



# *Dakota Community Unit School District 201*

*Nik Butenhoff, Superintendent  
Ginnie Cunningham, Elementary Principal*

*Jenny Keffer, Jr./Sr. High Principal  
Kevin Cline, Assistant Principal*

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## **Superintendent's Report**

*Mr. Nik Butenhoff*

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It's hard to believe that September has come and gone and students are starting to get into the school groove but one of our core values is to have fun at work and we continue to try to keep school fun by doing pep assemblies. At the elementary building we honored Ms. Carrie Tresemer as the Dakota School District Champion for the month. Carrie does an amazing job as one of our 1st grade teachers but she also leads the charge on our 'Bookmobile' which serves as a mobile library for students during the summer. It's a great program and there is no doubt Ms. Tresemer is a champ!

In September, the school board also approved our budget for the year which included some extra funding to allow us to put a new roof on the elementary library. I also presented to the school board my recommendation to adopt a policy that would allow children of district employees to attend Dakota schools regardless of whether the employees live in district boundaries. I will be sending a parent survey out in October and holding a community forum in November to gain more insight on the community's perspective on adopting a policy like this. Please keep an eye for both of these things!

Thanks so much and GO INDIANS!

## **Upcoming Events**

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### **October:**

- Oct. 6: 11:30 Early Release
- Oct. 9: NO SCHOOL
- Oct. 10 & 11: Fire Drills
- Oct. 11: PTO Meeting - DES Library @ 3:30
- Oct. 12: Manufacturing day for H.S
- Oct. 12: 1st Grade Readers Theater Performance @ 1:45 DES Cafeteria
- Oct. 13: Fire Safety w/ Davis Fire Dept.
- Oct. 16: - Financial Aid Night
- Oct. 17: 6:45 School Board Meeting
- Oct. 18: Jr./Sr. High Picture Retake
- Oct 20: NW IL College Fair -optional for juniors and seniors
- Oct. 20: END of 1st Quarter
- Oct 23: HCC Dual Credit Registration
- Oct. 23: 1st grade field trip to Madison Zoo
- Oct 25: PSAT for juniors who registered
- Oct 26: Experience Highland optional trip for seniors

### **November:**

- Nov 3 - Early Release
- Nov. 10- Veteran's Day Program for Jr./Sr. High
- Nov 14: 6:45 Board Meeting
- Nov 22 - 24: No School - Thanksgiving



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## **Dakota Jr./Sr. High News**

*Mrs. Keffer*

October is full of opportunities for our students! Our Sophomore class, led by Mr. Rankin, are completing community service hours at the elementary building, beautifying their garden space. Mr. Cline is holding a financial aid night on October 16th at 6:00 in the high school cafeteria. Our Juniors were provided the option to take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 25, the cost is \$18.00.

Our 6th-8th Grade Fall Concert will take place on Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 in our DHS Gym. The fall concert will feature 6th grade band, junior high choir, and the junior high band performing fall-themed music.

Students led us in celebrating Kooper Meier at our Homecoming Pep Assembly. Cooper is a 2023 National Merit Commendable Student.



## **Dakota Elementary School News**

*Mrs. Cunningham*

We have had a wonderful September at DES. While I have been out of the building, Mr. Butenhoff and our secondary administration have been filling in, monitoring daily operations and ensuring birthday celebrations continue. You may see them in the building, as well as Mr. Craig Mathers, who is now filling in as a full-time substitute. I am greatly looking forward to my return to the building, which I anticipate being at the start of November.

Our students have been learning and growing in exciting ways, and it was a lot of fun sharing this with you at parent teacher conferences! In September, we had two classes attend field trips, with our 3rd grade going to Burpee Museum and our 2nd grade attending the Bug Exhibit at Klehm Arboretum in Rockford.



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## Technology

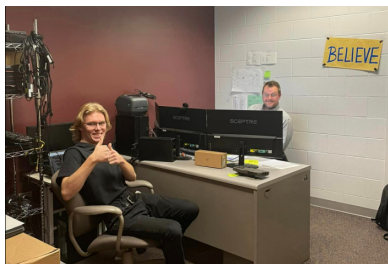
Mr. Ross. Eberle - IT Director

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The technology department added Max Gibson as a technician this year and with his help we have completed over 500 work tickets in the first two months of school. These tickets range from a website unblock request to larger projects such as the installation of a new server for printing.

During the school year we plan on continuing to replace aging equipment which includes analog security cameras and some of the district servers. When possible, we engage students to assist on smaller projects, for example, the teardown and recycling of old and broken student and staff devices.

We have also been working on updating the district website which we anticipate will be released late October or early November. In addition, there is a new web-based rental system for school district facilities that we plan to release within the next several months.



## Maintenance Update

Mr. Tim Wilson

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Recently, we started some resurfacing for the softball field. Materials for this project are being funded by the Dakota Athletic Booster club and we really appreciate their support!

Bordner Electric has been out over the weekends to complete an audit of all our emergency lights to ensure they are all working and determine where replacements are needed.

A great project that Eric Rankin at the JR/SR High School is leading is a community service project with our sophomores. These students are working hard to clean up our 'literacy garden' which is located out behind the elementary building.