

Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

November 2020

Dear Fellow Comets,

Happy Fall. Tomorrow is an important day for DDSD. Your support for the facilities referendum is appreciated. These [improvements](#) will impact students and our community for years to come. If you did not see the Facebook post last week, the expected tax impact is much less than expected. [Click here](#) for the new impact on taxes for each municipality. Several people have asked why the Village of Darien seems to be impacted more. The answer for this question is due to a mistake made by Wisconsin's Department of Revenue this past year. Next year is a correction year for the village.



Once the referendum passes, the work will begin immediately. We will start by finalizing the plans. If you are interested in providing some input, please let me know. The construction work will begin as soon as the frost is out and be completed in early fall. It will be an amazing new space for our community, student athletes, and PE classes.

COVID news: Walworth County Health Department will be putting out a school boundary dashboard. I will be posting a link to their dashboard on our [COVID page](#). Please know our dashboard will reflect only the number of students and staff that "walk our halls." The Walworth Country dashboard will reflect other students who do not attend (in person) DDSD including students from WSD, Lakeland, St. Andrews, Our Redeemer, Delavan Christian, our virtual students, and open enrollment out students. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

As we head into the holiday season, I ask all students, staff, and families to continue with the daily health screening. I know that many of us will be around our extended family members, and it is essential that we take the precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone so learning can continue in person.

In closing, thank you for your continued support. The students and staff are amazing, and I know we are Moving Forward with Promise!

Comet Proud,
Jill Sorbie, EdD
District Administrator / Director of Instruction
jsorbie@ddschools.org

District Calendar Events:

- 11/3: Referendum vote!
- 11/6: No School - Teacher Inservice
- 11/25 -11/27: Thanksgiving break

HIGH SCHOOL

Where did October go? Academically we hosted a highly successful virtual conference night to support parents and students in collaboration with the high school teachers to support student

learning and growth. Socially we just finished up our Fall Week which we hosted in lieu of a traditional Homecoming due to the pandemic. Students had dress up days, a virtual assembly and various trivia challenges throughout the week. To hear about the most recent news and updates we encourage all families to bookmark our [webpage](#) as we're constantly updating and highlighting what is occurring in our building.

Athletically, Delavan-Darien High School was able to host all of our fall sports in a modified sport

season. Highlights included our volleyball season entering regional play as the #4 seed in the regional. Additionally, our boys' soccer team qualified for the WIAA State Tournament with their 1-0 win over Grafton on Halloween night! Congrats and best wishes to our boys' soccer players & coaches!!!



What are we looking forward to in November? Academically we are looking forward to the first quarter coming to a close (November 5). This is a reminder to students and parents to make sure student homework, quizzes and tests are all caught up and to date as we proceed into the second half of the semester. Furthermore, academically DDHS offers **free** ACT practice assessments to support student achievement on the actual ACT. Studies show that these practice sessions improve

student scores by 1-2 points per practice session attended. Hence, if your child attends all three **free** practice ACT sessions, they can expect their scores to be 3-6 points greater than not attending at all. The first practice session is Saturday, November 14, from 7:45 am until noon.

Finally, athletically and socially we are hopeful and optimistic as we are looking forward to starting up our winter sports seasons dependent upon WIAA and conference conversations. Additionally, we are on track to deliver a virtual Veteran's Day Program for the community on November 11th. Finally, we are also looking forward to Phoenix Middle School hosting our high school students' One Act Plays on November 21 & 22. Again, please check our high school [website](#) for this, and more information.

To close, the Delavan-Darien High School Student Council purchased shirts for all students to celebrate fall week. We have several extras that are available for purchase (\$10 short sleeve / \$15 long sleeve). If interested, please contact Tracey Daniels at tdaniels@ddschools.org.



PHOENIX MIDDLE SCHOOL

Staff at Phoenix Middle School spent time reviewing student data results from MAP testing for reading and math. We looked at the data through a building wide perspective and then looked at individual student data. We used this data to make determinations for PIE groupings for students, which will start on November 2nd. PIE stands for Prevention, Intervention, and Enrichment. Students will have the opportunity to participate in many different types of groups to continue to support their own individual academic growth. Examples of some of the groups that will be meeting will focus on reading interventions, additional math support, book clubs, homework help, Spanish book club, Genius Hour, String Choir, Phoenix Singers, and Jazz band.



We also conducted our Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences virtually where parents were encouraged to call in to talk about their child's performance in school. We continue to encourage our families to monitor their child's grades through Infinite Campus as well as to check out our new Learning Management System (LMS) Schoology.



The middle school also had opportunities for students to participate in Flag Football and Girl's Basketball. We are not able to have Wrestling this year due to COVID. We are looking forward to being able to offer something for Girl's Volleyball shortly.

Our student services staff hosted a successful event

where we met with all new students to Phoenix Middle School. Our Peer Helpers supported the event. This gave us the opportunity to meet with students new to our school district to see how the first month of school went at Phoenix. We learned many things from our new group of students to continue to strengthen how we welcome new students to our school.



DARIEN ELEMENTARY



Darien staff spent time in October reviewing student results from recent MAP reading and math and running record assessments. The teacher discussed areas of strengths and areas in which to focus as a building as well as for each student in order to keep moving forward in their education.

Not only are students concentrating on learning reading, writing, math, science and social studies, but they get an opportunity to have two special classes daily. Those include art, computers, library, music, and physical education. Due to COVID, the special staff come to the students' classroom for their lessons with the exception of physical education. Students are learning about famous artists, practicing their keyboarding skills, learning digital citizenship, securing books online through Destiny, recognizing healthy food groups, naming bones within their body, and fitness principles and foundational skills in all areas.



We continue to recognize our students and their hard work in many ways. Top Score and Most Improved awards go to students each month for their positive behavior in following the Comet Code. Students earn both Class Dojo points and Starbucks for positive choices. They then make decisions on whether to take a chance to be a random winner selected weekly, or save them for a classroom incentive. In some good news, our behavior referrals are down compared to previous school years. We also recognize students on our Darien webpage on the district site at www.ddschools.org. Keep up the great work kids!



TURTLE CREEK ELEMENTARY

How time flies! It is hard to believe we are already in November! This month has been focused on ensuring solid instruction is happening across the building. The teachers are working to implement our new ELA pilot program, Benchmark, and using our student data to drive instruction. We made it through MAP testing and our Rigby (Running Record) assessments to also look at this data to determine how to continue to move our student data forward. It is great to continue to see the hands-on learning and application of new learning into their every day instruction! Students are engaged in art, engineering tasks and online platforms, such as Kahoot, to actively participate in their learning. Our teachers are continuing to think outside the box on ways to allow students to have fun in their learning and keep to our safety protocols we have in place.



We also had our monthly 4K Outreach event and families did a “drive by” socially distanced Trick-or-Treat to stop by staff cars to get special items and treats to take home. All students were sent home with materials to complete an “Itsy Bitsy Spider” and “Little Miss Muffet” engineering activity. Thank you to all our families that participated and our teachers to make the video on how to complete the activity at thome!

Upcoming Events:

- 11/4: Picture Retake Day**
- 11/18: 4K Outreach-No 4K Classes today!**

