



Dakota Community Unit School District 201

Nik Butenhoff, Superintendent

Jenny Keffer, Jr./Sr. High Principal

Ginnie Cunningham, Elementary Principal

Kevin Cline, Assistant Principal

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

April 2024

MR. NIK BUTENHOFF

It's hard to believe that spring break has come and gone. I hope everyone had a wonderful spring break! Our band and choir students had an amazing trip to Walt Disney World. Their week was packed with fun activities including vocal and instrumental workshop sessions, viewing Luminous the Symphony of US, happily ever after fireworks, and the Fantasmic night show. The band even got to perform in a Magic Kingdom Parade and the choir performed at the Waterside Stage at Animal Kingdom! Thanks so much to all our parent chaperones who were able to make the trip and supported all the events and to Jennifer Fox who filled in as the choir director. Lastly, a huge shout out to Annette Hackbarth for all the planning and preparation she did to make the trip possible, successful, and of course, magical!

Now that spring break is over we are in the final stages of the school year so I thought I would highlight some key dates as we move through the spring!

April 27th - Prom

May 16th - Last day for seniors

May 17th -8:30 am Graduation pictures, practice

May 17th-Baccalaureate -7:00 p.m. in the high school gym.

May 19th Graduation - 2:00 p.m in high school gym.

May 29th Last day of student attendance.





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DAKOTA JR./SR. HIGH NEWS

April 2024

MRS. KEFFER

April is the season of assessments! You can help your students to prepare by ensuring they are well rested and well fed! We will have snack stations available to students for SAT day.

SAT Wednesday, April 10, 2024

-Juniors: Testing will begin at 8:10 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 11:30 a.m. All juniors will be dismissed once testing is complete. (No CareerTEC for juniors on this day.)

-Freshman and sophomores will be taking the PSAT from 8:15-10:45. Students will resume their regular schedule once testing is complete.

IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) Testing

April 4-5 - Junior high students in English and Math

ISA (Illinois Science Assessment) Testing

April 16-18 Junior high students in their regular science classroom.

April 19 - High school juniors will test

April 26 - CollegeNOW juniors will test, either in the morning or afternoon.

NO SCHOOL FOR ALL SENIORS APRIL 10TH
Except for CareerTEC & College NOW students.

DAKOTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

MRS. CUNNINGHAM

It does not seem possible that we have under 50 school days left of the 2023-2024 school year. Teachers and students are busily preparing for spring activities in their classrooms.

Teachers and students from third through sixth grade have been preparing for the IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) throughout March. Beginning April 3, all third through sixth-grade students will participate in the IAR. Please remind your child to get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast so their brain is ready for testing. To celebrate IAR testing, we will have daily giveaways, snacks, and cross-grade-level motivation.

The Kindergarten team is finalizing plans for 2024-2025 KinderQuest—Kindergarten registration and screening. Kindergarten screening and registration will take place on Monday, April 22, and Monday, April 29. Please register for screening on our website. We are looking forward to meeting our new Kindergarten students and their families!



2024 National Honor Society Inductees



Peep Basket winners



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MAINTENANCE NEWS

MR. TIM WILSON

Education and exercise are fundamental requirements to achieve success. This idealism holds true for Dakota's maintenance and custodial staff. Training to increase trade skills is present and growing within our department. An increase in knowledge will lead us to better work routines, greater individual responsibilities, and overall departmental improvement. The focus for the remaining few months of the school year will be to increase trade knowledge and to generate efficient time management. Discussions will be held; tasks will be assigned, and reevaluations will occur. The underlying motto will be to do the best we can with what has been provided. Spring weather will assuredly create soft grounds. Please try to stay on the pavement and refrain from being on the game fields as much as possible. Grass may grow by the inch, but it dies by the foot!

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

April 2024

MR. ROSS EBERLE-IT DIRECTOR

In March, the Technology Department used grant funds to purchase touchscreen Chromebooks for several additional grade levels of students. These devices are expected to arrive by the end of the school year and will be issued to students for the upcoming school year. In the Jr/Sr High School we are currently working to add a display to the inside concession stand. This will allow for easy viewing of games in the gym for the concession stand workers and patrons. This is expected to be complete by the end of the school year. We are also planning Chromebook checks at the Jr/Sr High School to be completed in April so we can verify proper functionality of those devices and repair any ongoing issues that have yet to be reported. Over Spring Break, we reconfigured the phone system for future expansion. We are also about to kick off a project with our phone vendor to verify e911 compliance for correct location sending based on the size of our buildings. As we look toward the summer, we are finalizing our summer projects and are looking forward to doing some upgrades and updates to systems to provide the best tech experience for our students and staff.

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

- *April is School Library & Occupational Therapist Month
- *April 1-**NO SCHOOL**
- *April 1-5-Assistant Principal week
- *April 3-Paraprofessional Day
- *April 4-School Librarian Day
- *April 10-PTO ES Library
- *April 10-SAT/PSAT testing grades 9-11
- *April 16-Dakota School Board meeting
- *April 19-**11:30 dismissal SIP day**
- *April 23-School Bus Drivers' Day
- *April 24-Administrative Professionals Day
- *April 24-Highland Quickstart registration 9 am
- *April 27-Dakota HS Prom

Check Dakota District 201 website for additional dates. Dakota201.com

