

# INFORMER

DUNCANVILLE Independent School District

August | 22 | 2016

## District and 100% of Schools Meet TEA Achievement Standards

Duncanville Independent School District and all of our campuses met state standard for student achievement in 2015-2016, according to data released last week by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The district's official rating from TEA is 'Met Standard,' which is the highest rating possible in the state's accountability system.



"The hard work of our teachers, staff, students and their families is demonstrated by our students' performance," said Duncanville ISD Superintendent Dr. Marc Smith. "We all play a role in encouraging student success. From the bus driver who is the first person many of our students see every morning to the teachers in the classroom, we – in Duncanville ISD - are all committed to putting students first."

This is the second consecutive year that all of the district's qualifying schools met standard, even as the difficulty of the exam increased in math and science.

In 2016, to receive a Met Standard rating, districts and campuses must meet state-mandated targets on at least three indices. Those include student achievement (index 1) or student progress (index 2) and closing performance gaps (index 3) and postsecondary readiness (index 4).

## First Day of School is in the Books



The first day back to school for the 2016-2017 school year was packed full of activities for students and administrators. Dr. Marc Smith began the morning at the Transportation Department to say hello to the district's bus drivers and then stopped at every campus to wish everyone a great first day. Students, teachers and families took selfies to mark the beginning of the year. View the first day slide [show](#).

To view Duncanville ISD's 2016 ratings on the TEA website, click [here](#).

## Hastings Elementary School Celebrates Grand Opening



Duncanville community members were welcomed with students singing, clusters of blue and white balloons and the biggest scissors most have ever seen to celebrate the grand opening of the new Hastings Elementary last Thursday.

The new state-of-the-art campus is the first new building to be completed from the \$102.545 million bond passed in 2014. More than 250 members of the district, the city and the community came together to open the campus including volunteers from the Bond Oversight Committee, the Chamber of Commerce, representatives from the Duncanville City Manager's office, and the Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees.

"For anyone who has purchased a new home, multiply that new home feeling by 1,000 and you'll have a taste of what our teachers, staff, students and parents feel about the new Hastings," said Board President Elijah Granger.

Read [more](#). View the photo [gallery](#).

## Shalontae Payne Appointed CTE Director



Shalontae Payne has been appointed Director of Career and Technical Education. The CTE department is adding a coordinator and academic specialist as well as two teachers.

## Panther Football Family Bonds Under New Leadership

## Former Pantherette Takes Home Fourth Olympic Gold Medal

Legendary Pantherette Tamika Catchings added an emotional highlight to her professional basketball



retirement year when she and her Olympic teammates won the gold medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

The victory came this past weekend after the women's Olympic team defeated Spain. With tears in her eyes as she stood at attention, Catchings sang the national anthem after her final Olympics competition.

"The players that you're with, that's what makes it so special," Catchings told USA Today. "Winning the gold is awesome. But when we think about the sweat and tears and hard work, looking to the right, looking to left on the podium, seeing the flag go up, hearing the national anthem being played, it never gets old."

Catchings was named to the WNBA's list of 20 greatest players in this her final year before retirement, but she has never forgot her hometown. Catchings stopped by Duncanville High School for a visit in June when her WNBA team, the Indiana Fever, was scheduled to play the Dallas Wings.

Catchings walked into the girls' locker room and started the chant that every Duncanville High School Pantherette knows.

"Once a Pantherette," Catchings said. The response came from the room filled with current DHS players, "always a Pantherette."

To learn more about Catchings' visit to Duncanville High School, click [here](#).



A quarterback as talented as Duncanville's Jaylin Nelson could have played varsity football at any number of schools. But as a junior, Nelson opted to play on DHS's junior varsity squad. "It was a tough but humbling experience," Jaylin said. The 17-year old and his parents made the decision after twice being ruled ineligible by the UIL following his parents' move from DeSoto to Duncanville in 2015.

DHS head football coach Reginald Samples said private schools came courting Jaylin who, as a freshman, led First Baptist Academy in Dallas to a championship and racked up a 13-0 record at DeSoto in 2014 while subbing for the injured first-string quarterback.

Despite offers from private schools, Jaylin chose to stay in Duncanville where he led the junior varsity team to a 7-2 season.

"When you have a kid that sacrificed like that, he is dedicated to Duncanville," Samples said.

Read [more](#).

### Upcoming Events:

**Meet the Teacher**, 6 - 8 p.m.

Intermediate - Tuesday, August 23

Middle - Thursday, August 25

High School - Thursday, September 8

**DHS Student Council Blood Drive**, Friday, September 2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Carter Blood Care will have five bloodmobiles in the main parking lot. Contact David Womack or Dedric Williams with questions.

**School Board Meeting**, September 12, 7:00 p.m. in the board room at The Duncanville Education Plaza at 710 South Cedar Ridge Drive in Duncanville.

The Panthers play Plano  
East Friday night at home at  
7:30 p.m. [Vote for](#)  
Duncanville to be this week's  
NBCDFW Sports Big Game!



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