



# NEWSMAKERS

The Character word for December is "CARING"



DECEMBER 2023

## Upcoming Events

**Band Christmas Concert**  
Sunday, Dec. 10

**HS SBDM Council Mtg.**  
Wednesday, Dec. 13

**Board of Education Meeting**  
Monday, Dec. 18

**Winter Break**  
Wednesday, Dec. 20  
- Monday, Jan. 1  
\* Students return Tuesday, Jan. 2 \*



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It's a Great Day to be a Panther!

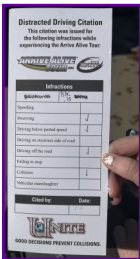


Get all school information first, including closings & delays, by following Supt. Whalen on X (formerly Twitter).  
**@DSSuptWhalen**

Elementary staff and students will be celebrating Christmas with daily dress-up themes December 11-19. See page 6 for daily themes.



The **Arrive Alive Tour** - a no-cost educational program that brings awareness to the dangers and consequences of drunk or distracted driving - recently visited our district. DS Juniors and Seniors had the opportunity to sit in the full



sized vehicle simulator wearing virtual reality glasses to experience what it would be like to drive under the influence of a .13 blood alcohol content.



### ELEMENTARY PARENTS

Please put your child's name or initials in all articles of clothing - hats, coats, etc. - and on personal items - water bottles, lunch boxes, etc. - so if items are lost, the owner can be identified.



The annual **Band Christmas Concert** is Sunday, Dec. 10 @ 3:00. The band will next be marching in the **Governor's Inauguration Parade** on Tuesday, Dec. 12. The Band is also holding a **Carol-O-Gram Fundraiser**. See pg. 7 for additional details.



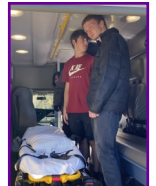
DSHS Juniors and Seniors participated in a **First Responders Demonstration & Career Discussion**.



Students were introduced to first responder job duties plus what they do when they are called to a scene for impaired or distracted driving.



The speakers also focused on career opportunities in their area of expertise and took questions from the students.



Four **Access Graduates** were awarded diplomas at the November Board of Education meeting. Congratulations to graduates Drew Cole, Greyson Pleasant, Shane Terry & Lawson Payne!



**Congratulations to our 2023 Senior Beta & Junior Beta Inductees**



The Kentucky Track and **Cross Country** Coaches Association has released its Area 1 annual awards announcement. Area 1 includes schools from Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Union, Trigg, and Webster counties. Dawson Springs Independent is included in Area 1.

Audrey McCoy, an 8th grader, was selected to the Area 1 Middle School Girls First Team. Classmates and teammates Ashtyn Swatzell and Baylee Swatzell were named to the Area 1 Middle School Girls Second Team.

Lucas Osborne, a senior runner, was named to the Area 1 High School Boys Second Team.  
Noah Riley, a seventh-grader, was selected to the Area 1 Middle School Boys Second Team.

Area 1 is also split into classes. Dawson Springs Independent is in Class A.

Coach Rhonda Simpson was named Class A Boys Coach of the Year.

Female runners from Dawson Springs selected to the Class A Girls All-Area Team are Audrey McCoy, Ashtyn Swatzell, and Baylee Swatzell.

Male Panther runners named to the Class A Boys All-Area Team are sophomore Deacon Dever, senior Lucas Osborne, and juniors Montgomery Johnston and Sean Stallins.

Congrats to our Panther athletes and coaches!



The **Dawson Springs Jr/Sr High School Engineering class**, under the guidance of teacher Mark Taylor, is among 300 public school state finalists in the 14th annual **Samsung Solve for Tomorrow STEM Competition**.



Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is designed to “empower students in grades 6-12 to leverage the power of STEM to create innovative solutions addressing critical issues in their local communities,” according to the release. “The competition engages U.S. Gen Z students to catalyze change by applying problem-based learning principles, environmental stewardship and entrepreneurship to address some of society’s most pressing challenges. It also promotes active, hands-on learning, making STEM more tangible and showcasing its real-world applications.”

Each state finalist won a package of \$2,500 in technology and classroom school supplies, according to a news release.

The DS Team will now advance to the 2nd of 6 phases. Competition will culminate in April with the selection of three national winners. Each national winner will receive a \$100,000 prize package.

The **Dawson Springs High School Cheerleaders** performed December 3rd at the 2023 Pleasant Grove Beach Bash Cheer and Dance Competition held at East Bullitt HS in Mt. Washington. The team competed against 13 schools in their division and earned a first place finish. The win includes a bid to the Nfinity Americas Cheerleading Cup Nationals scheduled to be held February 10-11, 2024, in Orlando, Florida.

Congratulations and good luck!



# DECEMBER EVENTS



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Nov 26	27 6:00 Board of Education Meeting  6:00 7/8 Girls Basketball @ home	28 6:00 7/8 Boys Basketball @ home  6:00 VG/VB Basketball @ Christian Fellowship	29 	30 6:00 JV/V Boys Basketball @ home	Dec 1 6:00 PTO Night with the Grinch	2 5:00 VG/VB Basketball @ home
3 5:30 DS Christmas Parade	4 5:30 7 G/B Basketball @ Crittenden Co.	5 6:00 8 G/B Basketball @ home  6:00 JV/V Boys Basketball @ Apollo	6 5:00 Preschool Cookies with Santa	7 Elementary Principal Advisory Council Meeting  6:00 VG/VB Basketball @ home	8 5:30 7/8 Boys Basketball @ McLean Co.  6:00 JV/V Girls Basketball @ Caldwell Co.	9 9:00 Freshman Basketball @ Webster Co.
10 3:00 Band Christmas Concert	11 6:00 JV/V Boys Basketball @ home	12	13 3:15 HS SBDM Council Meeting	14	15 6:00 JV/V Boys Basketball @ home	16 12:00 JV Girls Basketball @ Fulton City
17 	18 6:00 Board of Education Meeting	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31	Jan 1 New Years Day NO SCHOOL	2 Students Return 6:00 VG/VB Basketball @ home	3 	4 5:00 V Girls Basketball @ Hopkinsville	5 6:00 VG/VB Basketball @ home	6 9:00 Freshman Basketball @ Webster Co.



- - - - V Boys Basketball @ St. Mary Tournament - - - -  
- - - - - Winter Break - NO SCHOOL - - - - ->

- - - - V Boys Basketball @ Logan Co. Tournament - - - -

< - - - - - Winter Break - NO SCHOOL - - - - -

# DECEMBER 2023

Dawson Springs

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

4

Chicken Tenders w/Roll or Buffalo Chicken Wrap, Tater Tots, Broccoli, Carrots w/Ranch, Fruit or Juice & Milk

5

Chicken Alfredo w/Garlic Bread, or Rib Sandwich, Peas & Carrots, Cali Veggies, Side Salad, Fruit or Juice & Milk

6

Chicken Fried Steak or Chicken Drumstick, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, Fruit or Juice & Milk

7

Beef & Cheese Nachos or Mac & Cheese, Refried Beans, Fiesta Veggies, Lettuce/Tomato Cup, Fruit or Juice & Milk

1

Pizza or Corndog, Corn, Baby Carrots, Side Salad, Fruit or Sidekick, Cookie & Milk

8

Pizza or Corndog, Corn, Baby Carrots, Side Salad, Fruit or Sidekick, Cookie & Milk

11

Grilled Cheese or Rib Sandwich, Tater Tots, Broccoli, Coleslaw, Tomato Soup, Fruit, or Juice & Milk

12

Chicken Filet Sandwich or Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Potato Smiles, Glazed Carrots, Lettuce/Tomato, Fruit or Juice & Milk

13

Chicken Fried Steak or Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, Fruit or Juice & Milk

14

Hamburger or Cheeseburger, Fries, Pork-n-Beans, Lettuce/Tomato, Fruit or Juice & Milk

15

Pizza or Corndog, Corn, Baby Carrots, Side Salad, Fruit or Sidekick, Cookie & Milk

18

Chicken Nuggets or General TSO's Chicken w/Rice, Tater Tots, Broccoli, Side Salad, Egg Roll, Roll, Fruit or Juice & Milk

19

Rotini w/Garlic Bread, or Meatball Sub, Potato Smiles, Corn on the Cob, Side Salad, Fruit or Juice & Milk

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**Daily Breakfast Items:** Cereal, Poptarts, Fruit, Juice & Milk

- Monday: Sausage Biscuit or Mini Pancakes
- Tuesday: Breakfast Pizza or Cinnamon Roll
- Wednesday: Egg & Cheese Biscuit or Mini Donuts
- Thursday: Chicken Biscuit or Banana Bread
- Friday: Sausage Pancake on a Stick

**Daily Lunch Menu Items Include:**

All of these options come with Vegetable, Fruit & Milk

- Yogurt or Beef Sticks, String Cheese Stick, Muffin & Cheez-its
- Ham & Cheese Sandwich
- Ham or Turkey & Cheese Wrap
- Pizza Lunchable
- Chef Salad w/Roll

\*Menu is subject to change without notice\*

# December Birthdays



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><b>December Birthday Cake Winners</b></p> <p><b>Corbin Jennings &amp; Leo Fisher</b></p> <p>Present your certificate at our local Dairy Queen for a <b>FREE</b> Ice Cream Cake.</p>				<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Rex Blue June Shanks Rachel Payne</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Aubree Martinez Leo Fisher</p> <p>Abby Garrett Ashley Hickey</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Halyn McKnight</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Adalynn Kennedy</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Alycia Menser</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Millie Cotton Gage Hayden Brenna Nash Caleb Midkiff</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Annalise Pacheco Ethan L. Johnson</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Lily Smith Kiron Browning</p>	<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Karla Mitchell</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Jacob Bruce</p> <p>Melissa Dulin Shannon Garrett</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Eiljah Britt Elizabeth Frankel Graysen Kutella</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Myla Virgin Kabri Southerland</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Alieah Cook Alexis Adams William Morgan</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Emmalynn Colson Emily Hunter Hazel Cobb</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Katelyn Moore Christopher Carroll Savannah Dame</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Bradley Latham Christian Moore Michelle Tapp Kali Ford</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Jennifer Ward</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>Mark Taylor Lucas Johnson</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Haiden Richardson</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Sawyer Young Weston Sutherland</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Daylyn Bruch</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Corbin Jennings Zachary Creekmur Brandon Bullock Tristen Hoglo Karson McCaw</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Emberly Plunkett Piper Pritt</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Micah Washburn Carter Teague Jasper Corrao</p>			<p>Anyone whose name appears on this calendar is eligible for a <b>10% discount</b> on an ice cream cake when you present this page at our local Dairy Queen at the time of purchase.</p>			





# CHRISTMAS

## *dress-up days*

*Dec. 11- Tree Topper- wear Christmas hats,  
headbands, or toppers*

*Dec. 12- Mistle-Toes- wear Christmas socks or house shoes*

*Dec. 13- Ugly Christmas Sweater- Favorite ugly  
Christmas sweater*

*Dec. 14- Christmas vacation- Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts, or leis*

*Dec. 15- All is Merry and Plaid- wear your  
Favorite flannel shirt*

*Dec. 18- Christmas Character Day- dress as your favorite  
Christmas movie or cartoon character*

*Dec. 19- Christmas PJs- wear Christmas PJs  
or your favorite pair of pajamas*

# CAROL-O-GRAM Fundraiser

Spread some holiday cheer this year by hiring the Dawson Springs Band. We will surprise your family or friends with a few Christmas Carols performed at their house along w/ a personalize Christmas card from you.

## Prices:

Addresses located in Dawson Springs city limits:  
\$20 for 3 Carols and card.

Addresses located outside Dawson Springs (no more than 25 miles from the school): \$30 for 3 Carols and card.

Please contact Jennifer Fox by email :  
[jennifer.fox@dawsonsprings.kyschools.us](mailto:jennifer.fox@dawsonsprings.kyschools.us) or your favorite band member for more details.





# DONATE

## NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

DEADLINE

DECEMBER 13, 2023

Women: Olay & Dove body washes

S-2XL pajamas

Non-skid socks & closed toe house shoes

Men: Irish Spring & Axe body washes

M-3XL pajamas

Non-skid socks & closed toe house shoes



**DONATIONS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE OR PICKED UP BY A JR BETA MEMBER.**

[SHANNON.PARKER@DAWSONSPRINGS.KYSCHOOLS.US](mailto:SHANNON.PARKER@DAWSONSPRINGS.KYSCHOOLS.US)





# COOKIES WITH Santa

**DECEMBER 6TH  
5 TO 6:30 PM**

**Little Panther Academy**

Please enter through the elementary  
school doors.





# A Night with the Grinch!

December 1st 6 - 8 pm

Dawson Springs Auditorium

\$3 admission

Brought to you by the PTO

**GAMES!**

**Whoville Hair  
Salon!!!**

**CRAFTS!**

**Pictures with  
the Grinch!**

Featuring Hair stylist from  
around the town!

Special Guests include  
Preschool Academy, local  
high school ambassadors  
and your friendly  
neighborhood PTO!!

# 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

District: DAWSON SPRINGS

Board Approved 1/30/2023

Part I  Traditional Calendar  Variable

Schools: ELEM/JR SR HIGH

## July 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## August 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		2

## September 2023 (74)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
20					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## October 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				20

Emergency closing 10/18/23 – gas leak

## November 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		19

## December 2023 (74)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						13

## January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			21

## February 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		20

## March 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						20

## April 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				17

## May 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
18			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## June 2024 (96)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

PD DAYS (9): 8/16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 & 28  
 OPEN & CLOSE (2): 8/29/23 & 5/28/24  
 HOLIDAYS (4): 9/4/23, 11/23/23, 12/25/23 & 1/1/24 (7/4, 1/15, 5/27)  
 FLEX/ BREAK DAYS (2): 2/16/24 & 3/15/24  
 STUDENTS FIRST DAY: 8/30/23  
 STUDENTS LAST DAY/GRADUATION: 5/24/24  
 EMERGENCY CLOSING: 10/18/23

FALL BREAK (2): 10/12 & 10/13/23  
 SPRING BREAK (5): 4/8-4/12/24  
 MAKE-UP DAYS (8): 5/29-6/7/24  
 STUDENT ATTENDANCE DAYS: 170  
 TEACHER REQUIREMENT DAYS: 185  
 SCHOOL STARTS 7:55 AM ENDS: 2:50 PM