

# New Families Bootcamp

Insights on middle school from seasoned caregivers

August 8, 2024

# Middle School is Different

- Growing Independence
  - Dismissal
  - Schoolwork
  - Social circles
- Opportunities to explore interests
  - Connections classes
  - Sports & clubs
- Safety
  - At arrival
  - After school
  - In school



# Helpful Tools / Sites / Apps



**Infinite Campus Parent Portal**

Schedule, Calendar, Grades, Report cards



**Remind**

School Admin & Teacher Comms



**Schoology**

Classroom Management, Assignments



**Say Something**

Anonymous Bullying & Safety Reporting



**Here Comes the Bus**

Bus Tracking



**DragonFly**

Sports Forms / Physicals Needed to Participate in Tryouts



**Team Snap**

Comms for All DTH Sports Teams



**Let's Talk**

APS Communication Submissions for All Subject Matters



**My School Bucks**

Pay for school lunches



**School Cash Online**

Pay for school fees (field trips, lockers, club dues, etc)

# Communication Channels

## Who should I contact?

### School Led



**DTH Website**

ALL the Info



**Remind**

School Admin & Teacher Comms



**@DavidTHowardMiddle**

Meetings Streamed & Recorded



**@apshoward & @dthactivities**

Updates for school and sports

### PTO Led



**RAMS REPORT**  
News from the PTO

**Newsletter sent every Sunday**



**Grade level private groups**

David T Howard Middle  
School Class of 2025, 2026, and 2027  
Parent Group

# GO Team

APS is a charter system, working to create **freedom and flexibility** for schools to **boost student achievement**.

Every APS school has a GO Team responsible for **collaborating with school leaders** on strategic plan, budget, flexibility requests, etc.

## Who is on a GO Team?



## What does a GO Team do?



## How to get involved

- **Attend Meetings:** Live-streamed and take public comment
- **Consider Serving:** Elections held spring of each year



# Parent Organizations

**THREE** separate organizations with **ONE** goal. All need your support.



**Foundation** invests in technology, curriculum, teachers, and our building to fulfill strategic needs for long-term goals.



**PTO** funds day-to-day needs, supports teachers, organizes volunteers, and does community outreach.



**Booster Club** focuses on supporting student athletes and coaches, and offsetting fees so all can play sports.



# PTO

## DT Howard PTO: 2023-24 Year in Review



### Join / Donate

\$90,000 goal this year to support similar efforts

### Get Involved

Interest form on website



### Academic & Parent Support

- **Principal Discretionary Fund:** Empowering educational initiatives.
- **Teacher Grants:** Equipping classrooms with vital resources like headsets and Spanish novels.
- **Fostering Academic Excellence:** Funding assistance for Academic Bowl registration.
- **Parent Engagement Sessions:** Math and smartphones discussions.



### Celebrating Teachers & Staff

- **Monthly Appreciation:** Providing breakfasts/lunches & stocked lounges.
- **Gestures of Gratitude:** Thoughtful gifts for birthdays and monthly recognition.
- **Spreading Love:** Collecting 800+ items on Valentine's Day 'Love Cart' and Summer Fun Cart, as well as a week-long Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week in May.



### School Events

- **Community Celebrations:** David T. Howard's birthday with 1100 cupcakes.
- **Engaging Activities:** Fun-filled Bingo and Raffle at Curriculum Night.
- **Snack Provisions:** Fueling learning with treats for "Million Bazillion" and Principal Coffee gatherings.
- **Building School Spirit:** Welcoming Rising Rams (t-shirts & Fun in the Field) and supporting our 8th grade grads with their dance.



### Staff & Administration Recognition

- **Special Appreciation Days:** Honoring vital roles from counselors to custodians.
- **Dedicated Recognition:** Celebrating special days like AP Day and Librarian Day.



# Booster Club



## *Supporting and enhancing our school community*

The DTH Booster Club has been working hard over the summer and has big plans for this school year. Your donations, skills, network, family and friends can help us achieve these goals.

Below are just a few of the initiatives / ideas we are exploring for this school year:

- Purchasing and documenting school athletic records
- Explore mural opportunity for outside the gym / entrance to the gym
- Continuing to fundraise and provide scholarships to families / athletes in need
- Review equipment needs for all sports
- Secure spirit flags so that parents can cheer on athletes from the sidelines
- Secure a breakaway banner for field events / pep rallies
- Launching new online store so family and friends abroad can cheer on and support our RAMS!

### **No donation is too small.**

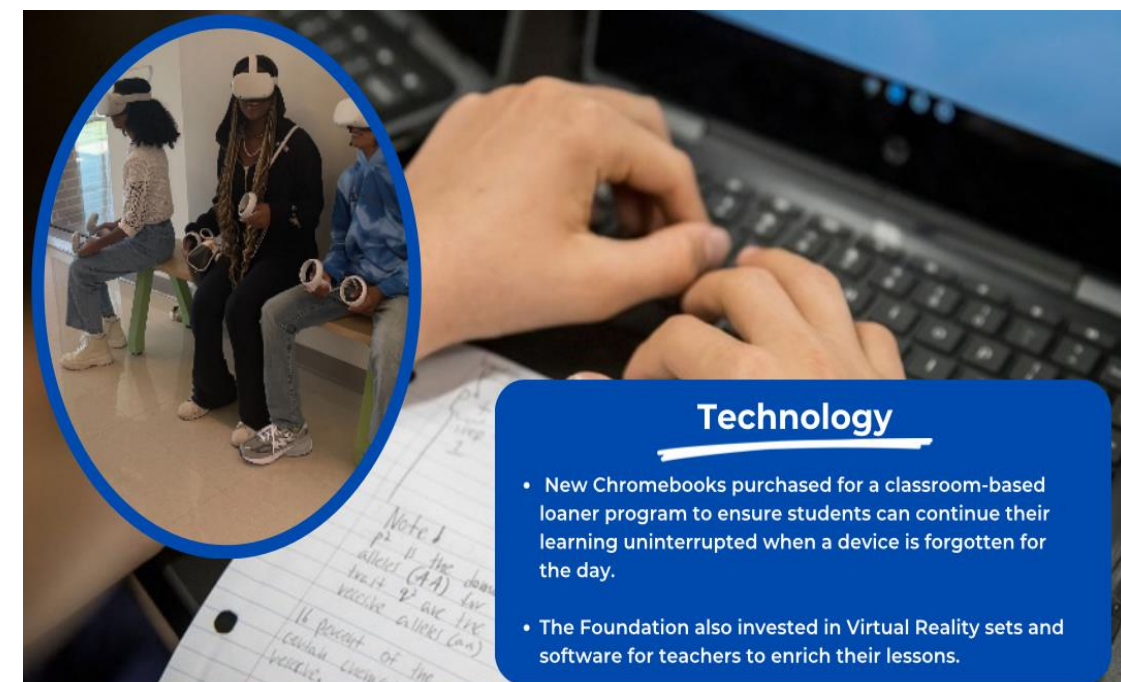
Anything you donate will help make long lasting impacts to the David T. Howard Middle School Community.

### **Want to volunteer?**

Reachout to Shaili Asher or Tony Moore. Some fresh ideas and faces are always welcome!







### Technology

- New Chromebooks purchased for a classroom-based loaner program to ensure students can continue their learning uninterrupted when a device is forgotten for the day.
- The Foundation also invested in Virtual Reality sets and software for teachers to enrich their lessons.



### Curriculum Resources

- As we continue to prioritize curriculum resources that support classroom learning, the Foundation supported a pilot "Saturday School" that follows a model established at Midtown High. Saturday School provides students with additional teaching support and can be a positive and productive alternative to detention.
- The Foundation invested in curriculum software used by all grades, including My Homework and STEM learning applications.



### Building Enhancement

- Our building enhancement investments include new murals and artwork in the Courtyard to make this space more inviting and usable for daily and special events.
- The Foundation invested in equipment for the gymnasium and auditorium for improved audio-visual presentations in these spaces.



### Professional Development

- The Foundation provided funding for Ms. Shields, Orchestra teacher, to attend the Georgia Music Educators Association Conference, to collaborate with nationally known educators, conductors, and performers in all areas of music.
- The Foundation also provided funding for Ms. Scott, 6th grade counselor, to attend the Georgia School Counselor Conference that featured a theme of "Making a Difference in the Lives of Students."

With your support, the DTH Foundation will continue to provide every **STUDENT** and **TEACHER** with the resources they need in this ever-changing learning environment.

**DONATE  
TODAY!**



✓ Building Enhancements

✓ Technology

✓ Curriculum Resources

✓ Professional Development



**Q & A**