



Partner to Partner

[Skip to Highlights and Celebrations](#)

[Skip to Calendar of Events](#)

Dear Education Partner:



The 2018-19 school year has gotten off to an incredible start. As I have been visiting schools across the district, I have been impressed with the focus and determination of our campus leaders, the engaging learning activities planned by our amazing teachers, and the respectful and positive attitudes exhibited by our students. Every day, I count my blessings to have been selected to lead our District.

We have good students, some amazing teachers, and hardworking leaders.

I am also honored to work in a community that values public education as evidenced by the bond package that was approved by the community and

included six new schools and two replacement schools that opened this year. This fall, we will host dedication ceremonies for the namesakes of the six new schools. Please plan to join us. The dates and locations are:

- Thursday, Oct. 4 - Steve Mead Middle School, 3500 Lauder Road, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 7 – Lou Vardeman EC/PK/K School, 3302 Connorvale Road, 2 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 14 – Dr. Archie L. Blanson Career and Technical Education High School, 311 West Road, 2 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 21 – Merlin Griggs, Sr. EC/PK/K School, 801 Regional Park Dr., 2 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 28 – Marine D. Jones Middle School, 20155 Townsen Blvd., 2 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 4 – Dr. Viola M. Garcia Middle School, 11000 Rosslyn Rd., 2 p.m.

We are inviting former students, parents, staff and community members of Francis Elementary and Johnson Elementary to a final “walk through” to say good-bye to their former schools. The two Aldine ISD elementary schools moved into their new facilities at the start of the 2018-19 school year. The Francis Elementary “walk through” will be held on Tuesday, October 16 from 4-5 p.m. and the Johnson Elementary “walk through” will be held on Thursday, October 18 from 4-5 p.m. Ceremonial bricks will also be available as keepsakes.

During the Sept. 18 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved the tax rate for the 2018-19 school year. Dr. Tamika Alford-Stephens, assistant superintendent of finance, recommended the tax rate be set at \$1.43588 per \$100 valuation (.2825 cents for interest and sinking and \$1.15388 for Maintenance and Operations). The 2018-19 tax rate is 6.25 cents higher than

the 2017-18 tax rate due to additional debt payments that were approved by Aldine voters in November 2015 and to additional expenses the district incurred due to Hurricane Harvey.

Earlier this month, we held four public meetings at Francis Elementary School, MacArthur High School, Hall Center for Education and Worsham Elementary School to discuss student achievement, performance objectives and to solicit input from parents and community members on the Targeted Improvement Plan. All four schools are listed as Improvement Required (IR) by the Texas Education Agency.

On Friday, Oct. 26, we will hold the Sonny Donaldson Golf Tournament, benefiting the Aldine Education Foundation (AEF) at Oakhurst Golf Club (20700 Mills Branch Drive in Porter). The tournament will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start. Former Superintendent M.B. "Sonny" Donaldson will attend and serve as the tournament's honorary chairman. If you would like to play, you can register online at www.AldineEducationFoundation.org/golf. Proceeds from the tournament will support scholarships for Aldine ISD seniors and teacher grants.

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 6 election is Oct. 9. Early voting begins Monday, Oct. 22 and concludes on Friday, Nov. 2. Once again, we are registering our high school seniors who are eligible to vote.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible this academic school year.

With Aldine pride,



LaTonya M. Goffney, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

HIGHLIGHTS / CELEBRATIONS

- During the summer, Carver High School student Keilah South and MacArthur High School teacher Sean Doyle participated in the Chevron-JASON Learning initiative in the Bahamas. The duo, along with students and educators from Idaho and Virginia, spent a week at the Cape Eleuthera Institute (CEI) where they participated in outdoor excursions, which included marine ecology, conservation and 'green' energy.
- More than 30 MacArthur High School students earned AP (advanced placement) Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP exams during the 2017-18 school year. The AP Scholar Awards are a series of awards given by the College Board to students who earned a score of 3 or above on at least three AP exams.
- This summer, Marcella Elementary student Aaron Cebrero attended the Lone Star Leadership Academy. Aaron joined more than 1,140 fourth-through eighth-graders who participated in the Academy. Aaron and his cohorts were selected for the Academy based on their academic success and leadership ability.
- Aldine ISD will offer evening meals at all of its middle schools and high schools during the 2018-19 school year. There is no cost to students. The meals will be offered Monday-Thursday.
- MacArthur High School family consumer science teacher Ramona Smith was named the 2018 Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking on Aug. 25 in Chicago. Ramona competed against more than 30,000 public speakers from across the world during the six-month competition. She was one of nine finalists who delivered their speeches in front of

2,000 spectators during the Toastmasters International Convention held in Chicago.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Thursday, October 4**
Student Ambassadors Meeting, Board Room, 3:30 p.m.
Mead Middle School Dedication, 6:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, October 7**
Vardeman EC/PK/K Dedication, 2 p.m.
- **Wednesday, October 10**
Aldine Noon Optimist Club Golf Tournament, Crosby, noon
- **Sunday, October 14**
Blanson CTE High School Dedication, 2 p.m.
- **Monday, October 15**
Board Study Session, Board Room, 6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, October 16**
Board Meeting, Board Room, 7 p.m.
- **Sunday, October 21**
Griggs EC/PK/K Dedication, 2 p.m.
- **Wednesday, October 24**
ACC Meeting, Child Nutrition Center, 9 a.m.
- **Friday, October 26**
Sonny Donaldson Golf Tournament, Oakhurst Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, October 28**
Jones Middle School Dedication, 2 p.m.

- **Sunday, November 4**
Garcia Middle School Dedication, 2 p.m.



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2520 W.W. Thorne Blvd.
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