



Destrehan High School
Home of the
Fighting Wildcats

Early Dismissal:

September 9

Senior Breakfast:

September 15

School Pictures:

September 21-22

Mission Statement:

Our mission at Destrehan High School is to provide a community of teaching and learning in which all students will continuously improve to become responsible, contributing members of society.

Friends of DHS

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 2022

Greetings from Mr. Madere:

The tradition of Destrehan High School has been one of academic excellence. To maintain this tradition our staff at Destrehan High strives to educate the 'whole child' - providing opportunities for participation in challenging academic clubs and extracurricular programs stressing teamwork, discipline, class, and character.

As a graduate of Destrehan High School, I feel honored to lead this school as principal. I believe DHS has always been the 'flagship' institution of St. Charles Parish, and I will strive to make DHS the best high school in the state. Our faculty and staff are committed to providing an environment where all students feel comfortable and safe; where teaching and learning is our core business, and academic excellence is the standard.

We're proud of what we are accomplishing at DHS, but we will always strive to become better. Our theme for the year is "**Success: Define it. Own it. Achieve it.**" and our DHS faculty will strive to model this motto as we encourage our students to make a difference, and prepare for a successful future. However, this can only be accomplished with all stakeholders taking responsibility for the task. Our Destrehan community will only operate at optimum levels with the support of parents and the surrounding community. With this in mind, please make it a habit to *communicate with or visit* our school. In addition, we are asking for your involvement in the process of meeting our goals for academic excellence this year. Here are some suggestions as we all work towards this goal:

Be sure to encourage your child to take some time to study at home.

Be sure that your child is familiar with our **TLC** (The Learning Center) after school program - a program designed to offer additional help by our teachers in after school hours. Don't wait until it's too late. Have your child utilize this program *immediately* if they begin to struggle in a class. This year, TLC is offered in-person and virtually, but appointments must be made. Visit the Academics sections of our website for more information on TLC!

Support your child by encouraging him/her to be at school and, in turn, attend and participate in school events and activities that involve your child.

Check our Parent Portal daily for real-time access to your student's grades.

Visit our website *frequently* and review the important information that can be found on this site, including our **Wildcat "ROARS" COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS**, our online **'Bullying Form'** and other important information found under the **'Quick Links'** section of our school's website. Check the **"Full" calendar** on the website for upcoming events, and visit your child's **Teacher Webpages**. Be sure to consistently discuss the information found on these sites with your child.

Finally, ask your child about school every day, and communicate any concerns you may have with us.

Let me conclude by thanking you for your continued support. It's important that you, a Wildcat parent, know you are a crucial part of the DHS school community; and it's imperative that we (administration, teachers, students, and parents) all communicate frequently and be on the 'same page' as we strive to make the 2022-23 school year one where 'Teaching and Learning' is the concentration, and excellence in education is the norm.

"Success: Define it. Own it. Achieve it."



COMMUNICATION CORNER:

Follow us on **Twitter:** [@DHSWildcats](#) and **Facebook:** [Destrehan High School](#).

See our **website:** www.stcharles.k12.la.us/destrehan. Click "View All" to avoid missing anything.

Visit **PowerSchools** to keep up with your students' school work. You can also view the Daily Bulletin there.

Check out the school's **Google Classrooms**. Ask teachers to invite you as a guardian for class updates.

Counselor News:



The DHS Counselors welcome parents to a new year! We look forward to you viewing our parent night presentation on September 17th. You are encouraged to meet with your child's counselor during this year to review and sign his/her five year plan. You may make appointments by calling the counselor secretary, Mrs. Gigi at 985-764-9872. You may also email counselors at the following addresses.

A - D : Mrs. Amanda Bourgeois –
abourgeois1@stcharles.k12.la.us

E – K :Mrs. Bonny Maise –
bmaise@stcharles.k12.la.us

L – Robertson: Ms. Amy
Schexnaydre—
aschexnaydre@stcharles.k12.la.us

Robi – Z:-Ms. Robin Valerius-
rvalerius@stcharles.k12.la.us

Speical Assignment: Ms. Jeannine
Taylor—jtaylor@stcharles.k12.la.us

From Mrs. Maise:

We are very happy to be working with the senior class again this year. Our job as senior counselors is to help guide students in making academic and behavioral choices in high school that will assist them in their post secondary endeavors and future career plans. College and career information will be available to students throughout the year.

There is a tremendous amount of information that will be shared with seniors and parents. Therefore, every other Tuesday morning, a bulletin will be shared for seniors in Google classroom with important information. Seniors should read it and share it with their parents. The bulletin has general information, college/career information, scholarship information, and important upcoming dates. It is your child's responsibility to read the bulletin and keep up-to-date with senior information. The senior bulletin is also posted on google classroom and the school's website.

We hope all seniors have a great senior year. We are here to assist them in any way we can and we encourage

each of them to make an appointment to see us to discuss their future plans. To make an appointment, see Mrs. Gigi, the counseling secretary, before or after school or at lunch. We look forward to meeting all seniors and helping them to make this a special year.

Students and parents are encouraged to attend the College & Career Prep Night on Thursday, October 27 th at the Edward A. Dufresne Community Center in Luling from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Feel free to call the counselors with any questions at 985-764-9872.

We look forward to a great year with you and your senior!



Visit our teacher web pages!!
www.stcharles.k12.la.us/destrehan

Homework Assistance Offered Through State Library of Louisiana

The State Library of Louisiana offers homework assistance services to parents and students at www.homeworkla.org. Homework Louisiana offers free online tutoring and academic resources from Tutor.com for Louisiana residents from kindergarten students through adult learners. Get help in math, science, social studies or English from a live tutor. The services can be accessed from a Louisiana public library, your home computer or your mobile device.

Don't miss out on preserving your child's high school memories! Order the yearbook NOW!

Attention Parents:

The DHS newsletter is available on the DHS website. If you would still like to receive a newsletter at your residence, please fill out the information below, cut it out, and mail to:

*William Plasse
#1 Wildcat Lane
Destrehan, LA 70047*

*Yes! I want to continue receiving the DHS newsletter in my home.
(Please print):*

Parent Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____



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(EOE)

If Your Child Is Sick

What can I do if my child gets sick?

Talk to your doctor early if you are worried about your child's illness.

Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks enough fluids.

If your child is 5 years or older and does not have long-term health problems and gets flu symptoms, including a fever and/or cough, consult your doctor as needed.

Children younger than 5 years – especially those younger than 2 years – and children with certain long-term health problems (including asthma, diabetes and disorders of the brain or nervous system), are at high risk of serious flu complications. Call your doctor or take your child to the doctor right away if they develop flu symptoms.

What if my child seems very sick?

Even healthy children can get very sick from flu. If your child is experiencing the following emergency warning signs, you should go to the emergency room:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish lips or face
- Ribs pulling in with each breath
- Chest pain
- Severe muscle pain (child refuses to walk)
- Dehydration (no urine for 8 hours, dry mouth, no tears when crying)
- Not alert or interacting when awake
- Seizures
- Fever above 104°F
- In children less than 12 weeks, any fever
- Fever or cough that improve but then return or worsen

- Worsening of chronic medical conditions

This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptom that is severe or concerning.

How long can a sick person spread flu to others?

People with flu may be able to infect others from 1 day before getting sick to up to 5 to 7 days after. Severely ill people or young children may be able to spread the flu longer, especially if they still have symptoms.

Can my child go to school, day care, or camp if he or she is sick?

No. Your child should stay home to rest and to avoid spreading flu to other children or caregivers.

When can my child go back to school after having flu?

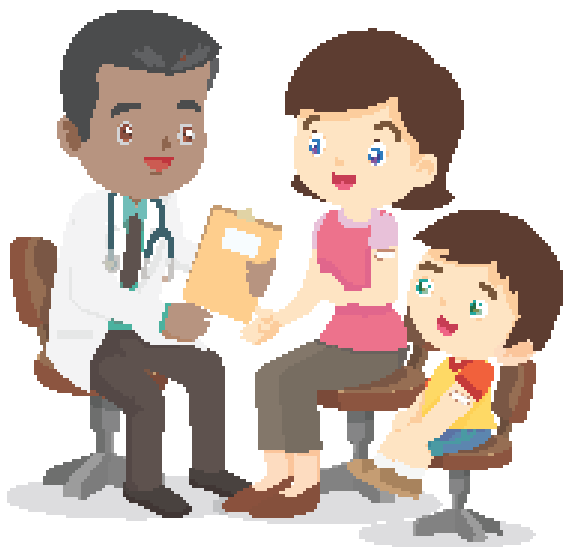
Keep your child home from school, day care, or camp for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone. (The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) A fever is defined as 100°F (37.8°C)* or higher.

*Many authorities use either 100 (37.8 degrees Celsius) or 100.4 F (38.0 degrees Celsius) as a cut-off for fever, but this number can vary depending on factors such as the method of measurement and the age of the person.

For more information, visit
www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/children.htm
 or call 800-CDC-INFO



Flu Information



The Flu:

A Guide for Parents

Influenza (also known as flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. Flu is different from a cold, and usually comes on suddenly. Each year flu viruses cause millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospital stays and thousands or tens of thousands of deaths in the United States.

Flu can be very dangerous for children. CDC estimates that between 6,000 and 26,000 children younger than 5 years have been hospitalized each year in the United States because of influenza. The flu vaccine is safe and helps protect children from flu.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

ROARS Expectations

At DHS, we are proud to say that although our students come and go, tradition never graduates. One of our enduring traditions is our ROARS Expectations. These are the values we want all members of the Destrehan High School family to emulate.

Respect Everyone. Everyone at DHS is committed to our students' success. We ask students to respect faculty, administration, and staff for the work they do to create a successful learning environment, to respect each other as they share this time together at school, and to respect themselves - trust themselves to be able to succeed, and to reach out for help if it is needed.

Optimize Learning - Actively Participate in Classes. Athletes want to compete, not watch from the sidelines. Performers want to be onstage, not waiting in the wings. Students should take part in their classes and take control of their learning.

Attendance and Timeliness are Essential. We cannot learn if we are not in class. Whether on campus or at home, we need to be present and on time to maximize our education.

Responsibility - Be Prepared Every Day. We wouldn't expect a surgeon to show up for an operation without scrubs, or a carpenter to arrive at a worksite without tools. We need to make sure we have what we need to succeed.

Success - Dress for it. Being properly dressed for school eliminates distractions and gets you ready to learn.

Meet these expectations, and soon you will be a proud graduate of Destrehan High.



Meet Our Newest Wildcats!

Say hello to the newest members of the Fighting Wildcat family!

Taylor Acosta joins us from Lafourche Parish where she taught ALL the way down the bayou at South Lafourche High School. She will be teaching Intensive English and Regular English I here at DHS for the 2022-2023 school year. She loves cooking, traveling, snuggling with my dog, and taking naps. A fun fact about her is that she comes from a large family and is the eldest of six sisters and a two-year-old brother.

Khary Carrell is a Baton Rouge, La. native. He is a 1994 graduate of McKinley Sr. High School and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology & Sport Management, and a Masters of Science Degree in Sport Administration from the mighty Grambling State University. His high school career started in 2016 at White Castle High School, where he served as a Career Educational Instructor, Physical Education Teacher, assistant football coach, and Head Girls Basketball Coach from 2017 - 2021. Coach Carrell will be beginning his second year at Destrehan High School, serving as a Physical Education Facilitator and Head Boy's Basketball Coach. Coach Carrell lives by his self-made creed, Visualization + Inspiration + Right Action = Success!! Go Wildcats!!

Chelsea Chiasson Clement has been teaching and educating for 23 years. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Science Education and Master's Degree in Administration at Nicholls State University. She also earned 18 graduate credit hours in Biology and STEM certification in Robotics and Engineering. What makes her world go around are her three boys (Wyatt, Eli, and Noah) and Brittany Spaniel named Breezy. She enjoys traveling, strength training, running, kayak fishing, and scrapbooking in her free time. This year she will be teaching science content in the performance program at DHS. She is truly honored to have the opportunity to work at DHS and become a part of the Fighting Wildcat family. Geaux WILDCATS!

Marci Fullilove is super excited to call Destrehan High School her new home! She hails from Larose, LA and has been in education for 19 years. She graduated from Nicholls State University with a Bachelor's degree studying Special Education and Physical Education. She also holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. When not teaching, she enjoys spending time with her husband Ross, her son Brady, and her daughter Jacey. She also loves traveling, reading books, and playing board games. She is thrilled to be working with the staff at DHS and being back in the classroom working with the students.

Addison Giambrone, a 4th year educator, is teaching Environmental Science and couldn't be happier. Originally from Richmond, Texas, she moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana to attend college at McNeese State. She played volleyball all four years there, became a member of the 1,000 Club, and third in all time matches played with 126. She graduated with her Bachelors degree in three years and began working on her Masters during her last season as an athlete. In 2018, she moved to Alva, Oklahoma to be an Assistant Volleyball Coach for Northwestern Oklahoma State University under coach Jeremy White, the current head coach at Southeastern. When she moved back to LC, she became a teacher and softball coach at Louis Catholic High School and then Head Volleyball Coach at Vinton High School. She writes and sings her own music, and is very excited to be in her new classroom here at DHS!

Katie Hollis, an HHS alumni of '09 and an LSU alumni of '14, taught art at Grace King High School in Jefferson Parish for the past 4 years. After years of teaching, she has experience in the following fields: graphic design, photographic editing & restoration, mold making apprenticeship and production assistant on sets. Some interesting facts about her are that she loves Ramen, corny dad jokes are her go-to, and she loves eating popcorn with cheese and jalapenos.

Coach Twalla Powell Howard, born and raised in NOLA, is the proud mother of two beautiful, athletic and smart girls, Heaven and Harmon. She has impacted the lives of children through teaching and learning since 1997. She earned her Bachelors of Science degree and was a scholarship basketball and track and field athlete at the University of New Orleans. She is a certified Health and Physical Education teacher in the state of Louisiana. This year she will be teaching health and physical education at Destrehan. She is thrilled to be the Head Girls Basketball Coach at Destrehan and looks forward to building a successful basketball tradition and helping the Ladycats maximize their potential on and off the court.

Lieutenant Colonel Maria Moore is a New Orleans, La native and 1988 graduate of John McDonogh High School. In 1997, she earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from Grambling State University. She then spent 23 in the United States Air Force as a Logistics Officer. While on active duty, she served multiple tours overseas. This is Maria's first year at Destrehan High School teaching Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC). She loves cooking during her free time. Colonel Moore lives by the Air Force's core values of~ Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence. She's looking forward being a part of SCPPS for many years to come.



Kevin Naquin is a special education teacher and assistant football coach with 14 years of experience. He is excited to begin his journey at Destrehan. He is married to Nicole Naquin and has 4 daughters Abigale, Annelise, Hilary and Hannah. He looks forward to the upcoming year. Go Wildcats!

Alec Paz from Dallas, Texas, is very proud to be a Destrehan Fighting Wildcat! In 2018, he received his Associate's Degree in Physical Education at Angelina Junior College and earned All-Conference Honors as a member of the Angelina College baseball team. He was also a member of the Nicholls State baseball team for four years, earning First Team Southland Conference All-Academic, Second Team All-Conference Player, and two-time All-Southland Hitter of The Week. In 2020-2022, he earned a Bachelors in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Masters in Higher Education Leadership/Administration from Nicholls State University. He looks forward to working with the Fighting Wildcats this year!

Kelsey Rosales returns to DHS having taught from 2011-2015 before exiting on maternity leave, and she is excited to be back! Her son is now in 2nd grade, and they feel blessed that he can come with her to St. Charles Parish Schools. She has been a Spanish teacher for 14 years and is thrilled to now have former students as colleagues. Her last six years were spent at Bonabel HS with Blanca Lopez who is coming to DHS too! She shares that the time she spent at DHS shaped her into the educator she is today, and she is grateful to be back.

Amy Schexnaydre, a school counselor, grew up in Destrehan and graduated from DHS in 1996. She graduated from Nicholls State University with both her Bachelor and Master degrees. Additionally, she holds a post-master's certification in counseling. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a National Board Certified Counselor and has been a school counselor for almost 10 years. She loves helping young adults reach their goals and be successful. She also enjoys cooking, shopping, being with my family and friends, learning new things, and planning my next adventures. She is excited to be back home at DHS and a part of the Wildcat Family!!!!

Jason Smothers, graduate of DHS class of '91, has 10 years of classroom experience. This is his 7th year at DHS, and he will be teaching Special Education. He has a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in Kinesiology, Communication Studies, and Business Administration from Louisiana State University. In addition, I am an assistant football coach as well as an assistant LadyCats basketball coach. Go, Fighting Wildcats!

Tabitha Tabb is a 2017 graduate of Destrehan High School who teaches both Business Math and Financial Literacy and serves as a softball coach for Destrehan. She recently graduated from Nicholls State University with a degree in Human Performance Education K-12. In her free time, she loves to travel as well as attend concerts and amusement parks. Her absolute favorite thing is having the opportunity to make connections with students, athletes, and faculty members in order to grow and strengthen the Fighting Wildcat family. She is honored to be teaching and coaching at her Alma Mater and truly wouldn't want to be anywhere else! #onceawildcatalwaysawildcat #traditionnevergraduates

Karly Taranto is a flex-placement teacher and pitching coach for the softball team. She is a class of 2018 Hahnville Alumni and is ecstatic to be back in St. Charles Parish to kick-start her career. She spent two years playing collegiate softball at the University of Louisiana Monroe and graduated from Nicholls State University in May. She loves being a part of the Wildcat family and helping students excel in all aspects of life. Go Wildcats!

Jordyn Vicknair is the first Louisiana State New Teacher of the Year! She is entering her second year of teaching math. She graduated from DHS, class of 2017, and is soooooo excited to be back. After graduating, she attended LSU where she received a B.S. in Mathematics and her teaching certificate. Ironically, her favorite hobby is reading! She also enjoys walking, swimming, traveling, thrifting, and occasionally sewing. She is eager to get more involved on campus!

Jasper Lamar Vinnett is a lifelong resident of St. Charles Parish. He is the husband of Celeste Brown Vinnett and father of Jordyn Lily Vinnett. Jasper is a 2005 graduate of Destrehan High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Southeastern University in Hammond, Louisiana and a Master of Arts Degree with a concentration in Teaching Significant Disabilities from the University of New Orleans. He began his teaching career at Hahnville High where he served there for twelve years as a special education teacher and assistant football and track coach. He is beginning his first year teaching at Destrehan High School as a Special Education Teacher (pushing into 9th grade intensive math), Assistant Football Coach, and Athletic Director. In his free time he loves playing chess, spending time with family, and fishing. Jasper believes God has so planned our lives that as we live, we are to make a difference.

Tori Zeringue is excited to begin her teaching career where she fell in love with education. She graduated from Destrehan High School class of 2018 and will be making her teaching debut as a 9th-grade English teacher. Tori graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Summa Cum Laude and was a part of many prestigious organizations while on campus. Some of her favorite movies include; Disney, Marvel, and Harry Potter. One fun fact about Tori is that she has been in a production of either a play or musical each year between the years 2009-2020. Overall, Tori is overjoyed to teach in a school and a community that is near and dear to her heart.

ACT News

ACT BootCamp

Open to DHS seniors and juniors taking the October test

When: 10/3-10/6, 10/13, 10/17, 10/18, 10/20 from 2:30-4:30 OR
10/1 & 10/15 from 10-2

Where: DHS Upstairs B- Building

What: all 4 subject test areas will be covered (1 per day) in depth.

How to Register for Bootcamp:



Must have proof of registration
for October test

Stats from the last bootcamp:

- 80% of students scored a TOPS eligible composite
- 78% achieved their highest composite

TLC LOCATIONS AND TIMES

The Learning Center (TLC) opened for all students starting Wednesday, August 17.

The Learning Center is a great opportunity for free academic support. We offer afterschool tutoring to all grade levels and multiple courses. Students can attend TLC to make up assessments, study for upcoming assessments, or simply work on homework assignments. If your student is unsure of how to sign-up, they can ask any teacher, counselor, or administrator. TLC is an extension of the school day. If a student does not abide by the TLC rules, they will lose the privilege to attend TLC.

TLC Rules

- Students must have an ID to enter.
- Uniforms must be worn.
- Food is not allowed.
- Phones will be collected in the testing room.
- Students must have academic work to do.
- Dismissal
- Students will be dismissed at 4:20 to the bus.
- If students need to leave early, they must be checked out through the front office.
- Seniors and juniors who have permits to park on campus may leave early.
-

TLC Hours

- Monday-Thursday 2:25 - 4:20
- Students must sign up using the TLC Google form by 2:00.
- Students must be checked into a TLC classroom by 2:25.

If you arrive after 2:25 you **MUST** have a note from a teacher or club sponsor.



Destrehan High School

Newsletter Editor—Bill Plasse
wplasse@stcharles.k12.la.us



Need to contact us?

By Phone: 985-764-9946
Website: www.stcharles.k12.la.us/destrehan

Jason Madere, Principal
Laura Abbey, Asst. Principal
Tracy Blanchard, Asst. Principal
Jessica Glass, Asst. Principal
Frank Harding, Asst. Principal
Kurt Menyweather, Admin. Monitor

Important Dates - September 2022

Sept. 5: Labor Day Holiday-No School

Sept. 7: Quarter 1 Ends

Sept. 9: Early Dismissal

Sept. 15: Senior Breakfast

September 21—22: School Pictures

Destrehan High School
#1 Wildcat Lane
Destrehan, LA 70047

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Equal Opportunity Statement

In compliance with Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, this Educational Agency holds the following policy:

This is an equal opportunity school and is dedicated to a policy of non-discrimination in employment or training. Qualified students, applicants or employees will not be excluded from any course or activity because of age, race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin or qualified handicap. All students have equal rights to counseling and training.



ASBESTOS NOTICE

Notice: In 1986 all asbestos materials were identified in all school buildings. A management plan was developed for each school as per the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The management plan is located in a binder in the main office of each school. The binders are available for review upon request.

Since the plan was developed, most of the asbestos has been removed. In a few buildings, some floor tile still remains that contains asbestos. All of the schools meet the health requirements that pertain to the regulation. If you have any questions concerning this topic, please contact Kevin Barney, Director of Physical Plant Maintenance at 985-331-3600 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.