



# 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.**

January 2021

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

### End of First Semester:

The end of first semester and last day for students in the year 2020 was December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Monday and Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> was designated as Remote Planning Days. On Monday, our teachers participated in a virtual workshop, presented by a Representative from the IASA.

### Remote Learning/In-Person Learning during COVID-19

With the release of the COVID-19 vaccination brings a new sense of hope for 2021. We would like our students to remain in-person learning the entire second semester, but we know that reality is not in our favor. Thank you to parents/guardians for your flexibility and understanding when the mode of instruction is changed & for partnering with us to make the 2020-2021 school year a success. The safety of our staff & students is always top priority and we will continue to monitor our school's Covid-19 data to determine which mode of learning is safest. Prior to any decisions regarding a school or district closing, I closely review how the decision may impact childcare, social/emotional well-being of our students, their

instruction & services rendered, and the safety of our entire school community. Please remember to follow the IDPH guidelines and wear your mask, wash your hands and maintain safe social distances.

### Inclement Weather

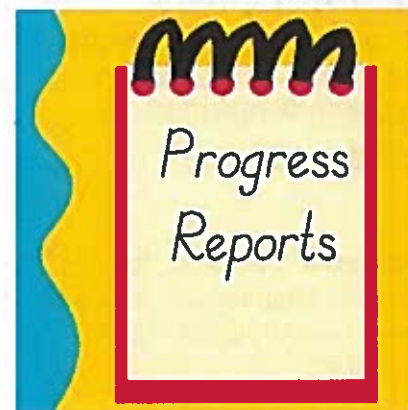
Before Remote Learning became an option, Snow Days were a reality in Northern Illinois. Nonetheless, a major power outage could still necessitate the need for a snow day so please take time to read our inclement weather information on the last page of this newsletter. In the event of a school cancellation, we will communicate via school messenger, social media, and local media. Please make sure phone numbers are current in your child's skyward portal. Safety is our top priority when it comes to school closings.

*Jason Grey, Superintendent*



Elementary Report Cards - 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter progress reports will be sent home with students on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Jr/Sr High Report Cards - Junior and Senior High report cards will be posted on Skyward Friday January 15<sup>th</sup>.



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Institute

Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – Students Return

Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> - No School – Martin Luther King Holiday

Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – Board of Education Meeting @ 6 pm

# STUDENT SERVICES

Brittney Gerstner-Psychologist  
Tina Buske-School Social Worker  
Katie Ries-School Counselor  
Sabrina Brown – School Nurse  
Kevin Cline-Assistant  
Principal/Academic Advisor

## **Scholarships Available:**

Pearl City Elevator: January 11, 2021

Rock Energy Coop Scholarship:  
January 10, 2021

YWCA Bright Future Scholarship  
(girls only): January 11, 2021

Community Banking Scholarship:  
February 1, 2021

Community Foundation of  
Northern Illinois Scholarships:  
February 1, 2021

**\*ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.**  
[www.dakota201.com](http://www.dakota201.com)

**Reminder to Parents:** Junior and Senior High report cards will be posted on Skyward Friday January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Financial Aid update:** If you have not already done so, financial aid application forms (FAFSA) are now available online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). This free application must be filed by all seniors per a new State law. Students should be sure to contact the Financial Aid Office at their chosen school to see if any supplemental forms are required.

## **2021-2022 Pre-Registration:**

All students in grades 9-11 will be pre-registering for next year's classes in mid-February. Students will be using the Skyward student portal to select their classes. **8th grade** students will register for freshman classes at a special pre-registration night in March. Letters will be emailed out with more info. **7th graders** will simply register with Mr. Cline during their social studies classes this spring. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Cline at school. The new course directory, including information on CareerTEC, Dual Credit and virtual classes, will be available on the district website in late January.

## **Financial Aid Quick Checklist:**

1. Go to [www.fsaaid.ed.gov](http://www.fsaaid.ed.gov) to create a username and password. This replaces the old 4-digit PIN if you have used the system before.
2. Gather all of your 2019 income tax information.
3. Complete FAFSA on the web and submit. You may include the names of up to four colleges to have your financial information sent.
4. In 2-4 weeks you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) from each college. This report will tell you your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and also spell out that college's plan for you to pay for your first year of school. It will include a combination of federal aid, state aid, institutional scholarships, work-study programs and loans.

5. If you choose to accept your school's award package they will process your student loan papers, arrange your work-study program, and begin the billing process.

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

1. Requesting 7<sup>th</sup> semester transcripts: Any school you have been accepted to, and are still seriously considering will want to see your 7<sup>th</sup> semester transcripts (first semester grades). Sign-up outside the Guidance Office to have the transcripts sent.
2. Begin seriously attacking scholarships. The busy season is here!!!
3. Complete your 2021-2022 school year FAFSA form with your parents and begin negotiating with your school's financial aid department.



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## A New Yamaha Clavinova

This fall, the twenty-year-old Yamaha Clavinova (electric piano) which was the main keyboard instrument used in the music department suddenly became unplayable and was not able to be repaired. A new Clavinova was needed and this major purchase was not in the budget. Thanks to the very generous support from DOE (Dakota Opportunities for Education) Foundation we were able to purchase a new instrument. This beautiful keyboard instrument will benefit the education of our students and the enjoyment of our audiences for many years to come thanks to the support of the DOE Foundation!

## ILMEA District Festival

Congratulations to all the junior high and high school band and choir students who auditioned virtually for ILMEA District Festival. After very successful auditions the following students were selected for ILMEA District 8 Festival. The Junior Level participated in a virtual masterclass on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. The Senior Level participated in a virtual masterclass on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. While not the same experience as performing with large ensembles, the Dakota students had an excellent experience. The following

students were selected for these ensembles.

### **Junior Mixed Choir:**

Alexis Anderson  
Joe Perez  
Nathan Stache

### **Junior Trouble Choir:**

Finley Meier  
Kamden Sellers

### **Junior Band:**

Cassie Boyer  
Chloe Goodwin  
Levi Graybill  
Carson Grey  
Moyra Mathews  
Dawson Stache  
Ivan Wenger

### **Senior Mixed Chorus:**

Rachel Behrens  
Michael Davis  
Caleb Moss  
Rachel Rupnow  
Autumn White  
Maddie White

### **Senior band:**

Drew DeHaven  
Aleda Lee  
Allison Liszka  
Lauryn Sutherland

### **Senior Orchestra:**

Allison Liszka



## ILMEA All-State

After successful fall auditions for District Festival, the following students were selected to participate in the ILMEA All State Music Festival to be held on May 10 – 13, 2021.

Congratulations to the following students:

Aleda Lee – Band  
Allison Liszka – Orchestra  
Autumn White – Honor's Choir

# NURSE'S NOTES

## DENTAL EXAMS:

Parents of Kindergarten, Second, Sixth & Ninth Grade students need a dental exam submitted prior to May 15<sup>th</sup>. If your child has seen the dentist recently, please make sure the completed dental form is returned to school. The form can be faxed to the district office @ 815-449-2459.

## COVID-19 REMINDERS

Notification to the school nurse & office is required anytime your child is staying home due to an exposure, other household members are ill, or tests positive for COVID-19. This notification is essential & helps us to keep students' learning in-person! Thank you!!!





## Dakota CUSD #201 Inclement Weather/School closings – 2020-21

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. 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's amazing the number of high school students 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.

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 & local media will also be informed.

## JANUARY 2021 ELEMENTARY MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p><b>BREAKFAST &amp; LUNCH ARE FREE</b></p> <p>THROUGH THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 20-21</p>		<p><b>MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE</b></p>		
<p><b>4 WINTER BREAK</b></p> 	<p><b>5 BANANA BREAD</b></p> <p><b>TACO TUESDAY!!</b> TORTILLA SHELL BEANS APPLE CRISP</p>	<p><b>6 PANCAKE PUP</b></p> <p>FISH CARROTS MIXED FRUIT DINNER ROLL</p>	<p><b>7 WAFFLE</b></p> <p>CORN DOG FRIES ORANGE CRACKER</p>	<p><b>8 CEREAL</b></p> <p>CHICKEN BURGER W/G BUN GREEN BEANS MIXED FRUIT</p>
<p><b>11 BREAKFAST COOKIE</b></p> <p>TURKEY MASHED POTATOES GRAVY APPLE SLICES DINNER ROLL</p>	<p><b>12 BANANA BREAD</b></p> <p>CHICKEN FAJITA WALKING TACO BEANS PEACHES</p>	<p><b>13 MUFFIN</b></p> <p>LASAGNA ROLL-UPS CORN STRAWBERRIES BOSCO STICK</p>	<p><b>14 PANCAKES</b></p> <p>MAC &amp; CHEESE W/ HAM MIXED VEGGIES MIXED FRUIT GARLIC BREAD</p>	<p><b>15 CEREAL</b></p> <p>BEEF STEW ASSORTMENT OF VEGGIES &amp; FRUITS CORNBREAD</p>
<p><b>18 NO SCHOOL</b></p> 	<p><b>19 BANANA BREAD</b></p> <p>PIZZA CARROTS &amp; DIP PINEAPPLE CHIPS</p>	<p><b>20 MINI CINNIS</b></p> <p>BBQ PULLED PORK W/G BUN BROCCOLI PEARS</p>	<p><b>21 PANCAKES</b></p> <p>FRENCH TOAST SAUSAGE DRAGON PUNCH WARM APPLE SLICES</p>	<p><b>22 CEREAL</b></p> <p>HOT DOG W/G BUN WANGO MANGO ORANGE SLICES</p>
<p><b>25 BREAKFAST SANDWICH</b></p> <p>TURKEY W/G BUN SWEET POTATOES PEARS</p>	<p><b>26 BANANA BREAD</b></p> <p>CHICKEN NUGGETS BAKED BEANS ORANGE SLICES CRACKER</p>	<p><b>27 MINI CINNIS</b></p> <p>PORK DINNER SCALLOPED POTATOES SIDEKICK DINNER ROLL</p>	<p><b>28 WAFFLE</b></p> <p>HOT HAM &amp; CHEESE ON A PRETZEL ROLL CHERRY TOMATOES GRAPES</p>	<p><b>29 CEREAL</b></p> <p>CHEESEBURGER W/G BUN ASSORTED VEGGIES AND FRUITS</p>
<b>1% MILK FOR</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>AND LUNCH</b>		

# January 2021 JH & HS MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>1% MILK SERVED WITH EVERY MEAL</p> <p>Juice and Fruit Served with every Breakfast</p>	<p>Menu Subject to Change</p> <p>W/G = Whole Grain</p>			<p>1</p> <p>Winter Break</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Winter Break</p>	<p>5 Cereal, string cheese</p> <p>Pizza</p> <p>Corn</p> <p>Veg Salad</p> <p>Tropical Fruit</p>	<p>6 Egg, Sausage, Cheese and Muffin</p> <p>Pork, Nachos/Cheese</p> <p>Fiesta Beans</p> <p>Pears</p>	<p>7 Cinnamon Roll</p> <p>Chicken Pot Pie</p> <p>Green Beans</p> <p>Mandarin Oranges</p> <p>Garlic Stick</p>	<p>8 Parfait/Granola Bar</p> <p>Bacon Mac &amp; Cheese</p> <p>Provence Blend</p> <p>Strawberries</p> <p>Dinner Roll/Butter</p>
<p>11 Breakfast Pizza</p> <p>Sausage/Egg/Cheese Biscuit</p> <p>Hash brown Patty</p> <p>Applesauce</p>	<p>12 Egg/Cheese Omelet</p> <p>Cream Chicken over Biscuit</p> <p>Peas</p> <p>Peaches</p>	<p>13 French Toast</p> <p>BBQ Pork over Garlic Toast</p> <p>Glazed Carrots</p> <p>Pineapple</p>	<p>14 Biscuits/Gravy</p> <p>Chicken Nuggets</p> <p>Salad/Dressings</p> <p>California Blend</p> <p>Banana</p>	<p>15 Donuts</p> <p>Open Face Turkey Sandwich</p> <p>Fries</p> <p>Broccoli</p> <p>Mandarin Oranges</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p>19 Breakfast Burrito</p> <p>Mini Corn Dogs</p> <p>Baked Beans</p> <p>Peas &amp; Corn</p> <p>Tropical Fruit</p>	<p>20 Apple Strudel</p> <p>Chicken Fajita/WG Shell</p> <p>Country Blend</p> <p>Strawberries</p> <p>Cornbread</p>	<p>21 Waffles</p> <p>Bosco Stick/Sauce</p> <p>Carrots/Celery/Dip</p> <p>Fresh Orange</p>	<p>22 Bacon Cheese Casserole</p> <p>Cheeseburger</p> <p>WG/Bun</p> <p>Garlic Baby Reds</p> <p>Pears</p>
<p>25 Pancake Wrap</p> <p>Pork Tenderloin</p> <p>WG/Bun</p> <p>Italian Green Beans</p> <p>Applesauce</p>	<p>26 Western Omelet</p> <p>Hash browns</p> <p>Horseshoe</p> <p>California Blend</p> <p>Pineapple</p> <p>Cookie</p>	<p>27 Biscuits/Gravy</p> <p>Orange Chicken over Rice</p> <p>Egg Roll</p> <p>Mixed Veg</p> <p>Peaches</p> <p>Fortune Cookie</p>	<p>28 Egg, Sausage, Cheese Muffin</p> <p>Chili/Crackers</p> <p>Sub Sandwich</p> <p>Broccoli/Dip</p> <p>Hot Cinnamon Apples</p>	<p>29 Cereal/String Cheese</p> <p>Baked Chicken</p> <p>Mashed Potato/Gravy</p> <p>Corn</p> <p>Mixed Fruit</p> <p>Garlic Toast</p>

# Dakota School District #201

January 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	2
3	4 NO SCHOOL Teacher's Institute Day	5 SCHOOL RESUMES	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 No School - Martin Luther King Holiday	19 School Board Meeting 6:00pm	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						