

2016 Dixon-Smith August Newsletter

Welcome back to a brand new school year at Dixon-Smith! We are prepared for open house on Wednesday August 31 from 4-7 and hope to see you all there. Student schedules were mailed last Friday and please bring that schedule with you to open house. Current enrollment is just over 800 and our parking lots cannot accommodate everyone at once, but you should be able to visit all teachers, the café, and the PTO spirit wear table within an hour or so.

Staff Farewells

Our school community will be going through some changes as staff leave for other professional opportunities and adventures. The following staff members will no longer be Dixon-Smith Bulldogs, but will always be a bulldog in spirit: **Laura Dawes-Baker** is now working at H.H.Poole Middle School, **Kimberly McGehee** has taken some time off to pursue other opportunities, **Michelle Breitenbach** moved to Colorado and **Michael Sakell** is furthering his education and has also moved out West. **Nancy Shetterly** is now working in Richmond to be closer to her new home which allows her to spend more time with her first child after opening Dixon ten years ago. **Amy Limerick** has been appointed Assistant Principal of H.H.Poole Middle School and we are very proud of her moving into the role of administrator. We wish her much luck and Success and will miss her at Dixon. Each of these wonderful staff members will be greatly missed!

Mrs. **Kimberly Carter** has been out on Family Medical Leave since mid-April and has resigned her position as Assistant Principal due to continuing family health issues. Mrs. Carter is loved by our students and staff due to her dedication, her strong leadership skills, and her ability to inspire them to be their best and for her role as student advocate. Mrs. Carter's laughter and positive attitude will be greatly missed and she will always be a Bulldog!

Retirees

This year we say goodbye to Sue Evans who will enjoy retirement and spending more time with her family. Sue was an awesome Physical Education Teacher, Field Hockey Coach and Athletic Director. She will be greatly missed as she was an asset to not only Dixon, but Stafford County! We will look for Sue to assist with our County Track Meet and maybe even come cheer on our Lady Bulldog Field Hockey Team this year!

New Staff:

I am pleased to share the following staff members to our Bulldog Community! Miss Tomi Galloway is our new Health and PE Teacher and brings with her previous teaching experience and currently coaches the Stafford High Volleyball Team. Nathan Gredler is coming to us from the Northern part of Stafford after two years as a supporting band director at AGWright and H.H.Poole MS. Kemper Lake is a recent JMU graduate and is our new Choir teacher. Carrie Mackie is returning to Dixon-Smith to teach English to our eighth graders. Leah Malloy will join our math department in sixth grade and Geneva Russell will teach Math 8 and Algebra this year. Carleen Carey is joining our English department to support our seventh grade students. Lastly, Mr. Fred Wenderoth joins our school staff as our new Tech Ed teacher. We are very pleased to welcome this wonderful group of educators to our community.

PSAT8/9

Eighth grade students in our division will again have the opportunity to access nationally-normed, college access assessments and gain early exposure to the college entrance experience.

A division wide letter will be sent to all parents outlining the details including benefits due to the partnership between the College Board and the Kahn Academy. Students will be able to work independently on the individual academic areas that are in need of more practice, become a potential college applicant and may receive information directly from colleges when added to the College Board database. You may access more information by going to www.collegeboard.org.

PTO Board

I am pleased to announce our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Board will remain for the upcoming 2016-2017 School year. The email addresses for each member are included in case you would like to communicate with them.

You may also visit the PTO page on our school website for more information about volunteering, joining, or looking for events etc.

The new PTO is as follows:

President - Rebecca Albert-Thomas rthomas323@gmail.com

Vice President - Heather Staib HnBStaib@hotmail.com

Treasurer - Troy Altizer Troy@theAltizers.com

Secretary - AnnMarie Fleetwood Fleetwood25@verizon.net

The Common Middle School Schedule and Intervention and Extension (I&E)

All middle school students will again experience a very similar schedule and offerings in both academic and elective courses. Middle School Students will all attend block classes for core academics such as Math, English, Science and History. The blocks will be around 80 minutes in length and science and history classes will be held according to the county XY schedule, with English and Math classes occurring daily for all students unless they are in eighth grade and attending a World Language Class. Elective classes for sixth grade students will include a daily 40 minute period for all performing arts students and the "Wheel" of elective offerings each 9 weeks to allow these students an opportunity to "sample" all of the elective offerings. The wheel is important in grade 6 as students in grades seven and eight will attend blocks style classes on alternating days.

In addition, all middle school students will participate in a 30 minute class each Tuesday-Friday. Select students will attend an intervention class if they require extra instruction in a grade level or below grade level skill or concept in math or English, while students who do not require intervention will select from a brochure of Extension classes to extend their learning even further. Students will be assigned to an intervention period and or select their extension activity in September. Students will have the opportunity to rank their extension choices, but ranking their choices will not guarantee they will participate in those extensions. Students will be assigned to maintain safe and effective class sizes and students will move from intervention to extensions and back as necessary. Please look for more information on I&E in September.

TDAP

Sixth Grade students will need to have their TDAP shot in order to start school on September 6th. If you have any questions about your child's status please contact your doctor, the health department or our school nurse's office for assistance. You may speak to our school nurse and submit any records to our school nurse at open house or any time this week between 8-4.