



DAKOTA INDIANS

Our vision is to prepare all students to make positive contributions in an ever changing world.

Our Mission is that Dakota Community Unit School District #201 will educate our Students by providing quality and diverse learning opportunities while collaborating with the community.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Dear Dakota School District Students, Parents, Staff, and Community Members:

We have had a great start to the school year. I wanted to take time to thank all of the students, parents, and staff for making the start of the school year run so smoothly. We have an amazing community that helps support the Dakota School District and make it great.

We had some outstanding people and organizations step up and help our schools provide the best opportunity for our students. For instance, The State Bank of Davis donated a new scoreboard for the high school gym. Our old scoreboard was over 20 years old and was becoming increasingly problematic over the past few years. We now have a fully functioning, wireless scoreboard thanks to State Bank of Davis.

Furthermore, Bruce Binger donated his time to install the scoreboard. Bruce spent over 20 hours on the weekends installing and making sure the scoreboard was ready in time for the first volleyball game.

Without the help of our community, we simply could not be the Dakota School District that we have all grown to appreciate and view with pride. With this said, we have many volunteer organizations that could use help. The PTO, Athletic Booster Club, Music Department, and Athletic Department are always looking for volunteers and new voices.

Thank you to all those who are already doing what they can to help out. We

truly appreciate you. If you are not currently volunteering at Dakota, please consider doing so. Even volunteering an hour a few times a year makes a huge difference to our overall community.

Thank you again for a great start, and I hope to see you all throughout the school year.

-Jason Grey, Superintendent-

YMCA BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP WITH DAKOTA SCHOOLS:

In order to help meet the needs of our students, parents, and community, the Dakota School District is partnering with the Family YMCA of Northwest Illinois to provide school age child care at Dakota Elementary School starting Monday, September 9th. We will still proudly be continuing the Dakota Learn & Play Center as well. The YMCA will provide additional support, but is a separate program.

The YMCA will mainly be housed in the Dakota Elementary cafeteria. The times will be Monday – Friday 6:30 am – 8:10 am & 3:10 pm – 6:00 pm. Please contact the YMCA at (815)235-2467. This program will include, homework assistance, after school snack, enrichment activities. Optional care will be provided on all early release and no school days. If the program is successful, we could expand to include summer programming in Dakota. Our hope is to meet the needs of our students, parents and community.



ELEMENTARY NEWS

PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures for all elementary students will be taken on Wednesday, September 18th. The order forms with price information will be sent home with students prior to picture day. You can order your package on-line through LIFETOUCH or complete the paper brochure and include payment before picture day. Instructions will be on the order forms.

PTO FANNIE MAY FUNDRAISER

This all school PTO fundraiser will kick off on August 28th and continue through September 10th. Fannie May has some great incentives for our student participants! This has been very successful in past years.



STUDENT SERVICES

Brittney Gerstner-Psychologist
Katie Ries-School Counselor
Diane Scaduto-Nurse
Kevin Cline-Assistant Principal

SCHOLARSHIPS: As soon as scholarships become available, they will be listed outside the Guidance Office, included in future newsletters, and posted on the district website. Most of the scholarships posted over the next few months will be for the national and state level. Most local scholarships don't begin arriving until the spring.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT: There will be a financial aid night on September 16th at 6 pm for all parents who would like to learn more about the process of applying for and obtaining financial assistance for college. Specific details and help in completing the FAFSA form will also be available. In addition, Highland Community College will have reps here that night beginning at **5:30 p.m.**, to offer interested parents a better look at the Highland experience.

Any parent that would like to sit down one on one and discuss either the college process or the financial aid process, please feel free to contact Mr. Cline in the Guidance Office anytime to schedule an appointment.

TESTING: The following dates are reserved for special testing during the 2019-2020 school year:

October 16, 2019 - PSAT (optional Grade 11)

March 12, 2020 - PSAT 8

April 14, 2020 -SAT Grade 11 & PSAT Grades 9 & 10

ACT: Juniors or seniors wishing to take an ACT test may register for the next test at Highland Community College, Saturday, **October 26th**. Students must register online at www.act.org. The cost is \$50.50 for the basic ACT or \$67.00 for ACT plus Writing. See Mrs. Ries if you have questions or need help registering. **Deadline for registration without a late fee is September 20th.**

SAT Re-Takes: Any seniors wishing to re-take their SAT at Highland Community College may register and pay at www.sat.org/register. Fall 2019 test dates are October 5, November 2, and December 7.

PSAT: Juniors wishing to take the optional PSAT test on **October 16th** need to sign-up with Mrs. Ries during the month of September. An explanation of the test will be given during U.S. History classes. The PSAT is a practice for the actual SAT test which all juniors will take this spring. This test also enters students in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship competition. Students must pay a \$15 fee on the day of the test to cover scoring costs, etc. *While completely optional, this is a great opportunity for serious college-bound students to practice taking an SAT test.*

SAT: All high school juniors are **required to take the SAT** free of charge, right here at DHS on **April 14th**. Our teachers will be helping students to prepare for this college entrance exam. It is recommended that students take the PSAT (mentioned above) this fall as practice.

EXPERIENCE HIGHLAND: Any seniors interested in attending Highland Community College next year may sign-up to attend a visit to campus on **Friday, September 27th**. Students will receive a campus tour and hear speakers discuss topics such as academics, registration, activities, financial aid, etc. Sign-up on the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office. This is **NOT** the spring registration trip to HCC. Details on that will arrive in February.

IAR: The state mandated IAR test will be administered to 7th and 8th graders. Testing will be done sometime during the window of **April 14-April 24, 2020**. More specific information will follow in the months ahead.



What should your college-bound senior be doing in the month of September?

1. Completing on-line applications for all colleges they are seriously considering.
2. Looking to attend college open house days for schools they are interested in. Most schools will have visit days on Columbus Day in particular.
3. Encouraging their parents to attend the financial aid night September 16th.
4. Signing up for the Experience Highland trip this fall if they are considering HCC.
5. Deciding whether or not to re-take the SAT or ACT this fall. Higher scores may help come scholarship season.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER NEWS

Thank you to all of the athletes and parents who volunteered at Lake Summerfest. The weather didn't cooperate with us, but we appreciate all that came out and braved the conditions.

We are still in need of volunteers for the Booster trailer to sell 50/50 tickets and for volunteers for the concession stand for all football games: jr. high, j/v and varsity. If you volunteer for three time slots, you will receive an all season pass to get into home games for **free!** Please call Tina at the high school office to schedule your times to help us out!

Next time you are at the track or cheering our Indians on at the football field, be sure to check out the fantastic Indian Mural. We are so glad we can support beautifying our grounds to support our athletes!

The next Athletic Boosters meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18th, at 6:30 pm at the high school. Everyone is invited to join us in support of our DAKOTA INDIANS!!! We hope to see you there!



NURSE'S NOTES

Just a reminder for parents of students new to Early Learning Academy (formerly PASS) as well as all K+, 6th and 9th grades, physical forms with immunization records were due the first day of school. If you have not had your child's physical done, please do so as soon as possible. Also all 12th grade students are required to have a meningitis booster/vaccination. All children must have immunizations following the current state recommendations. A parent signature is required on the physical, including the computer system generated forms. Please make sure it is signed before submitting. Children who do not have proper physical and immunization paperwork must be excluded from school after October 15th as per Illinois State Law.

Comprehensive vision exams are required for all K+ students and any new student to an Illinois school and must be submitted by the October 15th deadline as well.

Dental exams are required for all K+, 2nd, 6th and 9th grade students and must be submitted by May 15, 2020. This is a new requirement for 9th grade.

Hearing and Vision screenings are generally done within the first few months of school. Grades included in the screenings are Pre-K-6, 8, 10, special education, and new students to the district. If your child does not fall into one of these groups and you have a concern with their hearing or vision, please call the nursing office so your child's name can be added to the screening list.

Any medication to be given at school must be submitted to the nursing office with proper paperwork as well. ALL students taking medication at school, even over the counter or emergency medications like inhalers or epi-pens, are required to fill out the proper paperwork for it to be used/carried at school.

Any new or changes in medical history for your child should be forwarded to the nursing office for their medical file.

Generally when a student gets an abrasion or cut at school, it is cleaned and then an antibiotic ointment and a bandage are applied. If you do not wish your child to have this topical medication used, please notify the school nurse.

MUSIC NEWS

Fifth Grade Beginning Band

Students will make an important decision as they begin Fifth Grade...should I join the band? Joining the band will offer many opportunities for students. On August 17, 18 and 19, students were given a presentation about band and the instruments during the school day. Then on Thursday, August 29th, during the day, students had a chance to try instruments as we conducted mouthpiece testing. Mouthpiece testing will ensure that your student has the proper instrument fit. We worked with each child to find the right instrument for each student based on the sound they can produce and their mouth and body structure.

On September 3rd, we will have the Fifth Grade beginning band rental night. This will be held at the High School Music Room at 7:00pm. Information regarding the rental of instruments and purchase of equipment and supplies needed to join band will be presented. If you have a used instrument that you would like your child to use, you should bring this to the meeting to be checked to make sure it is working properly.

Joining the band and studying music will allow students the opportunity for self expression, creativity and achievement. Music can enhance higher brain function, improve reading and math performance and provide important experiences for students. Band is also FUN! Join the Band!!!

Calling all DHS Band Alumni!

Come re-join the Dakota High School Marching Band at Homecoming this year! We are inviting you to bring your instrument and join us at the Homecoming Game and perform with the current band for our Pre-game show. Homecoming is on September 27th. We will meet for a quick rehearsal in the High School Music Room at 6:00pm.

Please plan to arrive at 5:45 pm to obtain music and instruments. The pregame will take place at 6:50 pm. Music for the pregame includes "Patriotic Salute", "On Dakota" and "The Star Spangled Banner". Dress for the alumni members is your favorite Maroon and White band shirt, sweatshirt and jeans. RSVP's are required so we can secure an instrument and provide enough music. Please contact Annette Hackbarth, Band Director via email ahackbarth@dakota201.com or phone 844-632-5682 ext. 365 by September 23rd. We look forward to having you join us for the evening!!

Cake Roll Sale:

The Dakota Music Department will hold its annual fundraiser during late September thru early October. We will be selling cake rolls this year! These cake rolls are made from scratch and are great for holidays and special occasions! They are frozen so you can use when it's convenient for you. Thaw the cake rolls and they are ready to serve! They come in 6 different flavors: Carrot Cake, Chocolate Crème, Lemon Crème, Pumpkin, Red Velvet and Strawberry Cream Cheese. Made by the same company as Butter Braids, you are sure to enjoy these dessert treats! Just in time for the Holiday's, plan to support the Music Department!



Upcoming Events

9/3 – 5th grade band recruitment night – 7 pm @ DHS Music Room

9/7 - Lena Fall Festival Parade

9/13 – Home football game

9/24 – HCC Fall Choral Festival for ILMEA auditioning students

9/26 – Homecoming parade @ 6:30 pm

9/27 – Home football game

PTO NEWS

PTO needs your help at various events during the year. You will receive an e-mailed (via Skyward) link (through Sign-up Genius) to register to volunteer. Listed below are three opportunities for you to help our students. Please take the time to check out these links.

Fall Pictures:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4DA5A922A2F58-fall>

PBIS Trading Post:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4DA5A922A2F58-pbis>

PBIS Rewards:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4DA5A922A2F58-pbis1>

August 21, 2019 P/T Organization Minutes

The PTO held a meeting at the Elementary School Library on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. The following individuals were present: Sara Gruszczynski, Jeff Milburn, Jason Grey, Ashley Kowalewski, Julie Ryan, Lisa Kuper, Maime Curry, Erin Price & HeiDee Meier

Sara Gruszczynski called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
HeiDee Meier presented the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business:

P.E. Golf Unit: PTO wants to give a huge shout-out to an anonymous donor! Our check for this purchase was returned because it was covered anonymously. THANK YOU to the person who just made an impact on all of our students!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Back to School Night: The snow cones were once again a success. We estimate that we served around 300 colorful cups of ice. Thank you to all who stopped by!



New Business:

School Pictures: School pictures will be on September 18th. Please use the following link to volunteer to help on this day.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4DA5A922A2F58-fall>

Fannie May: The Fannie May kickoff will be August 28. Students will come home with more information. This is PTO's only fundraiser of the year. Please consider having your student/s participate. ALL students benefit from this amazing fundraiser!

Scholastic Book Fair: Attention!!! This year's book fair will be slightly different than years past. In order to catch both afternoon/evenings of Parent/Teacher conferences, this year's fair will be open from **Wednesday, October 23rd-Wednesday, October 30th**. This is a great opportunity to help out with PTO. The fair is not successful without volunteers and we would love your help. A sign up will be sent out in the near future.

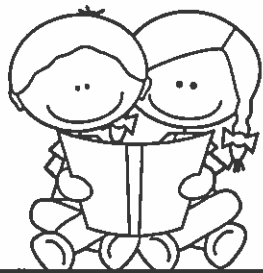
Plan Book EDU: Mr. Milburn brought a request to purchase 15 copies of "Plan Book EDU." This is an online planning tool that our elementary teachers are interested in using. A motion was made by HeiDee Meier and seconded by Maime Curry to purchase 15 copies, not to exceed \$300.

PBIS: Both the elementary and high school buildings are in need of support for PBIS materials. A motion was made by Erin Price and seconded by HeiDee Meier to donate \$3,000 for each building for the PBIS program.

Welcome Baskets: Erin Price shared an idea of preparing some sort of "Welcome Basket" for new students and new teachers. Items could include spirit wear and gift cards to local stores/restaurants. Brainstorming is also being done on families donating gently used Dakota Spirit wear to be given to students new to the district, to be sold as a fundraiser, or given to a student in need.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45. The next PTO meeting will be Wednesday, September 11th, 2019 at 3:30 at the Dakota High School Library.





P.T.O. News

Volunteer Opportunities

- Fannie May fundraiser
- Hearing/Vision Screening
- School Pictures
- Santa Shop
- Teacher Luncheon
- Dental Days
- Spirit Wear
- Fall/Spring Book Fairs
- Jr. High Book Fair
- End of Year Sundaes
- Trading Post
- School Supply Kits
- Summer Bridge Books
- Student Contact Book

Interested in chairing an event, volunteering your time, or becoming an officer?! Contact a PTO officer for more information.

Student Contact Book

Per the Dakota School District Parent/Student Handbook, party invitations should not be brought to school to be distributed. Also, the office is unable to release addresses/phone numbers of students. Please consider participating in the **Student Contact Book**. Keep an eye out for a sign up sheet to be sent home with your student. You must participate in order to have access to the contact book. You can decide what information to give.

Box Tops

Collecting "Box Tops" has just gotten easier! No more cutting necessary...just download the "Box Tops" app and scan! PLEASE consider registering under our school. This is a super easy way that you can help without having to take time out of your day. Every Box Top helps YOUR student!

Sign Up Genius

"Sign Up Genius" was a new to PTO last year. Whenever there is a need for volunteers, the school district will send out an email informing parents. Just click on the attached link to see how you can help. PTO can't do it without your help. We are in desperate need for volunteers. Please consider lending a hand!!

Look at what YOU have helped do:

- 13 Smart Panels
- 35 Docking Cameras
- Santa Shop gifts
- Teacher gift cards
- End-of Year Celebration Sundaes
- Book mobile
- PBIS Rewards
- Book club books
- Snow cones for Back-To-School night
- Teacher suppers during Parent/Teacher conferences
- Arreya Digital Subscription

Dates to Remember

- August 21 @3:30...PTO Meeting (Elementary Library)
- August 28...Fannie May Fundraiser Kickoff. This has been a fantastic fundraiser for our students. Thank you for your continued support and participation!
- September 18...Elementary School Pictures. A great way to get started as a PTO volunteer.

Volunteer Form

We would love to have you volunteer for PTO. Some opportunities will require you to fill out a "volunteer form" before being allowed to do so. You can find these forms in the elementary office.

Contact Us!

Interested in volunteering or becoming an officer? Do you have thoughts on how to help PTO? We'd love to hear from you!

Sara Gruszczynski...815-505-1616

Ann Sutherland...815-978-8269

HeiDee Meier...815-238-2915

Dakota School Lunch Menu September 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2. No School Labor Day	3. Orange Chicken Fried Rice Broccoli Fortune Cookie Peaches	4. Taco Taco Meat, Cheese Romaine Lettuce Tomatoes/Salsa Refried Beans Corn & BB Salsa Mixed Fruit	5. Pulled Pork WG Bun Coleslaw Corn Applesauce	6. SIP Day Early Release 11:30
9. 3 Cheese Cavatappi Broccoli Glazed Carrots WG Garlic Toast Strawberries	10. Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes Gravy Carrots WG Dinner Roll Pears	11. Sub Sandwich WG Chips Strawberry Spinach Salad Macaroni Salad Peaches & Blueberries	12. Burrito Bowls Cilantro Rice Pork Carnitas Corn & BB Salsa Romaine Lettuce Tomatoes/Salsa Mixed Fruit	13. Pizza Caesar Salad Green Beans Mandarin Oranges
16. Bosco Stick Marinara Sauce Caesar Salad Green Beans Applesauce	17. Chicken Cheesy Potatoes Steamed Carrots WG Dinner Roll Peaches	18. Taco in a Bag Romaine Lettuce Tomatoes/Salsa Refried Beans Corn & BB Salsa Apple Slices	19. Chicken Patty WG Bun Lettuce, Tomato, Onion Sweet Potato Fries California Blend Pears	20. All Beef Hot Dog WG Bun Mixed Veggies WG Chips Fruit Cocktail
23. Quesadilla Spanish Rice Romaine Lettuce Tomatoes, Cucumbers Mandarin Oranges	24. Turkey Bacon Wrap Michelle's Famous Baked Beans Fresh Veggies Baked Chips Applesauce	25. Baked Chicken Breast Garlic Baby Bakers Veggie Juice-HS Only Pasta Salad WG Dinner Roll Peaches	26. Hot Ham & Cheese WG Pretzel Bun Baked Tater Tots Steamed Carrots Sliced Orange	27. Pizza Caesar Salad Green Beans Pears
30. Chicken Nugget WG Dinner Roll Mashed Potatoes Gravy Steamed Carrots Mixed Fruit			Jr/Sr High School offered Ala Cart daily.	Milk served with every meal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FF White • 1% White • 1% Chocolate

Dakota CUSD #201

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	<p>2 FSFB 5:30 (H) Forreston</p> <p>No School Labor Day</p>	<p>3 HSVB @ Lena 5:00</p> <p>Golf vs Aquin @ Freeport Club 4:00</p> <p>JHFB @ Aquin 5:30</p>	<p>4 VarVB @Oregon Tourn 5:00</p> <p>GirlsGolf vs Byron @ Prairie View 4:00</p>	<p>5 Golf vs Eastland @ Freeport Club 4:00</p>	<p>6 VarFB 7:00 @ West Carroll</p> <p>Early Release 11:30 SIP Day</p> <p>VarVB @Oregon Tourn</p>	<p>7 Marching Band Parade Lena Fall Festival</p> <p>Golf @ Rock Falls Tourn</p>
8	<p>9 Golf vs Winnebago @ Freeport Club 4:00</p>	<p>10 JHVB vs Forreston (H) 4:30</p> <p>JHFB vs South Beloit (H) 5:30</p> <p>HS Golf VS PC/Lena, 4:00</p>	<p>11 HSVB vs Orangeville (H) 6:00</p> <p>PTO Meeting @ HS 3:30pm</p>	<p>12 HSVB @ Pecatonica 5:00</p> <p>JHVB vs Aquin (H) 5:30</p> <p>JHVB vs Aquin (H) 5:30</p> <p>Golf vs Forreston @ Freeport Club</p>	<p>13 VarFB 7:00 (H) DuPec</p>	<p>14 HSVB @ Byron Tourn</p> <p>JHVB @ Oregon Tourn</p>
15	<p>16 FSFB 5:30 (H) DuPec</p> <p>Financial Aid Night 5:30pm in High School Library</p>	<p>17 JHVB vs Durand (H) 5:30</p> <p>JHFB vs Forreston (H) 5:30</p> <p>Golf @ West Carroll 4:00</p>	<p>18 Elementary School Picture Day PreK-6</p> <p>HSVB @ Aquin 6:00</p>	<p>19 Golf @ East Dubuque 4:00</p>	<p>20 VarFB 7:00 @ Lena</p> <p>High School 7-12 School Picture Day</p>	<p>21 FrVB @ Oregon Tourn</p> <p>SoVB Tourn @ Stillman Valley</p>
22	<p>23 FSFB 5:30 @ Lena</p> <p>Golf @ Amboy 4:00</p>	<p>24 HSVB @ Durand 6:00</p> <p>JHFB vs DuPec @ Pecatonica 5:30</p>	<p>25 HSVB vs Dakota (H) 5:00</p> <p>JHVB @ Pearl City 5:30</p>	<p>26 Homecoming Parade 6:30pm</p>	<p>27 VarFB 7:00 (H) EPC (Homecoming)</p>	<p>28 HSVB @ Polo Tourn</p> <p>7VB @ P.City 8VB @ Galena</p>
29	<p>30 FSFB 5:30 (H) EPC</p> <p>VarVB vs Amboy (H) 6:00</p>					

Educational Rights of Illinois' Children & Youth in Homeless Situations

It's your right.....Do you know someone who is homeless and has children or teens needing to get to school?

ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT TO SCHOOL SUCCESS.

Homeless children have the right to:

- Stay in their old school OR
- Go to the school near where they are staying.
- Immediate enrollment, even without records
- Transportation to school, if needed.

Illinois schools have people called liaisons who work to help children and teens who are homeless get to school and stay there. If you have any questions about the educational rights of homeless children and youth in Illinois, you can call any of the following:

Your Local School Homeless Liaison: Jason Grey (844) 632-5682

The Opening Doors Project: Adult Learning Resource Center (847) 803-3535

Regional Office of Education #8 <http://homelessed.net>

Illinois Coalition to End Homelessness (708) 848-0503

Information Hotline IL State Board of Education (800) 215-6379

