

# Dougherty County School System

*Educational Achievement Beyond All Expectations*

Joshua W. Murfree, Jr. Ph.D, Superintendent

<http://www.docoschools.org>

## DCSS Update

*Current news stories and event information received through the Public Information Office.*

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### Upcoming Events

*Get More Detailed*

*Event Information on the DCSS Web Site at*

[www.docoschools.org](http://www.docoschools.org)

#### May 23

--Teacher Work Day

--Middle and High School Report Cards

#### May 25

--Board of Education Work Session. Board briefing, 11:30 a.m.; Work session, 12:00 noon, School Administration Building, 200 Pine Ave.

#### May 30

--Memorial Day (*all offices closed*)

#### Ongoing Events

##### May 12 - September 20

--Superintendent's Administration Building Exhibit #4, 200 Pine Avenue

##### May 12 - August 30

--Chamber of Commerce #3, 225 W Broad Avenue

##### May 12 - August 30

--Central Library Exhibit #4, 300 Pine Avenue

### Dear Lana,

The *DCSS Update* is published throughout the school year to inform the community and our employees of the many honors and awards our students and staff members receive along with some of the significant events that take place in our schools.

*Deadline for submission of articles to be considered for the DCSS Update is 12:00 noon on Thursday before publication date.*

### Monroe Girls Win Third Consecutive State Track Title



Competing in track and field events from May 12-14, the Lady Tornadoes from Monroe

Comprehensive High School secured their third consecutive state track title. The first day of the competition consisted of qualifying running events including the 400-meter relay, the 800-meter run, 400-meter run, 200-meter dash and the 1600-meter relay. The ladies ran their fastest time of the season on the 400-meter relay. Day two saw the Lady Tornadoes securing 1st place in the long jump, triple jump, high jump, and discus. Field event athletes were Mimieux Land, Alexandria Childs and Vanshayla Johnson who contributed 42 points together. The third day of competition began with the qualifying running events. The Lady Tornadoes brought home the gold in the 400-meter relay and the 400-meter run. They also earned a silver medal and an eighth place finish in the 200-meter dash, second place in the 1600-meter relay, and took seventh place in the 800-meter run. Participating in the track events were Jade Perry, Maikea Davis, Shameka Carter and Mimieux Land (400-meter relay); Maikea Davis (400-meter dash); Maikea Davis and Jade Perry (200-meter dash); Destinee Collins (800-meter run); and Mimieux Land, Jade Perry, Perheasha Perkins and Maikea Davis (1600-meter relay). The 1600-meter relay team ran the fastest time this season in the state track meet. The Lady Tornadoes achieved an overall total of 82 points to claim another victory in AAA track and field. Team coaches are LaToya Johnson, Paul Jones and Billy Glanton.

### Westover Student Kaila Barrett Receives Rotary Scholarship

The Albany Rotary Club awarded Kaila Barrett, a Westover Comprehensive High School senior, a \$1200 scholarship at their meeting on May 12 at Doublegate Country Club. The Rotary Club was impressed with Kaila's community service, her academic standing and the goals she has set for herself. Kaila told the club members that she will be attending Georgetown University where she plans to major in biochemistry with a

pre-medical concentration to further her goal of becoming a pediatric oncologist. She thanked the Rotary Club for their contribution to her future. Kaila's mother, Carla Fritts, and guidance counselor Cathie Chandler, attended the presentation with her.



## Monroe High Senior Receives 100 Black Men of Albany Scholarship



Monroe Comprehensive High School graduate

Christopher Parks received the annual 100 Black Men of Albany Scholarship for the 2011 graduating class. The system-wide award has been given by the local organization for eleven years to one graduating senior from Dougherty County. Christopher has been accepted and will attend Albany State University. He has a GPA of 3.2 and has maintained honor roll status since his first year of high school. Club scholarship committee chairman Nelson Brown, Jr. said Christopher has exceptional leadership qualities as evidenced by his community volunteer work. He is also active in his church, New Salem CME, where he is Sunday school superintendent. Pictured with Christopher are 100 Black Men committee members (from left) Demetrius Love, Clarence Green, Jr., President Sanford Hillsman, Chairman Brown, and Ralph Hardy.

## Rotary Youth Leadership Award Goes to Westover Sophomore



The Dougherty County Rotary Club presented

Sayna Patel, a sophomore student at Westover Comprehensive High School, with the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) at their meeting on May 10. Sayna will represent the Dougherty County Rotary Club this summer for a week long leadership academy to be held at Georgia Southwestern State University. RYLA offers students an opportunity to build self-confidence, gain exposure to a variety of issues and people, meet active community leaders, and learn valuable information and career skills. RYLA gives Rotarians the opportunity to mentor promising young leaders serving their own communities and beyond. Rotarians serve as resources for participants on the path to becoming professional and community leaders. Attending at the luncheon with Sayna was her father, Kirit Patel, and her guidance counselors Cathie Chandler and Dr. Tracy Knighton.

## Youth Orchestra Wins 1st Place at "Music in the Parks"

The Dougherty County Youth Orchestra enjoyed a three-day trip to Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, where they participated on May 7 in competition at the "Music in the Parks" festival. Music in the Parks was a celebration of the 30th anniversary of Dollywood. The orchestra performed at Pigeon Forge High School where they won first place, earned a superior rating, and received the highest scores from the judges.



## ISECS Students Donate to American Red Cross

Students from Lerkeesha Jackson's second grade class at International Studies Elementary Charter School donated \$125 to the American Red Cross for the relief effort in Japan to aid earthquake and tsunami victims. Meri Wright, Director of Philanthropy of the Flint River Chapter of the Red Cross, received the check on May 17 during the second grade's honors day program. Jackson's students researched Japan for ISECS' International Festival and learned about the devastating earthquake and tsunami earlier this year. The students wanted to do something to help the many victims. They recently read a story about children who had a lemonade stand to make money and decided to put the two ideas together. The class opened a lemonade stand during one of the school's field days and made \$125 to donate.



## Albany Early College Students Support March of Dimes

Students from Albany Early College Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and the Student College League Club participated in the March of Dimes Walkathon fundraiser on April 30. The annual fundraiser, which has raised more than 2 billion dollars over the years, aids in giving hope to the more than half a million babies born too soon each year. In addition to raising funds, the students assisted with setting up walkers' stations at Veterans Park. The March of Dimes, a non-profit organization which works to prevent premature births, funds research to find answers to the problems that threaten babies. The Albany Early College students expressed their pride in being part of the fundraising effort for this worthy cause. The event was coordinated by local March of Dimes Director and Senior Community Director Michelle Redmond. FBLA advisor at Albany Early College is Margaret Crapps and the Student College League Club advisor is Crystal Clemons.



## Magnolia Elementary Receives School Supplies

To ensure that students are ready to learn at the beginning of next school year, members from the local chapter of Delta Sigma Theta presented

Magnolia Elementary School with school supplies on May 13. In addition to the gift of supplies, the members also presented Principal Dr. Jackie Frazier with a check to go towards the Accelerated Reader program. Gloria Jefferson, president of Delta Sigma Theta, and Nicole McLendon, program planning chairperson, made the presentation.



## Rev. Brandon Dotson Encourages Reading at Turner Elementary

Rev. Brandon Dotson took time to celebrate with Turner Elementary School students during their Accelerated Reader winners' celebration on May 12. In his speech, Rev. Dotson congratulated the students on their efforts meeting their reading goals for the school year. The theme of his talk was "Reading is everything." He emphasized to the students the importance of reading and how reading always occurs in everyday activities. Turner students are proud to have TTL, Inc as a Partner in Excellence and sole sponsor of prizes awarded to Accelerated Reader winners. Turner principal, Dr. Gail Solomon also used the occasion to encourage all students to improve their reading habits now and during summer break. The program is coordinated by Kimberly Simmons, Weylin Powers, Coach Tracy Drayton, Nicholas Towns, Antwone Savage, Diana Onyenwoke and Sunday Williams.



## Albany Fire Department Helps Sherwood Celebrate Reading Success

The Albany Fire Department rewarded some hard-working students with a big splash on May 13. Sherwood Acres Elementary School second graders had the most Accelerated Reader (AR) points in the school system. The students have been reading all year to reach the goals they set at the beginning of the year. They have had several celebrations, but when they heard that they were the top scoring second grade in the system with a total of 5477.1 points, it was time to call for a community celebration. Tammy Gregors, Kristin Cook, Carolyn Howard, Detrich Sanchez, and Dr. Patricia Pierce planned a fun-filled day for their star readers.



## Live Oak Wins 1st Place in Relay for Life for 4th Year

Live Oak Elementary School placed first place in the recent American Cancer Society Relay for Life campsite decorating competition. This year the Live Oak staff decorated their campsite in a 50's theme. Staff enjoyed ice cream floats and danced the night away in the Live Oak soda shop. The campsite also had a drive-in movie theater featuring a movie made by staff members. The staff worked together to raise more than \$3,000 to help support the American Cancer Society.



## Dougherty High FBLA Participates in Community Service Project

Dougherty Comprehensive High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members and Career and Technical Instruction (CTI) members and advisers participated in the annual Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful Stash the Trash Day. The members chose to work in the pick-up area near Dougherty High. The Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful community service project is an annual activity for both organizations. Members are required to complete several community service projects each year to complete the volunteerism component of their organization's chapter requirements. Advisers participating were Dorothy Lewis (FBLA), Freda Venisee (CTI), and Marjorie Slaughter (CTI).



## Albany High Celebrates Law Day with Local Attorneys

Albany High School celebrated Law Day with a legal forum and a "lunch and learn" event. During the forum, students heard from Albany

Municipal Court Associate Judge Ralph Scoccimaro. Judge Scoccimaro shared the story of a high school dropout who eventually became a very successful trial lawyer. He told the students how a young boy was influenced by one mentor who said to him, "without an education you are nothing" and by another who gave the young man an opportunity to work with Georgia Legal Services. In the end, Judge Scoccimaro identified the high school dropout and the young boy as himself.



After hearing from Judge Scoccimaro, students met Judge Willie Lockette, the mentor who selected Judge Scoccimaro for a position with Legal Services. Judge Lockette shared the meaning behind this year's Law Day theme, "The Legacy of John Adams-From Boston to Guantanamo." The forum ended with a time for questions and discussion. The Law Day "lunch and learn" allowed an opportunity for students to ask legal questions. Law Day Chairman, Charles Lamb arranged for a group of

attorneys to be at an information booth during both lunch periods. Students asked questions about legal careers, such as "how long do I have to go to school to be a lawyer?" and "if I do not want to go to school for that long, but am interested in the law, are there other options?" One student who had just learned CPR in her emergency medical class asked, "Can I be arrested if someone needs CPR but I do not give them CPR and the person dies." Lawyers participating in "lunch and learn" were Karen Brown (Public Defender's Office), Roosevelt Carter, Will Davis (Georgia Legal Services), Tom Duck, and Charles Lamb. Law Day activities were arranged by Albany High School Law and Justice teacher Lynn Miller.

## Community Agencies Assist With Albany High Mock Disaster Drill



On May 4, Albany High School emergency responder and law and justice students participated in a mock disaster drill. Student performance was evaluated by local emergency medical technicians, fire fighters, police and probation officers, and Albany Police Department AmeriCorps Cadets. The drill, a simulated bomb detonation, took place in the school auditorium. Emergency responder students began immediately providing care for the injured while law and justice students secured the scene and interviewed witnesses. Dougherty County Emergency Medical Services Supervisor, Haywood Allen commented on the students' performance saying, "the students performed in a very professional and knowledgeable manner." The emergency medical pathway is taught by Melinda Suber, paramedic and certified teacher. The law and justice pathway is taught by Lynn Miller, a former law enforcement officer and certified teacher.

## Former Dougherty High FBLA Member Returns for Presentation



Tyrah Rucks, a Dougherty Comprehensive High School honor graduate and former Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), returned to her alma mater to present an overview of FBLA to the Business and Computer Science Advisory Committee meeting on April 28. Rucks, who is currently attending Albany State University, shared her FBLA experience and how the organization impacted her life. She emphasized how FBLA accelerated her personal skills and strengthened her leadership skills. She stressed, "Our society needs for more educators to help our youth to become productive citizens in the future." Rucks is preparing for a career as an educator.

The Dougherty County School System is committed to "educational achievement beyond all expectations" in all that we do. We encourage you to visit our schools, explore our web site and ask questions. Please contact the Public Information Office any time you have a question or comment.

**Public Information Office**  
**Dougherty County School System**  
R. D. Harter, Director of Public Information

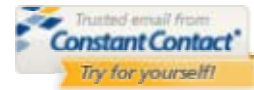
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