

# D. A. T. E. ACADEMY NEWS

2018 Volume, Issue 10

February 14, 2018

## WHY “BLACK PANTHER” IS A DEFINING MOMENT FOR BLACK AMERICA

Marvel's Black Panther 2018



Ryan Coogler’s film is a vivid re-imagination of something black Americans have cherished for centuries—Africa as a dream of our wholeness, greatness and self-realization.

“Black Panther,” by contrast, is steeped very specifically and purposefully in its blackness. “It’s the first time in a very long time that we’re seeing a film with centered

black people, where we have a lot of agency,” says Jamie Broadnax, the founder of Black Girl Nerds, a pop-culture site focused on sci-fi and comic-book fandoms. These characters, she notes, “are rulers of a kingdom, inventors and creators of advanced technology. We’re not dealing with black pain, and black suffering, and black poverty” - the usual topics of acclaimed movies about the black experience.—by Carver Wallace 2018

As a celebration of recognition for this acclaimed movie—D.A.T.E. is honoring 30 students who have read, researched, and who have been exposed to the rich contributions of our people:

Scientist, Technologist, Engineers, Artists, and Mathematicians, all who have played a significant part in building and defining not only America, but this world!

Our students will be escorted to see “Black Panther” this Friday with staff members. Thank you D.A.T.E. students for taking on the challenge and being the great D>A.T.E. students you are! Your educational prowess has certainly not gone unnoticed!



Dr. Maury L Wills, C.E.O.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

Students’ 4.5 week progress grades went home this week. The progress from this grade report should give you some indication as to how close students are mastering the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). Please make note of the opportunity to schedule a conference with teachers to discuss your student’s pro-

gress. Conferences can be scheduled through email correspondence with the classroom teacher or you can call the front desk and Mr. O’Haley will assist with scheduling and appointment. We will be in school on Friday, February 16 and March 9. These additional days of instruction will be fun and engaging with an

emphasis on STEAM and the engineering design process. Consistent with our Charter focus, we are creating opportunities for students to synthesize information and create products that will display their knowledge of technology and the environment. Please ensure that your child is present and prepared.

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### Office Hours

#### Dr. Wills

Monday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

#### Dr. Wilson

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

#### Dr. McCladdie

Tues-Thurs 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

#### Principal Thomas

Monday 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

#### Dr. Taylor

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.



# MILESTONES: ARE WE PREPARED?



Georgia Milestones

How are we preparing students at D.A.T.E. for the Milestones test?

Teachers have been actively implementing the Common Core State Standards for the past two years. The Curriculum and Instruction team and teachers have been developing and using lessons and assessments aligned to the state standards.

In addition, we are ensuring students will be ready for online testing by practicing online test and having students taking mock milestone test in the computer lab. Starting this school year, our CIA team, made up of teachers, administrators, specialists and technology staff began creating a comprehensive plan to ensure that students are confident and ready to show their learning on these new assessments.

There has been some questions whether our students will be ready to take this state assessment. I can assure you we are doing everything in our power to expose them to everything that they will see on the test. With that sometimes come lower grades because students are exposed to an even higher level of rigor. Parents, please remember that the progress reports are just that

(progress reports). These reports are suppose to be reflective on where students are currently with in the curriculum, so student's grades should show growth throughout the unit and lesson. Thanks for all your support and cooperation!



Dr. Edward Wilson  
Middle School Principal



## DO YOUR BEST

This month we have been focused on getting scholars to push beyond their perceptions to reach their highest levels of potential!

We have completed the first 4.5 weeks of the second semester. It is vital to sustain the learning energy that was ignited in January. This will be

*"Please continue to be in communication with the teachers"*

a continued effort among the scholars, parents, and school staff. We are working to ensure that scholars will make gains and demonstrate academic growth as measured by the GA Milestones and the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). Parents, as you know, the home-school connection can

have a significant impact on the scholars' overall performance. Please continue to be in communication with the teachers so that you can have discussions about ways in which you can reinforce, remediate and enrich the learning at home.

Educationally Yours,  
Erica Thomas  
Elementary Principal



## HELEN RUFFIN READING BOWL

On Saturday, January 27, 2018, a group of middle school students represented D.A.T.E. in the 19th annual DCSD Georgia Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. The HRRB is a competition for students to test their knowledge of selected books from the Georgia Children Book Award list. The list was comprised of 20 unique books. Congratulations to our wonderful readers.





Scientists and Engineers perform several different practices in the real-world of their profession daily.

They Ask Questions and Define Problems; They Analyze Data; They Plan and Investigate; They Research; They design and create model prototypes to test their designs; They use Mathematical and computational thinking and more.

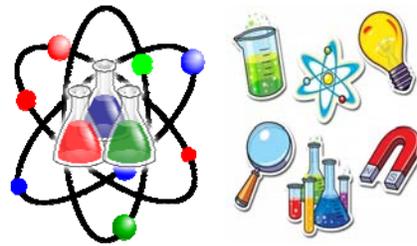
On this coming Friday, February 16, 2018 the scholars of D.A.T.E Academy will compete in a higher order/critical thinking competition that will require them to put on their Scientist and Engineering hats. The scholars will work in groups of 4-5 and compete against their peers in different grade levels.

(1) Engineering Team from Elementary and (1) Engineering Team from Middle will win the

Grand Prize of \$100.00 per team member OR

(1) full week of dress down.

In order to qualify for the Grand Prize winning a team must place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in their respective grade level



Mrs. N. Shillingford  
STEM Coordinator

Please help us to make this a successful day by bringing in as many empty plastic water bottles that you possibly can by the end of the day on Thursday. Students will need these items for the competition.

## RE-ENROLLMENT & SIBLING ENROLLMENT

Hello wonderful Parents of DATE Academy,

It's that time of the year again! Re-enrollment and sibling preference! Before you submit your application please check your volunteer hours for enrollment submission. If you have not met your required hours please consider donating to our Capital Campaign. As your "First Gift" your donation will assist in the addition of the auditorium.

We have created a NEW Computer Data Base for our Student Information System. This year, we are requiring that all current students complete a Re-enrollment application online. These forms will not be required again and

will remain on file for the duration of your child (ren) tenure with DATE Academy.

1. Complete the Student Information Form by clicking on the "Read More" arrow. Please read and fill out all fields in this section.
2. Enter the 2018-2019 grad level in the "Grade" box
3. To access the Required forms, click the "Read More" arrow. Below are the required forms:

- A) Student Informational Forms
- B) Field Trip
- C) Photo Release Form

D) Needs Assessment

E) Administer of Medications

4. For ALL NEW SIBLING Application, once you have completed and submitted the application, please click on the link for the "REGISTRATION CHECKLIST" and bring to the registrar all additional documents ASAP. Remember placement will be based on space availability. You will be contacted when a space is available for your sibling.
5. Please see the FAQ form if you have any questions or call Mrs. Armstrong at 678-999-9290 \*144, or email: [SArmstrong@dateacademy.org](mailto:SArmstrong@dateacademy.org)



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*Celebrating Thirteen Years of :  
“Learning with Relationships, Relevance, and Rigor”*



# ARE YOU SMART-PHONE SAVVY?

**Be Smartphone savvy**

The widespread use of smart-phones help users stay connected, but also raises privacy concerns.

In recent years, cell-phones have made a massive jump from handheld calling devices to essentially pocket computers and gaming systems. According to a 2015 study by the Pew Research Center, 73% of teenagers ages 13-17 have access to Smartphone, while just under 30% cited having access to a basic cell-phone. 94% of “mobile teens” report going online daily, with nearly a quarter noting being online “almost constantly,” thanks in large part to the widespread use of smart-phones and Wi-Fi connectivity.

**Texting reigns supreme**

Smartphone apps let teens go online, watch videos and game with friends, but teens most commonly use their phones to send and receive text messages. Pew Research notes that teens reserve voice calls for their closest friends and prefer to use text messages

for newer friends and acquaintances.

**Technology is not without risks**

Of course, near constant connectivity also poses a unique set of risks. For example, cyber bullying is no longer restricted to the times when teens use computers. Smartphone give them the ability to go online at any time and to be notified whenever comments or updates are posted to sites and apps. This allows cyber bullying to follow teens wherever they go. Nearly one-third of teens report fighting with friends over incidents that started online or via text message.

Another risk that has gained national attention is “sexting”: the use of cell phones to send and receive explicit messages or images frequently referred to as “sexts”. The ubiquity of cell phones has given rise to sexting as a way for teens to explore their sexuality, though in some states exchanging these types of photos could constitute a crime.

Additionally, as most smart phones have GPS technology which allows us-

*“In some states, exchanging of ‘sexting’ photos could be considered a crime”*

ers’ locations to be pinpointed by apps and websites, users may unintentionally share their locations with the public. If teens’ photos have GPS location-tags or if teens “check-in” to restaurants, airports, new cities and the like, their friends and followers can see exactly where they are or have been. Each cell phone brand or model may have a different way to turn off location-tracking services. Check the settings on your teen’s phone or read its user manual for instructions on disabling GPS in specific apps.

Charles B. Allen  
Director of Technology

