

# Comet Community Chronicle

*Moving Forward with Promise*

October 2020

Dear Fellow Comets,

Success! Overall, DDS D has successfully reopened for the 2020-2021 school year. We greatly appreciate your daily morning health screening (click [here](#)) and your partnership in keeping students home that show signs or symptoms of COVID-19. Thank you for your continued diligence on this important check. As you may have heard, Governor Evers has reissued a new [Emergency Order](#) regarding the requirement to wear a mask through November 21st. We will continue to follow this order. A reminder, please find our Reopening Plan [here](#). If your child has been tested for COVID, they may NOT return to school until results have been received and the symptoms have improved. Again, please follow the guidelines found in our plan or contact your child's building health aide for additional answers.

On the November ballot, DDS D has a referendum question for facility improvements for Borg Stadium, surrounding fields, concession building, and tennis courts. These areas have been deteriorating since they were constructed in 1962. We have been working with various contractors to understand our needs to keep this 58-year old historical structure and overall improve these areas. I strongly encourage you to attend a Q&A session on Friday, Oct. 9th at 5:30 in Borg Stadium. If you attend the Q&A, you can stay for the varsity football game. I believe a "picture is worth a 1000 words." Click [here](#) for the recent flyer and [here](#) for our website outlining additional details.

The High School's East Gym is officially complete. Over the summer, we put on a new roof to stop the leaks, painted the entire gym floor to ceiling, and resurfaced the gym floor. Special thanks go to Komfort Heating & Cooling and Carrier for sponsoring and covering the costs for resurfacing the gym floor.

We are currently working on how we will structure the upcoming parent teacher conferences. In the coming weeks, a special letter will come out regarding these important meetings.

Finally, we have a new look on our website. We have hopefully made it easier for you to use, however, please know it is a work in progress where additional information will be forthcoming. On the building sites, we are "Spot Lighting" students and staff on a monthly basis. If you have suggestions, please contact Brandon Curless at [bcurless@ddschoools.org](mailto:bcurless@ddschoools.org) and he will look into making it happen.

In closing, we are so happy your child(ren) is back. We acknowledge these are challenging times for families, students, and teachers. As always, if you have specific needs or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher and/or building principal.

Comet Proud,  
Jill Sorbie, EdD

**District Calendar Events:**

## HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome back to all of our students and families that are attending both in-person and virtual learning programs. Life in the Delavan-Darien High School has adapted to the times we find ourselves in. We are grateful for our students and staff being back and trying to get back to “normal”. We appreciate the students and staff wearing their masks everyday. Please continue to make sure your child brings their mask with them daily. Due to our social distancing practices that we have in place at the high school, in coordination with all personnel wearing masks, we have very few students going out due to any type of illness.



Students have been welcomed back to an incredible building that has undergone a major facelift including new signage, a renovated gymnasium, freshly painted and one way hallways, as well as classrooms that have seats distanced apart to keep our in-school community safe. We look forward to the day that we can open our doors to parents and the community to show off who



we are.

As we progress into October, please be aware that our Community Collaboration meetings have transitioned into our School Board meetings. If you want to learn more about the District, we encourage parents and the community to attend our board meetings.



If your high school student attends virtual school or they missed our first picture day, please be aware that picture make-ups and virtual student pictures will be hosted in the front lobby of Delavan-Darien High School on Thursday, October 15 from 7:30 AM until 9:00 AM. Virtual students will need to arrive at Delavan-Darien High School wearing a mask and will be permitted to enter, take their picture and then immediately exit the premises. Please feel free to call Mrs. Daniels at DDHS at 262-233-6605 with any questions.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Michael Cobb, Colette Riviere and Breanna Yartey for being recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Colette has been recognized as a “Commended” student, while both Michael and Breanna are currently among 16,000 “Semifinalist”. 15,000 students will eventually be selected to be a “Finalist” of a National Merit Scholarship Award.



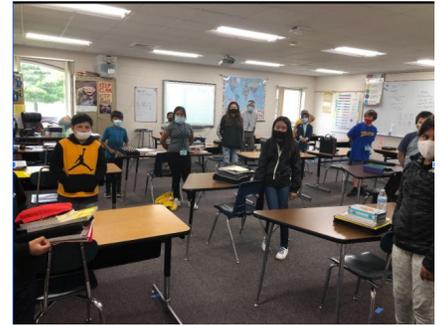
## PHOENIX MIDDLE SCHOOL



We have officially wrapped up our first month back to school at Phoenix Middle School. Our staff have truly enjoyed getting back in the building. We have been actively working to support students' learning of our new procedures related to

COVID and our expectations related to the Comet Code. Our students have been adjusting well to the new changes to ensure the health and safety of our students and our staff.

Our middle school has had a number of upgrades to our building and students continue to comment on how great the new things look. Some of these include new door wraps for the gym, new door wraps



for the cafeteria doors, new flooring and painting in the cafeteria, and having all of our lockers painted Comet blue! It really looks great across our whole building.



This year, we welcome a new principal, Mrs. Amanda Urmanski. Mrs.

Urmanski was previously an Associate Principal at Delavan-Darien High School and has taken over the position as Principal at Phoenix Middle School. Mrs. Fossler is starting her second year as an Associate Principal at Phoenix after being an elementary teacher in the district for over twenty years.

Our students have been taking the MAP assessment in the area of reading and mathematics over the last two weeks of September. We use this data as a staff to make building wide, classroom, and student specific goals to improve their reading and math scores. Students have also been adjusting to a new Learning Management System: Schoology. Ask your student to share what their Schoology page looks like as staff are working diligently to update this daily with information for each of their classes.

## DARIEN ELEMENTARY

This school year has been like no other! Our staff continue to work diligently to teach students all of the new processes and procedures related to COVID as well as their content area(s). Our students have adjusted quickly to the new routines and we are off to a great start!

The students have been utilizing some of the new pieces of playground equipment that were purchased and installed this summer. One is a Cruiser in which students can sit on benches or stand inside or on the outside and 'glide' back and forth. It is also wheelchair accessible. Another is the Volta Inclusive Spinner which allows students to spin. Lastly we added 2 Gaga Ball pits which allow many students to play at a time.



This month students in our Bridges classroom worked together to create a scarecrow for Scarecrow Fest. Maybe you got a chance to see Pirate Pete stationed near Walworth and Third Street.

Students have been taking the Measure of Academic Performance assessments for both reading and math the past few weeks. Teachers will be using the data from these assessments to establish goals for each student as well as guide their instruction. Early results of tests taken so far indicate that our students have some work to do this year. We will need our parents to assist with learning and practice, especially if students need to be out of school for a short period of time. Our staff and students are getting more familiar with Schoology, the Learning Management System where work is posted for students to complete while at home. Please reach out to your child's teacher(s) if you have questions.

Staff and students at Darien have been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with a small daily activity. Our bigger event was held on September 16th where students and staff wore dress, outfit, or colors of one of the Hispanic countries' flags. Students have also been learning new words in Spanish, viewing short videos of prominent Hispanics, and other activities to learn about the Hispanic culture.



# TURTLE CREEK ELEMENTARY

We can't believe that we are already wrapping up the month of September! Our students have been working hard on learning expectations and routines as we kicked off the year with our PBIS expectations (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). We focused on Being Respectful, Responsible and Safe. We held a virtual assembly and had all classes show off their "Dojo Monsters" since we use Class Dojo as our main form of tracking positive behaviors. Our staff have been working hard to adjust the expectations this year to ensure we are maintaining social distancing and other safety precautions. Our students have done an amazing job at adapting to our new norms. Keep up the great work!



We have also begun our MAP testing which allows us a baseline data point for a student's academic achievement in reading and math. We will be using these results, along with classroom data and Running Records, to hold data meetings the first week in October. The students are quickly adapting to our Learning Management System, Seesaw, and this will be our means of education if a child would be out of the building. Our students are also diving right into instruction!



We did kick off our 4K Outreach events this year by running the Scavenger Hunt, which tends to be a big hit year after year! Moving forward, we are working to ensure the monthly events are meeting our safety guidelines or will be available in a virtual format. We are planning these out month by month.

## **Upcoming Turtle Creek Events:**

10/28: No 4K due to Outreach