

Dakota CUSD 201



FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

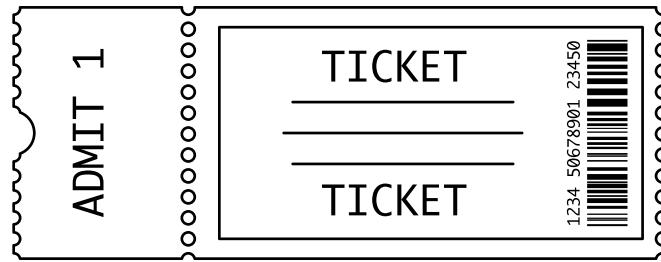
As we move through February, we want to take a moment to sincerely thank our families for your continued support and partnership. The connection between home and school is essential to the success of our students, and we are truly grateful for the role you play each day in supporting learning, growth, and well-being. Your role as parents and guardians is a vital part of our shared mission of developing respectful, resilient, and remarkable students who contribute positively to their communities and the world. The values reinforced at home directly impact students' success at school. When families and schools work together, students benefit academically, socially, and emotionally.

Thank you for being our partners, for your encouragement during the long winter months, and for all you do to support your children and our school community.

Thank you,
Ms. Keffer, Superintendent

DAKOTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



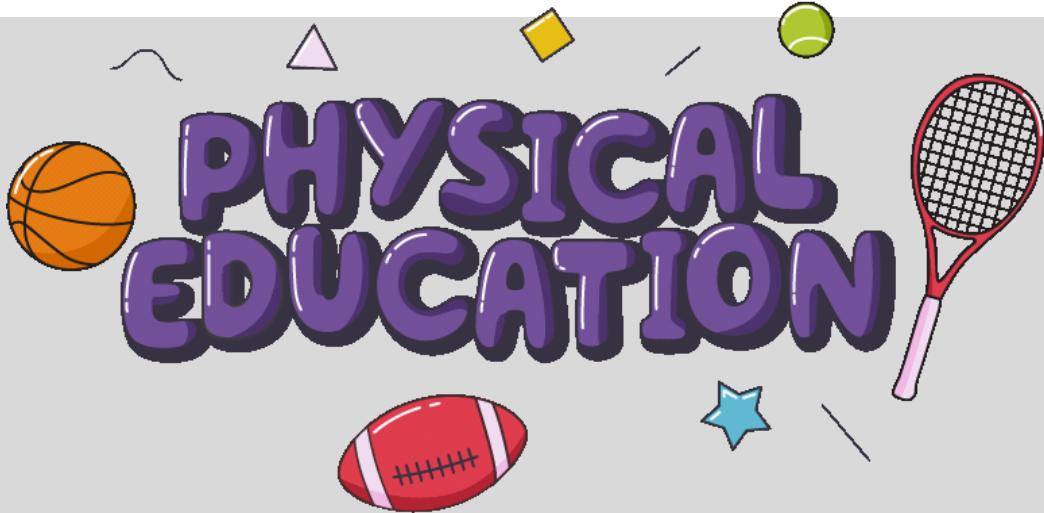
There are still slots to **sign up to help with gate admissions for home sporting events.**

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.

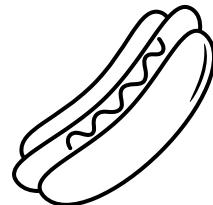
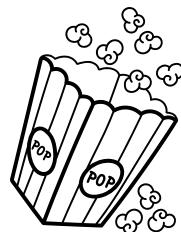
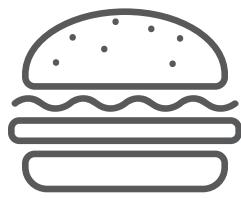
[Click to sign up here!](#)

DAKOTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



P.E. UNIFORMS: Starting January 5, 2026, all Dakota P.E. students will be required to wear the proper uniform for class each day. The proper uniform is a Dakota P.E. shirt (gray or black) and appropriate length black, gray, or maroon shorts or sweatpants. Shirts and shorts are available for purchase in the main office if necessary. Reach out to your student's teacher if you have any questions.



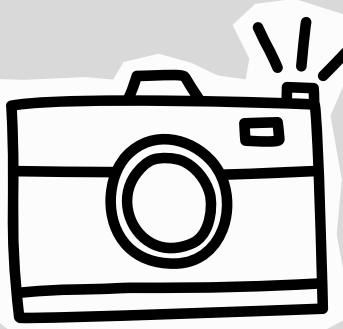
Dakota Athletic Booster Sign Up Genius Link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAEA72CA1FFC52-57273518-dakota#/>

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

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!](#)



REMINDERS

- Seniors - no school April 8th
- 11:30 dismissal February 13th
- No school February 16th

Jenny Keffer, Superintendent

John Paddock, HS Principal

Kevin Cline, HS Assistant Principal

Chris Berogan, ES Principal

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



PEP BAND SEASON

Upcoming Events:

February 2 HS Pep Band at Home Basketball

February 5 HS Pep Band at Home Basketball

February 10 HS Pep Band at Home Basketball

February 11 HS Pep Band at Home Basketball

February 12 HS Pep Band at Home Basketball

February 24 5-8th Grade Solo and Ensemble Contest at
DHS - 5:30-8:00pm

Band and Choir students performing solos, duets, trios

Looking ahead:

March 7 IHSA Solo & Ensemble Contest at West Carroll HS
(Mount Carroll)

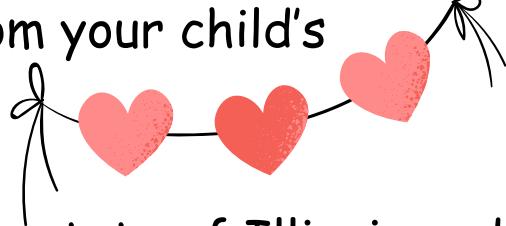
March 13 NUIC Conference Music Festival at Scales Mound
HS

March 23 - 26 HS Band and Choir to New York City!

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



ELEMENTARY NEWS

- Breakfast with a Buddy for Second Grade will be held on February 13. This is always a fun time for the students.
- Valentine's Day Celebrations will take place on February 13. Watch for any additional information from your child's teacher.A simple line drawing of a string of three red hearts. A small stick figure with a single arm and a single leg is holding the string from the left side.
- Body Safety Lessons. To comply with the state of Illinois and Erin's Law, Voices of Stephenson County will provide age appropriate lessons to students during specials' time February 17 through February 27. Students will learn about boundaries, safe people, safety with strangers, appropriate touching, and how to communicate issues to safe people. Parents may opt students out of these lessons; forms have already been sent home.
- We are currently selling yearbooks. We only have a limited supply of yearbooks left for this school year. Please reach out to the Dakota Elementary Office and get them before they are all gone.

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



- February 11: PTO Meeting 5:30
- February 13: Breakfast with a Buddy 2nd Grade
- (tentative) February 20: Spring Movie Night @ HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA



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 COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Library Corner

The Dakota School District libraries are busy hubs at the heart of our schools! Even with the shorter, colder month of January, our students were incredibly active:

- Elementary Library: 1,616 books checked out
- High School Library: 273 books checked out

Way to go, Dakota readers!

Highlights

January was a cozy and chill month for the Elementary Library. Students reflected on their 2025 goals and growth while brainstorming ways to celebrate our class accomplishments, to include meeting our AR goals! We learned about self awareness and the elements that increase our awareness such as recognizing our emotions, understanding our strengths, growth mindset, self- esteem, and honesty and integrity. Through our read-aloud sessions, we also explored the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and enjoyed titles from popular authors like Jan Brett, and Jory John.

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



The scores are in! The winter diagnostic scores are helping us to match students' interests with their i-Ready reading levels, specifically focusing on their Lexile range.

We are more than happy to purchase books to be added to our collection. If you would like a book to be added to our library, please make a request in our Follett Destiny app or see the library staff to request it. We have one special book we would like to highlight that was added to the library this month. This book is extra special as the authors are our Dakota students! This new book is called Excellence 2025 Poetry Collection and it contains some of our poems that were submitted to the American Library of Poetry last Spring. Lillian Kraft, Grace Meinert, and Richie Hofmaster are now published writers!
Congratulations!

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Library Reminders

Loan Period: Books can be checked out for two weeks and may be renewed if needed.

Checkout Limits: Depending on their grade level, students may borrow two to four books at a time.

Overdue Policy: If a student has more than two overdue books, they must be returned before new books can be borrowed.

Lost Books: Items overdue for more than one month may be considered lost, and a replacement fine may be applied to the account.

Support Our Library

If you are clearing off your bookshelves at home, please consider donating gently used books to our library system! Also, stay tuned for details on our upcoming Book Basket Silent Auction fundraiser.

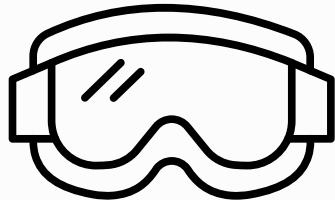
Join a library committee! We are in the process of forming a committee to select books for our libraries. Please connect with us if you want to be a part of this process.

Thank you for your continued support of our young readers!

Jo Dee Nicosia

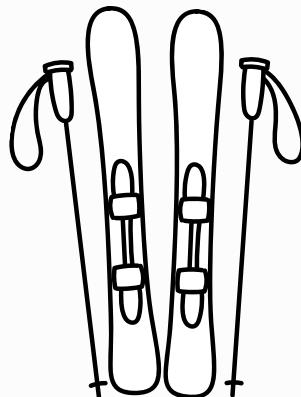
DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Dakota families: Don't miss the Chestnut Mountain Discount Night on February 13th.

Chestnut Mountain Resort is offering a special district-wide Discount Night on Friday, February 13th, from 1:30 PM to 10:00 PM. For just \$35, participants will receive both a lift ticket and equipment rental—an incredible deal for skiers & snowboarders of all levels. Since February 13th is already an early dismissal day (11:30 AM SIP), it's a perfect opportunity for families to enjoy an afternoon and evening on the slopes. Please note that families must provide their own transportation and that this is not a chaperoned event; parents or guardians are responsible for their children. A district-wide email will be sent in February with the link to purchase tickets.



DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

FEBRUARY 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.

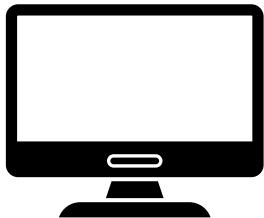
We rely on the generosity of others to keep the Donation Den stocked. At this time, we are looking for coats (all sizes), hygiene items (shampoo, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, feminine products, etc.), gloves, hats, socks, and school supplies. If you would like to donate any items, please feel free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

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Springtime is state testing season for schools and the technology department is preparing so testing goes as seamlessly as possible. There is a change to the online platform for at least one test this year. This adds some complexity but we are confident testing will go smoothly.

With the continued increase in systems with AI built into them available, we have had requests from teachers regarding access to AI technologies. Due to these requests, we are setting up some training for teachers for the upcoming February SIP day so that they are more prepared to best utilize those resources.

Issues with Chromebooks have been holding steady with a slight uptick in issues within the last couple of weeks. We appreciate the effort that students are making to use these devices mindfully which helps to minimize any damage.

Ross Eberle
Technology Director
Dakota CUSD #201



February 2026



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Waffles Sausage Fruit Juice Milk	3 Mc Muffin Fruit Juice Milk	4 Apple Bites Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk	5 Biscuits & Gravy Fruit Juice Milk	6 Breakfast Pizza String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk
Chicken Pamm Italian Blend Pineapple Garlic Toast	Homemade Pizza Cali Blend Tropical Fruit	Chicken Fajita/Shell Peppers & Onions Black Bean Salsa Peaches	Ham & Cheese Melt Broccoli / Cheese Strawberries Treat	Chicken & Noodles Peas & Carrots Pears Garlic Toast
9 Breakfast Biscuit Fruit Juice Milk	10 French Toast Sausage Fruit Juice Milk	11 Bagel Sandwich Fruit Juice Milk	12 Breakfast Taco Fruit Juice Milk	13 Cereal Donut String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk
Lasagna Roll-Ups Corn Applesauce Cheesy Bread	Bacon Ch Burger W/G Bun Wedges Mandiran Oranges	Chicken Tender Wrap Carrots & Ranch Mixed Fruit	Cheeseburger Calzone Salad/Dressing Malibu Veg Banana	SIP DAY
16 Presidents Day 	17 Pancake Wrap Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk Bosco Sticks/Sauce Mixed Veg Peaches	18 Cheese Omelet Hash browns Fruit Juice Milk Corndog Baked Beans Coleslaw Apple Slices	19 Breakfast Bagel Fruit Juice Milk Crunchy Taco Shell Fiesta Corn Spanish Rice Pineapple	20 Banana Bread Parfait Fruit Juice Milk Pork Tenderloin W/G Bun Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Peas Grapes
23 Breakfast Bake Fruit Juice Milk Mac & Cheese Peas Carrots Pears Garlic Sticks	24 Apple Turnover Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk KFC Bowl Potatoes / Gravy Corn Strawberries	25 Pancake Sandwich Fruit Juice Milk Fish Sticks Lil Reds Northwest Blend Oranges	26 Breakfast Cookies Smoothie Fruit Juice Milk Pancakes Sausage Hashbrowns Dragon Juice Applesauce	27 Cinnamon Roll Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk Taco Pizza Cali Blend Peaches Cookies
			Menu Subject to Change	1% Milk Served With every meal Fruit & Juice served With Breakfast