**Daniel Pratt Elementary School**

**Comprehensive Overview**

**2023-2024**

Daniel Pratt Elementary School (DPES) is dedicated to developing and maintaining a well-rounded program that promotes academics and character development. The focus areas are as follows:

**Strategic Teaching**

Strategic Teaching focus areas for DPES include, but are not limited to the following:

**Standards-Based Teaching**: Our academic program adheres to the Alabama College and Career Readiness Standards. These standards are based on the Common Core Standards. Core classes include Reading, English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies (4th Grade: Alabama History). Elective classes include Music and Library. Technology standards are taught by the general education teachers within their classrooms. Parents can find the standards on the Alabama Learning Exchange at <https://alex.state.al.us>.

**DPES Teaching Expectations**:

* Daniel Pratt Elementary School teachers undergo continuous professional development related to state standards, rigorous teaching strategies, best teaching practices, and classroom management strategies. Administration observe teachers regularly and holds them to the expectations set by the principal. Teachers participate regularly in professional development opportunities in the form of in-school Professional Learning Communities. Administration offers other training opportunities as needed. Teachers are encouraged to attend outside training when possible. The administration strives to purchase up-to-date technology and relevant resources for the school.
* Administrators conduct regular classroom observations in order to determine how well the teachers apply the appropriate depth-of-knowledge strategies. All teachers receive oral and/or written feedback from their observations.
* Teachers Observing Teachers: Administration-led walkthroughs and teachers observing each other takes place at least once each semester.
* Teacher Planning:
  + Collaborative planning takes place each week. Teachers meet and plan with their grade-levels and/or departments.
  + We use a wide-variety of instructional materials and resources when planning our lessons. Our Rigor/Relevance Framework and the DPES-created Instructional Frameworks for each grade-level ensure that we are developing lessons that meet the needs of all students. The frameworks help the teachers provide the appropriate level of teaching to ensure that students are engaged in each lesson.
  + Planbook.com offers a great lesson-planning tool for teachers to use.
  + Please visit our website, [www.dpeseagles.com](http://www.dpeseagles.com), to find information on lesson plans, homework assignments, and testing. Specific information from each teacher is found by clicking on his or her name under the school staff link. You can also email your child’s teacher with any questions you may have through his or her webpage.

**Student Engagement**

DPES student-engagement practices focus on AdvancED criteria. We incorporate whole-group and small-group instruction into our reading and math programs.

**Student Information Boards**: This is an area in each classroom that displays the learning targets that are taught for the week, the weekly assignments/assessments, and the daily/weekly agendas. The boards are designed to be student-friendly in order to help students be accountable for their own learning.

**Blended Learning** is a style of education in which online programs and traditional classroom instruction are coupled to better enhance student learning.

* MyPath is a K-5 supplemental personalized learning program for reading and math. This programs builds fluency and skills.
* Edgenuity is a supplemental personalized learning program for 6th grade reading and math students. This programs builds fluency and skills.
* Accelerated Reader monitors reading comprehension of students via assessment.
* Reflex teaches memorization of basic math facts and fact family relationships.
* Mystery Science is an excellent teaching tool that allows students to work at their own pace. It also gives teachers resources to extend lessons through videos and core mini lessons that focus on science standards.
* BrainPOP is a group of educational websites that offer animated movies, quizzes, and related materials in science, social studies, English, math, engineering and technology, health, arts, and music.

**RISE Academies**: These are daily periods set aside for intervention strategies. Phonics First and Heggerty curricula are a major part of our reading instruction during RISE Academies. Math RISE Academies focus on reteaching foundational concepts and fact families.

**Master Schedule:** This school-wide instructional schedule provides protected blocks designed for whole-group reading and math instruction that are free from interruptions. The Master Schedule provides a detailed schedule of every instructional area in our school.

**Physical Education Department**: Please refer to our student handbook on rules and expectations. You may also contact the Physical Education Department Head, Coach Ruffin, at jessica.ruffin@acboe.net for additional information.

**Behavior Management**

**Vision & Mission Statements:** The DPES vision and mission statements are heavily promoted each day. Our standard of excellence is taught through our vision of R.I.S.E. This stands for Respect, Integrity, Self-Control, and Effort. All of our students are expected to RISE!

**Classroom Management**: ClassDoJo is the behavior management system used throughout the school. However, teachers are allowed to use their own behavior management system as well to keep their students engaged.

**Attendance**: All students are expected to attend school regularly so they can complete all of their required lesson assignments.

**Student Responsibility**: Each student must adhere to all rules to ensure that they (and their peers) receive the highest quality education. In addition, all assignments designated by each teacher must be completed. Students who refuse to do their work receive consequences for this behavior through our Office Referral System.

**DPES Behavior Management Plan**: This plan incorporates a progressive discipline plan that promotes positive behavior through clearly set rules, expectations, and positive/negative consequences. The full plan is located in the Parent section on our school website.

**Parent Involvement/Information**

DPES welcomes parental involvement through volunteer opportunities and special events.

**Family Lunchtime Visitations:** Lunchroom visits with your child are limited to the lunch times only on Family Lunch days. We ask that you respect the teacher’s lunchtime. It is not intended as a conference opportunity. When your child’s lunchtime is over, please return to the front office to sign out.

**Volunteers:**  All DPES volunteers must sign our DPES Guidelines and Confidentiality Agreement for School Volunteers form, before being allowed to volunteer in the office, media center, classrooms, lunchroom, or special events.

**General Questions or Concerns:** You may call our school office at 334-361-6400. The office hours are Monday-Friday from 7:30-3:45. You may also email the school administration.

* Principal: [donna.finch@acboe.net](mailto:donna.finch@acboe.net)
* 1st-3rd Grade Assistant Principal: [vonda.wilson@acboe.net](mailto:vonda.wilson@acboe.net)
* 4th-6th Grade Assistant Principal: [william.shelby@acboe.net](mailto:william.shelby@acboe.net)

**Carpool**: Please email Miss D. Stewart at [dpescarpool@acboe.net](mailto:dpescarpool@acboe.net) if you need to register for carpool. She will be happy to help you.

**PowerSchool Parent Portal**: This portal allows parents to see their child’s grades and attendance record. The link is on our school website.

**ParentSquare:** ParentSquare in the district’s parent communication platform.

**ClassDOJO**: It is vitally important that each parent set up their ClassDoJo account in order to receive regular updates regarding their child’s behavior.

**Intervention Programs**

**Counseling and Guidance Program**: Mrs. Brownell is the counselor for 1st -3rd grade students, and Mrs. Walker is the counselor for 4th – 6th grade students. You may email them at [Marylyn.Brownell@acboe.net](mailto:Marylyn.Brownell@acboe.net) and [Kaylyn.Walker@acboe.net](mailto:Kaylyn.walker@acboe.net).

* Classroom Guidance Lessons: Counselors facilitate guidance-curriculum lessons. The counselors schedule these lessons. They take place in classrooms, the counseling classrooms, or in other areas of the school.
* Small-Group Lessons: Counselors conduct small-group counseling sessions outside the classroom to respond to students’ identified interests or needs. Small-group counseling lessons are scheduled by the counselors and may be 1 to 6 lessons. Teacher input as to student needs is encouraged.
* School-Wide Lessons: Counselors organize **Red Ribbon Week** (Drug Awareness) and **Career Week** (Career Awareness).
* Character Trait Recognition: Counselors organize and recognize students who exhibit outstanding character traits throughout the school year.
* Responsive Services: Responsive Services include counseling or referral activities that meet the immediate needs and concerns of students.
  + Consultation/Conferences: Counselors are available to consult with students, parents or guardians, educators, and community agencies regarding strategies to help students and families in need. Teachers and parents may request a conference by contacting the counselor.
  + Individual Counseling: Counselors provide individual counseling for students experiencing personal difficulties who need a private setting. School staff and parents may refer students to the counselor when needed.
  + Crisis Counseling: Counselors are available to provide students and families facing an emotional crisis. Counselors assist/consult with teachers concerning reports to DHR and/or other outside agencies.
  + Referrals: Counselors use referral sources to enhance the services provided through the school counseling program. Counselors provide outside resource information at the request of students, parents, and teachers. Counselors make referrals to the Mental Health Agency and Social Services.

**\*Please see the Intervention Support section of the DPES School-Wide Behavior Management Plan\***

**RtI Program**: The Response to Instruction program is an Alabama State Department of Education program designed to meet the needs of all students. Students are identified as needing Tier 2 or Tier 3 services, through the universal screening process. Instructional strategies are put in place, and teachers monitor and document students’ progress. The RtI Team monitors each students’ progress and reviews information each month. All recommendations made are based on collected data. For more information, please contact Vonda Wilson at [Vonda.Wilson@acboe.net](mailto:Vonda.Wilson@acboe.net).

**Literacy Act:** The Alabama Literacy Act was implemented by the Alabama Legislature in 2019. The purpose of this act is “to implement steps to improve the reading proficiency of public-school kindergarten to third grade students and ensure that those students are able to read at or above grade level by the end of the third grade by monitoring the progression of each student from one grade to another, in part, by his or her proficiency in reading”. DPES is in full compliance at all times. We are monitored by the Alabama Reading Initiative department each quarter. For more information, please contact Mrs. Yarnell at [alice.yarnell@acboe.net](mailto:alice.yarnell@acboe.net).

**English as a Second Language Program**: The English as a Second Language (ESL) Program is offered to students who speak a language other than English at home and who have qualified for services based on an English screener test.  English Learners (ELs) that qualify will receive 30 minutes of pullout services weekly, a bilingual dictionary if the student reads in his/her native language, and an iPad based on his or her proficiency score. Depending on funding, these students will also be offered free after-school tutoring and a week of ESL-Program Summer Camp. Please contact the ACBOE EL Director, Hannah Meherg, at [hannah.meherg@acboe.net](mailto:hannah.meherg@acboe.net) for additional information.

**School Safety**

School safety is our first priority. It is very important that all parents read the DPES Student Handbook and follow all guidelines.

**Fundraisers and Student Special Events Information**

Daniel Pratt Elementary School conducts fundraisers throughout the school year for the following reasons:

* Maintain the General Fund (school operating costs are paid from this account)
* Fundraiser Account (We pull from this account to support our General Fund)
* From these accounts we purchase the following items for our school: Needed technology, items for student learning and enhancing school/classroom environments

Refer to the DPES Fundraisers and Student Special Events Information in the Parent Section of our school website for details on this year’s activities.

**Lunchroom Program**

Each student has a lunch account for lunch charges and additional items they would like to purchase. Each student’s lunch account is automatically created when he or she is enrolled, and each student’s designated pin number is the same number from 1st through 12th grade.

* Prepay into the account by sending cash or check to the teacher, or you can set up to pay and/or monitor at [www.paypams.com](http://www.paypams.com). We accept cash or checks. Please make sure a phone number and the student’s name are written on every check sent in. Paypams charges a fee to pay online; however, there is no fee to use paypams to send you email reminders when the lunch account gets low or to look at your child’s spending habits.
* Students will be charged for lunches. Please go online after July 4, 2022 to [www.SchoolLunchapp.com](http://www.SchoolLunchapp.com) to complete the free/reduced application.
* We offer extra items that can be purchased on the lunch accounts that have money. Your child is welcome to come through with their lunch from home and purchase milk, water, extra fries, or anything else we offer. If you see that your child needs to have certain limits put on his/her account, please call the lunchroom manager (Teri Pearson), and we can put custom limits based on what you would like.
* Lunch-a-ble packs, soy butter and jelly sandwiches, and deli sandwiches are offered most days, in addition to the featured menu item. Please do not panic if your child who is allergic to peanuts comes home and says he or she ate a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch. Only soy butter uncrustable sandwiches are offered. We do not serve any peanut products in our lunchroom. We also offer a variety of entrées, including a cheese, meat, and cracker lunch-a-ble packs, just as you can buy in the grocery store. Each entrée includes milk and all of the fruits, vegetables, and salads and any desserts that may be on the menu for that day.
* All fruits, vegetables, salads, and milk are included with each meal.
* Lunch menus will only be available on the school website. Please feel free to contact the lunchroom manager at [mary.foote@acboe.net](mailto:mary.foote@acboe.net) or use the direct line to the lunchroom: 334-365-5547.