



Daviness County Public Schools staff newsletter March 28 - April 1, 2016

# DCPS launches STOP Tipline

As part of our district's continued commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our students, staff and schools, Daviness County Public Schools has launched the STOP Tipline – an anonymous on-line reporting resource.

The tool is provided free of charge by the Kentucky Center for School Safety and includes options for individuals to report concerns about bullying, including cyberbullying; violence, including weapons or threats; or other issues, such as drugs, theft, sexual abuse, self-harm or other high-risk behaviors.

The reports are anonymous unless the individual chooses to provide his/her name and contact information.

Safety has always been the first priority for DCPS schools and this new resource provides an additional forum for reporting. "We always want students to feel free to share information with a trusted adult at our schools, but we know sometimes kids are reluctant to report certain situations," said Damon Fleming, DCPS director of

student services. "The STOP tipline provides a way to report concerns anonymously by using a smartphone, tablet or computer. We hope this tool will encourage everyone to report bullying and other issues so they can be addressed and resolved before they escalate. We will follow up immediately to investigate every concern that is shared through this forum."

"The STOP tipline is an important tool in our unwavering stance against bullying, harassment and other unsafe behaviors," said DCPS Superintendent Owens Saylor. "We care about our kids. Our highest priority is to provide a safe environment in which all students can learn."

DCPS staff members are encouraged to remind students, parents and members of the community about this resource. The STOP Tipline is linked to our district and school websites; visit [www.dcps.org](http://www.dcps.org) and click on the STOP Tipline logo to view the reporting site, or click [HERE](#) to go directly to the Tipline site.

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Share your Spring Break photos with the Grapevine!

Send news to [grapevine@dcps.org](mailto:grapevine@dcps.org)



DCPS director of student services Damon Fleming checks his phone for reports from the STOP Tipline. Anonymous reports are sent directly to district administrators, who investigate all concerns.



# Read THIS before you click THAT!



**Steve Burton**

Earlier this week, a staff computer was infected with ransomware that encrypted more than 35,000 files across more than 3,200 folders on their school file server.

Because of the unfortunate timing of the infection, it also affected backups of that school's server, which means some files have been lost forever.

The DCPS Computer Operations team is working hard to restore as many files as possible but this an opportunity to share the following important reminders:

- NEVER open attachments in emails unless you know and trust the sender. If you are unsure about an attachment, forward the email to a member of the Computer Operations team and we will check it for you.
- Be careful about the websites you visit and web searches you conduct.



■ If you see or even suspect any suspicious activity on your computer, or believe you may have any kind of virus or malware, contact the DCPS Computer Operations team as quickly as possible. We know it can be embarrassing to admit you may have done something to infect your device, but at this point, the focus needs to be on minimizing the damage. The sooner we are aware of the problem, the better our chances of doing that.

Remember – your Computer Operations team is here to serve you! Let's all do our part to maintain the security of our systems.

## BMS cheerleaders host Flamingo Flock

The Burns Middle School cheerleaders are sponsoring a fun and unique fundraiser with flocks of pink flamingos scheduled to migrate to our community.

“These plastic pink flamingos travel in flocks of 12, 24, 36 and 60 and they love the opportunity to rest in beautiful yards in Daviess County,” said cheerleading sponsor Robin Ebelhar. “BMS cheerleaders have made an arrangement with these flamingos to have them stop in a yard near you. This is your chance to play a good old-fashioned prank on unsuspecting friends and family and help out the BMS cheerleaders at the same time. It's a win-win!”

Donations of \$10 will sponsor a small flock of 12 flamingos as they migrate to the lawn of your choice; \$15 for a medium flock of 24 flamingos; \$20 for a large flock of 36 flamingos; and \$35 for a super flock of 60 flamingos. Birds will arrive discreetly and will remain in place for approximately 24 hours.

The person sending the flamingos may remain anonymous. The person receiving the flamingos will have the opportunity to request the flock's migration to another location.

“Anti-flocking” insurance is also available for \$10 for those who wish to guarantee that the birds will not land in

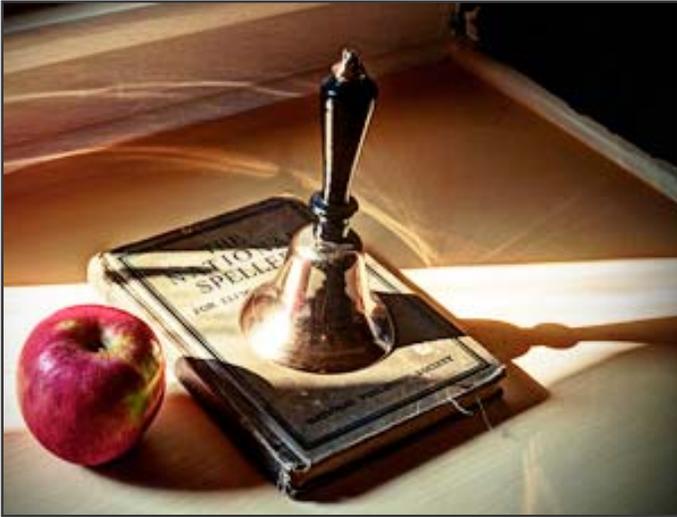
their yard.

The flamingos will not migrate outside of Daviess County and will not roost on public property or in apartment complexes.

Orders may be placed by contacting any member of the BMS cheerleading squad or click [HERE](#) to download an order form. Send payment to Burns Middle School, attn: Flamingo Flock; or contact Robin Ebelhar at [robin.ebelhar@daviess.kyschools.us](mailto:robin.ebelhar@daviess.kyschools.us) Order deadline is July 31. Proceeds will be used to pay cheer camp expenses for the BMS squad.



## News from our Retired Teachers



Joe Westerfield, a retired government teacher from Apollo High School, serves as legislative chairman for the Daviess County / Owensboro Retired Teachers Association.

At the March meeting of the association, Joe shared a comprehensive overview of the legislative process pertaining to the passage of the Governor's budget. If it passes — and if the Senate, House and Governor sign it — it will address the unfunded liability of the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association, which has languished since the 2008 fiscal year.

In addition, Mr. Westerfield, pictured below, detailed other bills which have been introduced and would affect the pensions of retired teachers.

Retired educators who wish to join the association are invited to contact Beverly Phelan at [bevbur@bellsouth.net](mailto:bevbur@bellsouth.net)



## DCHS Hosts Summer Basketball Camp

Daviess County High School is hosting a summer basketball camp for boys entering grades 3-8 next year. The camp is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon June 6-8 at DCCHS. Cost is \$55; second child in same family is \$35 and third child in same family is \$25.



The camp will offer instruction in basketball fundamentals, including shooting and dribbling; with 5-on-5, 3-on-3 and 1-on-1 games. Campers will receive a T-shirt and lunch will be provided each day.

Click [HERE](#) to download registration form. Registration will also be accepted from 8:30 to 9 a.m. June 6. For more information, contact coach Neil Hayden at [neil.hayden@daviess.kyschools.us](mailto:neil.hayden@daviess.kyschools.us)

 **OneHealth@Work**  
A member of Owensboro Health

## Preferred Medical Provider for Workplace Injuries

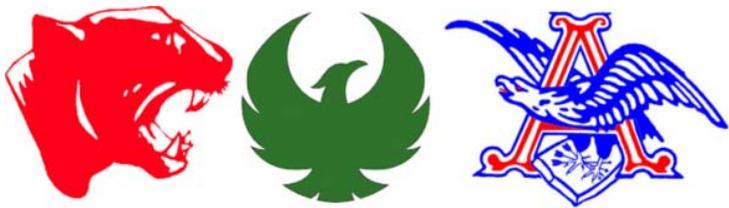
OneHealth@Work — formerly the Convenient Care Center — is the recommended facility for employees of DCPS for work-related injuries.

OneHealth@Work is located at 2211 Mayfair Ave., at the corner of Mayfair and Ford avenues, next to the HealthPark; and offers WorkHealth services that guide injured employees through a proven course of treatment and return them to work quickly and safely.

Why select OneHealth@Work services?

- Treatment of minor injuries or illnesses
- Centrally located
- Private exam rooms
- Open from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily
- Ample parking
- Easy access to lab and X-ray
- Doctor, nurses and staff dedicated for WorkHealth only, so your wait time is greatly reduced.

For more information, contact DCPS benefits coordinator Debbie Foreman at 270-852-7000.



# Graduation Schedule

The Daviess County Public Schools Class of 2016 will graduate on the following schedule:

### Daviess County High School

6 p.m. Friday, May 27 — Owensboro Sportscenter

### Heritage Park High School

8 a.m. Saturday, May 28 — Hines Center

### Apollo High School

11 a.m. Saturday, May 28 — Owensboro Sportscenter

The last day of school for DCPS students is Friday, May 27.

## Super Hero Day at DCHS



Daviess County High School embraced the spirit of March Madness with a “Super Hero Day” on March 24. Pictured above are Cathy Burden, Suzanne Anderson, Jessica Grimsley, Amy Chifici, Jenny Simmons, Sarah Vanegas, Bev Payne, Aimee Miller and Kelly Powers.

## Share your Spring Break photos with the Grapevine!

Send photos by noon Tuesday, April 12, to [grapevine@dcps.org](mailto:grapevine@dcps.org)  
Photos must include at least one DCPS employee.

# Office of Teaching and Learning Update

This monthly feature provides information and updates about progress and activities in our DCPS Department of Teaching and Learning, shared by Julie Clark, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning.



**Julie Clark**

### April 2016

- Quarter 1 Comprehensive School and District Improvement Plan monitoring and reporting
- District Literacy Committee meeting — 3:45 p.m. April 18, Central Office boardroom
- Quality Instruction continues – all schools, every day!



### Snacking can be your ally or enemy.

A handful of nuts and raw veggies will keep you satisfied, while chips and candy will break your heart. And your scale.



Weekly health and fitness tips brought to you by the DCPS Food Services Department. We care about you!



# News from the Transportation Dept.



On March 11, some very kind bus drivers held a fundraiser at Transportation. This fundraiser was to help a fellow bus driver, Tammy Smith of Route 28. Tammy was recently diagnosed with stage 4 kidney cancer. After struggling through a few years of her husband's serious medical problems, she was soon out of sick days when she was forced into medical leave for her cancer

**Traci Weedman**

treatment. With Tammy being the main source of income for her family, coworkers knew Tammy's situation would quickly turn into a financial hardship for the family.

It has been encouraging to see people come together and be so willing to help one another in a time of need! To me, it was so amazing that the leaders for this fundraiser had never even met Tammy Smith. With our department consisting of almost 200 people, and drivers widespread throughout Daviess County, some coworkers only see each other during summer trainings. Bus drivers Leigh Sallee and Melody Taylor organized this event, but did not actually meet Tammy until the day they delivered the fundraiser money to her house. How impressive! They said working in our department is like being a part of a "big family" and they just wanted to help.

A large number of Transportation employees attended the fundraiser lunch on March 11. They donated money, donated food, donated silent auction items, bought silent auction items and even donated some sick days. What a great group of people!

Prior to Tammy's fundraiser, there was a large fundraiser event at a different location for another bus driver, Tabatha "Tabby" Hall of Route 5, who is battling stage 4 breast cancer. Tabby now lives with her sister A.J. Baird, who is a bus monitor on Route 510. Yes, A.J. is her sister, caregiver and coworker. Tabby has been a real trooper in fighting her stage 4 cancer and still works almost every day ... what an inspiration to the rest of us! The fundraiser for Tabby was a great success too! Again, many generous Transportation employees planned, donated time and money, and some even participated in a benefit



motorcycle ride.

Another fundraiser event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 30, at Panther Creek Park that will benefit both Tabby and Tammy — otherwise known as T-n-T!



There will be a potluck meal, silent auction, cake auction and a benefit motorcycle ride. Potluck lunch starts at noon and the silent auction and cake auction are scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. Please mark your calendar and plan to stop by that day to participate in activities and contribute to a worthy cause. Everyone is encouraged to bring a potluck dish to share, or a cake or items to auction. All funds raised at this event will go to help T-n-T with medical expenses. Meanwhile, Leigh Sallee is collecting a T-shirt order to benefit both ladies.

Tabby and Tammy are a great inspiration, along with our other Transportation employees who have battled or are battling cancer. Other bus drivers and bus monitors have fought bladder, kidney, skin, prostate and other kinds of cancer. Yet, they have ALL been so dedicated to their job and to the safety of DCPS students! Our Transportation Department is full of great people — very kind, loyal, giving — and I am proud to be a part of this awesome group!

— Traci Weedman



## T-n-T Benefit Picnic

**10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Saturday, April 30**  
**Panther Creek Park**  
Potluck lunch, games,  
silent auction  
Proceeds to benefit  
Tabby Hall and  
Tammy Smith

# College & Career Readiness



**Amanda Jerome**

This month, I would like to share a message from Dr. Natalie Mountjoy, who is the director of the Life Science Academy:

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, eleven high school students from the Life Science Academy visited the state Capitol in Frankfort as part of the Project Lead the Way Posters at the Capitol Event. Students from across Kentucky competed for the opportunity to present their original scientific research projects to state legislators and Capitol visitors at this event. Four Life Science Academy projects, including two in partnership with Dr. Chandrakanth Emani of WKU-O and Dr. Chad Wilkerson of the Owensboro Cancer Research Program, were selected for the honor.



**Natalie Mountjoy**

The Life Science Academy students were accompanied by nine energetic and curious third-grade students as a kick-off for their mentorship project. Over the next year, Life Science Academy students will partner with these students to help broaden their horizons through science and technology. Reflecting on this trip, their teacher said, "A day like this is invaluable to my kids. The excitement they had to spend the day learning with their peers and their high school mentors cannot be described. Their lives have been forever changed by one experience in third grade. These students will go on to change the world."

At the Capitol, students visited with Sen. Joe Bowen and Reps. Jim Glenn, Suzanne Miles and Tommy Thompson. They were also treated to a surprise visit from Gov. Matt Bevin.

Dr. Chad Wilkerson of the Owensboro Cancer Research Program and Owensboro Health serves as a professor with the Life Science Academy and as research advisor. He said the event was "a very positive and exciting experience and will be something they will remember for years to come."

DCPS Life Science Academy students who presented at the Capitol:



■ Daviess County High School — Wade Hall (senior), Braden Johnson (senior), Nate Martin (senior), Rose Millay (sophomore), Ibraheem Murtaza (junior) and Sonal Muthalali (senior)

■ Apollo High School — Makailah Cecil (senior) and Annie Miller (sophomore)

See next page for photo of LSA students at the Capitol in Frankfort!

[www.lifescienceacademy.net/apply-today](http://www.lifescienceacademy.net/apply-today)

## College and Career Readiness

Attention Parents: Do you need help paying for college classes while your student is in high school? Check out these two opportunities:

**Mary Jo Young Scholarship** — Available at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com) If awarded, will cover up to \$840 per semester (about the cost of two regular priced classes at OCTC), plus book reimbursement. This scholarship is available to students who will be taking some form of college hours next year as a junior or senior. Deadline to apply is May 15. Would you like more information? <https://www.kheaa.com/website/kheaa/mjyoung?main=1>

**Earn to Learn Program** — Applications are available in guidance department offices at Apollo and Daviess County high schools. Students may complete volunteer hours at the Boys and Girls Club to earn money for college tuition. Students who complete 10 hours of service at the Boys and Girls Club will earn \$100; students who volunteer 20 hours of service will earn \$200. This money may be used towards college hours taken while in high school or may be saved for college tuition after graduation. Please visit your guidance office for more information or an application. Deadline to apply is May 2.

**Registration is now open for Summer Tech Camps for all students entering grades 4-8! See next page for details!**

# AHS to host Summer Tech Camps

## Sessions open to all students entering grades 4-8

The Apollo High School Engineering Academy is hosting summer Tech Camps designed to prepare students for higher-level science, technology, engineering and math classes (STEM). Cost of each camp is \$100 and includes summer school lunch, T-shirt and supplies. If a student attends more than one camp, cost for second and subsequent camps is \$90 each.



Sessions are open to all students who will be in grades 4-8 next year. Morning sessions are scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon and afternoon sessions are from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All camps are located at Apollo High School. Students must provide their own transportation.

“The critical thinking, creative problem-solving and collaboration skills that campers learn at these camps will benefit them for a lifetime,” said camp director Steven May, who also serves as engineering and technology instructor at Apollo High School.

The camp schedule and class descriptions are listed below.

Vex Robotic – 8 a.m. to noon June 20-24  
Band Technology – 8 a.m. to noon June 20-24  
Theatre Arts – 8 a.m. to noon June 20-24  
MindCraft – 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 20-24  
STEM – 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 20-24  
MindCraft – 8 a.m. to noon June 27-July 1  
Robo Challenge – 8 a.m. to noon June 27-July 1  
STEM – 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 27-July 1

To register for sessions or find more information about the camp and to watch informational videos about each session, visit <http://ea-techcamps.weebly.com>. Registration by May 15 is encouraged as any camp that has not received 15 registrants by that date will be cancelled. Late registration is accepted until the first day of camp. Fees must be paid upon registration.

**Minecraft** – This camp involves a sandbox independent video game in which students use educational technology tools to build lands and structures from around the world.

**STEM** – Though at first glance it appears to be all fun and games, this camp prepares students for high school science, technology, engineering and mathematics classes.

**Vex Robotics** – Students will learn basic programming skills on the Vex robots and how to engineer the most effective programs using sensors, timers, motors and various design elements. This camp is hosted by the Apollo High School varsity robotics team.

**Robo Challenge** – Spend a week learning basic robotic control systems. Students will learn basic programming skills on the Lego Mindstorms EV3 robots and how to engineer the most effective SumoBots using sensors, timers, motors, and various design elements.

**Theatre Art** – Students will work on acting, stage makeup, playwriting, costume design and set design. Students will participate in a short performance at the end of the week to show off their skills.

**Band Technology** – Campers will work with MixCraft and Finale Notepad to save and create music. This STLP student-driven summer camp will provide fun project-based activities for young musicians.

For more information, contact Steven May at AHS — [stephen.may@daviess.kyschools.us](mailto:stephen.may@daviess.kyschools.us)

## Life Science Academy



Continued from article on previous page  
Students from Apollo and Daviess County high schools were among Life Science Academy students who visited the Capitol building in Frankfort, meeting with elected officials who represent the Owensboro/Daviess County area.

# Teacher Education Academy to join Community Campus program

The Daviess County and Owensboro Public Schools districts have collaborated to create a new Teacher Education Academy, which will be part of the Community Campus program beginning August 2016. This semester, approximately seven students piloted the program by taking a course at Kentucky Wesleyan College, following up on the Owensboro Community and Technical College's Introduction to Education class they took at Daviess County High School.

The program is designed to provide practical information and experience for students considering careers in the education field. Students will take Introduction to Education classes at their home schools of Apollo and Daviess County high schools through OCTC. Owensboro High School students will take their Intro to Education class at Brescia University. Upon taking classes in English 101 and Intro to Education through OCTC or Brescia University, teacher pathway classes will be taken on the campuses of local partner post-secondary institutions Kentucky Wesleyan College and Brescia University.

Introduction to Education classes have been offered for several years at Daviess County High School under the leadership of Therese Payne. Starting in the fall of 2016, they will also be available to students in-house at Apollo High School. AHS College and Career Readiness counselor Jeremy Camron will teach the course through OCTC. These classes offer students the opportunity to earn up to 21 hours of college credit from OCTC while still in high school through a combination of education and general education courses.

The goals of the Teacher Education Academy are to grow and develop a pipeline of highly qualified teachers for local public schools and to increase the overall diversity of the local teaching staff, in addition to fostering partnerships and promoting local post-secondary institutions as quality teacher education program options. The Teacher Academy allows students to take education courses through the Community Campus partnership at KWC or Brescia at a special cost of \$50 per course at KWC or \$45 at Brescia University. Credits will be transferable to other education programs at colleges across Kentucky.

The program is open to students who will be juniors or seniors in the 2016-17 school year. Interested students should contact their high school guidance counselors.



DCPS Superintendent Owens Saylor said, "This is a wonderful opportunity to nurture a love for learning in students who are still in high school with the vision of allowing them to earn a college degree and then return to classrooms right here in Daviess County as teachers."

"This career pathway program will be a great opportunity for our students," said OPS Superintendent Dr. Nick Brake. "They can take classes while in high school, go to college and get their degree, and then come right back and serve in our school system. It's a win-win for not only OPS and DCPS but the local colleges as well."

The Teacher Education Academy joins the Life Science Academy and Engineering Academy in bringing together local school districts and post-secondary education partners to offer specialized instruction and college coursework opportunities to students who meet qualifying benchmarks.

