

Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

February 2022

Dear Fellow Comets,

As a District, our top priority is the health and safety of our students and staff, and we take this responsibility seriously. We continue to partner with Walworth County Health Department officials and implement guidance provided from the Department of Health Services. We want to thank everyone for all they are doing to help mitigate the spread of the COVID virus. Parents have been monitoring their child's symptoms regularly, and keeping them home until they know for sure it is safe for their student to return to school.

Our teachers, administrators, and support staff have spent a large amount of time above their normal job duties to work with students who need additional support, assisting to make sure areas are thoroughly cleaned, and spending a great deal of time identifying individuals that are ill as well as any potential close contacts. These additional tasks have created a strain that is unlike anything that we have ever experienced. I want to thank all employees and families in their work to focus on teaching and learning despite the necessary and difficult circumstances many of us are facing.

As a reminder, please keep students home from school if they are sick, encourage frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and using face coverings in public. Your child should stay home if they are showing [symptoms](#) of COVID-19. Your child should also get tested for COVID-19 should they display symptoms. It is very important that your child not attend in-person school when he or she has signs and symptoms. If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19 or if they have had contact with someone who tested positive, they are advised to notify the school immediately.

Should students or staff require COVID testing, we continue to offer that service at our School Administration building located at 324 Beloit Street, Delavan, 53115. Testing is offered between 7:00 am - 8:00 am only on days that school is in session. In order to assure the health of all, should there be a large amount of staff and/or students testing, we will have you sign in at the door, wait in your vehicle, and phone you in the order you arrive to come in and test.

Please continue to conduct daily health checks and keep your students home if they are symptomatic. With the recent increase in COVID-19 cases throughout Walworth County and the State, we are again challenged with the significant impact it has on our schools and work. Please consult our District's [COVID information page](#) or reach out to your building administrator, our District Administrator, District nurse, or myself if you have any questions.

Comet Proud,

Mary Burke
Director of Pupil Services

District Calendar Events:

- 2/15 - Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences
- 2/17 - PX and HS Parent Teacher Conferences
- 2/18 & 2/21 - No School

Delavan-Darien High School

First semester has ended. Students recently completed their final exams and the second semester starts on Tuesday, January 25th. As the new semester begins, we have a lot to look forward to.



Learning Lab - At the beginning of January, DDHS started an after school program called the Learning Lab which is being funded by a grant. We meet Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3:00-4:30 pm. The Learning Lab is for any student needing help in any of their courses. It has been a success! Roughly 50-60 students have shown up with staff support from a variety of content areas. In the month of February, Learning Lab will be used to help students earn

Credit Recovery and will open again for all students on Feb. 22nd. If you have any questions or think your student should attend, please contact Kristin Parker at kparker@ddschools.org



Course Registration - We will begin course registration in February by welcoming our incoming freshman Wednesday, January 26th from 6-8pm. Students and their families will have an opportunity to learn about the variety of courses available, meet staff, and begin creating their first high school schedule. All other students will start registration on Tuesday, February 1st in their English courses and will have until Friday, February 11th to complete their course selection worksheets. **The Master Schedule is created based upon student course selections over the next two weeks. Please make sure you discuss your child's course selections, as they will most likely get the courses they request at this time. Schedule changes do not frequently occur once the master schedule is built!**



Parent Teacher Conferences - 2nd Semester Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 17. Due to covid concerns and positive parent feedback from previous phone calls, DDHS will be hosting only call-in/call-out conferences that evening. The staff directory is found at ddschools.org/o/delavan-darien/staff. Please feel free to reach out to your student's teacher.



Musical - This year's musical is *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella!* Performances are March 4th and 5th, at 7pm, and March 6th at 2pm. Mr. Drefs, Mr. Marsh, and the cast are so excited to be doing this well-known story but expect a few twists and turns to keep the story fresh and new! Song highlights include: *Impossible*, *Ten Minutes Ago*, and *Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?* There will be many other



wonderful tunes and gorgeous orchestrations!

ACT March 8th - While this may seem like a ways off, our students are in preparation for the ACT. All juniors will be taking the ACT on Tuesday, March 8th. Freshman, sophomores and seniors will have a virtual learning day on that date.

Phoenix & Delavan-Darien High School - Clubs & Activities



The winter sports are starting to wind down with High School tournament play right around the corner. Congratulations to Owen Chelminiak on achieving his 100 wrestling win within the last month. The Comet wrestling team continues to have a strong showing and are eagerly looking forward to the postseason. It has been a challenge for all our sport teams this winter dealing with illness.

Middle School Boys' Basketball will start on February 7th and run until March 18th. Student athletes and their parents are reminded that a physical and emergency card need to be on file prior to participating. Forms are available in the main office at Phoenix Middle School.

Did you know the High School has a Dungeons and Dragons club? eSports, or Electronic Sports, is the name for the growing brand of Competitive Video Games. eSports have been growing in popularity relatively consistently since the birth of streaming platforms, but competitions have been around since the very beginning of mainstream video games in arcades. Today, there is a lot more variety in eSports genres, a lot more interest in them financially, college scholarships, and it is even possible to make a career from eSports at the competitive or content creation levels. DDHS group meets on Fridays.

Phoenix Middle School

There were many exciting events taking place at Phoenix Middle School in the month of January. We held our first in-person music concert since 2019. One evening focused on our 5th and 6th grade musicians and the other focused on our 7th and 8th grade musicians. Our students who participate in band, orchestra, or choir performed. They did an incredible job and it was wonderful to see so many of our families in person.

Volleyball has been in full action for the month of January. Our 7th and 8th grade female students have been participating and representing our school. We have been traveling to other schools this year and hosting other teams in our gym. We had enough students go out to have two teams in both 7th grade and in 8th grade.

Phoenix Middle School is hosting our musical on Friday, January 28th and Saturday, January 29th. This year the musical is *Matilda*. Students have been working so hard on being prepared. All students who participate in the musical as an actor, an extra, and for stage crew performed the musical for all grade levels the week leading up to the live performances for the public. We are so excited to show off the talents of our students!

Our current 8th grade students learned more about what will happen as they move on to high school next year. High school counselors came to Phoenix to share information regarding course selection. Delavan-Darien High School also hosted "Freshmen Welcome Night" where parents/guardians and students had an opportunity to learn more about the high school, the courses that are offered, different athletic/activities, asking questions to teachers, and tours of the building. Students are excited talking about the opportunities that await them next school year.

We had a group of students in grades 5 and 6 and in grades 7 and 8 participate in a math meet for Phoenix. This event was held in Clinton. We sent a total of 16 students to represent us. Our 7th and 8th grade team finished in 4th place overall! We also had a student who finished 4th place overall compared to all other students who participated from other schools. Thank you for showing the strong math skills of our Phoenix scholars.

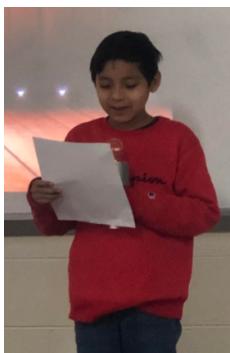
As we look forward to February, it will be another busy month. Phoenix Middle School is hosting a Parent night on Thursday, February 3rd from 5:30-7:00 PM. We are excited to have our students and parents in the building. We also are hosting an in-person parent/teacher conference on Thursday, February 17th from 4:00

PM - 8:00 PM. We will be sending more specific information out regarding our conference night. Students will also be busy preparing for our winter MAP testing. MAP testing stands for Measure of Academic Progress and is taken three times throughout a school year in the areas of math and reading to assess how our students are doing. We are excited to see and celebrate the growth of our students. We are also looking at hosting our first activity night for our students in grades 7 and 8 in February. Our students involved in Student Council are taking the lead on this event and are so excited to have an after school activity take place in the building!

Darien Elementary



Darien students returned from winter break and got right back into the swing of academics. In math, the primary focus for third grade has been multi digit addition and subtraction over zeros while continuing to practice their multiplication facts. Fourth grader students continue to work on multiplication while also learning strategies for division. Students should continue to work on their fact fluency at home as well, either using flash cards or Dreambox online lessons.



Fourth graders spent some class time working on a reader's theater piece recently focusing on expression as they read their parts. They are writing opinion paragraphs where they are designing the world's most perfect, delicious donut! Synonyms and antonyms and prefixes & suffixes are other topics they are learning and reviewing along with vowel patterns and sounds, parts of speech and Greek/Latin roots. Dual language students presented their letters to Tim and Moby from Brainpop in front of their classmates to work on their speaking and listening skills too. Up next is the unit on mythology, folktales, and legends. Topics for this unit include elements of drama, point of view, text & graphic features, story elements, synthesizing, main idea & details and making inferences.

Third grade readers and writers have been reading and learning about plays. They have practiced reading character parts and have learned about stage directions, scenery and scenes. Students are also continuing to work on learning cursive writing.



Bridges students have been working on assembling items for the Comet Store. This was a four step process where students counted out items, placed them in a bag, pulled the drawstrings to secure the items in the bag, and finally placed the items in a pile. Students can shop at the Comet Store by using Comet Cash that they earn by being respectful and responsible students. Thanks for your help with this task kids!



For many of our students, special classes continue to be their favorite time of the day. During makerspaces time in the library, students are working on coding and programming mini robots to perform tasks. Many students were successful with their robot being able to launch a ping pong ball into a plastic cup! In Physical Education classes, students have been working on proper grip and handling of the hockey stick and proper passing and receiving of the puck. Students in third grade art are learning about symmetry and are weaving a radially symmetric design. Fourth grade



students have been busy creating clay castles and have now begun learning about the mythology and legends surrounding dragons around the world. Students have started drawing their own dragon eyes using oil pastels and watercolors. The dragon eye projects ties into the student's English Language Arts unit 4 reading lesson of mythology, folktales, and legends.



In Bridges music class we are learning to identify, move and play whole, half, quarter and eighth notes. There is a catchy tune we've learned to sing! 3rd grade music has been identifying 4 different voice ranges: Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. We've listened to a Children's choir and adult singing voices to hear differences to identify through listening. Other topics, like your diaphragm, ask your child what and where it is in your body. In 4th grade music, we've been gaining more practice to accurately name notes in the treble clef staff. Individually, writing, reading and identifying the notes with the musical alphabet: ABCDEFG. We've played a fun challenge game as a class to challenge our speed of naming the notes as well. A little competition between classes is fun! All students will be learning more about Opera.



January has also brought some chilly weather where our students have had to have inside recess. They are learning about teamwork, sportsmanship, cooperation and turn taking as they play various board games during that time. When we have been able to get outside, our students have benefited from donations of hats and gloves by members of the Delavan-Darien communities. Thank you!

Turtle Creek Elementary

January has been a busy month at Turtle Creek. We are so excited for the snow and hoping the temperatures stay warm enough for us to go outside and play. During our recess times, we get to practice being safe, responsible, and respectful like we learn with our Comet Code.

Our Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, February 15th from 4:00 PM to 7:45 PM. Please be sure to return the conference form so that we can get you scheduled for a conference. Conferences will be available in person, virtually, or by phone. We look forward to discussing your child's progress with you!

Our 1st Grade students are busy practicing their important vocabulary words. They use a variety of strategies to learn these words so that it helps to increase their speaking, writing, and reading skills. The students are able to play games and find fun ways to practice using these words.



Our 1st Grade scientists have been exploring light. They are learning about how light works, what light passes through different materials, and experimenting with a variety of light sources. What an interesting exploration!



Our 2nd Grade Mathematicians are focusing on Measurement. This topic allows our students to make predictions, test their guesses, and determine the best tool to use for different types of measurements. The students explored many different places in their classroom and our school to practice their measurement skills. These teams of students were able to collaborate and communicate about their predictions and their actual measurements of items around the classroom.

