

# Dunlap Unit School District #323

## BOARD SPLINTERS



Summer 2017

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

#### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Lisa Parker

#### **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

Mrs. Karen Beverlin

#### **DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Mrs. Heather Bowman

#### **INTERIM DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES**

Mrs. Alyssa Hart

#### **CURRICULUM SPECIALIST**

Mrs. Kathryn Jennings

#### **DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY**

Mr. Matt Jensen

#### **DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

Mr. Tom Grimm

#### **DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICES**

Mrs. Lisa Leitner

#### **DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. Duane Peterson

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Karen Disharoon, President

Mrs. Beth Rhee, Vice President

Mr. Bryan Zowin, Secretary

Mrs. Cheryl Bluth

Mrs. Dawn Bozeman

Ms. Theresa Holshouser

Dr. Abby Humbles



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connected**

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

#### **DUNLAP HIGH SCHOOL**

Mr. Scott Adreon, Principal

Mr. Marcus Belin, Assistant Principal

Mr. David Johnson, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Katie Cazalet, Athletic Director

#### **DUNLAP MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Mr. Wes Wollen, Principal

Mrs. Holly Creel, Assistant Principal

#### **DUNLAP VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Mr. Jason Holmes, Principal

Mr. Antonio Johnson, Assistant Principal

#### **BANNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mr. Greg Fairchild, Principal

#### **DUNLAP GRADE SCHOOL**

Mrs. Mandy Ellis, Principal

#### **HICKORY GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mr. Jeremy Etnyre, Principal

Mrs. Michaela Rychener, Assistant Principal

#### **RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mr. Todd Jefferson, Principal

Mrs. Michaela Rychener, Assistant Principal

#### **WILDER-WAITE GRADE SCHOOL**

Mrs. Stacy Berg, Principal



#### **DISTRICT MISSION**

The Dunlap School Community empowers all students to reach their individual potential.

# BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

Parental and community engagement is an important key to quality education of our children. In that regard, we are pleased to provide a summary of major developments within the Dunlap school system that further the district's mission statement: *Empowering all students to reach their individual potential.*

There have been several new programs approved by the Board of Education:

- Implementation of the first phase of the 1:1 technology initiative in which all students in grades 4-8 will receive Chromebooks (Approximate staffing and programming costs - \$865,000)
- Implementation of an "at-risk" program to assist those students at-risk of not graduating with help getting the credits they need to graduate (Approximate staffing and programming costs - \$45,000)
- Reinstatement of the Co-op program which will allow students to receive school credit for internship/work experiences (Approximate cost - \$23,000)
- A small expansion of the eighth-grade foreign language program and the continuation of foreign language for fifth graders (No cost)
- The addition of two new classes at the high school - AP World History and Pre-AP French 3 (Approximate textbook costs - \$11,000)
- An expanded "Explore" (non-core classes) program at the middle schools in which students will have more choices (Approximate staffing costs - \$107,000)
- Implementation of the Strong Start Program which allows DHS students to attend ICC during their senior year for 1/2 day to take "dual credit" classes, greatly expanding our course offerings (No cost)

Given the changes in our local economy, the board and administration are watching the financial outlook closely, including enrollment numbers and projections, property values, new commercial tax revenues and overall finances. To that end this is the first time the Board has reviewed multiple scenarios for 5-year budget projections.

The positive news is that our projections indicate we can sustain our school district with current programs and staffing for five years, even if our revenues are flat for three years and still have a two and one-half months reserve in our main education fund. On the other hand, we do not know for sure what a "worst case" scenario is, and it is not possible to rely on professional enrollment projections more than five years into the future. We are watching these numbers closely and will keep you abreast as we receive additional information.

We are a strong district, devoted to providing the best education possible, maximizing our limited resources, and we are grateful for our continued success. Our students and teachers received notable recognition for their achievements, such as our recent ranking in *US News and World Report* as a top performing high school with a ranking of #24 in the State of Illinois. This puts us at the top of the list for downstate schools.

Thanks to all our families, staff and community members who support our schools. It takes the whole community working together to achieve these results. We welcome your involvement and your input as we work together to continue the high standard of excellence in education in Dunlap School District #323.

Go Eagles!

Karen Disharoon  
President, Dunlap School Board  
(309) 219-6390  
kdisharoon@dunlapcusd.net



# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings , Dunlap Community!

It's hard to believe that another school year is upon us. I want to first thank you for all the support you provided to our staff and students throughout the past school year, which was filled with numerous successes and a few challenges along the way.

I am often asked what we feel were the most influential moments in our District during the past year. I could name so many amazing accomplishments of our students, staff and my own administrative team, but the top of the list has to be the support of our Board of Education in approving the upcoming Future Ready 1:1 Initiative, where all students in grades 4-8 will receive their own Chromebook in August. This plan began several years ago and will become a reality in 2017-18. This will open up many more opportunities for our students and allow them to reach their own individual potential with the leadership of our outstanding teaching staff. It is exciting to visit our classrooms and see what our students are accomplishing. The possibilities for them and their futures are endless.

Another highlight of the year was Dunlap High School being named the 24th best high school in the State of Illinois by *US News & World Report*. This accomplishment is a reflection of the work of our staff and students in all of our buildings and something we were quite proud to achieve. We will continue to work hard improving our academic achievements and opportunities for our students to hopefully be ranked even higher in the future.

The Board of Education and administrative team carefully watched the financial issues impacting Illinois school districts over the past few years. We worked to maintain positive fund balances and made adjustments without negatively impacting opportunities for our students.

We are committed to ensuring quality learning every day. We want all of our students prepared for college and/or careers when they leave our school district. We believe that academics, fine arts, clubs and athletics all ensure learning opportunities and growth for our students.

Let's continue to move this District forward for our students. Together, we can make a difference, and none of us can do this without the support of our parents and community members.

Have a great 2017-18 school year!

Respectfully,

Dr. Lisa Parker  
Superintendent



## STATE OF THE SCHOOLS 2017



## Board of Education Meeting Recordings 2016-17

 [July 20, 2016](#)

 [August 10, 2016](#)

 [September 21, 2016](#)

 [October 19, 2016](#)

 [November 16, 2016](#)

 [December 14, 2016](#)

 [January 18, 2017](#)

 [February 15, 2017](#)

 [March 15, 2017](#)

 [April 19, 2017](#)

 [May 17, 2017](#)

 [June 21, 2017](#)

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES

The Dunlap Board of Education recently approved the schedule for the 2017-18 regular board meetings held at Dunlap High School.

All regular meetings are open to the public, with the exception of the closed session portion of the meetings as outlined in the Open Meetings Act. The public is invited to attend the meetings to learn more about the work of the Board.

Date	Time	Location
July 19, 2017	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School
August 9, 2017	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School
September 20, 2017	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School
October 18, 2017	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School
November 15, 2017	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School
December 13, 2017	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School
January 17, 2018	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School
February 21, 2018	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School
March 21, 2018	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School
April 18, 2018	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School
May 16, 2018	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School
June 20, 2018	6:00 PM	Dunlap High School

 [Click for Board of Education Meetings Videos](#)

## BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS



[View the complete 2017-18 District Calendar](#)

August 14, 2017	5:30 PM	Kindergarten Orientation (Students/Parents)
August 14, 2017	6:30 PM	Grades 1-5 Elementary Open House (Students/Parents)
August 15, 2017	5:00 PM	Bright Futures & ECSE PreK Open House at HGES (AM Classes - Students/Parents)
August 15, 2017	5:45 PM	Bright Futures & ECSE PreK Open House at HGES (PM Classes - Students/Parents)
August 21, 2017	6:30 PM	K-5 Elementary Back to School Night (Parents Only)
August 22, 2017	6:30 PM	Dunlap Middle School / Dunlap Valley Middle School
August 24, 2017	6:30 PM	Dunlap High School



Dunlap Community School District #323 cannot predict or control every aspect of local, state, or national financial conditions, but we believe we can keep our community informed while being proactive on property tax matters, enrollment projections, state funding, and other factors which impact our school district finances.

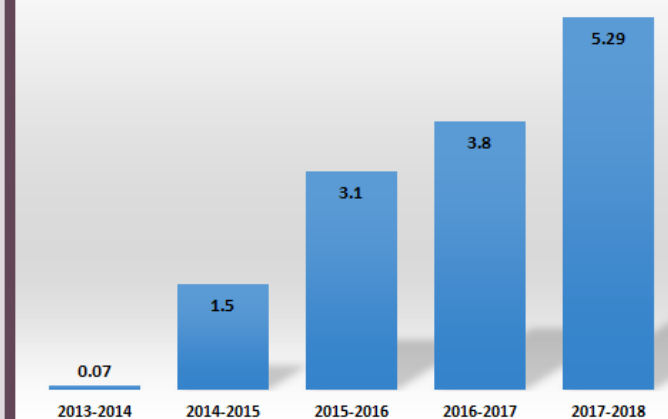
### 2016-17 Highlights in Finance and Human Resources

- The District implemented on line employee forms; resulting in a direct savings of \$1,300 and staff time of 110 hours.
- The District competitively bid natural gas contracts and property/liability insurance, resulting in over \$41,799 savings from the previous year.
- The Peoria County Schools Facilities Sales Tax referendum passed last November, resulting in new annual revenue to maintain, enhance, and expand our facilities.
- The District implemented online student registration resulting in a direct savings of \$5,947 and staff time of 375 hours across the District.
- Non-certified staff evaluations were implemented.
- Accounts payable transitioned to the use of purchasing cards to pay bills resulting in over \$3,800 additional revenue just for paying the District's invoices.
- The District approved refinancing the 2007 series bonds for the same payout period at a lower interest rate resulting in over \$130,000 in savings to our tax payers over the next three years.
- Administrators attended teacher recruitment fairs throughout the state to expand recruiting efforts.

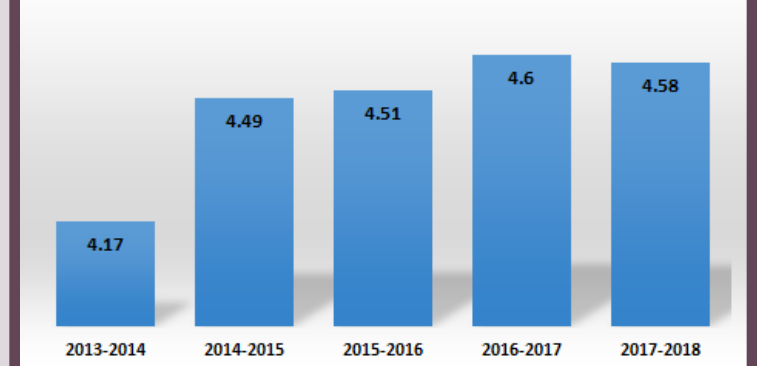
### 2017-18 and Beyond

The District continues to protect the District's financial stability. As the charts below show, the District's Equalized Assessed Values (EAV) increased by 5.29% for the 2017-18 school year and our property tax rate dropped slightly to 4.58%. This resulted in our property tax rate being the lowest of all Peoria County Schools for the 2017-18 school year.

**Year-Over Year  
Equalized Assessed Value % Increases**



**Tax Rate by Year**



The chart below represents the District's fund balances, revenue, and expenditures for the 2017-18 tentative budget.

Fund	FY 18 Beginning Fund Balance	FY 18 Revenue	FY 18 Expenditures	FY 18 Ending Fund Balance
Education Fund	37,237,384.00	32,819,550.92	32,701,385.71	37,355,549.21
Operations & Maintenance Fund	2,853,427.00	4,514,448.55	4,242,515.42	3,125,360.13
Bond & Interest Fund	2,747,376.00	6,055,344.42	6,055,161.63	2,747,558.79
Transportation Fund	4,288,506.00	2,798,261.10	2,787,829.08	4,298,938.02
IMRF Social Security	1,730,776.00	2,128,051.84	2,061,014.70	1,797,813.14
Construction Fund	313,272.87	750,100.00	1,063,372.87	0.00
Working Cash Fund	1,190,698.00	459,245.43	0.00	1,649,943.43
Tort Fund	1,115,080.00	1,427,298.15	893,500.00	1,648,878.15
Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	195,268.00	458,443.19	455,000.00	198,711.19
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51,671,787.87</b>	<b>51,410,743.60</b>	<b>50,259,779.41</b>	<b>52,822,752.06</b>

### Dunlap Educational Foundation

The Dunlap Educational Foundation is a non-taxing 501c3 charitable organization with the sole purpose being to develop resources to enhance the educational programs in our schools. Over the past several months, the Board of Directors worked to develop the Foundation's mission and set the groundwork for a successful fund raising campaign. Money raised through the foundation will support more opportunities for our students and staff. One way you can help is to make your Amazon purchases through the following link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-3049286>. Once you are at the Amazon Smile website, simply add "Dunlap Educational Foundation" as your organization of choice. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible smile.amazon.com purchases. Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations. You will see products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Thank you for helping to support our students.

 [Click for Amazon Smile](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-3049286)





## ***What Do You Do with an Idea?* Reflections on Curriculum and Instruction**

As we reach the end of another school year and look forward to the next, I am continually reviewing our District's mission: *empowering individual potential*. Have we, meaning teachers, building and district level administrators, done everything within our power to make sure our students are successful entering the next level or stage of their lives? Are we truly harnessing the potential within each and every student? This reflection process is a key component to the success of our District.

Often times, this reflection process leads us to new ideas to help us improve. What do we do with these ideas? How do we bring them to fruition? This takes time, effort, and courage from all stakeholders throughout the District. Sometimes in education, we have to go out on a limb to find the best idea or practice to meet the needs of our students. We have to evaluate the long standing traditions in place to gauge student success. As Director of Curriculum and Instruction, I review best practices to help our schools meet these needs and challenge our students. Coming up in the 2017-18 school year, we are launching a large 1:1 Future Ready Technology Initiative in grades 4-8, combined with opening up our learning management system, Canvas, to parents. We are adding Advanced Placement courses, revamping middle school explore courses, adding Spanish to fifth grade and reinstating a cooperative education program. We are reviewing grading practices, changing K-5 science resources and offering an at-risk program at Dunlap High School. All of these additions to our curriculum started with ideas and have been implemented today because of the effort, confidence, and determination of many to bring them forward.

I firmly believe we are never too old to read a good children's book. As we embark upon another school year in August and there are new initiatives in place, take a few minutes and consider listening to the book, [\*What Do You Do with an Idea?\*](#) by Kobi Yamada. It is appropriate for any stage of life and when faced with challenges and struggles that may seem daunting, to persevere and welcome those new ideas. So I challenge each and every Dunlap teacher and staff member, parent, Board of Education member, student, and community member to cherish, nurture and LIVE your ideas. This is how we **all** reach our individual potential.

### **Future Ready 1:1 Initiative**

Over the past two years, the District has been planning for the implementation of 1:1 technology. We are excited to implement touchscreen Chromebooks in grades 4-8 in the fall of 2017 for classroom and home use. The roll-out will continue in the 2018-19 school year for all Dunlap High School students and then in the 2019-20 school year K-3 students. By the end of the three year roll out, all of grades 2-12 will have touchscreen chromebooks and grades K-1 will have iPads at a 1:2 ratio, upon approval of funding by the Board of Education.

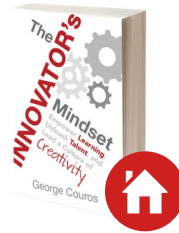
This initiative allows the District to not only purchase devices for these students but to provide two instructional technology coaches and technology support staff members. These instructional technology coaching positions will work with all our teachers to support classroom technology use and help with classroom instruction related to best practice. The technology support members will assist with student devices, and be able to close teacher and student helpdesk tickets and assist with tech needs including but not limited to changing projector bulbs, installing software, fixing devices and more.

We are appreciative of all community and staff members who have spent numerous hours piloting the 1:1 devices, serving on the 1:1 committee, serving on District Leadership Team and participating in technology professional development and then implementing in classrooms. A special thanks to our Board of Education for their support in this process. We look forward to the first year of this 1:1 implementation and continuing to carry out our mission, "Empowering all students to reach their individual potential." This has been the focus of the 1:1 Future Ready Initiative from the start, and we are excited to improve and prepare our students for their future.

## Summer 2017 Professional Learning

In preparation for our Future Ready 1:1 Implementation, we hosted technology related professional learning for teachers. There were over 90 teachers signed up to participate in multiple sessions throughout the summer. Topics included our Canvas Learning Management System (LMS), the SAMR model, coding in the classroom, becoming a Google certified teacher and virtual field trips.

We hosted an online book study on *Innovator's Mindset* by George Couros. Mr. Couros will be the keynote speaker at the Peoria County institute on September 1. We have 35 teachers plus administrators participating in this book study. Along with these specific professional learning opportunities, there were Patio and Coffee EDU sessions, Lunch n' Learn sessions and an EdCamp. All of our summer professional development (PD) was geared toward best practices in education and incorporating technology in the classroom. All sessions were self-selected by teachers. We opted for this style of summer PD, as this is what our spring PD survey indicated the teachers desired. I am excited to offer these opportunities and appreciate the diligence of our teachers to volunteer some of their summer break time to invest in improving student learning.



## Future Ready 1:1 Video



### Alternative Program at Dunlap High School

Dunlap has created a program for students at risk of not graduating or who may be challenged by other factors that prevent them from being successful in a typical high school environment. During the first year this program will focus on "credit recovery" allowing primarily junior and senior students to take online courses in a separate classroom to make up for failed or missing grades needed to graduate.

The future planning for this alternative program is to expand to make it more of a "school within a school" and to have teachers available to help those students struggling. It is a program for students who have social-emotional issues that prevent them from being successful in a typical school environment.

The benefits of this program would be to:

- Provide appropriate academic support for students
  - Material presented in a variety of formats to meet diverse learning styles
  - On-line interactive presentation
  - Individual tutoring/direct instruction
- Increase academic achievement for all students
- Provide appropriate Social-Emotional Learning support for students who are challenged with anxiety, depression, etc.
- Increase Dunlap's graduation rate

After the 3rd year of implementation, we hope to have teachers, an aide and a social worker available to provide more specialized teaching and support. The largest benefit is to help students who might not otherwise graduate, to successfully finish high school, and thus be more likely to be productive self-supporting citizens.

### Interim Director of Student Services

We welcome Alyssa Hart as the Interim Director of Student Services. Mrs. Hart is from Galesburg, IL and is a lifelong resident of the Central Illinois area. She has been with the District since 2011 as a School Social Worker. While in Dunlap she implemented Dunlap Gives Back, created parents' special education folders, researched and recommended the new alternative program for Dunlap High School and worked in many other areas of Student Services. Mrs. Hart took the lead on separating RTI academics and RTI social-emotional learning within the schools and has recently worked on the implementation of a new threat assessment.





Our support services departments continue to be vital to our organization. The District made many improvements, including providing additional training to staff and evaluations for all non-certified employees. Below are highlights from transportation, food services and buildings and grounds:

## Transportation Department Highlights

- Successful roll-out of the VersaTrans Student Tracking System. This system allows each elementary school and our staff to track when and where a student gets on or off a school bus.
- This fall we will continue to build on this system by introducing the “My Stop” tool for parents . This will allow parents to track their children’s bus.
- In the past year we also developed a bus monitor training manual which is a comprehensive guide for the new or experienced monitor.

## Food Services Department Highlights

- Our most exciting achievement this school year was the creation of our Dunlap Food Services facebook page. With facebook we are now able to showcase our many healthy nutritious meals, recipes, and department staff involvement. As our department continues to improve communication on social media, we look forward to promoting and providing year round information to all of our parents. Thank you team members Kathy Gullette and Kathy Holtman for maintaining our facebook page. Our Department Leadership Team sets high standards and goals and looks forward to improving on them each year.
- We also received perfect scores on our Health Department inspections.
- Students were surveyed to find ways to improve the Food Services Department.



## Buildings and Grounds Department Highlights

- Our Maintenance Department strengthened our substitute custodian base with four new hires.
- We hired a full time maintenance technician who will work between all nine buildings within the District. This position will take on most projects for which we currently use outside maintenance contractors, along with establishing a scheduled maintenance program on the District's operating systems.

Along with our normal summer activities of cleaning the school buildings, preparing our kitchens, and routine maintenance on our bus fleet, we have a number of special projects underway, including:

- Dunlap High School Baseball Dugouts Replacement
- Dunlap High School Library Remodel
- Security enhancements for Dunlap High School, Dunlap Middle School and Banner Elementary
- Lighting replacement at Hickory Grove Elementary and Dunlap Valley Middle School
- HVAC and Boiler Upgrades at Dunlap High School, Banner Elementary and Wilder-Waite Elementary School
- Donation of baseball field press box from the Nicholas J. Murphy Foundation in honor of Nick Murphy, former Dunlap High School Graduate. Nick was tragically killed from a car accident in November. Thank you to everyone in the community for the support you have shown in donating to the foundation. We were humbled to be part of this project with the Murphy family.



The Dunlap CUSD #323 Technology Department ended the 2016-2017 school year closing just shy of 4,000 requests for assistance/repairs with an average completion time of under 13 hours and average first response time of 7 hours. With a department of two, those are great statistics!

This school year consisted of a considerable amount of planning, coordination, and integration with the Curriculum and Instruction Department, as we begin our journey toward becoming Future Ready. The first steps began in 2014-2015 when the District built a redundant, generator powered data center to centralize it's computing power. During the 2015-2016 summer, the District added over 250 wireless access points throughout the schools and common areas. The District now has over 400 wireless access points throughout the various campuses.

This summer the District, is installing dark fiber to Hickory Grove, Banner, Wilder-Waite, and Ridgeview to connect via fiber to the data center in Dunlap. All Dunlap schools will be on a reliable high speed network provided by the District for the upcoming school year.

With all of these core upgrades nearly completed, the District will be capable of continuing the mission of creating Future Ready students for years to come.

The Technology Department plays an important role in many of the projects in the Dunlap School District. Over the past few years, these projects included Powerschool Customizations, Online Registration, District/School Website Design, Smartboard Installations, Security Camera installs, DMS Modulars, DHS Phase 2, twenty miles of network wire, fiber optic cabling, phone systems upgrades, etc.



© Summer Lynn Photography



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## First Response Time

AVERAGE

**7** **5**  
hours minutes

## Ticket Close Time

AVERAGE

**12** **37**  
hours minutes

## DHS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

### ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to Mrs. Katie Cazalet who was named by our Board of Education to be the new Dunlap High School Athletic Director.

She brings a wealth of experience as Dunlap High School PE/Driver Education/Health Department Head, as well as serving as a coach for track, volleyball and basketball. We are excited to have Katie lead our Athletic Department.



**Katie Cazalet**



### ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT VIDEO



### 2017-18 ATHLETIC CODE INFORMATION



## DUNLAP HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Submitted by Greg Crider

Dunlap High School Athletics just completed a record setting year. For the first time in school history, Dunlap won the Mid-Illini All Sports Trophy. This trophy is an accumulation of our conference standings in the fall, winter, and spring. This is a fantastic accomplishment by all athletes and coaches!

The fall season was highlighted by our Girls Cross Country team finishing second in state. We had three individuals gain special recognition by being named the Peoria Journal Star athlete of the year for their perspective sports: Franny Verville (Cross Country), Emma Theobald (Swimming), and Emma Templin (Tennis).

The spring season was one that we will never forget at Dunlap High School. Girls Track won the 2A State Championship and Boys Tennis won the 1A State Championship. Four different relay teams won state championships for the girls' track team: 4x100- Aanise Sajna, Lizzy Hoenes, Alex Schaub, Kiara Pauli ; 4x200-Brittany Rainey, Savannah Sullivan, Alex Schaub, Kiara Pauli ; 4x400-Aanise Sajna, Lizzy Hoenes, Savannah Sullivan, Sarah Georgieff; 4x800-Savannah Sullivan, Miranda Kruiswyk, Jena Brooks, Sarah Georgieff, while Victor Spolidorio won the singles State Championship in boys' tennis. Kiara Pauli (Girls Track) and Victor Spolidorio (Boys Tennis) were also named Peoria Journal Star Athlete of the Year in their sport. Overall, the athletic department, represented by over 750 high school athletes, won five IHSA Regionals, five IHSA Sectionals, and two IHSA State Championships.





Charlotte's Park

Banner was gifted an amazing outdoor park/learning area this past year. It is a brick stage (wheelchair accessible) with three tiers of seating for anywhere from 75 - 90 students. Classrooms use it for presentations, and students use it as a stage during recess, performing for their classmates.

## Therapy Dogs

Once a month this year, we had the privilege of service dogs visiting our classrooms. These visits were a huge hit with our students!

**Community Events** - Our students and staff participated in the following events:

- Socktober
- Macaroni Mountain
- Children's Hospital
- Read-a-thon
- Holiday Shopping Trip
- Jump Rope for Heart
- 5th grade Kid Knits program
- St. Jude Fundraiser



## Friendship Bench

Our students were presented with a Friendship Bench, sponsored by Sherman's. This bench was used as a part of helping students feel included. Students who are feeling left out make their way to this bench to signify to classmates that they would like a friend to play with.

## Retirement

Mrs. Debbie Begner retired as Banner's secretary! She served us for 21 years! She will be dearly missed by all staff, students, and parents. She plans on traveling and spending more time with her grandson. Best wishes and Happy Retirement to Mrs. Begner!



## PTO Events

Ice Cream Social, Carnival, Talent Show, Movie Night, three Book Fairs, Blood Drive, Dine outs, and so much more! Thank you to our PTO for continually supporting our vision and mission at Banner!



## Banner Beautification

With the help from PTO, we have greatly improved our entrance and foyer area with benches, plants, and a "reading/waiting" area with a couch and two chairs.



Royal Lifelong Learners made the 2016-2017 school year an unforgettable one!

The training and integration of a certified facility therapy dog, Teddy. Teddy has been donated to DGS through the Paws Giving Independence (PGI) and will be placed full-time at DGS in the fall.

He will serve to support students' behavioral, social, and emotional needs while also promoting a positive school culture! Our 5th grade Service and Leadership Club facilitated fundraising efforts to sponsor six PGI Dogs!



The Illinois Principals' Association honored two of our fifth grade students at a regional award banquet that celebrated the successes of nearly 200 local students!



The purchase and installation of eight new swings, three nature observation tables, outdoor science observation manor, and outdoor Playscape materials for our playground!

Celebration of various all-school activities and special events: Global School Play Day, The Great Kindness Challenge, Reading Camp Outs, Read Across America Day, and more!

Working toward and meeting our school goals in developing a culture of readers and an environment of numerical thinkers and problem solvers while increasing PARCC scores from the previous year in both Math and English Language Arts.


A shift in traditional learning environments to include flexible and collaborative seating options for our students to increase engagement. This includes spaces within the classrooms, as well as in common and shared spaces.

- ▶ 31 of our students participating in Band or Orchestra.
- ▶ 50 of our students participating in Running Club.
- ▶ 15 of our fifth grade students selected to participate in our Service and Leadership Organization.
- ▶ 78 students participating in student leadership roles; recording the school voice mail message, serving as student greeters, student lunchroom helpers, student mail carriers, and student ambassadors!

Installation and ribbon cutting of two "Free Little Libraries." These libraries are designed to provide free and easy access to books and literature for students and community members at all times.



Hickory Grove Elementary School is the newest and largest of the five elementary schools which opened in the fall of 2012. The building houses grades K-5, as well as the Early Childhood Special Education and Bright Futures programs for the District. The overall enrollment increased to 750 students this past year. HGES offers a diverse and supportive learning environment that includes students from all around the world.

The 2016-2017 school year was a year of success and celebration. HGES was recognized by Peoria Journal Star as one of the top elementary schools in the tri-county area. This special recognition was based on the percent of students meeting or exceeding on the 2016 PARCC testing. A link to the article featuring HGES can be found here. 

Overall, HGES was ranked #111 out of 2,078 schools in Illinois. This distinction places HGES in the top 5% of all elementary schools in the state. Congratulations to the students, teachers, and parents on this outstanding achievement!

A highlight from this year was the formation of a student newspaper club that was open to 4th and 5th grade students. The students were responsible for all aspects of the writing and publishing process. The **Hawkeye Herald** included articles of school events, the local community, as well as national and international subjects of interest to the students. Below are links to the two editions that were released this year. We hope you enjoy the students' creativity and hard work!



Click here for  
Winter Edition



Click here for  
Spring Edition

Several HGES teachers were awarded a grant during this past school year. Thank you to Mrs. Mohamed, Mrs. Combs, Mrs. Workheiser, Mrs. Polk, and Mrs. Prohaska for their extra effort to secure over \$5,000 in outside resources to enhance our school.

The HGES teachers and staff are excited to welcome the students back to school in August. We are looking forward to the 2017-2018 school year!





The 2016-17 school year was full of academic and personal growth for our students. We saw improved results in our PARCC scores from 2015 to 2016 in addition to showing positive growth in our STAR Math and Reading scores throughout the year. More importantly, our students grew as learners and as people. Academics continue to be a major focus for us each year, but the social-emotional component of education remains a priority for us and we are proud of our students for their growth in all areas of their development.



The Ridgeview Student Leadership Team was active during the 2016-17 school year.

Students on our leadership team served as a focus group for our school's Instructional Leadership Team, morning greeters, peer tutors, lunch helpers, and led morning announcements among many other leadership-related activities. Students also participated in leadership training with our counselor, Mrs. Dando.

Ridgeview Elementary School once again partnered with 5 Senses Salon and Spa to participate in Ponytails for a Purpose. Several students and one of our parents chose to have at least 8" of hair cut during an all-school assembly to donate to children who have experienced hair loss.



The 4th Grade Wax Museum Project took their show on the road this year.

Our 4th graders performed for the residents of the Bickford Retirement Community as their presidential wax figure characters came to life to share their personal backgrounds.

Our International Fair this year was a big hit, as we celebrated the wide array of cultures that are represented within our Ridgeview Community. We had nearly 20 countries represented in this year's International Fair which featured food, displays, dance, and a variety of authentic activities.



Our PTO made a big splash with students at the beginning of the year with several playground updates. Games were painted on the blacktop, a Little Free Library was added, new soccer goals installed, and a "Fox Trail" for walking were among the playground additions from our PTO this year.

"Izzy", our resident therapy dog, made weekly visits to Ridgeview to work with students with unique needs. Our students thoroughly enjoyed their time with Izzy and could often be found on Tuesday afternoons reading a book to her.

**We look forward to seeing all of our students again in the fall and wish the entire Ridgeview Community a safe and fulfilling summer!**

## Learning and Growing at Wilder-Waite

Wildcats continue to thrive in the Wilder-Waite learning environment. PARCC scores and student growth data from STAR assessment benchmarks show that high quality instruction, addressing the needs of the whole student, and providing targeted intervention encourage growth and learning in our students. Though Wilder-Waite has the highest mobility rate in the District, students are welcomed into the WW school family and quickly become a part of our learning community. Realizing that learning does not end in the summer or each afternoon when school dismisses, two new programs were introduced this year to support learning outside of school hours. Wilder-Waite staff hosted a reading hour at The Grove Apartments to encourage summer reading and then during the school year, provided homework help sessions two nights per week.

## Removing Barriers and Supporting School Success For All Students

Addressing school improvement goal #3, the WW team brainstormed ways to reduce barriers that make connecting with school difficult. As we continued to focus on meeting the needs of families and students, transportation was offered for parent-teacher conferences, and IEP or other parent meetings were held off site. To help welcome and aid transition to school, the staff met students before school during "Treat and Greet". As the bus rolled through neighborhoods, staff, students, and families connected to start the year off on a positive note and with a little unexpected fun. Other activities such as kindergarten home visits and orientation help our youngest students feel good about coming to school knowing that familiar faces are ready to welcome them on their first day.

## Impacting Our Larger Community

Project Impact, our 5th grade service leadership team, organized many activities this past year to support our greater community. Activities included a food drive to support Dunlap Gives Back, a book collection, Relay Recess to support the American Cancer Society, a Red Cross blood drive, and the group volunteered at Midwest Food Bank. The group was honored with a Making Waves Award at the Clean Water Celebration for the team's efforts in daily recycling at Wilder-Waite. Additionally, through the work of the Instructional Leadership Team, a Little Library was added to the Trailview Estates subdivision to encourage reading which was made possible through a Thrivent grant.

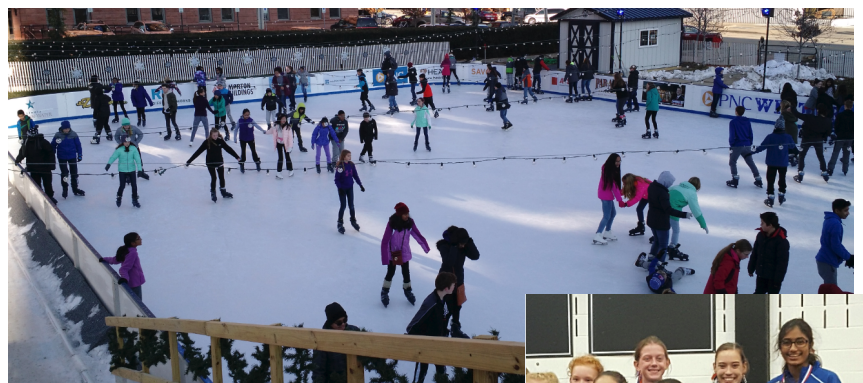
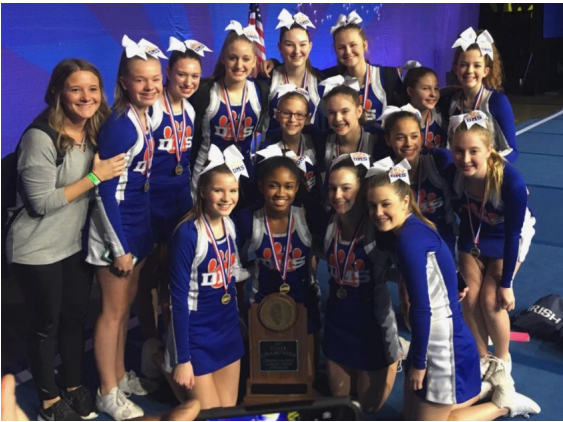


Dunlap Middle School started the year with the addition of four mobile classrooms added to the 8th grade wing. One of the mobile classrooms was designated as a sensory room and was equipped by a generous donation from a Dunlap family. The sensory room allows space for students to release their distracting energy and then return to class ready to focus on their learning. The Parents Club had an outdoor patio installed by the Information Resource Center this past fall.

Panthers continued to participate in clubs, athletics and activities. The girls cross country team was the IESA Class 2A State Champion in the fall. In the winter, the cheerleading squad was the IESA Large Team State Champion. Team success continued in scholastic bowl and chess. In track there were multiple long standing records broken in individual and relay events.

To enhance curriculum and extend learning beyond the classroom, our students participated in several activities throughout the school year. Peoria Civic Center was the site of the DMS Physical Education department's ice skating unit, held in conjunction with the PNC Winterfest. The 7th grade did a cross-curricular unit based on the westward expansion of the United States. This included the year's biome theme, which highlighted the explorations of Lewis and Clark. Our 6th graders had more countries represented at their annual Multicultural fair than ever before. We truly appreciate the parents efforts to make that event so special for our community.

Our Panther Pals program continues to grow with over 80 students participating this school year. The activities that occur both on and off campus create strong relationships amongst our diverse learners. Their largest undertaking was the annual Salvation Army food drive. Over 4,700 items were collected! DMS also participated in Autism Awareness month in April.



## ***Sixth Grade Students Participated in a Mystery Theater.***

After reading *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin, students worked in teams to solve a crime. A mystery theater is a fully-immersive show, where students were welcomed into the world of mystery by four costumed actors from The Murder Mystery Company in Chicago. The actors seated students, explained to them the rules of the game and assigned character roles. The roles played by students were those of suspects who may have committed the crime. Props were offered to students, such as hats or glasses, to signal to other students that this person was involved in the show.

Students worked in teams to solve the crime. They were able to interrogate suspects and conduct their own investigation. Students submitted their guesses on who committed the crime. The actors wrapped up the show by revealing the culprit and explaining their motivation and opportunity.

This activity was funded by State Bank of Speer and Dunlap Valley Spartan Boosters.

## ***State Science Fair competition***

The 2017 Illinois Junior Academy of Science held its annual State Science Fair at Northern Illinois University May 5th-6th. Dunlap Valley Middle School sent fifteen students with thirteen students presenting in the poster session and two in the paper session. Eleven students brought back 1st place awards, and four students were selected for special awards! The special awards won were Naval Science Award, Apple Dental and Veritas Award, ISAWWA Outstanding Science Fair Project Award, and Best in Category.



## **Library enhancements and usage**

The DVMS library saw amazing growth during the 2016-2017 school year! DVMS students checked out over 12,000 books, with an average of 32 books per student. Over \$2000 was raised to help fund the purchase of over 525 new books as well as a new library cart. The '17-'18 school year will see changes in the space. Our PTO generously donated \$12,500 to help and mostly fund our new Active Learning Center, which includes new table and chairs, lounge seating, two TV's and a new SMART board. This space will provide additional room for whole class or smaller group collaboration during instruction or become space used for new library programming. We continue to thank everyone for their ongoing support of our efforts!

## **Athletics and Activites**

- The Judges Choice Award is the highest honor given at the IESA State Speech competition. Eleven Dunlap Valley Middle School students earned Judges Choice Awards at the State Speech Competition.
- Mathcounts team of four students qualified for the State competition held in Lisle, IL.
- Eleven Dunlap Valley Middle School student-athletes qualified for the IESA State Track competition in seven events. Two student-athletes medaled at the competition held on May 19-20 in East Peoria, IL.
- The 8th grade chess team finished in 3rd Place at the IESA State Chess Tournament held in Peoria, IL on February 24-25.
- The 7th grade boys basketball team finished in 3rd Place at the IESA State Basketball Tournament.
- Coach Mike Peterson won IBCA (Illinois Basketball Coaches Association) Co-Coach of the Year Award.

**Congratulations to all Dunlap Valley Middle School students and coaches who competed throughout the 2016-17 school year!**



Dunlap High School had an incredible year receiving accolades in student academics and extracurricular activities. With a new administration, dedicated faculty and staff, as well as a phenomenal student body, DHS has excelled to become the highest rated downstate high school by *U.S. News and World Report* annual ranking of public high schools.

According to the national magazine, Dunlap High School was ranked 24th among 658 Illinois public high schools. Rankings are based on students' performances on statewide examinations and how well schools prepare their students for college. Additionally, Dunlap High School is ranked 952 of almost 21,000 high schools across the country. This is a huge accomplishment and a great opportunity to celebrate the work of Dunlap High School students, staff, and families.

Some of the highlights of the 2016-2017 school year at Dunlap High School:

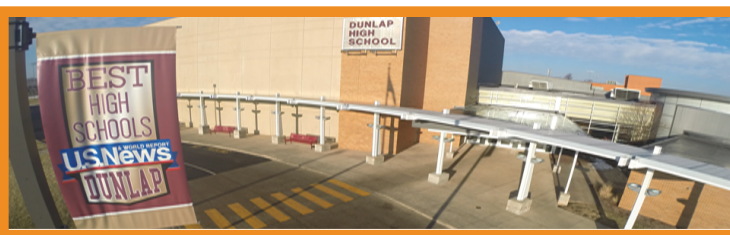
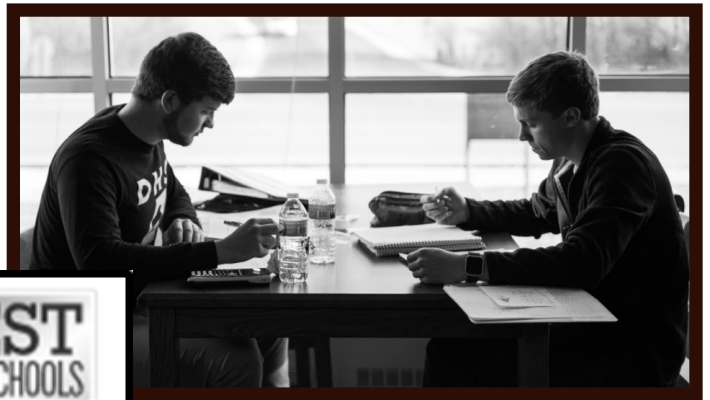
- A shift from the ACT to the SAT, this year, provided our staff and students with a challenge that was met with no fear. Students scored an average of 1060 on the practice SAT. The state average is a just at 1000, while the global average is a 1020. SAT Intensive prep groups were developed for our students to prepare for the test. Our English and Math departments were instrumental in designing the curriculum.
- The STAR test is a math and reading assessment for all freshmen through juniors. This progress monitoring platform compares our students to national norms. Our students received a student growth rating of a 68, which is excellent, in math and a 60, which is proficient, in reading.
- This year, 276 students signed up to take the AP Exams. We have administered 478 AP tests to these students.
- The 4-year graduation rate from 2015 to 2016 has increased from 90% to 95%.
- The Fine Arts Department has excelled in many areas
  - Marching Eagles completed and placed 1st in several competitions within their class.
  - The choir sent 23 students to the Illinois Music Education Association District Festival Chorus and named six All-State students. Senior student, Libby Lewis competed and won the ILMEA National Anthem Competition.
  - "Stage 323" has been very busy with their productions such as "These Shining Lives" which dramatizes the danger women faced in the workforce in the 1920s and the lack of concern by companies for protecting the health of its employees and "Big Fish", a fantasy comedy-drama that tell of an estranged son that attempts to mend their relationship with his bedridden father.
  - The Congressional Art Show featured three students, Jada Ferguson, Isabella Rinald and Luis Cardenas, who made the "Top 6". Their artwork will be displayed at our local Congressman's office, and the award winner will be displayed in Washington D.C.

As we look forward to the new year, there are some great additions and significant changes that have been an enhancement to the high school community:

- New classes such as Cooperative Learning (Co-op) courses, AP World History, and five more clubs in addition to the 30 clubs that already exist.
- An alternative education program that will meet the needs of students having to take credit recovery and needing increased social-emotional support.
- A summer school program that will allow students the opportunity to take Civics and Software Applications which, in turn, will open up more availability for students to take more elective classes of their choice.

# DUNLAP HIGH SCHOOL

Submitted by Scott Adreon





Dunlap School District welcomes Mr. Wes Wolven back to Dunlap to serve as the new Dunlap Middle School Principal. Mr. Wolven spent the previous five years as Principal at Henry-Senachwine High School in Henry, Illinois and also previously worked in Dunlap as the Assistant Principal at Dunlap High School in 2010-2012. He is excited to be returning to Dunlap and is eager to meet all the Panthers!



We are pleased to announce the addition of Kathryn Jennings, Curriculum Specialist. Mrs. Jennings is from Abingdon, Illinois, and just completed her ninth year of teaching. Her experience spans preschool through 12th grade. She began teaching in 2008 at ROWVA High School as an English teacher. After three years, she accepted a position at Monmouth-Roseville as a Literacy Coach/ High School Reading Specialist. In 2012, she earned a Masters of Science in Education with her Reading Specialist certification. After two years at Monmouth-Roseville, she accepted a position in her hometown of Avon, Illinois, teaching K-12 Title 1 and developing the RTI program for Avon Elementary and Abingdon-Avon Middle School. After two years she was asked to transfer to the high school as an English teacher and taught in that position for two years. While teaching English in the high school, she returned to Western Illinois University to complete her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. We are excited to have Mrs. Jennings join the Dunlap team!



Mr. David Johnson joins Dunlap High School as the new Assistant Principal. Mr. Johnson previously taught social studies for six years at Farmington Junior High School in Farmington, Illinois, and we are fortunate to have him here on staff in Dunlap.

