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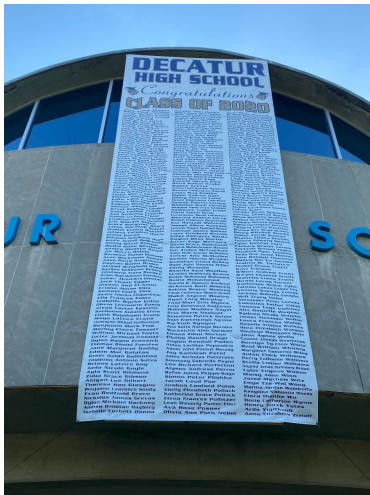
DECATUR HIGH SCHOOL *Alumni Newsletter*

POWERED BY DECATUR EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this inaugural DHS alumni newsletter. Twice a year we'll feature distinguished alums, DHS happenings and information about upcoming class reunions. But there's no alumni without "U", so please send us your news!

[Find out more](#)



A Senior Skip Day Unlike Any Other

Due to Covid-19, every city of Decatur school closed on March 13th, (which happened to be Senior Skip Day at DHS), and remained closed for the rest of the school year. The Class of 2020 went without many of the senior year events that are considered teenage rites of passage -- Prom, sports teams' senior nights and in-person commencement ceremony. With the pandemic continuing to affect daily life, only time will tell when our students can go back to in-person learning. For a firsthand account of what "Virtual DHS" is like, read about our Communications

Intern Caroline Putman's experience below.



What It's Like Right Now for a DHS Senior

My day starts bright and early at 8:50 when I make a 3-foot commute from my bed to my desk. I open my laptop, log into google classroom and my first day of senior year has officially begun.

It is by no means the senior year that I spent all of these years dreaming of. I watched my brother, class of 2020, graduate from our living room TV screen. His senior picture taken the previous fall seemingly smiling at the great things that his senior year would have to offer him:

Homecoming, senior tea, class color day, prom, and of course graduation. I watched him enjoy his year, eagerly awaiting when it would be my turn to enjoy those things, and I watched in horror as it was cut short. No matter how much people tried to replicate these milestones with car parade graduations or video presentations, there is just no replacement for the real thing.

Now here I am watching my senior year go by through zoom calls. No homecoming, no class color day, no senior tea, but these events are not what I miss the most. I miss sitting in the cafeteria rehashing the day's events over an Uncrustable. I miss taking the long way to class so I could go outside even for just a second. I miss sitting in class not being able to concentrate because I'm so excited about going to a club meeting after school, but most of all I miss the feeling of being connected with my classmates.

Senior year is one long goodbye to those connections and to the people that have shaped who you are. Losing that makes the end to this chapter in my life feel like a story without an ending.



Some of Our Distinguished Alumni

Our first distinguished alumnus hails from the



Class of 1975. Clarence Strickland has worked at DHS as head custodian for 27 years. In 2014, DEF named an award in his honor -- The Clarence Strickland Make a Difference Award after Clarence's quick action helped a student in need. The award is given out annually to a CSD teacher or staff member who shows compassion and care for a student in great need.



Chantrice Rogers grew up in Decatur and is a graduate of Decatur High School Class of 1994. Chantrice currently serves as a Clinical Research Coordinator for Emory University. Chantrice serves on the DEF board and has established the annual Blue and Gold Alumni Scholarship to support DHS students in their post-secondary endeavors. If you and your classmates would like to establish a scholarship, please email gail@decatureducationfoundation.org to learn how!



Does one of your classmates deserve recognition as a distinguished alum? [Click here](#) to fill out a nomination form.

Sooo...What Have You Been Up To?

Everyone wants to know about life since DHS -- send us your updates and we'll print them here by Class Year. We made it super easy with this quick update form.

[Click HERE for quick update form](#)

DHS Teachers & Staff
Where Are They Now?

WHERE ARE THEY NOW!



Dr. Cara Cassell retired last year after 28 years at DHS. She says she most enjoyed the people with whom she worked. "It was truly a privilege to study great works with great minds and to coach students to find their voices in writing. The students and staff made me laugh every day. She now lives in Chattanooga where she says "yes" to activities on school nights and is training her puppy "Maisy" who she says is more difficult to teach than teenagers!



Math teacher Stan Flemons has one of the longest tenures at DHS -- this is his 30th year of teaching! DHS was his first teaching job after he earned his Master's degree from Howard University. He was hired by then-principal Bill Funk. Mr. Flemons says he still enjoys working at DHS "because of the commitment of all teachers to the success of every student. The teachers work together so well, collaborating to make sure we are providing the best quality education for our students. I also appreciate the Decatur community of parents who support the school and teachers." In his spare time, Mr. Flemons sings in a "virtual" a cappella singing group called "Chapter Six" which is comprised of six singers from four different countries.

Stay Plugged In...

Our next issue will feature photos of DHS' new Decatur Student Center that's currently being built out. The DSC is a dedicated space for all of the students' non-academic needs, including a "Zen Den". We'll also have classmate updates, distinguished alumni and more!

DYS FOR NOW.

DHS Bulldog image created by
Abigayle Reynolds, Class of 2020.



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