



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.

AUGUST 2019

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

***Welcome back to the 2019-20
school year!***

I am excited to start my new position as Superintendent after serving two years as the High School Principal. Dakota is an amazing school district and community. I am thrilled to live and raise my children here. We have spent the summer working on improving and making Dakota the best learning environment for our students. Some of the summer projects included:

- SMART panels in all classrooms.
- Purchase of the second phase of Elementary Language Arts Curriculum.
- Purchase of a new Language Arts curriculum for our 7th-9th grade students
- Purchase of SAT vocabulary and cross curricular reading prep for our 7th-11th grade students
- Repair/Replacement of storm damaged elementary gym floor
- Resurface of entire parking lot
- Replaced crumbling elementary playground blacktop
- Replacement of the 23-year-old scoreboard in the high school gym, paid for by a generous donation from the State Bank of Davis
- Security cameras installed in the Elementary School.

As a school district, we had some major successes last school year. We continued to show above-average growth on MAP tests in the elementary school. Our junior high students made incredible growth on our State IAR testing. We had 41 students from our high school take Career Tech classes and 25 students enrolled in dual-credit classes through HCC. Two of our students graduated with Associate Degrees from Highland the same weekend they graduated from Dakota.

For a small school, we are making sure our students are career and college ready.

Reflecting on the achievements of last school year, makes me excited anticipating this coming school year. We are a district that has never rested on its laurels, and I know that with this staff, we will continue to keep challenging ourselves to do greater things, keep putting our students' well being and their successes first, and keep making Dakota proud.

Jason Grey, Superintendent

A note from the School Board President:

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! As we begin the school year, I wanted to highlight two important changes in the Administration team. Jason Grey is now the Superintendent and Randy Bay is the High School Principal. Superintendent Grey previously served as the high school principal and was selected by the Board of Education last school year to be the district's next leader. During his time as high school principal, Mr. Grey demonstrated skills and qualities as an effective leader and his vision for Dakota CUSD #201 is consistent with the Board of Education's vision. He has a passion for education and desires to be the best school district in Northwest Illinois. Principal Bay has had several years of education leadership experience in the Rockford district and is a great addition to Dakota. He has been busy meeting with staff and is impressed with their commitment to the district.

I also wanted to emphasize the importance of clear, factual, and transparent communication in our district. During the ten years that I have served on the Board of Education, there have been times when (mis) information has been circulating amongst the community about what may or may not be happening in

the district or that the Board is not being transparent with staff, parents, or the community. I can assure you that open and honest communication between the Board and all the stakeholders in the Dakota community is of the utmost importance to the present Board and Administration team. One of the best ways to keep abreast of what is happening in the district is to attend the Board of Education meetings which are generally held on the third Tuesday of every month beginning at 6pm in the Elementary Library. There are a few months where meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month due to particular circumstances. The August meeting is one of those months where the meeting will be held on the 2nd Tuesday or August 13th. The following are the remaining dates presently set for 2019: September 17th, October 15th, November 12th (second Tuesday) and December 17th.

Another way to stay informed on what is happening in the district is to visit the district website at www.Dakota201.com. From the "home" page there is a tab labeled "School Board" and several links are under that tab which are:

- **Board Members:** Lists all the members of the school board and their district email address
- **Annual Meeting dates and Times:** Lists all the presently scheduled monthly meeting dates of the Board of Education for the 2019-2020 school year.
- **Meeting Agenda and Minutes:** Lists the monthly Board of Education meeting Agendas and approved minutes (please note that the Agenda and minutes are not posted to the website until they are officially approved by the Board)

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- **Board meeting summaries:** Lists a summary of topics discussed at the monthly Board meetings
- **Policies:** Lists all of the outstanding district Policies approved by the Board
- **Contract:** The most recently approved teacher contract
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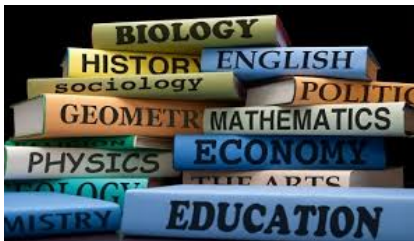
The above just highlights Board of Education related information. There is so much more information on the district website that is valuable and allows one to stay informed. Please take some time to navigate through the website.

Finally, one of the best ways to be informed is to be involved. Be involved in your child's education –help them with homework and support them with encouragement in whatever activity or event they may want to get involved with. As a parent or guardian I encourage you to get involved in the classroom if you are able, or get involved in one of the organizations that supports our students and teachers such as PTO, Dakota Athletic Boosters, or the D.O.E. Foundation (Dakota Opportunities in Education). Do not wait for an invitation to attend any of the organization's meetings as they are always looking for more people to help with their purpose. I encourage you to make that bold move yourself to get involved and be a role model for your child. You CAN make a difference!

In closing, please know that the Board of Education appreciates the contributions of Dakota parents, staff, and community members that **Keep Dakota Proud!**

Let's have the best year ever!

Karen Kleckner
President of the Dakota Board of Education



STUDENT SERVICES

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

SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

All HIGH SCHOOL schedule changes were due by **August 9th**. Please email Mr. Cline at kcline@dakota201.com if you still wish to make a change before the beginning of school, keeping in mind that options are extremely limited at this point.

JUNIOR HIGH schedule changes are made only if special circumstances exist.

7TH GRADE AND NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

There will be an orientation night for 7th grade students, new students to the district, and their parents on Thursday evening, August 15th, starting at 6:30 p.m. Students can pick-up schedules, tour the building, and try locker combinations before the orientation session begins at 7:00. This program has proven very successful and parents and students are encouraged to attend.

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Illinois School Student Records Act permits publication of directory information (Ill Rev Stat, 1985, ch. 122, par. 50-6e). Information that may be designated as directory information shall be limited to: (a) identifying information: name, address, gender, grade level, birth date and place, and parents' names and address; (b) academic awards, degrees and honors; (c) information in relation to school sponsored activities; organizations and athletics; (d) major field of study; and (e) period of attendance in the school. "Directory Information" may be released to the general public, unless a parent informs the building principal in writing

within ten (30) school days after publication of this notice that such information respecting his/her child shall not be released.



ELEMENTARY NEWS

Elementary Back to school night will be Thursday, August 15th from 5 – 7 pm. All pre-k – 6th grade students and parents are encouraged to attend. Times are flexible to go to the classroom but the following times are designated for parents and students to meet with Mr. Milburn in the gymnasium by grade levels. He will share handbook information and goals for the upcoming year. Several community partners will also be present to include PTO, Sports Organizations and Scouts. You only have to attend 1 session:
5-5:30 – Kindergarten
5:30 – 6:00 – First & Second Grades
6:00 – 6:30 – Third & Fourth Grades
6:30 – 7:00 – Fifth & Sixth Grades

PTO Supply Kits that were pre-ordered can be picked up during Back to School Night

This year early learning academy (pre-k) is invited to attend this year's Back to School Night. They can go see their classroom and meet their teacher. Please plan on attending as Mrs. Rhode will answer any questions you may have about the upcoming year.

PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE SCHOOL PICTURES will be Wednesday, September 18th.

The first PTO meeting will be Wednesday, August 21st @ 3:15 in the Elementary Library.

NURSE'S NOTES

2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Just a reminder for parents of students in Pre-K, Ktg, 6th and 9th grades: Physical forms were due the first day of school. If you have not had your child's physical done, please do so as soon as possible! Please remember to sign the physical where indicated even if they are computer generated. All children must have immunizations following the current state recommendations. Children who do not have proper physical and immunization paperwork must be excluded from school after October 15th per Illinois State Law.

Comprehensive vision exams are required for all Ktg 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 Ktg, 2nd, 6th and 9th grade students and must be submitted by May 15th, 2020.

Hearing and Vision screenings will be 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.

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 complete 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.

August 15	Teacher Institute
August 16	Teacher Institute
August 19	First full day of student attendance
September 2	No School - Labor Day
September 6	Early Release @ 11:30 - SIP Day
October 11	Early Release @ 11:30 - SIP Day
October 14	No School - Columbus Day
October 23	Dismissal 1 pm 2-7:30 PM Parent Teacher Conferences
October 30	4-7:30 PM Parent Teacher Conferences
October 18	End of Quarter 1
November 8	Early Release @ 11:30 - SIP Day
November 27	No School – Thanksgiving Break
November 28	No School - Thanksgiving Day
November 29	No School - Thanksgiving Break
December 6	Early Release @ 11:30 – SIP Day
December 20	End of Quarter 2
December 23-Jan 3	No School - Winter Break
January 6	School Resumes
January 20	No School – MLK Birthday
February 14	Early Release @ 11:30 – SIP Day
February 17	No School – Presidents' Day
March 13	Early Release @ 11:30-SIP Day
March 13	End of Quarter 3
March 20	Teacher Institute No School
March 23 – March 27	No School – Spring Break
April 10	No School – Good Friday
April 13	No School – Easter Monday
May 25	No School - Memorial Day
June 1 ***	Tentative Last day of Student Attendance
June 2 ***	Tentative Teacher Institute
***	Tentative Last Day if all 5 Snow days are used



Hearing and Vision

State Law mandates that all students in K+ and new students to an Illinois school have a comprehensive vision screening. The State of Illinois mandates that all students in Pre-K+, K+, 2nd, 8th, special education and new students to the district are required to participate in the school based vision screening and all students in K+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, special education and new students to the district are required to participate in the school based hearing screening. Dakota screens all students Pre-K- thru 6th, 8th, 10th, new students and special education students. The students who do not pass the initial screening process are rescreened approximately two to three weeks later. Not all children who fail the screening test have a hearing or vision loss but are suspect and are referred for a more thorough medical evaluation. The sooner your child is seen by a doctor, the more likely his/her difficulty can be corrected and serious problems avoided. Often a hearing or vision loss is not noticed by a parent or teacher. The eyes and ears are paired organs and many times the child has learned to accommodate and manages to “make due”.

- If your child:
1. does not respond to questions or responds slowly
 2. says “huh” or “what” often and needs questions or words repeated
 3. has problems with speech and/or language
 4. has ear infections, colds or allergies
 5. often shows signs of inattentiveness
 6. watches your face carefully when you are talking
 7. complains of ringing or buzzing in the ears
 8. complains of pain, fullness or itching in the ears
 9. often pulls, rubs or scratches at the ear
 10. fails the hearing screening at school and has been referred then your child may have an ear problem or hearing loss.

- If your child:
1. loses place while reading
 2. avoid close work
 3. shows body rigidity while looking at distant objects
 4. holds reading material closer than normal
 5. shows excessive head movements
 6. poor sitting posture/position or facial expressions while reading such as frowning/excessive blinking/scowling or squinting
 7. tilts head or thrusts head forward
 8. rubs eyes often
 9. complains of headaches
 10. does little or no voluntary reading
 11. sits very close to the T.V. or computer
 12. fails the vision screening at school and has been referred then your child may have a vision problem.

Good vision and hearing and essential to learning!



Coming to Dakota Elementary.....A Makerspace!!

Dakota Elementary Makerspace is a unique area reserved for creative exploration, engineering, tinkering, inventing, and purposeful play. In a Makerspace, children have opportunities to discover, assemble, problem solve, construct, test, and explore using divergent, "outside the box" thinking. Our Makerspace will inspire new passions for students and cater to their unique multiple intelligences.

Thanks to Dakota Opportunities in Education (DOE) for their financial commitment and for joining us in our passion to give Dakota Elementary students this expanded opportunity to grow as learners. We have already purchased many items to get us started. We are thinking some of you may already have things you may not be using in your household and may be willing to donate for the students to use in the Makerspace. Some of these items are consumable, so we will have an ongoing need. Parents and community are invited to donate any of the items listed below by placing them in a designated box in the K-6 office.

Items for creating:

Copy paper	construction paper	paper/plastic cups
disposable plates/bowls	plastic spoons	ziploc baggies
Rubber bands	popsicle sticks	toothpicks
Foam scraps	cardboard	beads
Tin foil	tissue paper	playdough
Kleenex boxes	fabric scraps	yarn/string/ribbon
Pom pom balls	playing cards	index cards
Twist ties	tape/duct,masking,packing,etc	glue/Elmer's, wood
Binder clips	cardboard paper rolls	paper clips
Q-tips	cotton balls	felt

Engineering:

Legos/building bricks	Plus-Plus blocks	Snap Circuits
K'Nex	Keva planks	Goldieblox
Qba Mazes	magnetic blocks, gears, roller coaster	

Technology:

Botley robot	Bee Bot	Sphero robot
Dash and Dot robot	Cubelets	Ozobots
Code and Go Mouse Robot	3D printer	

Makerspace Committee

Elizabeth Frautschy
Beth Rankin
Sandra Bahls
Shelby Bordner

ANNUAL NOTICES

Special Education Programs

The Dakota School District has comprehensive programs in the areas of vision, hearing, and school achievement. Staff members identify children who would benefit from additional instruction and guidance. The school then makes an attempt to specifically identify areas where help is needed and plan instruction and guidance in those areas. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in the planning and carrying out of plans in these areas. If there are areas of disagreement between school personnel and the families involved, every effort will be made to resolve those differences following State regulations. In almost all cases, part of the plan will be to place an identified child in a resource room with a teacher who is specially trained for instruction in those areas. The resource teachers in the Elementary Building are Mrs. Curry, and Mrs. Kuper. The preschool (Early Learning Academy - formerly PASS) program teacher is Mrs. Rhode. The resource room teachers in the Jr.-Sr. High School are Mrs. Bradt and Mr. Sheets & Mrs. O'Connor. In addition to the services provided at Dakota, there are other services in Rockford and Freeport from which some of the students benefit. These include programs for students with hearing difficulties, vision difficulties and physically handicapped to mention some. In some cases, the programs continue up to age 21. All parents have a right to receive, upon request, a copy of the rights of exceptional children and rules pertaining thereto. Please contact your child's building principal or special education teacher.

Student Records

School Districts must notify parents and students of their rights under the *Illinois School Student Records Act (ISSRA)*, 105 ILCS 10/1 *et seq.*, and the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)*, 20 U.S.C. §1232g *et seq.* Notification is hereby given concerning the following:

- Information that may be designated as directory information shall be limited to (a) address, e-mail address, gender, grade level, birth date and place, and parents' names and address; (b) academic awards, degrees and honors; (c) information in relation to school sponsored activities, organizations and athletics; (d) major field of student; and (e) period of attendance in the school. "Directory Information" may be released to the general public, unless a parent informs the building principal in writing within ten (10) school days after publication of this notice that such information respecting his/her child shall not be released.
- You may inspect and copy records (following district policy guidelines) within 15 school days from the date of official request.
- Copy (following district policy guidelines) any student records proposed to be destroyed or deleted.
- No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege, or benefit, or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance, the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record which such individual may obtain by the exercise of any right secured by Illinois law.

Military Recruiter's Access to High School Students' Directory Information

Notification is hereby given that the *No Child Left Behind Act* requires every district serving high school students to provide military recruiters with students' names, addresses and telephone numbers.

- Upon military recruiters' request, the district will provide access to the students' names, addresses, and phone numbers, unless the parent informs the building principal in writing within ten (10) school days after publication of this notice that such information respecting his/her child shall not be released.

Parents' Right to Inspect Particular Instructional Materials

Parents have the right to inspect instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary material that will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation of their child. 20 U.S.C. §1232h. Notification is hereby given concerning the following:

- Parents have the right to inspect a survey created by a third party before it is administered and distributed to their student. Surveys will be given to students unless the parent informs the building principal in writing within ten (10) school days after publication of this notice that he/she would like to inspect third party surveys before administration and distribution of said surveys.
- Parents have the right to inspect instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum. Requests for inspections of such materials are made to the building principal in writing giving at least three (3) school days' notice.
- Materials will be available for inspection in the building principals' office.



Dakota Schools Menu August 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1.	2.
5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
			Teacher's Institute	Teacher's Institute
19. Bosco Stick Marinara Sauce Caesar Salad Green Beans Fresh or Canned Fruit	20. Chicken Patty WG Bun Lettuce, Tomato, Onion Sweet Potato Fries Monaco Blend Fresh or Canned Fruit	21. Taco in a Bag Romaine Lettuce Tomatoes Salsa Refried Beans Corn & BB Salsa Fresh or Canned fruit	22. Quesadillas Spanish Rice Romaine Lettuce Tomatoes, Cucumbers Veggie Juice Fresh or Canned Fruit	23 Turkey Bacon Wrap Baked Beans Fresh Veggies Baked Chips Fresh or Canned Fruit
26. Baked Chicken Breast Garlic Baby Taters Veggie Juice Pasta Salad WG Dinner Roll Fresh or Canned Fruit	27. Hot Ham & Cheese WG Bun Baked Tater Tots Steamed Carrots Fresh or Canned Fruit	28. Pizza Caesar Salad Green Beans Fresh or Canned Fruit	29. Chicken Nuggets WG Dinner Roll Mashed Potatoes Gravy Steamed Carrots Fresh or Canned Fruit	30. Chicken Fajita WG Wrap Refried Beans Tomatoes, Salsa Corn & BB Salsa Fresh or Canned fruit

Dakota CUSD #201

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Fall Sports Begin	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 School Board Meeting 6:00	14	15 Teacher Instit. Elementary Back to School Night 5 - 7pm 7th Grade and 8-12 New Student Orient- ation 6:30pm JH/HS Sports Picture Day 3:00pm	16 Teacher Instit.	17 HSG Eastland Tourn @ Lake Carroll 1:00
18	19 First Full Day of Student Attendance	20 HSG vs PC/Lena (H) Freeport Club 4:00	21 PTO Meeting 3:30 Elem Library HSG vs River Ridge @ Hanover 4:00	22 HSG vs Polo (H) Freeport Club 4:00	23 Maroon and White Night 5:30	24
25	26 JHVB vs Stockton (H) 5:30	27 JHVB @ Durand 5:30 JHFB vs West Carroll (H) 5:30	28 PTO: Fannie Mae Kick off HSVB vs Stillman Valley (H) 5:00	29 JHVB vs South Beloit (H) 5:30 HSG @ Galena 4:00	30 VarFB 7:00 (H) Forreston	31

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