



DANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

# Maroon & White

Danville High School • Danville, Illinois • January 2024

## SHOWTIME AT DHS THE DHS FALL TALENT SHOW

**SHOWTIME AT DHS**  
**OCTOBER 27, 2023**

**MATINEE**  
for DHS Students  
DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

**EVENING SHOW**  
for DHS Friends & Family  
5:30pm  
Clocktower Doors open at 5pm

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCE:**  
**UBUNTU**

**PERFORMANCES BY:**

<b>VOCAL</b> NEHEMIAH RAY DAZIYAH DUNCAN WISDOM LIPSCOMB BRYCE MARTIN KYREECE MOORE MALIA ROBERSON MARLEY DONALDSON BRYCE BLAKE GAVIN BAUGH ISABELLA ROCOTELLO AMARA MCFARLAND ADDYSON GRITTON NEVAEH HARBOUR GABRIELLE MCGEE ZACHARY POLLOCK AINSLEY MCLAUGHLIN GABRIELA HUERTA	<b>DANCE</b> NEHEMIAH RAY ABIGAIL HOGG BROOKELYN ALBRIGHT MALIA ROBERSON	<b>SPOKEN WORD</b> LONNELLE VIC JONES	<b>RAP</b> CURTIS BEASLEY IV TAYVION DILTZ JAKAYLA SCOTT DOMINICIOUS VANDER
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### KALEAH BELLIK & MAYA GAGNON

This year's talent show consisted of 26 acts which included dance, vocal, spoken word, and rap performances. The main school performance was held on Friday, October 27th, during the school day, and an evening show was held that evening for DHS friends and family. The show was a huge success last year, which brought in more participants and a few different acts.

Participants began practicing weeks in advance. Although it was hard at times to find places to practice, Mr. Simmons and Ms. George worked to prepare students for their performance and encouraged everyone to break out of their shell. Each performance had to be drilled and finally approved by Mr. Bretz before show time.

Although all the acts were incredible this year, the UBUNTU dance performance was definitely the most memorable part of the show. The enthusiasm shown by each

performer was great, and students and staff alike seemed to thoroughly enjoy the show. In the future, Mr. Simmons and Ms. George hope to see more spoken word, as well as some comedy, magic, group singing performances, and maybe even a few staff members show off their special talents.

A Spring Talent Show is tentatively scheduled for May 1st, with information on how to sign up coming out sometime in March. A special shout out to Mr. Bretz for allowing the student body to show off their special talents. Since the talent show in October received such great recognition, students have since been asked to participate in the area's Georgetown Fair Talent Show. The Vermilion County Fair will also be bringing their Talent Show back this summer in which students can participate.



Lonnelle "Vic" Jones



Bryce Martin



Da Sani Lewis & Nadia Gamble



Gabrielle McGee



Dominicious Vander



# DHS CLASS HIGHLIGHT INTRO TO TEACHING

ANNA HOUP & MADISON STIMAC



Danville High School's Introduction to Teaching course is geared towards those students interested in pursuing a career in education. It is taught by Mr. David Covey, who also teaches World History. Mr. Covey has been teaching at Danville High School for 17 years. He went to the University of Illinois and earned a Bachelor's in History. However, teaching was not his first desire. "I initially planned to go to law school but instead I went to Illinois State University and earned a Bachelors in education."

Former superintendent, Mr. Denman, and Mr. Neil, former DHS principal, requested that Mr. Covey begin a course for kids interested in the educational field. The class teaches the social skills and discusses the challenges teachers face in the classroom every day. This class is designed to answer the question, "Is teaching really for me?" A substantial part of this class takes place off-campus at a District 118 Elementary or Middle school. Students in Intro to Teaching are given the opportunity to observe and co-teach with a District 118 teacher.

Students interested in a career in education and teaching should consider taking this course. Mr Covey explains, "This gives students a class that they will never take in college, but it gets them thinking about what kind of teacher they want to be, how they would teach a class, and how they will relate to their



students." Alexander Coast is a student currently enrolled in the class. He plans on going to college to become a music teacher. Alex stated in our interview, "I like how Mr. Covey cultivates an environment that encourages us to be completely honest with ourselves and our classmates. I am looking forward to being pushed out of my comfort zone and learning more about myself."

In the upcoming months, students will be setting their schedules for the 2024-2025 school year. If any current junior, with a GPA of 2.0 or higher, is interested in taking the class next year and have any questions or concerns, talk to your assigned counselor and or Mr. Covey.

## PRINCIPAL MOTIVATION



Hello Vikings,

I cannot believe we are halfway through the school year. Honestly, we are finding our stride Vikings. Everyday your perseverance, curiosity, joy, empathy, and individuality move Danville High School towards being the best version of itself.

As we close the second quarter and enter the third, there is much to celebrate and look forward to. Our choral music students sounded beautiful at the Madrigal dinner and are ramping up for a new competition season. The gospel choir held their first formal concert and will be hosting a second in the spring. Archery hosted a huge and highly successful tournament and will be hosting one of the only 3D target shooting tournaments in this part of the state. Our theater students attended the Illinois Theater Festival at ISU. The musical department held another standout Salute to Veterans concert. We had two students score in the top 10 in Illinois on their Microsoft Certification exams, with one student placing 1st overall. Our winter sports teams continue to compete hard and exhibit proper sportsmanship and care for each other on a nightly basis.

As we move forward there is a tremendous Black Heritage Month planned along with the Sadie Hawkins dance coming back for another year. E-sports will be starting soon and has drawn an

incredible amount of interest. The Future Problem Solvers are hosting a Congressional Youth Leadership Conference with US Congresswoman Robin Kelly. Course registration for next school and the PSAT and SAT exams will be here in a short time.

This may sound like just a long list of things but they are included for a purpose. We have accomplished much but we have challenges ahead. Many of you are entering an important time in your life. Seniors are grappling with what the future holds as you enter your last semester and move ever closer to graduation. Juniors are entering the real planning phase of what you will do after high school and the important SAT exam is two months away. At the end of this semester every current DHS student will be within three years of graduating. This will inevitably cause stress and make you feel like you must have your life figured out. It's ok, you don't. But remember, everyone who has done anything great in life has experienced stress. So find self-confidence in your successes of the past and embrace the challenges that lay ahead in the second half of the school year.

Vikings, "it's ok to be a little bit stressed, because you're up to big things" [\*] And don't forget, you are seen, you are heard, you matter, and you can do it.

—Mr. Bretz

[\*] Credit: Gary John Bishop



# MLK SCHOLARSHIP WINNER DAVARI BOYD

## DHS SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION AND UPDATES

SARAH KAGELS

Each year, Danville High School, members of the community, and the DHS School Counselors put out a number of scholarship opportunities for graduating Seniors. If you are a Senior and looking to get some help financially to pay for college, there are fifteen scholarships currently listed on the DHS Scholarship Opportunities spreadsheet. Numerous others will be added in the coming weeks. Each year, approximately \$85,000 worth of scholarships are awarded to DHS students, with amounts ranging from \$75.00 all the way up to several thousand, per scholarship.

Scholarships are an incredible source of financial assistance for future college students, but they take a lot of work. Although the money is not guaranteed, following these tips may help you earn the chance of being awarded thousands of dollars which will be applied to your school:

1. Create a resume that can be included in your materials for all scholarship applications.
2. Be sure to check the scholarship spreadsheet regularly, and print all applications. If filling applications out by hand is the only option, make sure your penmanship is neat.
3. Acknowledge that application completion will take some dedicated, focused time and make it a point to clear your schedule to make this happen.
4. Create a working copy of the DHS Scholarship Opportunities 2024 Google spreadsheet—eliminate the scholarships you do not qualify for and keep the scholarships that you do. Doing this will make the spreadsheet (and the task) less overwhelming.
5. Advocate for yourself, especially at this stage in life—when you are preparing to venture on to college.

One of the largest local scholarships available is the Martin Luther King Scholarship. The scholarship requires students to be active in a religious institution, submit a letter from their pastor, provide financial information about their parent or guardian, submit several letters of recommendation, and write an essay based on Dr. King's, "I Have a Dream" speech. The MLK Committee determines the winner, who is awarded \$4,000 total, \$2,000 for two years. The scholarship may be used for tuition, books, and fees related to their education.

This year, Mr. Groves and Ms. Woods held multiple scholarship workshops, where students could establish a game plan on how to navigate this labor intensive application process. Groves said, "As the recipient of the 2010 MLK Scholarship and a long-time supporter, I wanted to ensure that students turned their passion into writing. After helping with submissions over the past two years, I considered it an honor to assist with the scholarships, and I look forward to more opportunities to come. The benefits are simple: We help students follow the guidelines, assist with an outline for the scholarship, and ensure everything is ready to help students. After years on the Higher Education side, I learned that the best scholarship essays involved students writing from a personal perspective and finding a way to turn their passion into writing. I aim to discover a student's story, assist in a game plan, and allow them to soar in their writing." The DHS College and Career Lab will also continue to be a great resource for those interested in the college scholarship or application process.

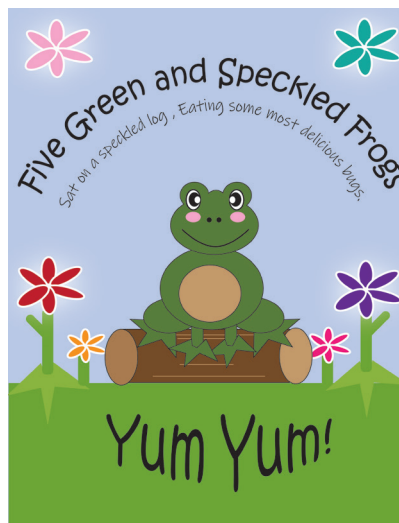
This year's MLK Scholarship winner was Davari Boyd. What allowed Davari's essay to stand out was the fact that he stuck to the essay prompt and related Dr. King's dream to his personal life. In scholarships, many miss out on opportunities due to needing to follow each established rule. Davari wrote two essays during his workshop time with Mr. Groves; one was a personal statement, and the second was the scholarship essay that won. Mr. Groves said, "Although the personal statement was great, it needed to answer the prompt chosen. After discussion and deliberation, we created a new outline and he wrote the winning essay."



Davari Boyd,  
2024 MLK Scholarship Winner

Along with local scholarships, many college and universities have financial assistance for students who need help paying for college. DHS local scholarships still continue to be added regularly, so it's not too late to start applying! Most winners will be announced later this spring, and a large scholarship program will once again be held at DACC's Bremer Center. If you need assistance applying for college, or beginning the scholarship process, please see Mrs. Leverenz, Ms. Woods, or Mr. Groves for assistance.

## GRAPHIC ARTS NURSERY RHYME ILLUS- TRATIONS



L to R: Hannah Lowe (Humpty Dumpty),  
Keira Thompson (Spotted Frogs),  
Sapphire Woods (One, Two Buckle My Shoe)

# FOOTBALL FIELD RENOVATION UPDATES



## CURTIS BEASLEY & ALEEYA RUDY

The bleachers at Ned Whitesell Field have been standing for 99 years. Gradually, these bleachers have crumbled over time and, by now, have become a huge safety concern for the students and community. To combat this, construction has begun for a complete renovation of Ned Whitesell Field.

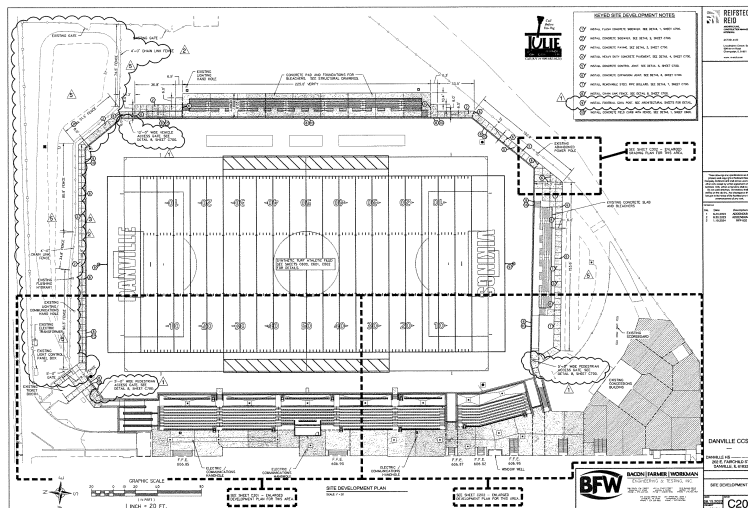
The focal point of the project is to improve conditions, ensuring the safety of those attending any event at the Ned Whitesell Field. Due to the terrible state of the bleachers, if this construction had not begun in the next year or two, Ned Whitesell field most likely would not have been able to be preserved any longer. This is important to note, considering the backlash from some Danville citizens concerning the project's price. Not only is two-thirds of the cost of this project solely the bleachers, but it is also the last renovation to be prioritized in Danville District 118, as there are currently renovations being made at Northeast, KDBA, new mechanicals being added at North Ride, South View, and Mark Denman, while new boilers and chillers have been installed at Danville High School and Southwest Elementary. Fortunately, following the pandemic, ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Relief) funds became available and have been able to finance many of these projects, which has allowed for more leeway to use the district's capital funding for the renovations going on at Danville High School such as the new sports complex, the library, and some classrooms.

Beyond the bleachers, many more additions are coming to Ned Whitesell Field. Some of These additions include a new concrete walkway to compliment the bleachers, new player tunnels, which are a staple for Ned Whitesell field, field turf that is designed for football and soccer, new goalposts, new LED lighting, a new scoreboard that features instant replay, a new press box with built-in cameras that encapsulate the entire field, a media center for football which will be acclimated with heating and air, and a new sound system.

Adding turf is a significant change, considering that the Ned Whitesell field has always been grass. Regardless, it seems a promising choice, especially for its all-weather and multipurpose usage. The turf being installed is a proprietary turf that includes a cooling agent to regulate temperatures so that it doesn't ever get too hot for athletes to play on, it has a longevity factor and is considered college-level turf. Another huge positive aspect of this renovation is that it will be handicap accessible because previously, it was difficult for handicapped people to get in and out of the complex. Additionally, there will be handicapped seating in the first and last rows of the bleachers which will have seatbacks.

These changes coming to Danville High School are pivotal in increasing the community's morale. Danville High School is a hub for the surrounding areas and hosts a number of events for other schools in the district and even events for Danville Area Community College. Since so many people are coming in and out of Danville High for different reasons, its qualities must emit positive energy. As conditions steadily improve at Danville High School and other schools in the community, Danville High will continue to be where people want to be, and its features will represent the good things Danville has going for it.

While the new changes will be remarkable, this part of the renovation is only considered phase one. Expansions for the future include an addition to the current fieldhouse, which will include new restrooms, a concession stand, and a new weight room. There are also thoughts for a wrestling room and even an archery room, as it continues to gain popularity at Danville High. Current renovations are projected to be done by the end of August as long as weather permits, hopefully for Danville High's week one football game against Bloomington High School.







## NEW TRADITION COCOA COTILLION

LILIANA DOWERS & REESE RUNDLE

On Friday, January 26th, the Future Problem Solvers (FPS) began a new tradition: the Winter Cocoa Cotillion. The event was originally planned for Saturday, January 20th, but due to the water issues in the community and severe winter weather, it was postponed to January 26th. The idea for the cotillion was created by FPS members, along with Ms. Woods as a way to recognize Winter Athletes, host a Winter dance, and honor students who provide service to their community.

FPS kicked off the week with spirit week dress days which all revolved around the theme: Dancing Through the Decades. Monday's theme was Salad Dressing Day, this included many dress up options such as: House Dressing (pajamas), Thousand Island (Hawaiian), Ranch (cowboy/rancher), and Caesar (togas). Tuesday's theme was Country vs. Country Club, which allowed students to dress like a cowboy or preppy. Wednesday's theme was College or Career Bound Day. Thursday's theme was Athlete vs. Mathlete. Friday's theme was Maroon and White, which coincided with an all school assembly in the Gym.

In the weeks leading up to the event, staff and students were encouraged to vote for students who show service to their community. This was different from prom and homecoming, as students usually make nominations for the court and are voted in based on popularity. For the cotillion, the five highest voted students in each grade were recognized and monarchs, not kings and queens, were selected by staff only. This year's Cocoa monarchs were Alex Cosat and Nia Crawford. These students both received a \$250.00 scholarship. Curtis Beasley also received a \$500.00 scholarship for the Outstanding Service Leader award, specifically for his volunteer work during his time at DHS. Samantha Brown was also recognized for her service to the community, which gives back to our local animal shelter. Samantha will be given \$100.00 to fund supplies needed for the animal shelter.

The Cocoa Cotillion event followed a home basketball game and featured snacks, a hot cocoa bar, board games, karaoke, basketball, and volleyball. It was a chance to hang out with friends in a more casual environment than homecoming or prom. Student Council member Cameron Feuerbron attended the event and enjoyed the karaoke and card games but wished more people had attended. "Unfortunately, between winter break, bad weather, and all the days out of school many students just didn't know about the event," says Feuerbron. Starting new traditions can be tough, but the Cocoa Cotillion seems promising and like an event worth celebrating in years to come.

## DHS CLUB SPOTLIGHT THEATRE CLUB

ABBY DECKER

Theater Club is an extracurricular offered at Danville High School open to anyone wanting to pursue their artistic desires. Stage crew, design, and acting, are just a small portion of the many things you can be a part of. No acting experience is required to join! All plays at DHS are put on by the theatre club, led by Mr. Jordan Richey.

So far this school-year the Theatre Club has put on two productions, one in the fall and one in the winter. *The Diviners* was showcased in October as well as *The Grinch* in the winter. The cast toured around different elementary schools in the area to perform *The Grinch* in the spirit of the holidays. If you happened to miss those two, this spring they will be showcasing *Catch Me If You Can* in collaboration with Danville High Schools Music Department.

Mr. Richey has started a new tradition for the club as well. "Every year we will be traveling to the Illinois High School Theater Festival, full of different workshops and performances. I'm just trying to give any kids all the theater opportunities I can." Here students get to see different performances and workshops from schools all over the state. If you're interested in joining, practices are every other Friday after school in room 300.

*An interview with club member Cora Helferich:*

**What have been your favorite memories of Theater Club so far?**

Being able to student-direct *The Diviners*. I also got to help direct the lighting booth which was a new experience for me. Playing Cindy Lou Who in *The Grinch* also was a great experience.

**What made you want to join Theater Club?**

I've been involved with theater since I was 6, I love theater and it was a no-brainer to join here at the high school.

**Final Thoughts?** I'm hoping more people will consider joining, we always love to see new faces and grow our club. I'm excited to see what we have planned for next year as well as bringing our own contribution to the Illinois Theater Fest.



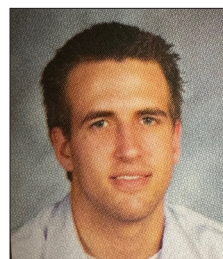


# THEN & NOW

## OUR STAFF OVER THE YEARS...



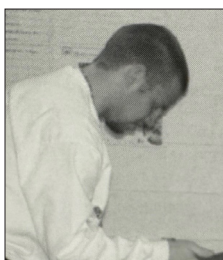
**JASON BOEHM**  
2017 & 2024 DHS CTE



**JACOB BRETZ**  
2007 DHS Social Studies & 2024 DHS Principal



**JULIE DUNN**  
2003 & 2024 DHS Psychologist



**DALE HEMKER**  
2000 & 2024 DHS PE



**GREG HILLEARY**  
1979 Junior Achievement & 2024 DHS CTE



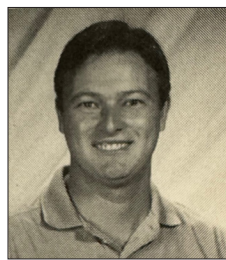
**JOANNA HOWARD**  
2000 & 2024 DHS CTE



**SUE KEDAS**  
1988 & 2024 DHS Math



**MARCIA LAIRD**  
1976 & 2024 DHS Special Education



**CHUCK MILLER**  
1994 DHS Driver Ed & 2024 DHS Special Ed



**BROOKE POESCHL**  
2018 DHS English & 2024 DHS Special Ed



**BETSY PORTER**  
1996 Liberty Elementary PE &  
2024 DHS Asst. Principal



**1SG CHARLES POWELL**  
1983-2005 US Army & 2005-2024 JROTC



**JACOB ROSKOVENSKY**  
2006 Shiloh CUSD #1  
(Hume, IL - Unit Librarian & Bus Driver) &  
2024 DHS Librarian



**RACHEL SEIBERT**  
1999 & 2024 DHS Math







## PBIS GOALS STAFF VS STUDENT BASKETBALL GAME

### NOLAN SPANGLER

Before students were dismissed for Winter Break, a Staff versus Student basketball game was held in the DHS Main Gym. The final score was 36-22, in favor of the teachers. The basketball game was arranged to celebrate the 2nd Quarter PBIS Goal, which was to lower the number of students with Loitering referrals by 5% between November 1st and November 21st. The initial percentage was 27.95%, and the desired outcome was to get to 22.95%. However, the final percentage achieved ended up being around 11%, which surpassed the goal significantly.

The decision to organize a Staff versus Student basketball game as a reward was made by Mr. Wright prior to the school year starting. The popularity of basketball among students and staff played a role in the choice. Several members of the PE Department, Career and Tech Ed Department, and DHS Coaches participated in the event. According to the students, the event was fun to watch and they enjoyed seeing the teachers as underdogs come out victorious. There was lots of laughter and enjoyment by all who attended. When asked about future PBIS events, the students expressed their interest in a student vs. teacher volleyball game. This shows that students enjoy these friendly competitions and would like to see more of them in the future.

The 3rd Quarter PBIS goal is to reduce the overall absentee rate to below 10%. Currently, the rate stands at 10.30%. Although the goal doesn't seem very significant, it equates to about 160 fewer absences. To better their attendance, students can make a conscious effort to attend school regularly and prioritize their education. This includes being punctual, staying engaged in class, and seeking help when needed. If the 3rd Quarter goal is met, the Fine Arts Department will be holding a special performance during the school day for students and staff to attend.



## STAFF SHOUT OUT!

### CAMERON FEUERBORN

#### 🔊 Mr. Covey

- *Timmy Long*: The 49ers aren't good, you need Deebo Samuels. Anyways, I love the way you influenced me and my classmates.
- *Ainsley McLaughlin*: Thank you for being a great and caring teacher!

#### 🔊 Mrs. Heston

- *Amari Brown*: You are the most helpful and caring teacher.

#### 🔊 Mr. Brown

- *Collin Lomax*: Super chill and makes great connections to students!

#### 🔊 Mrs. Wernert

- *Esme Sparnicht*: I love your energetic teaching style and the way you tell stories in class.

#### 🔊 Mr. Taylor

- *Ke'Shay LandFair*: Thank you for the recommendation letter. It meant the world, and thank you for being a great mentor.
- *Kendall R.*: Best English teacher ever. Keep it up.
- *Macy Musgrave*: You have a great sense of humor and always make me laugh.

#### 🔊 Mr. Williamson

- *Darrius Jay*: I'm still the better shooter, but thanks for being one of the coolest teachers at the school.

#### 🔊 Mrs. Flanagan

- *Grady Devors*: Thank you for putting up with me in chemistry and for being a great teacher.
- *Samantha Brown*: Thank you for always making me feel confident in chemistry and always making sure your students understand your class. Thank you for always understanding your students.

#### 🔊 Mr. Riopell

- *Nia Crawford*: Thank you for all you do for students and NHS.
- *Tina Tran*: He is a great teacher and makes the students happy.
- *Colton Stahl*: Thanks for always dealing with our shenanigans!
- *Cole Montel*: Always goes above and beyond to make sure all students understand the material. Also is an amazing teacher.

#### 🔊 Mrs. Yohnka

- *Cora*: You are such a great teacher, you slay.





# Who's Who? @ DANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CHRISTIAN DAVIS



**BETSY PORTER**

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

**Years in Education:** 29 years

**Family Life:** Married for 21 years, 2 daughters (Lindsey and Natalie).

**What is the most rewarding part of your job?** Watching students grow and hopefully making a difference in their life; building relationships with students.

**Who has had the biggest influence on you or your career path?** My elementary PE teacher, all of my coaches, and previous principals I have worked under over the years.

**What is something most people don't know about you, that you are willing to share?** I was the physical education teacher at Liberty Elementary for 19 years.

**What are your favorite activities or interests outside of school?** Exercise, spending time with family and friends, golf, attending my daughter's athletic events.

**Do you have any advice for DHS students?** Enjoy high school by getting involved in extracurricular activities or clubs.



**TYLER ARNHOLT**

TEACHER &amp; COACH

**Years in Education:** 11 years.

**Family Life:** Wife and son.

**What is the most rewarding part of your job?** Seeing improvement.

**Who has had the biggest influence on you or your career path?** Coach Barnett.

**What is something most people don't know about you, that you are willing to share?** I love gardening.

**What are your favorite activities or interests outside of school?** Gardening, vinyl, concerts, family time, yard work, fire pits.

**Do you have any advice for DHS students?** You have 4 years to make an impact and try new things, then it's over. Take advantage of what high school has to offer and try out new things. You might surprise yourself at what you can and cannot do. You might even mess around and find something you are great at!



**BRYAN SIMMONS**

HOME INTERVENTIONIST

**Years in Education:** 6 years in South Korea and 2 years in America.

**Family Life:** I am married. I have a 13 year old stepson who goes to Bismarck Middle School. My wife and I just had our first child on December 9, 2023 and his name is Cameron. We have a giant dog and 3 cats.

**What is the most rewarding part of your job?** Talking to students and building relationships with them. Also, putting together shows here at DHS.

**Who has had the biggest influence on you or your career path?** Myself and getting out of Harvey to seek something better for myself and my family.

**What is something most people don't know about you, that you are willing to share?** I did stand-up comedy with Hannibal Burress in college. I auditioned for several TV shows. I toured South Korea rapping and singing, we had 2 albums and 3-4 music videos.

## JROTC CURRENT EVENTS

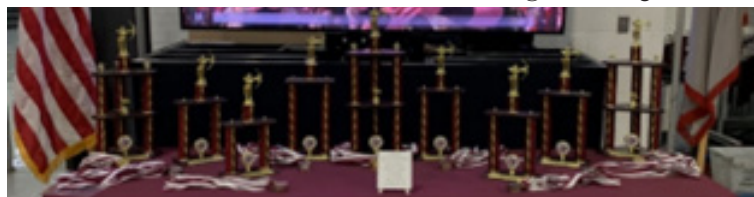


### ARCHERY

The Danville JROTC Archery Team is ranked 7th in the State of Illinois and leaning forward in a positive direction to participate in the state competition in March. The team is committed to performing well and has some excellent archers:

#### Contest Results:

2nd: 11/18/23 @ Joliet Central  
1st: 12/2/23 @ Auburn  
4th: 12/9/23 @ Centennial  
7th: 1/13/24 @ Danville  
7th: 1/20/24 @ Champaign Central  
10th: 2/3/24 @ Armstrong



### ROBOTICS

The robotics team traveled to Mt. Vernon, IL to compete in their annual robotics tournament. DHS consists of 5 members and are motivated to experience the thrill of robotic competition.



### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

The JROTC program was proud and privileged to participate in the Wreaths Across America program where 10 cadets honored local families in the community by laying wreaths at the graves of the ones who gave their lives for this great country. JROTC placed nearly 150 wreaths in honor of the fallen.