

Dickinson High School Newsletter-October 2021



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Principal Notes



From the Principal

The school year at DHS is off to a great start. I would like to welcome the new staff, a new class of freshmen and new students to Dickinson High. As parents, I urge you to take an active role in the education of your child. Ask questions; encourage good attendance and contact teachers, administrators, counselors, and other school staff members when you need answers.

Safety Reminders

Visitors entering the building must report to the Front Office and present a valid state-issued ID in the school office, which allows us to positively identify and verify each person. Valid ID's include a state issued driver license, Military ID, or a non-driving ID.

No School

Dickinson High School will not be in session October 21 & 22. This is a great time to schedule appointments.

Dates to Remember

Oct 1	Homecoming
Oct 14	Picture retakes 7:30 – 2:00pm
Oct 21 & 22	No School
Oct 29	Early Out @ 1:00
Nov 11	No School

Professional Development Days

The Dickinson Public School District was granted approval from the ND Department of Public Instruction to provide time for teachers to participate in professional development opportunities during the school day. Due to this, there will be six more early dismissal days during the year. Students will be dismissed and bus service will run at 1:00 pm on the following dates; October 29, January 28, February 18, March 25, April 13 and May 26.

National School Lunch Week

October 11-15 is National School Lunch Week. This year's theme is "Wild About School Lunch". School lunch offers nutritious school lunches to our students. Thank you to our Head Cook, Mrs. Crandell; Assistant Cook, Mrs. Ehresmann; Salad Bar Attendant, Ms. Loken.

DPS Pantry

The DPS Pantry/Closet is located at 402 4th St West (Hagen Building). It is open to all DPS families and can provide clothing, school supplies, backpacks, and food to those in need. Please contact our school social worker, Mrs. Roemmich.

Dickinson Backpack Program

The Dickinson Backpack Program is a food program that provides school-age children with easy to prepare food on weekends and during the school breaks. This program is meant to assist families who may be struggling financially with providing their children enough food. If

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you believe your child could benefit from this program, please stop by the front office for a permission form for your child to receive this donation.

Attendance

Attendance is proven to be one of the main factors for student success but COVID cases at the high school have spiked recently. We are asking you to monitor your child/ren health. We ask that if your child is showing COVID symptoms, they should stay home until symptoms subside.

Those type of cases are unavoidable, yet it seems that students, particularly those who cannot afford to miss school, have an endless list of other excuses to miss school. Student absenteeism is a problem and is alarming to me and even more so for our teachers. Countless hours are spent by teachers attempting to replicate the educational process for a student who thinks it is their right to have the teacher act as one-to-one tutor when they miss for reasons that at times, are very questionable.

Compounding the problem is that the same students who have poor attendance are frequently tardy, and in some cases, tardiness is a more significant problem. The school has resources available to help students with their schoolwork like the Academic Learning Center that is open from 7:45am to 4:15pm and Opportunity Period with teachers from 8:00am to 8:25am on Tuesdays through Fridays. The best solution is making sure your child is in school whenever possible. If students are to miss, please have them keep up with their classes through Schoology, our learning management system. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

Parking Issues

We have had a number of issues concerning parking on the east side of Dickinson High School. The top east parking lot is for visitor parking. It is not a drop off or pick up area for students before or after school. The fire lane in this parking lot has been blocked many times because of all the vehicles picking up students after school. Another problem has been people parking in the handicapped areas; the handicapped parking areas are only for handicapped vehicles. We would appreciate your cooperation in helping alleviate this problem. The only recourse we will have if the problem persists is to ask the police department to ticket people. Thank you for your cooperation!

Social Media Challenges

There have been some unsettling social media posts encouraging students to post videos of inappropriate and in many cases, unlawful acts. Students participating in any of these disrespectful acts will face school consequences and possible citations from the local authorities. We strongly encourage parents to talk to their children about not partaking in these social media requests and inform them of possible consequences. We appreciate your help.

Looking for DHS PAC Representative

Dickinson High School believes that effective citizen participation can only be obtained if citizens participation. To respond fully to the needs and concerns of community groups, Dickinson High School must work closely with their school patrons.

It is our belief that Dickinson High School should be a unit around which community participation in decision making is encouraged. For that reason Dickinson School District is organizing a parent advisory committee (PAC) to set up

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guidelines for the type of counsel they are asked to give the administration. The PAC representative should represent the body of students and parents that Dickinson High School serves.

The Dickinson High School PAC will meet once a month, preferably on a morning before the start of school. The representative will also meet with Interim Superintendent Dr. Marcus Lewton.

If you are interested in representing Dickinson High School on the PAC committee, please contact Dickinson High School Principal, Kevin Hoherz, at khohertz@dpsnd.org or call the high school at 701.456.0030 ext. 3018.

ACT Test

Dickinson High School has decided to administer the ACT option for the state assessment based on information provided in lieu of the North Dakota State Assessment for Federal accountability purposes as allowed under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The leadership staff at a meeting concluded that using the ACT test for the state assessment would be the most beneficial for our students. We will conduct a series of tests prepared by the ACT testing company to prepare our juniors for the ACT. Freshman will be taking the PreACT 8/9 and the sophomores will be taking the ACT Aspire test in the spring to show their status and help them prepare for the ACT. The PreACT and ACT Aspire tests will be predicted ACT score ranges for both composite and subject scores, ACT college readiness benchmarks by subject, STEM, and indicator of career readiness. The juniors are already required to take the ACT in the spring so we decided to use that exam as the state assessment tool as well. We felt that aligning our interim assessments with the state assessment would benefit our students the most.

Flu Shot

Sanford Health will be at Dickinson High School October 19 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm to administer the flu shot for parents, staff and students. If you choose to have your flu shot given at DHS, check your email, stop by the Front Office, or visit the DHS website to download the necessary forms. The flu clinic is planned for the DHS Auditorium.

Remind App

DHS is rolling out [Remind](#) school-wide! If you're not already familiar with Remind, it's a classroom messaging tool that helps teachers engage with students and parents. Student Affairs will be utilizing Remind also.

As part of this rollout, official accounts will be created for all the educators, parents, and students at DHS. It is planned for parents and students to receive an email on October 15th with more information about the app and how to sign up.

HHS Academy News

Students in the Health and Human Services academy are off to a great start! Not only are they exploring their fields in the classrooms, students are also out in the community making connections. Here are just a few examples of their involvement.

Sports Medicine students are experiencing different careers first hand, as they shadow related jobs with their instructors and in the community.

Health Science classes joined a walk for suicide this past month to show their support.

Health Science II students are partnering with CHI/Pat Billings to prepare for the Cardiac Ready event, and will also be job shadowing related professions.

Students in the Child-related Work Experience program are transferring the skills learned in

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the classroom to real-world situations at Prairie Rose Elementary and Dickinson Middle School.

Freshman Academy News

We are so excited to be starting a new school year with our freshmen! We welcomed the Class of 2025 with our Back-to-School Orientation in August. We had hundreds of students and guests attend. This was their opportunity to tour the building, learn about DHS procedures, ask questions of upperclassmen, and share some great ice cream!

We are just finishing a busy Homecoming week here at DHS. Our Freshman class has blown our socks off with their enthusiasm and participation in all of the activities. They had the opportunity to earn "HOCO Bucks" this week. This was an incentive set up to encourage student participation and excitement for Homecoming. The "bucks" were handed out by Freshman Academy teachers for things like dressing up for Spirit Week, attending after school Homecoming activities, and displaying good behavior. Students can use the "bucks" they've earned to buy prizes starting October 4th and 5th.

The goal of the Freshman Academy is to provide an informative, safe, supportive community for our youngest students. In addition, the teachers in the Academy want to introduce the students to all of the possibilities that exist within the Academy system. Part of this introduction will occur later this month, when students have the opportunity to attend Manufacturing Day at DSU. We're excited to be able to introduce them to all of the possible careers that exist in the manufacturing field.

The teachers in the Academy have also made it a priority to focus on making sure students are meeting our ND Common Core standards in each subject area. To accomplish this, they

have worked hard to identify those standards that are essential to learn before progressing to the next grade, have set up scales to determine how a student can show their proficiency in the skill, and have set up common assessments to test the skill. How does this affect your student? You may see fewer grades in the gradebook as teachers are only recording grades on skills that are assessed, NOT on things that are just turned in. Much of the work done in class is practice of a skill in preparation for the testing of ability to do the skill. You may also notice that your student may have lower grades initially. This is normal! Students may not always master a skill on the first try! We give them many opportunities to demonstrate what they know and grades are updated accordingly. If you have any questions on this, or how this might affect your student, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of your student's teachers directly.

Here is a list of all Freshman Academy teachers with their email address:

Trevor Conrad – Freshman Seminar, Social Studies
tconrad@dpsnd.org

Haley Potter – Freshman Seminar, Social Studies
hpotter@dpsnd.org

Brittany Thier – Math
bthier@dpsnd.org

Ashly Marshall – Math
amarshall@dpsnd.org

Leanne Smutzler – Math
lsmutzler@dpsnd.org

Terese Kuhbacher – English
tkuhbacher@dpsnd.org

Kim Goodall – English
kimgoodall@dpsnd.org

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Elisa Kensinger – Science
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Bridget Jacob - Science
bjacob@dpsnd.org

Tina Pavlicek – PE
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James Hayden – PE
jhayden@dpsnd.org

Maxine Hauck – Counselor
mhauck@dpsnd.org

Tammy Sadowsky – ALC
tsadowsky@dpsnd.org

Tad Schye – Assistant Principal (Freshman
Academy Admin)
tschye@dpsnd.org