



Growing minds.
Building community.

Marcus Lewton, Ed.D.
Principal
mlewton@dpsnd.org
Shawn Leiss
Assistant Principal
sleiss@dpsnd.org
Cassie Francis
Assistant Principal
cfrancis@dpsnd.org

Principal Notes - April 2019



NDSA Testing

Beginning on April 9th students at DMS will begin taking the North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA). A testing schedule can be found on the DMS School website. Testing will run from April 9th through April 11th. Students will test by grade level. Please make sure your child is eating a healthy breakfast and is getting plenty of rest. If you have any questions about the NDSA please feel free to call the assistant principal Cassie Francis. You should have received a letter providing information on the NDSA through the US Mail.

ND Partnerships for Success Youth Survey

On April 17th your child will be participating in ND Partnerships for Success Survey. This survey is sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Human Services with funds from the Partnerships for Success State Incentive Grant. The students who participate will be asked about their attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. Some of the questions ask about sensitive subjects, including substance use. The survey gathers information used to plan and evaluate programs addressing alcohol use, drug use, and other problem behaviors.

If you have questions please contact your counselor. There is more information on our website, including an opt out form if you do not wish for your child to participate.

Restorative Justice & Circles

One of our goals at DMS is to build community. Students who feel part of a community are more likely to excel at school and less likely to have discipline problems. We do many different activities at DMS in an attempt to build community for students. One of the aspects of building

community at DMS is our Restorative Justice and Circle program.

Students who have conflict with one another are offered the opportunity to meet with a mediator and the individual whom they are having conflict with. During this voluntary activity students go through a process where they learn empathy and agree to stop any activity that may have caused the conflict.

During circles students discuss important topics for today's middle school student. Some topics include: friendship, trust, school safety, and individual differences. During the circle students learn to communicate their thoughts and understand others. During circles everyone has an equal voice.

No School



No school on Thursday, April 18th, Friday, April 19th and Monday, April 22th in observance of the Easter holiday.

Spring Activities

Spring activities are upon us which means students will be absent from school for competitions. Please remind your student to complete all work and maintain high grades if they are to participate in competitions. Extracurricular activities are an important part of school, but academics need to be maintained for students to be absent from school. For students to be eligible they must be passing all classes, additionally, they must have all work complete and handed in before departing.



Dates to Remember

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| April 8 | Acalympics |
| April 8 | School Board Meeting |
| April 9-11 | NDSA Testing |
| April 9 | World Music Fest Presentations |
| April 11 | PAC Meeting |
| April 17 | ND Partnerships for Success Youth Survey |
| April 17 | 4 th Quarter Midterms |
| April 18-23 | No School (Easter Break) |
| April 25 | Kids Health & Safety Fair |



**April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
Pinwheels for Prevention**

PAC



Any parents interested in being a member of the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), should contact me at 456-0021. The PAC meeting this month is on April 11th at noon at DMS.

Acalympics

Dickinson Middle School will be hosting the middle level Acalympics competition on April 8th. Fourteen to fifteen area schools will be represented in the academic competition. Teams are made up of students in grades seven, eight and nine. It is a challenging activity that allows our students to demonstrate their knowledge in many academic areas, as well as demonstrate their problem solving skills. The event begins at 6:00 PM. Plan to come and enjoy an entertaining evening of competition.

State Spelling Bee



Chris Fleig, a DMS 8th grader, won 2nd place at the State Spelling Bee on March 18th. Well done Chris!

Summer Activities

Check out the information available in Student Services regarding different summer activities.



Date: April 25, 2019
Time: 3:00 – 6:00 PM
Where: West River Ice Center

Free for kids and families. Door prizes, educational activities, and much more. Dress up in your western outfit or favorite costume.

High School Project Update

Dickinson High School is continuing to plan and design the new high school which is going to enhance the learning experiences for our students. The new high school is being designed with our transition to a career academy curriculum in mind. Please attend the upcoming community engagement meetings to be informed on the latest news and updates on the project. Also check out the high school's webpage <http://www.dhs.dickinson.k12.nd.us/> for information from past engagement meetings, renderings of the new building, and informational videos about the project. Upcoming public engagement meetings are:

- April 10 @ 7:00 PM *School Tours @ 6:00 PM
- April 25 @ 7:00 PM *School Tours @ 6:00 PM
- April 30 @ 7:00 PM *School Tours @ 6:00 PM
- May 7th Referendum Vote



The public is invited to attend the **Dickinson Public Schools** Teacher/Staff Retirement and Recognition program to be held on **Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 7:00 pm**

in the Dickinson High School Risser Auditorium. A reception will follow in the Dickinson High School commons area. Resignations and retirees with ten or more years of service to the district are: John Abrahamson (19 years of service), Leslie Dykema (20 years of service), Merrill Fahlstrom (20 years of service), Linda Greenwood (42 years of service), Butch Hrouda (24 years of service), Amy Jahner (28 years of service), Patricia Kilwein (28 years of service), Catherine King (12 years of service), Patricia Levorsen (31 years of service), Dorothy Martinson (18 years of service), Yvette Schubert (20 years of service), James Steckler (43 years of service), Michael Stevenson (28 years of service), Keith Traquair (13 years of service), Sonita Wegner (27 years of service), and Tod Winter (25 years of service).

Please join us in thanking and supporting the Dickinson Public Schools teachers and staff for their many years of service and dedication to the school district.

