

# Dakota CUSD 201



Respectful. Resilient. Remarkable.

## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

This year, our schools are focused on helping all students grow in reading and math. Our teachers are working together to make sure every student gets the support they need to improve their skills. We are using clear learning goals and tracking progress throughout the year. We believe that with strong teaching and the right tools, every student can succeed and grow.

Families play an important role in this success! You can help by talking to your child about what they are learning, reading together at home, and encouraging them to try their best. One of the most important ways to help is by making sure your child comes to school every day. Being at school, on time, helps your child stay on track and not miss important lessons. Thank you for being a partner in your child's learning—we are excited to see how much they will grow this year!

Mrs. Keffer,  
Superintendent

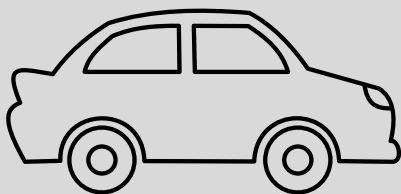
# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES:

Fall parent/teacher conferences will be held on Tuesday, October 21st from 3-7 p.m. and Thursday, October 23rd, from 2-6 p.m. Thursday the 23rd will be a 1:00 p.m. dismissal for students. Please sign up for conferences by going to your Skyward homepage and select the "Conference" tab. Click on "All Conferences" to view and select a day/time.

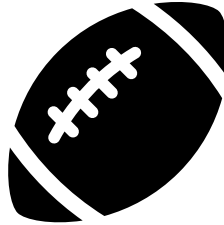
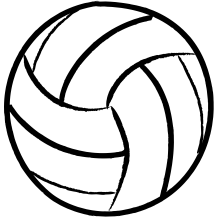
It is very important to meet with your students' teachers, especially if they are struggling in class. Please take this opportunity to be a proactive parent. It will pay dividends the rest of the year.



**FALL DRIVER'S EDUCATION** class begins Tuesday, October 14, at 7 a.m. in Room 2.

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There are still slots to sign up to help with gate admissions for home sporting events. If you sign up for 3 events, you can select a single season sport pass to get into home games free. If you work at 5 events, 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.

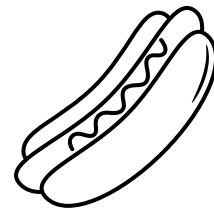
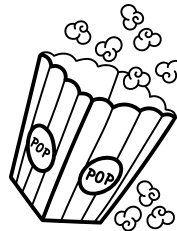
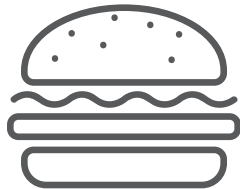
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0548A9A629ABF4C16-57784476-dakota>

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

- Library Book Fair runs from 9/29 - 10/3
- Parent/ Teacher Conference 10/21 and 10/23
- Picture retakes scheduled for 10/21
- Student Ambassadors - 12 students from 5th and 6th grade have been chosen and will begin working on addressing some student issues
- Elementary classes will have a costume parade on 10/31; more information will be sent to parents later in the month

Mr. Berogan



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

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

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2026 Jr. Sr. High  
Yearbooks are available.  
Cost is \$50. They may  
be purchased online by  
clicking the Jostens link  
below.

[https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1075482/DAKOTA-HIGH-SCHOOL/2024-Yearbook/20230726042304110124/CATALOG\\_SHOP](https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1075482/DAKOTA-HIGH-SCHOOL/2024-Yearbook/20230726042304110124/CATALOG_SHOP)

### REMINDERS

- SIP Day Oct 10 with dismissal @ 11:30
- No School Oct 13
- Picture retakes Oct 21

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

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

### Music Department News!

October 5 - Dakota HS Marching Band @ "Autumn on Parade"  
in Oregon, IL

October 8 - Dakota HS Marching Band @ Dakota Homecoming  
Parade - 5:30pm

October 9 - Dakota Pep Band @ HOCO Volleyball game

October 10 - Dakota HS Marching Band @ Dakota Homecoming  
Football Game

October 14 - Fall Concert - featuring Middle School Students  
(Sixth Grade Band, Junior High Band and Junior High Choir) @  
7:00pm in DHS Gym

October 16 - Dakota Pep Band @ Volleyball Game

October 23 - Dakota Pep Band @ Volleyball Game

October 24 - Dakota HS Marching Band @ Dakota Home  
Football - Senior Night

November 8 - Dakota Theatre Camp Performance  
of "Lion King Kids" @ 7:00pm

Admission is \$8 for Adults / \$5 for Students



November 11 - Veteran's Day Assembly @ Dakota HS - 9:00am

November 15 - ILMEA District 8 Band & Chorus Festival @  
DeKalb HS

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Library corner.....

The media center and literacy garden are busy places at the heart of our school district. In the first month of school, we have already checked out 2,283 books! Way to go Dakota readers!

September was a busy month! We participated in "Start with Hello" week to help students build connections, prevent social isolation, and create safer, more inclusive schools. Students learned and perfected their "Hello Style" and found the upstanders among themselves while identifying trusted adults throughout our building. We also had a wonderful guest speaker named Kimberly Sigafus. Kim is the CEO of Quiet Souls Events and Education, a local non-profit that promotes native culture through educational programs. She is an American Indian with the Ojibwa tribe and a local author. She visited the library and presented to the 5th grade class as they learned about Native American Indians. Please consider checking out her website [KimberlySigafus.com](http://KimberlySigafus.com) for more information and to purchase any of her books. We'd love to have them donated to our library collection! The student's finished project diorama's will be on display beginning on Friday September 26th. Be sure to stop in and check them out!

We have already clocked over 20 hours of community service as we began utilizing Student Library Aide's to keep our Literacy garden weeded & watered and Library shelves neat and tidy! Feel free to reach out to our library team if you or your student would like to help out, too.

Looking ahead.....

Be sure to stop in the Library on parent teacher conference night to say Hi and take a look around. We plan to offer quick tech talks and answer any questions you may have.

*Read for a Lifetime* is a statewide reading program for fourth through twelfth grade students that promotes reading by encouraging students to read contemporary literature and recognizing their efforts. Participation may introduce students to new authors, thought-provoking stories, and provide students with an opportunity to increase their vocabulary, explore creativity, and develop a love of reading that will last a lifetime. Certificates are given to students who read at least four titles from the annual **Book List** during the school year.

Please see Jo Dee Nicosia at the Library if you are interested in participating.

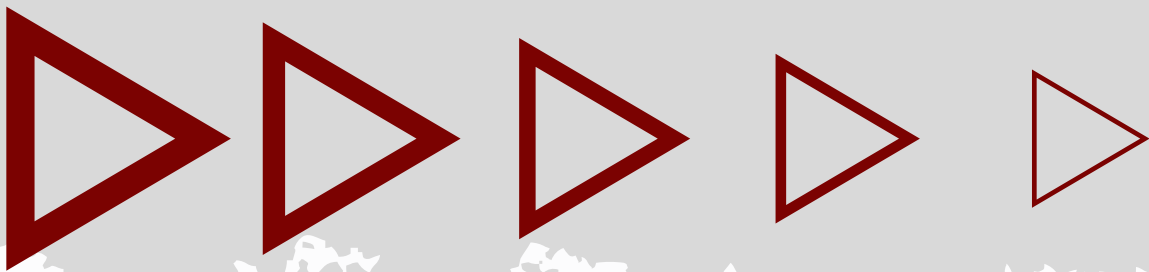


# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



- October 1: PTO Meeting @ 5:30 (one week early)
- October 10: Breakfast with a Buddy - 5th Grade
- Note: **Fannie May delivery** is TBD. We will share more information as soon as we have delivery details from our vendor. Anticipating early-mid November.





# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



### 2025 Homecoming



Parade is on October 8<sup>th</sup>

Participants line up at 5:00. The parade will begin at 5:30  
Any questions, please get in touch with Chelsea Shellhause at  
[cshellhause@dakota201.com](mailto:cshellhause@dakota201.com)



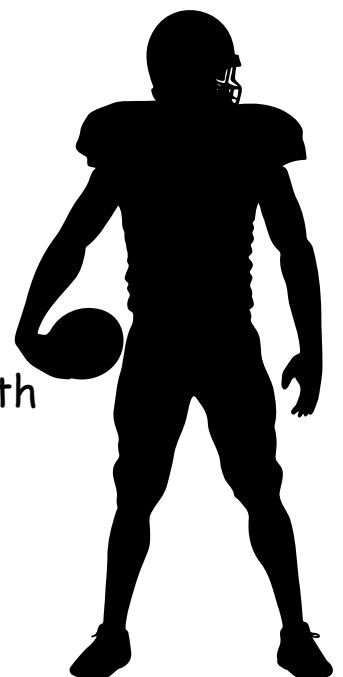
*Alumni  
Band!*



*Join the Dakota HS Marching  
Band @ Homecoming!  
Friday, October 10, 2025*

*We will be performing during the Pre-Game  
show at the football game. Call time is 5:30 pm.  
email - [ahackbarth@dakota201.com](mailto:ahackbarth@dakota201.com)  
to reserve your spot.*

Football game will be October 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00. Come out and cheer on  
our team!



# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



The Technology Department will be starting Chromebook checks in the Elementary School in October. Teachers will sign up for a timeslot and at that time one of the techs will go to the classroom and do a quick check of all student Chromebooks and chargers. This will help us identify any issues early and get them resolved so that the Chromebooks continue to be in good working order.

Parents please remind your students to treat their Chromebook gently and with respect so we can continue to keep everything in good working order.

Ross Eberle



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Menu Subject to Change	1% Milk Served with every meal. Fruit & Juice Served With every meal	1 Pancake Sandwich Fruit Juice Milk  Corn dog Baked Beans Coleslaw Peaches	2 Apple turnover Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk  BBQ Chicken / Biscuit Mixed Veggies Apple slices Treat	3 Breakfast Pizza String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk  Fiesta Pizza Corn Salad/Dressing Pineapple
6 Breakfast Biscuit Fruit Juice Milk  Grilled Chicken Salad NW Blend Strawberries Garlic Toast	7 Mc Muffin Fruit Juice Milk  Nacho Fries Black Bean Salsa Carrots Pears Combread	8 Biscuits & Gravy Fruit Juice Milk  Bosco Stick / Sauce Cali Blend Mixed Fruit Chips	9 Breakfast Taco Fruit Juice Milk  Bacon Chix Wrap Green beans Mand Oranges Side Kick	10 Donut Cereal String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk  <b>Sip Day</b>
13  Columbus Day No School	14 Ch Omelet Hash Brown Sausage Fruit Juice Milk  Lasagna Roll-ups Broccoli/Cheese Tropical Fruit Pretzel Stick	15 Apple bites Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk  Bacon Ch Burger W/G Bun Waffle Fries Grapes	16 Breakfast Scramble Fruit Juice Milk  Open Face Turkey Sandwich Peas Peaches Garlic Stick	17 Fruit Smoothie Breakfast Cookie Fruit Juice Milk  Cream Chix over Biscuit Carrots Pears
20 Breakfast Taco Fruit Juice Milk  Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Corn Applesauce	21 Banana Bread Gogurt Fruit Juice Milk  Mac & Cheese /Bacon Riviera Veggies Pineapple Treat	22 Breakfast Pizza String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk  Chix Patty W/G Bun Tots Banana Taffy Apple Salad	23 Pancake Hash Brown Sausage Fruit Juice Milk  Mini Waffles Sausage Hash brown Dragon Juice Pears	24 Breakfast Bites Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk  Sub Sandwich Salad/Dressing Celery, Carrots/Dip Mixed Fruit Treat
27 Pancake Wrap Fruit Juice Milk  Turkey Bacon Melt on Pretzel Bun Little Reds Strawberries	28 Fruit Pizza String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk  French Bread Pizza Mixed Veggies Tropical Fruit	29 Bagel Sandwich Fruit Juice Milk  Chicken Taco/Shell Cali Blend Apple Slices Cheese Stick	30 Waffles Hash browns Sausage Fruit Juice Milk  Scalloped Potatoes /Ham Baked Beans Carrots Clementines Dinner Roll	31 Apple Bites Parfait Fruit Juice Milk  Spaghetti / Eyeballs Prince Edward Peaches Garlic Toast Treat