

FALCON FILE

SEPT 2024

What a great start to the school year! It has been so fun getting to know the students at DTS. While we still have a lot of names to learn, we are feeling right at home here. I hope all of your children are feeling at home, too! The new arrival and dismissal procedures are going smoothly. We appreciate your flexibility with the changes as we try to expedite the process. Students have adjusted well to eating together in the DTS Cafeteria (a.k.a Culminating Event Room). We defined what it should look/sound like in all of our shared spaces to ensure our building feels happy and safe. In addition, students learned about our district emergency protocols, classroom routines, and are becoming comfortable with their new schedules. Our fall assessment window opens September 3, and we are looking forward to analyzing the data to plan engaging instruction for all our learners. Thanks for all you do to support your student and DTS!

Michelle Hurlburt, Principal
Jessica Ramirez, Behavior Strat/Intern AP



UPCOMING EVENTS

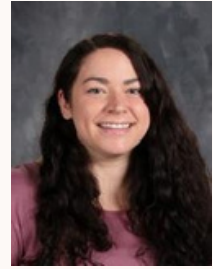
- All School Sing - Sept. 6
- School Spirit Store Closes - Sept. 8
- DTS PTA Meeting - Sept. 10
- Back-to-School BBQ - Sept. 19
- No School - Sept. 20
- DMPS OneRun - Sept. 28

ALL FALCON FILES CAN BE FOUND ON
THE WEBSITE

WWW.DOWNTOWNSCHOOL.DMSCHOOLS.ORG

NEW
Staff

WELCOME



DTS Families,

My name is Barbara Hogan, and this upcoming year will be my 10th as a school counselor for DMPS. I am so excited to be at The Downtown School and can't wait for the year to get underway. I wanted to take a few moments to tell you about my background, role, and school counseling services.

I am a Des Moines native and proud graduate of Roosevelt High School. I went to the University of Kansas to receive my bachelor's degree in social work, followed by a master's degree in counseling from Drake University. After a practicum at Carlisle Middle School and an internship at Perkins Elementary, I served as the school counselor at Walnut Street School and Wright Elementary. Throughout my 9 years as a counselor, I have been in various additional roles at the building and district level including on the Counseling Leadership Team and the District Grief Response Team. Two of my proudest career accomplishments include implementing a successful 5-year therapy dog program and being awarded DMPS Elementary School Counselor of the Year in 2021.

I am passionate about mental health, social-emotional learning, and a whole child approach. The role of a school counselor is to improve student success (academic, career, and social/emotional development) for ALL students. Direct services provided include delivery of the district core counseling curriculum (classroom/large group counseling); individual and small group counseling that is short-term and solution-focused; support and delivery of social-emotional/behavioral interventions; and crisis response services. Indirect services include consultation; collaboration with parents/caregivers, staff, and stakeholders; and referrals for long-term/outside counseling services or assistance. Parents/caregivers and staff may refer a student for school counseling services, or students may refer themselves. To build rapport with students and ensure an accessible program, I intend to meet with every student individually for a brief check-in at least once during the school year.

I am also the 504 Coordinator for DTS. 504 plans are part of a civil rights law that ensures students with disabilities have equal access to the learning in their general education classroom through necessary accommodations. A student is eligible for a 504 plan after an evaluation which finds that the student has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. If you have concerns about your student's ability to access the learning in their classroom, please first reach out to their classroom teacher. If you would like to talk more about the 504 evaluation process, please reach out to me.

I am looking forward to getting to know your student(s) and working with your family! If there is anything I can do to help support your student, please don't hesitate to reach out as we begin the year.



MRS. HOGAN'S COUNSELING NEWS

**THIS EDITION OF COUNSELING NEWS IS
ALL ABOUT WHAT CURRICULUM IS
DELIVERED IN CLASSROOMS**

WAYFINDER SEL CURRICULUM

- PRIMARY SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING CURRICULUM
- DELIVERED WEEKLY BY CLASSROOM TEACHERS
- PURCHASED BY THE DISTRICT FOR USE K-12
- K-12 TEACHERS COMPLETED TRAINING
- WEEKLY LESSONS ARE THE SAME ACROSS ALL DMPS ELEMENTARY BUILDINGS

CORE COUNSELING LESSONS

- PRIMARY SAFETY/WELLBEING AND POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS (COLLEGE/CAREER) CURRICULUM
- AT DTS, DELIVERED ONCE A MONTH BY SCHOOL COUNSELOR
- FOLLOWS CORE COUNSELING STANDARDS SET BY DMPS COUNSELING DEPARTMENT
- ONCE A MONTH DELIVERY ALLOWS MORE TIME FOR NEEDED SERVICES LIKE SMALL GROUPS, INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING, AND SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT

QUESTIONS?

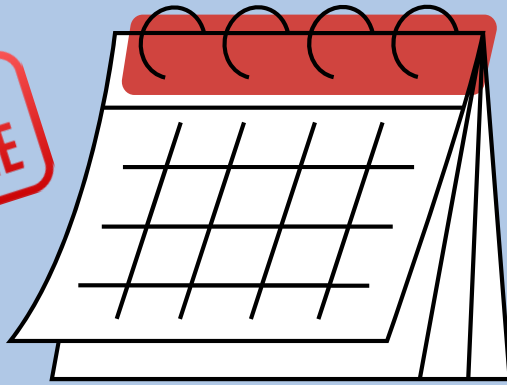
DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT ANYTIME!

Barbara.Hogan@dmschools.org



515-242-8422





The DTS Calendar that was posted online had two errors. They have been corrected and the revised calendar is posted to the [website](#).

Please note:

- October 10 is a school day for students.
- December 13 is a PD day - No School.

The drop-off line is moving along well in the morning! Thank you for your help with this and for getting your child to school by 7:40. As a reminder, students are marked tardy if they arrive after 7:40.



NEW ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

We encourage families to review newly revised attendance guidelines following some changes at the state level. The Des Moines Public Schools student attendance policy is based on the belief that all families value the importance of their child's education. Through a meaningful partnership with schools and consistent communication, we can overcome obstacles that impact regular school attendance.

Click [here](#) to read more at [dmschools.org](#).



Our Annual DTS Spirit Store is OPEN NOW!

Find everything you need for the school year here!

The store closes at midnight on 9/8. Late orders will not be accepted.

Connect with PTA

Please join us at the first All-Parent Meeting on Tuesday, September 10th at 6:30pm in the Library. All parents and students are welcome! We will hear a report from the Principal as well as cover our planned Special Events for the year and nominate new members. A link to join virtually will be sent out the morning of Tuesday, September 10th.

The 2024-2025 meeting dates include:

- September 10
- November 12
- January 14
- March 11
- May 13

All meetings will be in the DTS Library at 6:30pm.

<https://www.dtspta.com>



Please use [this link](#) to complete the volunteer application on the district website.

Special Events

sponsored by
DTS PTA 2024-25 ✨



AUG
22
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Back to School Bash
DTS

SEPT
19
5:30-7:30 pm
Fall Family Picnic
waterworks park

SEPT
28
8-8:45 am registration
DMPS One Run
waterworks park

NOV
21
6 pm - 8 pm
Fall Skate Night
skate south

DEC
12
Winter Dance
central campus

**winter and spring
dates coming soon!**

HOSTED BY THE DTS PTA

you're invited to our annual

FALL FAMILY PICNIC!



Hot dogs, S'mores, Chips, and Water for refilling water bottles will be provided by the PTA.

Things To Bring: *chairs, blankets, roasting sticks for marshmallows, picnic dinner, yard games, water bottle, and the whole family!*

We hope to see you there!

This is a family event- parent/guardians are responsible for supervising their kids

Sept. 19, 2024

5:30-7:30 PM

Waterworks Park, Des Moines



The Des Moines Public Schools Foundation presents

**5TH ANNUAL
FUNDRAISER & FUN RUN/WALK**

ONE RUN

NEW DATE!

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

AT

WATERWORKS PARK

Check In 8-8:45AM Begin 9AM



*SCAN WITH
YOUR SMARTPHONE
TO REGISTER*

It's easy to raise money for YOUR school.

Registration for this 2-mile event is FREE for all runners, walkers and supporters! All fees will be paid by corporate and individual sponsors. More participants equals more money, so invite your families and neighbors to register! Each participant may designate one school.

BROUGHT
TO YOU BY



REGISTER AS A PARTICIPANT OR SUPPORTER dmpsfoundation.org



Join us!

One of Downtown School's favorite traditions is our monthly "All School Sing". This event brings students, teachers, and families together to share meaningful songs, highlight school happenings, and showcase student learning. It is a time to build a joyful community of friends and learners through music, dance, and drama.

All School Sing events are at 8:00 am in the Central Campus Auditorium.

- Friday, September 6, 2024
- Friday, October 4, 2024
- Friday, November 8, 2024
- Friday, December 6, 2024
- Friday, January 31, 2025
- Friday, February 28, 2025
- Friday, March 28, 2025
- Friday, April 18, 2025
- Friday, May 30, 2025
- Tuesday, June 17, 2025