# The Double Creek Courier

Week 16

# This Week's Attendance Rate: 94.54%

Pre-K - 91.42%

Kinder - 92.44%

Grade 1 - 93.82%

Grade 2 - 93.97%

Grade 3 - 96.82%

Grade 4 - 95.09%

Grade 5 - 96.16%

Much better attendance this week. Keep it up!

### **Why Attendance Matters**

Remember that attendance is *mandatory* and we need to see your kids every day. Your child's attendance affects ALL of our ratings.

When your child misses two or more days a month from school, it is the same as missing <u>an entire</u> <u>month of learning.</u>

Our state accountability rating is also based on the attendance of <u>every single student</u>, whether in a testing grade or not. Our rating last year was <u>negatively impacted</u> by student absences.

Please be at school every day, on time, every time.

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 1/28

# A letter from the Principal

December 6, 2025

Happy Friday, Everyone!

We have a lot of fun activities planned for next week. Try to be here for them all.

Good luck to our students who will be joining me in the high school musical Shrek Jr. this weekend. It's going to be a lot of fun.

Have a good weekend!

Dr. Wilson



# **Homework Policy**

Per the 2025-2026 Student and Teacher Handbook, the following is stated:

### Homework (All Grade Levels)

Homework policies are developed by each campus. If you have any questions about your campus homework policy, please contact your campus principal.

Regular homework is an extension of the learning in the classroom. It is intended to reinforce current learning and provide additional practice. It is also an opportunity for parents to support learning and understand the current instruction. The rigor and amount of homework should match the age and grade of the student. For example, a Grade 5 student would be expected to have more homework that takes more time to complete than a Kindergartener.

Your classroom teacher has been instructed to provide your child with homework that follows these guidelines. Most teachers give a packet of homework at the start of the week to be completed over time.

Homework counts as one daily assignment for each marking period. Failure to complete the work in a timely manner will result in a lower grade on the report card.

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 2/28

3



# **Upcoming Events**

December 2025				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		
				14

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 3/28

December 8-11 - Grade Level Holiday Concerts

December 11 - 5th Grade Musical

December 16 - PTO Meeting

December 19 - January 6 - Winter Break

# **Our Attendance Policy! Please Read!**

# **Absences**

Our attendance bell this year will ring at 9:20 AM. Any student not physically on campus at that time will be considered absent. If you leave before that time, or arrive after that time, you will need to bring a doctor's note or parent note for the absence to be considered excused.

We can only accept notes (parent or doctor) to excuse the absence up to 3 days after your child returns to school. After 3 days, the absence will be considered unexcused.

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 4/28

**O** 19

ter. After

If your child misses more than 15 days unexcused for the school year, they will not be able to attend the grade level field trip or field day events.

If your child is not in attendance for at least 90% of the year, they may not receive credit and/or may be retained in the current grade level.

### **Tardies**

For every 3 tardies, a child will receive a mark.

- 3 Marks will be one day of after school detention (9 tardies)
- 6 Marks will be 2 days of after school detention (18 tardies)
- 9 Marks will be 2 days of after school detention, a conference with administration and form an action plan to prevent future tardies. (27 tardies)

### **Ausencias**

Nuestro timbre de asistencia este año sonará a las 9:20 a. m. Cualquier estudiante que no esté físicamente en el campus en ese momento se considerará ausente. Si sale antes de esa hora o llega después de esa hora, deberá traer una nota del médico o una nota de los padres para que la ausencia se considere justificada.

Solo podemos aceptar notas (de los padres o del médico) para justificar la ausencia hasta 3 días después de que su hijo regrese a la escuela. Después de 3 días, la ausencia se considerará injustificada.

Las notas de los padres no pueden exceder los tres días. Sólo se pueden aceptar 3 notas de los padres por semestre. Posteriormente, las ausencias se considerarán injustificadas.

Si su hijo falta más de 15 días injustificados durante el año escolar, no podrá asistir a la excursión de nivel de grado ni a los eventos del día de campo.

### Tardanzas

Por cada 3 tardanzas, un niño recibirá una nota.

- 3 marcas serán un día de detención después de la escuela (9 tardanzas)
- 6 Las marcas serán 2 días de detención después de la escuela (18 tardanzas)
- 9 Las marcas serán 2 días de detención después de la escuela, una conferencia con la administración y la formación de un plan de acción para evitar futuras tardanzas. (27 tardanzas)

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 5/28

# **Meet ParentSquare - our Family Communication Tool**

We have an exciting tool for teachers and parents to connect! It's called ParentSquare. By this point, you should have received an invitation to download the app onto your phone or connect on your computer. But don't worry if you haven't received it yet! Your homeroom teacher will be sending you an invitation to join his or her class as well.



ParentSquare allows you and the teacher to communicate effectively. You will receive newsletters, photos, and messages about your child. You can also use ParentSquare to send a direct message and attach files and photos to the teacher. Our teachers have been directed to use ParentSquare, not their Jarrell ISD email address, to communicate with you.

**CLICK HERE** to learn more about ParentSquare!

# **SRP Information**

Below is the Standard Response Protocol flyer with information on the language used during emergencies. There is also a link included with more information about the SRP flyer.

**SRP Information Link** 

\_







# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our school has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

### COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and

### HOLD

### "In Your Classroom or Area"

Students are trained to:

- Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced
- Do business as usual
   Adults and staff are trained to:
- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual

### SECURE

'Get Inside. Lock outside doors'

Students are trained to:

Return to inside of building

- Do business as usual
- Adults and staff are trained to:
- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock the outside doors Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual

# LOCKDOWN

"Locks, Lights, Out of Sight Students are trained to:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
   Adults and staff are trained to:



- Lock the classroom door
- Turn out the lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend

### **EVACUATE** 'To a Location'

- Students are trained to:
- · Leave stuff behind if required to
- If possible, bring their phone
- Follow instructions



- . Bring roll sheet and Go Bag (unless instructed not to bring anything with them, dependent on reason for evacuation.)
- Lead students to Evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.

# SHELTER



- Hazmat Earthquake
- Tsunami

# Safety Strategies might include: • Evacuate to shelter area

- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground
- Students are trained in:

   Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

Adults and staff are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies
   Accounting for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.

# From the DCES PTO...

# **TurkeyGrams for Sale!**

TurkeyGrams were a HUGE success! We raised almost \$600 to add to our PTO Balance.

Selfies with Santa are coming up on December 3rd. See the flyer below.

Also, if parents are able to volunteer their time in December, that would be a great blessing. See the flyer below.

Happy Thanksgiving!

**PTO Officers** 





Shannon Horton, Secretary John Erwood, Treasurer

We also have a t-shirt design chosen! Stay tuned for more details.

Our next meeting is December 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria.



https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 8/28

### **Double Creek Canned Food Drive**

We are excited to announce that the Student Council is partnering with Double Creek's PTO to host a Canned Food Drive! The drive will run from **Monday**, **December 8 through Tuesday**, **December 16**.

We invite all classes to participate in supporting families in need within our community. To make things even more fun, we will hold a schoolwide competition! The class that collects the most canned goods will receive a Popcorn and Hot Chocolate Party after we return from Winter Break. Student Council members will collect all donated items on Wednesday, December 17, and the winning class will be announced on Thursday, December 18.

Thank you for your continued support and for encouraging students to give back to our community.

# **Attendance Matters!**

Our goal this year is to have at least a **97% Student Attendance Average**. But this can only happen with your support!

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 9/28

Please read



policy. More information is also available in the Jamen independent School District Parent and Student Handbook under Absences/Attendance.



Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education to benefit from teacher led and school activities, to build each day's learning on the previous day's, and to grow as an individual.

When a student is absent, the student must bring a note to the attendance office within three days of the absence. After three days, parent notes may not be accepted and the absences will be considered unexcused. A maximum of three (3) parent notes per semester will be accepted as excused.

### More info about attendance!

Attendance Works Informational Flyers - Click <u>HERE</u> ENGLISH VIDEO: <u>https://vimeo.com/101425388</u> SPANISH VIDEO: <u>https://vimeo.com/130556839</u>

# **Lunch with Your Children**

Parents: We welcome you to come eat lunch with your children! For the safety and privacy of all students, we ask that you eat at the tables on the stage. Also, we can only allow you to eat with your child. Thank you for your understanding.



Padres: ¡Les damos la bienvenida a almorzar con sus hijos! Para la seguridad y privacidad de todos los estudiantes, les pedimos que coman en las mesas del escenario. Además, solo podemos permitirles comer con sus hijos. Gracias por su comprensión.

# **Daily Deadlines**

In order for our systems to run smoothly and safely, please observe the following daily deadlines times.

<u>7:30 a.m.</u> Tardy Bell. PLEASE DO NOT DROP-OFF STUDENTS AFTER 7:30. *You will need walk your child into the building.* They must be signed in by a parent or guardian.

<u>9:20 a.m.</u> Attendance Bell. Any child leaving before - or arriving after - 9:20 a.m. will be considered an **unexcused absence** for the day without a parent note. If your child is at a doctor or dentist appointment, bring in a note and the absence will be considered **excused**.

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 10/28

de after this

time for the salety of all students and start.

<u>2:30 p.m.</u> Any student checking out early for an appointment must be picked up prior to 2:30. For your child's safety, we cannot allow parents into the building after this time.

# **Campus Bookstore**

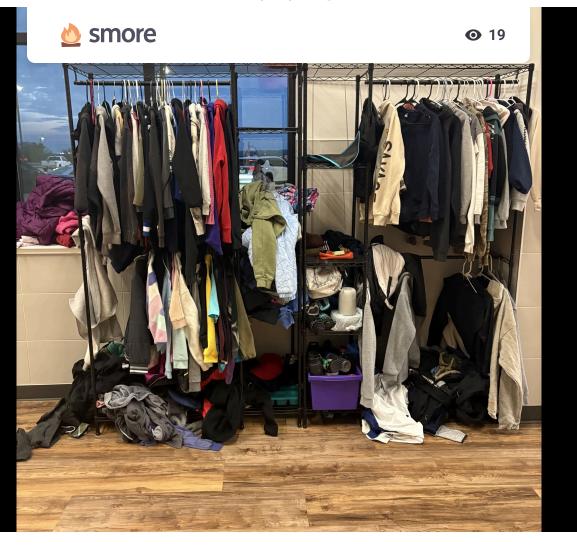
DCES is now accepting book donations for our Campus Bookstore! If you have any used children's books that are in need of a new home, please bring them to Double Creek Elementary School and give them to the front office.



# **Lost and Found**

DCES families don't forget to pick up your lost and found items soon!

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 11/28



# **UIL Academics**

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 12/28



# **December Dress-Up Days**



https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 13/28



# From the Counselor...



Welcome to Double Creek Elementary School! I would like to encourage ALL students and caregivers to utilize services made available through the school counseling program. I look forward to working with you and your child to help ensure that their experience at DCES is a positive one. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am here to help! —Laura Lake, DCES School Counselor

### SCHOOL COUNSELING WEBSITE: WHAT'S NEW FOR NOVEMBER?

Fort Hood Adopt a School Soldier Visit - NOV 21

National Career Development Month Poster/Poetry Contest

Vaping Prevention Presentations

Education Connections Reading Buddies

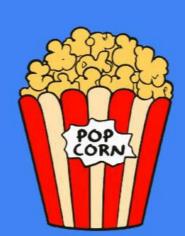
CIS Food Giveaway - NOV

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 14/28

# **Reading Intervention Tips for Home**

# How to help your student with reading at home.

Read with popcorn, have a piece every time you turn the page.



Lee con
palomitas de
maíz, tómate un
trozo cada vez
que pasar
la página.

# **Math Intervention Tips for Home**

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 15/28

### Math Hopscotch

Everyone knows how to play hopscotch, but by introducing maths into the mix you can take this traditional playground game to the next level.

### What you need to play:

Chalk

### How to play:

Step 1: Using chalk, draw out hopscotch squares on the ground and in each square, write either skip counting patterns (2,4,6,8, etc), multiples of a number or multiplication facts.

**Step 2:** Each person then hop, skips and counts out loud at the same time, which is a really good way of helping those facts stick.

The other great thing about this game is this can be done with one person, or if friends are visiting everyone can join in and have a go.

### Rayuela matemática

Todo el mundo sabe jugar a la rayuela, pero si añades las matemáticas a la mezcla, puedes llevar este tradicional juego de patio al siguiente nivel.

### Qué necesitas para jugar:

Tiza

### Cómo se juega:

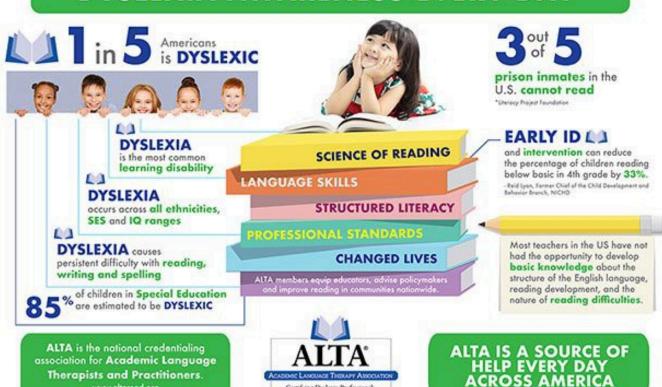
Paso 1: Con tiza, dibuja cuadrados de rayuela en el suelo y escribe patrones numéricos (2,4,6,8, etc.), múltiplos de un número u operaciones de multiplicación en cada cuadrado.

Paso 2: A continuación, cada persona salta alrededor de los cuadrados y cuenta en voz alta al mismo tiempo, lo que es una buena manera de ayudar a memorizar las operaciones.

La otra gran ventaja de este juego es que se puede hacer con una sola persona o, si vienen amigos de visita, pueden participar todos.

# **Dyslexia**

# DYSLEXIA AWARENESS EVERY DAY



# **Pre-K Updates**

www.altoread.org

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 16/28

Certifying Dyslexia Professionals

2



**O** 19

17/28

Letters: M B S K with focus on the sounds

Math: measurement

# **Kinder Updates**





KINDERGARTEN SNOWY NEWSLETTER

Week of December 8, 2025





We are Focused on:

- Reviewing rhyming words
- Continue reviewing consonant clusters and practicing with our dictation and blending in spelling.
- Eearning the tricky words "little"

# Knowledge

We are focused on:

🏶 We are closing out our Colonial Towns and Townspeople unit and preparing for the End-of-Unit Assessment by reviewing key concepts, vocabulary, and skills learned throughout the unit.

# Math

We are focused on:

- Matching and counting to compare a number of objects, and state which quantity is more.
- Matching and counting to compare two sets of objects and state which quantity is less.
- Strategizing to compare two sets, and visualize quantities to compare two numerals.
- Science & Social Studies

We are focused on:

Science where we are investigating and predicting cause-and-effect relationships.

# Reminders

- Practice identifying letters and their sounds
- Review numbers 0-20
- Practice Kindergarten sight words:
- as, have, for, with, one, two, three, the, or, on
- Learning is Fun!

Thank you for your continued support as we grow, learn, and celebrate our **achievements** together!



# **1st Grade Updates**

First grade has had a wonderful week! This week we will learn about:

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a

eams.

including vower argraphs and diphurongs, and recontrolled synables.

**Math:** We will use measuring tools to measure the length of objects to reinforce the continuous nature of linear measurement.

**Social Studies:** We will learn about historical figures such as George Washington, Sam Houston, and Abraham Lincoln.

Science: We are learning about force and motion, pushing and pulling.

# **2nd Grade Updates**

This week went by so fast! Students have been working hard in math to show what they know about decomposing numbers in addition and subtraction. We are continuing to build on these skills using numbers up to 1,000. In Skills, we started a new unit and reviewed r-controlled vowel sounds, such as in the words *bark* and *shirt*. In Knowledge, we continued using our Westward Expansion texts to strengthen reading comprehension. In social studies, students have been working together as a class to respond to what they've learned about the government. Ask your student what they enjoyed learning about the most this week!

Don't forget homework is sent home every Monday and needs to be returned every Friday. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions or need anything.

# **3rd Grade Updates**

**Math:** Next week we will begin expanding our knowledge of multiplication into 2 digit by 1 digit multiplication.

**Science:** We are investigating 4 types of energy: thermal, light, sound, and mechanical energy.

**ELAR:** Third grade language arts is studying all about ancient Rome, and the battles that took place in certain areas and why. Right now, we have reviewed the rise of Rome following defeats from the Punic Wars, and are immersed in the study of Julius Cesar and will be comparing and contrasting his influence (both good and bad). We will also be writing a graphic organizer, a draft, and a final presentation about him.

# 4th Grade Updates

### Math

This week in math, students worked on **multiplying 2-digit multiples of 10 by 2-digit numbers**. We practiced using:

Place-value charts

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 18/28





Students are pulluling a strong roundation in multi-step multiplication as we prepare for more complex operations.

### Math TEKS Covered (4.4B, 4.4G)

- 4.4B: Determine products of a number and 10 or 100 using mental math strategies.
- **4.4G**: Solve multiplication problems involving factors up to two digits using strategies such as area models and partial products.

# **Reading & Writing**

In reading, we:

- Practiced suffixes
- Began our new Geology unit
- Focused on finding evidence in the text
- Engaged in student discourse, sharing ideas and justifying thinking with peers

# Reading TEKS Covered (4.2B, 4.2E, 4.6G, 4.7C, 4.12)

- **4.2B:** Apply knowledge of suffixes to decode words.
- **4.2E:** Use context clues to determine word meaning.
- 4.6G: Explain how texts are structured and use evidence to support understanding.
- **4.7C:** Use text evidence and background knowledge to support responses.
- **4.12:** Participate in collaborative discussions and conversations about texts.

### Science

In science, students are learning about the different forms of energy, including:

- Mechanical
- Sound
- Thermal
- Liaht
- Electrical

### Science TEKS Covered (4.6A, 4.6B)

- **4.6A:** Explore the uses of energy, including mechanical, sound, thermal, electrical, and light energy.
- **4.6B**: Demonstrate how energy can be transferred from one object to another.

### **Social Studies**

We just finished **Chapter 5**, which focused on **different battles in Texas history**. Students learned about key conflicts, leaders, and how these battles shaped Texas independence.

### Social Studies TEKS Covered (4.3A, 4.3B, 4.3C, 4.3D)

- 4.3A: Analyze reasons for and outcomes of major Texas battles.
- 4.3B: Identify important individuals involved in Texas independence.
- **4.3C:** Describe the events leading to the Texas Revolution.
- **4.3D:** Explain the significance of major events in early Texas history.

# **5th Grade Updates**

Fifth grade has been getting to know each other, learning procedures, creating social contracts, and a little reviewing this week! It has been fun getting back into the groove of school! Next week we

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 19/28





Next Week:

**Math:** We will begin with Place Value! Please make sure your student is practicing their math facts! It's imperative they know them or have strategies to figure them out! We will have homework that is handed out on Monday and is due on Friday.

**ELAR:** We will begin learning about the different ways to help our reading comprehension. Next week we will be learning about metacognition, activating our schema (background knowledge), making inferences, asking good questions to stay engaged in our reading, and determining important information. We have planned some fun activities to help the students think about these ideas and to annotate our writing.

Science: Forces and Motion

**Dual Language:** We will begin the week with a review of what we have learned and use that as a springboard into the 5th grade dual language curriculum in English Language Arts and Spanish Language Arts. We will emphasize the transfer of skills and knowledge to the English language to be prepared for middle school: Our goal!

# Essential Questions:

- How does the rocket lift off the ground?
- How do forces make a ride drop?
- What are the effects of forces on objects?
- How do forces affect marbles in a system?
- How can multiple forces move a rope?
- How do changes in a system affect forces on an object?
- What are the effects of forces in space?

# Academic Vocabulary:

\*= STAAR

- Equal forces
- Frictional force
- Gravitational force
- Kinetic energy
- Potential energy
- Unequal forces
- Force\*
- motion\*
- position\*

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 20/28

.



# **Specials Schedule 25-26 School Year**

The Specials rotation schedule has changed for the 25-26 school year. There will now be six (6) sections for each grade level class. Please refer to your teacher's newsletter for your assigned Specials day.



https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 21/28



**o** 19



https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 22/28

# HOLIDAY MUSICAL BONZA

Date: Monday, December 8th - December 11th Location: Double Creek Elementary Time: On the front page and based on grade level

All grade levels will be performing on the stage for the event. Families are welcome to come and attend the performance! If you would like to sign your student out afterwards, please be sure to stop by the front office.

# WHAT CAN I WEAR?

Students can either wear their grade level costume suggestion or pajamas! Costumes and Christmas attire are optional but are not required for the performance. Please do not wear any inflatable costumes!



### Pre-Kindergarten

You may wear your favorite holiday/christmas outfit!



### Third Grade

Blue or white shirt and sweaters, scarves, gloves, anything with snow/snowflakes



### Kindergarten

Elf hats, elf costumes, shirts with jingle bells or actual bells



### Fourth Grade

Christmas Ornaments or lights, decorated Christmas tree attire, red or white t-shirts, white sweaters



### First Grade

Dress like Santa or his reindeer! Santa hats and reindeer antlers are permitted.

Second Grade

Grinch themed! Green

shirts or sweaters,



### Fifth Grade

Holiday attire! Christmas sweaters, necklaces, hats, socks, headbands, etc. No Inflatables!



# Grinch clothing, and/or green fuzzy gloves Cougar Stage Crew

Wear your grade level costume attire or stage crew shirt with a Santa hat



https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a



**o** 19



https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 24/28

# PE - Coach Stanley - jennifer.stanley@jarrellisd.org

• Parents please be sure to have your child wear appropriate gym attire when they are scheduled to have PE for specials. Students are also welcome to bring a change of clothes, shoes, and a water bottle.

# Acceptable Gym Attire:

- T Shirt
- Athletic Shorts (Hem should reach the ends of fingertips)
- Skorts (Hem should reach the ends of fingertips)
- Tennis Shoes

# Art - Ms. Adams - karina.adams@jarrellisd.org

Art Club Information: Art Club will begin Monday September 9th from 3:45 - 4:15 PM.
 Students must have a signed permission slip to attend and the club will be capped at 30 students per semester.

### Music - Ms. Nicholes - deidre.nicholes@jarrellisd.org

- All musical performance dates will be shared through Parent Square!
- Cougar Stage Crew: If you are interested in theater or creating stage props, come sign up!

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 25/28

.



**o** 19

atly

# Science Lab - Ms. Webb - <u>sabrina.webb@jarrellisd.org</u>

• If you would like to donate any pencils or crayons to the science lab, it would be greatly appreciated!

# Library - Mrs. Howard - kate.howard@jarrellisd.org

• Please make sure to return all books to the library.



https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 26/28



# **DCES Website**

Use buttons to direct readers to different pages, Google Drive files or any other URL. Buttons are great for the important things you want people to click on.

# **Double Creek Elementary Principal**

Double is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



Communicate quickly and effectively with interactive newsletters.

https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 27/28





https://app.smore.com/n/kvz6a 28/28