



Why DeBoer wants Tide football to work ‘in silence’

SPORTS, 1B

The Tuscaloosa News

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New safety badges and phone rules for Tuscaloosa

Jasmine Hollie
Tuscaloosa News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Students in the Tuscaloosa City Schools system will be greeted with updated safety policies and a few new leaders when they return to the classroom Aug. 10 for the first day of school.

The Tuscaloosa County Schools System will begin classes two days later, on Aug. 12. TCS Superintendent Mike Daria, who has served as superintendent since 2016, said he is eager to welcome students back for another school year. "We worked throughout the summer in our hiring and in our preparation of

our buildings, professional development, and we are ready to start on Aug. 10 with great enthusiasm and excitement," Daria said. Tuscaloosa City Schools operates 21 schools with more than 11,000 students districtwide and more than

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LGBTQ+ language removed from UA policies

Andrea Tinker
ALABAMA REFLECTOR

Schools in the University of Alabama System have removed LGBTQ+ inclusive language in their non-discrimination policies. The University of Alabama, the University of Alabama Birmingham and the University of Alabama Huntsville's revisions to the policy include removing language including sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. According to UA's equal opportunity policy website, the change was made in late November. The news was first reported by The Crimson White, the University of Alabama's undergraduate newspaper.

Alex House, associate director of communications for the University of Alabama, said in an email Aug. 3 the policy will be applied the same way. "Discrimination on the basis of 'sex' includes discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender status. Accordingly, the policy's use of the term 'sex' encompasses those protections," the statement said. "The university will continue to apply its policies consistent with applicable law and remains committed to providing a welcoming environment free from discrimination and harassment for everyone."

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Third grade teacher Holly Schultz gets ready for the beginning of school on July 30 at Huntington Place Elementary in Northport. PHOTOS BY GARY COSBY JR./TUSCALOOSA NEWS

Ready, set SCHOOL

Huntington Place teachers prep for a new year

Gary Cosby Jr.
Tuscaloosa News | USA TODAY NETWORK

Holly Schultz has her third-grade classroom at Huntington Place Elementary in Northport all set. • Schultz said July 30 that she got in early and finished getting her room ready because she wanted to have that last week before school starts as an off week before her room is full of 20 energetic children.

"I always pray I have enough energy to last with them. The older I get, the more I find myself praying for that," Schultz said. Her enthusiasm far outweighs the slight worry about being able to keep up with all her students who will show up on Aug. 12 for the first day of classes in the Tuscaloosa County School System. Tuscaloosa City Schools will begin Aug. 10

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Schultz carries a box into her classroom as she gets ready for the beginning of school at Huntington Place Elementary in Northport. The box contained books rather than apples as it is labeled.

"I always pray I have enough energy to last with them. The older I get, the more I find myself praying for that."

Holly Schultz
Third-grade teacher at Huntington Place Elementary in Northport

INSIDE

These Alabama teaching jobs have the biggest shortages. **2A**

GOVERNOR'S RACE

Poll shows Tuberville has 8-point lead over Jones

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Republican gubernatorial nominee Tommy Tuberville holds an 8-point lead over Democratic nominee Doug Jones in Alabama's race for governor, according to a new poll commissioned by the Yes, Every Kid Foundation, a national organization that advocates for school choice.

The survey was conducted July 8-11. Among 601 likely Alabama voters, 49% support Tuberville, compared with 41% for Jones.

Eleven percent of respondents said they were undecided or did not know whom they would support, while fewer than 1% selected another candidate. The poll offers an early snapshot of the race ahead of Alabama's Nov. 3, 2026, general election, when voters will choose a successor to term-limited Gov. Kay Ivey.

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