



# Dunbar Hill School Newsletter

February

2019

## Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

### **What a Difference Attendance Makes. Every Minute Counts!**

According to multiple studies, missing several days of school over the course of a year significantly reduces the likelihood that students will graduate from high school. With attendance a crucial factor to keeping kids on the right path to graduation, **Attendance Works** (<http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/mapping-the-gap/>) has substantial information on attendance and the impact on student achievement. Below is some of the research below on why attendance matters.

### **Start Strong**

Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict frequent absences later in the school year. Nearly half of all students that missed more than two days of school in September went on to miss almost a month of school.

### **Chronic Absences**

An estimated 5 to 7.5 million students in the United States miss almost a month of school every year. This adds up to over a year missed by the time of graduation. Early Absences Lead to Attendance Issues in Later Grades Absenteeism starts early. One in 10 kindergarteners and first graders are considered to be "chronically absent."

### **Chronic Absence = Missing two or more days per month**

Research shows students who miss 10 percent of school, or two days per month, show negative academic progress. In some schools, that adds up to 18 days a school year and is considered to be chronic absence.

### **Third Grade Reading Level**

Poor attendance can keep children from reading proficiently by the end of third grade, which is shown to negatively affect their chances of graduating on time.

### **Dropout Indicator**

By sixth grade, a chronically absent student is shown to have a significantly higher chance of dropping out of high school.

### **Excused Absences Hurt Too**

Excused absences are just as negative as unexcused ones. Suspensions add additional missed time in the classroom, which in turn increases the dropout risk.

### **At Risk Students are at Risk for Absence**

Students from low-income families are four times more likely to be chronically absent. Reasons for this are often out of the student's control, such as unreliable transportation, unstable housing, and a lack of access to quality health care.

### **Every Minute Matters**

If a student is 10 minutes late to school each day, this adds up to missing more than 33 hours of class time. A student with a 90 percent attendance average for Kindergarten through 12th grade will miss over a year of accumulated time in the classroom.

Laura Rodriguez, Principal

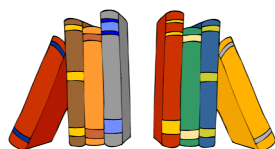


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## News From the Media Center



Please check on our Facebook page or the PTA Facebook page about the *World of*

*Readers* reading incentive program. Letters and log sheets went home around Feb. 18th.

We are starting to build our projects in Fifth Grade for the Novel Engineering unit. If you have any wrapping paper tubes or leftover duct tape, we would love to have them donated. Please don't allow students to bring in tools for this. You can check with me if you have a question. [jchurch@hamden.org](mailto:jchurch@hamden.org)



**Do you have candid photographs  
for the yearbook?**



Please send them to:  
**Erica Camacho**  
or  
**Lonnette Diggs**



[dunbarhillschoolyearbook2019@gmail.com](mailto:dunbarhillschoolyearbook2019@gmail.com)



<b>Jersey Day - Fundraiser for Dunbar Dash</b>	<b>Fri. 2/1</b>
<b>Pennies For Patients Kicks Off</b>	<b>Mon. 2/4</b>
<b>1/2 Day - Prof. Development</b>	<b>Thurs. 2/7</b>
<b>Pajama Day - \$1 Donation to Pennies for Patients</b>	<b>Fri. 2/8</b>
<b>PTA Meeting</b>	<b>Wed. 2/13</b> 6:30 - 7:30 pm
<b>Twin Day - \$1 Donation to Pennies for Patients</b>	<b>Fri. 2/15</b>
<b>Town Meeting - Presented by Kindergarten</b>	<b>Fri. 2/15</b>
<b>No School - Presidents Day and February Break</b>	<b>Mon. 2/18</b> <b>Tues. 2/19</b>
<b>Culture Day - \$1 Donation to Pennies for Patients</b>	<b>Fri. 2/22</b>
<b>Superintendent's Student of the Month</b>	<b>Fri. 2/22</b> 7:30 am
<b>4th Grade Field Trip - Maple Sugaring at Brooksville</b>	<b>Fri. 2/25</b>



# Teacher Reports

**K** Kindergarten is having a busy winter! We are learning to write "how-to" books. Among other things, they are teaching me how to feed a dog and how to put on nail polish. We have been acting out story problems in math and will be starting addition and subtraction this month. The children are excited about handing out cards for Valentine's Day. I will send home a class list to help you in this endeavor soon. Thank you for supporting your child by reviewing sight words nightly. They are making great progress!

**1** Our first graders are continuing to build their reading stamina, and are learning all about characters in fiction books. In writing, the children are finishing up writing opinions about their collections and will be moving on to writing reviews. Our new math unit, Data Collection, will have the students learning about and ultimately creating their own surveys. We are resuming fluency fact flash cards in homework packets, so please make sure these cards are practiced nightly. A fluency assessment will be administered every Friday. Please also make sure that your child returns homework packets on Fridays-this is part of our first grade responsibilities. Thank you in advance!

**2** Grade 2 is wrapping up our unit on collecting, representing and analyzing data. We have enjoyed creating survey questions and graphing the data. Who is your favorite character? Arthur or Junie B. Jones? In Reader's and Writer's Workshop, we are reading all about characters. Ask your child about some of the characters we've recently joined on reading adventures.

**3** With winter in full swing, students continue to earn PRIDE cards. In math, students are working on memorizing multiplication facts for homework, and finishing up a geometry/measurement unit in class. In science, students are classifying rocks and minerals. It's so exciting to find the rocks we have been studying in backyards! Third graders just started writing literary essays, focusing on characters, making a bold thesis and supporting it with text evidence. We are continuing character study in reading, and

students are reading fiction texts on their independent reading levels. Ask students about the read aloud books they are listening to in class: Because of Winn-Dixie and James and the Giant Peach! Also, a big congratulations to Alexander Barrios, our January student of the month!

**4** Grade 4 is working so hard in Reading and Writing on the American Revolution. Students are researching, note-taking, and writing all about the historical topic. In Math we are continuing our learning on fractions with addition, subtraction, and equivalences.

**5** Fifth Grade continues to work diligently this winter. In math, our work with fractions continues as we are working on multiplying mixed numbers. In reading and writing, we continue to work on opinion and arguments. We are researching in depth reasons that support our argument based essays on whether or not chocolate milk should be served in school. In reading, our book club work is focusing on understanding both sides of an issue. Specifically, we are researching the issues surrounding recycling, extreme sports, orca shows, space exploration, zoos, and how to keep humans safe from sharks. Speaking of fish...fifth grade will begin creating our very own ecosystems in science. Finally in social studies, we will be learning about slavery in the colonies.

**6** The sixth grade has recently begun a new Literacy unit focused on learning about social issues. The students participate in book clubs, during which they discuss issues affecting relationships, as well as groups of people. Our readers continue to build stamina during their independent work. During Writing, students are constructing literary essays about characters. They have been working hard to develop claims and argue this using textual evidence. Sixth grade Math continues to move students forward with pre-algebra concepts.

**PE** Grades 3 - 6 will completing a cooperative/team building unit and begin a basketball unit. Kindergarten and Grades 1 - 2 will be completing a body control unit including obstacle and then begin a unit on rolling and tossing.

