



# Dragon Update

De Soto High School

Mr. John Daniels, High School Principal

November 1, 2018

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## Double Vision?



Happy Halloween from Mr. Deaton and his twin, Derek!

The *Dragon Update* is a periodic update from De Soto High School. It will focus on current and upcoming events, as well as important dates for DHS families. Additionally, the *Update* will spotlight some of the great things happening in our building and also give you a closer look at some of our staff members.

John Daniels, DHS Principal

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## Principal's Page...

### Ever Have One of Those Days?

Yesterday at De Soto High School we had one of “those” days. Most of the things I wanted to get done got pushed aside as other fires had to be put out. I did get to have a great meeting with some amazing Leadership Council students (it was a pizza lunch meeting, so that helps), but otherwise we had more negative things that we’d like. It was probably inevitable because we’ve had a pretty good run lately and yesterday was HALLOWEEN.

I had a conversation with Mrs. Mahn from the junior high after school and she shared that they had a similar day in that building. I was then rehashing the afternoon with DHS Assistant Principal Mr. Tucker when the phone rang. I didn’t recognize the name, it was late in the afternoon, and I briefly considered letting voicemail catch that call, but I went ahead and answered it. It wasn’t what I was expecting after my crazy afternoon...

It was a father. He wanted to know what time his child’s basketball practice was going to end. It was just the call I needed. First of all, I was able to handle his problem because all I needed to know was how to walk to the gym, ask a question, and remember the answer while I walked back to the phone. Mission accomplished! But what I really needed was some politeness. This man wasn’t mad at his kid or the coach or the school for poor communication. He wasn’t mad at me because I didn’t know the answer as soon as he called. He was nice. He was polite. He was thankful for my assistance, even though it was minimal. His politeness meant nothing to him because that’s probably how he always treats people, but it meant something to me.

Several of our teachers and I went to a workshop recently that covered many things, but one of the central themes was “Make Kindness Normal”. That dad called me with a kind heart and it made my day. I challenge everyone who reads this to make an effort to offer more kindness every single day. It costs nothing, but it can pay huge dividends. De Soto needs it. We all need it.

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# Teacher Page...

## Staff Profiles

### **John Siebert -- High School Math**



**1. Education Background:** I graduated from Fox HS and have been in Jefferson County almost my entire life. After high school, I attended Jefferson College (unsure of my major) and got my Associate's degree after changing my major several times. I swore I'd never be a math teacher like my father, but I found that I enjoyed tutoring and realized that teaching was what I was meant to do. I went to Webster Univ. and received two different Bachelor degrees; one in mathematics with a minor in science and a separate one in education. I eventually went back for my Masters degree.

**2. Years as a teacher/years in De Soto:** This is my 22nd year, my 15th at De Soto.

**3. Favorite Class in High School:** Close tie between history and science.

**4. Hobbies:** Hiking, biking, geocaching, scuba diving, and video games.

**5. Favorite Book:** The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis, Ranger's Apprentice by John Flanagan, and The Bible.

**6. Best live event I've ever attended:** Top 3: Standing atop of Pike's Peak seeing snow peaked mountains all around, scuba diving in Cozumel and swimming with creatures I'd only seen in aquariums, and hiking the Grand Canyon.

**7. Fun Fact:** My two worst classes in high school were French and Geometry. Don't worry though because I eventually got it in college (Geometry, still don't get French) which makes me an okay math teacher now since I understand some of the struggles high school students have.

### **Jennifer Kidwell -- High School French and Gifted Education**



**1. Educational background:** I graduated from Herculaneum HS in 1992. I attended Southeast Missouri State University and graduated in 1997 with a B.S.Ed. in Secondary Ed in English (9-12) and French (K-12). I'm also a certified Library Media Specialist (K-12).

**2. Years of teaching/years teaching in DeSoto:** This is my 22nd year of teaching, and all of my years have been at De Soto! I have officially been teaching half my life, and I couldn't have asked for a better way to spend it.

**3. Favorite class in high school:** Definitely Band! I played flute, percussion, and piano.

**4. Hobbies:** When I'm not at school, I sing in a local acoustic duo, *Middle Class Revenge*, and I make cakes as a side business with a friend. I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, writing (I'm working on a novel), and going to concerts and plays.

**5. Favorite book:** My two favorite books are Possessing the Secret of Joy by Alice Walker and The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

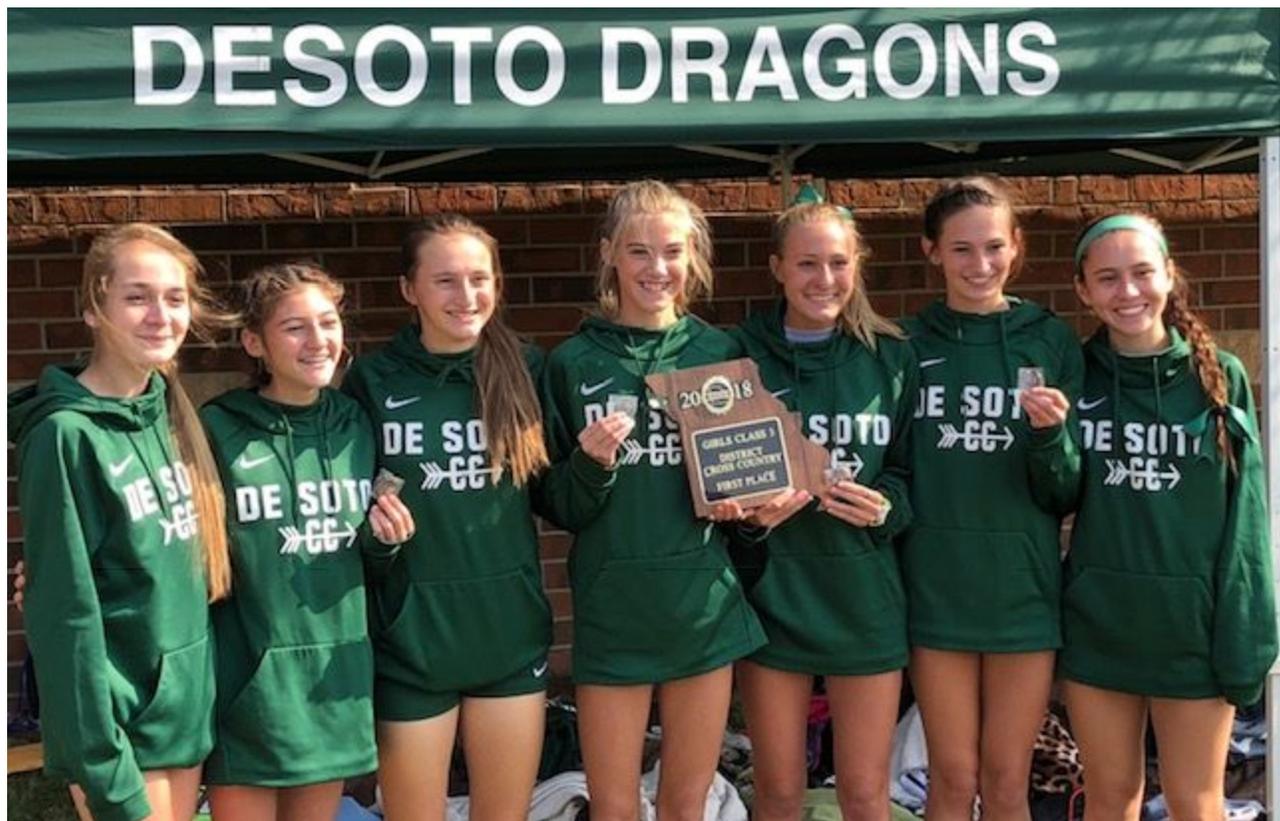
**6. Best live event I've ever attended:** Too many to name. I have season tickets to the Muny and the Fox Theatre with a friend, so I have seen over 40 musicals. I am also a regular concertgoer. The best concert I have seen recently was Here Come the Mummies in Columbia MO.

**7. Fun fact:** As the World Languages teacher, I have learned to have basic conversations in 12 languages. Also, I have seen the movie "The Wizard of Oz" nearly 90 times.

## Calendar Page...

### Up Next at De Soto High School:

11/3	Saturday	Varsity Cross Country at State -- Jefferson City	9:35 AM
11/8	Thursday	DHS Fall Play "Up the Down Staircase"	6:00 PM
11/9	Friday	DHS Fall Play "Up the Down Staircase"	6:00 PM
11/10	Saturday	DHS Fall Play "Up the Down Staircase"	6:00 PM



*DHS Girls Cross Country Team will compete at State Saturday in Jefferson City*

## Parents Page...

### State Cross Country

We have a great group of girls competing Saturday in the State Cross Country Meet. The State course is located at: Oak Hills Golf Center, 932 Ellis Blvd., Jefferson City, MO. The girls will run at 9:35 a.m. See the following link for more details:

<https://www.mshsaa.org/Activities/Info/CrossCountry.aspx>

### “Up the Down Staircase”

The De Soto Theater Department will be presenting their Fall play next week, November 8-10, “Up the Down Staircase” at 6 p.m. nightly. Students and staff have worked very hard to put this together and they would love to see big audiences each night. Curious about the plot? Take a look at this link for a synopsis.

<https://www.dramaticpublishing.com/up-the-down-staircase>

### Read a Novel

Reading your favorite novel helps improve brain function. The same is true for your kids. According to the following article from *Psychology Today*, research shows that reading reshapes the human brain. Encouraging children to read creates lifelong rewards in a variety of brain functions, even athletics!

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-athletes-way/201401/reading-fiction-improves-brain-connectivity-and-function>

### Anyone Can Do Art!

You don't have to be a brilliant painter or sculptor to reap the benefits of art. If you're looking for something that you can do with your child, or an endeavor you can encourage your child to pursue, art is a great choice. Take a look at this article which explains how art relieves stress, improves brain function, and boosts self esteem, as well as providing tips for getting started on art exercises at home.

<https://bebrainfit.com/benefits-art/>



*Art Club students delivering pumpkin artwork to a local assisted living facility.*