

Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

May 2021

Dear Fellow Comets,

Comet Blue! It may be what you are thinking when you are looking at the High School. This is a much needed improvement to the school as the stone facia was falling off and large cracks were appearing. This improvement is being funded out of the normal operating Buildings and Grounds budget. However, it will nicely match the new athletic fields, athletic building, and tennis courts. The broader campus will be tied together reflecting a sense of pride. The construction project of the athletic fields, building, and courts begins on Monday and is due to finish in the fall.

After a year of piloting English and Spanish Language Arts, the District will be moving forward with an official adoption. These new materials are the fourth adoption of new curriculum in the past four years - Math, Science, Social Studies and ELA/SLA respectively. I am proud to share that all of these choices are ranked as some of the best in the field, are highly engaging for your child, and respond to the state's standards.

I am proud to announce that we have officially been awarded again as a **Best Communities for Music Education**. The District has accepted this award annually since 2014. Thank you to our musicians and music teachers for their continued growth in this area.



Summer Camps - It is not too late to register. Registration closes on May 7th allowing Ms. Jedlicka to get your child placed in their requested course(s). Please visit our website to sign up for Summer Camps!

As we start our planning for the 2021-2022 school year, we have signed an agreement with State Line Mental Health. After months of researching avenues to get additional support for our students and their families, we are happy to announce that we have partnered with them. We are the first school district in Walworth County to offer their services. In addition, we were recently awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Department of Justice to also assist with supporting our students and families. More information will come out late this summer on their services.

On a final note, next week, May 3rd - May 7th is Teacher Appreciation Week. Please share with your child's teachers how you feel they have made a difference.

Comet Proud,
Jill Sorbie, EdD
District Administrator / Director of Instruction

District Calendar Events:
May 31st - holiday

Delavan-Darien High School



DDHS is proud to share that we hosted a traditional PROM right before Spring Break, March 25, 2021. Due to the pandemic, PROM 2020 was cancelled and therefore we celebrated a junior court (Queen McKenna Williams & King Eric Cesarz) and a senior court (Queen Morgan Lock & King Luke Freitag).



In the classrooms, during April, our students were busy in the following classrooms and activities: Mrs. Irwin's



& Mrs. Zweifel's co-taught Biology classroom completed pedigree drawings on table tops with chalk markers; Mrs.

Irwin's AP Biology



students collected pGLO samples in their bacterial transformation labs; Ms. Rhoades' Anatomy & Physiology students participated in labs to learn about the structure and function of the digestive system; Mrs. Jordan's Sports Nutrition & Fitness students



explored the effects of beverages and sugar on our teeth; and Mr. Speth's Veterinary Science students had the opportunity to practice loading syringes with the proper dosage of vaccine and practiced giving intramuscular shots to peppers. Clearly, students at DDHS have been actively preparing for careers beyond our high school walls.



We also proudly share that we celebrated an in-person recognition of our Academic Top Ten in collaboration with Lake Lawn Resort on Wednesday, April 28. A meal and interactive program celebrated the lifetime academic



accomplishments of our top ten graduating seniors in the Class of 2021!



Finally, please be advised of end-of-the-year events occurring for DDHS students. Our seniors will be taking their finals on June 2 & 3, 2021, with pre-scheduled make-up exams on June 4. The traditional Scholarship Ceremony will occur on Saturday, June 5 at 1 PM at DDHS. The traditional Graduation Ceremony will occur on Sunday, June 6 at 1 PM, at Lake Lawn Resort. Only people holding valid graduation ceremony tickets will be permitted to attend due to restrictions from the pandemic. Other DDHS students will be taking their finals on June 7 & 8, with pre-schedule make-up exams on June 9, the last day of school for all DDSD students!

Phoenix Middle School

Students have been engaged in taking the Wisconsin Forward Exam in reading and math. 8th graders also completed the exam for social studies and science. Students are also preparing for our final round of MAP testing, which will help us assess the progress that each student has made over the course of this academic school year. We are excited to celebrate the progress that students have made!

There are exciting things happening at Phoenix Middle School with our Allied Arts program. This month we celebrate some of those offerings for our students and share what they are working on in that specific area.

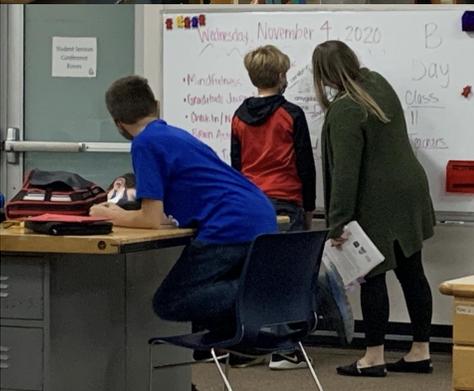
Students in Physical Education - 7th graders are making their final efforts towards reaching their year end fitness score goals! Cardio days, strength days, and net sports will round out this term! Students have been working all year towards reaching their personal bests. Our program allows students to see their individual progress and success!

Students in Orchestra - Congratulations to our Phoenix Middle School Orchestra students who participated in the Wisconsin School Music Association Virtual Solo & Ensemble Festival. They are outstanding representatives of Phoenix Middle School.

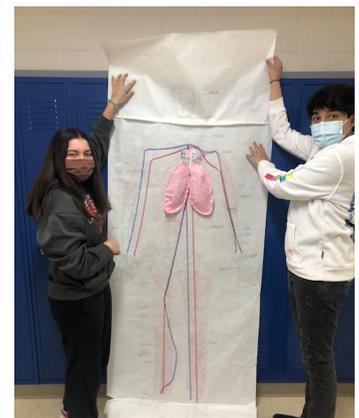


Students in Art - Art class has started their Clay Unit. Our

8th grade has created clay whistles. 5th grade is currently finishing up their Draped Clay Bowls and will be glazing them soon. 7th grade will be creating Food Creations from clay and our 6th graders will be making clay dragon sculptures after they finish their Printmaking unit.



Students in Study Skills - Students focused on establishing and maintaining relationships, growing socially, emotionally, and academically, understanding the purpose and function of school and assisting students in learning more about Phoenix and putting together a plan. The following includes a list of a number of topics that were included in this class; mindfulness and meditation, gratitude, growth and fixed mindset, study skills, test taking strategies, organizational/time management skills, classroom behavior skills, academic and career planning, goal setting and SMART goals, internet safety, self-control/self-regulation skills, coping skills, self-esteem, anti-bullying, friendship skills, and hygiene.



Students in Health Class - Students have just completed 3 weeks covering 11 different body systems (Skeletal, Muscular, Respiratory, Circulatory, Nervous, Digestive, Immune, Lymphatic, Endocrine, and Reproductive Systems)! Students have engaged in learning through our "Build-A-Human" project. Lot's of great connections are being made between systems and how they do not act alone, but instead, must rely on each other to function properly. This unit is serving as a springboard for other conversations revolving around keeping our bodies healthy!

Students in Band - In addition to working on music for the upcoming Memorial Day Parade, May 31, our 7th & 8th Grade Bands are working on creating music compositions using Noteflight. They have



just begun to create their own pieces with this fantastic software. Upon completion students can even download their work as an mp3 file, then upload that to their smartphone, and have a truly unique and personal ringtone! The Phoenix Jazz Ensemble is also working hard on preparing for the "return" of Jazz in the Park on May 22 at the Phoenix Park Bandshell at 1PM. This year's guest artist/clinician is trombonist Mr. Dean Sorenson. Mr. Sorensen is the



Director of Jazz Studies, from the University of Minnesota. Our band students were also represented in the Wisconsin School Music Association District Solo & Ensemble Virtual Festival.

Darien Elementary

The state Forward Exam has been the primary focus of all 3rd and 4th grade students and staff. Students have persevered through the 5 tests (3rd grade) and 10 tests (4th grade). Results will be sent to families when they arrive back from the state this summer.

To help us kickoff our state testing, third graders had a pancake day. We read stories about pancakes, did activities around pancakes and filled our tummies with this delicious breakfast treat. In English and Spanish Language Arts, we are also learning about different types of writing. Recently we have written persuasive letters and opinion essays. Dual language students were able to write, edit, and publish their poems about the life of a third grader. We had a lot of fun publishing through

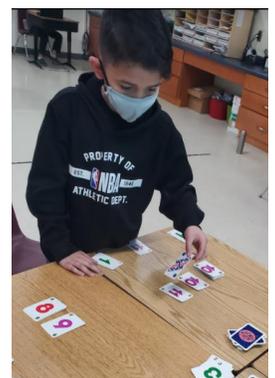
Student Treasures and love our new class books! We all continue to work on our comprehension strategies and decoding skills. Please listen to your child read and ask them some questions about their reading.



Third grade students have recently completed their Life Cycles unit in science wherein they observed and recorded data for the life cycles of a plant and mealworm/beetle metamorphosis. Third grade students have also been studying living organisms and the effects of the environment around them. We connected our science background



knowledge with some ELA concepts and created Cause and Effect posters. We discussed how the



environment can affect plant and animal traits. In math we are working on comparison problems with all 4 operations. We also continue to master our multiplication practice by practicing them in a game format.



In fourth grade English and Spanish Language Art, we have been learning about heroes and what makes a person a hero in reading. We have read a mixture of fictional and informational texts. The students are especially loving our Greek mythology tales and reading about smokejumpers (specialized firefighters who fight wildfires)! In writing, students are learning



how to write a research-based opinion essay. The students are enjoying coming up with reasons to back up their claims. Fourth grade scientists have started a unit on rocks and fossils and will be conducting some experiments to deepen their understanding. In Social Studies they have been learning about the midwest region. In math the students have been finishing up their fraction unit. We are also working on building fact fluency. In physical education students have been working on their striking skills with lots of activities including a game called FloorBall.



Some of the Bridges students have been learning about size (big/medium/small). Yes, practice makes perfect, but teaching a skill in varying ways and with various materials is the key to helping students remain engaged as they learn. And room 110 is growing a garden! We have pinto beans, tomatoes, peppers and a



variety of herbs!

Within the past month or two the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) team shared a parent survey with all parents of Darien students. 54 parents of Darien students responded. The survey had 4 sections with multiple questions for each section. Those sections included Academics, School Safety, School Climate and Culture, and Family Engagement. Each section received 80% or higher positive feedback. Highlights include: students receive a quality education, school is safe and rules are fair, staff care for and respect students and their cultures, and communication from school occurs regularly. An area that we noted to focus attention to was encouraging family engagement in supporting their child in school. Thank you to those who responded! We use this information to make informed decisions for children and families.

Turtle Creek Elementary

April has been a fun filled month at Turtle Creek. Since we house the district's youngest learners, we participate yearly in The Week of the Young Child. This year, it was the week of April 12th-April 16th. Each day there is a theme and the entire school participated in various activities listed below.



Music Monday: Mr. Stark sent over video clips of his students in the High School Jazz Ensemble showcasing their instruments and getting our students excited about music.

Tasty Tuesday: Taher supplied extra fruits/veggies to the students to enjoy. We had a selection of pineapple, kiwis, jicama, and sugar snap peas. Many of our students loved the jicama.

Work Together Wednesday: The students worked on team building activities in the classrooms.

Artsy Thursday: All students received a cutout of a butterfly to decorate and we hung them all up in the hallways. Thank you Ms. Hill for taking the time to put this together. The kids love it!

Family Friday: Families were invited to join a Zoom session to get to interact and learn about each other and see the great things happening in the classrooms.



The 2nd grade classrooms enjoyed collaborating with the 4H club to learn about how paper is made, the various uses of paper products and what parts of the tree are used to make different items. The students then were able to work hands-on to create their own paper. It's great to see the hands-on application and seeing how much fun the students had. Thank you Mrs. Seitz for leading this!

Students in grades K-2 were invited to participate in a coloring contest sponsored by the Tree House Child and Family Center and Walworth County Health and Human Services Department. The coloring contest was a part of their awareness initiative for Child Abuse prevention month (month of April). Two winners were selected from Turtle Creek. Congratulations to Leona Holden (2nd grade) and Ezra Dixon-Schumacher (5K).

We look forward to May and beginning to wrap up instruction and begin to help prepare our students to transition to the next grade.

