

# Dakota CUSD 201



## JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

We hope you and your family enjoyed a restful and meaningful winter break. As we begin the new year, we are excited to welcome students back to school on Monday, January 5. Our staff is prepared and eager to reconnect with students, reestablish routines, and continue the important work of learning and growth together.

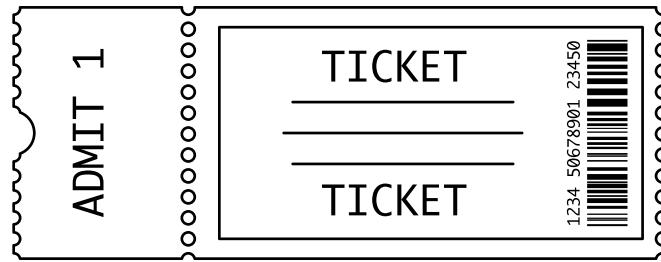
After a two-week break, transitioning back into a school routine can be challenging for some students. Consistent attendance is critical during this time, as it helps students reengage academically, socially, and emotionally. We appreciate your partnership in ensuring students arrive on time and ready to learn each day. We look forward to a successful start to the new semester and wish all of our families a great 2026.

Thank you,

Jenny Keffer  
Superintendent  
Dakota CUSD #201

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



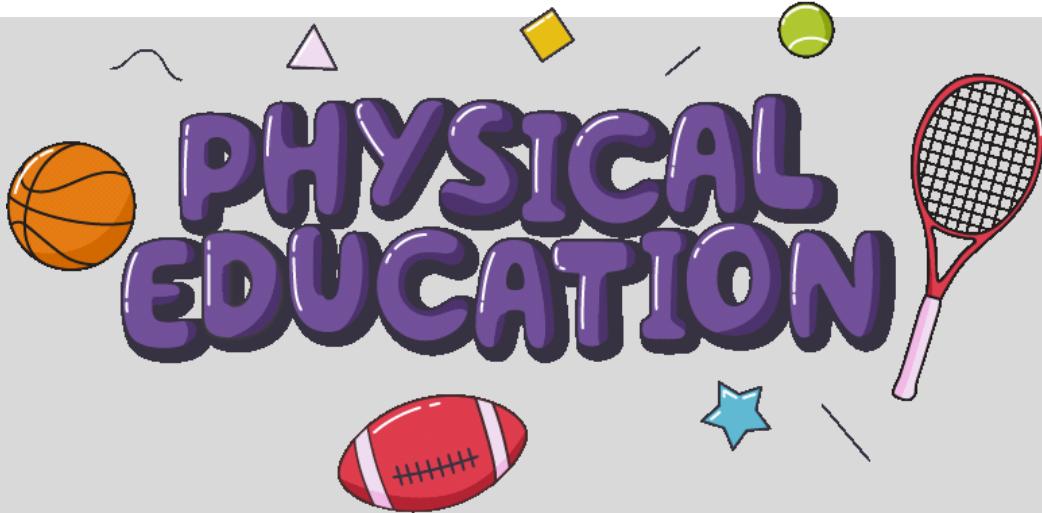
There are still slots to sign up to help with gate admissions for home sporting events.

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.

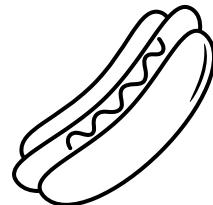
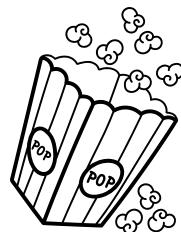
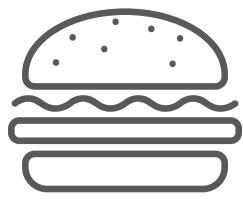
[Click to sign up here!](#)

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

JANUARY 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.



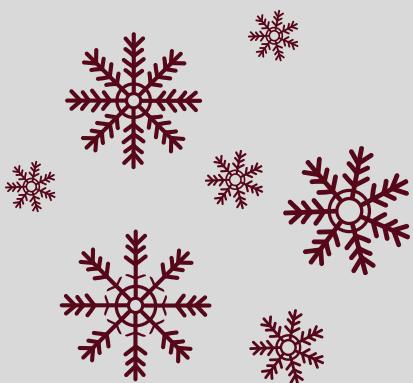
Dakota Athletic Booster Sign Up Genius Link:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAEA72CA1FFC52-57273518-dakota#/>

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## JANUARY 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**

SCHOOL RESUMES  
JANUARY 5TH

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

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



### PEP BAND SEASON

Monday, January 5 - GBB game  
Wednesday, January 14 - GBBB game - JH Pep Band Night  
Tuesday, January 20 - BBB game  
Friday, January 23 - GBB game  
Monday, January 26 - BBB game  
Tuesday, January 27 - GBB game  
Wednesday, January 28 - BBB

### 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.

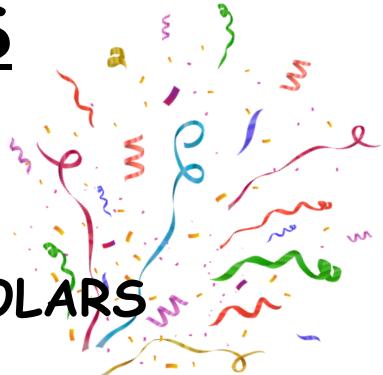


# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

## CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR  
2025-2026 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS



CAMDEN DIEKEN - BRIAN FRANK  
JAYDEN GALLAGHER - FINLEY MEIER- ASHLEY RUPNOW  
NATHANIEL STACHE - PAVEL ZAVOLOKOFF

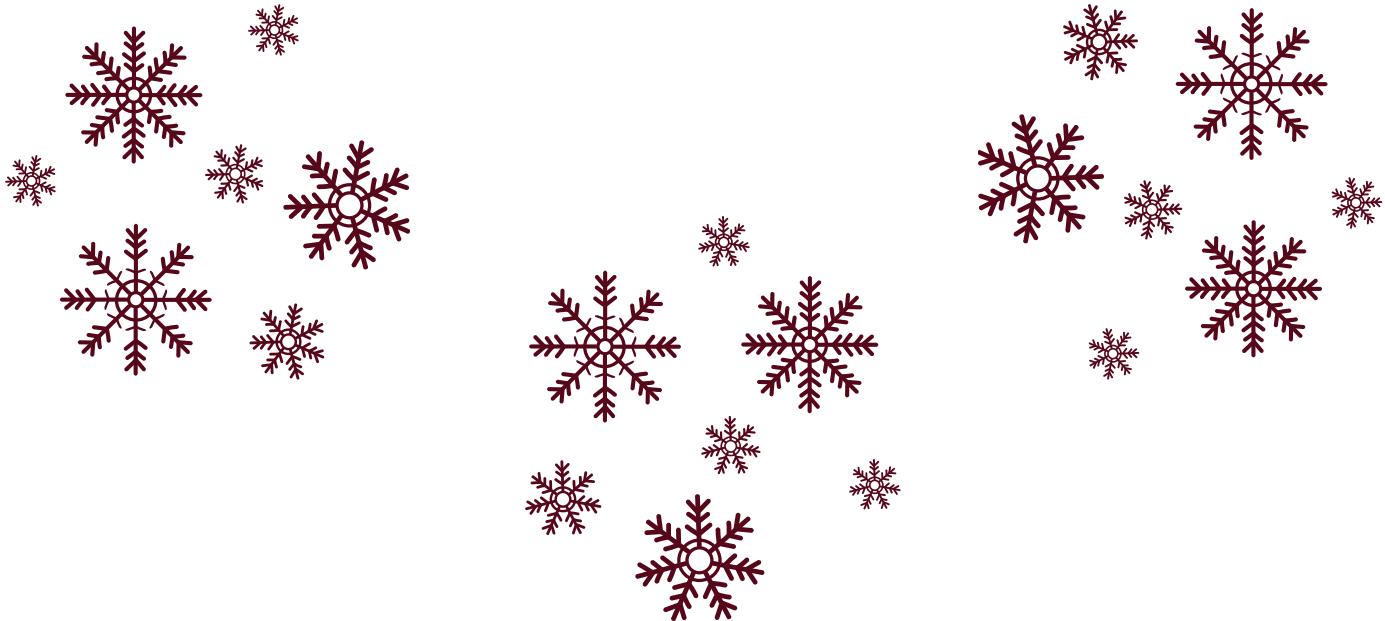


AND OUR ILMEA  
ALL-STATE MUSICIANS

DARIN GERBER - Senior All-State Chorus  
EMILY GRAYBILL - Senior All-State Chorus  
BRAEDYN JANSEN - Senior Honors Chorus  
ALEXIS MILLER - Junior All-State Chorus  
IRELYN OLSON - Senior All-State Chorus  
NATHAN STACHE - Senior Honors Chorus

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



- January 14: PTO Meeting 3:30
- January 16: Breakfast with a Buddy 3rd Grade



# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



## JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

### Library Corner

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

Elementary Library: 1,393 books checked out

High School Library: 268 books checked out

Way to go, Dakota readers!

### Quarter 2 Highlights

December was a fast and fabulous month for the Elementary Library. Through our read-aloud sessions, students explored diverse holiday traditions, the science of snow, and the animals that burrow beneath it.

This quarter, we focused on the Accelerated Reader (AR) program by Renaissance. This tool motivates students by allowing them to choose their own books, track their progress, and take short quizzes to earn points.

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



The highlight of our library sessions was watching our digital "goal trees" bloom on the smartboard. As each grade band worked toward meeting 100% of their class goals, their tree grew leaves, apples, and birds. We saw incredible growth this quarter among our 272 participating students in grades 2-6:

1st Quarter: 83 students (30%) met their goals.

2nd Quarter: 160 students (59%) met their goals.

This represents a fantastic 29% increase in students reaching their targets!

Continued coordination and collaboration with our leadership team and teachers will shape how the AR program is used in the library, but from our classroom it is really exciting to see the students discover their love of reading!

Moving forward, we will continue matching students' interests with their i-Ready reading levels, specifically focusing on their Lexile range.

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



## JANUARY 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.

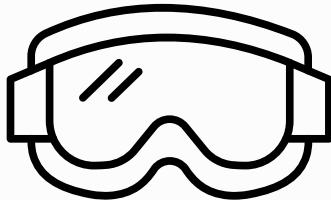
**Lost Books:** Items overdue for more than one month may be considered lost, and a replacement fine may be applied to the account.

### 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.

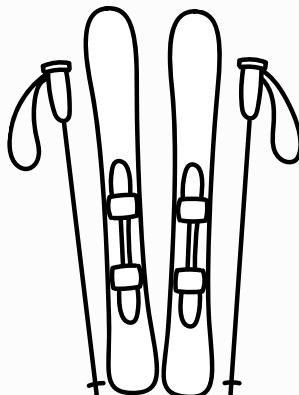
# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## JANUARY 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

## JANUARY 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](mailto:adague@dakota201.com).

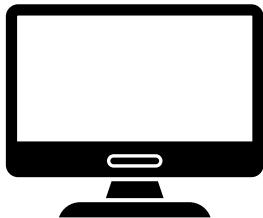
We rely on the generosity of others to keep the Donation Den stocked. At this time, we are looking for coats (all sizes), hygiene items (shampoo, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, feminine products, etc.), gloves, hats, socks, and school supplies. If you would like to donate any items, please feel free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

## JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



\*\*\*\*\*

The Technology Department completed upgrades to many of the systems in the district over winter break. These updates were done in order to stay up to date with current security practices.

Chromebook operating system updates will be going out to student devices in the early part of January. This will keep the Chromebooks current for any security issues discovered for the older software versions while maintaining compatibility with state testing software. This also appears to fix several known issues that a small number of students experienced in December.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks!

Ross Eberle

Technology Director  
Dakota CUSD #201





# JANUARY 2026



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Menu Subject to Change</b>	1% Milk served with every meal.  Fruit & Juice served with Breakfast.		1 	2 <b>Teachers Institute</b>
5 Cereal String Cheese Pop tart Fruit Juice Milk  Bosco St/Sauce Peas Pineapple Pudding	6 Bis & Gravy Fruit Juice Milk  Bacon Ch Burger W/G Bun Fries Carrots Pears	7 Cheese Omelet Hash Brown Sausage Fruit Juice Milk  Scalloped Potatoes/Ham Green beans Peaches Dinner Roll /Butter	8 Breakfast Pizza Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk  Waffles/Syrup Sausage Hash brown Dragon Juice Applesauce	9 Cinnamon Roll Parfait Fruit Juice Milk  Homemade Pizza Corn Salad/Dressing Mand Oranges Treat
12 Chicken Biscuit Fruit Juice Milk  Cheese Quesadilla Broccoli/Cheese Pineapple	13 Mc Muffin Fruit Juice Milk  Hotdog W/G Bun Baked Beans Cali Blend Tropical Fruit	14 Breakfast Cookie Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk  Chicken Fajita/Shell Peppers & Onions NW Blend Pears	15 French Toast Sausage Hashbrown Fruit Juice Milk  Spaghetti with Meat sauce Peas & Carrots Strawberries Garlic Toast	16 Smoothie Blueberry Muffin Fruit Juice Milk  Sloppy Joes W/G Bun Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Peaches Treat
19  <b>Martin Luther King</b>	20 Apple Bites Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk  Nacho Fries Black Beans/Salsa Carrots Pears Cornbread	21 Cereal & Donut Holes Fruit Juice Milk  Italian Pull-Apart Green beans Tropical Fruit	22 Pancake Sandwich Fruit Juice Milk  Wings Tots Cali Blend Apple slices	23 Breakfast Taco Fruit Juice Milk  Fish Sticks Coleslaw Mixed Veg Peaches Treat
26 Breakfast Bake Fruit Juice Milk  Mini Corndogs Lt. Reds Applesauce Chips	27 Cheese Omelet Hash Brown Sausage Fruit Juice Milk  Crunchy Taco/Shell Peas & Carrots Pears Apple Churro	28 Pancake Wrap Fruit Juice Milk  Turkey Melt Pretzel Bun Salad/Dressing Broccoli & Cauliflower Banana Taffy Apple Salad	29 Breakfast Bagel Fruit Juice Milk  KFC Bowl Mashed Potatoes Gravy Corn Green beans Mixed Fruit	30 Banana Bread Parfait Fruit Juice Milk  Cheese Ravioli Malibu Veg Applesauce Garlic Stick