

FALCON FILE

March 2025



Welcome to March! Thanks for all your support so far this year. We want to give a big shoutout to all the parents that came to Popcorn and Prep last month. The teachers were SO thankful for all your help. We are looking forward to another one at the end of March. Here's to warmer weather, engaging learning, and lots of fun with our DTS family!

Popcorn and Prep



Upcoming Dates

- PTA Meeting - March 11
- No School - March 13 and 14
- Spring Break - March 17-21
- Popcorn and Prep - March 27
- All School Sing - March 28

Mark your calendars for Field Day and Book Character Week!

Field day will be May 30 at Crivaro Park. More info to come!

Book Character week will be June 2nd! More info to come!

SEL Week

We're so excited to celebrate National SEL Week, March 3rd-7th! Throughout the week, DMPS students and staff will engage in activities that foster self-reflection, resilience, and connection.

Each day will focus on a core skill from our districtwide social-emotional learning curriculum, Wayfinder. These skills will be highlighted during our morning announcements, followed by an engaging SEL activity in every classroom during morning meeting. We will end the week with a dress-up day on Friday. Everyone can dress up as what they want to be when they grow up. Check out the daily themes below.

- Monday, March 3: Self-Awareness
- Tuesday, March 4: Adaptability
- Wednesday, March 5: Empathy
- Thursday, March 6: Collaboration
- Friday, March 7: Agency and Purpose - DRESS UP as what you want to be when you grow up!



Yearbook Fundraiser

The Downtown School Yearbook Club is excited to announce a special fundraiser aimed at ensuring every student in our community can cherish their 2024-2025 DTS school memories for years to come. By participating in this fundraiser, you are helping us make it possible for all students to receive a yearbook, regardless of their financial situation. We believe that every student deserves the joy of flipping through pages filled with unforgettable moments and shared experiences. [Use this link](#) to donate if you are able. We are still in need of \$1,267.00 to help give all students at the Downtown School a yearbook.

DMPS Art Show

This month the Des Moines Public Schools hosts its annual art show, where buildings from across the metro display student work that celebrates the amazing visual arts being created within our schools. You are encouraged to take time this month to visit Mainframe Studios and check out not only our school's contributions, but wonder at what is being created at other buildings as well.

This year, the following DTS Falcons will have artwork on display:

Isabelle Ehlis
Sebastian Hoyle
Moises Arrenondo
Eli Crile
Bodie Kohlsdorf
Amelia Bainter
Jude Kolosik
Van Brown
Graham Crile
Yasmine Sibaouih
Liliana Moriarty
Greyson Abdallah

DTS Movement Path

Sometimes students need a little break to move their bodies so they can refocus on learning. The new DTS movement path gives them the opportunity to do just that!



DTS PTA UPDATE

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

March 2025 Falcon File



Visit our website at dtspta.com to stay updated!



THANK YOU TO OUR DTS FAMILIES!

Thank you to all who supported DTS through the PTA this past month. Many of you donated snacks for our teachers and staff during **Conferences**, and we also had many volunteers run the Book Fair. Even with the inclement weather, the **Book Fair** prevailed; we made over \$1,200 for the DTS library which will keep it stocked with great books!

We also held our first (but not last!) **Popcorn and Prep** event at DTS last Thursday. We had such a great turnout of families who spent an hour copying, laminating, cutting, sorting, and more. Thank you to Mrs. Donovan for spearheading this initiative, and thank you to all the DTS supporters who helped out! Save the date for our next Popcorn and Prep: March 27 from 6-7pm!



HELP NEEDED WITH DTS AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

DTS is gearing up for the third and final round of After School clubs for 2024-2025. We are in need of facilitators to help run these clubs. Facilitators can volunteer their time or get paid to run the clubs. All facilitators must be [DMPS-approved volunteers](#) prior to beginning.

- Clubs are tentatively scheduled for 8 weeks, taking place Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning March 25/26.
- Groups can be capped at whatever number you choose, typically starting at 10-15 kids.
- You choose a club topic you want to facilitate (see the list of favorites on the left or choose your own)
- You choose if you want to run it solo or partner up with another adult
- DTS helps provide the materials.

QUESTIONS? INTERESTED? WANT TO LEARN MORE?

[Email Catarina Hathaway](#),
[DTS Office Manager](#)

Most Requested Clubs

- Junior Achievement (4th & 5th)
- Art (K-2; 3rd-5th)
- Gym games
- STEAM (2nd-5th)
- Lego Club
- Yoga
- Board games
- Gardening
- Rosie Reader
- Soccer
- Free play

JOIN US AT OUR MARCH EVENTS

PTA Spotlight Night: Reimagine DMPS Initiative and How it Impacts DTS

March 11, 6:30pm

DTS Library or [Virtual Link](#)

Learn more about the upcoming changes at DMPS and how they'll impact DTS. We'll have a Q&A time with our principal, and Matt Smith, Asst. Superintendent of DMPS, will join us.

PTA Auction Planning Meeting

Tues March 25, 6:30 | 829 19th St, Des Moines, 50314

Our Auction team is working away to prepare for a successful fundraising event. Come help us brainstorm and plan for this event that'll raise essential funding for the next 2 school years at DTS.

Popcorn and Prep

Thursday, March 27 | 6-7pm, DTS Library

Come help our teachers with classroom prep needs and connect with other DTS parents and caregivers. 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. We'll have popcorn 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.



PTA IMPORTANT DATES

3/11: PTA Spotlight Night @ 6:30

3/25: Auction Planning meeting @ 6:30

3/27: Popcorn and Prep, 6-7 @ DTS

5/2: SAVE THE DATE! DTS Fundraising Auction

[See more...](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!!

Open PTA Board Positions for Next School Year

We have several openings for our PTA Board next school year. Join a group of people who love Downtown Elementary, who love supporting our teachers, and who want to help our kids' school experience be the best possible. One year commitment is required, although you may serve up to two consecutive terms. No experience needed!

These positions are currently open for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurers (1-2 needed)
- Special Events Committee (1-2 needed)

Help Needed to Audit Our Financials

Part of our PTA requirements is that we perform a yearly audit through an auditing committee. If you're good with numbers and are willing to donate a couple hours of your time, please let us know! You'd meet with our two treasurers who will share our financials and walk you through reviewing them.



**Interested in volunteering?
Email Us!**



SAVE THE DATE!

it is AUCTION YEAR!!!!

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

Next Auction
Planning meeting:
Tues, March 25 @ 6:30
829 19th St, 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.

CALLING FOR DONORS & SPONSORSHIPS

We need your help to make this year's DTS PTA Silent Auction a success!

Do you own a business or have personal connections who might be willing to donate goods, services, or sponsorships? Individual donations of unique skills--such as photography sessions, home-baked goods, or private lessons--can make a huge impact! If you or someone you know can donate, please reach out!

Ways to Contribute

- Donate a product, service, or experience
- Sponsor the event for business recognition
- Offer a personal skill (art, tutoring, cooking, music lessons, etc.)

If you have a lead or would like to contribute,
[!\[\]\(95b425611cbd2b8716a140cf67c81822_img.jpg\) fill out this short Google form.](#)