



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.

Feb. 3, 2019

Dear Raider Parents,

I am sincerely hoping that your children have had time to recover from illnesses or have further avoided contracting them over this 72-hour break. It was not an easy decision to close our school and cancel our various planned events for Friday and over the weekend; however, the health and safety of our students will always be our number one priority. Your children should have received enrichment assignments either in handouts or online to help us avoid having to cancel a planned holiday to make the day up. If instruction/academic enrichment is uninterrupted during a closing, SCISA does not require that we make up the time. I just must have teachers turn in documentation to prove that instruction/academic enrichment did not stop. However, we can certainly return to taking away planned holidays if we must close. I just hate messing with families' plans. For example, if we must close again for any reason, I would perhaps need to take a day from Spring Break. The Board and I will be exploring options and getting feedback from stakeholders soon. We certainly heard your concerns.

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

1. Due to our closing on Friday, our lunch menu for the coming week is changing on Wednesday. We will have baked potatoes on Wednesday (since the potatoes had already been purchased) instead of what is listed for that day. Please note that change.
2. I encourage you to continue to sanitize your children's outerwear, lunchboxes, bookbags, etc. to help us prevent the spread of germs and illnesses. I also strongly encourage you not to send children back to school until they have not vomited in at least 24 hours and/or have been fever free (without Tylenol or Motrin) for at least 24 hours.
3. Our School Board member Mrs. Melissa Durr Burns is fighting breast cancer. To show our love and support of her, our Student Government will be sponsoring a "CrAZy HaT dAy" on Friday, Feb. 9th. Students may wear crazy hats to school if they purchase a \$5 ticket in advance. Information will be coming home early this week.
4. Our Competition Cheer Team will receive their State Championship rings this Tuesday evening (Feb. 6th) during the half-time of the varsity boys' game. Come out to celebrate these girls!
5. I will continue to do random searches on students to help discourage them from bringing contraband (JUULS and such) to school.
6. The Junior Class will sponsor the Dorchester Academy beauty pageants on Sunday, Feb. 17th. This is a change in dates that came as a result of a conflict with events planned by our local churches. Information has been sent home and is also available on this website under NEWS. You may contact class president, Melayna Weathers (melayna.weathers@dorchesteracademy.org) if you have questions.

7. Dorchester Academy 2019 yearbooks are now on sale for \$70. 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).
8. DA will be closed on Feb. 18th in observance of Presidents' Day.
9. 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.
10. 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. Tickets will be available for purchase by the last week in January. 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.
11. 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 basketball teams had a short week due to DA closing for widespread illnesses. (SCISA bylaws require that if a school closes for illness, all athletic events be cancelled as well to prevent the spread of illnesses.) Our one night of competition at Clarendon Hall involved our jv boys and two varsity teams. The jv boys won and are now (13-1). The varsity girls also defeated the Saints and are now 15-2 (10-1), which takes them one step closer to a region championship. The varsity boys lost and are 10 – 6 (7 – 4), which puts them in third place for the region. Our game that was originally planned for Friday against Patrick Henry Academy may or may not be made up. A decision will be made soon regarding a make-up day. All teams will be back in action this week when we host Andrew Jackson on Tuesday night, travel to Calhoun Academy on Thursday night, and host St. John's Christian on Friday night. The State Championship Varsity Cheer team will receive their rings on Tuesday during the half of the varsity boys' game.

Our b-team girls won both of their games this week, and our b-team boys lost the only one they had. These teams have their last scheduled game Monday at Clarendon Hall. The game originally planned for Saturday, Feb. 2nd will not be made up due to scheduling conflicts.

Our c-team will be in action during the halftimes of the varsity girls' and boys' games except for Tuesday (during the boys' halftime) due to the State Championship ring ceremony.

Our jv basketball teams are currently set to host the region tournament from Feb. 12th – 14th. Some teams have elected not to participate for various reasons, so the tournament will include Dorchester

Academy, Andrew Jackson Academy, Jefferson Davis Academy, Patrick Henry Academy, and St. John's Christian (boys only). The current brackets have 3 games on the 12th and 2 games on the 13th and 14th.

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

Monday, Feb. 5: B-teams travel to Clarendon Hall (beginning at 6:00)

Tuesday, Feb. 6: Raiders host Andrew Jackson (all teams, beginning at 4:00) Cheer Team

Receives State Championship rings at halftime of varsity boys' game

Thursday, Feb 8: Raiders travel to Calhoun Academy (all teams, beginning at 4:00)

Friday, Feb. 9: Raiders host St. John's Christian (no jv girls, beginning at 5:00)

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

- Feb. 7: Midterm reports go home
- Feb. 9: CrAzY HaT dAy to support Mrs. Melissa Burns (\$5 donation to participate)
- Feb. 17: DA Pageants
- Feb. 18: Presidents' Day Holiday
- Feb. 24: Open House for Prospective Students (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
- Mar. 1: Final tuition payment for the 2018-2019 school year is due. (The 2019-2020 contracted is being prepared and will be available by then.)
- Mar. 9: Booster Club BIG BUCKS Steak Dinner and Auction (begins at 5:30 p.m.)
- Apr. 5: DA Prom (DA closed; After Care will be open based upon need)
- Apr. 15 – 19: Spring Break (DA closed; After Care will be open based upon need)
- 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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