

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

March 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 approach the end of the quarter on March 14, we want to remind families that spring break will follow closely behind, from March 24-28. Parents, please encourage your student to finish the year strong by attending school every day. Students perform their best when they are well-rested and focused. Additionally, now is the perfect time for students to consider their academic and athletic activities for the next school year, as many clubs and sports begin practicing over the summer. Have a conversation with your student about their interests and reach out to Mr. Bashford with any questions regarding clubs and activities. Let's make the final stretch a great one!

The Superintendent's Office has been working closely with community members and staff on our strategic plan for the years 2026-2031. The committee meets bi-weekly and has made significant progress, including drafting a mission and vision, as well as identifying strategic priorities. Building administration will soon begin drafting an improvement plan to address our most pressing areas of need, and there is a lot of momentum and excitement around this project. One key focus that consistently arises in our meetings is the need to improve literacy outcomes for our students. To support this effort, we encourage families to read to their children every day. Together, we can make a positive impact on our students' success!

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 or call 844-632-5682. x365



Dakota PTO News



- March 7: Storybook Ball -Read Across America Week
- March 12: PTO Meeting 3:30 PM Officer Elections
- Late March/early April: School supply kit sale begins
- April 9: PTO Meeting 5:30 PM

Thank you, to all of our wonderful volunteers!

You Are A Rockstar!



- 3/3 - 3/7 - Read Across America Week
- 3/5 - 3/7 - Hearing/Vision screening (during Library)
- 3/7 - 5th/6th Grade field trip to Rockford Symphony Orchestra
- 3/7 - Storybook Ball
- 3/19 - 9:00 Music in our school assembly in DES gym

Students completed their iReady winter benchmarking at the end of January. We are pleased to see positive results in all grade levels. I will begin recognizing the top two students in each grade level for completing iReady reading and math lessons throughout the week. Student pictures will be displayed on the bulletin board at the front entrance of DES. Student engagement and achievement are at the forefront, with our 5th and 6th-grade ambassadors leading initiatives to enhance school culture and prepare for IAR testing. Winter iReady benchmarking results showed positive growth across all grade levels, highlighting the hard work of both students and staff. Dakota Elementary remains committed to providing a supportive, enriching learning environment for all.

Thank you, Ginnie Cunningham Elementary Principal



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A reminder to everyone to abide by the posted 15 MPH speed limit on Campus Dr. as well as to park in only designated parking spots for the safety of everyone coming and going from our campus.

What should your college bound Senior be doing during the month of March:

1. Scholarships, Scholarships, Scholarships!!!
2. If attending HCC, preparing for your Quickstart visit on April 23rd by practicing for placement tests and thinking about possible courses.
3. Those going away to 4-year schools should be receiving housing information this spring, the final step in securing your spot for the fall. This often comes with a non-refundable deposit, so be prepared to make that final commitment.
4. You should have already filed your FAFSA and received your SAR (student aid reports) from your college choices. Kevin Cline

-Assistant Principal/Academic Advisor

Springtime is state testing season for schools, the technology department is preparing so testing goes as seamlessly as possible. A new online platform for some tests this year adds some complexity, but we are confident testing will go smoothly. With the increase in AI tools available, we have had requests from teachers regarding access to AI technologies for staff and students. With that in mind, we have enabled Notebook LM for staff only, which is an AI tool built into the Google Tools for education that is only trained on internal data. We are working on amending the Parent and Student Handbook to be more explicit with regards to student usage of AI in order to best support both District Policies as well as access to technology. 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. 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



Reminders:

- March 5-American Red Cross Blood Drive
Dakota HS 1PM-6PM
- March 8-IHSA Solo and Ensemble contest
- March 12-13-Preschool Screen
- March 14-End of 3rd Qrt & Music Festival Galena
- March 17-Colony Brands Career Expo
- March 18-University of Dubuque college visit
- March 24-28 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK

Check with your students school for
any other calendar events!





March 2025



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Cheese Omelet ³ Saus Hashbrown Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Chicken Bacon Wrap Mixed Veg Chips Tropical Fruit</p>	<p>Apple Bites Yogurt ⁴ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Taco/Shell Corn Spanish Rice Pears Cornbread</p>	<p>Breakfast Bagel ⁵ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Cheese Pizza Green Beans Apple Slices Treat</p>	<p>Breakfast Bake ⁶ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Chicken Dinner Broccoli/Cheese Clementines Garlic Stick</p>	<p>Banana Bread Gogurt ⁷ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Spaghetti Peas & Carrots Mixed Fruit Cheesy Bread</p>
<p>Pancake Wrap ¹⁰ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Breakfast Sandwich Hashbrowns Dragon Juice Peaches</p>	<p>Chicken Biscuit ¹¹ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Chicken Patty W/G bun Cali Blend Strawberries</p>	<p>Trix French Toast ¹² Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Mini Corn Dogs Fries Carrots & Dip Pineapple</p>	<p>Biscuits & Gravy ¹³ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Open Face Turkey Mashed Pot. Gravy Corn Applesauce</p>	<p>Cin Roll Parfait ¹⁴ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Fish Coleslaw Baked Beans Mand. Oranges Sidekick</p>
<p>Breakfast Pizza ¹⁷ String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>KFC Bowl Potatoes/Gravy Corn Mixed Fruit Cookie</p>	<p>Pancake Sandwich ¹⁸ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Scalloped Potatoes/Ham Green beans Peaches Dinner Roll</p>	<p>Bagel/Cream Cheese ¹⁹ Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Bacon Cheeseburger W/G Bun Carrots, Celery /Dip Oranges</p>	<p>Breakfast Taco ²⁰ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Pork W/G Bun Peas Italian Salad Apple Slices</p>	<p>Cereal Donut ²¹ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Cheese Ravioli Northwest Blend Pears Garlic Toast</p>
<p>²⁴ NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK</p>	<p>²⁵ NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK</p>	<p>²⁶ NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK</p>	<p>²⁷ NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK</p>	<p>²⁸ NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK</p>
<p>³¹ Breakfast Cookie Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>French toast, Sausage Hashbrowns Pineapple</p>	<p>W/G = Whole Grain</p> <p>Menu subject to change</p>	<p>1% milk served with every meal.</p> <p>Juice & Fruit served with Breakfast</p>		<p><i>St. Patrick's Day</i></p>