

Dickinson Fine Arts Academy Q2!

DFAA Parent Newsletter Quarter Two [October 2022]



Dickinson Fine Arts Academy - An Excellent Place to Learn!

DFAA recognizes that our parents have full and busy lives, that's why we feel it is important to keep you informed on your student's academic progress. Please contact us if you are not currently connected with Dickinson's Powerschool, email distributions or our social media platforms. We want to make it as convenient as possible for you to stay invested in your student's education. Join us for our upcoming Parent Night and Teacher Conferences scheduled for October 27th

*from 5:00 - 7:30 pm- presentations begin at 6:10 pm . On behalf of the Dickinson faculty and staff,
thank you for choosing Dickinson Fine Arts Academy.*

T.E. Sims, DFAA Principal

Academics: Progress Reports & Report Cards

Student progress reports were released on Tuesday September 13. If your student did not provide you with their progress report, please contact the school's Guidance Counselor, Mr. Austin Szalai at 574-393-3900.

Report Cards will be released on October 21st and redistributed to parents on October 27 during Parent Teacher Conferences at DFAA. Parents are encouraged to ask their students for their reports on the day they are distributed. Please contact the main office at 574-393-3900 should you have questions about report cards, distribution delays or the need to contact your child's teacher directly.

Parent Conferences : Parent Teacher Conferences at DFAA

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday October 27 from 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Parents are welcome to contact their student's teacher to schedule an appointment in the event that you are unable to attend the school's conference night.

SBCSC News: eLearning Day- Thursday Oct. 27

Throughout the 2022 - 2023 school year, we have multiple built-in eLearning days, the first will take place on October 27, 2022. **Students will not report to the building on eLearning days.** With the new eLearning guidelines from the IDOE, 50% of instructional time is to be synchronous (live instruction on the computer). The other 50% can be used for synchronous support or asynchronous work time for students.

Middle school teachers are expected to provide a half-hour of synchronous instruction for reading, math, and another subject of their choice which totals an **hour and a half of live instruction**. The rest of the time will be for continued support synchronously and/or asynchronously.

Teachers and students will follow their normal bell schedule like they would for an in person school day including lunch, passing periods, and planning periods for teachers.

~ Assistant Superintendent of Academics, SBCSC

Assessments: PSAT Testing - 8th Grade Students

The PSAT is the first test in the SAT Suite of Assessments. It sets a readiness baseline, allowing students and teachers to pinpoint areas for focused practice as students progress through high school.

Testing at Dickinson will be for 8th graders only and will begin on **Monday Oct. 10 - Pre Test (during first block)**, followed by **Wednesday Oct. 12 - PSAT** for all 8th grade students (beginning at 10:00am)

~ Austin Szalai, Guidance Counselor- DFAA

Important- Breakfast and Lunch Applications- DFAA



With the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, it is important to get an early handle on the completion of the Curricular Material Assistance Application; better known as the Meal/textbook assistance application.

The determination of a student to be categorically eligible for free school meals will allow us to continue to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to **all enrolled** students in our schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

To make sure that we continue to be a free breakfast and lunch school it is important for households to complete the application. The completion of the application will also help households qualify for any additional benefits that may become available throughout the school year.

If you have not filled out an application for the current school year but feel that your family will qualify, you may apply online at <https://family.titank12.com>. You can also contact the school's social worker, Dr. Oliver Davis for further assistance.

If you feel that you do not qualify due to income, we request that you still complete the application for the records.

If you believe that you have already filled out an application for this current school year, please contact the Food Service Office at 574-393-6059, as we may have received your application with errors that can be corrected by calling our office.

~ *Andrea Gammage, Food and Nutrition Department*

Students Lunch : Student Food Delivery to Campus

Dickinson is a Title 1 school, all students are currently provided lunches at no charge. Students are free to bring their lunch from home should they prefer, however, Dickinson does not permit food delivery services such as GrubHub or UberEats to deliver food to students. Additionally, due to limited personnel, parents are asked not to drop off items such as fast foods, pizzas, cakes or birthday items to students during school.

Nurse's Office : Immunization Updates & COVID

It is more important than ever to protect your child from certain preventable diseases. The most effective way to do this is to keep your child up-to-date on their required Immunizations.

Included with this newsletter is a chart of the required immunizations by grade level. Students need immunizations when entering Kindergarten, 6 th grade, and 12 th grade. If you are unsure your child is up to date, please contact your Healthcare Provider or the School Nurse.

Nurse's Office : COVID Updates for 2022- 2023

South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCSC) will continue to focus on keeping students and staff safe from the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring that everyone has the information and tools needed to lower their risk of infection.

- Due to higher immunization rates and lower infection rates, masking for ALL is no longer required. However, we support our students and staff who wish to continue wearing a mask for their personal health.
- Recommended testing of asymptomatic people without known exposures will no longer be recommended in most community settings.
- Students and staff that come in contact with a positive case are no longer required to quarantine.

Based on information from the St. Joseph County Health Department, the Indiana Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control, SBCSC will use the following COVID-19 safety guidelines to begin the 2022-23 school year:

The organization continues to require that individuals who test positive for COVID-19 report their illness. Students and parents should call their designated school.

Your cooperation with this process is vital to the safety of the community as the district is expected to assist local health departments with notification in the event of an outbreak or cluster

Regardless of immunization status, if you test positive for COVID-19, students and staff are required to isolate themselves from others for 5 days.

- The 5 days are calculated from the first day symptoms appear, not the day of testing results. For example, Connie began feeling ill on Monday. She tested on Wednesday and received a positive result. Her five days would start from Monday.
- Upon returning to school or work, the individual should wear a mask or face covering of their choice for 5 additional days.
- If after 5 days you are fever-free for 24 hours without medication, and your symptoms are improving, or you never had symptoms, you may end isolation after day 5.
- After an individual's isolation period has ended, if your COVID-19 symptoms worsen, restart your isolation at day 0.

We also ask that individuals be isolated if they are feeling sick and suspect they are infected with COVID-19, even when they do not yet have test results.

- If you receive a positive test result, follow 5-day isolation.
- If your results are negative, you can end your isolation.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, vaccines have been studied by experts and are a safe, effective, and highly successful way to prevent severe illness and death. Visit OurShot.gov for more information on finding a vaccination site near you.

Academics : BRIDGE : Alternative Education



Dickinson Fine Arts Academy is pleased to provide qualifying students with an alternative to their traditional educational day. BRIDGE supports the enhancement of academic performances while reducing behavioral issues which may impact a students' achievement.

BRIDGE students enjoy a smaller learning community designed specifically for a student-focused instructional day. So that students have the identical opportunity to the instruction in the classroom, teachers are skyped into BRIDGE computer screens while the lesson is being taught. Separate instructors and tutors rotate into the educational lab to provide individualized assistance to our BRIDGE students. Nothing is lost on their educational experience!

Additionally, BRIDGE eliminates suspensions and expulsions through a points system that teaches students how to respond appropriately to situations rather than assigning administrative consequences that reduces a student's education because of inappropriate choices. Please contact Dickinson's Administration should you have questions regarding DFAA's BRIDGE program.

Student Management: Office Referrals - Administrative

In an effort to mainstream our discipline referrals. Students will be assigned to a specific administrator when referred to the office regarding disciplinary issues. Parents can speak directly with the administrator who is assigned to their student when the infraction occurred.

- Mr. Lee : Will see students with the last name beginning with **A-L**
- Miss Brazier: Will see students with the last name **M- ZZ**

Student Management: Student- Parent Reentry Conferences (Discipline)

Students who have been suspended and or expelled and will resume classes prior to the end of the year are all required to have a reentry conference with the principal or administrative designee. The purpose of these required conferences, with both student and parent, is to review the infraction for which the student was dismissed, set expectations and conditions for the student's return to campus and to create preventative strategies to avoid further suspensions from campus.

Reentry conferences can occur on or before the student's return date. Please contact the school schedule your students' reentry conference with their assigned administrator. Please call to schedule your students' reentry at 574-393-3905.

Reminders: Student Uniforms:

Dickinson Fine Arts Academy has returned to student uniforms for the 2022-2023 school year. Please refer to the student handbook for further details on uniforms and on campus dress code requirements. All students are required to be in uniform at all times while on campus, unless otherwise directed from the administrative office at Dickinson.

Students Tops: 2022- 2023

- Navy
- Light blue
- Yellow
- Orange
- White
- Jackets- - Must be 1/2 zipper only and follow the same color options as shirts.
- Hoodies are not permitted at Dickinson

Students Pants: 2022 - 2023

- Khaki
- Navy
- Black

***Reminders:* Student Chromebooks**

Dickinson is a 1 to 1 school. All students at DFAA have received a chromebook to support their education. These devices are the property of SBCSC and have been issued out to our students for the duration of their education.

It is extremely important that parents encourage students to take excellent care of their chromebook, keep it continuously charged and always bring their device to school. Parents, please know that your students textbooks, classroom assignments and study materials are often associated with the students' computers.

Student Support: **After School Tutoring & Saturday School**

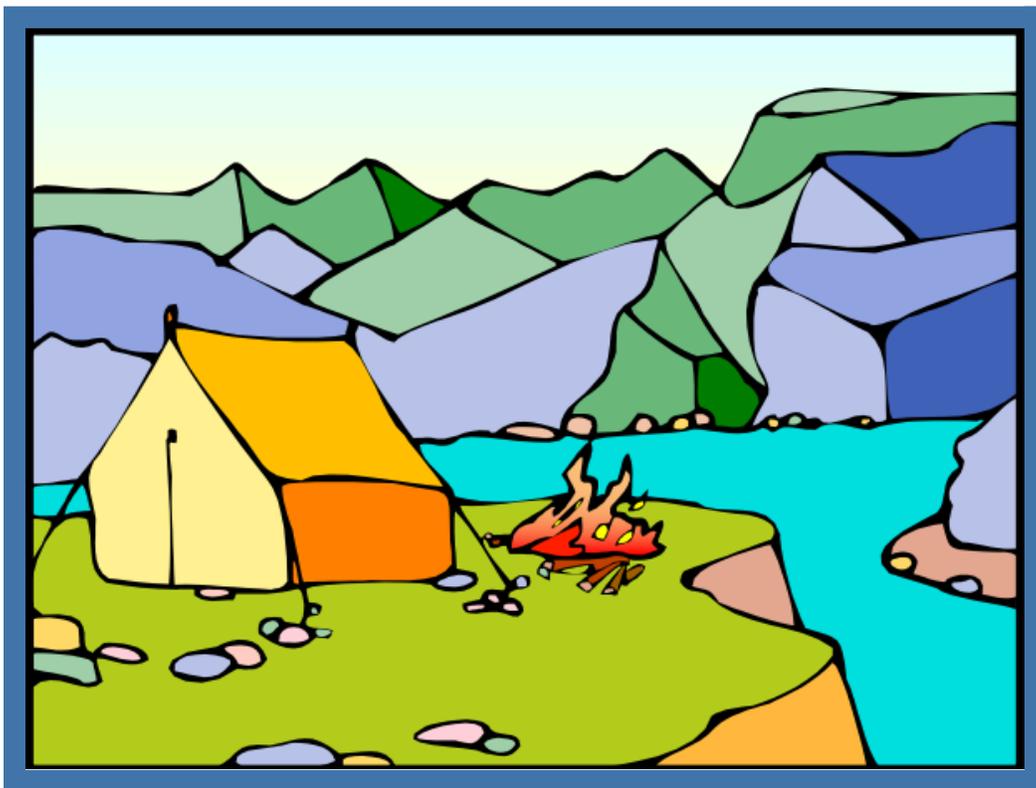
Dickinson's After School Tutoring Program will begin Monday October 10 at 4:40 pm - 6:00 pm and will be held on Monday through Thursday. Tutoring will not be held on Fridays.

Students must complete an application and have it signed by a parent prior to their attendance. Instruction for our after school program will be provided by licensed teachers. Students will receive a full dinner or snack and will also receive transportation home from tutoring - if they receive SBCSC transportation to school. For an application and more information regarding Dickinson's After School Tutoring Program, please contact Mrs. Ewell, Magnet Coordinator for DFAA.

Dickinson's Saturday School will not begin until the second semester. Saturday school will devote its efforts to student remediation and iReady preparedness. Please contact Mrs. Ewell for details.

Campus Life: Wilderness Survival Camp @ Turkey Run

“THINK OUTSIDE!”



On October 26, 27 and 28 Dickinson students will travel down state to Turkey Run State Park where they will enjoy a fantastic experience of Wilderness Camping. This year's excursion, titled "Think Outside" will include experiences of hiking, fishing, star tracking, botany and much more. All students were required to write an essay as part of their application process. Those selected will begin their wilderness camp survival excursion in two weeks.

There will be a parent meeting for all students attending this year's camping trip on Tuesday October 11 at 5:30 pm campus library. This parent meeting is a requirement for participation.

Campus Life: West Side Story- Morris Theater

On Monday October 10, several students will travel to the Morris Theater to watch the Broadway performance of Westside Story. This day field trip will begin at 9:45 am and conclude at 2:00 pm. Participation required signed permission slips and required students to have good standing in their academics, attendance and behavior.

Campus Life: DFAA Lends a Helping Hand

The students of Dickinson Fine Arts Academy have adopted Booker Middle School in Sarasota Florida whose school suffered significant damage from the recent Hurricane. Students will participate in a number of school fundraisers to help provide funds to support the school's recovery efforts. Great job Bears!

Transportation: Bus Transportation

All transportation questions including pick-up and drop-off queries can be answered by contacting SBCSC Transportation Office at 574-393-7000. Should you need to change your students address please call our main office at 574-393-3900 and we will be happy to update that information for you.

Car Riders: Dropping off your Student (Car Riders)

Parents dropping off students at Dickinson please do so on the East side of the building at door #15 . In the pick up 14 and drop off at door #15

Reminders: Cell Phones Policy

Students are not to have cellphones out while at school. Should your student need to bring his or her cell phone to the building, they will be required to leave the device in their lockers until the end of the day.

SBCSC: Your help is needed with student attendance

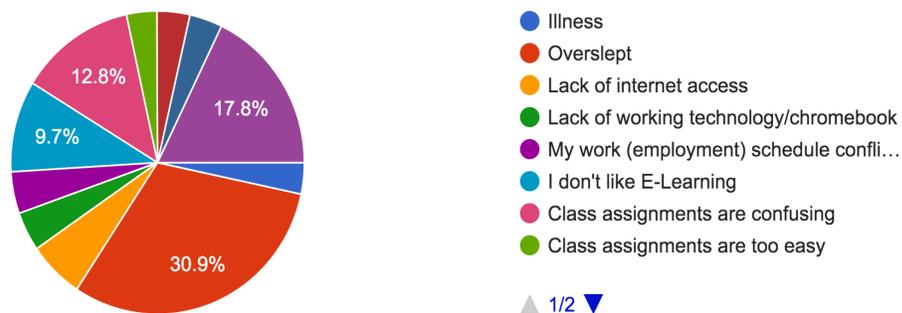
As with many schools, we are experiencing a high number of student absences. We would like to encourage parents to make this a goal for students to attend classes and report absences as soon as possible. Student work will be rigorous and absenteeism oftentimes jeopardizes their learning. We would ask that you update your phone numbers with the main office so that you are notified of each class absence that occurs with your student.

We surveyed students to determine why they are NOT attending either virtual or in-person classes. The results are being used to identify ways we might better meet the needs of our students regarding absenteeism. Please see our results below.

Question asked:

For what reasons are you unable to meet with your class. Please check your primary reason for your absence

359 responses



Calendar: **Dates to Remember:**

1. Tuesday Oct. 11 @ 5:30 pm - - Wilderness Camp Parent Meeting
2. Friday Oct. 14 - - (3rd Block) Sweetest Day Dance
3. Tuesday Oct. 18 - - End of Quarter
4. Wednesday Oct. 19 - - Teacher Work Day (No School for students)
5. Thurs. Oct. 20 & Fri. Oct. 21 - - Fall Break (No School for students)
6. Thurs. Oct. 27 - - Parent Teacher conferences
7. Thurs. Oct. 27 - - eLearning Day

Thanks for choosing Dickinson Fine Arts Academy!
An Excellent Place to Learn!

T. E. SIMS