

# Dakota CUSD 201



Respectful. Resilient. Remarkable.

## MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

As we celebrate Teacher Appreciation, we want to take a moment to recognize the incredible dedication, passion, and care our teachers bring to their classrooms each day. Their commitment to supporting, challenging, and inspiring our students does not go unnoticed. We are especially grateful for the support of our PTO in helping us celebrate our staff and make this week extra special. Their partnership plays an important role in creating a positive and uplifting environment for both our teachers and students.

Spring is in full swing, and it has been exciting to see our softball, baseball, and track teams competing and representing our school with pride. As we move through these final weeks, we encourage all students to continue attending school consistently and finishing the year strong. Every day matters. Please also keep in mind that the last day of school is Friday, May 29. We look forward to a strong and successful finish to the school year!

Ms. Keffer, Superintendent

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## MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

### HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

As we wind down the school year, May is filled with celebrations and opportunities to recognize our students. From graduation to our perfect attendance awards, where we've seen the most recipients we've ever had, to the excitement of our spring sporting events, it's a special time of year. It has truly been a wonderful first year getting to know our students and watching them grow and succeed. As we head into summer, I encourage families to take advantage of the season- get outside, stay active, and enjoy time together. A sincere thank you to our PTO for their support this year, as well as to the DOE, who came through with a \$7,000 donation to support our science classrooms for next year. Wishing everyone a safe and fun summer!



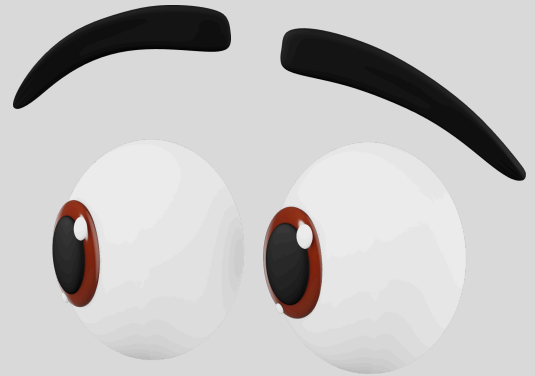
## MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

### ELEMENTARY UPDATE

We are wrapping up a fantastic school year and taking time to celebrate our incredible students and staff. The first week of May was dedicated to recognizing our teachers who go above and beyond every single day. We are so grateful for their dedication to our students and families. It has also been exciting to see the Literacy Garden up and in full swing as we close out the year. A heartfelt thank you to the Literacy Garden Committee for their tireless efforts in making this vision a reality. We encourage parents who are interested to consider volunteering in the garden. Additionally, thank you to our PTO for their generous support of our teachers and students, including the wonderful lunch provided on May 1 and the ice cream treat for students on May 22. Finally, the DOE voted to approve grants for a new portion of our playground, as well as new blinds for the library and the 4th-6th grade classrooms. What a great community this is to be a part of. This has truly been a great first year!

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



## 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.

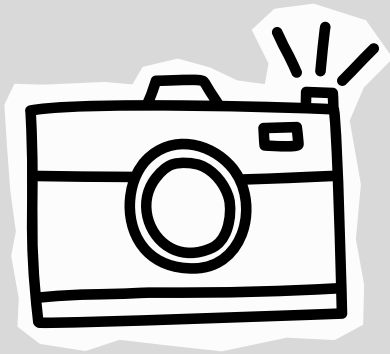


# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## MAY 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!](#)



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

## REMINDERS

May 6 - NHS Induction at 5:30 p.m. and Senior Academic Awards Night 6:00 p.m.

May 14 - Senior Last Day

May 15 - Graduation Practice at 8:30 a.m. and Baccalaureate Service at 7:00 p.m.

May 17 Graduation 2:00 p.m.

May 29 - Eighth Grade Promotion / Junior High Academic Awards 9:00 a.m.



# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



We will be providing ice cream to both buildings during lunch periods on May 22nd.

Our last PTO meeting will be on May 13th, 4pm at Route 75.



# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



## MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

### April by the Numbers

Our readers have been on a roll! This month's checkout stats:

- Elementary School: 1,657 books
- High School: 172 books
- 

### Successes & Celebrations

**The Book Fair:** A massive thank you to the PTO and our wonderful volunteers! Because of your hard work, our Book Fair was a resounding success, and every teacher was able to select new titles to refresh their classroom libraries.

**Volunteer Appreciation Month** We want to recognize our student library aides. Over 30 students from 3rd to 6th grade are truly the heart of our library. Whether they are reading to kindergartners, tidying shelves, or re-potting plants, their dedication makes a world of difference.

**Poetry Contests** Good luck to the **45 students** who submitted poems to the national and state poetry contests. We are so proud of your creativity

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



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## Learning in Action: Eggs & Gardens

**Chicks and Ducks** In partnership with the Stephenson County Farm Bureau and students, we are currently hosting an incubator full of Duck and chicken eggs! We are mid-way through our 21-day journey observing the life cycle of baby chicks.

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

**Literature Garden** As we transition to our outdoor classroom, students are learning "Leave No Trace" principles and animal habitats. If you would like to volunteer as we host class in our Literature Garden from May 4-15, please fill out this form.

## One School, One Book

On April 30th, we kicked off our One School, One Book program with "**The Lemonade War**" by Jacqueline Davies.

- Home Reading: Every elementary student has received a copy.
- Daily Fun: Join us for daily Kahoot quiz prizes and giveaways when the student chooses the right answers as to what is happening in that chapter!

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## Important Dates & Reminders

- May 1st: Last day for book checkouts.
- May 7th: Acquisition Committee Meeting (3:30 PM @ DES Library).
- May 15th: ALL LIBRARY BOOKS DUE BACK.
- May 18th: Library closes for annual inventory.

**Book Requests:** Need a specific title? Submit a book request here. **Donations:** Clearing your shelves? Please drop gently used books in the donation box located in the DES front lobby.

## Join a Committee

Help shape the future of our library! We are looking for community members for our Acquisition Committee to help select the books that fill our shelves. Meetings are the first Thursday of every month.

Thank you for supporting our young readers!

Happy Reading, Jo Dee Nicosia & the Dakota School District Library Staff

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



**MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER**

State testing started the week after Spring Break. A few issues with Chromebooks and the testing app occurred which was expected based on other district's feedback. Those issues were resolved on the first day of testing for the handful of students that experienced them and testing went smoothly otherwise.

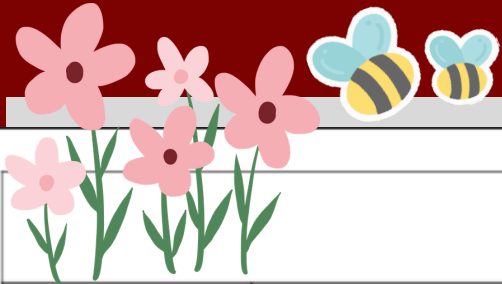
We are currently making plans for summer projects. We are tentatively planning to refresh one grade level of Chromebooks as well as install a new telephone system.

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.

Ross Eberle, Technology Director



# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



## May 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>Fruit &amp; Juice</b></p> <p>Served With</p> <p>Every Meal</p>	<p>Menu <sup>1.</sup></p> <p>Subject</p> <p>To</p> <p>Change</p>	<p>1% Milk</p> <p>Served</p> <p>With</p> <p>Every Meal</p>		<p>1 Blueberry Bagel Cr Cheese Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Bacon Ch. Burger W/G Bun Fries Peas &amp; Carrots Strawberries. Treat</p>
<p>4 Cheese Omelet Hashbrown Saus Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>KFC Bowl Corn Mixed Veg Mand Oranges</p>	<p>5 Apple Turnover Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Chicken Taco/Shell Spanish Rice Black beans/Salsa Tropical Fruit</p>	<p>6 Breakfast Bites Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Spaghetti Meat Sauce Green beans Peaches Garlic Toast</p>	<p>7 Bis &amp; Gravy Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Mini Corn Dogs Tots Salad/Dressings Pineapple Treat</p>	<p>8 Banana Bread Parfait Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>BBQ Chicken Pizza Carrots Apple slices</p>
<p>11 Pancake Sand. Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Orange Chicken over Rice Broccoli Egg Roll Peaches Fortune Cookie</p>	<p>12 Breakfast Taco Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Mac &amp; Cheese Green beans Mixed Fruit Garlic Stick</p>	<p>13 Chicken Biscuit Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Waffles Sausage Hashbrown Dragon Juice Applesauce</p>	<p>14 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Bacon Chicken Wrap Carrots/Celery/Dip Chips Clementines</p>	<p>15 Cinnamon Roll Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Hotdogs W/G Bun Baked Beans Cole Slaw Pears</p>
<p>18 Pancakes Sausage Hashbrowns Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Chicken Parm Cali Blend Tropical Fruit</p>	<p>19 Blueberry Bagel Cr Cheese String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Bosco Stick/Sauce Peas Mand Oranges</p>	<p>20 Apple Bites Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Ranch Chicken on Garlic Toast Lil Reds Peaches</p>	<p>21 Strawberry French Toast Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Taco Bites Northwest Blend Pears Treat</p>	<p>22 Cereal Donut Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Italian Pull Apart Mixed Veg. Strawberries</p>
<p>25</p> <p><b>No School Memorial Day</b></p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>Cooks Choice</b></p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>Cooks Choice</b></p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>Cooks Choice</b></p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>Cooks Choice</b></p>