



Benjamin Davis,

I have to start off by saying “THANK YOU” to our wonderful parents. Thank you, parents and guardians of BD, for your patience during the closing of schools; due to inclement weather. Thank you for reading all the quick emails and texts sent out during this time and following directions! Also, thank you for adjusting your schedules and making quick arrangements to pick up your child. Because of your hasty actions, teachers were able to leave and go home to be with their families. For that alone, I say thank you!!!!!!

January has flown by and we’re finding ourselves approaching another fun month. During the month of February, we will explore events such as President’s Day, Black History Month, Valentine’s Day, Groundhog Day, and many more. We will celebrate Valentine’s Day with healthy snacks on February 14th. Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher for class specifics and please try to join us. One very special event that will take place on February 8, 2018 is “Ben Davis Got Talent”. This is not a competition. However, this is an event that we have all enjoyed over the years. Please make plans to come out and support the students.

Please be aware that as inclement/cold weather arrives in the upcoming months make sure your child has the proper gear in order to keep warm. If you are missing a coat, encourage your child to look in our “Lost and Found” area. We have collected over 50 coats thus far. I need to inform you, that the flu is back and if your child has a fever; please do not send him/her to school. We are doing our best to keep the flu out of the building.

We are having a few issues with parents calling after 2:00 to make transportation changes. We are more than happy to do so; however, please be aware that messages received after 2:00 may not reach your child in time before dismissal. That’s a busy time for the office. Also, Attendance is very important and I would like to share DCS attendance policy. When a student reaches **5 unexcused absences**, they are required to attend Early Warning Court by the Juvenile Probation Office of Morgan County. When a student reaches **7 unexcused absences, a Truancy Petition will be filed in court on the student and/or their parent/guardian.** Please note that for grades **Pre K-8 a doctor’s note may be required by the school after the 10th absence.** There are several ways to stay aware of your student’s attendance record:

- SchoolCast calls the home number each day that a student is absent. Please let the office know if you are not receiving these calls.
- All families have access to the INOW system via the Decatur City Schools website at dcs.edu. You can contact the office of Benjamin Davis for a User Name and Password if you do not have one.
- If your student is not turning in excuses in a timely manner, you may need to e-mail, fax, or directly hand them to the school office. Also, when your child accumulates 3 unexcused absence, the office will send home a letter requesting a meeting with the principal. This meeting is designed to make parents aware of their child’s absences before accumulating 5 unexcused and to come up with a solution to avoid early warning court.

Here are some important district/building dates to remember:

1/31-3/8 - After School Enrichment

1/31/2018 - First Priority, a non-mandatory Christian club, meets in the Little Theater on Wednesday 7:15

2/01/2018 - BD Got Talent Form

2/02/2018 - Valentines for Veterans; PTO Fine Arts Program Project; PTO Fundraiser (Nothing Bundt Cakes) Due

2/5-9/2018 - Coin Drive

2/06/2018 - Club Pictures; This includes Student Council, Tiny Trebles, Math, Mt. Everest, Tech Club, GEMS, and Drama

2/07/2018 - First Priority, a non-mandatory Christian club, meets in the Little Theater on Wednesday 7:15

2/08/2018 - BD Got Talent @ 6:00

2/13/2018 – 1st Grade Valentine's Project **Due**

2/14/2018 - **Mid Term Report; First Priority, a non-mandatory Christian club, meets in the Little Theater on Wednesday 7:15**

2/19/2018 - **No School**

2/19/2018 - Annie Jr. tickets on sale; 8:30 for 5th graders and 10:00 for 3rd and 4th graders; Tickets \$7.

2/20/2018 - Milos Spirit Night

2/21/2018 - First Priority, a non-mandatory Christian club, meets in the Little Theater on Wednesday 7:15

2/27/2018 - **1/2 Day for Students**

2/26-3/2/2018 - Read Across America Week

2/28/2018 - First Priority, a non-mandatory Christian club, meets in the Little Theater on Wednesday 7:15

03/01/2018 - BD and LSMS students see Annie Jr. at the Princess at 12:00

Yearbooks are now \$35. Here is the link to order the yearbook or to create an ad: [http://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1097246/Leon-Sheffield-Elementary-School/Information for yearbook ads](http://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1097246/Leon-Sheffield-Elementary-School/Information%20for%20yearbook%20ads) (due Friday, January 26th) can be found here: [Yearbook-Ad-Flyer.pdf](#)

Hanson