



Dragon Update

De Soto High School

Mr. John Daniels, High School Principal

October 4, 2018

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Victory!



Bryan Emmons keeping the ball away from a St. Clair Bulldog during a recent DHS win.

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

Principal's Page...

Positivity Can Be Contagious, Too!

Once again, DHS found itself challenged last week, and once again students and staff worked together to get through some tough days. I have heard from many people over the past few weeks. There have been well-wishers and sympathizers, along with concerned adults and confused students. We will continue to support our students and staff, and we are planning interventions to help us now and in the future.

There is much grieving taking place at DHS now by the kids and the adults. Our grief is shared in the other buildings of our district. It is shared by our community and neighboring communities that were also impacted by recent events. It is a challenge for all of us to keep our heads up and be strong. It is a challenge to maintain a positive outlook when there is so much pain around us. Sometimes there is a feeling that being positive during times like these is somehow insensitive to those who are still grieving, but that isn't the case. We all know that negative feelings can become contagious, but we also know the same is true of positive feelings. Our Dragon family needs positive energy, and that happens when people make conscious decisions to reach out to each other with love and hope.

This positive energy doesn't have to be related to recent events. It is a change in mindset. I challenge myself constantly to reach out to our students and staff with positivity. It may just be asking a kid how his day went and LISTENING to his response. I look for people being nice or doing a great job, so I can offer them some praise. I have challenged our teachers to reach out to more parents with positive reports regarding their students. We aren't doing these things to mask recent events, we are working to overcome and to create a culture where every kid feels important and loved in this building.

I would like to encourage parents to take a similar approach. Look for positives to share with our teachers. Send them an email or make a call to let a teacher know they've done something to help your kid. Communicate positive things about what your kid does outside of school so our teachers have those positive talking points. We are working toward building strong relationships with you and your children. We will continue to experience good times and bad, but we will be better prepared for whatever we face if we are all working together.

John Daniels, De Soto High School Principal
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Teacher Page...

Staff Profiles

Erin Marshall - High School English



1. Education Background: Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, Bachelor of Science in Education, Master of Arts in Teaching

2. Years as a teacher/years in De Soto: I started my career with De Soto, so this is my 5th year with the district as well as my 5th year teaching.

3. Favorite Class in High School: English class, of course!

4. Hobbies: Cycling and gardening.

5. Favorite Book: Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

6. Best live event I've ever attended: The Trans Siberian Orchestra

7. Fun Fact: Much to the chagrin of my bank account, I have tried every single item on the Starbucks menu at least once. Some might call me obsessed.

Keith Woodland - High School Industrial Tech



1. Educational background - Bachelors of Science in Industrial Management from SEMO.

2. Years of teaching/years teaching in DeSoto - This is my 10th year teaching, and my first at DeSoto.

3. Favorite class in high school - My favorite class in high school was math/physics.

4. Hobbies - I'm about to have my 3rd child under 4 so my hobbies don't really exist. But if I do have free time, I love to hunt and fish.

5. Favorite book - My favorite book would be anything written by Tom Clancy. The first one that I read in high school was The Hunt for Red October.

6. Best live event I've ever attended - The best experience that I've ever had at a live event was my freshman year at MIZZOU. As a student assistant to the football team, I was on the sideline when we beat Nebraska for the first time in 24 years. 85,00 people rushing the field, you couldn't hardly breathe. Still have a piece of the north end zone goal post.

7. Fun fact - A fun fact about me is I really like musicals. Don't really know anything about them or have a favorite, but I find them fascinating and very entertaining. One of my favorite things to do with my wife is go to shows at the Fox.

Calendar Page...

Up Next at De Soto High School:

10/4	Thursday	JV/V Volleyball at Affton	4:30 PM
10/5	Friday	Varsity Football vs. Hillsboro (Home)	4:30 PM
10/6	Saturday	High School Band at Washington Festival	TBA
		Varsity Softball at SEMO	10:00 AM
		JV/Varsity Cross Country at Potosi Invitational	11:00 AM
10/7	Sunday	High School Choir Concert - DHS Auditorium	3:00 PM
10/8	Monday	JV/V Softball at Farmington	4:30 PM
		9th/JV Football at Hillsboro	4:30 PM
		JV/V Volleyball vs. Hancock High School (Home)	5:00 PM
10/9		V/JV Soccer at St. Pius X High School	4:00 PM



DHS Dance Team at Homecoming 2018

Parents Page...

What is the ACT Test?

Take a look at the link below to learn more about the ACT. If you're not sure what the test is or why it's important, this webpage should help. You can also find some great resources to help your student prepare for the test!

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act-educator/the-act-test.html#order-reg-materials>

Is your teenager getting enough sleep?

The answer to that question is "NO" for many families. Take a look at the article published by Johns Hopkins University regarding the importance of adequate sleep for teenagers and some explanation as to specific sleep needs for high school-aged kids.

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/healthy-sleep/sleep-better/teenagers-and-sleep-how-much-sleep-is-enough>

How important is it for my child to participate in extracurricular activities?

We offer several extra and co-curricular activities at DHS. There are many reasons to participate, but they go well beyond just competition. Take a look at these two articles that tout the various payoffs associated with student involvement beyond the classroom.

<https://www.theeducator.com/blog/role-extracurricular-activities-students-development/>

<https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/articles/improve-your-chances/importance-extracurricular-activities-admission-process/>