



A Review of the  
Great Things  
Happening in  
Our Schools.

May 24, 2013

# Building Beat

## Upcoming ...

### Friday, May 24:

DHS Auto Club Car Show,  
6-9 p.m. Davison High  
School

### Monday, May 27:

Memorial Day. Thank you  
veterans and military  
personnel for your  
service!

### Wednesday, May 28:

No Delayed Day! DHS and  
DAE students report to  
school by 7:25 a.m.

### DAE Senior Breakfast

DHS Choir Spring Concert,  
6:30 p.m. DHS Auditorium

### Thursday, May 30:

Last day for DAE seniors

Final exams for DHS  
seniors

DHS Cap and Gown  
Distribution during Lunch

### Friday, May 31:

Deadline for DEF Profes-  
sional Scholar Applications

Deadline for Teacher and  
Support Person of the  
Year nominations

Last day of school for DHS  
seniors

## DHS senior writes song in honor of teacher's family

From the start, Davison High School student **Peter Conigliaro's** plan for his senior exit project was to write and direct a musical arrangement for the symphonic band. What he didn't count on, though, was that the project would turn out to be much more than a task required for graduation.

In fact, it "turned into a gift to a group of people who are very near and dear to me," Peter said.

Peter's song is a tribute to the memory of Davison High School Teacher **Mrs. Tracey Fowler's** mother, Mrs. Donna Dotson, who passed away in March. Peter has been friends with Mrs. Fowler's sons and the family for the past six years.

"When I heard of (Mrs. Fowler's) mother's passing, my heart went out to them," Peter said. "I went to the viewing service ... and was absolutely touched by the love that people felt toward her and the legacy that she had left behind. That was all the inspiration I needed to write this piece."

Peter, who plays clarinet and the alto-saxophone, said it took him about a week to write the song. He spent three to four hours a day on it until it was finished to his liking.

"As far as the writing process goes, I often describe it as like painting a picture," Peter said. "The first thing you do is imagine the image of what you want to paint. Then, you utilize the colors of your palette to bring your image to life. In this case, the image I hoped to create was the life and legacy of a woman who devoted herself to God and to those she loved and cared for. So, naturally for me, the piece was written in such a way that it was intended to depict the loving memory of her life, the sudden tragedy of her passing and the legacy that she left behind."

With the help of Instrumental Music Director **Jim Schuster**, Peter was able to surprise Mrs. Fowler, who thought she was coming to the auditorium with her class to listen to the performance as a way to support Peter.



**Mrs. Fowler and Peter following the performance of Peter's song. Peter is the son of Food Services Secretary (and proud mom!) Debbie Blankenship.**

Where futures begin

A Fully Accredited District

"I honestly thought Peter was nervous about his senior exit project and was hoping for some support, so I brought my students down to the auditorium to listen to his piece," Mrs. Fowler said. "I had no idea that he had even considered doing this ... Knowing that he took such time and effort to compose this piece, well, it showed an amazing level of love and respect I think. I felt absolutely honored!"

Mrs. Fowler said she cried when she realized the song was written in memory of her mother.

"My mom loved music and taught herself to play the organ," Mrs. Fowler said. "I loved hearing her play growing up. She had a genuine appreciation for beautiful music, so this only emphasizes the depth of meaning attached to having Peter compose an original piece in her honor. It is the most serene and glorious composition in which he truly revered her memory.

"More interesting is that Peter never actually met my mom, but - being the great friend that he is - he visited the funeral home when she passed. We have a large, close family, and my mom was always our constant. The fact that Peter recognized this and was emotionally touched by it is another sincere tribute - not only to her, but to how great of a person he is. I have shared this with my immediate family, extended family and friends. Everyone agrees that this is the largest honor she could be given and that she would have loved it!"

Peter, who also plays the drums as a hobby, has written other songs including two for a symphonic band and a few for a full orchestra that experiment with a cinematic/soundtrack style to them.

During his high school career, Peter has been involved in the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Symphonic Orchestra, Marching Band, Pep Band and Pit Orchestra.

"As adept with classical music as I am, I also really enjoy rock and roll and play as a drummer in a band with a few of my friends," Peter said.

After graduation, Peter plans to pursue a career in music, whether it be teaching or composing music.

Mrs. Fowler hopes that Peter remains a part of her family through his friendship with her kids.

"He is such a warm-hearted, loving, and amazingly talented person," she said. "I hope we contribute to his life as much as he has contributed to ours."

A video of Peter's senior exit project has been posted on YouTube. The link is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNrccDyUoDA>

## Come check out the rides! DHS Auto Club to hold first car show Friday, May 24

Students from the Davison High School Auto Club are revved up about their first ever car show tomorrow night. The show will take place from 6-9 p.m. in front of Davison High School. Judging will be held at 8 p.m.

Visitors can expect to find muscle cars, like Auto Club President **Devin Singer's** 1972 Dodge Charger, which he has been rebuilding with his dad since they bought it two years ago, as well as the Auto Technology Class's official car, a 1989 Buick Grand National that students completed a couple years ago after stripping the interior, preparing it for paint and putting slicks on the back. Auto Tech Teacher Mr. **Andy Michalik** is also expected to have his 1967

Chevelle on hand and there may be a monster truck or two, possibly including Michalik's "Insane Instructor" in which he competes at mud bogging events.

Devin, along with Auto Club Vice President **Travis Hunter** and Treasurer **Will Webster**, said the car show is a fundraiser for the club's Scholarship Fund. Currently, there are about 15 Auto Club members who meet after school to work on cars and other community service projects such as the car show. The only requirement of being a member is that you have to be a student in one of Michalik's three Auto Technology classes.

"We'll meet from a half hour after school up to two hours or when something important is coming up," Devin said.

One of the projects the students are working on is a 1999 Dodge truck that will become a monster truck once they are finished with installing heavy duty axles and suspension. Last week, the trio was tinkering under the hood of Travis' 1994 Mustang GT.

"I've always liked tinkering with stuff," Travis said. "I just like things that are loud and go fast."

A "Mustang guy" Travis said that one day he hopes to have a 1964<sup>1/2</sup> model that he can call his own.

Will, on the other hand, dreams of owning a 1969 Chevy Nova.

"That's always been the one for me," he said.

Will, who plans to pursue a career in building and repairing helicopters, credits his mechanical abilities to living on a farm.

"There's always lot of repairs to be made on tractors and other things," he said.

Devin inherited his love of cars and all things mechanical from his dad, who began taking him to races when he was a youngster.

"He had cars ever since he was in high school," Devin said, adding that his dad has a 1960 Volkswagen Beetle that he takes to car shows.

According to Mr. Michalik, just under 70 students are enrolled in Auto Tech I, II and Advanced classes. Auto I teaches students the basic about brakes and engines, Auto Tech II covers electrical, suspension and steering systems and the Advanced class concentrates on transmissions, heating and cooling and hybrids.



**Travis, Will and Devin run diagnostics on Travis' Mustang in the Auto Technology Shop. The shop is located in the Davison Alternative Education building.**