DECEMBER 7, 2023

ALDINE Independent School District

GOFFNEY CHRONICLES

The Official Newsletter of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney

Superintendent of Schools

With Aldine Pride!



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- Educator and School Earn NABSE Awards
- UHD Partnership Gives AISD Families Access to Bilingual eLibrary
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- MSA Awards Carter Academy
- A Unique Program at Carver
- And much more!

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X: @drgoffney

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DECEMBER IS A NONSTOP FLURRY, HOLIDAY SOUNDS, AND SO MUCH TO BE GRATEFUL FOR

December is a busy month filled with festive events for our families, friends, and school community. I am grateful to celebrate this holiday season with all of you in Aldine ISD. There are many opportunities to get into the holiday spirit with our talented fine arts students. Be on the lookout for winter concerts scheduled at our campuses, which are open to the community. Staff at our administrative buildings will also hear from our talented students who are visiting to spread the festive cheer.

I am thrilled and humbled to share that at the 51st Annual National Alliance of Black School Educators conference, I was installed as the 24th NABSE President. It was one of the proudest moments of my career. I am enthusiastic and ready to make a meaningful difference and create a brighter future for all!

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DECEMBER IS A NONSTOP FLURRY, HOLIDAY SOUNDS, AND SO MUCH TO BE GRATEFUL FOR

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The moment left me in awe. Who knew a small-town girl from East Texas could achieve this and more? In my speech, I referenced the 1985 film *The Color Purple*. Oprah Winfrey calls Alice Walker's seminal novel one of the "national anthems for women's empowerment." It definitely impacted me. Those who know my story can see how I identified with the protagonist, Celie. While my story began in abject poverty and abuse, I had points of light guiding and encouraging me. I am grateful for everyone in my life, like my grandparents, family, teachers, mentors, friends, and colleagues, who have made an edible mark in my life personally and professionally. It comes down to the people who make an impact on our lives.





This holiday season, thank those who have made a difference in your life, your child's life, or the life of someone you care about.

I will be celebrating with my family over the holidays and we will definitely be at the movies to see the musical adaptation of *The Color Purple*, and be inspired all over again. I hope everyone in #MyAldine shares on social media how they will celebrate the season. I'd love to see how you are celebrating.

Alright, the countdown to midwinter break has commenced. Let's end the month strong!

With Aldine Pride,

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendent

NABSE CONFERENCE: SUPERINTENDENT GOFFNEY SWORN IN A NABSE PRESIDENT



Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney was sworn in as the new National Alliance of Black School Educators president for two years.

As the NABSE leader, Goffney will focus on NABSE's focus areas, including the National Teacher Institute, and building a coalition of allies.

Click HERE to read the whole story online.

JONES-KOUMBA RECEIVES NABSE'S MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR; HOUSTON ACADEMY NAMED A NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL



Carver High School's theater director, Roshunda Jones-Kuomba, and Principal Dr. Cedric Stewart of Houston Academy have much to be proud of.

They were bestowed awards at the National Alliance of Black School Educators Conference in New Orleans, LA.

Jones-Koumba received the Mary McLeod Bethune Educator of the Year Award. NABSE named Houston Academy a National Demonstration School. Principal Cedric Stewart, recently named the HAABSE Principal of the Year, was recognized for his leadership.

Click HERE to read the whole story online.

DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH UH-DOWNTOWN TO KICKOFF BILINGUAL E-LIBRARY



Earlier this year, UHD received a two-year, $2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to upgrade its bilingual e-library and improve connectivity and literacy for Houston's Hispanic community and partnered with Aldine ISD.

Families (240 participants) from Black and Bussey elementary schools are piloting the program in this partnership to improve family literacy by reading and writing stories together. In the spring, five additional schools will participate in the program. Griggs, Hinojosa preschools and Marcella, Smith, and Hill elementary schools.

The e-library offers professional literacy and reading comprehension development to AISD in-service bilingual teachers and UHD pre-service teachers through its YouTube channel.

Click HERE to read the whole story.

EISENHOWER'S GATSON SELECTED AS TAHPERD PRESIDENT-ELECT

The Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD) recently selected Thomasina Gatson, master teacher and coach at Eisenhower High School, as president-elect for 2024. The professional group, which is celebrating its centennial this year, is one of the largest membership-driven organizations in Texas.

Click HERE to read the whole story.



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MSMS BESTOWS CARTER ACADEMY WITH THE BEST VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS AWARD

The Magnet Schools of the Mid-South (MSMS) bestowed Carter Academy, an AISD Choice School, with the Best Visual and Performing Arts Award at the organization's conference held in Garland last month.



The MSMS-held conference awarded various magnet schools in Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas on their ability to implement programs into their curriculum. They were judged on student gain within said programs. To qualify for an award, the school had to have implemented the program being considered for at least one full academic year.

The award recognizes schools at the regional level that exhibit diversity, program sustainability, thematic implementation, innovative activities, and community engagement.

Principal Cindy Buentello states that the visual and performing arts are vital to Carter Academy. They support students' cognitive, social-emotional learning, and physical development.

Click HERE to read the whole story.





The district will celebrate each weekday with themes.

CAMPUS CSEDWEEK ACTIVITIES

- **December 6:** Crazy Socks
- **December 7:** Tie-Dye Shirt
- **December 8:** Camo Day
- **December 11:** Error Day
- **December 12:** RGB (Red, Green, and Blue) Day

Don't Forget

Tag us at @AldineCTE and use the hashtags #MyAldine and #AldineCSEWeek.

Click HERE to read the whole story.

PROGRAM TEACHES CARVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ABOUT URBAN FARMING, NUTRITION



The 11-week program aims to engage students in the various aspects of hydroponic gardening and lessons on food insecurity, nutrition, urban farming, community development, and entrepreneurship. Every Monday during Carver High School's B Week at 1 p.m., students are in a class session for 90 minutes, learning about hydroponics and more, thanks to a one-of-a-kind initiative, the Young Agri-business Leaders of Houston (YALH) Education Program.

The (YALH) Education Program, funded by an African American Mayors Association (AAMA) and the American Beverage Foundation for a Healthy America (ABFHA) through their Nutrition Access, Affordability, and Education Grant Program, launched at Carver High School in late October. Students are currently in the fifth week.

Students engage in hands-on activities, field trips, group discussions that include experts, and project learning. The curriculum has created an impactful learning experience.

The goal is to encourage students to consider their role in promoting urban agriculture and healthy eating beyond the program.

Click HERE to read the whole story.

CHIEF OF POLICE PAUL CÓRDOVA SHARES HIS PASSION FOR CHESS WITH STUDENTS





Chief of Police Paul Córdova was seen recently at the chess practice meet at Blanson Career and Technology High School on Tuesday, December 5. It was an afternoon of "rooks" and "pawns" as Córdova played with students. The Blanson CTEHS chess team, sponsored by Kevin Díaz, was practicing for their next tournament.

In addition to boosting students' confidence, Córdova says chess meetups foster trust. He says it's also a way to know the people he and his officers serve while utilizing the game of chess as the vehicle for engagement.

Córdova says the students play to win.

"I always try my best when I play chess. Sometimes I win, sometimes the students win."

Click HERE to read the whole story.



DISTRICT STUDENTS SHOW DRAMATIC FLAIR AT THE 2023 TEXAS THESPIANS STATE FESTIVAL

Aldine ISD theater students attended the Texas Thespians State Festival, which had over 10,000 theater students from across the state who attended.

Each year, the Texas Thespians organization hosts a statewide event. It is one of the largest annual theatre festivals, where students compete.

Aldine ISD has 50 high school students advancing to the national competition.

Click HERE to read the whole story.

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FAMILY AND PARENT UNIVERSITY



The University provides strategies to increase family and community members' knowledge about resources and build participants' self-confidence to better support their children.

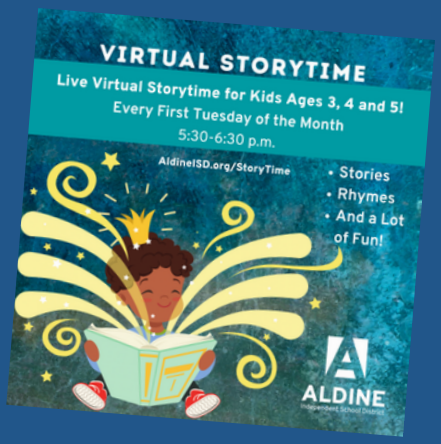
Sessions are provided in English and Spanish.

For convenience, parents, legal guardians, and community members have three ways to participate in sessions – in-person, virtual, and pre-recorded.

Click HERE to contact FACE for information.

Upcoming FACE Events

- First Tuesday of Every Month: Join us for Virtual Story Time! Virtual Story Time is for primary students (Grades EC/PreK/K), from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Learn more at AldineISD.org/StoryTime.



The community came together at our Fall Festival and turkey giveaway!





LEARN MORE ABOUT ALDINE ISD'S FAMILY AND COMMUNITY UNIVERSITY

Click here to view a video. Hear directly from parents who are Family and Community University graduates.

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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

- **Dec.11:** The Board of Trustees Study Session starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Donaldson Admin. Bldg.-Boardroom. Click here for details.
- **Dec. 12:** The Board Meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the Donaldson Admin. Bldg.-Boardroom. Click here for details.



The Knowledge Matters Podcast hears from leaders like @drgoffney on the importance of a knowledge-rich curriculum! Click HERE to listen.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us by visiting AldineISD.org. Check out our District News and Aldine ISD pages to stay updated on all the great things happening in our district.

/AldineSchoolDistrict
/AldineISD
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GOT NEWS TO SHARE?

Do you have a story idea? Reach out to the Office of Communications: comms@aldineisd.org



COLLEGE COLORS MONDAYS



College Colors Day will become a permanent part of #MyAldine! For the rest of the '23-'24 school year, every Monday will be College Colors Day! All staff and students can wear jeans, tennis shoes, and a branded college, trade school, career, or military shirt!

Remember, it has to be a branded shirt. That means it must have the logo — it can't just be school colors.



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MONTHLY OBSERVANCES



2023-2024

Click Here to View School Year Calendars (Traditional & ADSY)

DECEMBER

- Dec. 4-10: Computer Science Education Week
- Dec. 15: Early Dismissal/End of Nine Weeks (All)
- Dec. 18-29: Midwinter Break (All)

JANUARY

- Jan: 1-3: Student Holidays (Traditional)
- Jan. 1 and Jan. 2: Student Holidays (ADSY)
- Jan. 2: Staff Development/Work Day (ADSY)
- Jan. 3: Start of Nine Weeks (ADSY)

JANUARY

- Jan. 2-3: Staff Development/Work Days (Traditional)
- Jan. 4: Start of Nine Weeks (Traditional)
- Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (All)
- Jan. 17: ENVI210N School Day (ADSY)
- Jan. 18: Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day
- Jan. 21: ENVI210N School Day (ADSY)
- Jan. 21-27: National Choice Schools Week
- Jan. 22: Lunar New Year (Vietnamese culture)
- Jan. 31: ENVI210N School Day (ADSY)

REMINDERS FOR FAMILIES

- Outside food and beverages are prohibited on all secondary school campuses (middle, ninth-grade, and high school campuses) premises. Click here for details.
- The state requires high school seniors to apply for financial aid to graduate. – FAFSA Application link or TASFA Application links
- The state requires all entering college students to take the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment. (details).

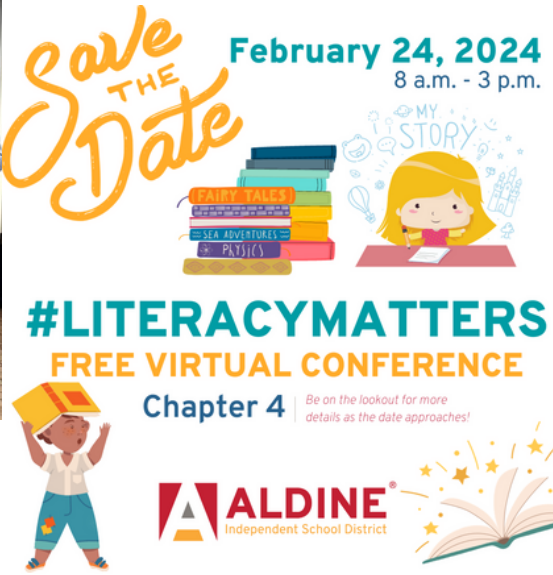
#MyAldine



@DrGoffney: When #MyAldine Superintendent Student Ambassador shows up to our monthly meeting on his birthday, we stop and sing Happy Birthday — all 3 versions! Happy 17th birthday, Edgar! Keep shining!



@DrGoffney: I am blessed with the best Superintendent's Parent Advisory! Thank you, #MyAldine parents for your advocacy, passion, and commitment to @AldineISD!

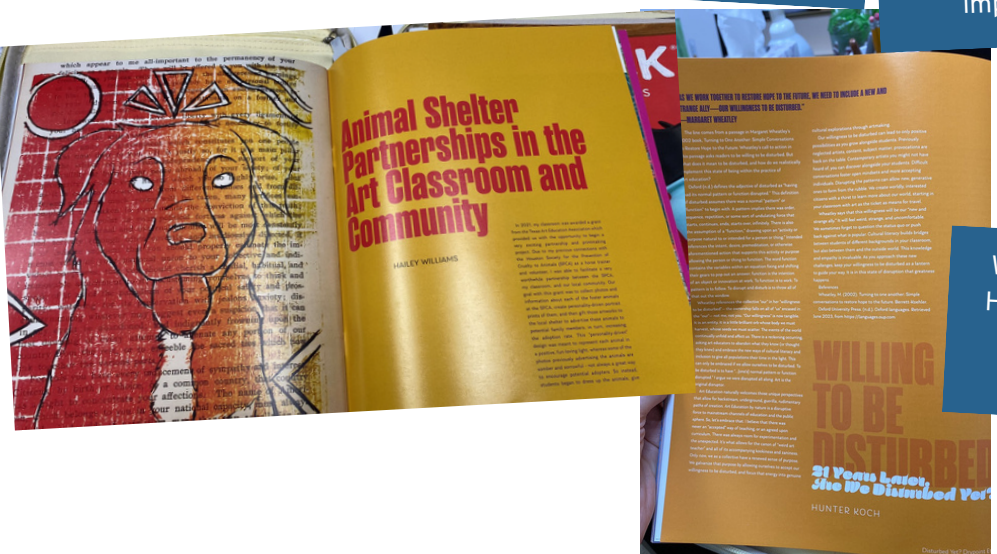




@Dr.Goffney:I had a positive experience during my visit to Oleson Elementary, where I observed strong communication, collaboration, and small-group interactions. Learning never stops! That's #MyAldine!



@DrGoffney: Wow, that is all I can say listening to our @AvalosPTECH student panel share their experience with TEA staff about MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support)! Their bold confidence and strong focus were impressive. Love #MyAldine student leaders!



We have two of our amazing art educators – Hailey Williams and Hunter Koch – published in 2023 Texas Art Education Association TRENDS journal.

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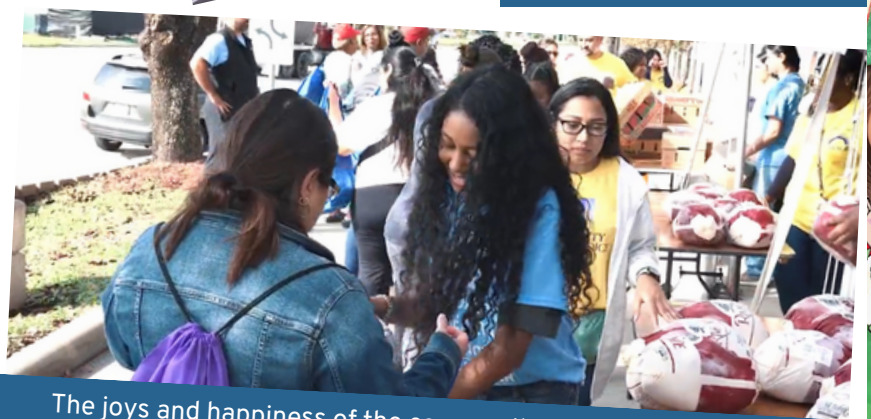
#MyAldine







In the US, an aging workforce faces mandatory retirement, fewer pilots exiting the military, and barriers to entry, including the cost of training. Davis HS Aviation Program training future pilots. These Davis High School aviation students completed their first solo flight.



The joys and happiness of the community coming together at our Fall Festival and turkey giveaway! #MyAldine

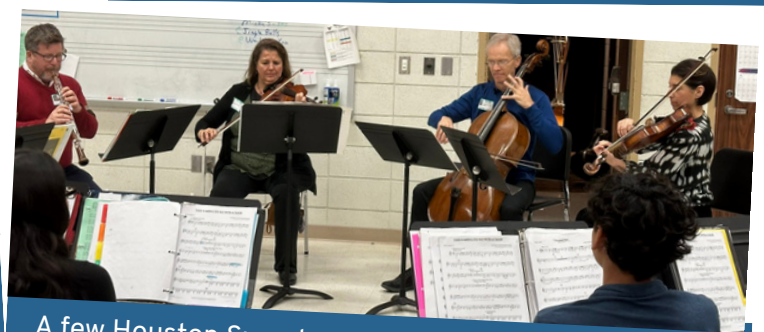




It was Elf Day at Keeble Primary, and it was so good to see all of the little elves learning! It was a great visit #MyAldine #PowerOfPrimary



We are so proud of the collaboration between the Multilingual Department, Dr. Zelaya, and Aldine CTE as we work together to provide choices and opportunities for the benefit of emergent bilinguals in Aldine ISD.



A few Houston Symphony members stopped by Stovall Middle and played for our band students! What a treat!