

The background features a dynamic, abstract pattern of wavy, concentric lines in shades of blue and yellow, creating a sense of movement and depth. The lines are more densely packed and vibrant in the center, fading towards the edges.

PARENT ORIENTATION 2021

Welcome To The Family

A FEW BEGINNING THOUGHTS

- Purpose of today
- Information Overload
 - Powerpoint on website by Friday
 - Video link to entire presentation for later access
- Construction
- Gratitude
 - Our first Camp Drake in a new space
 - Having in-person events
- On a Personal Note



THINGS TURN OUT BEST FOR THE
PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE BEST OF
THE WAY THINGS TURN OUT.
JOHN WOODEN

TONE OF TODAY AND WHO WE ARE AT DRAKE

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

- May 2018 – Started the project with the demolition of the annex, our library, and several hallways.
- 2019-2020 School Year – Construction of the new main building
- May 2020 – Moved out of and demolished the old main classroom building and all attached hallways
- August 2020 – Moved into new main classroom spaces and began construction on new cafeteria and fine arts areas
- May 2021 – Began demolition on fine arts building and old cafeteria
- July 2021 – Opened building to public for the first time

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES JULY 2021

- Article sharing some of the history of our school.
 - https://www.auburnvillager.com/news/history-of-drake-high-to-find-home-in-renovated-middle-school/article_3b868a94-b466-11e9-b429-effce479a979.html
- Current Construction Timelines:
 - July 14th and 19th – movers on site
 - July 19th – gain control of interior
 - July 30th and August 9th

This was the school site in July of 2020. We made it in with two days to spare!



LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Sarah Armstrong, Principal
- Jonathan Finch, Assistant Principal
- Adam Keel, Counselor
- Joanne Smith, Counselor

- Ron Askelson, Full time School Resource Officer (SRO)

- Josie Wetherbee, Secretary
- Elizabeth Talley, Bookkeeper
- Beth Jones, Nurse

DMS MISSION STATEMENT (rev Oct. 2018)

The mission of J.F. Drake Middle School, **the unifying bridge**, is to guarantee each student develops the confidence, character, and proficiency to become accomplished and responsible citizens through a system distinguished by:

- **Developmentally appropriate, safe, and nurturing environments**
- Innovative and engaging learning experience
- Invested and involved stakeholders
- A diverse family culture of integrity, respect, and global awareness
- **Personal maturity, courage, and perseverance**
- Inspired lifelong learners pursuing academic excellence

DMS TEAMS

- Cosmic Cats
- Leopards
- Panthers
- Pumas
- Tigers



WHY TEAMING? WHAT IS TEAMING?

- **Worked with renowned middle school professor Dr. Paul George (Univ of Florida) in the summer of 2002**
- **Home within DMS**
 - Common locations
 - A place of belonging
 - Colors
 - Names
 - T-Shirts
 - Slogans
- **5-Teacher Teams**
 - Math
 - Language Arts
 - Social Studies
 - Science
 - Exploratory or Special Ed
- **Collaboration**
 - Team meetings
 - Communication with parents/conferences
 - Websites
 - Social Media

DAILY SCHEDULE

- Core Classes
 - Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts
- Physical Education
- Exploratory (6 week rotation – random order)
 - Digital Connections- Dyer
 - Foreign Language - Halverson
 - Art – Speir
 - STEM - Kauffman
 - Current Events - Garlington- Hughes
 - Music – McCollough

LOCKERS and SUPPLIES

- Lockers
- Supply Kits
 - Take them home and unpack
 - Put supplies in backpack and bring with you
 - Hold back “extras” (index cards, notebook paper)

ROTATING DAILY SCHEDULE

- 56-minute classes
 - 3 minutes between classes
- Arrival
 - Doors open at 7:50 for car riders and bus riders.
 - Homeroom begins at 8:10
 - Students will report directly to gym or cafeteria
 - Breakfast by team in cafeteria
- Dismissal
 - Begins at 3:30
 - Must be picked up by 3:50 in assigned areas

ROTATING DAILY SCHEDULE

2021-2022 Drake Middle School Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:10-8:16	HMRM AM	HMRM AM	HMRM AM	HMRM AM	HMRM AM
8:18-8:48	Bridge Time	Bridge Time	Advisory Time	Bridge Time	Bridge Time
8:51-9:47	A	B	C	D	E
9:50-10:46	B	C	D	E	A
10:49-11:45	C	D	E	A	B
11:48-1:24	S/L	S/L	S/L	S/L	S/L
1:27-2:23	D	E	A	B	C
2:26-3:22	E	A	B	C	D
3:25-3:30	HMRM PM	HMRM PM	HMRM PM	HMRM PM	HMRM PM

*56-minute classes

**S/L – Static/Lunch

Positives:

Students and teachers see one another at varied times throughout the week

Miss different classes for appointments

Parent Conferences scheduled at varied times throughout the week

6TH GRADE ARRIVAL DISMISSAL

- Please be patient with us the first couple of weeks of school as everyone gets familiar with arrival/dismissal procedures.
 - Arrival
 - Arrive between 7:50 am - 8:05 am.
 - We will unload eight cars at a time.
 - Dismissal
 - Begins at 3:30
 - You will need to display a provided name card on your dashboard and we will radio into the cafeteria to call student names when you arrive.
 - Please be patient!
- Please make all transportation decisions prior to coming to school – it is not always possible to get a message to a child if you call at 3:15.
- Walkers and bike riders enter from N. Donahue entrance up the sidewalk.
- Please do not drop off students anywhere other than designated areas.

6TH GRADE ARRIVAL DISMISSAL



TURN LEFT INTO THE
CAR RIDER LOOP

RIDE THE BUS!!!!



BUS INFORMATION

- Routes are typically be posted on the front windows of the school the first week of August. Please pay attention to our website for updates. (www.auburnschools.org/dms under "For Parents.")
- Wait at the nearest bus stop to your house on the first day of school. We don't check bus lists or keep track of student transportation due to frequent changes.
- PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD KNOWS THEIR BUS NUMBER!
- Changing transportation:
 - Call our office only if the message needs to get to your student regarding a change (call before 3pm).
 - If they will ride a different bus, give the driver a completed change of transportation form. ([Bus Form](#))

MATH AND VENTURE PULL OUT

The Alabama State School Board of Education approved a new Mathematics Course of Study in December of 2019. In the new course of study, there are two defined Accelerated Math options for only 7th and 8th grades. In the new standards, 7th Grade Accelerated and 8th Grade Accelerated will compress the content for Math 7, Math 8 and Algebra I into two years.

In light of these changes to the state mandated curriculum, beginning in the fall of 2020 the math course offered for all sixth graders across the state of Alabama is titled Math 6.

We have worked in conjunction with Auburn City Schools district leadership and curriculum directors to identify a plan for serving the needs of students previously participating in Venture pull-out classes in elementary school.

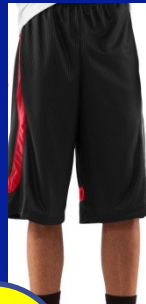
Beginning this fall, Venture pull-out students will be clustered within each team into specific language arts and math classes so that individual learning needs can be met effectively.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

- Follow ACS policy (www.auburnschools.org/domain/1614) - consistency is our goal
- **Typical issues at DMS:**
 - Shorts that are above 4 inches above the knee
 - Pants with holes - MUST HAVE FABRIC UNDERNEATH (ACS Dress Code revision May 2019)
 - Leggings with t-shirts or too short of an over-garment - over-garments “must cover private areas in front and back” (ACS Dress Code revision May 2019)
 - Pants must be worn at the waist
- **When in doubt, don't wear it!**
- Teach your child about the difference in school clothes and weekend clothes.
- **Extra clothes are an excellent idea for many reasons!**
- Parents/ guardians WILL be called to bring clothes. Students will be sent to ISS to sit until clothes arrive.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

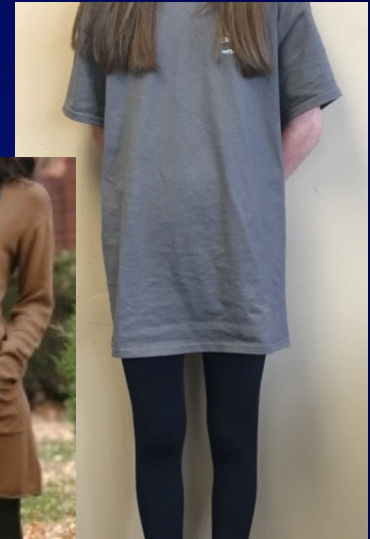
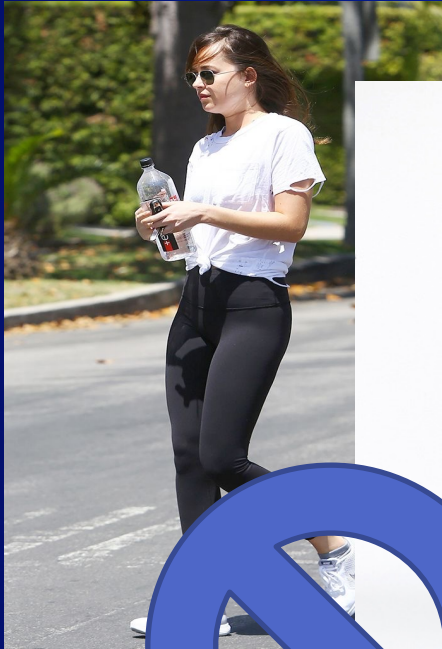
- Skirts/shorts/dresses must be no more than 4 inches above the knee
 - Nike shorts/Soffe shorts do not typically meet the length requirement
 - Basketball-type shorts are ok as long as they meet the length requirement



The type doesn't matter – length does!

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

- Anything worn over leggings (shorts/skirt/dress/shirt) must cover the private areas of the individual.



KNOW THE EXPECTATIONS

- High expectations but encourage recovery from mistakes – this is the time to let your child make mistakes!
- ACS Policies in the Parent/Student Handbook (www.auburnschools.org/domain/1614)
 - Attendance – 5 unexcused absences = truancy Early Warning court
 - Electronic Device Policy
 - Dress code
 - Check out time limit (3:00 p.m.)
- DMS School Rules outlined in student handbook (front of planner)
 - Students and parent sign each year – this year you will sign an additional reminder document.
 - Electronic devices
 - Tardies to class (three = detention)
 - Medication
 - Discipline
 - Lanyard procedures

*Not knowing is not
an excuse!*

DO THE RIGHT THING

- **Bully free is our goal!**
 - Teach children to not be a victim and report for themselves and others (www.auburnschools.org/domain/657)
 - We cannot investigate if we do not know!
- **Medication**
 - **You must have medical forms on file with the nurse for ANY medication** *Ibuprofen, Tylenol, etc. should not be kept in purses, backpacks, etc.*
- **Cell phones**
 - Turned OFF - not to be seen, heard, or used between 7:50-3:30
 - If seen or heard, student will be warned and parent contacted.
 - If they are in use (text/call/video/etc.) they will be taken according to policy.
 - 1st time – we keep it 24 hours and a parent picks it up
 - 2nd time – we keep it 10 days and a parent picks it up
 - 3rd time – we keep it till the end of the semester and a parent picks it up

SAFETY: REAL TALK, REAL LIFE

- Physical Safety

- ID badges and team lanyards
- Enclosed walkways allow for movement without going outdoors
- Focused professional development for teachers
- Raptor ID scan system in front office
- Student training and scenario based conversations
- Say Something Reporting App
 - <https://www.saysomething.net>
- Scheduled Drills
 - Lockdown
 - Secure your area
 - Fire
 - Severe Weather



SAFETY: REAL TALK, REAL LIFE

- Emotional/Mental Safety

Social Media and Phones

- Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, Kik, What's App, Discord, House Party, Omegle, Whisper
- I BEG you, don't let your child have social media in sixth grade!!
- Don't buy the story that all sixth graders have a phone!
- File a police report and take away social media!

Fight to protect your child - you know them best!

I trust my daughter – I do NOT trust other people!

SAFETY: REAL TALK, REAL LIFE

It **is** possible for them to go through middle school without being exposed to all the things you may be worried about! But, in the event they are, what background have you provided on your family's worldview?

Hard conversations – NOW is the time

- Publicly appropriate speech and actions.
- You control the narrative or someone else will.
- Your children are always listening and observing.
 - YOUR ATTITUDE almost always determines their attitude.

CAPTURING KIDS' HEARTS AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Capturing Kids' Hearts – philosophy not a program
 - “Good Things”, Social Contracts, Behavior Cues
- **Positive Behavior Support Program (PBS)**
 - PBIS Rewards – download that app
 - Weekly rewards for desired behavior – no discipline issues, wearing T-shirts
 - PBS Great Break (once at end of each nine weeks)
 - Dunk and Dance Fundraiser (last Friday in May)
 - PBS Dance (usually in January)
- We will teach your child our expectations and plans!



DISCIPLINE AND DISCIPLINE POINTS

- Our goal is fair, consistent, progressive, and developmentally appropriate discipline
- Discipline opportunities are teaching opportunities – **we don't need to call every single time!**
- Reflected as Homeroom Grade (not an academic grade)
 - Loss of points determines conduct grade of S, N, U
 - 100-80 = S, 79-60 = N, 59 and below = U
 - All students begin with 100 points at the beginning of each semester.
- **You must have points to participate in events**
 - Points are deducted for:
 - Three Silent Lunches (5 points)
 - Team detention (10 points) and school wide detention (15 points)
 - Bus suspension (25 points)
 - ISS (60 points) or 20 points per day placement as per admin discretion
 - Suspension (20 points per day)

TECHNOLOGY TUTORIAL

- Schoology - our learning management platform
 - This is what you will use if you enter a remote learning mode at any point during the year.
 - Know your child's password to Schoology!
- Envision – this is our online math textbook
- Office 365 – your child has a school-based email address and access to cloud storage, composition, and sharing with teachers
- PowerSchool– this is our new (statewide) information system and grading platform
 - Allow time for entering of grades
 - Teach children to self-advocate and discuss grades with teachers
 - Parent Portal may not be available until October – paper copy of grades will be sent home in **Thursday folders** until available

IPAD USE AND EXPECTATIONS

- iPad Usage

- Each student will receive an iPad for school use.
- DMS students **will not** take iPads home. Students will leave iPads with homeroom teacher every afternoon and pick them up each morning.
- iPads are for instructional use only.
- Students who do not use their iPad appropriately will receive consequences.
 - 1st offense – Warning and Parent contact
 - 2nd offense – One (1) day of silent lunch
 - 3rd offense – Two (2) days of silent lunch and administrative conference
 - 4th offense – One (1) day of after school detention
 - 5th offense – Student loses iPad access for remainder of semester. fppt.com

LANYARDS and ID BADGES

Students will be issued a J. F. Drake Middle School Identification Badge and lanyard as a feature of our safety plan. Students will be required to properly wear this form of identification around their neck throughout the entire school day.

Team specific lanyards are for sale on My School Bucks. All students will be provided a team-colored lanyard without the specific team wording.

Damaged, lost, or badges that have been altered in any way will result in students having to purchase a new badge for \$5.00.

Disciplinary consequences for students not having their Identification Badge are as follows:

- 1st Offense – warning and temporary badge issued
- 2nd Offense – student serves one (1) day of silent lunch
- 3rd Offense – student serves two (2) days of silent lunch and administrative conference
- 4th Offense – student serves one (1) day in after-school detention
- 5th Offense and subsequent offenses – student serves two (2) days of after-school detention up to an ISS Placement.

GET INVOLVED

Clubs and Activities

- After-school Choir Drake Dynamics
- FCA
- Science Olympiad
- Robotics Club
- Student Council
- Cat's Meow Book Club
- Bridge Club
- Project Outreach Mentor Program
- Breakfast Club (before school ~7:15)
- Yearbook Staff
- Running Club
- Ambassadors – teacher recommendation in Sept.

How to find out about clubs and activities?

- Listen/watch the WCAT News in homeroom and check out the website for club information
- Mrs. Armstrong will email a listing of clubs, meeting dates, sponsor emails, etc. Around the first week of September.

COMMUNICATION

- **DMS WEBSITE** – general information
<http://www.auburnschools.org/drake>
- **Schoology** – team and class specific information
 - Students will receive training and login information
 - Can be accessed from DMS website at the "For Students" tab
- **PTO Facebook** - Drake Middle School PTO 2021-2022
- **Twitter**
 - @JFDRAKEMIDDLESCHOOL
 - @PrincipalDMS to follow Mrs. Armstrong

COMMUNICATION

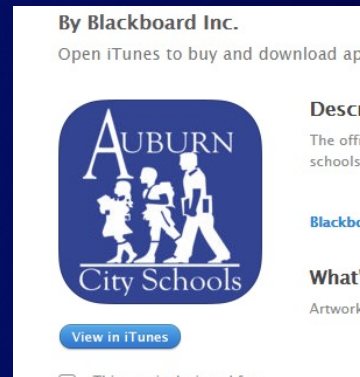
School Instagram: @jfdrakemiddleschool

Team Specific Instagram Accounts

- @weteachtigers – Tigers
- @dmscosmicats – Cosmic Cats
- @dms_panthers_ – Panthers
- @dmstpuma – Pumas
- @leopardsdms – Leopards
- Facebook: LeopardsDMS – Leopards

– **Auburn City Schools App on iTunes store**

Go to notifications and settings to select your preferred schools. Visit apps.apple.com/us/app/auburn-city-schools/id1131656470 to download.



MY SCHOOL BUCKS – ITEMS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE



DMS T-Shirt:

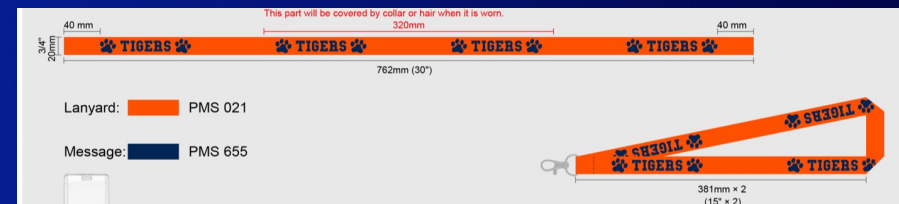
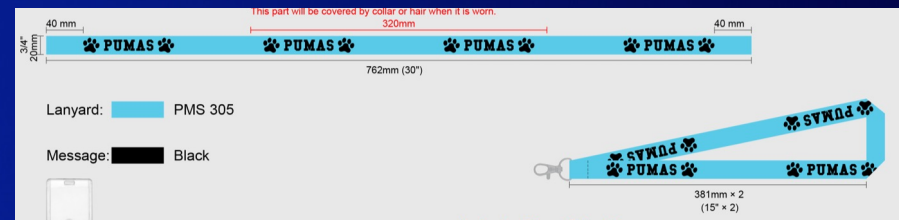
Students will need it for pep rallies, field trips, celebrations, and to earn LE bucks weekly.



apps.apple.com/us/app/myschoolbucks/id61878685

play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.hss.msb&hl=en_US

Team Merchandise:



DMS YEARBOOK INFORMATION

- Yearbook information is located in your parent packet and will be sent home throughout the year.
- Scan the QR code for a direct link to the ordering site through the Jostens website.

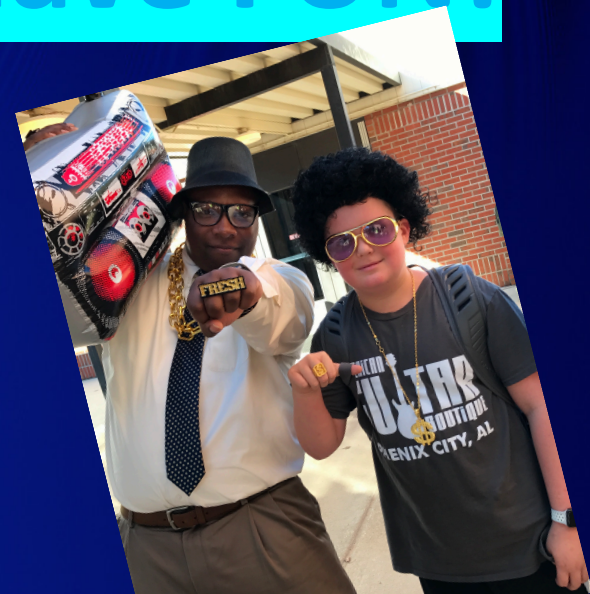
FIRST DAY AND FIRST WEEK

- Watch for signs at arrival and dismissal pickup line – first week is slowest!
- Students enter the gym and sit at designated tables.
- Teachers will come to gym to get students to take them to the team area
 - If your child can get out of the car and tell us their name, we will help them know where to go!
- Schedule details recorded in planners on first day
- School tours
- Team building activities to build relationships
- Reconnecting to promote student wellness

We embrace our role and we will take care of everything!

Work Hard = Play Hard!

We love to have FUN!



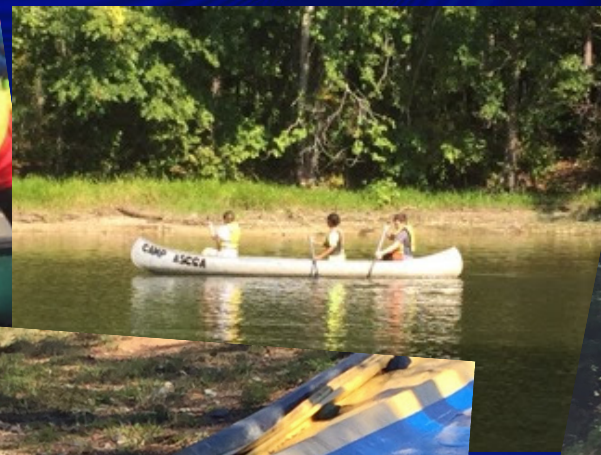
PBS Events
Field Trips
Pep Rallies
Spirit Week
Camp Drake
Faculty/Student Basketball game



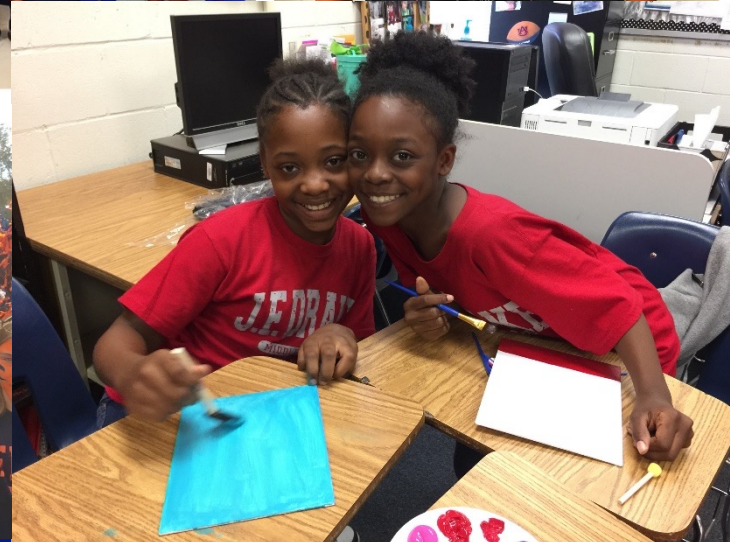
PBS Dance



CAMP ASCCA

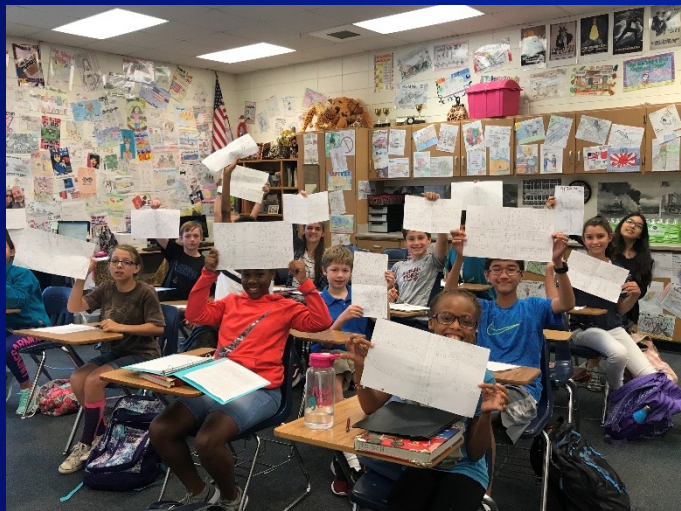
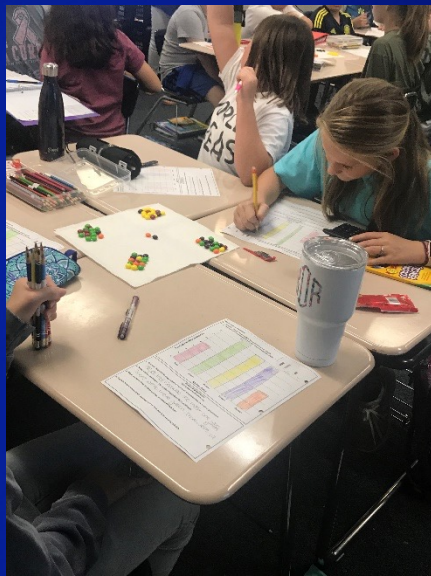
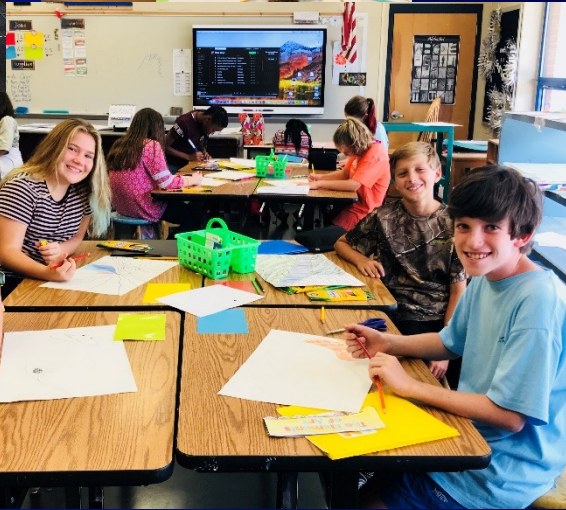
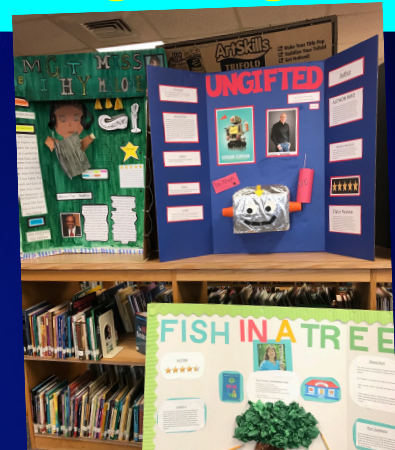
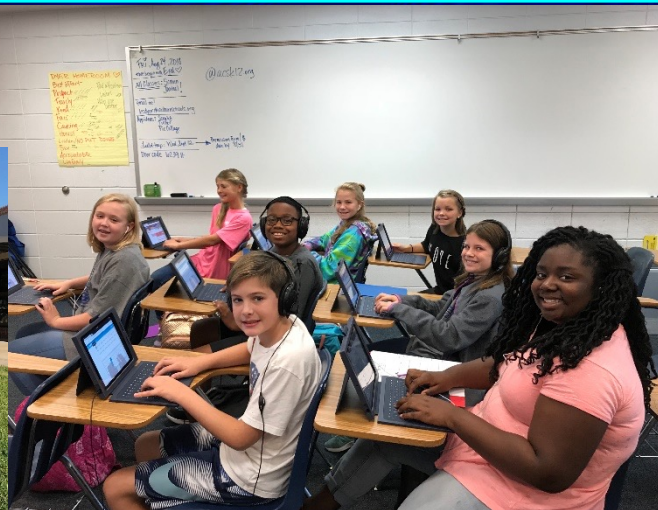


SPIRIT WEEK

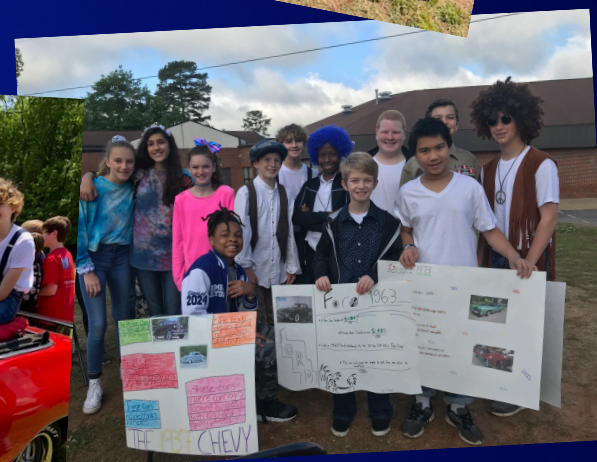
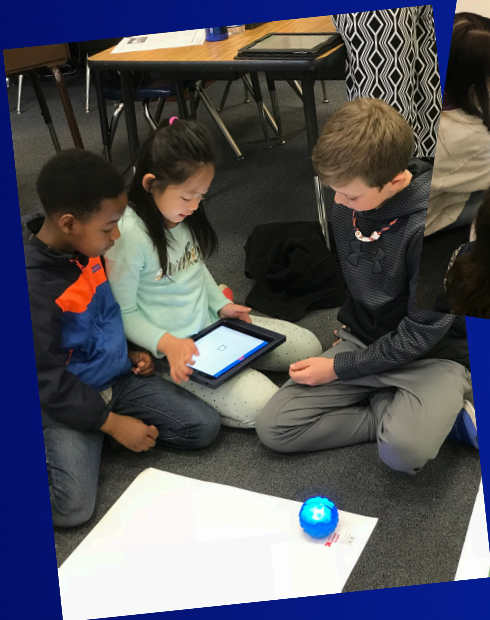




Learning is exciting and fun!



Robots and Car Show



Sports Science Clinic at AU



Book It For Books 5K



PEP RALLY





PEP RALLY



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Open House – Aug. 6th
 - Meet and greet with teachers
 - Opportunity to purchase items /see the rest of the buildings and campus
 - NO parent program
 - 45 minute sessions – parking will be a challenge
- Camp AASCA (\$52)– we welcome parents who wish to attend!
 - Sept. 7th – Panthers
 - Sept. 8th – Tigers
 - Sept. 9th – Pumas
 - Sept. 15th – Cosmic Cats
 - Sept. 16th – Leopards
- Curriculum Nights
 - Monday, August 30th - Panthers, Tigers, Cosmic Cats
 - Tuesday, August 31st - Pumas and Leopards

PARENT PANEL

- Questions?

FEEDBACK SURVEY



- Please visit this link and fill out a brief survey of your Camp Drake experience.
- <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Mh7UKHBpp0uWjDLAC0Fp7ghULMGWRINJkC-07cP9CrRURFBVRk1JQUJKSkpRVzZHU1FBVVIFNEhESC4u>
 - The link will be on the DMS website Monday, July 6th through Monday, July 27th.
- During the first week of school, we will randomly select 10 students whose parents answered the survey and give them **\$100 PBIS Rewards credits to start their school year!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE!



Welcome to the family!