

DOWNTOWN SCHOOL FALCON FILE

February 2025

February is here! Our staff and students have been busy with their second round of Culminating Events and preparations for conferences. From kindergarten students learning about weather to fifth graders exploring the rain forest, our students are ready to share their learning with you!

Our attendance at DTS, and across the district, has improved dramatically from last year. We appreciate everything you are doing at home to make sure your child gets to school on time every day. Students need to be in the building by 7:40 to avoid being counted as tardy. The new policy that requires schools to contact families after 3 absences resets for second semester. This means some families might receive a second contact if a student reaches 3 absences again this semester. Please continue to send in doctor notes when possible. For more information about attendance in Des Moines Public Schools [click here](#).

Scholastic Book Fair

Conferences are an amazing time to celebrate learning with your student. It's also a great time to purchase a few new books! The Scholastic Book Fair will be open during conferences on Wednesday and Thursday. The money earned from the book fair will be used to purchase new books for our library at DTS! Make sure you stop by the library to check it out!

Important Dates

- No School: February 6 and 7
- No School: February 10 and 11
- All School Sing: February 28

Classrooms kick off new units of study!

Kindergarten students will explore the big idea that all living things in the natural world have needs in order to survive and grow. Through a close study of trees and the living things that depend on them, students will take on the roles of researcher and scientist to make observations of the natural world.

First Grade flies into the world of birds! Students will build their literacy skills as they engage in an in-depth study of birds' bodies. They will focus on the big ideas that animals have physical features to help them survive, and animals behave in ways to help them survive.

Second Grade students will build their research skills and science knowledge through a study of the secret world of plants and pollinators.

Third Grade students will consider what can be learned from reading literary classics. In this module, students will consider the answer to this question through a case study of Peter Pan.

Fourth Grade students will explore how perspective can influence opinion through the lens of the American Revolution. By reading informational texts and historical fiction, students will deepen their understanding of the Patriot and Loyalist perspectives.

Fifth Grade students will consider the factors that contribute to the success of professional athletes as leaders of social change. They will read about a number of professional athletes who have been leaders of social change, beginning with Jackie Robinson.

Standard Response Protocol

DMPS has partnered with the I Love U Guys Foundation (ILUG) to adopt a Standard Response Protocol across the district, providing a common vocabulary and set of actions for emergencies. To read more about this response, please visit the [district website](#).

DTS PTA UPDATE

Downtown School PTA: A non-profit parent organization focused on supporting the Downtown School.

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Visit our website at dtspta.com to stay updated!



Pay your yearly student activity fee and PTA membership dues here.

We had another big turn out for our Winter Skate Night with 155 paid skaters! It was a blast to see all our DTS friends out there laughing together, having fun, and helping one another up during those falls.



If you missed our last PTA Spotlight Night, you can [review the minutes here](#) and read through Tracey Donovan's informative presentation on [GLEAM instruction at DTS](#).

Save the date for our next Spotlight Night on 3/11 at 6:30pm in the DTS Library. We'll be spotlighting the Reimagine DMPS Initiative and how it impacts DTS. We'll have a time of Q&As after the presentation. We'll also be announcing our open PTA Board positions for the 2025- 2026 school year during this meeting. Come join us!

Finally, we are well on our way to planning this year's DTS Fundraising Auction. We don't hold small fundraisers throughout the year like other schools (no wrapping paper or cookie-dough sales here). Instead, we host one big fundraiser to support our budget for the next 2 school years. Please save the date for our Auction on Friday 5/2 at 6pm and expect a night of fun with DTS teachers and staff, parents, and supporters at this adults-only event at Ricochet in downtown Des Moines.



SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIR
YOU'RE INVITED
TO OUR BOOK FAIR FAMILY EVENT

Shopping takes place February 5-6 during Conferences
DTS Culminating Event Room

**MORE BOOKS
MORE READING**

! This is a cash-free Book Fair!
Please bring electronic payments.

Join your child in choosing new books during our Book Fair Family Event!

While you're there, give to Share the Fair™, a program supporting students in our school who need help buying books. Contribute by adding to the coin box at the register or rounding up your purchases for Share the Fair. Every purchase at the Fair benefits our school.

SHARE THE FAIR™
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SAVE THE DATE!

it is AUCTION YEAR!!!!

DTS Fundraising Auction
Friday, May 2, 2025 @ 6PM
Ricochet
400 Locust Street, Des Moines

The Downtown School Auction is our largest fundraiser, and it only happens every other year. This adults-only event includes live and silent auction items, teacher recognition, and a cash bar. Join the fun of bidding or come to connect with other DTS families and staff.

The Auction helps us fund two year's worth of our annual PTA budget to support DTS events and programming:

- Events: Fifth Grade Recognition and 5th Grade Celebration, Meet the Teacher Nights, and the Winter Dances at DTS, Skate Nights, End-of-Year Picnic, and Back-to-School Picnic
- Funding for classroom supplies with the help of the Teacher Support Fund.
- Yearly support for our nurse and counselor
- Teacher Appreciation Week gifts, retirement gifts, and professional development
- A free DTS t-shirt to every incoming student
- Funding towards the DTS garden

The Auction also helps us fund special projects at DTS, like the Bridges Interventionist Program (purchased for school year 2024-2025), playground equipment and supplies, library furniture, computer equipment, and more.

Next Auction Planning meeting:
Tues, Feb 18 @ 6:30
Caribou Coffee, 3220 Ingersoll Ave

WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

- Sign up to Volunteer at the Book Fair Feb 5-6: [Book Fair Sign-Up](#)
- Sign up to bring snacks during conferences to our favorite teachers: [Snack Sign-Up](#)
- Attend our DTS Fundraising Auction Meeting to see how you can help prep for the Auction | Tues Feb. 18 from 6:30-8:00 pm | Caribou Coffee 3220 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines
- Attend our next Spotlight Night Tues. March 11 at 6:30 to learn about the open PTA Board positions we need filled for the 2025-2026 school year!
- Popcorn and Prep | Thurs Feb. 27 from 6-7pm | DTS Library: Come join us in helping our teachers with classroom prep needs. We'll be copying, laminating, cutting, and more to help our wonderful DTS teachers spend less time on these administrative tasks. Did you know many DTS teachers come in on their weekends to complete all the prep work needed for their teaching? Let's lessen their load. This is also a great way to connect with other DTS parents. We'll have snacks and all the supplies needed. While we love children, please bring a quiet activity for them to do during this time and plan to keep them supervised.

UPCOMING DTS PTA EVENTS

- **Attend our Book Fair** on Feb 5 & 6 during Conferences | DTS Culminating Event Room: This is a **cash-free** Book Fair. Our DTS teachers will have wish lists there if you'd like to donate a book to your child's classroom.
- **PTA Auction Committee Meeting** | Tues Feb. 18 from 6:30-8pm | Caribou Coffee, 3220 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines **PTA**
- **Spotlight Night: Reimagine DMPS Initiative and How it Impacts DTS** | March 11, 6:30pm | DTS Library (learn more about Spotlight Nights here)