

As summer temperatures fade away, fall ushers in cooler weather, shorter days, and new sights and sounds at DMS. Among those sights and sounds are the hours of rehearsals for our UIL One Act Play (OAP) cast, crew, and directors who have been hard at work preparing for their upcoming performance of *The Great Pandemonium* at the UIL district competition on December 1<sup>st</sup> in Crystal City. The public performance can be seen at the Devine Student Activities Center (DSAC) on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. If you enjoy the fine arts, you will also want to watch our DMS bands at the annual Christmas concert on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The beginning band will perform in the DSAC at 6:00 p.m. followed by the concert and symphonic bands at 7:00 p.m.

In addition to the hard work on the stage and in the band hall, many students attend academic UIL practices in preparation for their district competition on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will wish them the best during our UIL pep rally on December 6<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you to all of the coaches for your time and efforts. We have a tradition of academic excellence to uphold, and there's no doubt the UIL academic teams will represent DMS well at competition. There will be a UIL awards ceremony on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 to recognize those who place at the district competition.

In DMS sports, our Colts and Fillys have traded helmets and knee pads for basketballs. Games are well under way, and the winning spirit at DMS is sure to follow. For a list of game times and places, please go to the DMS website for details. Thank you to all of the coaches, faculty, staff, and parents who support our athletes. It couldn't be done without your support and dedication.

Last week our students participated in a commemorative Veteran's Day project. With the help of our social studies department and assistant principal, students assembled a red, white, and blue display with the names of family members and friends who have served our country in the armed forces. We have a number of faculty and staff members of the district who have served our country. Thank you all for your service. Our project was a small token of appreciation.

As we begin the third six weeks of school, we are finishing up the first semester. That means that semester exams are around the corner. We will be having exams the week of December 17-20. Please be on the lookout for semester exam schedules and study guides. Remember that you can keep track of your student's progress on a daily basis with the parent portal through the district's website. Shortly after we return from the Christmas holidays, we will begin benchmark exams. More details will follow as those dates approach. Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns at 830-851-0695.