



Where Futures Begin

DAVISON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Davison Middle School
600 S. Dayton St.
Davison, MI 48423

Main Office
(810) 591.0848

Guidance Office
(810) 591.5101

Attendance
(810) 591.0859

Fax
(810) 591.2754

Josie Paquette
Principal
(810) 591.0863

Andrea Ferguson
Assistant Principal
(810) 591.0528

Chris Wilson
Dean of Students
(810) 591.0398

www.davisonschools.org

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

On October 22, 2019, Davison Middle School students will join more than one million other students across the country and around the world to help break down social and racial barriers by participating in the DMS 1st annual Mix It Up at Lunch Day. Our hope is that this event will lead to a long tradition of kick-starting new friendships at Davison Middle School! Students who feel a sense of belonging perform better overall.

The event, launched by the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance project in 2002, encourages students to sit with someone new in the cafeteria for one day. However, we hope to also incorporate the momentum of the day into year long efforts to promote a healthy school climate. Cafeterias are the focus of Mix It Up because that's where a school's social boundaries are most obvious. Davison Middle School will host similar barrier-busting activities or events throughout the school year. For this particular event, to state it simply, students will sit next to someone new in the cafeteria. Of course, there will be a specific procedure for where to sit. Students will engage in table mixers to get them talking, learning about their peers and making new friends. This takes some coordination to do it right, but our student leaders are hard at work to make certain this event will be successful!

"Mix It Up is a positive step that schools can take to help create learning environments where students see each other as individuals and not just as members of a separate group," said Teaching Tolerance Director Maureen Costello. "When people step out of their cliques and get to know someone, they realize just how much they have in common."

Want to see an example of a Mix It Up lunch, check out
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6Mk8IMtXkQ>

Sincerely,

Josie Paquette
DMS Principal

Andrea Ferguson
DMS Assistant Principal

Chris Wilson
DMS Dean of Students