



Dakota Elementary School Newsletter

January 4, 2022

Our vision is to prepare all students to make positive contributions in an ever changing world.

Principal's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable winter break. I had a great time with my immediate and extended family. We went ice skating, watched movies and cheered for the Chicago Bears. It was a great way to decompress after the fall semester and recharge my batteries for the remainder of the school year.

Many people set New Year's resolutions on January 1. This is a version of goal setting, which will be my theme with students this month. Research says goal setting can be an effective strategy to improve student learning. The key is to establish realistic goals that can be measured. I believe that success can have a snowball effect. This means students that experience little bits of success continue to build upon it and eventually lead to big gains.

Students will complete our winter MAP assessment this month. The purpose of the assessment is to help determine student growth. Teachers utilize the information to make adjustments to instruction and provide students with the necessary support to be successful. Each time a student completes the MAP assessment, a new goal is established. Parents are welcome to speak with their student's teacher regarding MAP data and strategies that can be utilized at home to support learning.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- I want to thank Casie Eyster for all the service she has provided families and staff over the past several years. She has decided to follow her passion and begin a new career path. Good luck! Clarissa Metz will begin working in the main office and learning the countless tasks of running the main office. Welcome, Clarissa!
- Please be certain students are prepared to go outdoors during cold weather. Our plan is to be outside each day, unless the temperature is in the single digits.

- We want to keep the vibe positive in 2022. We have some spirit days planned this month for students:
 - 1/7 PJ Day
 - 1/14 Dakota Spirit Wear day
 - 1/21 Twin Day
 - 1/28 Dakota Spirit Wear Day
- Thank you to our PTO and all the families that participated in the Angel Tree. We had many excited and grateful staff members.



Appreciative Teachers

- Congrats to Ms. Velcich and Mrs. Bahls for winning the holiday door decorating contest. Each classroom did an amazing job decorating the hallway.



Ms. Velcich and her prize-winning door decorations

Important Dates

- 1/10 Elementary Report Cards Sent Home
- 1/17 No School