

Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

December 2021

Dear Fellow Comets,

Attendance does matter. From the Attendance Matters site ... *Nationally, an estimated 5 million to 7.5 million students are at risk academically each year because they are chronically absent—missing 10 percent or more of school days in excused and unexcused absences. Starting as early as kindergarten and prekindergarten, chronic absence can have adverse consequences for academic achievement, research shows. By third grade, chronically absent students, especially those who have experienced multiple years of poor attendance, are less likely to read on grade level. By sixth grade, chronic absence becomes a warning sign that a student will drop out of high school. By ninth grade, it's a better indicator than eighth-grade test scores.*

Per state statutes, students are allowed to miss 10 days of school per year. We know that some absences are unavoidable. We understand that children will get sick and need to stay home occasionally. The important thing is to get your children to school as often as possible.

Here are some talking points for you to share with your child.

1. School is your first and most important job. You're learning about more than math and reading. You're learning how to show up for school on time every day, so that when you graduate and get a job, you'll know how to show up for work on time every day.
2. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to graduate and find good jobs. In fact, a high school graduate makes, on average, a million dollars more than a dropout over a lifetime.
3. School only gets harder when you stay home too much. Sometimes it's tempting to stay home because you've got too much work or you don't understand what's going on in class. But missing a day only makes that worse.

Additionally, if you are planning a family vacation, please notify your child's school so they can plan accordingly and/or discuss the impact of the days your child will be missing.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Comet Proud,

Jill Sorbie, EdD
District Administrator / Director of Instruction

District Calendar Events:

Dec. 2nd - end of trimester for Elem. & MS
Dec. 22nd - last day of school before break
Jan. 3rd - school resumes

Delavan-Darien High School

DDHS had many events in November, including the conclusion of many fall sports, presentation of One Act Plays, a band concert, an orchestra concert, a choir concert, presentation of our Wisconsin Redefining Ready Report Card, and receipt of our 2020-21 State Report Card. We are now transitioning into the final six weeks of first semester where grades will become infinitely more important so students earn credit, winter sports seasons begin, the musical practices get underway, and winter concert series begin.

Please connect with DDHS through Facebook and our webpage to keep apprised of all that Delavan-Darien High School offers each day!

In mid-November, the Delavan-Darien String Choir was the opening performance for the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra. Mrs. Jennifer Bayerl continues to support all of our young musicians through our orchestra experience in grades 4-12!



Delavan-Darien High School Construction Educator, Mr. Tom Duval, recently delivered a class project that his Construction students completed. The students began with a design and went through the entire building process, to final delivery and installation at the community members home to elicit a real-life learning experience.

DDHS is proud to share that we participated in the 3rd Annual Hunt Off Hunger Challenge in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. DDHS won the campaign in 2019 and 2020, before finishing in second place this year and contributing 650 pounds of food to our local community food pantry. We would like to thank those students, faculty, and community members who contributed to

these efforts this year and in the past.



As we end the month of November and enter into December, we'd like to recognize and honor Ms. Emily McClellan, DDHS American Sign Language educator, as she was recently inducted into the Hall of Fame at her alma mater, UW-Milwaukee, for her accomplishments in the classroom and in the pool as a member of their swim team. Prior to attending UW-Milwaukee, Ms. McClellan was a Delavan-Darien High School student and state qualifier in swimming while at DDHS. Congratulations Mrs. McClellan!

Last month we proudly shared and celebrated our collaborative efforts with Gateway Technical College in providing transcribed credits. We mentioned several staff responsible for these efforts, but missed one. We would like to acknowledge all these staff one more time: Ms. Becke, Mr. Bell, Mr. Cervantes, Mr. DuVal, Ms. Gurholt, Mrs. Jordan, Mr. Marsh, Mr. Prager, Mr. Rick, Mrs. Scott, and Mr. Speth.

Finally, as we proceed towards the end of semester one (January 21, 2021), please keep up with your child's grades, attendance, and behaviors within Infinite Campus. Parents have 24/7 access to their students' progress. If you need help, please call the DDHS Front Office (262-233-6605) for assistance.

Phoenix & Delavan-Darien High School - Clubs & Activities

Phoenix Middle School is in the middle of the wrestling season. 7th and 8th grade Girls' Volleyball will be starting up in early December with matches played in December and January.

High School winter sports season are all underway with teams in Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Boys Swimming, Wrestling and Cheerleading. For team schedules [click here](#).

Did you know the High School has a new club this year for students wishing to pursue the construction pathway? The Comet Construction Club will give students opportunities outside of school walls to meet and deal with customers face to face, problem solve while on the job, and complete a project for a purpose in the community. They will not only learn about but also practice bidding a project to a customer, interacting with the customer throughout the construction process, managing their time throughout the process, problem solving and working positively and effectively with the customer, and completing a project to the satisfaction of the customer. Students will gain valuable experience creating and maintaining partnerships and business relationships while learning time management, responsibility, and how to appropriately interact with customers and other industry professionals.

Phoenix Middle School

The month of November was a busy one at Phoenix Middle School. Our school put together a Veteran's Day video to honor those who have served our country. We participated in a school-wide Bullying Prevention/Awareness Week. Our student services staff also held a new student get together for any student who was new to our district.



Veteran's Day

We would like to recognize the efforts of our music staff at Phoenix (Mr. Butzow/Band, Ms. Bayerl/Orchestra, and Ms. Ropers Rosendahl/Choir) and our Student Council advisors (Ms. Andreoni and Ms. Strohm) for their help and support in putting together a video for Veteran's Day. We would like to sincerely thank U.S. Veteran, Mr. Bill Carlson, who was our guest speaker as well as the Delavan American Legion Post #95 for allowing us to record the posting of the colors.

Phoenix Middle School 8th grade students in band, choir, and orchestra performed as well. What incredibly talented musicians!



Bullying Prevention Week

Phoenix Middle School focused on Bullying Prevention and Awareness during the week of November 8th-12th. Students in grades K-8 use Second Step as a curriculum for Social Emotional Learning. This takes place on Fridays during homeroom throughout the school year. Second Step has a bullying unit, which will be covered by staff and all students in the building for approximately eight homeroom periods over the course of two months. In addition to that, we also did a week long prevention/awareness week for bullying.



Students learned information about our anonymous reporting app (StopIt) where students and/or parents can make reports regarding situations that are occurring within the school. Students learned about Cyber Bullying and also discussed the importance of being an Upstander. They also participated in a door decorating content focused on creating a strong message. Many of the pictures from the door decorating contest include the use of orange. Orange is a color that is associated with safety and visibility and has become the color for creating awareness regarding Bullying Prevention. We would like to congratulate Mr. Wrubbel's homeroom (5th Grade) and Ms. Suttle's homeroom (7th Grade) for winning the door decorating contest.



New Student Get Together

It can be challenging to be a new student in our school district. Our student services team at Phoenix does many things to welcome new students to our school, including having the new student shadow one of our returning Comet students. This gives an



opportunity for a new student to learn all about Phoenix from a current student in the same grade. It also includes finding all of their classes, learning more about our community, and figuring out how the whole lunch line works. About two months into the school year, we host a



new student get together where all students who were new in 5th and 6th grade come together and all students who are new in 7th and 8th grade meet together to discuss how things have been going. This is led by our student services team and gives us an

opportunity to hear directly from our new students on how to continue to improve upon welcoming new Comets into our family!

Trimester 2

The last day of Trimester 1 is on Thursday, December 2nd. That means that we have completed $\frac{1}{3}$ of our school year. Report cards will be mailed home after all grades are submitted. We would encourage all families to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns in order for us to partner together.

Darien Elementary



It sure has been a busy month at Darien. Students are participating in a kindness challenge where they can recognize other students for being kind to them in some way. Those students receive a KIND bar donated by the KIND company. This project will continue throughout the school year.



Our students have been very busy working to solidify their math facts. Ms. Rae and some volunteers meet with small groups of students throughout the day to practice their facts. Even Mr. Malnar, a PE teacher, has gotten into the action by helping students with their math during gym class.



3rd graders in guided reading have been learning about the difference between poetry, prose, and drama in guided reading. Kids were practicing determining the difference of each by "scouting" around, reading cards and deciding which card had which type of writing on the card. They also worked on letter writing and visited the Darien library to mail them.



Veterans Day is always a day that our staff and students take to heart. In order to ensure our veterans were not exposed to any additional germs, students and staff worked together to create a video to honor veterans. Be sure to take a look [HERE](#).



Our students have also been learning about nutrition during physical education class with the help of Ms. Lisa from UW Extension. She met with each class for 5 lessons ranging from food groups, My Plate, portion sizes, sugar content, and more. She also worked with Mr. Malnar to include physical activity into the lessons.

Fourth graders who participate in orchestra got to experience their first orchestra concert this month as well. Wow! They sounded great for only a couple months practice. Soon we will hear them playing with the bow too. Keep practicing kids!



Students continue to earn Comet Cash for their positive behaviors. This fall Ms. Hungelmann-Skiba organized an activity for Flight to the North Pole in which the students could spend their Comet Cash on toys and games to donate to children in need. Flight to the North Pole gives kids in Wisconsin that are fighting cancer, a fantasy trip to the North Pole. The students at Darien Elementary showed their big hearts when they used about 1,900 Comet Cash to buy \$600 worth of donated gifts to give to these children. We hope to make this a new tradition at our school and we are so proud of all those that will continue to make it possible!



Turtle Creek Elementary

All of our Turtle Creek classes were invited to the **TC Library Cafe** with Ms. Polster. What an amazing experience for our students! They were seated at special genre tables to explore books and give their reviews. The students moved between genre tables and experienced 10 different types of books. Some students were

even able to explore the “a la carte” books in the corner of the library. The excitement to be invited to this special cafe for a unique look at literature was visibly shining in our students’ eyes!

Let’s continue to help all of our students find that love of reading!



Our 4K students learned all about **Wheels** during one of their Literacy Units. They explored different types of wheels, tested how they move, and built many examples of wheels. Our young explorers enjoyed a walking field trip to find wheels in our neighborhood. They also enjoyed testing out a variety of wheels here at Turtle Creek. We are proud of our students for their exploration and understanding of wheels!



Two of our Kindergarten classes had a special opportunity to mix a classic story with some cooking skills. They read **Stone Soup** and were able to make their own pot of fresh, warm soup! A special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Dahl for helping our students learn how to safely prepare, peel, and cut vegetables to make the delicious soup. We appreciate our families that sent in the ingredients for the Stone Soup. Our hallways were filled with the delicious smell of the soup and our students enjoyed tasting their savory soup.

