



News From The Hill

THE DUNKERTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Feb-May 2015

Congratulations Class of 2015

By James Stanton, Superintendent

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over. With that, we realize we still have a lot of work to do to finish this year, as well as to prepare for next year.

But first, Congratulations to the Class of 2015!!! We will be graduating 31 great kids this year, many of whom we will miss very much! I want to take this opportunity to wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

The rest of the students will return for the first day of school next year on August 31, 2015. We hope those students have a great summer, and we look forward to having you back next year.

If you would like to see the school calendar, it is posted on the school website, or please feel free to stop in and get a paper copy from the Central Office.

There will be a few major changes for next year:

- There will be a 175 day (1,100 hour minimum) school calendar.
- The school day will be from 8:10 am – 3:22 pm.
- We will be going 1:1 with Chromebooks for 7th-12th grade. See below for important information.
- We will measure student contact hours, not school days.

- We will have a school start day of August 31. This could be the longest summer break in the history of the school.

Let's take a few minutes to talk about the 1:1 Chromebook initiative we will be undertaking in grades 7 – 12 next year. Please watch for important information about the 1:1 rollout nights we will be having in the fall. These will be happening the days prior to the start of school. This is a huge undertaking and a gigantic stride forward in your child's education. It is vital that you and your student attend the rollout nights, and that you learn of the responsibilities and care that come with this awesome learning tool.

Mr. Urbanek will be sending home information about the dates, times, and locations of the rollout events. I cannot stress enough the importance of your attendance at this event. This will be coming home via paper with your child, and it will be posted on the school website. We are excited about this next phase of education.

Here are a few notes for over the summer:

- Summer Office hours are Monday – Thursday from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- Someone will be in the office to answer phones or to receive visitors during those hours this summer.



- Summer School date/times:
June 8th – 11th 8:45 – 11:45
June 15th – 18th 8:45 – 11:45
July 6th – 9th 8:45 – 11:45
July 13th – 16th 8:45 – 11:45
- We are re-surfacing the main gym this summer. This will be a three week process from July 13 – July 31. Absolutely no access to the new gym during that time.
- The school will be "Shut Down" the week of July 27. That means that there will not be anyone here to answer the phones or to allow visitors access to the building. We are also telling our staff to say out of the building this week.
- Registration will be August 06, 2015, from 8:00 AM until 7:00 PM.
- Watch for the 1:1 Rollouts in late August.
- First day for new staff is August 21, and the first day for all staff is August 25.
- First day for students will be August 31.

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! Our doors are always open, so stop in anytime for a visit.

Stay in touch,

jstanton@dunkerton.k12.k12.ia.us

School Board Member Fact Sheet 2015

Role of School Board Members

VISION: The school board engages the community in setting the course to guide local education, keeping student achievement as the primary focus.

STRUCTURE: The school board employs a superintendent, adopts policies and plans, and ensures that human and financial resources are allocated to accomplish the vision.

ACCOUNTABILITY: The board monitors student achievement, evaluates progress toward district goals, and reports progress to the community.

ADVOCACY: The school board serves as the key advocate on behalf of students and public education and builds partnerships with others to support student learning.

TIME DONATED TO PUBLIC EDUCATION: Iowa school board members are volunteer elected officials who donate their time to school board service. Each week, Iowa school board members donate thousands of hours in service to Iowa students.

K-12 Public School Board Data

Board seats in Iowa.....	2,020
Male members.....	1,283 – 64%
Female members.....	737 – 36%
Student enrollment '14-'15.....	506,336
Total budget dollars '14-'15....	\$6.1 billion

Area Education Agency Boards

The state's nine area education agencies (AEAs) are governed by board members who are elected for four-year terms by public school board members. Iowa AEAs are intermediate service units that provide special education, media, and educational services to local

AEA Board Members

Male.....	47 – 59%
Female.....	32 – 41%

AEA Administrators

Male.....	8 – 89%
Female.....	1 – 11%

Community College Boards

Iowa's 15 two-year community colleges are governed by five-to-nine board members elected by local residents in an election held the second Tuesday of September in odd-numbered years. They are elected to four-year terms.

CC Board Members

Male.....	90 – 73%
Female.....	34 – 27%

CC Administrators

Male.....	8 – 53%
Female.....	7 – 47%

School Board Appreciation Month

The Dunkerton Community School District is joining other communities throughout Iowa this spring to honor its elected school board members during Iowa School Board Recognition Month during May. This month recognizes that Iowa's volunteer school board members are providing leadership through responsibilities ranging from financial stewardship to ensuring high-quality curriculum, to make sure all students are prepared for a bright future when they graduate.

Serving on the local school board are Elizabeth Downs (Vice President), Tony Gamerdinger, Kirby Marquart (President), Alen Nagel, and Amber Shimp.

Volunteer school board members spend thousands of hours each year analyzing budgets, monitoring student achievement data, adopting effective policies, and making key decisions to ensure that each Iowa student receives an excellent education. The Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) invites communities to celebrate and thank their local school board members during School Board Recognition Month in May 2015.

There will be School Board Elections held across the state on Tuesday, September 8, 2015. Watch for more information to come in upcoming months!

2nd Graders Celebrate Earth Day

Mrs. Wach's 2nd grade had to postpone their annual Earth Day school grounds clean-up until later in April. As the picture shows, the task was accomplished! The 2nd graders policed many parts of the school including the front, the north side, the playground, the playground softball field, and the large football practice field! Their bags were full with much of the usual candy wrappers, broken pencils, plastic bottles, and other items people "forgot" to throw into a garbage container! Many of the students commented on how they were disappointed that our school grounds aren't treated with more respect! We all learned a lesson about taking care of our Earth all of the time and not just on Earth Day!



Yearbooks Available

Needing to reminisce with a blast from the past? There are yearbooks available dating back to the 1984 school year. Prices are as follows:

1984-1989: \$5
1990-1999: \$10
2000-2009: \$15
2010-2013: \$20

If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook, please contact Bailie Bonnicksen via email at bbonnicksen@dunkerton.k12.ia.us.

From the Music Department

It has been a busy couple of months in the Music Department! April brought two Honor Choirs and a Solo and Ensemble Contest for students.

On Saturday the 23rd, students from the Dunkerton Music Department participated in the IHSMA State Solo and Ensemble Festival at Don Bosco. Overall, students did a fine job and were well prepared. The students received 4-Division III (Good) Ratings, 13-Division II (Excellent) Ratings and 9-Division I (Superior) Ratings. Congratulations to all students who participated!

April 21st brought the NEICDA 7-8 Grade Honor Choir. The eight students representing Dunkerton were sopranos Ellie Magee and Caitlyn Russell, altos Jordyn lehl and Madison Fillinger, tenors Elisha Zanders and Will Fettkether, and basses Tyler Barthelmes and Floyd Becker. The following Tuesday was the NEICDA 5-6 Grade Honor Choir. Four students were chosen to represent Dunkerton: Jake Kennedy, Quincy VanThournot, Christian Anderson, and Makenzie Wells. Congratulations to these students!

We ended April with the Elementary Music Program entitled "Americans Wee" on April 30. The students did a fabulous job!

May 8th is State Large Group Contest, where the High School Band and Choir will perform in front of three judges to receive their Divisional Ratings. The contest will be in Grundy Center.

May 12th is Fine Arts Night, which showcases the talents of the Dunkerton Fine Arts Students. There will be a recital and art show at 6:30 with treats provided. The concert will be at 7 and will feature the Concert Band, Concert Choir, Speech

performances, and recognition of our seniors.

May 19th finishes up the year with TWO concerts in one night. The 5-8 students will perform in the gym with an array of beautiful music beginning at 7:00 pm. They have really come a long way this year and are sure to do a great job!

The same evening two students from Dunkerton, Allie Wheeler and Jenna Engbrecht, will represent our school by singing in the Gold Star Choir. This choir consists of 50 students from local schools whom were nominated by their music teachers to perform in the choir that honors the Gold Star Teachers.

The Music Department would like to thank the community for all your support this year, and we look forward to seeing you at our final concerts this year!

Saying Goodbye



Open House Retirement Celebration for Mrs. McDougall!

Paula McDougall is retiring after 35 years of teaching! She has taught Spanish/English for the past 31 years at Dunkerton Community School. She also taught at West High, as well as Immanuel Lutheran School in Waterloo.

Cards may be sent to: 4108 Stewart Lane, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Celebration:
Sunday, June 7, 2015, from 1- 3 pm
Beaver Hills Country Club
8230 Beaver Hills Drive
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Please send intentions to:
sramcd@cfu.net by June 1st

NHS Blood Drive

On Wednesday, May 6, the Dunkerton NHS partnered with American Red Cross to put on a blood drive. The blood drive was successful, with 24 units!

Thanks to all community members who helped save lives by donating blood!

4 Year Trip

Eighty-four 9th-12th grade students went on the 2015 4-Year Trip the last weekend of April to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Accompanying the students were 19 chaperones.

The group arrived in Minneapolis on Friday evening and was greeted with a pizza party at the hotel. Kids enjoyed swimming and relaxing in the hot tub that night.

The next morning, students were served a continental breakfast, which seemed to be a big hit. Throughout the day, students were able to explore the Minneapolis Zoo, visit the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and spend three hours at the Mall of America. That night, the group went to Comedy Sportz and was entertained by an improv troupe.

Sunday was spent at the Waterpark of America. The money raised for this trip is done over a four year process, which includes the Annual Craft Show in October, the key fundraising opportunity. There are also numerous fundraisers throughout the school year, as well as donations by alumni and former teachers.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this awesome experience! Our students enjoyed it!

2015 Baseball

This years' Raider Baseball season is underway. The Raiders return all but three players from last season's squad and look to use its experience and leadership to build a successful season.

To help support the younger programs, the coaching staff will be offering thirty minute individual lessons for those who are interested. Lessons will cover participants' choice of hitting, defense, pitching, and/or base running. Lessons will be \$10 per individual (may work with more than one person at a time). All money will go towards the Dunkerton Baseball team account, which supplies equipment and other baseball needs throughout the year.

If you are interested in setting up a time please contact Lucas Heuer at lheuer@dunkerton.k12.ia.us or by school phone [\(319\) 822-4296](tel:3198224296).