

The Donoho School Newsletter

August 2011

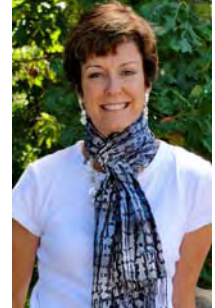
Karen Hester, Editor



A Message from Dr. McCarty

Dear Donoho Parents and Students,

Just a week into the new school year, and our students, parents, faculty and staff are hard at work doing what they all do best – carrying forward a 49-year-old tradition of excellence in academics and character-building extra-curricular activities that are the *Donoho Difference*.



In this newsletter alone, you'll see just a few examples of what that means in real terms – a 27.1 composite ACT score for the recently-graduated class of 2011, seven points above the state average; an outstanding Advanced Placement exam average for 2011 and 2012 classes, well above state and global averages; numerous tutorial opportunities for students in the middle and upper schools; and a spotlight on Mrs. Lisa Light, a nationally certified, innovative English teacher in the lower school.

The *Donoho Difference* is foundational – building on the skills our students learn in pre-K, kindergarten, lower school, and upper school; and the cornerstone of that foundation is the support system our children receive throughout their years at Donoho. This, of course, starts with the support each parent gives his or her own child in monitoring grades, helping with homework, and being his or her biggest cheerleader in whatever activities he or she pursues. It also includes involvement in school activities through a variety of avenues, from serving lunches to volunteering time with the Donoho Parents Association – you name it, there is a place to get involved!

In fact, I am excited to announce that Mrs. Hurd has established a President's Advisory Council (p. 4) to help us in our ongoing efforts to improve communications among our various constituents and to leverage the impressive brain power of our parent volunteers. This group, covering the landscape from full-time parents to professionals in law, finance, medicine and business, will serve as a sounding board on issues and opportunities facing the school.

The tone at Donoho starts with the Board of Directors and as chairman, I pledge to our parents and students alike that we will continue our commitment to excellence in academics and the development of the total child. As the mother of two Donoho graduates and a current junior, my family knows it first-hand.

Our mission statement (p. 4) says it all.

Regards,

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.

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**MS/US Parents'
Night**

**Mon. August 22
6:00 P.M.**

**LS Parents'
Night**

**Tues. August 23
6:00 P.M.**

Teacher Spotlight
Mrs. Lisa Light

Mrs. Light joined the Donoho faculty in the fall of 2007. She currently is the Intermediate department coordinator in the lower school where she teaches English. Mrs. Light uses a variety of teaching methods in her classroom, including digital poetry and video book reports to engage her students. She has embraced the use of technology in instruction and has conducted workshops for her peers on how to use these resources in the classroom.

Mrs. Light is certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in the area of Early Adolescence English Language Arts. Her board certification, which is valid for ten years, is a complement to her state teacher license. She recently completed the recertification process, featuring student learning in her language arts classes. This certification is achieved upon successful completion of a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize effective and accomplished teachers who meet high standards based on what teachers should know and be able to do.



During the summer months, Mrs. Light serves as co-director of the Jacksonville State University Writing Project. This project gives area teachers inspiring ideas and classroom techniques for improving students' literacy skills. In 2010, Mrs. Light was awarded a two-week summer fellowship from the Holocaust Educators Network at Columbia University in New York City. Twenty-four teachers from across the country were selected to participate in the seminar, which offers a way for teachers to think collaboratively about teaching the Holocaust and other state-sanctioned atrocities. After the seminar, Mrs. Light shared resources with her peers at Donoho and developed in-service programs for Jacksonville State University.

Class of 2011 ACT Results Released

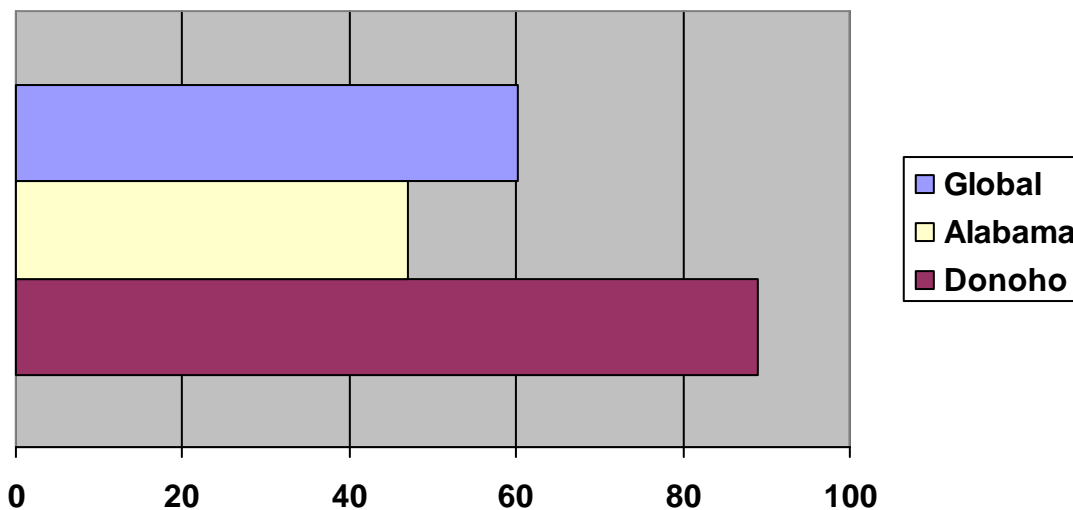
	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
Donoho	28.8	26.2	26.8	26.1	27.1
State	20.4	19.6	20.7	20.1	20.3

Advanced Placement (AP) News

Advanced Placement (AP) courses offer students the opportunity to improve their writing skills, sharpen their problem-solving abilities, and further develop their time-management skills and study habits. Students may earn credit and/or placement at many colleges and universities through qualifying AP Exam scores (earning a 3, 4, or 5 on an exam).

In May 2011, four Donoho seniors and five juniors attempted nineteen AP exams; **88.9%** of those students received a score of three or higher on at least one exam. Comparatively, **47.0%** of students throughout the state of Alabama and **60.2%** globally achieved at this level.

The Class of 2011 had six members who took AP exams during their junior or senior year; **100% of those students earned a 3+ on at least one exam.**



When reviewing three-year trend data, a similar pattern is evident:

	2009	2010	2011	Average
Global	61.1	60.2	60.2	60.5
Alabama	50.3	49.4	47.0	48.9
Donoho	77.3	88.9	88.9	85.0

**Data is not currently available from NAIS or SAIS.



Taking Advantage of Tutorial in the MS/US

It is important to take advantage of all the school day tutorials that are offered. During Community period on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (and Fridays when there is no pep rally or club meeting scheduled), there is a 40-minute period dedicated to study hall and tutorial time. Additional tutorial opportunities include teacher-announced (through *Edline* and class reminders) morning tutorials on test days and other designated days. Many days the class lesson ends a few minutes before the bell rings, and students are asked to begin their homework so that the teacher is available to provide assistance before the class changeover.

The Donoho School's mission is to provide a quality, college-preparatory education for capable, highly-motivated students. The school is committed to the development of the total child by providing a challenging curriculum in an atmosphere conducive to good citizenship, personal integrity, and devotion to religious principles.

President's Advisory Council Announced

Thank you to the following parents who will serve on our inaugural President's Advisory Council. Your time, wisdom, perspective and ideas are appreciated as we discuss pertinent school topics.

Mr. Scott Brewer

Mrs. Sally Haynes

Mrs. Polly Russell

Mr. Lesley Hudson

Mrs. Ike Brown

Mr. Brian Simmons

Dr. Jeff Collins

Mr. David Nunnelley

Mrs. Michelle Whitelaw

Dr. Naresh S. Purohit

Dr. Karen Connell

A Special Welcome to Our New Students!

2	<i>Tyler Allen</i>	7	<i>Celine Dupre</i>	11	<i>Austin Petrey</i>
7	<i>JR Allen, Jr.</i>	K	<i>Brooklyn Fordham</i>	3	<i>Ammar Rana</i>
8	<i>Alexis Allen</i>	K4	<i>Alex Gilliland</i>	7	<i>Myra Rana</i>
10	<i>John Morgan Baker</i>	4	<i>Caden Goldthwaite</i>	K3	<i>Rishikesh Reddy</i>
7	<i>Mitchell Baker</i>	7	<i>Lauren Holbrook</i>	K3	<i>Abigail Robertson</i>
K4	<i>Sam Ballard</i>	K3	<i>Cade Jagello</i>	5	<i>Maryum Sadiq</i>
K	<i>Brody Barrentine</i>	5	<i>Daniel James</i>	K4	<i>Kash Sharma</i>
11	<i>Ante Bing</i>	7	<i>Diana James</i>	K3	<i>Wil Stewart</i>
K	<i>Lindsey Brewer</i>	1	<i>Kaylee LaPlante</i>	K	<i>Dawson Taylor</i>
6	<i>Macey Carr</i>	11	<i>Tommy Lipscomb</i>	K3	<i>Callee Taylor</i>
K3	<i>Cooper Christopher</i>	4	<i>Mark Mazaev</i>	10	<i>Sarah Thibault</i>
2	<i>Mali Cofield</i>	1	<i>Ezantyi Mienlame</i>	1	<i>Nic Thompson</i>
6	<i>Olivia Davis</i>	K4	<i>Maggie Miller</i>	9	<i>Micaela Veach</i>
8	<i>Elli Davis</i>	K	<i>Leena Morris</i>	K4	<i>Sam Wakefield</i>
K	<i>Maya Duncan</i>	K4	<i>Valentin Obermaier</i>	K	<i>Brady Whitworth</i>
6	<i>Blaize Dupre</i>	7	<i>Jackson Orłowski</i>		

Varsity Football vs. Decatur Heritage **AWAY** Fri. Aug. 26

Varsity Volleyball - Saks Invitational **AWAY** Sat. Aug. 20



Jr. High Volleyball – Oxford Invitational **AWAY** Sat. Aug. 20

Jr. High Football vs. Wellborn **AWAY** Mon. Aug. 29

