mr. Charlie Weeks. Our varsity girls finished as **SCISA Class A State Runners-Up!** They defeated Newberry Academy on Monday night and Beaufort Academy on Thursday night to earn the right to compete in the State Championship game on Saturday at the Sumter Civic Center against Laurens Academy. Although the girls came up short, they have much to be proud of. CONGRATULATIONS to them and their coaches (all DA Raider alumnae and former basketball stand-outs) Mrs. Callie Stephens McClure, Mrs. Kara Ayer Pendarvis, and Mrs. Sims Rembert Weathers. They ended their season with a 21 – 3 record. Senior Elizabeth Huff and junior Savanna Varn were named to the All-State Tournament team.

Our spring sports started last week when our baseball team scrimmaged Thomas Heyward Academy on Thursday evening. They won 3 - 0. Rhett Mizzell, Chase Way, and Landon Way did especially well. We will complete the spring sports takeoff this week with the varsity softball team scrimmaging at Hanahan on Tuesday night at 6 and our jv softball team scrimmaging at Branchville on Wednesday. All four teams continue to prepare for their season openers on February 28th at Clarendon Hall. WE NEED OUR RAIDER FANS TO COME OUT TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENT ATHLETES AS WE BEGIN OUR CHASE FOR NUMBER 3!!!

New baseball and softball schedules will be posted this week once we are done adjusting for those schools not fielding various jv teams. Also, the concession stand schedule will be posted early this week. Our Raider administrator, teachers, and staff will, as usual, take care of our gate.

Coach Myers is pleased to announce that he has named Mrs. Sheryle Young as the 2019-2020 varsity volleyball coach and Mrs. Penny Fender as the 2019-2020 varsity cheer coach. Other announcements will come later as selections are made.

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

Tuesday, Feb. 26: Varsity softball in Hanahan (6:00)

Wednesday, Feb.27: Jv softball in Branchville (time TBA)

Thursday, Feb 28: Jv and varsity softball & baseball opener at Clarendon Hall, (4:00)

Friday, Mar. 1: Jv softball and both varsity team host Jefferson Davis (5:00 for softball; 6:00 For baseball)

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

- Feb. 27: Chapel Day

- Mar. 1: Final tuition payment for the 2018-2019 school year is due. (The 2019-2020 contracted is being prepared and will be available in early March.)
- Mar. 9: Booster Club BIG BUCKS Steak Dinner and Auction (begins at 5:30 p.m.)
- Mar. 13: Chapel Day
- Mar. 20: Third quarter report cards go home
- Mar. 27: Chapel Day
- Apr. 5: DA Prom (DA closed; After Care will be open based upon need)
- Apr. 10: Chapel Day
- Apr. 15 – 19: Spring Break (DA closed; After Care will be open based upon need)
- Ap. 24: Chapel Day
- May 3: Chapel Day
- May 10: Chapel Day
- May 17: K3 & K4 end-of-the year celebrations (8:15 a.m.)
- May 19: K5 graduation at 1:30 p.m. and Spring Athletic Awards Program at 3:00 p.m.
- May 22: Baccalaureate Service (7:00 p.m.)
- May 23: Graduation for the Class of 2019 (7:00 p.m.)
- May 27: Memorial Day Holiday
- May 28: Summer Camp begins

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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