



**Duncanville Independent
School District**

"Champions for Children"

Alfred L. Ray, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Thursday, March 11, 2010

VaShone Rhodes, President/Founder
Life After Whistles
1700 South Main Street
Duncanville, Texas 75137

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

Duncanville Independent School District invites and encourages an interactive and engaging partnership with students, parents, community members, businesses, and governmental and educational institutions. We believe that quality schools encourage and sustain quality of life, freedom, democracy and economic growth; therefore, we strongly support the efforts of the Life After Whistles organization.

As Superintendent of Duncanville ISD, and on behalf of the Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees, I support the opportunity to exponentially increase the number of children whom we and Life After Whistles mutually serve. We are excited to work closely with Life After Whistles for the betterment of our children. Your organization's emphasis on building positive relationships with young people, encouraging them to focus on their education, and growing them into responsible, well rounded adults, strongly aligns with our district's core beliefs. We are confident that Life After Whistles will prove to be exceedingly effective in improving academic outcomes, addressing the needs of our diverse students, and supporting college access and success for middle and high school students living in our immediate and surrounding communities.

As a minority majority school district with a nearly 70 percent economically disadvantaged student population, we understand the need for community support from organizations like Life After Whistles. Eighty-percent of Duncanville ISD schools have earned the state's highest ratings of Exemplary or Recognized, seven of our twelve eligible schools were named as high performing under the Just for the Kids Campaign, and nine of those twelve are Title I Distinguished schools. We attribute this high level of success and recognition to quality teaching and strong community partnerships.

The Duncanville Independent School District stands prepared to work arm-in-arm with you in this exciting initiative to provide our local youth with valuable resources to support their educational goals, learning opportunities, and achievements.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alfred L. Ray, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools