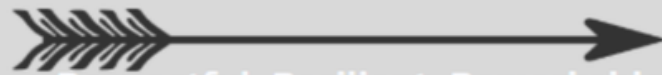


Dakota CUSD 201



Respectful. Resilient. Remarkable.

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

As many of our students and staff are anxiously making plans for the summer, we at the district office are preparing for next school year.

As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, there are several exciting initiatives underway across the district. Our teachers have recently been provided with additional classroom funds to support instructional materials and enhance student learning experiences. This investment reflects our continued commitment to empowering educators with the resources they need to meet the needs of all students and to bring engaging, high-quality instruction into every classroom.

At the elementary level, our team is working diligently to identify a new literacy resource aimed at strengthening foundational reading skills and supporting long-term student success. Teaching teams will attend training over the summer to strengthen the collective efficacy. At the same time, the district is preparing to begin several construction projects designed to address aging infrastructure and improve our learning environments. These efforts are part of our broader commitment to maintaining safe facilities for our students, staff, and community.

Happy Spring!

Ms. Keffer, Superintendent

Dakota CUSD 201



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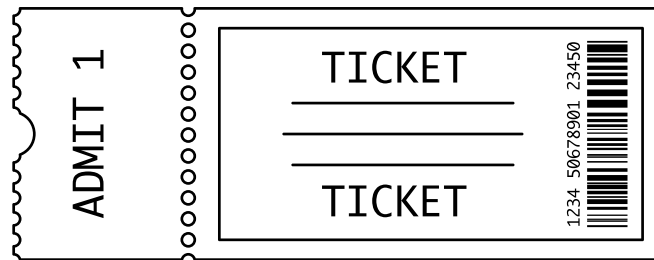
APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dakota takes great pride in its strong attendance and recognizes the critical role that consistent classroom presence plays in student success. As we enter the final two months of the school year, it is important that students remain committed to attending school regularly and upholding high academic standards. With important assessments approaching, including the ACT for juniors and the Pre-ACT for freshman and sophomore students on April 8, we ask that you continue to encourage students to attend and be prepared. Please ensure that your student arrives on time with their laptop fully charged. Students who are not in the correct classroom when ACT testing begins will not be permitted to enter once the test has started.

Mr. Paddock, Principal

DAKOTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



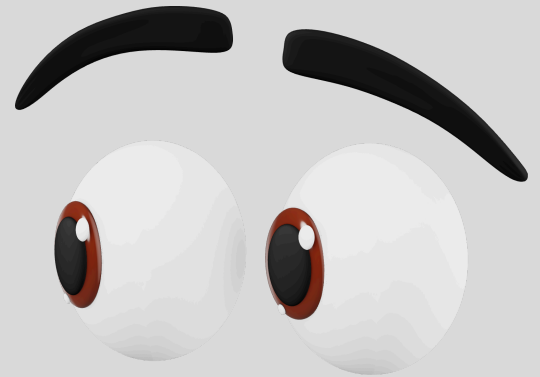
There are still slots to sign up to help with gate admissions for home sporting events.

Sign up for 3 events, and you can select a single season sport pass to get into home games free. Work 5 events, and your name will be added to the pass list to get into all home games free! Students can sign up with a parent and earn community service hours! Just have them stop in the office to get their form signed after they work at an event.

[Click to sign up here!](#)

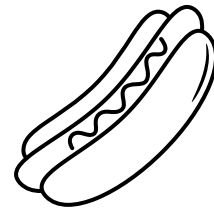
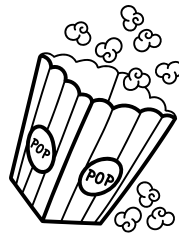
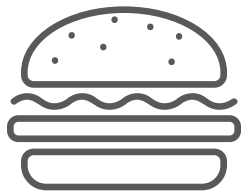
DAKOTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

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LOOKING FOR SPORTS SCHEDULES?

Those can be found by going to the district website. Look under the "Quicklinks" and click on Dakota Jr/Sr Sports Snap.



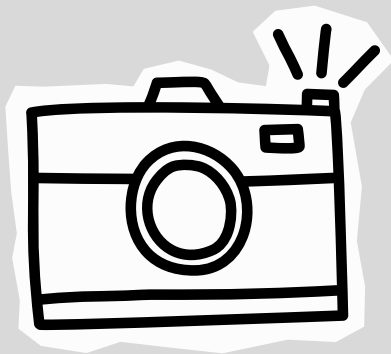
Dakota Athletic Booster Sign Up Genius Link:
[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAEA72
CA1FFC52-57273518-dakota#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAEA72CA1FFC52-57273518-dakota#/)

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

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2026 Jr. Sr. High Yearbooks are available. Cost is \$50. They may be purchased online by clicking the Jostens link below.

[Click to order here!](#)



Jenny Keffer, Superintendent
John Paddock, HS Principal
Kevin Cline, HS Assistant Principal
Chris Berogan, ES Principal

REMINDERS

April 3 - No School Good Friday

April 8 - No School for SENIORS

April 10 - 11:30 Dismissal

April 23 - All District Art Show in the HS 5-7:30 p.m.

April 25 - Prom

May 6 - Senior Academic Awards Night

May 17 - Graduation 2:00 p.m.

May 29 - 8th grade promotion 9:00 a.m. and last student attendance day



Upcoming Events

April 18 - IHSA Music Organization Contest @
Le-Win HS - Performing groups include the HS
Band, Jazz Band and HS Chorus.

April 30 7-12 Grade Spring Concert - HS Gym @
7:00pm

May 4 5-6 Grade Spring Concert - Elementary
Gym @ 7:00pm

May 5 3-4 Grade Spring Concert - Elementary
Gym @ 7:00pm



Spring Musical: Matilda the Musical

Our talented student cast and crew are ready to bring the magic of Roald Dahl's beloved story to life in our upcoming production of "Matilda the Musical." Join us on April 10th and 11th to witness a high-energy performance filled with catchy songs, rebellious spirit, and a little bit of telekinesis. It is a wonderful opportunity to support the arts and celebrate the hard work our students have dedicated to this spectacular show.

Show time is 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 adults, \$5 students

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

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April 8: PTO Meeting 5:30

April 10: Breakfast with a Buddy Kindergarten

April 20-24: Literati Spring Book Fair*

*the bookfair will be open during the district wide art show so parents are encouraged to stop by at the elementary library!



DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



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March by the Numbers

Our students have been turning pages at an incredible pace:

- Elementary Library: 1,528 books checked out!
- High School Library: 165 books checked out!
- Read Across America Week: Our students read an astounding 3,031 books during school hours. Through the Title I department, every student also had the opportunity to select and keep a brand-new book to add to their home collection.

Media Literacy & Women's History

In the library classroom, we've been busy "decoding" the internet. Students finished lessons on Media Literacy, learning to spot misinformation and understand AI-created content. We also explored how URLs and domains can reveal a website's intent. Ask your student: "What is one thing a Domain can tell you?"

Our libraries are evolving! We are looking for community members to join our new committees:

1. Acquisition Committee: Help us select the books that fill our shelves. Meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month at 3:30 PM (Next meetings: April 2nd & May 7th at DES Library).
2. Friends of the Library: Help us plan a Book Basket Silent Auction!

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Spring Events: April & Beyond

Volunteer Appreciation Month We want to say a huge thank you to our student library aides! Over 30 students from 3rd to 6th grade spend their time reading to kindergartners, tidying shelves, and even repotting plants. You are the heart of our library!

Spring Book Fair (April 17-23) Hosted by the PTO and Literati, the book fair returns!

- Preview Day: April 17th
- Class Rotations: April 20-23
- Family Night: Thursday, April 23rd (Extended evening hours during the District Art Show in the HS Gymnasium).

Chicks in the Classroom (Starting April 20th) In partnership with the Stephenson County Farm Bureau, we are hosting an incubator! We'll spend 21 days watching and reading about the life cycle of baby chicks.

Note: If you have a chicken habitat and would like to adopt a chick around May 13th, please send a signed permission note with your student.

One School, One Book (Coming in May) Get ready to read together! The Title I department will provide every elementary student with the same book to read at home with their families. We'll celebrate each day with Kahoot quiz prizes and giveaways.

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



DONATION DEN: We're excited to share that the Dakota Donation Den is now open and ready to support our students and families. This space was created to ensure that everyone in our school community has access to basic necessities.

The Donation Den offers items such as basic clothing needs, hygiene items, and school supplies (when available). If your family could benefit from items in the Donation Den, please email adague@dakota201.com.

We rely on the generosity of others to keep the Donation Den stocked. At this time, we are looking for coats (all sizes), hygiene items (shampoo, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, feminine products, etc.), gloves, hats, socks, and school supplies. If you would like to donate any items, please feel free to contact adague@dakota201.com to coordinate drop offs.

Thank you for helping us ensure every student has what they need to be successful!



DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

The Technology Department completed several projects over Spring Break. Upgrades to the network and servers were done to stay up to date on current best practices for security. Some unused structured cabling was removed as well as a part of tech cleanup.

State testing is on track to start the week after Spring Break. Chromebooks have been prepared and students and staff should be all set on the tech side for testing to go as smoothly as possible.

As we get toward the end of the school year, we appreciate any help that students and families can give us by taking the best care of their Chromebook that they can. This will help minimize damages and end of year technology charges.

Ross Eberle, Technology Director





April 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Menu Subject to Change</p>	<p>Fruit & Juice Served with every meal</p> <p>1% milk served with every meal</p>	<p>1 Chicken Bis Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Hotdog W/G Bun Baked Beans Carrots, Celery Dip Pineapple</p>	<p>2 McMuffin Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Cr. Chicken over Bis. Peas Apple slices Treat</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Good Friday No School</p>
<p>6 Mini Cinnis Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Hot ham Cheese Pretzel Bun Tots Chips Tropical Fruit</p>	<p>7 Breakfast Taco Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Taco Pizza Corn Spanish Rice Applesauce</p>	<p>8 Cheese Omelet Hashbrown Saus Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Breakfast for lunch Pancakes Hashbrowns Saus. Dragon Juice Applesauce</p>	<p>9 Bis & Gravy Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>BBQ Chicken W/G Bun Malibu Veg. Strawberries</p>	<p>10 Banana Bread Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Sip Day</p>
<p>13 Breakfast Bites Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Bacon Ch. Burger Mac & Cheese Broccoli Pears Garlic Stick</p>	<p>14 Pancake Sandwich Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Lasagna Roll-ups Green beans Peaches Garlic Toast</p>	<p>15 Breakfast Bake Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Mixed Veg. Tropical Fruit</p>	<p>16 Apple Bites Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Bacon Ch. Burger W/G Bun Fries Peas & Carrots Clementines</p>	<p>17 Breakfast Pizza String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Mini Corndogs Baked Beans Coleslaw Pineapple</p>
<p>20 Cereal St. Cheese Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Chicken Patty W/G Bun Wedges Cali Blend Strawberries</p>	<p>21 Breakfast Bites Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Bacon Chicken Wrap Northwest Blend Mixed Fruit</p>	<p>22 Breakfast Bagel Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Taco Chicken/Shell Fiesta Corn Applesauce</p>	<p>23 Strawberry French Toast Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Meatball Sub Italian Salad Carrots & Dip Pears Treat</p>	<p>24 Cin Roll Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>BBQ W/G Bun Little Reds Salad/Dressings Peaches</p>
<p>27 Apple Turnover Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Taco Spaghetti Green beans Pineapple Cornbread</p>	<p>28 Chicken Bis Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Subs Cheesy Hash browns Applesauce Goldfish</p>	<p>29 Blueberry Bagel Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Chicken Fajita / Shell Spanish Rice Peas Tropical Fruit</p>	<p>30 Parfait Breakfast Cookie Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Breakfast Pizza Hash browns Fresh Orange</p>	

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

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EARLY CHILDHOOD *Screening*

April 23rd & 24th

Dakota School District #201 is offering developmental screening for all children that will be 3 or 4 years old during the 26-27 school year. Make an appointment for your child to learn their strengths, and things to help them as they grow. Contact the Elementary School Office for more information.



844-632-5682

<https://www.dakota201.org/>

[Preschool Screening Google Form](#)

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP
OUR YOUNGER
STUDENTS EXPLORE AND
CREATE**

Dakota Elementary Makerspace

THIS SPACE IS TOTALLY RUN BY VOLUNTEERS. IT IS OPEN TO EVERY DAKOTA STUDENT AS A RECESS OPTION EVERY 6 DAYS. THE MAKERSPACE FEATURES THE FOLLOWING: ROBOTICS AREA, GREEN SCREEN, CIRCUITRY AREA, SEWING/CROCHET AREA, LEGO AREA, BUILDING AREA, DESIGN AND CREATE AREA, 3D PEN AND PRINTER, PLUS DRONES!

IT IS FUNDED BY THE DAKOTA PTO, GRANTS FROM DAKOTA OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION, RURAL TECHNOLOGY FUND, AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHWEST ILLINOIS, AS WELL AS GENEROUS DONORS FROM THE COMMUNITY.

WE ARE IN **NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEERS** AS WE EXPAND OUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS. HOURS ARE DAILY FROM 10:30-12:30. VOLUNTEERS PICK UP THEIR HOURS AND DAYS ON A MONTHLY BASIS. CONTACT THE ELEMENTARY OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.



for Little Learners