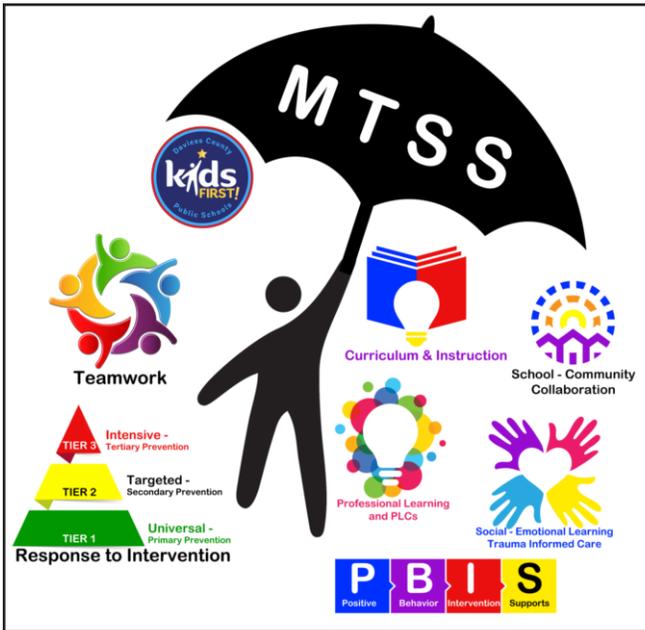




# Grapevine

Daviess County Public Schools Staff Newsletter  
November 9-13, 2020

## Putting 'Kids First' with MTSS



The DCPS Multi-Tiered System of Support is an “umbrella” that encompasses strategies and supports to benefit the students we serve.

**By Dr. Amy Shutt**

Assistant Superintendent for Human Services

Creating a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) in the Daviess County Public Schools district has been a journey to find the most effective framework to support teachers and staff in their daily work with students. We know our teachers are working hard every day to provide quality instruction and a positive learning environment for every student. Teachers and support staff are constantly seeking new ways to meet the academic, behavior and social-emotional needs of our students.



**Dr. Amy Shutt**

It is a team effort every day in our schools! It's “Kids First!”

Through daily learning and behavior observations, and our universal screeners, we recognize that a percentage of our students need us to provide differentiated instruction and intensive support for them to be successful.

With an MTSS framework, teachers will be provided guidance in how to effectively provide the differentiated instruction and interventions using evidence-based strategies. MTSS is a framework for systematically using data and problem solving to allocate education resources to improve learning for all students. The implementation of MTSS in DCPS will mean the district provides the needed support for schools; school teams provide the needed support to teachers and staff for them to implement appropriate interventions. The implementation of MTSS will help connect our existing supports that are already provided to students, and integrate additional district/school support, into a seamless holistic framework of support.

A school (elementary, middle and high) that fully accepts the opportunity to implement MTSS will find long term benefits for students. Students who have learning or behavior difficulties

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# Putting ‘Kids First’ with MTSS

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being successful in core instruction will have access to interventions that support their success. An integrated MTSS framework provides all students with the best opportunities to succeed both academically and behaviorally. The focus of MTSS is to provide high-quality academic, behavior, and social-emotional instruction that is matched to student needs across all content areas. School teams, made of staff members, examine data and problem-solve to make decisions about changes in instruction and help students meet goals. It is not simply an implementation of academic interventions or the PBIS system. With MTSS, a school/district carefully integrates all of their support systems to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness to support the overall learning and well-being of our students.

Many of our schools have experienced the successful implementation of PBIS. They have been ‘out of the box’ thinkers to create new ways for students to be successful in the classroom. Creating a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) in our district takes this work to the next level of meeting the individual needs of students. Schools recognize the urgency to move away from the status quo, to try something different in their quest to meet the individual needs of students, and put Kids First.



Susan Stuckel Robertson and Christy Bryce facilitated a professional development day for principals, assistant principals, behavioral interventionists, instructional coaches, guidance counselors and teacher leaders at our Cohort 1 schools (Audubon, Burns, Deer Park, East View, Highland and Southern Oaks elementary schools) on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Members of the district leadership team were also in attendance at this event, hosted by Deer Park Elementary school. DCPS staff members received intensive training on the MTSS team structure, processes, interventions and procedures, and were introduced to the newly designed DCPS MTSS process.

## A Word from the Superintendent

By Matt Robbins

MTSS provides an organized system within each school that focuses on the whole child and the unique needs that may be present. Individual students may need additional academic interventions, behavioral interventions, or social and emotional support. In fact, a child may need a variety of interventions that enable them to be successful in school. By focusing on our student data points, we become much more capable of responding to those needs in a targeted, effective manner. In the end, I see the power of MTSS revolving around a change in school culture and collaboration through the use of focused and effective teams. We desire all our children to be successful and to then receive the exact support when necessary if unsuccessful. For me, this is a way of life and not a program or philosophy that makes this attractive. We know that students in a COVID and post-COVID world are going to need a tremendous amount of support to reach their full potential.

Photos at right and below:

DCPS leaders gathered at Deer Park Elementary School on Nov. 3 to explore best practices of implementing elements of MTSS to benefit students.

More information and photos on next pages.



# Putting ‘Kids First’ with MTSS



Audubon Elementary School principal Caleb York shares insights with members of his leadership team.

## A Principal’s Perspective

**By Caleb York**

Audubon Elementary School

Each day, we openly welcome all students into our schools. We do this knowing that each student has their own needs and requires specific supports to be successful. The core of our work as educators has been, and will always be, meeting each student’s needs. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) helps to ensure that all of our students are supported as they learn and grow.

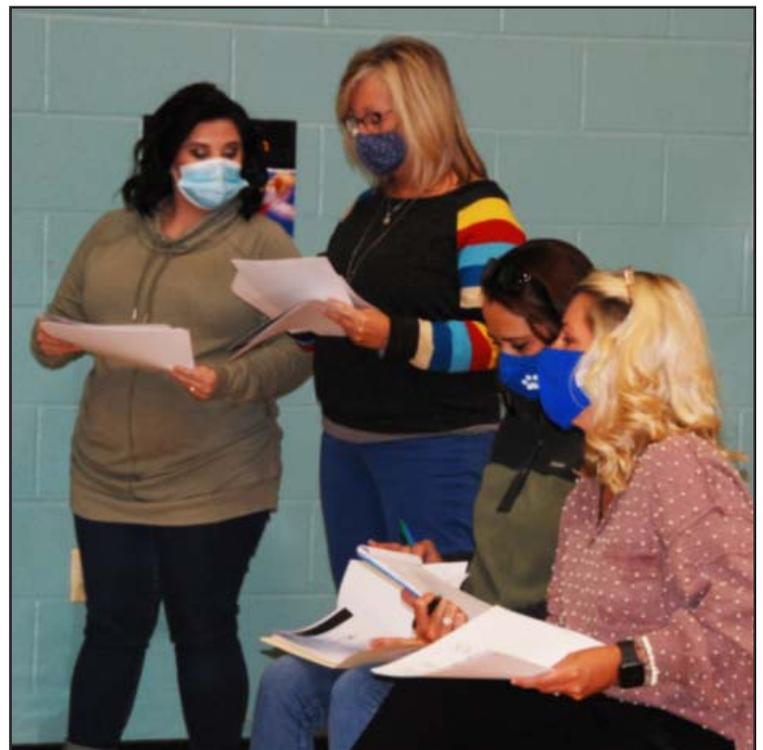
So what is MTSS? One of the best correlations to this system is what we experience at the doctor’s office. Your appointment typically begins with filling out a brief questionnaire to help identify potential trouble areas. Once you make it to the exam room, your temperature, weight, heart rate and blood pressure are taken. All of these steps are part of a screening process to determine your general health and wellness. If these areas are out of the normal range, the doctor will dive a little deeper to diagnose the core problem at hand. The diagnostics move from least intrusive to more intrusive and specific until the core issue is identified. After the core issue has been diagnosed, your doctor will prescribe a specific treatment. During the treatment, the doctor will check in for progress to see if the treatment is effective. If it is effective, the treatment continues. If it is not, then the treatment is adjusted. Your doctor repeats this process until the core issue is resolved. The treatment is often ongoing and is part of your overall health/wellness plan as you move forward. Sometimes the plan is adjusted based on your progress and seasons of life. The health/wellness process is cyclical and always evaluating your general health/wellness. Regardless of who your doctor is, this system remains consistent.

MTSS mirrors the medical system. Students are screened

using a common tool. Clear cut-scores are used to determine a student’s general “health” in an area (English-Language Arts, Math, Social-Emotional Learning/Behavior). If a student is below the target areas, we work to diagnose their performance’s core issue. These diagnostic assessments are used to diagnose the issue and point to the vital evidence-based interventions (treatment) for the student. As interventions are implemented, students are assessed for progress on a routine basis. If students are making expected progress, the interventions continue. If students are not making sufficient progress, the plan is changed. We continue this process until the learning gap is closed or ongoing support is provided to ensure student success.

When I first started digging into MTSS, my first concern focused on what is being added to our “proverbial plate.” The reality is that DCPS already has many of these systems of support implemented across our district. Our intervention systems, as well as PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports), all fit under the umbrella of MTSS. Most of our work will be strategically organizing and synchronizing these systems to ensure all of our students have multiple opportunities to succeed.

Our student population in DCPS has changed dramatically over the past several years. The power of MTSS is that it helps to ensure all students, regardless of their demographics, school, grade, or teacher, have equitable opportunities to learn and grow.



# Camron named to KASA Board of Directors

Jeremy Camron, who serves as head teacher at Owensboro Day Treatment, has been elected to a three-year term as a member of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators board of directors.

KASA is the largest professional organization for education administrators in the state. Jeremy served as a member of the membership committee during the 2019-20 school year and is currently serving as co-chairman of that committee for the 2020-21 year. "This work has been a positive professional experience for me," Jeremy said. "Some of the greatest benefits have been increasing the network of administrators whom I can count on to bounce ideas, and furthering my professional knowledge through our keystone leadership training program, The Leadership Challenge."

The KASA board of directors voted last year to change the structure of the board to better mirror the voice of its members, Jeremy said. He is a member of the role group within KASA that includes alternative schools, Department of Community Based Services, Central Office personnel, and Department of Juvenile Justice Schools, of which Owensboro Day Treatment is a part.

Jeremy said he believe educators have tremendous potential to change lives, especially for students in those programs.

"When an email went out to this group soliciting members to run for these board positions, I immediately felt the tug to run for this position, which would be voted on by many of my peers in the alternative school setting," Jeremy said. "I believe that this particular group of kids needs a major voice at the state level. These students have often faced major traumas that no individual should have to face in their lives. The alternative programs of Kentucky provide a safe haven to heal and hopefully prepare for a future career that can transform their lives and that of their future families. I believe in alternative

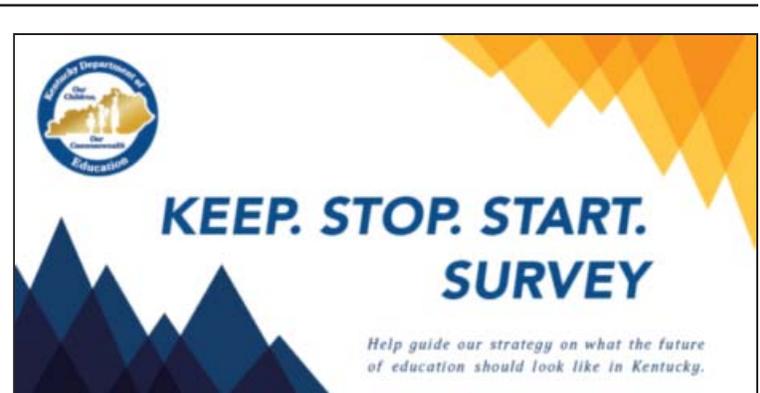


Jeremy Camron

education and wanted to be a large advocate for the adults who serve these students statewide."

DCPS Superintendent Matt Robbins said, "I am proud of Jeremy's willingness to step forward in this position of leadership, and especially appreciate his continued dedication and advocacy on behalf of the students of ODT and across the district and state."

The Owensboro Day Treatment facility provides supportive education services to students who are under the supervision of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and who are served by programs funded or operated by the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department for Community Based Services or the Department for Behavioral Health, Development and Intellectual Disabilities in Kentucky. The mission of ODT is to promote right motives, intelligent thoughts and rational actions within a nurturing environment, with a goal of preparing students for future success. ODT is located at 3108 Fairview Drive, Suite 102.



## Let Your Voice Be Heard

The Kentucky Department of Education invites school officials, educators and other partners across the state to share input about what the future of education should look like in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Education Feedback Survey will close at 10:59 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20. The five-minute survey asks for input about what KDE and districts should:

**KEEP Doing:** Things we value, that bring us meaning and pride, the "right" work.

**STOP Doing:** Things that are not of value, or that don't have meaning or purpose.

**START Doing:** Things we should aspire toward, work to put in place, build capacity around.

Click [HERE](#) to complete the survey.

Is Your School Doing Something  
New, Exciting, Interesting?

**Let Us Know!**

Send photos and information to  
[grapevine@dcps.org](mailto:grapevine@dcps.org)

# Help Our FRYSC Team Stuff the Turkey!

The DCPS Family Resource and Youth Service Centers invite members of our staff and community to help “Stuff the Turkey” and to ensure all families will be able to enjoy a happy Thanksgiving holiday this year.

School buses decorated to look like turkeys will be parked at both local Walmart locations and the Kroger store at Wesleyan Park Plaza from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18. Members of our staff and community – individuals, clubs, groups and organizations – are invited to stop by with donations of non-perishable food items, along with hygiene and personal care products. The Foundation for DCPS has worked with our outstanding community partners at Kentucky Legend to procure a donation of 2,000 pounds of ham, which will be the centerpiece in these Thanksgiving baskets.

Items may also be taken directly to the Family Resource or Youth Service Center at your school.

If enough donations are received, items will also be shared



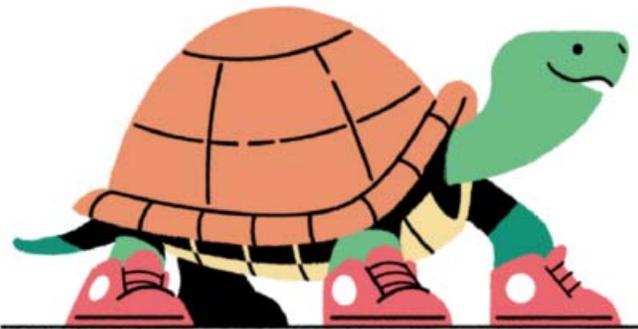
with families during the Christmas season and throughout the year. Your support of this project is truly appreciated and makes a difference in the lives of the kids we serve.

For more information, contact the FRYSC coordinator at any DCPS school, or district support services coordinator Kristy Brackin at or 270-993-7271.

## Healthy Lifestyle Tip of the Week

**THIS MONDAY, START SLOW TO  
BUILD UP TO YOUR BEST WORKOUT**

Tune into your body so you can learn your limits.  
That way you'll increase your physical fitness at a safe pace.



#HealthyMonday

**MOVE IT  
MONDAY!**

So your workout plan has gone completely off the rails this year. You binged on leftover Halloween candy. It's never too late to get back on track! Start slow and build up to your best workout ... your best YOU. The DCPS Food Services Department cares about you! Learn more at [www.moveitmonday.org](http://www.moveitmonday.org)



## FRYSC Wish List

West Louisville Elementary School Family Resource Center coordinator Ellie Humphrey is requesting assistance on behalf of a family with four children, ages 9, 8, 7 and 2. The greatest needs are beds, a table and couch. If you have furniture available to donate, please contact Ellie at [ellie.humphrey@daviess.kyschools.us](mailto:ellie.humphrey@daviess.kyschools.us) or call 270-852-7650. Thank you for your willingness to demonstrate the #teamDCPS spirit!

**got news?  
We Want It!**

Send Information and Photos to  
[grapevine@dcps.org](mailto:grapevine@dcps.org)



Front

Back

## Better Together – Now in New Styles!

Due to a high demand, we are now offering Better Together/#teamDCPS Apparel in a variety of styles and sizes. Wear and share our 2020-21 DCPS district theme with pride in short- and long-sleeved styles, sweatshirts and hoodies.

Click [HERE](#) to view style, fabric and pricing options and place your order by 11:59 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16. For more information, contact Midwest Graphix at [orders@midwest-graphix.com](mailto:orders@midwest-graphix.com) or 812-649-2326.



Did you clean out your closets, garage, attic and drawers while you were #SafeAtHome? Kids have toys they don't play with anymore or clothes they've outgrown? Need to make room for whatever Santa might bring you this year? Let DC-bay help! Send a brief description of items for sale, price, your name, school/site and phone number to [grapevine@dcps.org](mailto:grapevine@dcps.org) Photos also welcome and will be used as space/layout permit. Deadline is Friday, Nov. 13, for items published in the Nov. 16-20 issue of our newsletter.

## Flash Sale!

### Kids First Shirts



We have a limited supply of Kids First T-shirt available for purchase. These grey short-sleeved shirts are Port & Co. brand (50% cotton/50% polyester). No refunds or exchanges on this special deal.

Kids First shirts (pictured at left) are \$5 for sizes S-XL and \$7 for 2X, 3X and 4X.

Contact Dana Boarman at Central Office for more information or to place your order – [dana.boarman@daviess.kyschools.us](mailto:dana.boarman@daviess.kyschools.us) Cash and checks (payable to Daviess County Public Schools) are accepted.

## Cooking Up Support for Goodfellows!



Daviess County High School hosted their first chili cookoff on Wednesday, Nov. 4, to benefit the Goodfellows Club of Owensboro. The event raised nearly \$300 for Goodfellows, which has provided shoes, coats, clothing and emergency dental care to children and youth in our community since 1916. Thanks to Youth Service Center coordinator Megan Nicodemus and instructional coach Jessica Jones for their leadership in organizing this event to support our local charity!

100 percent of all donations to the Goodfellows Club benefit children in our community. Your gift of \$75 will clothe a child for a year but donations of any amount are welcome! Secure online giving is available through [www.goodfellowsclubofowensboro.org](http://www.goodfellowsclubofowensboro.org) or text Clothe75 to 41444 or mail checks to 1401 Frederica St., 42301.

# DCPS COVID REPORTING DASHBOARD

A COVID-19 reporting dashboard is posted on our district website and is updated twice weekly with information about active COVID-19 numbers for staff and students, recoveries and other information. Click [HERE](#) or go to [www.dcps.org](http://www.dcps.org) and scroll down to the “DCPS COVID Reporting Dashboard” header to view the spreadsheet, which shows numbers per DCPS school/site and district totals. Write to [contact@dcps.org](mailto:contact@dcps.org) for more information.



## LPC Forum Schedule

The Local Planning Committee of the Daviess County Public Schools district will hold its first meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, in the Daviess County High School cafeteria. This meeting will serve as an orientation session for the LPC members.

Public forums are scheduled at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, and Monday, Nov. 23, in the DCHS cafeteria. Following these forums, the Kentucky Department of Education will conduct training for LPC members.

The Local Planning Committee will develop a District Facilities Plan, which recommends capital construction and renovation projects that the school district may undertake, and the priority order in which projects may be initiated. Staff members, parents and interested members of the community are invited to attend the public forums to ask questions and share suggestions.

Those attending the forums will be required to follow health and safety procedures, including wearing face masks/coverings and maintaining social distancing.



## New Phone FAQ (and answers)

The DCPS Computer Operations team has set up a page where you can submit questions and find answers about our new phone system. Visit [www.dcps.org/voip](http://www.dcps.org/voip) to see if your question has already been addressed. If not, send an email to computer operations manager Steve Burton at [steve.burton@daviess.kyschools.us](mailto:steve.burton@daviess.kyschools.us)

## Staff Recognitions

SCHOOL  
PSYCHOLOGISTS  
& THERAPISTS  
... unlocking the potential  
of students every day.



T H A N K S F O R  
A L L Y O U D O !

Thank you to our school psychologists and therapists! We are proud to celebrate these dedicated professionals during your week of recognition – Nov. 9-13. Complete schedule of DCPS staff recognitions is [HERE](#).



## FFA Poinsettia Sales

The Future Farmers of America chapters at both Apollo and Daviess County high schools are selling beautiful holiday poinsettias. Your support of these projects, which engage students in real-world learning while also serving as a valuable fundraiser, is appreciated.

Daviess County High School is selling poinsettias for \$10 each in red, white, pink, marble and jingle bell varieties. Order deadline is Nov. 12 with pickup available until 5:30 p.m. Dec. 1-3 at the DCHS greenhouse with payment due at that time. Contact Chad Askins for more information. Place your order [HERE](#).

Apollo High School is offering two sizes. Six-inch pots are \$10 and hold a single plant in red, pink, marble or white. Ten-inch pots are \$20 and hold three to four plants in red, white or red/white mixed. Order deadline is Nov. 30. Payment is due upon pickup; plants may be picked up at the AHS greenhouse the first week in December. Contact Aaron Tucker for more information. Place your order [HERE](#).



## Nominate a Star!

If you know a DCPS Star, please submit your story by completing the brief nomination form [HERE](#). Stars are selected based on empathy, passion, relationships, team player, creativity, communication, growth, and any other qualities you believe make your Star stand out.

# Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Sales



Let Little Caesar help make dinner time and holiday entertaining fun and easy! The Daviess County High School Speech Team and the Apollo High School Thespian Society are selling Little Caesar Pizza Kits through a virtual, no-touch fundraiser. Orders will be shipped directly to your home by FedEx so your family can enjoy delicious Little Caesar

Pizza and breadsticks in your own home! Order an extra kit to keep in the freezer – perfect for a quick lunch, those busy weeknight dinners, weekend meals and holiday entertaining.

AHS Thespian Society – Click [HERE](#) to place your order by Nov. 15. For more information, contact April Berry at [april.berry@daviess.kyschools.us](mailto:april.berry@daviess.kyschools.us)

DCHS Speech Team – Click [HERE](#) to place your order by Dec. 8. For more information, contact Karen Feldhaus at [karen.feldhaus@daviess.kyschools.us](mailto:karen.feldhaus@daviess.kyschools.us)



## Virtual Food Drive

The Apollo High School Youth Service Center is hosting a virtual food drive. A wish list is posted on Amazon with the option to shop, pay and deliver food items directly to the school with just a click! Food will be distributed to families at Thanksgiving. Click [HERE](#) to shop and support our families. Please place orders by Nov. 18. For more information, contact Stephanie Keelin at 270-852-7111 or [stephanie.keelin@daviess.kyschools.us](mailto:stephanie.keelin@daviess.kyschools.us)