

DSISD PARENT CONNECTIONS

The following overview shares information about the many ways that Dripping Springs ISD and all seven schools reach out to parents.

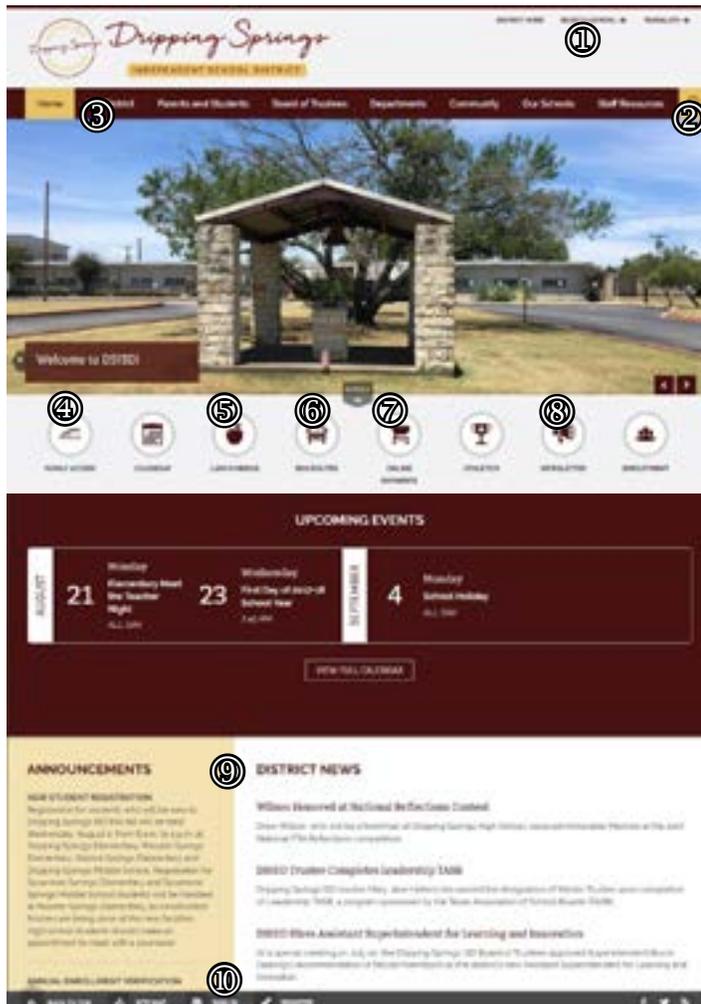
SKYWARD FAMILY ACCESS

Family Access is used for: annual enrollment verification information. Teachers and administrators use Message Center to send targeted e-mails or post information. A Family Access app is available; just search the app store for "Skyward."

WEBSITES

- Teacher websites can be accessed via the school's Staff Directory and include information about course requirements, class schedule, links to resources, and more. Teachers also use Google classroom to share assignments and information with students.
- Campus websites (ie: www.dsisdtx.us/dses) include events, information and news specific to that school.
- A new district website (www.dsisdtx.us) was introduced in the summer of 2017.

- ① **Select a School:** Drop-down menu links to campus websites.
- ② **Search Tool:** Can't find what you're looking for? Type it in.
- ③ **Our District:** Many pieces of information are included in this category including attendance zone map, staff directory, superintendent's podcasts, district publications, archived news releases and more.
- ④ **Family Access:** This link leads to the sign-in page for Family Access.



- ⑤ **Menus:** This link leads to the menus for all cafeterias, including both breakfast and lunch. Menus are provided as pdfs or in Nutrislice, which includes nutritional information.
- ⑥ **Bus Routes:** This link allows users to type in home address and child's grade to receive bus stop time and location.
- ⑦ **Online Payments:** This link leads to two options – Meal Payments and Webstore. Meal payments connects to PayPAMS where parents may add to students' cafeteria accounts. Webstore provides an opportunity to pay for items like community classes, child care, theatre tickets, and transcript fees.
- ⑧ **Newsletter:** This link connects to the district's e-newsletter that is updated every Monday.
- ⑨ **Announcements/District News:** Look for what's happening in the district. "Announcements" includes reminders and timely items of interest, while "News" covers awards, introduction of new programs, accomplishments, and major district decisions.
- ⑩ **Sign In:** This link allows users to sign up for notifications and alerts from the district, campuses, departments or even certain pages on the website (like Board Agendas or Bids/Proposals).

DISTRICT APP

DSISD is designing a new "app" to go along with the new district website; it will be available in early fall. Some features will be customizable to campuses that one's children attend. The free app will be downloadable from the iTunes store or Google Play.

E-MAIL/PHONE

E-mail blasts can be sent from the district, campus or classroom levels, based on contact information stored in Family Access. Elementary teachers aim to make weekly contact, while secondary teachers plan e-mail communications in conjunction with key projects, deadlines, exams, etc. Classroom teachers have phone extensions where messages can be left, but e-mail is the preferred method of communication since teachers do not answer phones during instructional time.

NOTIFICATIONS

- For emergency or time-critical announcements (like school closings), DSISD uses an telephone alert system through Blackboard Communications that delivers a recorded message to contact numbers in Skyward Family Access. Messages also are left for student absences.
- Parents make their notification preferences through their Blackboard Communications accounts (same login as Family Access; password can be reset). They may chose to receive phone calls, texts, and/or emails.
- Parents also can request to be notified when new information is posted to certain pages of the district website. To subscribe to certain pages, parents should go to the bottom of the website and click on LOG IN (Blackboard login), click on "Edit Account Settings," then "Subscriptions." Parents can select what schools they would like to set notifications for, or watch certain webpages (like Athletics, Board of Trustees, etc.).

NEWSLETTERS

The district publishes an e-newsletter called "Inside DSISD" that is updated every Monday (see "Newsletter" icon on homepage). This includes information about news, honors, programs, events and Board actions. Schools and elementary grade level teams also post newsletters to update parents on campus happenings.

SOCIAL MEDIA

DSISD has a Twitter account and a Facebook page to share information about news, events, programs and honors. Campuses and many classrooms also use social media tools.