

# Dexter Elementary NEWSLETTER

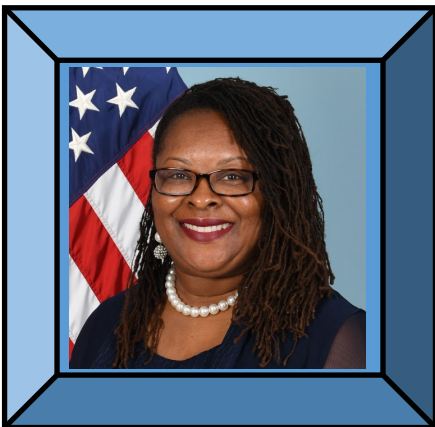
Issue No. 2 | September

*Dear Dexter Families,*

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Herbert J. Dexter Elementary School, we welcome our new families as well as returning families to School Year 2024-2025. We have gotten off to a great start. It is such a joy having students back in the school and seeing their excitement and expectation for the new school year. We believe that each school year presents an opportunity for new beginnings and accomplishments for both students and teachers. We, at Dexter are committed to ensuring that our school is a safe learning environment where military-connected students can reach their highest potential.

The K-5 grade instructional day consists of 80 minutes of mathematics, 110 minutes of literacy (guided reading, writers' workshop, and readers' workshop), 50 minutes of science/social studies, and 60 minutes of specials. Each grade level has an additional 30-minute intervention/enrichment block to provide math and/or literacy interventions and enrichment activities. Our instruction is aligned to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) standards. Our DoDEA adopted resources are Reveal Math, Benchmark Advance, TCI Social Studies Alive!, and FOSS Next Generation.

Finally, we look forward to partnering with you during the school year. We believe that communication between the school and home is critical for the success of our students. We encourage you to volunteer in the classroom, join the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Dexter Continuous School Improvement Team, or participate in our schoolwide Celebrations/activities. Together we can ensure that Dexter is a nurturing and safe learning environment for our students. Together we can make a difference in your child's life.



*Dr. Courtney Roberson,  
Principal  
&  
Ms. Maureen Barefield,  
Assistant Principal*







# Recent School Events



**It's A Great Day to Be A Pre-K/PSCD Eagle!**

As we prepare to wrap up the first quarter of SY24-25, we would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you. The first quarter was remarkable, filled with excitement, learning, and the promise of great things to come. Thank you to our teachers and staff for their tireless efforts to ensure that it was a success.

**We Are #Better Together!**



# Welcome New Faculty



Welcome 4th Grade Long Term  
Substitute Ms. Erika Ridge!

**Introduction/Greeting:** Hello, my name is Erika Ridge and I have been subbing at Dexter since February of 2023. I started subbing in 2012 when I was first here with my family and continued to sub with DODEA schools throughout our moves.

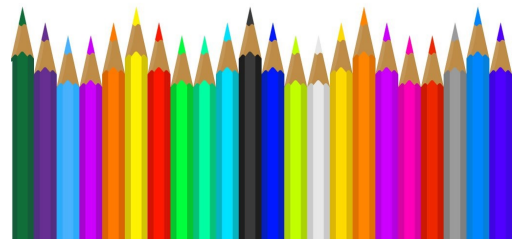
**About Me:** I am originally from NY. I came to Fort Moore by way of the army 14 years ago and we decided to make the area my forever home. I have three daughters and a grandson who are my whole world. I am always on the go with my kids and their sports. I love to go to the beach.



Welcome SPED Educational Aide  
Ms. Caitlyn Bristlin!

**Introduction/Greeting:** Hello! I am Ms. Bristlin and I am new to Dexter Elementary, and also new to Fort Moore! I moved here in April of 2024, and I will live here for the next two years with my husband and our pets! In my free time I enjoy going to the ocean, traveling, going to concerts, baking cupcakes, and spending time with my family!

**About Me:** I have worked with children since I was sixteen years old, and I am continuing to further my education! I spent the last 2 years at home in Washington State working as a Lead Pre-K teacher, and prepping children for kindergarten! I look forward to getting to know each of your children this year, and having a wonderful 2024-2025 school year!



# School Updates



## Educational Technology Updates

My name is Sarah Showalter, and I am Dexter Elementary's Educational Technologist. ClassLink is DoDEA's Single Sign On (SSO) service. With ClassLink students only need to remember one username and password to access all their curriculum materials! Students may login to ClassLink by visiting: <https://launchpad.classlink.com/dodea>

In Grades K-2 your child's teacher may provide them with a Quickcard. Quickcards look like QR codes and can be used to login to the ClassLink site using your device's camera. **Note:** QuickCards only work at <https://launchpad.classlink.com/dodea> they will not work with your cell phone's QR Reader app.

Students in Grades 3-5 may sign in using their DoDEA Google account (the one that ends with @student.dodea.edu).



## Health Updates



Happy Almost October!!

With the school year in full swing, I am seeing a lot of ick coming through the clinic. We have had students with COVID and strep in addition to students with normal allergy symptoms, colds, viruses, and just generalized not feeling well.

Please do not send your children to school if they are unwell. If you are unsure if you should send your child to school, please reach out to me using the contact information below so we can have a discussion and figure out the best course of action.

Reminders: Please send your kiddo(s) to school with a water bottle and please mark their name somehow on the bottle.

### **INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS**

As of August 26, 2024, influenza vaccinations are again required for all students registered in a DoDEA school. I will be sending out information regarding the influenza requirement as it is disseminated from the DSO for the 24-25 school year. I just thought I would get a jump start on the reminders.

**THE CUT OFF DATE TO PROVIDE FLU DOCUMENTATION IS DECEMBER 1, 2024.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 762-524-6485 or [lynn.swinford@dodea.edu](mailto:lynn.swinford@dodea.edu)

Warmest Regards,  
Lynn Swinford, BSN RN  
Dexter School Nurse

# School Updates

## School Counselor



Hello Dexter Eagles! My name is DeShaun Howard, and I am the School Counselor here at Dexter. The students were able to officially meet me and learn what my role is as the school counselor this month during classroom guidance. It is very important that students know what my role is and the various ways I can help them have productive and successful days at school, from a social-emotional perspective. It is also important that students and parents know that I have an open-door policy and I will meet with students and parents upon request. As a school counselor, I also provide individual and group counseling on a “as need” basis. Therefore, I do not provide long-term therapy in the school setting. If your child needs long-term therapy, I will be more than happy to provide you with a community resource sheet for you to seek outside services or refer you to our school’s Military and Family Life Counselor (MFLC).

Here at Dexter, the counseling department promotes a school-wide Kindness Program. This program allows students to earn kindness coins when they are “Caught Being Kind”. When a coin is earned, the student will place the coin into their class’s kindness jar. The class with the most coins each month will be announced as “Kindness Class of the Month”, and they will be rewarded by receiving 20 minutes of extra recess. Individual students will also have the opportunity to be recognized as “Kind Eagle of the Month” for showing their efforts in being kind. Teachers will nominate one student each month from their class for this award. There will be a Kind Eagle awards held at the end of each month and parents of those students will be invited to attend. Students began earning coins the second week of school and they are already competing for the Kind Class of the Month title. This program encourages kindness and respectful behavior which decreases any negative and/or bullying behaviors.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 762-524-6490 or via email at [deshaun.howard@dodea.edu](mailto:deshaun.howard@dodea.edu).



# School Updates



## Information Center Updates



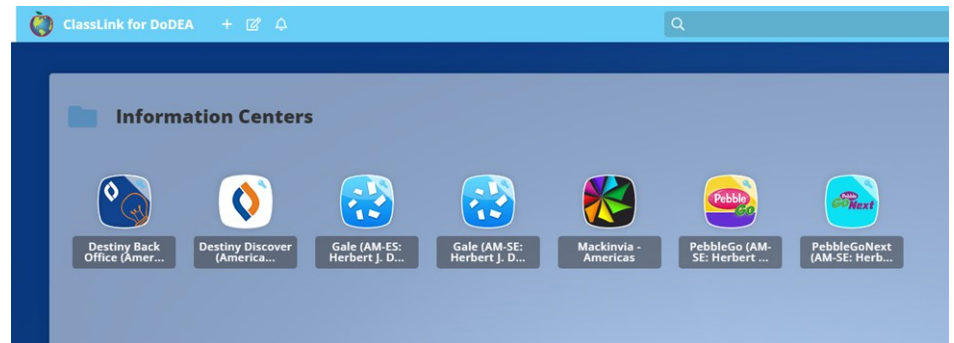
I am excited to share with you the wonderful online resources available to all our students. Did you know we have over **12,000 electronic books, audiobooks, and videos** that students can read online? These resources are accessible through **Mackinvia** via DoDEA ClassLink, located in the Information Centers folder.

Additionally, students have been learning how to log into [Mackinvia.com](http://Mackinvia.com), where they can read electronic books and explore various online resources. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to enhance their learning and enjoy reading from the comfort of their homes.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to reach out.

Best regards,

Mrs. Porter



## Safe School Updates



Start the school year off safe!

Please look both ways before crossing the street!

Please follow all rules on the school bus!





## School Hours

Regular Schedule– 8:30-3:15

2nd Tuesday of the Month–

Early Release at 2:30

## Reminders

- Please have your ID card when visiting the school.
- Breakfast Begins at 8:05 and students move to their classrooms at 8:25
- If transportation changes needed, please contact your school teacher before 11 am in email or writing or the front office after 11 am.

## DoDEA/Dexter Mission:

Educate, engage, and empower military connected students to succeed in a dynamic world.

## DoDEA/Dexter Vision:

Excellence in Education for Every Student, Everyday, Everywhere

## Contact Us:

Dexter ES website: <https://dexter.es.dodea.edu/>

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