



Inside DSISD

**DRIPPING SPRINGS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

August 2018

Enrollment Continues to Grow

Dripping Springs ISD continues to grow, with this year's total enrollment expected to eclipse the 6,800-student mark. This is a growth rate of more than 6.5 percent over this time last year and of about 5 percent since the end of school in June.

A historical look reveals that just five years ago, at the start of the 2013-14 school year, DSISD enrollment was 5,082. The current projected total would represent an increase of 34 percent from that 2013-14 mark. Ten years ago, total enrollment was 4,141.

Growth in Dripping Springs ISD is expected to continue. The district is expected to hit the 10,000-student mark in either 2023 or 2024.

In preparation for the growing student population, a \$123 million bond was approved in May of 2018. Items in the bond package specifically addressing student enrollment growth are expansion of Dripping Springs High School and

construction of Elementary School #5. The high school, which is already over its 1,750 building capacity, will be expanded to serve 2,500 students. The expansion will involve the addition of a classroom/lab wing that will connect the fine arts wing to the automotive technology area. (Common areas were originally designed for 2,500 students.) The location of Elementary #5 has not yet been determined; its target date to open is 2021-22.

DSISD BY CAMPUS (Projected Start-of-Year)

Dripping Springs Elementary	811
Rooster Springs Elementary	894
Sycamore Springs Elementary	818
Walnut Springs Elementary	731
Dripping Springs MS	799
Sycamore Springs MS	806
Dripping Springs HS	1,943

Welcome New Teachers!



The Dripping Springs ISD family keeps growing! As the hiring cycle nears its end, approximately 80 new teachers and a dozen new aides have joined the district at all seven campuses. In addition, 90 new substitutes attended orientation sessions and are now in the DSISD system. There also have been dozens of support positions filled heading into the new school year, and some that are still open. DSISD always accepts applications for some positions that are more difficult to fill such as bus drivers, custodial workers, and Child Nutrition specialists.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Superintendent's Message	2
Gold Tiger Cards	2
Meet the Board of Trustees	3
Advisory Committees	3
Student Insurance	3
Strategic Plan	4
Back-to-School Events	5
DS Ed Foundation	5
Notifications Sign-Up	5
Parent Communication Tools	6
Annual Athletics Pass	7
DSISD Child Find	7
School Directory	7
New Administrative Staff	7
Extended Care	8
Bus Information	8

IMPORTANT DATES

(REMAINING BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS ON PAGE 5)

August 20

Board of Trustees Agenda Review Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Board Room, DSISD Administration Building

August 21

First day of school

August 27

Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Board Room, DSISD Administration Building

August 31

DSHS Football vs. Kerrville Tivy HS, first home varsity football game, 7:30 p.m.

September 3

Student and Staff Holiday



Back-to-School Message from the Superintendent Bruce Gearing, Ed.D.

Welcome back! Everyone in the Dripping Springs ISD family is looking forward to getting the 2018-19 school year started and making it the best ever for the Tiger Nation.

As we prepared for the year, our leadership team and staff spent time considering who we are and what we believe in. We asked ourselves questions like: What is the culture of Dripping Springs ISD? What do we want for our students?

One thing we know is that this is a transformational time for education. Our children learn differently today than they did even 10 years ago. And as they enter into a rapidly changing global society, they need to be prepared to adapt and grow with the changes. Our responsibility is to cultivate the skills they need to manage rapid change and to develop each of them as life-long learners and positive contributors. We do this by encouraging students to explore subjects they have an interest in, and connecting those interests directly to their learning. If students are excited about the focus of a lesson, they will naturally be more engaged.

Over the past several months we have talked about our district's culture. We have narrowed a description down to four words: **organic, empowerment, performance, and learning.**

Organic doesn't mean everyone gets to do whatever they want, whenever they want. Rather it is the creation of the right environment to nurture growth and learning through relationships in every individual in the district. We have to set the right boundaries and then allow learning the freedom to develop based on strengths and interests.

Empowerment means pushing the responsibility for learning to where it belongs – with the learner. It's all about autonomy and accountability at every level of the organization, and true agency for teachers and students.

Performance is the proof of learning. It has to be rigorous and relevant and allow for learner choice. Performance expresses student voice.

Learning has to be anytime, anywhere, anyhow. It has to be creative in the sense of being constructive (not artsy

necessarily), and it has to be personal, connecting to each learners' interests and passions.

Creating an environment that allows for meaningful and authentic learning falls in the hands of our talented teachers and staff. Our teachers and campuses are empowered to take risks as they search for the most effective ways to foster learning in their students. We understand that over time, many factors influence the journey we are on with our students. We invite you to join us on that journey.

As we prepare for the first day of school, our enrollment continues to rise at a steady and strong pace. We expect approximately 400 new students this year, bringing our district enrollment to more than 6,800 students. Last year we opened a new elementary school and a new middle school. In May voters approved a \$132 million bond that includes expansion of Dripping Springs High School and one new elementary school. It also includes a plan to relocate Walnut Springs Elementary next to Dripping Springs Middle School and to convert WSE into a new administration building. Other projects at DSISD campuses also were included, as well as technology improvements and land acquisition.

This year will be the third year of implementation for our 2016-21 strategic plan. The plan focuses on the idea of personalized learning for every student. We strive to create an environment where every student can reach his or her unique potential based on individual passions, strengths, and interests. We have made great progress in the first two years and

will stay on track to accomplish our goals. The [full strategic plan](#), which consists of four areas of emphasis, can be viewed on the DSISD website and a summary is located on Page 4 of this newsletter.

To new parents, students and staff, we are glad you have chosen to join the Dripping Springs ISD family. When my family and I came here seven years ago, it was an intentional choice. DSISD has an outstanding reputation that has been built not only on the success of our students, but the fact that we do things our way. The DSISD team consists of true "life-changers" who go above and beyond every day to serve kids and help them achieve their potential. Our students come to school ready to learn and continually surprise us with their astounding creativity and abilities. Our parents are involved and active partners. Our community is consistently supportive of education and of our district. Together we are equipping and inspiring our students to be life-long learners and positive contributors to the world!

Dripping Springs is truly a special place. The Tiger Nation is strong and proud. Thanks for being a part of Dripping Springs ISD. #iamDSISD

Best wishes for a great school year.
Sincerely,

Bruce Gearing
Superintendent

"Gold Tiger Cards" for Senior Citizens

Senior citizens residing within DSISD are eligible to receive "Gold Tiger" cards that allow free admission to district and school events. The cards, which have been available for several years, can be used for General Admission seating at varsity athletics contests, as well as musical and theatrical performances. Gold Tiger cards cannot be used at UIL playoff games or events where meals are included in the admission price.

Senior citizens (age 65 and older) may obtain a card in person at the DSISD Administration Building front desk with a driver's license or some other form of identification with address.



Meet the Board of Trustees



Carrie Fontana Kroll
President
Advocacy/Health
Policy Director
Elected May 2012
Term Ends May 2018



Barbara Stroud
Vice President
Attorney/Mediator
Elected May 2008
Term Ends May 2020



Ron Jones
Secretary
Consultant
Elected May 2014
Term Ends May 2020



Dr. Mary Jane Hetrick
Adjunct Professor
Elected May 2015
Term Ends May 2018



Shannon O'Connor
Accountant
Elected May 2015
Term Ends May 2018



Jon Thompson
Consultant
Elected May 2013
Term Ends May 2019

One Board position is vacant and is expected to be filled in August.

Public school districts are represented by a Board of Trustees comprised of citizens representing the community. Board members are unsalaried district patrons elected for a term of three years. The Board has final control over major decisions regarding school policy, curriculum, expenditures, and building programs. It is the Board's responsibility to provide tax monies for maintenance and operation of the schools, to submit bond issues to the district's voters for construction of school facilities, and to hire the district's Chief Executive Officer (superintendent). Board authority is defined by federal and state law and by regulations set by the State Board of Education. Trustees act officially only as a group in duly called and posted Board meetings. Their interest is to serve DSISD's students and employees and to protect the taxpayers' investment in the district.

Dripping Springs ISD's Board members work closely with the Superintendent and administration to lead the district to maintain a high-quality education for Dripping Springs students.

Trustees convene for regular meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of

each month in the Central Administration Building (510 W. Mercer St.) Board Room. Agenda review meetings are held on the third Monday of the month, also at 6:00 p.m. Additional special meetings may be called. (There are no agenda review meetings in November or December due to holiday schedules.)

Agendas are posted 72 hours prior to meetings and at least two hours before an emergency meeting at the Central Administration Building. The agenda also is placed on the district's website. A majority of the Board (four members) constitutes a quorum. A quorum must be present to conduct business or take action.

Texas law does not require school districts to hold Board meeting public forums; however, DSISD Trustees have chosen to provide that opportunity to the public. At regular board meetings, any person wanting to speak during a public forum signs in prior to the meeting. Persons will be heard on a first-come, first-served basis and may speak for three minutes. Delegations appoint one person to present their views before the board and are allowed five minutes.

DSISD Community Advisory Committees

Community involvement is critical to the success of Dripping Springs ISD and is represented as the foundation of the 2016-21 strategic plan. The plan's base is the "Village," which reflects the fact that our schools are the center of the community. The Village represents community partnerships, as well as communication and connections between campuses.

Opportunities exist for community advisory committees that strengthen ties between the school and the community and enhance the core educational process. Committees provide input to the district on a variety of subjects, including district and campus planning, gifted and talented programs, student health initiatives, and facilities recommendations.

The following committees exist: District Advisory Council, School Health Advisory Council, Campus Advisory Councils, GT Advisory Council, and DSISD Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee.

Those interested in participating in an advisory committee should complete an Application for Committee Appointment by Sept. 14, 2018.

Student Insurance Offered

Dripping Springs ISD has selected the Student Insurance Plan to make reliable coverage available to parents. While all registered students in the district are eligible, this opportunity may be especially appealing to parents of students involved in extracurricular activities such as athletics and band.

Different levels of coverage are available, based on the family's needs. Options are:

- At-school coverage (includes field trips)
- 24-hour coverage
- Football only
- Extended dental coverage
- Coverage period

Additional information about these options is available under "Parents and Students" on the district website.

Coverage, which is underwritten by Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company, may be purchased at any time during the school year by visiting the website www.K12StudentInsurance.com.

Dripping Springs ISD Strategic Plan 2016-21

OUR VISION

We inspire and equip students to be life-long learners and positive contributors to the world.

OUR MISSION

We partner with students, parents and the community to provide a personalized and exceptional education for every student.

DSISD Five-Year Vision

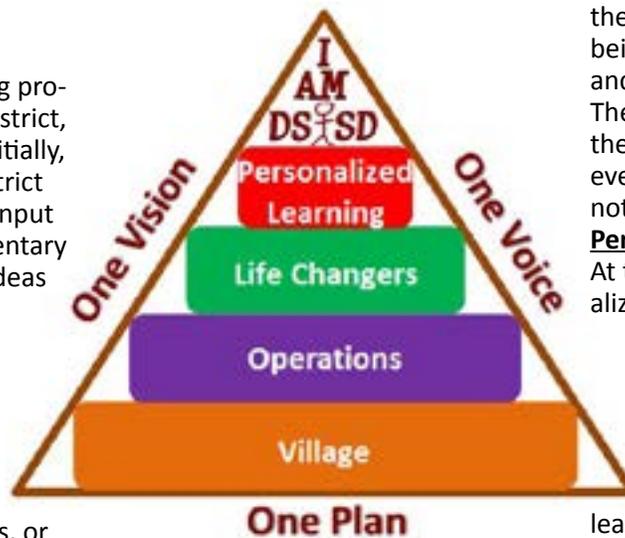
Dripping Springs ISD serves as a model 21st Century learning environment. Faculty and students are committed to life-long learning through creative and innovative thinking. Together they take risks and explore passions. Each student is part of a team focused on creating, implementing, assessing, and modifying a unique plan to maximize potential. These personalized plans have a global focus and create a growth mindset. Students develop a 21st Century skillset through the integration of curricular and extracurricular programs. The culture reflects a commitment to everyone's realization of maximum potential. The operation of the district is effective and efficient in the delivery of a safe, nurturing environment for all.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Beginning in 2014, Dripping Springs ISD engaged in a planning process to guide the future of the district, its schools, students and staff. Initially, stakeholders from across the district gathered to provide insight and input into the design of the new elementary school and middle school. The ideas and priorities that emerged from the design process led into a strategic planning effort that pulled in other members of the Dripping Springs community and DSISD. Throughout 2015, all input was compiled and organized by the district's Visionary Leaders, or administrative team, into a guiding document. The 2016-21 Strategic Plan was rolled out in the spring of 2016 and full implementation began the following year. After the five-year period concludes, the district will take a year to evaluate progress and then work on developing a new strategic plan.

The Village:

DSISD exists in a sea of stakeholders. Successful collaboration and communication with all stakeholders is critical to success. This goal is about building and sustaining positive relationships. The Village refers to community partnerships, relationships built on trust, communication and a sense of connectivity among campuses. It definitely takes a village to raise a child.



Operations:

To achieve this strategic plan, operations must become like breathing. As long as systems operate effectively and efficiently, they shouldn't be noticeable. This section refers to the behind-the-scenes functions that must occur in order for schools to serve students' needs and for the district to serve schools' needs. It is all about the delivery of fantastic service. Operations includes Transportation, Facilities, Child Nutrition and Business Services.

Life Changers:

"Life Changers" refers to having effective staff in place district-wide. The district recognizes that not only is it important to hire the right employees for the right positions, but to build

their capacity to do the right work by being given opportunities to develop and grow professionally over time. The most important part of this plan is the people. Without a life-changer in every position in the district, we will not achieve everything in this plan.

Personalized Learning:

At the top of the pyramid is "personalized learning" – creating an environment that allows students to pursue their passions and be involved in creating their own educational goals. This is the ultimate goal of the entire plan. By 2021, we want personalized learning in place for every student. A plan will be developed by a team that includes the student, parents, teachers, professional support staff, and administrators.

The 2016-21 Strategic Plan is available at on the district website. This living, breathing document is updated and modified as the district moves forward with implementation and discovers what elements of the plan are working and what elements might need to be revisited. It consists of objectives, strategies and action steps for each of the four main sections. Also posted on the strategic plan website is a "heat map" indicating progress made with the plan. The heat map graphically displays which action steps are underway, which have been completed, which are completed annually, and what steps have not yet been started.

Remaining Back-to-School Events

August is always an exciting time of year as students head back to the classroom and families readjust to “Tiger Time!” All campuses plan back-to-school activities to orient students to their schools, provide information, and establish important home-school connections. Several events have already occurred including elementary Meet the Teacher Night; the remaining schedule is listed below.

DRIPPING SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

Thursday, September 6:

Parent Orientation for Pre-K, Kinder, 5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m., classrooms
Parent Orientation for Grades 3 and 4, 6:15 p.m.-7:00 p.m., classrooms

Tuesday, September 11:

Parent Orientation for Grades 1 and 2, 5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m., classrooms
Parent Orientation for Grade 5, 6:15 p.m.-7:00 p.m., classrooms

ROOSTER SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

Thursday, September 6:

Parent Orientation for Kinder, Grades 2 and 4, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., classrooms

DS Ed Foundation Provides Support



Founded in 1992, the Dripping Springs Education Foundation supports academic goals and achievement at every school in Dripping Springs ISD by raising and allocating private-sector funds. In recent years, the Foundation mission has expanded to include establishing a reliable private-funding mechanism to help bridge the gap, foster teacher and student excellence, and ensure the District maintains academic competitiveness regardless of state funding levels.

The Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. For more information, to donate or to volunteer, visit the [DSEF website](#).

Tuesday, September 11:

Parent Orientation for Grades 1, 3, and 5, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., classrooms

SYCAMORE SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

Thursday, September 6:

Parent Orientation for Kinder, Grades 1 and 2, 6:00 p.m.-6:45 p.m., classrooms

Tuesday, September 11:

Parent Orientation for Grades 3, 4, and 5, 6:00 p.m.-6:45 p.m., classrooms

WALNUT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

Thursday, September 6:

Parent Orientation for Grades 1 and 2, 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., classrooms
Parent Orientation for Grade 5, 6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., classrooms

Tuesday, September 11:

Parent Orientation for Grades 3 and 4, 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., classrooms

DRIPPING SPRINGS MS

Tuesday, September 4:

Meet the Teacher Night, classrooms (follow student schedule), 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

SYCAMORE SPRINGS MS

Tuesday, September 4:

Meet the Teacher Night, classrooms (follow student schedule), 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

DRIPPING SPRINGS HS

Monday, September 10:

Meet the Teacher Night, classrooms (follow student schedule), 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Meet the Teacher



Meet the Teacher Night was held at elementary schools August 16. Above, Sycamore Springs Elementary pre-K teacher Jena Bernhard welcomes a student.

NOTIFICATIONS

Dripping Springs ISD offers parents options for emergency and time-sensitive notifications via e-mail, phone calls, or texts through the Blackboard Communications system. In addition, parents may set notifications for multiple phone numbers: home, cell and/or work. Selecting notification preferences is one step in the annual enrollment verification process that is completed online in August. Initially, all contact numbers listed in the student’s Skyward Family Access account are used as a default, but parents may go into their [Blackboard account](#) to select preferences. Attendance notifications can be set separately from emergency notifications. Parents’ log-in should be the same as it is in Family Access; passwords were assigned at the beginning of the year and can be reset at any time. (Those who forgot their password may request that an email providing a reset option. This account can be used with the DSISD app.

Parents also can subscribe to receive alerts that are sent regarding webpage updates. This can be done by logging into their Blackboard account, then clicking on “My Options,” then “Subscriptions.” Parents may either select “Site,” then chose appropriate campus, or click on “Other Areas” and choose a specific webpage. Step-by-step directions are available online. Non-parents or vendors may subscribe to web alerts and should begin by clicking the “Register” button.

Dripping Springs ISD 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

This system allows parents to access information on grading, attendance, and discipline. It also is used for the annual enrollment verification process. 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 each 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 include events, information and news specific to that school.
- The district website (www.dsisdtx.us), which was redesigned in the

summer of 2017, has several valuable features:

- 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, district academic calendars, archived news releases, etc.
- 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.

customizable to campuses that one’s children attend. The free app can be downloaded from the iTunes store or Google Play.

E-MAIL/PHONE

E-mail blasts are 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 (related story Page 5)

- For time-critical announcements (like school closings), DSISD uses a telephone alert system that delivers a recorded message to contact numbers in Family Access. Messages also are left for student absences. Parents make notification preferences through their Blackboard accounts during the enrollment verification process, but can make adjustments by logging into that account. They may choose to receive phone calls, texts, and/or emails.
- Parents can request to be notified when new information is posted to certain pages of the district website. To subscribe to a page, parents should go to the bottom of the website and click on SIGN IN (Blackboard login) as indicated by green box at left. Then, click on “Edit Account Settings,” and “Subscriptions.” Parents can select what schools they would like notifications for, or watch certain webpages (like Athletics, Board of Trustees, etc.).



⑧ **Newsletter:** This link connects to the district’s e-newsletter that is updated every Monday.

⑨ **Podcasts:** Superintendent’s Podcasts highlight programs and activities from around the district in short videos.

⑩ **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.

DISTRICT APP
DSISD has an app that provides mobile access to items on the district website; some features are

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. This school year DSISD will introduce an Instagram page as well. Campuses and many classrooms also use social media tools.

Annual Athletics Pass Offered

Dripping Springs ISD offers an all-sports pass for general admission to **non-playoff** middle school and high school **home** athletic events during the school year, with the exception of varsity football games.

Secondary student athletic season passes can be purchased online through the DSISD Webstore for \$25. After purchase, students should take their **new** 2018-19 Student ID card to their campus receptionist to receive a sticker for the back.

Adult athletic season passes can also be purchased online through the DSISD Webstore for \$50 per adult. Adult



athletic season pass cards may be picked up 24 hours after purchase at the Athletics Office located at the DSHS Tiger Stadium Field House. Current 2018 football reserved seat season ticket holders may purchase adult athletic season passes at a discounted price of \$25 per adult. These passes are **not** accepted at other schools or for varsity football games.

The pass will cover the following sports that host games with UIL-mandated admission fees: baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' soccer, softball, volleyball, and sub-varsity football games.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Dripping Springs Elementary (PreK-5)
29400 Ranch Road 12
Kellie Raymond, Principal
Phone: 512.858.3700

Walnut Springs Elementary (PreK-5)
300 Sportsplex Drive
Julie Pryor, Principal
Phone: 512.858.3800

Rooster Springs Elementary (PreK-5)
1001 Belterra Drive
Mandy Sargent, Principal
Phone: 512.858.3089

Sycamore Springs Elementary (PreK-5)
14451 Sawyer Ranch Rd.
Kristen Ray, Principal
Phone: 512.858.3900

Dripping Springs Middle School (6-8)
111 Tiger Lane
Jason Certain, Principal
Phone: 512.858.3400

Sycamore Springs Middle School (6-8)
14451 Sawyer Ranch Rd.
Dan Diehl, Principal
Phone: 512.858.3600

Dripping Springs High School (9-12)
940 Hwy 290 West
Joe Burns, Principal
Phone: 512.858.3100

New Administrators In DSISD

This summer, Dripping Springs ISD hired a new Director of Special Services, and three assistant principals have started new duties.

Katharine Muller is the district's new Director of Special Services. Ms. Muller has been an educational specialist at Region 13 Educational Service Center since 2014. The DSISD Special Services department oversees many services: Special Education, dyslexia, Section 504, response to intervention, homebound, and the 18-plus ACCESS program.

At Region 13, Ms. Muller provided professional development, technical assistance and support aligned to evaluation requirements for Dyslexia and 504 services, and also worked with administration of English and Spanish reading assessments and literacy support statewide. Previously, she was the Federal/Special Programs Director at Florence ISD, Coordinator of Dyslexia Services for Austin ISD, and Assistant Director of Special Services for Del Valle ISD.

Dripping Springs Middle School has two new assistant principals: Aaron Capps, who previously was a teacher and coach there, and Amber McKinley, who comes to Dripping Springs from Canyon Vista Middle School in Round Rock ISD. Mr. Capps is the AP for half of seventh grade (A-J) and eighth grade, while Ms. McKinley is the AP for the other half of seventh grade (K-Z) and sixth grade.

Former DSMS Assistant Principal Kelly Miller moved to Dripping Springs High School in the same position, increasing the number of APs at the campus to four.



Clockwise from top left: Director of Special Services Katharine Muller, DSMS AP Aaron Capps, DSHS AP Kelly Miller, and DSMS AP Amber McKinley.

Special Services Child Find Notice

Every child learns at a different pace, but often children need our help in removing obstacles that prevent them from reaching their full potential. Dripping Springs ISD provides free referral and information services to help children with learning challenges that may interfere with their ability to do well in school. These can include difficulties with social interactions, playing, talking, seeing, hearing, behavior and movement. This service is available to infants, children and youth beginning at birth to age 21.

Parents who are concerned that their child seems to be learning or playing differently from others, please call the DSISD Special Service Office at 512.858.3066 for more information. We are here to help parents meet the learning needs of their children.

BUS TRANSPORTATION ROUND-UP

As Dripping Springs ISD Transportation is preparing for the new school year, parents are encouraged to visit the department's webpage for routes, times, guidelines and other information.

All parents should check their student's bus stop and schedule and not assume it will be the same as last year. Routes for 2018-19 have been updated and posted.

Parents should verify their student's bus information by:

- Selecting the Bus Route icon on the district webpage (below the picture).
- Typing in address and grade level of student. Address must be exact, including zip code.

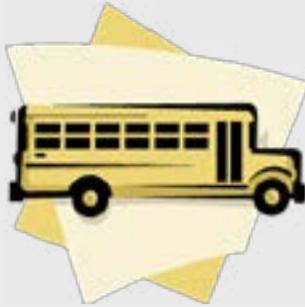
Those with questions should:

- E-mail the Transportation Office at transportation@dsisdtx.us.
- Call the Transportation Office at 858-3008 between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Students should ride their assigned bus and use their assigned bus stop. The district does not offer transportation to alternate locations.

Guidelines for Riders:

- Students should be at their bus stop in the morning 10 minutes prior to their scheduled pick-up, waiting a



minimum of 10-15 feet from the roadway. For safety reasons, students should never chase after a missed bus.

- A parent or designee should meet young students at their bus stop after school.
- Parents are responsible for their children on the route to and from the bus stop and while students are at the stop.
- Students should always avoid the "Danger Zones" where driver's vision is blocked (map available on the Transportation website).

Driver Safety Tips:

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods and school zones.
- Take extra time to look for kids at in-

tersections, on medians and on curbs.

- Enter and exit driveways slowly and carefully.
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after-school hours.
- Reduce distractions so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving.

Student Safety Tips:

- Students under 10 years old should cross the street with an adult.
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars.
- Make sure to always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see.

The DSISD Transportation Department can contact all parents or those of students riding a particular bus (based on notification preferences in Blackboard). In addition, when the new district app is rolled out this fall, parents will have easy access to their child's route information.

Extended Care Programs Offered

Dripping Springs ISD students may use extended care services offered through the Community Services Department at both the elementary and middle school levels.

After-school care, or "Kids Club," is available at all four elementary campuses (SSE currently has a waiting list). This program serves

students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade in a safe environment. Children enjoy structured and supervised playtime, creative time, storytime, homework time, and snacks. There are two options based on pick-up time: the 5:00 p.m. pick-up time costs \$120 per month and the 6:30 pick-up time is \$200 per month. Drop-ins are \$20 per day. Registration is required for attendance. A reminder for returning families: a new form must be completed each year for each child in the program.

At both middle schools, "Club CRASH" is an early-morning supervised time to assist parents who need to head to work before school drop-off time. The



hours of operation are 6:45 a.m.-8:15 a.m. during which time students are encouraged to read, work on school projects, socialize with friends, or just mentally prepare for the day. The monthly fee for Club CRASH is just \$85. Drop-ins are \$10 per day. Registration is required for attendance.

Students can be registered for either program on the Dripping Springs ISD website. There is a \$50 registration fee and the first month's payment is due prior to attending. Discounts are given for families qualifying for free lunch (40 percent discount) or reduced lunch (20 percent discount). Pre-payment is required and credit cards are accepted.

Elementary parents should make sure the classroom teachers have on file that the student attends the Kids Club program so he or she is directed appropriately at dismissal.

For more information on either the Kids Club or Club CRASH programs, contact the DSISD Community Services Department at (512) 858-3022.

Inside DSISD is the Dripping Springs Independent School District newsletter for parents, friends and the entire Dripping Springs community. During the school year, *Inside DSISD* is provided in a blog format that can be accessed from the front page of the DSISD website (see "Newsletter" icon). Stories are added periodically, and a complete update is done every Monday, at which time parents are sent a link.

DRIPPING SPRINGS ISD

Board of Trustees:

Carrie Fontana-Kroll, president
Barbara Stroud, vice president

Ron Jones, secretary

Dr. Mary Jane Hetrick

Shannon O'Connor

Jon Thompson

One seat is vacant.

Superintendent:

Bruce Gearing, Ed.D.