



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

March 2024

MR. NIK BUTENHOFF

As the weather begins to turn, I thought I would provide some updates regarding some rather large building and grounds projects that will begin on campus starting this spring. First, over spring break, we are replacing a set of exterior doors to the elementary building which is a continuation of a lot of door repairs and replacements that we have been working on this year. Two other projects at the elementary building which will begin over the summer are a new roof over the library and replacing a condenser unit to ensure our air conditioning is fully operational. Another large that project will occur at the high school is a remodel to the bathrooms next to the gym. The updates will include new entrances, new fixtures, partitions, and refinishing the flooring. As a result of this work, the bathrooms will meet all the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance requirements. The bidding process opened in February, and we hope to have a winning proposal to the school board for approval at our March meeting. The majority of this project is being funded by ESSER III and school maintenance grant dollars. It will be fun to watch these projects develop over the summer months! Also, as the winter season closes, we are proud to recognize some more of our students' success from the winter season. ***Excellent job everyone!***

Dakota Proud



2024 Dakota State Wrestlers



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Scholastic Bowl



FFA



Scholars



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DAKOTA JR./SR. HIGH NEWS

March 2024

MRS. KEFFER

We had a lot of fun this February at DHS. We celebrated students with perfect attendance, taking them to lunch at Route 75. In all, 24 students achieved this accomplishment. We also celebrated our Wrestlers this month, sending athletes to IHSA State, and returning 1st place State Champion. Congratulations to Noah Wenzel, and qualifiers Jason Bowers and Brandon White. Our Jr. High 8th Grade Girls Basketball Team are Conference Tournament Champions and 7th Grade Girls Basketball Team are Conference Runner up.

On March 8th, Dakota seniors who registered will attend a Career Expo at Colony Brands in Monroe. All students who attend will receive a \$350 scholarship to whatever college they choose to attend!



DAKOTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

MRS. CUNNINGHAM

In February, we held pre-school screenings for students entering pre-school in the fall of 2024. PTO sponsored our second annual Storybook Ball-families were invited to dress as storybook characters and attend a night of fun. A special thank you to Mrs. Janicke, our teacher chair for this event, and Dakota PTO for sponsoring the evening. On February 13, two of our DES students participated in the Regional Spelling Bee. Congratulations to Eden and Jordan for reaching the Regional event. Additionally, our sixth-grade students attended the annual Mall of Life field trip. Thank you to our sixth-grade teachers for organizing the event, the State Bank of Davis for financial presentations, and Highland Community College for hosting. The sixth-grade students enjoyed the activity. Finally, we wrapped up the month of February by recognizing our “DES Academic All-Star Tribe.” These are students who achieved all A’s in the second quarter of school. Throughout the month of March, third through sixth grade teachers and students will be preparing for the IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness). Additionally, our fifth-grade students will participate in the ISA (Illinois Science Assessment) assessments that will be taken in the spring. The ISA will be administered to fifth-grade students prior to spring break; and we 3rd-6th grade students will participate in the IAR at the beginning of April. It’s getting to be the time of year when we start our plans for the 2024-2025 school year! Please be on the lookout for SY24-25 Kindergarten screening and registration information at the beginning of April! Enjoy the sunshine and a week of relaxing over spring break, March 18-22.





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MAINTENANCE NEWS

MR. TIM WILSON

The State Fire Marshal and Regional Education Office recently visited our school to conduct an annual Health Life Safety inspection. While both schools encountered citations, none of the deficiencies were of a major concern, and overall, the district made significant improvements over the previous year's report. As our wise leader stated: "If we were perfect the inspectors would be out of jobs." So, we stay positive and continue to strive for the safest possible facilities. Please note: Measures have been taken to correct the simple issues, and strategies are being discussed for how to tackle the larger, more costly items in the HLS report. With spring-like weather popping into our forecast, the focus will soon turn to preventive maintenance projects, and the care of our outside grounds and equipment. I say this knowing that it is still February, we will assuredly get more snow, which will most likely occur just before we want to host a home sports event. Such is life in the Midwest! Stay safe, stay warm...and be sure to thank your janitors for doing the dirty work!

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

March 2024

MR. ROSS EBERLE-IT DIRECTOR

In February, the Technology Department started and completed Chromebook checks in Elementary School. This process helps us verify that the Chromebooks are in good working order and the students have their assigned Chromebooks and chargers. Chromebooks that had damage were repaired and missing chargers were replaced. The minimal damages that were identified were fixed with no charge; however missing chargers were assessed a fee per the Chromebook agreement. We made every effort to work with the students to locate their equipment. If you have been assessed the fee for a charger and locate that charger, please have your student bring their charger to school so we can check it and the fee can be removed. Server updates during February are complete with a few hiccups as expected. We continue to monitor the new systems to make certain they are fully implemented and in good working order. We started planning for the upcoming summer. Several projects are planned that include Wi-Fi upgrades as well as updates to staff and student logins to add another layer of security for the district.

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

- *March is National Art & Athletic Training Month*
- *March 2: IHSA Solo & Ensemble @ West Carroll
- *March 3-9: School Social Worker week
- *March 4: Maintenance Worker Appreciation day
- *March 7: PTO Movie night
- *March 8: End of 3rd Quarter
- *March 12: School Board Meeting
- *March 13: PTO Meeting 7pm HS Library
- *March 13: Elementary Assembly-Music in our School
- *March 15: Conference Music Festival @ Stockton
- *March 18-22: **No School-Spring Break**
- *March 29: **No School-Good Friday**
- *April 1: **No School-Easter Monday**

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