



# 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.**

December 2019

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

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost half over! Here are some important reminders:

**5 Essentials Survey:** The 5 Essentials survey is an important piece of data that we use for school improvement. Staff, Students, and Parents all take the survey and the data is compiled to help determine areas of need and things we are doing well as a school district. In order to receive results from the survey we need to have at least 20% of our parents complete it. The survey takes about 20 minutes, is completely anonymous and can be found at <http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/>.

**End of First Semester** The end of the semester is December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please pay particular attention to the schedule for high school students and early dismissal permission forms.

**Volleyball** Congratulations to our volleyball team. They were true champions on and off the court. We are very proud of how they represented Dakota this season. It was great to see how the community rallied and supported this team. Some of their season accomplishments include: Conference Champions, Regional

Champions, Sectional Champions, and 35 total victories.

**Website Upgrades** We are currently working on upgrading our website. The new site will have a more modern look and will be easier to navigate. We are also working on an app that parents and students will be able to download to get information and notifications from their phones. We will send out information when the site is ready to launch.

**Inclement Weather** Please take time to read our inclement weather information on the last page of this newsletter. In the event of a school cancelation, we will communicate via school messenger, social media, and local media. Please make sure phone numbers are up to date with the office. Safety is our top priority when it comes to school closings. Please remember, parents are the final authority in determining whether or not it's safe for their child to attend school during inclement weather.



## **ELEMENTARY NEWS**

### **WINTER CONCERTS**

The **K-2 winter concert** will be held on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the **high school gymnasium**. The **5th & 6th grade** winter concert will be held on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and will also be in the high school.

### **PTO SANTA SHOP**

Students in grades Pre-K (includes our Dakota Learn & Play Center) – 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be able to shop for a Christmas Gift for Moms & Dads at the PTO's Santa Shop on December 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. The PTO is still in need of items for the Santa Shop to be successful. Items that make good Dad's gifts are: flashlights, candy, socks, small tools, key chains, coffee mugs or gloves. Items that make good Mom's gifts are: ornaments, dishtowels, potholders, photo frames/albums & lotion. **All gifts must be new.** If your child needs to purchase for a Mom & Dad, a donation of two gifts is appreciated. Please send all donations to the school by December 12th. Items can be dropped off in the boxes in the lobby area outside the office.

# STUDENT SERVICES

**Brittney Gerstner**-Psychologist  
**Tina Buske** – Social Worker  
**Katie Ries**-School Counselor  
**Diane Scaduto**-Nurse  
**Kevin Cline**-Assistant Principal

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## **Scholarships Currently Available:**

**ROCKFORD YWCA BRIGHT FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP:**  
January 10, 2020 (girls only)

**ROCK ENERGY COOP SCHOLARSHIP:** January 10, 2020

**CBAI COMMUNITY BANKING SCHOLARSHIP:**  
February 1, 2020

**MEDIACOM WORLD CLASS SCHOLARSHIP:** February 15, 2020

\*All scholarship forms are available on the district website [www.dakota201.org](http://www.dakota201.org).

**2020-2021 Pre-Registration:**  
Pre-registration for next year will begin for current freshmen, sophomores and juniors in mid-February and will be done via students' Skyward accounts. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have a special registration night for students and parents this spring. More details will be provided later this winter. Current sophomores attended a presentation sponsored by **CareerTEC** in November, giving them the opportunity to learn about the various technical programs they may choose to register for next year.

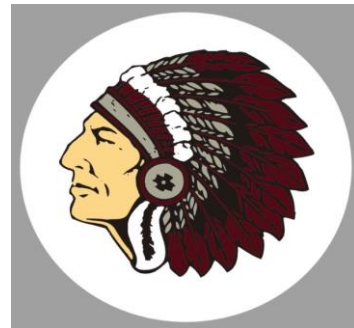
## What should your college-bound senior be doing during the month of December?

1. Acceptance letters should be coming this month if not already received.
2. The scholarship search should begin to heat up. Check for all possible scholarship opportunities at the school you have been accepted to. Have all of your scholarship materials (profile, letters of recommendation, etc.) ready for the big rush to begin in January.
3. FAFSA forms should be filed in order to have the best possible chance of receiving the aid you deserve. If you have not yet filed, go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and complete the form. Don't delay!!
4. If you have not yet applied to a school, there is still time, particularly at private schools. However, the longer you wait, the more difficult it will become and institutional scholarship money will be gone. See Mr. Cline if you need assistance.

## PTO NEWS

The PTO would like to give a huge THANK YOU to the Dakota Community. With your continued support, the Fannie May Fundraiser was once again a great success. There were 170 students that qualified for the limo ride/pizza party. The next PTO meeting will be December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30 pm in the elementary library. We would love to see some new faces.

## ATHLETIC BOOSTER NEWS:



The boosters are selling Dakota Indian Pop Socks! They are available in each school office and are \$7.00 a piece. They would make fantastic stocking stuffers!

We also have some great apparel for sale. We have cut the prices and have some awesome deals for you! Please stop by the concession stand during Jr. high games and shop for some DHS athletic gear.

Our next meeting will be Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, at DHS. It begins at 6:30pm. We would love to see some new faces to help support Dakota Athletics.



## NURSE'S NOTES

Any children who failed the re-screening for hearing/vision have been referred for medical evaluation. I encourage you to contact your doctor right away if you have received any notification about your child failing one or both of the screenings. Good hearing and vision is essential to learning. Please make sure you bring the paperwork that has been sent home to the doctor appointment and return the referral paperwork to the nursing office.

Students who have glasses are also seen during the screening process. Some students are found to have glasses in need of repair or not wearing their prescribed glasses/contacts. Glasses/Vision letters are sent home to inform parents.

To parents of Kindergarten, second and sixth grade students: I am still waiting on some dental forms. If your child has seen the dentist, please make sure a dental form is returned to school. If your child has not seen the dentist, please make an appointment and have it submitted before the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. There will be a dentist making a visit to Dakota School on 2/12 & 2/13/20. All students pre-K thru 18 years of age are able to sign up. If you would like your child to be seen, an application form must be completed and returned to school by January 10<sup>th</sup>. Some additional applications will be accepted following this date depending upon availability. Forms will be sent home with all the elementary students the first week of January upon returning from winter break. Additional forms are available in either school office and on the school website. The dentist will provide screening, cleaning, fluoride and sealants where warranted. Referrals for follow up care are done as needed.

It is the start of cold and flu season.... School illness protocol states children should be fever free without the use of fever reducer for 24 hours and also no vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school. Please remember to check your children closely before sending them to school if they are showing signs of illness.

## MUSIC NEWS

### Holiday Concerts

The 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Holiday Concert will be held on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Dakota High School gym. All of the bands and choirs will be presenting musical selections of the season.

The Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be presenting their holiday concert on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Dakota High School gym. The younger students will be sharing holiday music while the second grade students will be presenting the musical “The Greatest Snowman”.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will present their holiday concert on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Dakota High School gym. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade bands will be performing as well as the general music classes.

The students have been working hard to prepare all of the music for the holiday season. Everyone is invited to share in the music and the spirit of the Holidays.

### Musical 2020: “Mary Poppins”

The musical, “Mary Poppins” will be presented April 2, 3 and 4, 2020. Auditions for all interested 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be held on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Audition rehearsals are scheduled for:  
Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5:30-6:30  
Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – 3:30-4:30  
Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – 3:30-4:30

We are excited to bring this classic story to the stage here at Dakota.



## Upcoming Music Events:

**Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>,**  
Poinsettia/Wreath delivery @ DHS 3:00 – 4:30 pm

**Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>,** Dakota HS Pep Band @ Home Basketball Game

**Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>,** 7-12 Grade Holiday Concert @ DHS 7:00 pm

**Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>,** K-2 Holiday Concert @ DHS 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>,** 5-6 Holiday Concert @ DHS 7:00 pm

**Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>,** New York City Spring Break 2021 trip information meeting for Parents and Students @ 6:30 pm in HS Music Room

**Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>,** Dakota HS Choir and Dakota Chorale @ Lake Summerset

**Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>,** Dakota HS Pep Band @ Home Basketball Game



## **COLD AND FLU SEASON IS UPON US YOU MAY WANT TO SAVE THIS FOR REFERENCE**

### Guidelines For Sending Child to School:

One of the problems most often confronting parents of school-age children occurs when a child complains of not feeling well on a school day. A decision must be made as to whether the child stays home or goes to school. How do you make the right decision? You don't want to keep him home if he really isn't sick, but you also don't want to send a sick child to school. The information in this handout is not intended as medical advice, but merely a guideline to follow until you can contact your doctor for his/her opinion.

Parents: Keep this list in a convenient spot to refer to during the school year. Every morning prior to sending your child to school please check for the following symptoms which could be contagious or indicates your child may need to see the physician.

Eyes that are red or have discharge

Coughing

Stomachache/nausea/vomiting

Diarrhea

Sore throat

Fever

Earache or discharge from ears

Rash

Any change in behavior, such as tiredness/no appetite

\*If your child shows any of these symptoms, it is best to keep them home. If you are questioning any symptoms, feel free to call the nurse at 844-632-5682 to discuss it with her.

\*School policy dictates that children stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, also if your child vomits or has diarrhea within the past 24 hours, please keep him/her home from school the next day, even if your child feels better in the morning. Temperatures of 100.0 indicate dismissal home for fever.

\*If your child's symptoms are suspect to a contagious disease doctor confirmation is requested.

\*Report absences to the school secretary by telephone by 9 a.m.

\*Report communicable diseases such as strep throat, chicken pox and MRSA to the school nurse.

Thank you!

# Dakota CUSD #201

## December 2019

| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>◀</span> <span>▶</span> </div> |  |   |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| Sun   | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri  | Sat  |
| <b>1</b><br>Joey Beard<br>Benefit Dinner<br>Silent Auction<br>@ HS Cafeteria<br>Noon to 3pm       | <b>2</b><br>JHBB (H) vs<br>Orangeville<br>5:30   | <b>3</b><br>JHBB @ Aquin<br>5:30<br><br>HSWR (H) vs<br>Polo/Freeport<br>5:30                | <b>4</b><br>HSBB (H) vs<br>Stockton 6:00<br><br>HSGB @<br>Orangeville<br>6:00   | <b>5</b><br>Holiday Concert<br>7-12 Grade<br>7:00pm<br><br>Red Cross<br>Blood Drive<br>12:30 - 5:30   | <b>6</b><br>Early Release<br>11:30 SIP Day<br><br>HSGB @ Lena<br>6:00    | <b>7</b><br>VarWR @<br>Washington<br>Duals 9:00<br><br>JVWR @ Byron<br>Tourn 9:00<br><br>HSBB @ Lena<br>Shoot out                              |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b><br>Holiday Concert<br>K-2 7:00 PM @<br>HS Gym<br><br>JHBB (H) vs<br>TriCounty | <b>10</b><br>Holiday Concert<br>5th6th 7:00 PM<br>@ HS Gym<br><br>HSGB @<br>Pecatonica 6:00 | <b>11</b><br>HSWR vs<br>Aurora Chrst.<br>and Washington<br>5:30<br><br>PTO Meeting<br>3:30 @ Elem<br>Library<br><br>JHBB (H) vs<br>S. Beloit 5:30 | <b>12</b><br>JHBB Conf<br>Tourn @ Lena<br><br>HSGB @ Pearl<br>City 6:00   | <b>13</b><br>JHBB Conf<br>Tourn @ Lena                                   | <b>14</b><br>JHBB Conf<br>Tourn @ Lena<br><br>HSWR @<br>Western<br>Dubuque 9:00<br><br>VarBB @<br>Forreston Tourn<br><br>HSGB @<br>Galena 6:00 |
| <b>15</b><br>Student Council<br>Chicago Trip<br>9:00am -<br>9:00 pm                               | <b>16</b><br><br><br><br><br>VarBB @<br>Forreston Tourn                                | <b>17</b><br>School Board<br>6:00 Elem<br>Library<br><br>VarBB @<br>Forreston Tourn         | <b>18</b><br>Dakota Athletic<br>Boosters<br>Meeting 6:30<br><br><br>VarBB @<br>Forreston Tourn  | <b>19</b><br>HSWR (H) vs<br>Oregon<br>5:30<br><br>HSGB (H)<br>vs. South Beloit<br>6:00 @ elem<br>Varsity only<br><br>VarBB @<br>Forreston Tourn | <b>20</b><br>End of Qtr2<br>/Sem 1<br><br><br>VarBB @<br>Forreston Tourn | <b>21</b><br>VarWR @<br>Harlem HS<br>Dvork Tourn<br><br><br>HSGB<br>(H) vs<br>Forreston 1:00   |
| <b>22</b><br>VarWR @<br>Harlem HS<br>Dvork Tourn  | <b>23</b><br>No School<br>Winter Break   | <b>24</b><br>No School<br>Winter Break  | <b>25</b><br>No School<br>Winter Break  | <b>26</b><br>No School<br>Winter Break  | <b>27</b><br>No School<br>Winter Break                                   | <b>28</b><br>HSGB vs<br>Boylan Tourn   |
| <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b><br>HSGB vs<br>Boylan Tourn<br><br>No School<br>Winter Break                  | <b>31</b><br><br><br>No School<br>Winter Break  | School Resumes on Monday, January 6 <sup>th</sup>   |   |  |  |

# DECEMBER 2019

| Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>2</b><br>Spaghetti<br>Garlic bread<br>Corn<br>Peaches                         | <b>3</b><br>Sweet & Sour<br>Chicken<br>California Blend<br>Mixed Fruit                               | <b>4</b><br>Biscuit & Gravy<br>Green Beans<br>Pears  | <b>5</b><br>Fish<br>Carrots<br>Applesauce<br>Roll                          | <b>6</b><br><u><b>11:30 Dismissal</b></u><br><br><b>SIP Day</b><br>NO LUNCH  |
| <b>9</b><br>Chicken Fajita<br>Corn & Beans<br>Pineapple<br>Salsa & Sour<br>Cream | <b>10</b><br>Hot Ham &<br>Cheese on<br>Pretzel Bun<br>Lettuce Salad<br>Whole Apple                   | <b>11</b><br>BBQ<br>W/G Bun<br>Coleslaw<br>Mandarin<br>Oranges   | <b>12</b><br>Pulled Pork<br>Nachos w/<br>Cheese<br>Beans & Rice<br>Peaches | <b>13</b><br>Hot Dog<br>W/G Bun<br>Carrots<br>Strawberries                   |
| <b>16</b><br>BBQ Riblet<br>W/G Bun<br>Mashed<br>Potatoes &<br>Gravy<br>Peaches   | <b>17</b><br>Taco in a Bag<br>Corn & Bean<br>Fiesta<br>Apple Slices<br>Lettuce, Salsa,<br>Sour Cream | <b>18</b><br>Pizza<br>Green Beans<br>Pears<br>Crackers   | <b>19</b><br>Chicken<br>Nuggets<br>Broccoli<br>Applesauce                  | <b>20</b><br>Cheeseburger<br>W/G Bun<br>Scalloped<br>Potatoes<br>Mixed Fruit |
| <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b>  |
| <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b>  | <b>School<br/>                     Resumes<br/>                     Monday,<br/>                     January 6th</b> |  |  |



## Dakota CUSD #201 Inclement Weather/School closings – 2019-20

Winter weather is upon us and I want to share some information on weather-related school closings so that you may be prepared for the days ahead. Student safety is always our first consideration when it comes to cancelling school or events. Typically, three physical factors impact the decision to close schools. Road conditions, temperature, and visibility are all considered when determining whether or not conditions are safe enough to have school.

### Snow Days

Snow events are the most common days for school closings. Factors that are considered when deciding on whether or not to cancel school:

- Snow accumulation and drifting
- Icing
- Wind speeds (particularly for the country)
- Temperature
- Road conditions
- Forecast estimates for continued precipitation and temperature

When these conditions are impacted I will consult with township road commissioners and area superintendents. There is no single rule of thumb for accumulation amounts and much of the decision depends on the presence of blowing and/or drifting snow especially on country roads. Every effort will be made to make a decision and inform families and staff as quickly as possible.

### Temperature-Related Cancellations

Extreme temperatures are often a part of our winters. Extreme temperatures impact people as well as our buses. Factors considered when making temperature-related cancellation decisions include:

- Temperature
- Wind
- Duration and Timing of Cold Temps
- Safe Operation of Buses

Our key source of data is the NOAA Wind Chill Chart

(<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/windchill/>). When inside the 30-minute exposure area of the graph, attendance is questionable and dependent upon road conditions.

When wind chills are likely to be to the right of that area, it is unlikely that we would attend.

### Late Starts

Late starts have often come up as a possibility for avoiding snow days. The bottom line is that we realize the level of impact that snow days have on families to find childcare and safe coverage for children. Late starts put our community in a position to have to quickly change plans mid morning and often result in more students of driving age being on the roads in already poor or unsafe conditions. We will avoid the use of late starts for these reasons.

### Before/After School Events

Generally, if school is cancelled, all events and practices are cancelled. The rare occasion where this may change would involve extra-curricular tournament play at the middle or high school level if weather conditions improve throughout the day. Those situations will be communicated directly should they arise and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

### Parent Role/Responsibility

Student safety is always our first priority, and we ask for your assistance by dressing students appropriately for current conditions. Please send your children to school with a coat, hat, and gloves! It always amazed me as a high school principal when I saw students coming in with no coat in below zero weather.

Also, if your child is driving, it is a great idea to equip them with an emergency kit just in case. IDOT suggests always carrying jumper cables, flares or reflectors, windshield washer fluid, an ice scraper, traction material, blankets, non-perishable food, and a first aid kit.

**Please know that parents are the final authority in determining whether or not it's safe for their child to attend school during inclement weather. The Dakota School District covers over 100 square miles and road conditions can vary within different parts of the district. If parents determine to keep their child home, please contact the building office. The absence will be marked as "excused".**

It is possible that on a snow day your child may have been assigned work to complete. Through the use of technology and advanced planning, many of our teachers will plan for the possibility of snow days by providing assignments or extra work should the snow day occur. Hopefully this will help you combat students that are saying... "I'm bored" all day ;)

Finally, making a decision about having a snow day is a difficult one. We will use our best judgment and appreciate your support as we work to ensure student learning and student safety.

### Notifications

We will always try to have a call that goes out by 6:00 am for snow days. The automated system takes about 20 minutes to complete all calls depending on the number of school closing at the same time. We will put information out on our Facebook and website immediately for instant notification. We will also notify local media.

## **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

