



HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1400 S. Brannon Stand, Dothan, AL 36305
334-794-1459

Principal: Beth Bouchard
Assistant Principal: Lauren Buchanan

Our school empowers all students to embrace learning, achieve their personal best, and build their emotional, social, and physical well-being to equip them with the skills and mindset to thrive and then take on the world.

The Highlands Highway

January 2024

Welcome to 2024 ~ Happy New Year! We hope the New Year brings you peace, joy, and new opportunities!

Congratulations to Mrs. Rhonda Spears, selected as Highlands' Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Spears was honored during our faculty meeting.

January is School Board Appreciation Month. We are grateful for our School Board Representative Amy Bonds, and for all members of the DCS School Board: Scott Childers, Chairman; Brenda Guilford, Vice Chair; Dr. Franklin Jones; Melanie Hill; Brett Strickland; Amy Bonds; and Aurie Jenkins.

We extend our gratitude to our parents for their generosity of time and gifts for our teachers and staff. From the umbrellas to snacks to the classroom treats and gifts provided ~ we are most appreciative. How wonderful to have such a caring community who is supportive and demonstrates how our educators are valued. A shout-out to our PTO leadership and to the many room parents and all parents who participate in our activities and events ~ thank you for your endless energy and time devoted to Highlands PTO, the best PTO ever!

A special thank you to Mrs. Kenyon for inviting the Elves from Patti Rutland Jazz Headland to join our carline and classrooms on December 20. Everyone loved the Elves! The field trips to Santa's Workshop, Elf Academy, and The Nutcracker provided an opportunity for students to experience the fine arts with local dancers and actors, including our very own students! Kindergarten students visited 'Winter Wonderland' hosted at Central Office for a north pole experience. Kindergarten teachers also created our own Polar Express event, complete with Mr. Hogan as the train conductor!

The school theme for January is respect. Students will participate in a *reflective* writing project in January that culminates with the selection of outstanding essays about Martin Luther King, Jr. Teachers will be presenting the writing prompt to students the first week of January.

The PTO is sponsoring our first student talent show on January 18, 6 PM. Mark your calendars for this event! Our school's Science Fair exhibits will be viewed Tuesday, January 23, and the district science fair is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21 at the Civic Center. Our next PTO and School Improvement Committee Meetings will be held Thursday, Feb. 1, 9 AM.

Important Dates:

January 10 – Report cards sent home

January 15: No School – Holiday

January 18: Highlands Got Talent Showcase, 6 PM, Gym

January 23: Highlands Science Fair; Marcos Pizza Night

January 26: PTO popcorn Day

January 29: Good Citizen Luncheon

January 30: 2022 and 2023 Alumni Night: 5:00 – 6 PM for prior sixth grade students to visit Highlands for social time & music.

Important Information:

Attendance and On-time Arrival to school are very important to the success of your child's education. Be sure to notify your child's teacher and the office if your child is absent. The district has implemented Early Warning Court where Judge Ingram will be notified of parents of students with seven or more *unexcused* absences. A letter will be sent to the parent, and a mandatory court meeting with Judge Ingram will be scheduled.

We continue to implement our snack program "Healthy Food for a Happy World" to address childhood nutrition through a Healthy Food Initiative and the DCS Wellness Policy for Snacks and Special Events. We appreciate your support with providing healthy snacks for your child.