



Dakota Community Unit School District 201

Nik Butenhoff, Superintendent
Ginnie Cunningham, Elementary Principal

Jenny Keffer, Jr./Sr. High Principal
Kevin Cline, Assistant Principal

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Nik Butenhoff

Welcome to our first edition of the Dakota CUSD #201 newsletter. This newsletter will be released the first week of every month. This newsletter is a district-wide effort to provide you all with information that is going on in the school district. My goal is that this letter will help you, as a parent or community member, learn more about what went on in the month previous, and what activities you can expect for the month ahead.

When I welcomed staff to the new school year, I provided them with 7 core values that I want embedded in everyone's work throughout the school district. Here they are:

1. Always believe success is possible.
2. We will all learn together.
3. Don't worry about results. Learn from them.
4. Demonstrate a strong work ethic.
5. Maintain a positive attitude.
6. Cherish the precious present.
7. Have fun at work.

I love these values because I think everyone who is a part of our school district can relate to them. Whether you are a student, teacher, administrator, support staff, parent, or community member, my hope is that you can get behind these core values. Each month, I will speak about why each one of these values are important to me as the district leader.

Upcoming Events

September:

- 9/13 - PTO Meeting
 - Jr/Sr High @ 7:00
- 9/13 - Jr./Sr. High Picture Day
- 9/14 - Elementary Fall Picture Day
- 9/14 - PTO Family Movie Night @ DES
 - Movie begins at 5:45
- 9/18- Jr./Sr. High Art Club 3:10-4:30
- 9/19 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - 3:00-7:00
- 9/19 - School Board Meeting
 - Elementary Library
 - 6:45 p.m. (Open session will begin after closed session. No sooner than 6:45 p.m.)
- 9/21 - 1:00 pm Dismissal
- Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:00-6:00 pm
- 9/28 - Public Hearing - Budget
 - Elementary Library
 - 6:00 p.m.

October:

- 10/6 - 11:30 Early Release
- 10/9 - No School
- 10/11 - PTO Meeting
 - DES Library @ 3:30
- 10/16 - Financial Aid Night
 - Jr./Sr. High by appointment with Mr. Cline
- 10/17 - School Board Meeting
 - Elementary Library
 - 6:45 p.m. (Open session will begin after closed session. No sooner than 6:45 p.m.)
- 10/20 - End of First Quarter



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Dakota Jr./Sr. High News

Mrs. Keffer

Our school year is in full swing at the Jr./Sr. High School. Our first School Improvement Day took place on September 1, where educators collaborated on creating an engaging environment for students. Our focus: Increasing student voice and choice.

I have had an amazing first few weeks with our students. This week we will be scheduling class meetings to review expectations and set the tone for what we know will be a great year. We are excited to be rolling out an incentive plan for attendance. We need our students in school each day to ensure they have access to content to best prepare them for their futures.

Secondary Information

Yearbook

Jr./Sr. Yearbook orders are underway. Orders can be placed directly through Jostens at: <https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1075482/Dakota-High-School/> or by submitting an order with payment to the main office. The cost is \$50.



Community Service

If your student is looking for community service opportunities this fall, please use the links below.

- PTO Volunteer Opportunities
<https://signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/10c0d4caaa92fa0f8cf8-ptomeeting>
- Dakota Jr. High Football Concessions
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAEA72CA1FFC52-dakota3>
- Dakota Jr. High Volleyball Concessions
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAEA72CA1FFC52-dakota2>
- Dakota High School Volleyball Concessions
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAEA72CA1FFC52-dakota5>



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Dakota Elementary School News

Mrs. Cunningham

We have had a great start to the year at DES. Meeting families, getting to know our students, and watching them expand their brains has been wonderful. Thank you for the warm welcome you have shown me as I begin my journey in Dakota!

DES Information

iReady Testing

Students are wrapping up the first iReady Reading, Math, and Language assessments. The family reports will be shared with you at parent/teacher conferences in September.

Picture Day

Fall Picture Day will be held on Thursday, September 14. Picture order forms have been sent home. Please return order forms with your child on Thursday, or you can purchase photos online through Inter-State Studio. The online order code is **78101VF**.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Milk Fees

Per state guidelines, breakfast, and lunch are not free for all students this year. Costs are as follows: Breakfast from 7:45 am-8:05 am (\$2.25), Hot Lunch (\$3.25), and Milk if purchased extra or without a meal (\$.35). If your child would like a second lunch, they will be charged \$1.25.

Library Corner

Ms. Melody, District Librarian

Welcome to the Library Corner! The library classes are off to an amazing start with reviewing library expectations, genre locations, and setting up the library classroom page. During the month of September, we will be reviewing the Dewey Decimal System, locating fiction books, and discussing the main idea and theme of books. The library also has various activities for students, such as a teepee for reading (K-3), games, a coloring station, and a puzzle area.





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Maintenance Update

Mr. Tim Wilson

The district completed plumbing work in hopes to improve our water quality. We replaced several faucets and drinking fountains in both buildings as well as replaced various plumbing hardware. We are scheduled to do a water quality test in October. The district also collaborated with the village to have a shutoff valve installed so that we will be able to turn off water supply to the older part of the elementary building to allow for maintenance or repairs.

As you drive up towards the elementary building, you may have noticed the riprap we installed just off the horseshoe in the elementary parking lot. We hope this will help with erosion issues we were experiencing there.



Additional Information

Internet Resources for Families

Common Sense Media, a trusted site for digital safety and resources for schools and families, has a program for low-income families to receive discounted Internet and devices if needed. You can find more information here: [GetMyInternet](#).

Dakota CUSD Electronics Policy

School-owned Chromebooks may be sent home with students to utilize. Please remember to charge them each night prior to returning the following day. If you are in need of tech support, please email support@dakota201.com

Students must keep all electronics (*smartwatches, phones, tablets, etc.*) placed on silent mode and in their lockers. If you need to get a hold of your child, please contact the office or your child's teacher. Please keep in mind that elementary lockers are not to be locked; therefore, any personal belongings are the student's responsibility.

