

DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

May 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 school year, we are filled with excitement and pride for all that our students have accomplished. This is a special time full of celebrations, including awards ceremonies and graduations, where we recognize the hard work and achievements of our students. These events are not only meaningful milestones but also a reflection of the dedication and support from our families and school community throughout the year.

As we head into these final weeks, we kindly ask for your continued support in keeping students motivated and engaged. Daily attendance remains incredibly important, as every day counts in reinforcing learning, building connections, and finishing the year strong. Your efforts to ensure your child is present and prepared help us maintain a positive momentum and support our overall student attendance goals. Thank you for being a vital part of our school community!

BACCALAUREATE: May 16 at 7:00 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION: May 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Thank you,

Jenny Keffer Principal/Superintendent Elect



CareerTEC Award Winners
Outstanding Students

Congratulations

Jacob Mitchell-Ag Science

Braxton Neidermeier-
Industrial Manufacturing
Welding

Saige Simmons-
Early Childhood
Education 2



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Dakota PTO News

- May 02: Staff appreciation-PTO food day
- May 5-9: Literati Spring book fair
- May 09: Kindergarten breakfast w/Buddy
- May 14: Last PTO Meeting/year end at Rt 75
- May 16: End of year Ice Cream Sundaes

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!



Literati Book Fair Next Week May 5th-10th

Monday: Day 8:30a.m.-2:30p.m.-preview only
Evening 6:15p.m.-8:15p.m.

Tuesday: Day 7:50a.m.-2:30p.m.
Evening 6:15p.m.-8:15p.m.

Wed & Thurs.: Day 7:50a.m.-2:30p.m.

Friday: Day 7:50a.m.-8:30a.m.



Spring has been a busy and exciting time at Dakota Elementary! In April, students in grades 3 through 6 completed the IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) testing. We are in the midst of enrolling our newest Dakota Indians by holding kindergarten screenings for incoming students. Our intervention teams continue to make strong progress, providing support for Tier 2 and Tier 3 students in reading and math. Summer school will be offered by invitation to K-2 students in July, focusing on strengthening early literacy and math skills. We are also pleased to announce the ongoing development of our Makerspace lab, fueled by recent grant awards. As always, we are proud of the dedication of our staff and the achievements of our students as we finish the year strong!

Thank you, Ginnie Cunningham Elementary Principal



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8th Grade Holocaust Field trip May 6th

8th GRADE PROMOTION/Jr. HIGH AWARDS: May 28th at 9 a.m. All Jr. High students are free to leave for the summer with their parents following the ceremony.

SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT: This year's Senior Awards Night is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school gym. The NHS Induction ceremony will precede this event at 5:30. All current members are encouraged to attend and welcome new members to the club.

SENIOR TRIP TO SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA: Bus leaves at 6:45 p.m. on Saturday, May 10th.

SENIOR EXIT INTERVIEWS: Monday, May 12th for seniors currently enrolled in speech, and Thursday, May 15th for the remaining CollegeNOW students.

SENIORS LAST DAY: Seniors last regular school day will be Thursday, May 15th. Seniors will have graduation pictures and practice beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, May 16th.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY: The National Honor Society induction ceremony will be held in the high school gym on Wednesday, May 7, at 5:30 p.m. before the senior academic awards. All current members are encouraged to attend and welcome new members to the club.

Thank you

Kevin Cline-Assistant Principal/Academic Advisor

The Technology Department is busy planning several projects for summer to tune up the tech at the district. Current plans include a refresh of one grade level of Chromebooks as well as cabling and networking upgrades. We are also planning on replacing district clocks with updated versions that sync over the network. 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. Any Chromebook damages will be assessed at the end of the school year and billed in early June.

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

May 5th: 6th Grade Spring concert 7p.m.

May 3rd: 4th Grade Spring concert 7p.m.

May 5-9th: Teacher appreciation

May 7: Senior award night

May 8: 8th Grade field trip

May 10: Senior trip to Six Flags

May 15: Senior's last day

May 16: Baccalaureate 7p.m.

May 18: Graduation day 2p.m.

May 22: End of 4th Quarter

May 26: **NO SCHOOL-MEMORIAL DAY**

May 28: Last day of school

May 29: Teacher Institute Day

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





May 2025



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>1% milk served with every meal. Juice & Fruit served with Breakfast</p>	<p>W/G = Whole Grain</p> <p>Menu subject to change</p>		<p>Breakfast Taco ¹ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Bacon Cheese Burger W/G Bun Fresh Veggies/Dip Peaches</p>	<p>French toast ² Sausage Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Cheese Quesadilla Corn on Cob /Butter Mand. Oranges</p>
<p>Toaster Scramble ⁵ Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Sub Sandwich Pasta Salad Chips Applesauce</p>	<p>Biscuits & Gravy ⁶ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>French toast Sausage Hashbrowns Dragon Juice Pears</p>	<p>Breakfast Pizza ⁷ String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Jr/Sr- Italian Pull Apart Elem- Pork Tenderloin Green beans, peaches Treat</p>	<p>Apple Bites Gogurt ⁸ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Open Face Turkey Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Peas Pineapple</p>	<p>Mc Muffin ⁹ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Mini Corn Dogs Fries Carrots/Dip Clementines</p>
<p>Pancake Wrap ¹² Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Crispy Chicken over Biscuit Peas & Carrots Mixed Fruit</p>	<p>Smoothie ¹³ Blueberry Muffin Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Taco Crunch, Corn Spanish Rice Pears Cornbread</p>	<p>Cheese Omelet ¹⁴ Hashbrown Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Pizza Prince Edward veggies Peaches Treat</p>	<p>Pancake Sandwich ¹⁵ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Bacon Chicken Wrap Hashbrowns Celery/Dip Banana</p>	<p>Breakfast Bites ¹⁶ Fruit Juice Milk</p> <p>Hot Ham & Cheese Pretzel Bun Waffle Fries Pineapple</p>
<p>¹⁹</p> <p></p> <p>Cooks Choice!</p>	<p>²⁰</p> <p></p> <p>Cooks Choice!</p>	<p>²¹</p> <p></p> <p>Cooks Choice!</p>	<p>²²</p> <p></p> <p>Cooks Choice!</p>	<p>²³</p> <p></p> <p>Cooks Choice!</p>
<p>NO SCHOOL ²⁶ Memorial Day</p> <p></p>	<p>²⁷</p> <p></p> <p>Cooks Choice!</p>	<p>²⁸</p> <p></p> <p>Cooks Choice!</p>	<p>²⁹</p> <p>SCHOOL</p> <p>Enjoy your Summer break!</p>	<p>³⁰</p> <p>SCHOOL</p>