



DESOTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Community Consolidated School District #86

311 Hurst Road | DeSoto | Illinois | 62924 | 618.867.2317 | fax: 618.687.3233 | <https://www.desoto86.org/>

Steve Mayerhofer
Superintendent

Kelly Taylor
Principal

BOARD of
EDUCATION

Paul Copeland
President

Matt Shackleton
Vice President

MEMBERS:

Tricia Burns

Shari Crockett

Jason Hubbard

Fern Martin

Tommie Smith

Ranger Family,

May 31, 2022

As the 2021-2022 school year comes to a close we have much to be proud of and many successes to celebrate over the last year. First, and foremost, we navigated year two of the COVID-19 pandemic while still offering in person learning. In the midst of a national teacher and substitute shortage, we were able to consistently staff our classrooms with high quality educators. Finally, our Ranger students were celebrated for their achievements with our academic awards ceremony on May 12, 2022.

During the summer of 2022, we have a lot of improvements taking place. The physical space of DGS is getting updated including: new flooring in many of the classrooms, library and computer lab. In addition, we will transform our cafeteria with new flooring, paint and logos. We also have 8 bathrooms getting new flooring. Our school leadership team and some members of the DGS Board of Education will attend the Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) leadership training in early June. Finally, we will be offering our summer enrichment program and also our summer lunch program over summer 2022.

As we plan for the future, the mindset is one of continuous improvement. During the 2022-2023 school year, we look forward to implementing the Second Step anti-bullying curriculum along with the CKH model to continue improving the climate and culture of DGS. Through the SEL grant (at ROE 30), staff will be provided with "trauma informed" training. We are making plans to purchase the One Screen display panels for many of our classrooms. This improved technology will provide teachers and students with enhanced educational opportunities. In addition, we will be working in Professional Learning Community (PLC) teams to align and map curriculum. We are also continuing to collaborate and explore ideas to expand opportunities for an accelerated curriculum. The future is bright at Desoto Grade School and continuous improvement is the goal!

As educators, relationships serve as the foundation for our practices. I would like to thank each and everyone of you for making me feel welcome in my first year at DGS. Perhaps the best thing about DGS is our small family atmosphere. I have truly enjoyed getting to know the staff, students and community this year. I look forward to continuing to build relationships with everyone in the Desoto community in the future. The calendar for the 2022-2023 school year will be placed on the school's website in June.

I also need to make you aware of a change with the federal program that has allowed school districts across the country to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students regardless of income will expire on June 30, 2022. Since 2020, this program has eliminated the need to collect payments for school meals for any student.

At this time, the federal government has not extended the waivers for next school year to allow free meals for all students. As a result, schools across the nation will be reverting back to free and reduced-price meals based on income eligibility guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

During the 2022-23 school year, families who do not qualify for free or reduced lunch will have to pay for school meals. Students whose families are eligible for free or reduced price breakfast or lunch will be able to access meals next school year at no cost or a discounted rate.

Since this adjustment may create a financial burden on some of our families, we are writing to give you advance notice of this change. At this time, we do not need any information from families. As we have done in the past, we will collect documentation at the time of registration to determine who qualifies for free or reduced meals. Thank you for all of your support this school year. Have a safe and fun summer!

Yours in Education,
Steve Mayerhofer
Superintendent, DeSoto CCSD #86
Phone: (618) 867-2317
smayerhofer@desoto86.org