

Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

June 1, 2019

Dear Fellow Comets,

It is with great joy that I wrap up this year sharing with the community many of the amazing "Points of Pride."

- ★ We have made many safety improvements (new door locks, cameras, and even more to come) with the \$220,000 DDS was awarded from the School Safety Grant
- ★ Revised student behavior expectations with the creation of the Behavior Matrix reducing the office referrals dramatically (over 50%) at all levels as well as reducing expulsions by over 65%
- ★ Bronze or Silver awards at all levels for our Positive Behavior Interventions System
- ★ Wildly successful Homecoming celebration and parade. In general, a strong sense of Comet Pride is blooming.
- ★ Award winning teachers ~ specifically this year Lisa McKay received the Wisconsin Council of Administration of Special Services and Nick Stark earned the Excellence in Music Education Award
- ★ Kikkoman Foods donated \$100,000 to the Scholarship Foundation and our senior class is being awarded \$500,000 in scholarships this weekend
- ★ We are quite proud as we have achieved the **5 Star** rating from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (or **Significantly Exceeds Expectations**) for the 2nd year in a row based upon the 2017-18 Wisconsin Student Assessment System.
 - D-DHS received a score of 70.1; outperforming the surrounding high schools of Elkhorn (68.8), Big Foot (67.1), Whitewater (66.8), Lake Geneva Badger (66.5) and Waterford (69.1).
 - Phoenix Middle School, grades fifth through eighth, is in the top 5% across the state for all public schools as well as received the award for Beating the Odds
 - Overall, the District is in the top 10% across the state of Wisconsin for all public school districts!
- ★ Improved student academic performance on ACT, Project Lead the Way, MAP, and Forward exams with more students joining the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society
- ★ Highly successful community events like Reality Fair, Career and Job Fair, Veterans Day Assemblies, elementary Forensics meet, Hunt Off Hunger philanthropy, and the musicals Aladdin and Footloose
- ★ Additional revenues identified and awarded ~ High Cost for Special Education \$120,000; Discretionary Grant \$100,000; Technology \$26,500; Transfer of Service \$100,000; and \$40,000 additional revenues for Bilingual/Bicultural aid
- ★ District paid off the 2016 State Trust Fund Loan (\$630,000) based on improved enrollment numbers specifically Open Enrollment Out costs are down
- ★ Revitalized Strategic Plan creating direction for the district

Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

June 1, 2019

- ★ Successful student competitors ~ Phoenix Academic Bowl, UW Whitewater Midwest High School Pitch Competition, Geneva Lakes Arts Foundation Art Show, Destination Imagination, and SkillsUSA to name a few
- ★ Award winning athletes and athletic programs specifically Girls and Boys Swim Teams, Wrestling, and Boys Tennis
- ★ Received the *Best Community for Music Education* award for the 6th year in a row
- ★ Improvements to all buildings for the start of the 2019-2020 school year
 - improved Woods and Metals rooms as well as new Academic Center at the High School
 - renovated auditorium, Robotics, and Project Lead the Way room at Phoenix
 - new cafeteria floor and tables as well as the creation of a science lab, historical room, and reading nook at Darien Intermediate School
 - new playground equipment will be delivered to Turtle Creek this summer

All of these improvements will happen based on families believing in the district and remaining Comet strong!

- ★ Partnership with TLC Little Comets Learning Center - a new daycare that will provide an amazing learning program for future Comets as well as serve as a wrap around center
- ★ Newly redesigned website
- ★ Offering a fabulous Summer School Program - which it is not too late to sign up for!
- ★ TAHER, a new food service management company, will provide new and exciting menu options starting in July
- ★ Finally, we passed a referendum allowing for us to hire teachers and reduce class sizes

D-DSD offers unique opportunities for every child. We celebrate their individuality and embrace their differences. Overall, we cherish your child, nurture them to be their best, and challenge them to reach the next level.

I am proud to be a Comet as we **Move Forward with Promise!** Overall, DDSD is a great place to be! Please be on the look out for summer letters from me sharing more on specific improvements and our continued search to be fiscally responsible.

Comet Proud Indeed,

Jill Sorbie, EdD
District Administrator
Director of Instruction
jsorbie@ddschoools.org
(262)233-6751

Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

June 1, 2019

Delavan-Darien High School

Delavan-Darien High School is looking to close-out the year with several celebrations of our students & staff. We began the month of May celebrating our staff by offering them room service delivered to their rooms and other various treats throughout the week. We appreciate and want to say thank you to the AFS organization for providing bagels as well as our DDHS Student Council for organizing a breakfast to show appreciation towards our staff of highly valued teachers, custodians, secretaries, aides and kitchen workers.

We continued the month with Mrs. Jordan's Hospitality Students earning the American Hotel & Lodging



Association's Certified Guest Service Professional Gold Opportunities Certification.



Towards the end of the month we celebrated concerts in orchestra, choir & band. We finished the month off by



celebrating our musicians at both Music in the Park and a performance by our Marching Band in the Memorial Day Parade. We included our fine arts students as well, as we hosted an art show during the pops concert. During the pops-concert, we even celebrated the talents of our senior musicians and our very own Nick Stark, Jim Larson and Steve Cervantes! It is no wonder our Delavan-Darien students achieve high levels of success and recognition in the fine & performing arts!



Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

June 1, 2019

As we close the 2018-19 academic year at Delavan-Darien High School, we look forward to celebrating our scholarship recipients on Sunday, June 2 at 3 PM in the high school gymnasium. We will be celebrating the graduation of our Class of 2019 on Thursday evening, June 6 at 6:30 PM, also in the gymnasium. Our final day for exams, as well as the last day of the academic year, will be Friday, June 7. We wish all of our students a safe, relaxing summer. Finally, we celebrate and are excited to hear all of the amazing things our graduating seniors will be doing as they begin the next chapter of their lives. Thank you to our entire community for your supports throughout this year!

Phoenix Middle School



Phoenix Middle School is proud to announce that we have once again been recognized as a Wisconsin Title 1 School of Recognition “Beating the Odds” recipient. Mrs. Barbara Perez, a longtime outstanding educator at Phoenix and Principal Hank Schmelz received the award during a ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda on May 20th with State Superintendent of Education, Carolyn Stanford Taylor.

The Beating the Odds Designation is awarded to schools that are in the top 25 percent of high-poverty schools in the state; and have above-average student achievement in reading and mathematics when compared to schools from similarly sized districts, schools, grade configurations, and poverty levels. *This is the fourth time in the last six years that Phoenix has received the award.*

During the Month of May we had a fantastic concert season! Each of our music groups held their spring concert. It began with band, then choir and ended with our orchestra spread out over three musical nights. We are proud to excel in music and that DDSD is annually

Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

June 1, 2019

recognized as one of the best communities for music education. We are proud of the fact that the vast majority of our students are in a music performing group.

The “Phoenix Pay it Forward Community Garden,” is ready for a new season. On May 15, 2019, Ms. Lori Thorson’s period five Language Arts class took a break from the classroom to spend a little time preparing the garden plots. Thank you Sherry Matthews, Braina Boviall and Kelly Moralez, members of our Delavan community for coordinating our garden efforts. Without community members like these three, the garden could not happen. Local families are able to adopt a garden plot and plant the vegetables of their choice free of charge. We ask that they share ten percent of their harvest with families in need. In the fall, our students will have a final harvest that will be passed on to the Harrold Johnson food Pantry, located on the basement of St. Andrews Church. The Phoenix community is proud of this annual service project.



Welcome to our newest members of National Junior Honor Society! The fantastic scholars have demonstrated scholarship, citizenship, leadership, character and service, The five pillars of NJHS. These young people have set a high standard and we could not be more proud!

On May 24th, the 8th grade Phoenix National Junior Honor Society and our 8th grade Student Council traveled to UW Milwaukee to explore some post high school options as they prepare to launch their high school years. Thirty four of our scholar leaders



Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

June 1, 2019

had the opportunity to check out what one of our In-state Universities has to offer.

Turtle Creek Elementary School

The month of May started with the Spring Sing where the students gathered with their classmates to sing for their favorite audience - their PARENTS! The families were treated to a fantastic night of student achievement and great music. So many students made Mrs. Berg proud as they courageously stepped up the microphones to do their best. From the adorable first graders singing in their jammies, all the way to the 3rd and 4th grade honor choirs concluding the night with the blockbuster, "Friend like Me" from the dual language version of Aladdin Jr. What a night! The students have so much to be proud of! Check out video snippets on Mrs. Berg's website (google [mrsbergsmusicclass](#)).



On Friday, May 3rd the 4th graders attended the FFA field trip to McClellan Farm in Delavan. While at the farm, they got to hear presentations from high school students about farm machinery, animal care and the milking process. During their visit they got to feed a goat, watch the milking process in action, taste some dairy products, and even witness a calf being born. The students were very inquisitive and learned a lot about farm life through their thoughtful and curious questions. We would like to thank McClellan Farm and the various high school students involved in FFA.

Also on this same day, the 3rd graders went to the Milwaukee Public Museum. There, the kids really enjoyed the butterfly exhibit, Old Milwaukee, and the Planetarium, where they viewed the constellations in the Wisconsin summer sky.



Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

June 1, 2019

In the middle of May, the 3rd and 4th grade Honor Choirs sang their hearts out for their classmates and a special guest audience of school board members and legislators who were here for a tour with our Superintendent. The 4th graders sang the song "My Shot" from the smash hit Broadway musical, Hamilton. The 3rd graders followed with Circle of Life, featuring a beautiful segment played by some talented recorder players. Both choirs joined together to sing their finale, "Friend like Me" which was sung in two languages by our dual language and

monolingual students. We closed the short performance by having all the 3rd and 4th graders join in the Comet Spirit Song. Seeing so many students singing about their Comet Pride brought tears to Dr. Sorbie's eyes!



On Thursday, May 23rd many students visited DDHS to participate in AP Science demonstrations. Students watched in awe at some amazing

Chemistry, Biology and Physics demonstrations. Several demonstrations included hands-on activities such as writing with squid ink and "playing" with water repellent sand. It was a wonderful experience!



Near the end of May the 3rd graders had a wonderful time at Old World Wisconsin. There, the students were able to see and explore the daily life of settlers in 19th-century Wisconsin. Some of the areas they visited were a one room schoolhouse, Norwegian area, and they got to participate in historic pastimes. Lots of fun and learning! On this same day the first graders had a wonderful time at Discovery World. Some of the highlights included exploring the aquariums, the simple machines shipyard, innovation station, and the design-it lab. The exhibits and experiences are stimulating and provide both imaginative and innovative learning experiences for our students.

We hope you are all able to attend our Ice Cream Social at the end of the month (Friday 5/31). The ice cream is delicious and the dunk tank will be back again! The last day of school is Friday 6/7 and it is a full day. We want to thank all of our Turtle Creek families for the opportunity to work with you and your amazing children this year!

Wileman Elementary School

Registration
4K

Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

June 1, 2019

It is time to begin thinking about registering your child for 4K for the 2019-2020 school year! Please visit ddschoools.org to enroll your child today! Next year 4K will run as a full day program and we will offer both a Monolingual (English only) and Dual Language (Spanish 90% of the day) program. If you need assistance, please contact 262-233-6205.

Thank you to all the 5K families that came out for our end of the year Spring Concert! Our students once again did an amazing job and were so excited to perform for all of you! Mrs. Guzman, our music and art teacher, should be recognized for her hard work preparing the students for the concert and also coordinating the art gallery.



It was another amazing school year and as we come to an end, it always fun to reflect on where our students started the year and where we have ended! Our students are ready to move on to the next grade and it is exciting to wrap up the year with some very fun events next week!

Wileman Upcoming Events:

6/3: Final PBIS Assembly and Incentive for the students!

6/6: 5K Field Day!

Final day of 4K!

6/7: 4K Outreach Picnic in the Park

5K Lunch on the Lawn

Last Day of School!!!