

# DAKOTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 201

## September 2024 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.

### Jenny Keffer-Superintendent Elect

We are off to a great start this school year!

As your students pass through high school, there is an expectation that they obtain 27 hours of community service. One great way to obtain these hours is to have them volunteer with you at athletic events. Our community is special because we all come together to support one another, and our athletic events are no exception. We need your help to ensure these events run smoothly and successfully. Your time and effort make a huge difference, and we can't do it without you! If you're able to volunteer, please reach out to the school office. Together, we can continue to create amazing experiences for our students and families.



### Craig Mathers-Superintendent Interim

As the school year begins for students across the state, the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) is reminding eligible taxpayers to claim back-to-school expenses for K-12 students on their 2024 Illinois individual income tax returns. IDOR Director David Harris says qualifying taxpayers could receive around \$325 in tax credits, based on numbers from last year's tax reports. The Illinois Education Expense Credit allows parents and guardians of full-time K-12 students under the age of 21 to take a 25 percent tax credit on qualified education expenses over \$250 with the total credit not exceeding \$750, regardless of the number of qualifying students. Qualified expenses include tuition, book rental, and lab fees to the school that the full-time student is enrolled in. Educators are eligible for the K-12 Instructional Materials and Supplies Tax Credit, where they could claim a credit of up to \$500 for qualified expenses paid during the current taxable year. These can include teachers, instructors, counselors, principals, or aides at qualified schools with 900 hours of work during the school year.



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The Technology Department is pleased to report that the Chromebook handout went well at the start of the school year. As new students enter the district at the start of the school year, we have been getting them devices and setting up accounts. The new employee orientation went well, and all staff were given access to their technological resources and have been set up in the educational software. Battery back-ups for district servers have had their batteries replaced as a part of ongoing maintenance that is necessary due to occasional power issues. With new batteries we have added to the length of time that the servers will continue to run in the event of a power outage. Tech staff added networking to the greenhouse over the summer so there is now Wi-Fi and a security camera in that building. This will allow for Internet access for any classes that take place in the building and help to make certain that the greenhouse remains secure. *Thank you, Ross Eberle Technology Director*

The hidden leader. For 18 years, Dakota was blessed to have had a warrior working diligently behind the scenes. This man spent the better part of his life serving the needs of others. Gifted with a strong work ethic and a tinkerer's mindset, he took on the custodial work that few wanted to do. Laboring tirelessly to make each day better than the last, he found honor in being a steward of the school district. While the halls are now vacant of his smile and walk, his dedication to this school district will not be forgotten. Scott Lutz was a reliable employee, a valuable mentor and most of all a true friend. Thank you, Scott.

*Thank you, Tim Wilson*

*Facilities & Ground Director*

### Reminders:

- Sept 2-Labor day No School
- Sept 7-Marching Band Lena Fall Fest Parade
- Aug 26-Sept 9-Fannie May Sale-PTO
- Sept 9-Fannie May order forms & money due
- Sept 10- Marching band photos
- Sept 11-PTO meeting 3:30 Elem library
- Sept 12- High School picture day
- Sept 17-IT Professionals Day
- Sept 19-Elementary picture day
- Sept 20-Elementary Fannie May Party
- Sept 24-Dakota School Board 6p
- Sept 26-National PTO Day
- Sept 27-Freshman class ring meeting

Check with your students school for any other calendar events!

### Sports Schedule postings

School website - quicklinks - Dakota Jr/Sr Sports Snap athletic events will no longer be posted on the website calendar!

# September 2024

*Planner*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 <b>1% Milk</b> SERVED WITH EVERY MEAL  MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE	02 <b>No School Labor Day</b>  <i>W/G=Whole Grain</i>	03 French toast Sausage, Egg, Fruit, juice & milk  Pork Tend W/G bun Fries Baked beans Pears	04 Cheese omelet Hashbrowns Fruit, juice & milk  Open face Turkey Sandwich Green beans Strawberries Rolls w/butter Dirt Dessert	05 Breakfast pizza String cheese Fruit, juice & milk  Hot ham/cheese on Pretzel bun Carrots, chips Apple slices	06 Breakfast bagel Fruit, juice & milk  Italian chicken grilled salad Cali blend veg Peaches Garlic toast	07
08	09 Chicken biscuit Fruit, juice & milk  Chicken Parm Prince Charles veggies Mand oranges Garlic stick	10 Breakfast bites Gogurt Fruit, juice & milk Ravioli w/sauce Italian blend veg Pineapple Pretzel braid	11 Blueberry muffin, yogurt Fruit, juice & milk  BBQ chicken on W/G bun Tots w/cheese Grapes	12 Egg McMuffin Fruit, juice & milk  Pizza stick Corn Tropical fruit Fudge cream- cookie	13 Cinnamon roll Parfait Fruit, juice & milk  Frito Pie Broccoli Applesauce Mozzarella Stick	14
15	16 French toast sticks Fruit, juice & milk  Bosco sticks w/sauce Glazed carrots Dragon juice Peaches	17 Pancake sandwich Fruit, juice & milk  Taco w/shell Fiesta corn Pineapple Churro	18 Apple bites Gogurt Fruit, juice & milk  Hot dog on W/G bun Coleslaw Baked beans Mixed fruit	19 Breakfast bake Fruit, juice & milk  Chicken tenders Mashed taters Peas, garlic toast Pears	20 Cereal, parfait Fruit, juice & milk  Bacon turkey wrap Fresh veggies w/dip Winter blend veggies, banana Harvest cheddar	21
22	23 Pancake wrap Fruit, juice & milk  Chicken/waffles Corn on cob Chex mix Peaches Treat	24 Scrambled eggs Hashbrown Fruit, juice & milk  Mac & cheese w/bacon Peas/carrots Tropical fruit Pretzel roll	25 Banana bread Yogurt Fruit, juice & milk  Blueberry waffles Sausage and Hashbrowns Fresh veggies w/dip Applesauce	26 Egg sausage cheese biscuit Fruit, juice & milk  Meatballs w/sauce on Garlic toast Salad w/dressing Prince Edward veggies Peaches	27 Biscuits w/gravy Fruit, juice & milk  Fish sticks Little Reds potatoes NW blend veggies Fresh orange	28
29	30 Cheese omelet Hashbrowns Fruit, juice & milk  BBQ pork on W/G bun Mixed veggies Potato salad Strawberries	01	02	03	04	05

Perfection is impossible; just strive to do your best.  
-Angela Watson