



# THE DRAGONIAN

The NEW Newsletter of duPont Middle School  
November 2009 Edition

Alfred I. DuPont Middle School  
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## HAPPY FALL GREETINGS

### THE PRINCIPALS' DEN

As we conclude the first nine weeks, duPont Middle School Dragons have several reasons to be fired up:

- 1) We achieved the second highest FCAT True Gains of all middle schools in Duval County . True Gains are the number of students who advanced an achievement level and/or more than 1 year's growth as demonstrated on the 2008 2009 FCAT. Total True Gains scored by duPont students in reading and math were 114%!!
- 2) Our FCAT score of 536 is the highest FCAT score earned in the history of the school.
- 3) 97% of our student population promoted with a record number of honor students and advance classes.
- 4) duPont is the ONLY "A" Title 1 middle school in Duval County.



We are constantly creating new and better ways to service our students. Firsts this year include: gender based 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes, increased number of advanced classes, and a full range of electives with the addition of T.V. media production. We have eliminated ISSP (in school suspension) in lieu of "ALPS" which is a teacher led Alternative Learning Plan for those students who are suspended on campus. This program is unique to duPont as we strengthen relationships with students who exhibit negative attention seeking behavior. Certified teachers alternate coverage including academic and character building instruction every period each day. This program has significantly reduced referrals. Another unique experiment is a co-teaching ELL (English Language Learner) model. This teacher collaboration model allows higher level active English Language Learner students to remain in regular language arts classes, helping them advance their knowledge of English as fast as possible with their peers.

A special thank you to our on-site school liaison from Lutheran Social services, Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, and Lakewood Presbyterian Church. It's HUGE to have community help and concern. These partners engage in the social and moral responsibility of our students by helping educate them for life. They provide mentors for Take Stock in Children students, donate school supplies, provide appreciation meals for our teachers, and Dr. Brett Foster (associate pastor at Hendricks) has also taught character classes. Additionally, the Bridge of North Florida also manages after school Team Up funded by Jacksonville Journey.



Alfred I. duPont Middle School truly is an example of excellence in a neighborhood school. It is one of only 6 non magnet middle schools achieving grade A status. We are embracing our challenges while maintaining a very high level of engagement. The entire duPont team is learning and growing together as we prepare our students for life. We have a great deal of work to do in order to narrow achievement gaps and greatly appreciate your support.

GO DRAGONS GO!!!!

*Teresa Mowbray*

## SPORTS

Winter sports start January 6, 2010 and consist of Girls and Boys Soccer as well as Girls and Boys Basketball. Come out and support duPont Dragons sports teams

## Cafeteria

Duval County has a new food service company—Chartwell. Already, we are seeing improvements in the food, with healthier options such as Chef's Salad, Chicken Salad, Veggie Pizza, Grilled Chicken Wings, and assorted fresh fruit. These are just a few new offerings from Chartwell.

It is important that students who buy lunch items have their identification card with them. Failure to have your I.D. card on you at lunch time will result in students receiving a bag lunch. Thank you

## Team Up

Team up has a few openings available. If you would like your child to be part of the excellent academic and enrichment program, contact Ms. Thomas (887-3737) for further information.



## SAC AND PTSA

The duPont School Advisory Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. It consists of duPont staff, parents, community and business partners. We discuss issues that pertain to the School Improvement Plan. We have elected our voting members for the 2009-2010 school year, but all meetings are open to anyone who is interested in attending. We are skipping the month of November, so our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, December 8th. If you would like to be better informed during your child's middle school years, we encourage you to attend.

Janis L. Wood SAC Chairperson  
janiswood@bellsouth.net

### PTSA

**President:**

*Ellis Lincoln*  
[ellis2jl@yahoo.com](mailto:ellis2jl@yahoo.com)

**V. President:**

*Don Said*  
[dsaid@bellsouth.net](mailto:dsaid@bellsouth.net)

**Treasurer:**

*Helen Edwards*  
[hhe331@aol.com](mailto:hhe331@aol.com)

**Secretary:**

*Chenee Marell*  
[Chenee.marell@bcbsfl.com](mailto:Chenee.marell@bcbsfl.com)

**Membership:**

*Carrie Shecut*  
[cmshecut@aol.com](mailto:cmshecut@aol.com)

## Pupil Monitoring Plan

If your student needs remediation in math or reading, you will be receiving a letter inviting you to attend an important meeting on December 10, 2009. 5:45—6:30 food will be provided. 6:30—8:00 meeting. This meeting will provide the opportunity for student, parents, and teachers to create a plan for your child's academic success. Please be sure that we have your correct address on file, as these letters will be mailed in mid-November.

## RTI (RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTION AND INTERVENTION)

Question: What do I do if I believe my child is struggling in school?

- Talk with your child's teacher
- Review and assist with homework assignments
- Ask for regular progress monitoring reports
- Celebrate your child's success

- Learn more about the curriculum, assessments, and interventions being used at your child's school.
- Participate in conferences and other meetings about your child
- Make a list of specific questions to ask during conferences (e.g. What is working? Or What additional supports may be needed.

Look for more information concerning RTI in the upcoming newsletters or contact your child's teacher to learn how you can become involved in the RtI process. You can monitor your child's progress in school at our website : <http://www.duvalschools.org/dupont/>

### SAVE the DATE

High School Information Night  
January 21, 2010 6:00 –8:00pm

Alfred I. duPont is hosting the annual High School Information Night for parents of 7th and 8th grade students on Thursday, January 21 from 6:00-8:00pm. Representatives from Duval County High Schools and Florida State College of Jacksonville will be on hand to answer your questions during this event. Parents will be introduced to High School graduation requirements, class/program choices, and college financial aid opportunities. Last year over 100 people attended the event where they learned about high school choices, enjoyed friendly conversation with high school representatives, and won some exciting raffle prizes. Students may attend this event with their parents.

**Safety Message from our Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals**

It is important that we reinforce with our students the following safety tips and procedures:

Be aware of your surroundings when walking to/from school or your bus stop. Do not talk to strangers, and if a stranger approaches you, get away from him/her as quickly as possible. Notify a parent/guardian/teacher or other trusted adult immediately if a stranger attempts to approach you or behaves in an inappropriate manner.

Never walk alone. Walk in groups with other students and, if possible, with an adult. If possible, organize a group of neighborhood children and their parents to walk with to school or the bus stop. During the course of your walk, do not stray from this group.

Make sure to obey traffic and pedestrian signals, and choose a route that has the most support for walkers and bicycle riders (with appropriate traffic signals, marked crosswalks, school crossing signs, school crossing zone speed limits or signs, group crossing areas, school crossing guard, and/or law enforcement officer support). Please continue to emphasize these safety tips with your students, and please remind parents/guardians of these safety procedures as well. The responsibility for the transportation of students to and from our schools has to be shared between the students, parent/guardians and the school district. To truly keep our children safe, we must all work together as partners.

**Dates to remember**

**November**

- 2-13 Book Fair
- 4 Early release
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 12 Science Night
- 18 Early release
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Holiday

**December**

- 9 Early release
- 10 PMP Night
- 17- Jan 1, Winter Break

**January**

- 6 Early release
- 7 5th grade parent night
- 18 Martin Luther King Day
- 20 Early release
- 21 High School Night
- 26 Vision/Hearing Screening

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION from the Florida Department of Education**

The Florida Department of Education had directed all school districts in the state to identify those children of military families. The military personal may be active or inactive. The state helps fund those schools that service military dependants in their education. Students were sent home with an information card to be filled out by their parents or legal guardians. It is very important that students return the cards as quickly as possible so we may obtain an accurate account of our military families here at duPont. Thank you for you attend to this information as quickly as possible.

Watch for the new electronic version of our news letter due out in January 2010.

Check out our website: <http://www.duvalschools.org/duPont/>

TIP: Click on the Faculty Menu to View each individual teacher's webpage on ONCOURSE

**Dress Code Reminders**

During the cooler weather months we would like to remind all students and their parents that hats and hooded jackets are not to be worn on campus. Please remember to remove your hat or pull down your hood before walking on campus. This is for the safety and protection of everyone here at duPont Middle School. Thank you.

**BOOK FAIR**

Scholastic Book Fair will be in the media center November 2-13. Students will visit the bookfair with their language arts classes. Proceeds will benefit the duPont Media Center's library collection. If you would like to volunteer please call Mrs. Lee or Mrs. Barnes at 739-5200 X148

**Zero Tolerance**

duPont Middle school will be teaming up the Jacksonville Sherriff's office to hold a seminar for students on bullying, harassment and horseplay. In order to work with students on the appropriate behavior in school.

**REMINDER**

**From**

**Guidance**

**All 7th grade students need to have their**

**TDAP shot.**

**Thank you**

**duPont Saving a Tree**

In an effort for duPont Middle School to do our part in protecting our environment, this will be our last paper newsletter.

Our next edition in January will be available electronically on the On-course website. This will allow us to insert electronic links in our articles that will be full of useful information.

**Yearbooks**

Buy a yearbook before January 10, 2010 and it is only \$20 and receive a free spirit T shirt. After January 10, 2010 the price goes up to \$25 and you still get a free spirit T shirt (while supplies last). Please see Mr. Montgomery before supplies run out

**BUY A YEARBOOK**

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## SCIENCE FAMILY NIGHT at DUPONT

Science Family night will take place at Alfred I. DuPont Middle School on November 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30 pm. Students and their parents will attend three 30-minute inquiry-based activities led by one of the science department teachers. Students and their parents may have to solve a problem, do an experiment, tackle an engineering challenge, conduct an investigation, or do whatever creative lesson our teachers have designed for them. Family science night programs offer something new and fun for both students and their families. After all the fun, everyone will sit, relax and have Pizza while being informed about science study skills and the use of the internet for science education. For example the use of GIZMOS, BRAIN POP, and compass Odyssey at home by parents to review key concepts with the students. Come join us and see the surprises we have in store for you and the students. Please RSVP so that we are able to order sufficient Pizza. Invitation letters to be sent home on Friday, October 30, 2009. The RSVP will be included within the invitation.

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### Parents,

Alfred I. DuPont's faculty and staff are dedicated to supporting you in taking an active and meaningful role in your child's education. We realize that for our students' personal and academic success, we must strengthen parent/teacher partnerships. Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, we have been identified as a Title I School and are eligible to receive federal resources for parent programming. This year, we will be offering opportunities for you to learn about your child's academic curriculum and strategies that you can use at home to develop strong study skills. We would love to hear your input about how we can offer resources to suit your needs. Please call our school at (904) 739-5200 ext. 155 or email [greeney@duvalschools.org](mailto:greeney@duvalschools.org) to share your comments and ideas. You can go to our website for a complete list of workshops, offered at various times and locations, available for parents of Duval County students.

Additionally, if you are interested in helping out in our classrooms or media center, WE NEED YOU! What a powerful message that would send our students-- to see parents and teachers actively partnering for their success! Please call (904) 739-5200 ext. 155 or email [greeney@duvalschools.org](mailto:greeney@duvalschools.org) if you're interested.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to working with you this year!

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