

## DOCK Program at Dover Middle School Teaches Important Skills for Life

**D**over Caring Kids, otherwise known as DOCK, has been a part of the culture at Dover Middle School for many years. In Kurt Reveal's four years as assistant principal at the school, he has seen it make a difference in many students' lives and help them develop a love for serving their community.

"This is a program that's open to all middle school students to get kids out into the community, out into Dover, and serving others, essentially," he said.

Structured activities include a fall leaf raking day, which includes groups of students going out into the community and raking the leaves from senior citizens' lawns, along

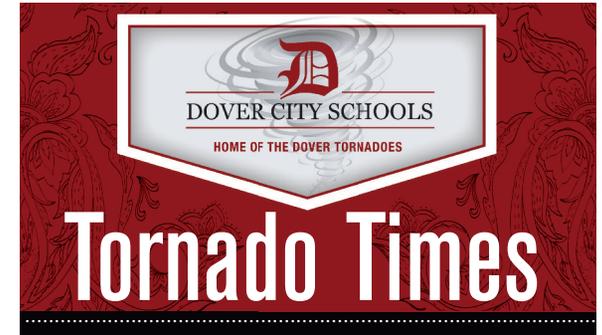
**"When they go from middle school to the high school and beyond, we want to instill kindness, and an eagerness to help their neighbors."**

with a DOCK holiday breakfast for area senior citizens, and cleanup days around the school grounds.

Other activities that students can do for DOCK include volunteering at the food bank, the animal shelter, or the homeless shelter. Students often volunteer at Relay for Life and other events.

With the help of the middle school parent-teacher group, DOCK also hosts a bingo night in the spring. Mr. Reveal sees the program as having a positive influence on the children as they prepare to venture to high school and beyond.

"We want the kids to help out and enjoy it," he added. "When they go from middle school to the high school and beyond, we want to instill kindness, and an eagerness to help their neighbors."



# Tornado Times

## Dover City Schools Takes Steps to Place Levy On May Ballot

*Request will cost taxpayers less than the levy proposed last November*

**D**over City Schools Board of Education voted at its January 14, 2019, meeting to place an operating levy on the ballot May 7, 2019. This request will cost taxpayers less than the levy proposed in November 2018 while providing enough funding to maintain the excellence Dover values in its schools.

"We listened to the taxpayers. We understand how incredibly burdensome any tax increase can be to our hard-working community. So, we went back to the drawing board and revised our request," said Board President Jeannine Kennedy.

The district will make the budget reductions outlined in November. Superintendent Carla Birney stated, "Projecting our current budget reduction savings over several years, along with potential long-term efficiencies from the elementary reconfiguration plan, allows us to lower this request." Birney continued, "Over the past few months, we have heard from many community members that the request was simply too high and we are trying to be responsive to that. We worked hard to reduce the millage for citizens, while

*(continued inside)*

## Dover City Schools Takes Steps to Place Levy On May Ballot

*(continued from front panel)*

maintaining the level and quality of programming our community expects and deserves.”

If approved, the new levy will generate \$2,631,975, and it will cost property owners \$20.13 per month more per \$100,000 of property value. Funding from the levy will be used for day-to-day operations.

“Simply put, our long tradition of excellence in our schools is at stake. We cannot run our schools any leaner than we have for the past decade,” added Kennedy. “We cannot take school excellence for granted; it’s not a given. The district needs additional resources now, or we will continue down a path of financial instability.”

*Carla Birney*



Before winter break, Mrs. Fuhrer’s class enjoyed listening to the exciting holiday story “How to Catch an Elf.”



Mr. Coventry adds a special message for students at Dover Avenue in the snow.

## Reorganization of Elementary Schools Will Provide Equity and Reduce Operating Budget

Starting with the 2019-2020 school year, the district will reconfigure our elementary buildings to house PK -1 at South School; Grades 2-3 at East School; and Grades 4-5 at Dover Avenue School. Dover Middle School and Dover High School will not change in configuration. The Board and district leaders agree that this organization is the most efficient way to make reductions to the operating budget and that it will provide positive benefits for all of our elementary students.

There are many benefits to this method of school configuration, and many high-performing districts are organized this way. Some of the benefits include:

**Curriculum resources and special programs** provided in an **equitable** manner and **targeted** to developmental needs of the students

**Greater collaboration among grade-level teachers** (will reduce or eliminate the need for two-hour delays for professional development)

**Balanced class sizes** and the ability to easily group and re-group for specialized instruction, social-emotional needs, and/or targeted interventions

**Age-specific special activities** such as assemblies, field trips, school/community events, creating both opportunities and efficiencies

**Student connection with peers earlier** and prior to the crucial middle school developmental years

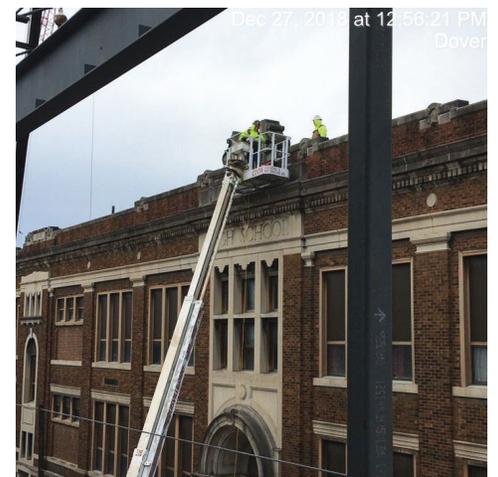
**Economic efficiencies with supplies,** software purchases, and classroom resources

**Continued valuable Title I Reading Interventions** at the early grade levels for all students in need (under current school configurations and federal regulations, one elementary school could have no Title I services in 2019-2020)

Together, we will make this transition smooth and positive for our students. Our staff has a proven track record of caring for the children and families of Dover and this will continue as we transition to a new organization at the elementary level.



Kindergarten students at East celebrated their “Green Team” positive behavior with a visit from members of the DHS Swim Team, who read and spent time with the students.



Work was recently completed to remove the circular architectural feature from the top of the 1915 portion of Dover High School in an effort to restore and preserve this part of the structure for use or display near the new school.