

# Dakota CUSD 201



Respectful. Resilient. Remarkable.

The start of the year has been filled with excitement, and we're already so proud of the way our students are engaging in their learning and reconnecting with their school community. Our halls are once again full of energy and joy, bringing purpose and passion into each of our classrooms. We are excited to share that a group of diligent volunteers have revitalized our amazing outdoor literacy garden. With support from the Durand Lion's Club, our PTO, and the DOE, we now have a welcoming outdoor space that promotes a love of reading.

We're grateful for the strong partnership with our families as we work together to support each child's growth and success. As routines continue to take shape at home and at school, please know that we're here to help every step of the way. As a reminder, this year we are focusing on improving math and literacy outcomes for students, as well as attendance. Parents are vital partners in the work that we do.

We're looking forward to an amazing year ahead—filled with learning, discovery, and achievement for all.

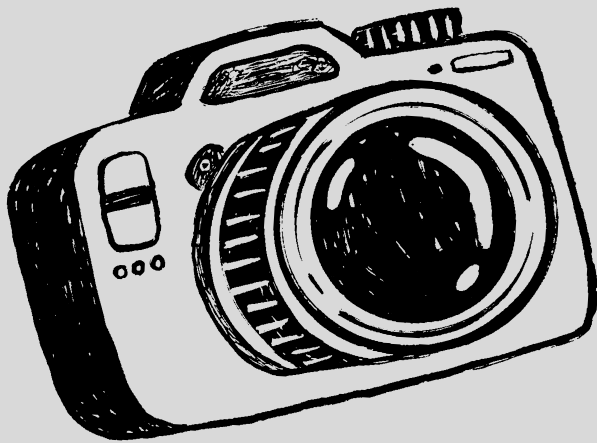
Mrs. Keffer

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## SEPTEMBER 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 conference times with your students' teachers via Skyward as we draw nearer to conference time.



### PICTURE DAY: Jr/Sr

High picture day is Monday, September 15. Lifetouch order envelopes will be distributed to homeroom after Labor Day.

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

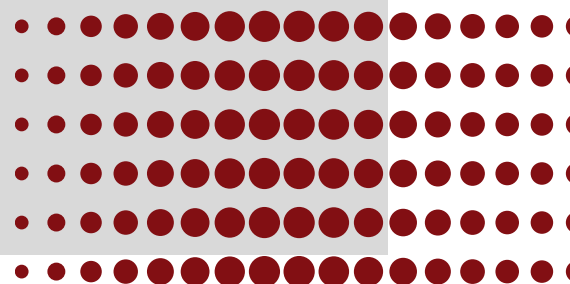
## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

We are excited that our high school sporting events are underway! These games bring our community together and provide a great opportunity to support our student-athletes.

To help ensure that everyone enjoys a safe and positive experience, we kindly remind parents to supervise their children during events. Our goal is to create a family-friendly atmosphere where all fans can focus on the excitement of the game.

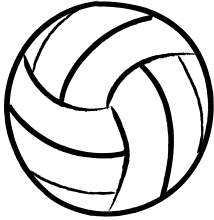
Thank you for your continued support of our student-athletes and programs. We look forward to an outstanding season filled with school spirit and community pride!

Mr. Paddock



# DAKOTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



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

## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

The Elementary year is off to a strong start. I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know our students as I spend time in our hallways and classrooms.

- Classes are currently completing **I-Ready Diagnostics** that will help guide student learning and growth throughout the school year.
- **Fannie May** Sale started this week and runs through 9/5. All forms and money due by 9/8.
- We implemented a new **traffic pattern** at the start of the year, and overall feedback is positive. Our new procedure is both safe and efficient.

Mr. Berogan



The technology department had a busy summer. New clocks are installed and synchronized throughout both buildings, we recycled a substantial amount of outdated electronics, and the copy machines are all new this year. Please also be aware that Chromebook Insurance needs to be paid by September 15 in order to take advantage of that program.

Ross Eberle

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

2025 Jr. Sr. High  
Yearbooks are available.  
Cost is \$50. Contact  
Mrs. Flynn at  
[lflynn@dakota201.com](mailto:lflynn@dakota201.com)  
if you wish to purchase.  
We have about 15  
extra copies.



Dakota Athletic Booster Sign  
Up Genius Link:  
[https://www.signupgenius.com  
/go/10C084CAEA72CA1FFC5  
2-57273518-dakota#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAEA72CA1FFC52-57273518-dakota#/)

### **REMINDER**

NEW FAX NUMBERS  
ES:815-247-5702  
HS:815-247-5704



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

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201



## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

### Library corner.....

The Elementary media center and literacy garden are busy places at the heart of our school. We have a lot of ideas for activities we'd love to plan and we hope you will join us to bring these ideas to life. In August, we had a genre scavenger hunt as we transitioned our library to be more student focused. We also learned about the Leave No Trace outdoor principles as we began to spend time in our beautiful Literacy garden. In September we are excited to promote "Start with Hello" week during September 15th-19th to help students build connections, prevent social isolation, and create safer, more inclusive schools.

We are currently accepting Student Library Aide applications for students in grades 3 through 12. There are a lot of tasks, big and small, that need to be done and we encourage you to consider volunteering your time to help us out. Adults are needed, too!

Last Spring Dakota had about 35 students between 3rd and 8th grades write poems to be submitted to the American Library of Poetry for a national poetry contest. We are so excited that our district has at least three student submissions that were chosen! The student authors who were selected are Grace Meinert(4th grade), Richie Hofmaster(6th Grade), and Daisy Price(12th Grade). Their poems will be published in a new book entitled ***Excellence***. The compilation represents a cross-section of poetry received this year and will be released late September. Please be sure to congratulate our students! We will look forward to participating in this national contest again this Spring! Mrs. Nicosia

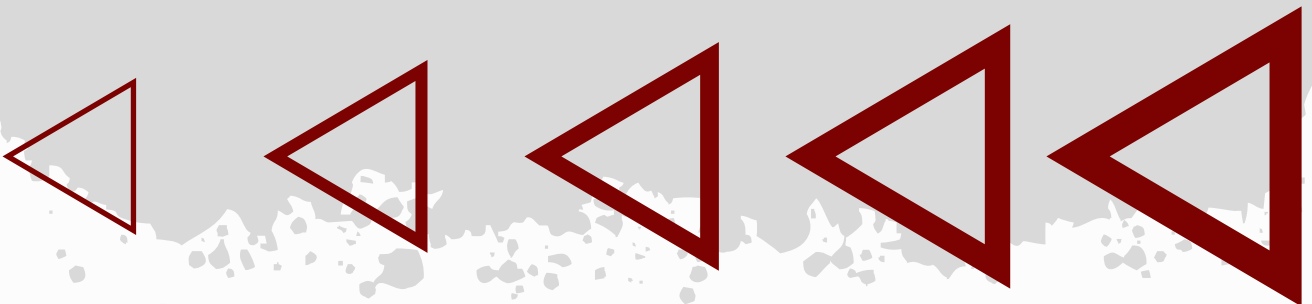


# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



- September 9: Fannie May Sale Ends - Forms & Money Due!
- **September 10: PTO Meeting 3:30**
- September 12: 6th Grade Breakfast with a Buddy
- Sept 29-Oct 3: Elementary Scholastic Book Fair





# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

The Learn & Play's new year is off to a great start. Three and four year olds in Mrs. Kortemeier and Mrs. Yakowicz's classes are busy learning and practicing many important pre-kindergarten skills, such as forming a line, taking turns, performing jobs as classroom helpers, using scissors & glue (etc) properly, and being good listeners.

School-age students who returned to Mrs. Geiseman's class for before & after school care after a summer away were amazed by the growth of last Spring's newly planted garden! Summer flowers & vegetables are still going strong, and a fall crop of gourds and pumpkins is on the way.

Stephanie Konen, Director



# September



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 NO SCHOOL	2 Breakfast Bagel Fruit Juice Milk  Mini Corn Dogs Fries Carrots Tropical Fruit	1. 3 Apple Bites Gogurt 2. Fruit Juice Milk  Spaghetti/Meat Sauce Calf Blend Pears	4 Breakfast Bake Fruit Juice Milk  Pizza Bread Salad/Dressings Peas Pineapple	5 Pancake Wrap String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk  BBQ Pork over Biscuit Green Beans Peaches
8 Breakfast Scramble Fruit Juice Milk  KFC Bowl Potato/Gravy Corn Mixed Fruit Treat	9 Pancake Sandwich Fruit Juice Milk  Hot Ham/Cheese Pretzel Bun Little Reds Strawberries	10 Breakfast Bites Fruit Juice Milk  Orange Chicken Over Rice Egg Roll Broccoli M Oranges Fruit & Cookies	11 Cheese Omelet Sausage Fruit Juice Milk  Sub Sandwich Celery/Cauliflower Dip Chips Apple Slices	12 Donut Cereal Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk  SIP DAY
15 Breakfast Biscuit Fruit Juice Milk  Cheese Ravioli Broccoli/Cauliflower Peaches Pretzel Stick	16 Banana Bread Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk  Moz Sticks/Sauce Riveria Veg Pineapple Pudding	17 Biscuits/Gravy Fruit Juice Milk  Taco/Shell Corn Black Beans/Salsa Spanish Rice Mixed Fruit	18 Breakfast Taco Fruit Juice Milk  Pork Tenderloin Mashed Potato/Gravy Banana Treat	19 Pancakes Sausage HB Fruit Juice Milk  Chicken Wings Coleslaw Peas/Carrots Pears
22 Apple Turnover Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk  Waffles/Syrup Sausage Hashbrowns Dragon Juice Tropical Fruit	23 Fruit Smoothie Breakfast Bar Fruit Juice Milk  Chicken Parm Mixed Veg Pears Garlic Toast	24 Breakfast Pizza String Cheese Fruit Juice Milk  Hot Dog/Bun Baked Beans Apple Slices Taffy Apple Salad	25 Fruit Pizza Fruit Juice Milk  Chicken Fajita/Shell Peppers/Onions Malibu Veg Strawberries	26 Mc Muffin Fruit Juice Milk  Bacon/Cheeseburger W/G Bun Waffle Fries Chips Grapes
29 Cheese Omelet Sausage Fruit Juice Milk  Italian Pull Apart Italian Blend M Oranges Treat	30 Breakfast Bagel Fruit Juice Milk  Fish Sticks Tartar Sauce Mac/Cheese Green Beans Mixed Fruit Pretzel Stick		Menu Subject to Change	1% Milk Served with every