



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 2022*

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022! We hope the New Year brings you peace, joy, and new opportunities!

Our gratitude to our parents for their generosity of time and gifts for our teachers and staff. From the breakfast to the 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, Ann-Marie Sullivan and Melanie Register, 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 in DCS!

A special thank you to The Grinch (who is very photogenic) who spent the day with students at Highlands. A shout-out of thanks to Mr. Gantt Pierce for assisting with the memorable and fun day for all!

The field trips to Santa's Workshop and The Nutcracker provided an opportunity for students to experience the fine arts with local dancers and actors, including our very own students! Nautica Knight, Belle Hodgdon, Jezilyn Fergus, Olivia Watford, and Evelyn Dahlquist danced in Santa's Workshop; and, Addilyn Creel, Sue Ellen Clark, and Layla Freeman danced in The Nutcracker. We are so very proud of our talented students!

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.

Our school's Science Fair exhibits will be viewed Thursday, January 6, and the district science fair is scheduled for Friday, January 28. Our next PTO and School Improvement Committee Meeting will be held February 17, 3 PM, Media Center.

The district academic assessment of students, MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress) will begin the first week of January. Below are a few Test Taking Tips for Parents:

1. Make sure your child gets an ample, normal amount of sleep the night before the test.
2. Mark testing days on your calendar to help remind you and your child when the testing will take place and plan your preparations.
3. If your child eats breakfast at home, the student should eat a nutritious and filling breakfast. Avoid high sugar cereals which can make the student hyper and/or unfocused.
4. Make sure the student is on time on the day of testing
5. If your child is sick please contact the school immediately to inform them.

### ***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.

We continue to implement our new 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.

With the recent increase in COVID, please remember that students are to maintain physical spacing when possible, to wear a mask on the bus, encouraged to wear a mask at school, and to keep hands to one's self. Our goal is for everyone to remain healthy and well.

*Please remember that students do not attend school on Monday, January 17, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.*