



Keeping You Informed *DHS Weekly Newsletter*

August 26th

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brighter Together: Making 2019-2020 The Best!

By Shon Joseph

What an exciting week! We welcomed over 2800 students to DeSoto High School last week. It's an exciting time to be an eagle. Our best is yet to come. With so many eagles, we are focusing this week on leveling classes, revamping our systems to ensure students have smooth transitions, and being extremely clear about expectations.

We have found that when we are clear about expectations, all facets of the organization will work to meet the standard. This week, we will have three grade level meetings to discuss classroom expectations, dress code, hallway procedures, attendance, and our standard for our cafeterias. In the coming weeks, I will visit each ELA classroom on campus to discuss making the most of high school and preparing for life after high now. With so many classes, the process will take 2 to 3 weeks, but the content and opportunity to answer questions from our students is essential to a successful year.

Without a doubt, we are significantly brighter together. The more we work in concert, our growth is exponential. We encourage you to reach out to the campus if there is an issue so we can address the concern quickly. Each student on campus has an assigned principal who will respond within 24 hours to concerns. We have streamlined our process for discipline. For 9th graders, they will see either Donald Miller, Behavior Coordinator/Truancy or Dezmon Harris, 9th Grade House Principal for Student Services. For 10th-12th graders, discipline matters will go to Lakendra Simon, Lead House Principal for Student Services. By streamlining our process, we have increased our level of consistency and enforcement. Your child's assigned house

principal is still available for conferences.

Our goal is to provide you with a level of service unparalleled to any school in our area. Continuing our practice from last year, our associate principals are serving in their same roles. John Jackson will address student concerns relating to transportation, discipline, and attendance. Kristi Primus will address academic concerns relating to Teaching and Learning. We designed our structure to provide you with additional personnel to review your concern at the campus level. Our associate principals perform that service. We encourage you to reach out to your grade level house principal. 95% of all concerns are resolved at the first level. 99% of the remaining concerns are resolved at the associate principal level.

On September 3rd, we will welcome our new administrator for Advanced Academics and the Early College High School. Dr. LaBotta Taylor will join the Eagle Family. Dr. Taylor has served as the Director of Student Affairs for Tarrant County Community College and as the Director of Human Resources for Chapel Hill ISD. Dr. Taylor's email will be operational soon. I will share the email address in our next newsletter. We also want to thank Ms. Lakendra Simon for serving in the interim role. Ms. Simon will continue to serve in the interim role until Dr. Taylor's official start date. If you need to reach Ms. Simon, you may call the campus or email her at Lakendra.simon@desotoisd.org.

I have a few updates I would like to share with you:

Tardy System

Test runs of the tardy system have begun. Students will have two more days to get adjusted to their new schedules. While students will continue to report to the nearest suite for a tardy ticket, tardy consequences will begin on **Wednesday, August 28th**.

ID Badges

We are scheduled to start taking ID pictures on Friday, August 30th. If our ID machines are restored earlier, we will begin the process at an earlier date.

Unopened Containers

Students are not allowed to enter with a drink that has been opened. We want to keep all students safe. If your child has a water bottle, they are asked to fill the water bottle once they enter the building.

Upcoming Events

- 08/27 Volleyball vs Frisco LoneStar (away) 5:30pm
- 08/27 Tennis vs Mansfield Lake Ridge (away) 4:00pm
- 08/29 Tennis vs Mansfield Lake Ridge (away) 4:00pm
- 08/29 Fr. Football vs Arl Martin (home) 5:30pm
- 08/29 JV Football vs Arl Martin (away) 5:30pm
- 08/29 Football vs Odessa Perriman (home) 7:00pm

<p>Shon Joseph Principal Shon.joseph@desotoisd.org</p>			
<p>Lakendra Simon Lead House Principal for Student Services Lakendra.simon@desotoisd.org</p>		<p>Kristi Primus Associate Principal of Teaching and Learning Kristi.primus@desotoisd.org</p>	
<p>John Jackson Associate Principal of Student Services John.jackson@desotoisd.org</p>			
<p>Freshman House</p>	<p>Sophomore House</p>	<p>Junior House</p>	<p>Senior House</p>
<p>Whyndii Dunn House Principal 9th A-K Whyndii.dunn@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Dr. Richard Ham House Principal 9th L-Z Richard.ham@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Leah Cauley Counselor 9th A-K Leah.cauley@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Kellie Washington Counselor 9th L-Z Kellie.washington@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Dezmon Harris House Principal for Student Services- 9th Dezmon.harris@desotoisd.org</p>	<p>Domiana Battah-Miari House Principal 10th TBD</p> <p>Linda Lynn Counselor 10th A-K Linda.lynn@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Radiah Dewberry Counselor 10th L-Z Radiah.dewberry@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Associate Principal of Early College High School Dr. Labotta Taylor Labotta.taylor@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Kayane Jackson ECHS Counselor A-K Kayane.jackson@desotoisd.org</p>	<p>Verlean West House Principal 11th Verlean.west@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Jocelyn Starling-Lewis Counselor 11th A-K TBD</p> <p>Ashley Randle Counselor 11th L-Z Ashley.Randle@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Folade Burles ECHS Counselor L-Z Folade.burles@desotoisd.org</p>	<p>James McBride House Principal 12th James.mcbride@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Karen Brown Counselor 12th A-K Karen.brown@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Tamica Cross Counselor 12th L-Z Tamica.cross@desotoisd.org</p> <p>Bridget Nevels Principal of W.I.N.G.S. Bridget.nevels@desotoisd.org</p>

Join us for Goals Night on September 19th at 6:30PM.

The event will be held in our auditorium. We will have the leadership team, counseling staff, and many of our instructional leaders present to answer any questions.

