



DAVID T. HOWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Impact Report:

A Culture of Learning, Leading, and Belonging

Fall 2025 Edition



We've officially completed the first three weeks of school, and what a strong start it has been! Our classrooms are alive with learning, and our students are engaged, focused, and full of promise. As we look ahead, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable progress we made last year and the momentum we are already building this fall.

ACADEMIC GROWTH AND MILESTONES SUCCESS:

We are proud to share our 2024–2025 Georgia Milestones Assessment results, which reflect the incredible growth of our students and the power of aligned, intentional instruction.

Mathematics

- 3% **decrease** in Beginning Learners, 5% **increase** in Proficient and Above
- **68%** of students scored **Proficient and Above**
- Our Algebra I students stood out statewide, helping us earn a ranking of **#10** in the State of Georgia—competing against both middle and high school students.
- Since School Year (SY) 2022–2023: 12% **increase** in Proficient and Above, 14% increase in Distinguished Learners
Contributing Tools: Delta Math, Quizizz, Schoology

English Language Arts (ELA)

- 2% **increase** in Proficient and Above, 6% **increase** in Distinguished Learners
- 71% of students scored Proficient and Above
- Since SY 2022–2023: 8% **increase** in Proficient and Above, 10% **increase** in Distinguished Learners
Contributing Tools: CommonLit, NewsELA, Quizizz, Schoology

Science

- 4% **decrease** in Beginning Learners, 13% **increase** in Proficient and Above, 15% **increase** in Distinguished Learners
- **71%** of students scored **Proficient and Above**
- **High School Physical Science** students achieved a 14% **increase** in Distinguished Learners
- Since SY 2022–2023: 16% increase in Proficient and Above, 14% increase in Distinguished Learners
Contributing Tools: Stile, NewsELA, Quizizz, Schoology

Social Studies

- 6% **increase** in Proficient and Above, 8% **increase** in Distinguished Learners
- **65%** of students scored Proficient and Above
- Since SY 2022–2023: 3% decrease in Beginning Learners, 9% increase in Proficient and Above
Contributing Tools: Quizizz, Schoology, Document-Based Inquiry strategies

Our Saturday School program provided targeted support across all content areas.

While we are proud of these gains, we also recognize that we still have important work to do in addressing persistent achievement gaps among our student subgroups. This remains a top priority, and we look forward to partnering with you to ensure equity and success for all learners.

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STEAM Learning and Field Experiences

As part of our commitment to innovation and hands-on learning, students participated in STEAM-aligned field trips that connected classroom instruction to real-world applications. These experiences promoted critical thinking, collaboration, and exposure to STEAM careers. This year, each grade level will have two school-based field trips, ensuring more opportunities for students to engage in meaningful, high-impact learning.



Sustainability by Design

ARTS AND ENRICHMENT

Our Performing Arts program continues to shine:

- Band, Orchestra, and Chorus earned Superior ratings at GMEA performances.

These accomplishments reflect student dedication and the impact of high-quality professional development for our arts educators.



ATTENDANCE AND SCHOOL CLIMATE

We are proud to share that:

- Chronic absenteeism decreased by 3.5%
- CCRPI attendance reached 90.1%
- We earned a 5-Star Climate Rating the highest possible designation, based on input from students, caregivers, and staff.

This strong climate rating reflects the increased morale across our school, driven by the way we've worked collaboratively as a DTH Rams Family to support and uplift one another.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR AND CULTURE

Our PBIS framework continues to promote student accountability and schoolwide safety:

- 83.7% of students had no discipline referrals in SY2025, up from 79.2% the prior year SY2024.

Our student support team and restorative practices have played a vital role in creating a respectful and responsive learning environment.

Links: [RamsLife](#) | [DTH YouTube Channel](#) | [APS Student Handbook](#) | [Mindframes](#) | [Early Entry](#)

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Community Gratitude and Growth

A special thank you to the PTO for your tremendous support:

- Perfect attendance celebrations
- Staff appreciation events
- Tardy desks and hallway support
- Partnering with the Alumni Association for David T. Howard Day

We also want to thank the DTH Foundation for helping with the purchase of key instructional tools referenced in this letter. (While the school directly funded IXL and Reading Plus, the Foundation's support allowed us to expand our digital toolkit and shift school funds to hire additional instructional staff.)

Thanks to our **higher-than-projected enrollment**—1,196 students compared to the projected 1,115—we are hiring **three additional teachers** to reduce class sizes in 6th grade (all subjects) and 8th grade ELA/Social Studies.

We encourage families to continue supporting the organizations that make this all possible:

- Visit our website to donate to the [DTH Foundation](#)
- Join the [DTH PTO](#) Membership Drive
- Support the [DTH Athletic Boosters](#), who are already cheering on success—our softball team kicked off the season with a win on August 20th, just before the thunderstorm!

Facilities and Flexibility: Thank You, 8th Grade!

Thank you to our 8th grade students, families, and teachers for your flexibility during recent HVAC issues in our historic building. Due to those challenges, we postponed testing, but we are grateful to have received an extension to the testing window. **This allows us to continue 8th-grade MAP testing on Tuesday and Wednesday—and avoid testing during the upcoming pep rally.**

Staying Connected

- [School Calendar](#): View the [APS District Calendar](#) and [Assessment Calendar](#) online.
- [Schoology](#): Access daily updates, assignments, and announcements.
- [Communications](#): Use the [Parent's Corner](#) and the [Who to Call Directory](#).
- [Principal's Coffee](#): Join us monthly—virtually or in person—for school updates and open dialogue.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making David T. Howard Middle School a thriving place for students to learn, grow, and belong. We are proud of our progress—and we are committed to the important work still ahead.

With gratitude,

Mrs. Tekeshia Hollis, Principal, David T. Howard Middle School
and the David T. Howard Faculty and Staff

