



News From The Hill

DUNKERTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

APR-JUL 2016

“Empowering students to be life-long learners and caring, responsible citizens.”

News and Information

By James Stanton, Superintendent

To quote Alice Cooper (for those of you who remember him), “School is out for the Summer.” It is now time for us to work diligently to prepare for next year. When the students return, it will be to a newly refurbished “old gym”. We will have to change the name because it will not look like the “old gym” anymore. Even though kids and teachers are home for the summer, the Central Office and custodial staffs will be here throughout the summer. Summer office hours are Monday-Thursday from 7:00-1:00. Friday we will be closed. July 18-29, the school is closed for maintenance and repairs.

Summer school dates are listed in the “Dates to Remember” section on the next page. Student summer school times are from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM on the dates listed.

Below is a repeat information, but it is news that definitely is worth repeating:

After careful thought and deliberation, the Board has determined that they will pursue an operational sharing agreement with Wapsie Valley Community Schools for the position of Superintendent; the agreement will be for one year, 2016 – 2017, and will be reviewed by each Board over the course of the coming school year before any determination is made regarding the length of an agreement beyond the first year. Several factors lead to this decision:

- Uncertain increases in school finance at the state level have impacted schools across the state. Increases of 1.25% and 2.25% in the past two years, coupled with decreasing enrollment, have resulted in the need for districts to reduce costs and increase revenues. Sharing staff members between districts reduces costs and the state provides financial incentives for sharing certain positions, one of which is superintendent.
 - Many Iowa districts are sharing superintendents, or have superintendents who also serve as building principal. Large districts like Clear Lake and Mason City shared a superintendent for several years, and local districts like Nashua-Plainfield and Clarksville, Tripoli and Starmont and North Tama and Gladbrook-Reinbeck share (or will be sharing) a superintendent. There are many examples for districts to follow across the state.
 - Districts share superintendents and maintain a unique identity. This doesn't mean we will become more like Wapsie, or vice versa. We can share good ideas, but sharing a super- intendent does not mean that districts are merging. Both Boards feel it is an important step in maintaining identity without the threat of consolidation. Both Boards appreciate that about the sharing agreement.
 - The availability of a neighboring district. From a geographic standpoint, it makes the most sense as transportation can be minimized, and time can be maximized.
- Although this will be a process, the Boards, Administration, and I are committed to doing the work that will help this agreement be a success for kids and staff in both districts. Will there be changes that accompany this? Yes, of course, but with good people in the right positions, we are confident this can be a productive agreement. As more information becomes available, the Board will pass it along to the staff and community. Dunkerton is also looking at other positions to operationally share so that we can take advantage of the shared workload and the financial incentives the state offers. For more information on operational sharing, feel free to contact me or go to the Department of Education website (www.educateiowa.gov).
- One last tidbit to share before I close -- The Board has decided to move their regular monthly meetings to the first Monday of the month starting in June.
- Thank you for your support in making Dunkerton a great place to live, and Dunkerton Schools a great place to be a kid!!! As always, thanks to the taxpayers of our community for supporting the school, we couldn't do it without you!
- With Raider Pride,
jstanton@dunkerton.k12.ia.us

National Honor Society

The Dunkerton National Honor Society has had a busy May. As a part of Dunkerton High School service day, NHS continued their commitment to Adopt-a-Highway, by cleaning their sponsored portion of Elk Run Rd. Additionally, NHS hosted the annual American Red Cross Blood drive on May 11. Thanks to the donations of students, parents, teachers, and community members 25 units of blood were collected. At the senior award ceremony ten graduates were recognized for their service to the Dunkerton National Honor Society. We would like to thank the following students for their dedication and leadership to the organization: McKenna Boeschen, Carley Happel, Sarah Heideman, Alecia Kimball, Brittany Norem, Nicole O'Hara, Abby Scarborough, Lauren Sebetka, Mackenzie Segebarth, and Rylie Stanton. They will be truly missed.

Please mark your calendars for the fall 2016 Powder Puff football game on Sunday, September 11 at 2 p.m. at the football field, sponsored for NHS. This year the event will kick off Dunkerton Homecoming 2016. We hope to see many alumni, parents, and community members supporting this fundraiser for Dunkerton National Honor Society service projects.

Fine Arts

May was an incredibly busy, yet incredibly rewarding month for the music department!

Dunkerton had the distinction of hosting the IHSMA State Large Group Music Contest on Friday, May 6. 800 high school students from 13 Iowa schools traveled to compete for divisional ratings. The High School Band and Chorus both came away with Division I ratings, the band's third in four years, and the choir's first since 2007. This is the first time in 28 years that both band and choir have received Division I's in the same year. If you see a student musician around town, make sure to congratulate them on the reward for their hard work!

The K-8 Music Concert on Monday, May 9 was a huge success! With over 500 people in attendance, everyone from band, chorus, and the elementary music classes put on a stellar show.

The band, chorus, visual art, and speech teams combined forces for Fine Arts Night on Tuesday, May 10. With cupcakes and coffee, audience members enjoyed an evening of spoken word, solo music, ensemble performances, and art displays. A big thanks to the Fine Arts Boosters for all their help in preparing and hosting this event!

If you happen to walk past the doors to the music wing, you may notice some new artwork! Seniors Abby Scarborough and Alina Burch graciously painted an awesome mural for our students and public to enjoy. Thanks for all your hard work, ladies!



2nd Grade

These pictures show Mr. Chapman's class digging the hole for the new tree on the playground donated by Green Scene and Meyer's Nursery. The second grade classes will be responsible for watering the tree.



This picture shows the second grade students preparing the community garden plots for planting.



Children's Author Visits Dunkerton Elementary

Ryan Sloth, or "Coach Sloth" as he prefers to be called, visited Dunkerton Elementary School on Friday, April 29 to read a few of his books and speak to students in kindergarten through 5th grade. Author of such books as "Hank the Bully" and "Sammy Sloth Sports Superstar," Sloth brought positive messages to Dunkerton students about how to handle bullying and to pursue whatever dreams they have in life.

Coach Sloth is a former member of the Iowa State Cyclone football team and has also played and coached arena football in Iowa along with a few other places. He has also appeared as a football player in some popular movies, such as *We Are Marshall* and *The Amazing Spiderman*. In addition to this he is a children's author and travels to schools to read his books and encourage kids.

During Coach Sloth's presentation students were given the opportunity to act out the story of "Hank the Bully," reviewing different strategies about what to do when they see bullying. Coach Sloth also showed students some of his early drawings and stories, written when he was in high school. After his presentations Coach spent a few minutes visiting with students and signing some of his books. Dunkerton K-5 students had a great afternoon visiting with Coach Sloth, learning that bullying is "Not Cool!" and being encouraged to "Dream Big!"

