



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

May 2024

MR. NIK BUTENHOFF

I am writing to let you all know that I have informed the school board and staff that I will be leaving the school district for another position in South Beloit starting July 1, 2024. I am writing this letter to explain my thought process behind this decision and provide some insights into the next steps for the district.

First, I want to thank you all for your support over the past several months while I have served as the district leader. I have truly enjoyed my time here and believe that the Dakota school district is a wonderful place for children to learn. I want to thank the school board for their leadership and support of me as a new leader over the past year as they allowed me to share ideas, give opinions, and provide feedback. Everyone on the board has a passion to make the school district the best it can be and it has been great working for them over the past year. I always felt proud to be this district's educational leader.

My decision to leave is for personal reasons. As some of you may know, in November my mother passed away unexpectedly which made me reflect a lot about my priorities as a leader, father, and husband. I was not looking for a new job when I was approached about a position that might become available in a district much closer to home, but the idea was appealing enough for me at the time to entertain the idea. Eventually in March I was offered the position and after many sleepless nights and prayerful consideration, I made the decision to accept the offer as I ultimately decided that doing so would be an overall plus for me and my family.

I want everyone to know that Dakota holds a special place in my heart, and I will continue to do my best to support the district and prepare it for a successful future over the next couple of months. If any of you have any questions regarding this, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thanks so much and Go Indians!





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DAKOTA JR./SR. HIGH NEWS

2024

MRS. KEFFER

May is a busy month filled with joyous celebrations and significant life transitions, especially for families. Be sure to check out the important dates on the first page to ensure you are aware of key events for your student. DHS will be celebrating nine students who obtained perfect attendance for the entire school year with a trip to Great America on May 21. Our continued efforts to promote attendance, and celebrate students, have led to a reduced absence rate for our building. Parents, please remember to bring in a doctor's note any time your child has an appointment to properly excuse the absence. On May 3 we will celebrate our Illinois Principal Association Student Leaders, Rachel Bradt and Ashlynn Taylor, with a regional ceremony and breakfast in Dixon. We congratulate both young ladies on this tremendous accomplishment. We look forward to a wonderful end to our school year!

Key Dates:

May 10: Senior Class Meeting, 11:30

May 19: Graduation, 2:00

May 13/14: Senior Exit Interviews

May 28, 29, and 30: Freshman- Junior level finals

May 15/ 16: Senior Finals

May 30: 8th Grade Recognition/ Jr. High Awards, 9:00 in the gym

May 15: 8th grade Holocaust field trip

May 17: Graduation Practice &

Pictures, 8:30 - Baccalaureate 7:00



DAKOTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

MRS. CUNNINGHAM

Hold onto your hats, it's MAY at DES and our schedule is packed!! We can't believe we're getting ready to close the chapter for the 2023-2024 school year! Our 3rd-6th grade students successfully completed the Illinois Assessment of Readiness on Friday, April 19! We celebrated the end of testing with a t-shirt drawing. Thank you to our teachers and students for working hard on our annual state assessment. We celebrated our Dakota artists on April 25 at our annual All District Art Show. Miss Blomgren has worked diligently throughout the school year to showcase a piece of art for each student at DES. The art show was a culmination of the beautiful artwork our Dakota students created this year! May Activities at DES include: May 6 - 5th/6th Grade Music Program; May 7 - 3rd/4th Grade Music Program; field trips to the Discovery Center, Krape Park, Union Dairy Midway Village, Torstenson Center, and Mississippi River Museum; FFA Day; Prismatic Light Show Assembly; 3rd-grade Wax Museum; DES Picnic and PTO Ice Cream Sundae Party; and we'll finish out the year with Field Days.

Thank you for a GREAT year at Dakota Elementary! We wish all of you a wonderful summer break!





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MAINTENANCE NEWS

MR. TIM WILSON

The softball field renovations are nearing completion. While I could bore you with the details, the simplest explanation is to say that we implemented processes to better handle surface water. Clay was removed from the infield and replaced with crushed limestone. An 80/20 sand organic matter mix was applied to the outfield to help raise low lying areas. Both tasks were down with the goal of landing a .5 to 1% grade for watershed. A manhole pit and drain tube were installed north of the softball field to direct runoff from the parking lot to the retention pond. The outlying hillsides were graded down, and new fencing was added to widen the area of safe play. Significant gains have been made, and over time with ongoing maintenance the field will become one of the best natural grass playing surfaces in northern Illinois. Construction season is here! The end of the school year will bring on an onslaught of construction crews for facility upgrades. Three major improvement projects are planned for this summer. The main lobby bathrooms in the high school will undergo a full remodel, while the elementary's library roof and air conditioning condenser for the 4-6 wings will be replaced. Crews will be working onsite from June to August, so please be alert to the surroundings and keep a safe distance.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

May 2024

MR. ROSS EBERLE-IT DIRECTOR

In April, the Technology Department finalized the installation of the display in the Jr/SR High inside concession stand to view games in the gym. By just turning on the power strip and the TV, the games will be displayed so patrons and workers can keep up on the action in the gym while they are working or grabbing a snack. We have had some time this Spring to do some sorting of obsolete equipment that has been gathering dust for several years. This equipment will be recycled in accordance with local and state ordinances, so it does not go into a landfill and any useful material is reused. As the end of the school year approaches, we request that all students make certain they have the technology issued to them. This will help us speed up the return of the Chromebooks and chargers over the summer as well as keep our inventory up to date. Often, we see students return chargers that were issued to their siblings or sometimes to their friends. If you look at the bottom of your student's Chromebook you'll see a barcode number that should match the barcode on the charger. Please help us out by making sure those match when it comes time for your student to turn in their tech.

**dakota
proud**

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

- *May 1-7-National PE & Sport Week
- *May 1-School Principals Day
- *May 3-7th grade-12th Spring concert @ HS 7pm
- *May 5-5th grade-6th Spring concert @Elm 7pm
- *May 6-10-Teacher Appreciation Week
- *May 7-3rd grade-4th Spring concert @Elm 7pm
- *May 8-Senior Academic awards night @ HS 7pm
- *May 8-School Nurse Day
- *May 17-Baccalaureate HS gym 7pm
- *May 18-Speech Pathologist day
- *May 19-Graduation HS gym 2pm
- *May 21-School Board meeting @Elm library 6pm
- *May 27-NO SCHOOL Memorial Day
- *May 30-8th grade promotion 9am
- *May 30-LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
- *May 31-Teachers Institute Day

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