

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## April 2025 Newsletter



Craig Mathers, Superintendent Interim  
Jenny Keffer, Superintendent Elect &  
Jr/Sr High Principal  
Ginnie Cunningham, Elementary Principal  
Kevin Cline, Assistant Principal  
Patty Monks, Superintendent Administrative Asst.

### Message from Superintendent Elect, Jenny Keffer

As we enter testing season, we want to remind families of the importance of supporting your child's well-being during this time. While standardized tests are not something any of us enjoy, they are a valuable opportunity for our students to showcase all they've learned throughout the year. To help ensure your child performs their best, please prioritize a good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast, and making sure they arrive on time each day.

Attendance is especially important during this period. Missing a test can be challenging to make up. We understand that the warmer weather may have everyone looking forward to outdoor activities, but we need your student in school each day to make the most of these opportunities.

Let's work together to help our students shine! Thank you for your continued support.

Thank you,

Jenny Keffer  
Principal/ Superintendent Elect



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**Dakota Musical Theatre  
Sponsor**

**HELP SPONSOR OUR MUSICAL  
"SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL"**

The Dakota Music Department and Drama Club are proud to present this year's Musical "SpongeBob the Musical" on April 4th and 5th, 2025 on the Dakota HS Stage. Our students are excited to bring the underwater world of Bikini Bottom to life with the characters of SpongeBob, Patrick, Sheldon, Plankton, Squidward and Sandy! To present a musical each year, there are many expenses required to produce a quality show. We are seeking sponsorships from individuals and local businesses to help support our production. Your support helps to fund the rental of materials for the show such as scripts and song books, the rental of wireless microphones, special effects, materials for set construction, costumes and orchestra. Your support will be featured in our program for the show as well as advertisement on our Facebook page. We greatly appreciate your support! If you would like to sponsor please contact [ahackbarth@dakota201.com](mailto:ahackbarth@dakota201.com) or call 844-632-5682. x365



### Dakota PTO News

- April 9: PTO meeting 5:30 PM
- April 11: 6th grade breakfast w/Buddy
- April 17: Family Movie Night
- May 02: Staff appreciation-PTO food day
- May 5-9: Literati Spring book fair
- May 09: Kindergarten breakfast w/Buddy



### Election Results for SY 2025-2026

President: Stephanie Didesch  
Vice President: Mandi Baker  
Treasurer: Tasha Aultman  
Secretary: Ashley Smith  
Float Officers: Kendra Rowe, Dalaura Bentley,  
Megann Pieper  
Teacher Liaisons: Anita Bicksler & Sandra Bahls

Thank you, to all of our wonderful volunteers!

I am beyond proud of the incredible growth our students have shown in both Math and ELA so far this school year! Their hard work, dedication, and commitment to learning are shining through every day. I can't wait to celebrate even more success when we share our spring iReady data in May! A huge THANK YOU to our amazing teachers AND parents for being true partners in education—your support makes all the difference. ❤️ Let's keep the momentum going! Thank you to families who have sent donations from our Makerspace Wish List!! We appreciate your generosity!! DES students LOVE spending time creating in our Makerspace Lab. Please consider making a donation from our Wish List.

Thank you, Ginnie Cunningham Elementary Principal



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Scholarships currently available:

Cedarville Lions Club Scholarship: Due April 4th,  
Dakota Athletic Boosters Scholarship: Due April 7th,  
Citizens Bank Scholarship: Due April 11th,  
FFA Alumni Scholarship: Due April 11th,  
Madelyn Nicole Greene Memorial Nursing Scholarship:  
Due May 3, 2025

\*All scholarship applications and/or links are found on  
www.dakota201.org. Select "Jr/Sr High" and  
"Guidance."

\*8th grade Holocaust field trip: May 6, 2025.  
Permission slips are due no later than Friday, May 2nd.

\*Senior Academic awards night will be on Wednesday,  
May 7th, at 6:00 p.m. NHS Induction ceremony begins  
at 5:30.

### \*National Honor Society:

Congratulations to the following National Honor  
Society new members: Reese Reeter, Cora Ingram,  
Moyra Mathews, Tatum Gill, Tori Gallagher, Jennifer  
Kaney, Peyton Woodsmall, Coleton Meier, Madisyn  
Dietmeier, Darin Gerber, Hailey Kerchner, Riley  
Schadewaldt, Beckett Flynn, Alayna Howarth, Alexis  
Kuhlmeier, Elisa Ugalde, Dustin Banderet, and Kenzie  
Tennant. The induction ceremony will be held on  
Wednesday, May 7th at 5:30 p.m. right before  
Senior Academic Awards Night.

Thank you

Kevin Cline-Assistant Principal/Academic Advisor

The technology department completed several  
projects over Spring break that included server and  
network upgrades as well as outside work with  
cameras and wifi. Planning for summer projects is  
also under way, with a planned refresh of one grade  
level of Chromebooks as well as cabling and  
networking upgrades. As we get toward the end of  
the school year, we request that parents please  
remind their students to be mindful of the  
Chromebooks they have been issued so we can end  
the year strong and with minimal damages to  
equipment

Thank you, Ross Eberle, Technology Director

Dakota Learn & Play  
Childcare Center  
has openings!  
Ages 5-10 years old

Any questions regarding our  
Childcare Center please  
contact Melissa McAloon  
1-844-632-5682 ext. 271

email: [mmcaloon@dakota201.com](mailto:mmcaloon@dakota201.com)



### Reminders

- April 4-5: HS Musical SpongeBob 7 PM
- April 4-17: IAR testing 3rd-6th grade
- April 05: FFA Alumni breakfast 8-noon
- April 09: ACT testing no school for Seniors
- April 11: SIP day early release 11:30 AM
- April 11-12: IHSA Musical organization contest
- April 15: Kindergarten screening
- April 18: NO SCHOOL: Good Friday
- April 22: Dakota board meeting 6 PM
- April 23: Administrative Professionals Day
- April 24: District Art show
- April 26: Dakota Prom
- April 29: Kindergarten screening

Check with your student's school for  
any other calendar events!



Congratulations to Jacob H. signing  
w/Mount Mercy for bowling!

# April 2025



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Breakfast bagel <sup>1</sup> Fruit Juice Milk  Taco Crunch Spanish rice, fiesta corn Mixed Fruit Churro	Pancake sandwich <sup>2</sup> Fruit Juice Milk  Chicken tenders Mash potatoes/gravy Peas, garlic toast Peaches	Cheese omelet <sup>3</sup> Hashbrown Fruit Juice Milk  Bacon cheeseburger W/G bun Veggies w/dip Mandarin oranges	Biscuits & gravy <sup>4</sup> Fruit Juice Milk  Pizza Green beans Grapes & treat
Breakfast pizza <sup>7</sup> Fruit Juice Milk  Hot ham/cheese Pretzel bun Hashbrowns Pineapple	Pancake Wrap <sup>8</sup> Fruit Juice Milk  Chicken wings Peas/carrots Chips Pears	Apples bites <sup>9</sup> Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk  Corn Dog Baked beans Cole slaw Apple slices	Breakfast taco <sup>10</sup> Fruit Juice Milk  High school-BBQ/bun Elementary-Goulash Broccoli/cheese Banana	Cereal <sup>11</sup> Donut Fruit Juice Milk  <b>SIP Day                      Early                      Release                      11:30</b>
Breakfast bites <sup>14</sup> Fruit Juice Milk  Fish W/G bun Cali blend veggies Mixed fruit	French toast <sup>15</sup> Sausage Fruit Juice Milk  Meatball sub Corn on cob/butter Chips Strawberries	Banana bread <sup>16</sup> Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk  Pancakes, sausage Hashbrowns Dragon juice Applesauce	Breakfast bagel <sup>17</sup> Fruit Juice Milk  Bosco stick/sauce Prince Edward veggies Peaches	<sup>18</sup>  <b>NO                      SCHOOL                      GOOD                      FRIDAY</b>
Chicken biscuit <sup>21</sup> Fruit Juice Milk  Nachos Black beans/salsa Broccoli & cauliflower Pineapple	Mini Cinni <sup>22</sup> Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk  Spaghetti/meat sauce Green beans Garlic stick Mandarin Oranges	Toaster scramble <sup>23</sup> Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk  BBQ chicken over biscuit Mixed veggies Apple slices	McMuffin <sup>24</sup> Fruit Juice Milk  Riblet dinner Mash potato/gravy Corn Garlic stick Peaches	Cinnamon Roll <sup>25</sup> Parfait Fruit Juice Milk  Hot dog W/G bun Carrots & salad Pears Treat
Smoothie <sup>28</sup> Blueberry muffin Fruit Juice Milk  Crispy chicken/biscuit Peas & carrots Mixed fruit	Cheese omelet <sup>29</sup> Hashbrown & sausage Fruit Juice Milk  Chicken Fajita NW blend veggies Chips Pineapple fruit fluff	Breakfast cookie <sup>30</sup> String cheese Fruit Juice Milk  Salisbury steak Mash potatoes/gravy Caribbean veggies Dinner roll/butter Applesauce	1% milk served with every meal. Juice & Fruit served with Breakfast	W/G = Whole Grain  <b>Menu                      subject                      to                      change</b> 