



John and Shamarion Barber Middle School

DICKINSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BELIEVING ★ MOTIVATING ★ SUCCEEDING

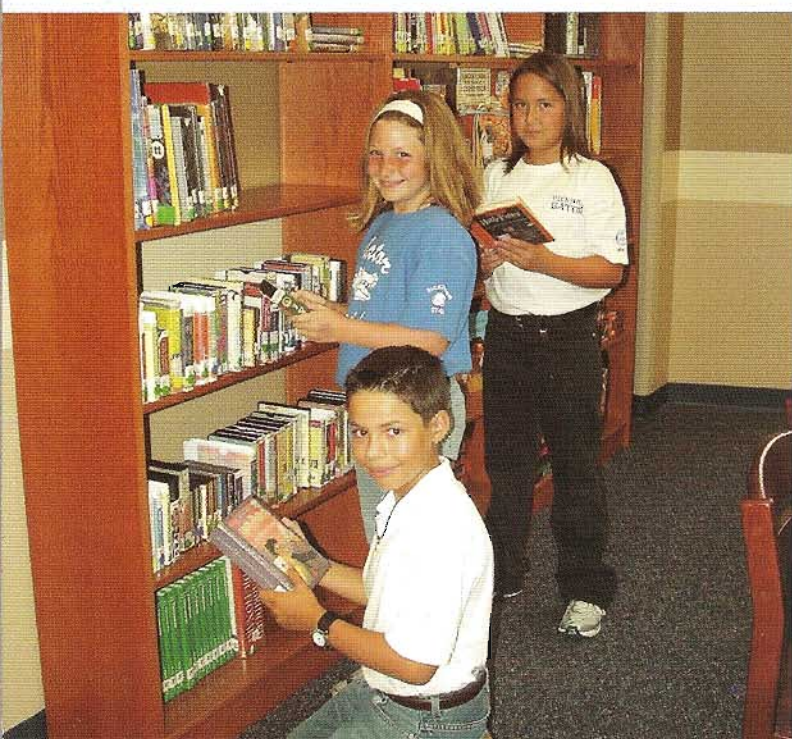




John and Shamarion Barber Middle School

DICKINSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Believing ★ Motivating ★ Succeeding



John and Shamarion Barber Middle School opens its doors August 25, 2008 to an estimated 575 fifth and sixth grade students in the Dickinson Independent School District.

"Our new motto at Barber is 'Believing, Motivating, Succeeding,' because we believe if we can find ways to motivate all of our students on the importance of attending school every day and doing their best as they learn the curriculum, then they will succeed," said Principal Bonnie Fried.

A New Concept

While the completion of a new campus is exciting on its own, the opening of the new Barber Middle School is giving the district the opportunity to shift grade alignments by moving to a fifth/sixth grade concept with these students zoned to one of two middle schools – John and Shamarion Barber Middle School or Dunbar Middle School. The district previously zoned all fifth grade students to the former Barber Middle School and all sixth grade students to Dunbar Middle School.

By combining the fifth and sixth grade students together on one campus, students receive the benefit of teachers from different grade levels working together to enhance the continuity of curriculum and instruction from one grade level to the next. Having an extra year at the campus gives teachers and staff extra time to build relationships with students, to offer support and to recognize when a student needs extra help. Change is hard for many people, especially students, so the added year at the campus with the same teachers and classmates goes a long way to improving student stability. Parental involvement is a major objective of the Dickinson Independent School District and the administrators believe the extra year will allow parents to feel more connected to the school and in turn, more willing to get involved in their student's school experience.



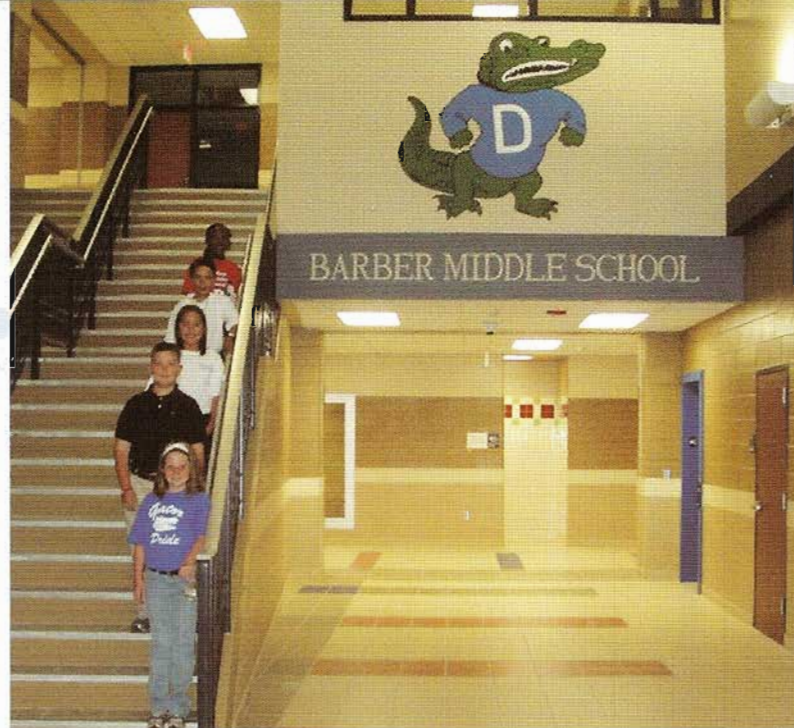
Preparing Students

A staff of approximately 70 has been brought together to guide the students through two crucial years in their school experience as they leave elementary school behind and prepare for the challenges around the corner in junior high and high school. In fifth grade, students not only take a reading and math TAKS test, but they are also tested in science for the first time. This is the districts' first opportunity to get state test results for science, which helps the district determine the needs of the students in this area.

"With science a critical component in many of today's jobs, our teachers are working diligently to help our students understand the science objectives and concepts taught in their classrooms. Our new science labs will allow more opportunities for relevant hands-on science lessons," said Fried.

The new Barber Middle School will allow students to be exposed to many new things, such as expanded fine arts and athletic offerings. The two-story building design will have fifth grade classrooms on the first floor and sixth grade classrooms on the second floor, with students navigating through larger hallways.

The design of the new Barber campus was achieved by PBK Architects working with district and school administrators to enhance the basic design of Dunbar Middle School finished in 2004. The project was achieved with a guaranteed maximum price of \$16,715,316 through Durotech, the Construction Manager At-Risk. Two technology labs, four science labs, an art room with kiln, a competition gym with bleachers, band, choir and drama rooms with backstage access to the cafeteria stage, and an outdoor covered lighted basketball court are all features of the new Barber campus.

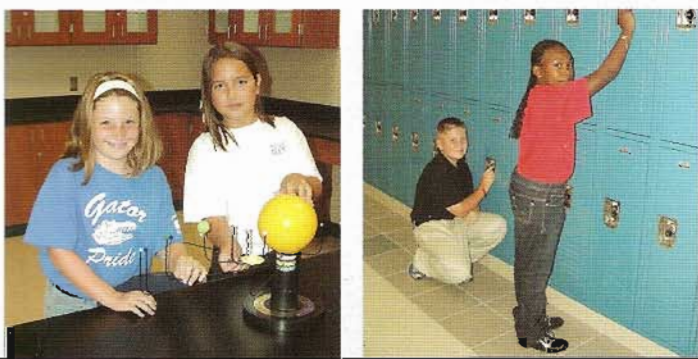


Same Heritage

John and Shamarion Barber were long-time, dedicated employees of the Dickinson Independent School District. John was a well-known educator and principal in the district until his death in 1988. The district honored his service by renaming the Dickinson Primary School to John E. Barber Elementary and then to John E. Barber Middle School in 2004-2005. Shamarion Barber served Dickinson ISD for 48 years, 23 as a teacher and 25 as a counselor, before retiring at the end of the 2004-2005 school year as a counselor at Dickinson High School. She is still a very active member of the Dickinson community.

When the district was preparing to build the new middle school campus during the 2006-2007 school year, the Board of Trustees felt it appropriate to extend the name to also honor the service of Shamarion to the district. Thus, the name of the new middle school became John and Shamarion Barber Middle School.

The new Barber campus is part of the \$85 million bond issue approved by voters in April 2005. The bond issue also included a new San Leon Elementary, which opened in August 2007; a new Sam Vitanza Stadium in September 2007; and a new McAdams Junior High, which is under construction and on schedule to open mid-year during the 2008-2009 school year.



DISTRICT Mission Statement

The mission of the Dickinson Independent School District is to ensure that all students have successful learning opportunities that help them reach their full potential and add quality throughout their lives.

District Administration

Dr. Leland Williams
Superintendent

Ron Ahlhorn
Interim Assistant Superintendent for Administration

Vicki Mims
Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services

Ryan Boone
Assistant Superintendent for District Operations

Renee Casey
Director of Human Resources

Delores McWhorter
Business Manager

Jim Rubach
Executive Director of Facility Planning & Construction

School Administration

Bonnie Fried
Principal

Kimberly Wilson
Assistant Principal

SCHOOL Mission Statement

The mission of John and Shamarion Barber Middle School is to ensure relevant learning opportunities for all students through the leadership of our staff, the help and support of our parents, and the involvement of our community.

Board of Trustees

Linda L. Butler, *President*
Fritzie Samford, *Vice President*
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School Colors: Blue and White
School Mascot: Fighting Gator, Big Al

