

Dunlap Unit District #323

Summer 2015



Board Splinters

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Mrs. Kristin Mason, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Amy Smith, Assistant Principal

DUNLAP MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Zac Chatterton, 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
Mr. Antonio Johnson, Assistant Principal

RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Todd Jefferson, Principal

WILDER-WAITE GRADE SCHOOL

Mrs. Stacy Berg, Principal

Welcome,

Board President's Message

Dunlap School District is composed of great students, supportive parents and engaged community members. In addition to this great support, the district also has a dedicated staff & the committed leadership of Superintendent Dr. Lisa Parker, which puts us in a great position for an exciting and productive year.

Board members are elected by the public to set policies that ensure that the school district runs effectively and meets the mission of "empowering all students to excel in a global society".

The board is currently working with the administration on updating the strategic plan to ensure that our students receive the best possible education and that our schools remain amongst the best in the state. The board recently participated in a retreat with District Office Administrators where we collaborated on overall district goals. I felt this was a great way for the board to work as a team while focusing on goals which will help drive continuous improvement.

I am honored to serve alongside a team of dedicated board members who put education first. We are fortunate to have teachers, staff, administrators and board members working toward a common goal of making Dunlap School District even better. I am confident that we will all work together to maximize resources for our students in their classrooms while optimizing fiscal responsibility for the taxpayers.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank everyone for your continued engagement and commitment to the Dunlap School District. We welcome and encourage you to attend monthly school board meetings on the third Wednesday at Dunlap High School at 7p.m. We look forward to a great year!

- Mrs. Dawn Bozeman, Board of Education President



Superintendent's Message

Greetings Dunlap Community!

The 2015-16 school year is upon us as we get ready to open our doors to over 4300 students! We continue to celebrate the successes in our school district, as well as look for ways to continuously improve. The main focus of the upcoming year will be to update our Strategic Plan document. This document guides our decision making and defines the vision and mission of our school district. We will be asking for input from students, staff, faculty, and community members as we work to enhance our Strategic Plan.

As you may recall in our current Strategic Plan, the Dunlap School Community will "empower all students to excel in a global society." Our District's mission statement, created by parents, staff, students, and community members, is intended to communicate our primary purpose. We will accomplish our mission by engaging students in 21st century learning.

We are also focusing on communication and continuing to improve relationships this year. During the summer we launched a Facebook page for our district at www.facebook.com/CUSD323. We plan on hosting community financial forums as well as hosting the first "State of the Schools" address this winter. We will send more information on this soon and hope you can attend. We continue to use our web site, online surveys, and the District two-way interactive blog to improve on communication and relationships within our Dunlap community.

I am humbled and honored to serve as your Superintendent and have a passion for leading the Dunlap School District. There has not been a better time to be part of the exciting things ahead for us. We have extremely hard working teachers, staff, and administration, supportive parents and community members along with a Board of Education who all work tirelessly to ensure that the students receive the best education available. Students come first in all of our decision making. I look forward to our work in the upcoming school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you or your family.

- Dr. Lisa Parker, Superintendent



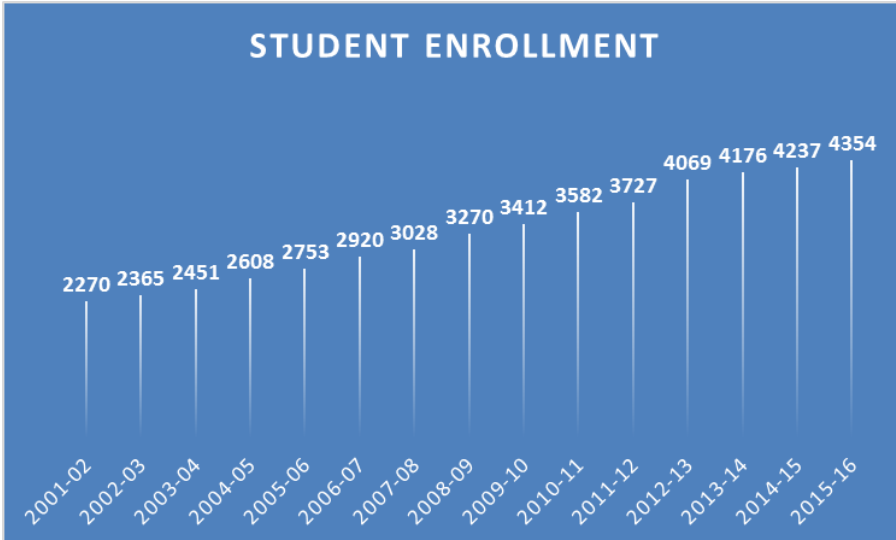
FINANCE UPDATE

Submitted by Karen Beverlin

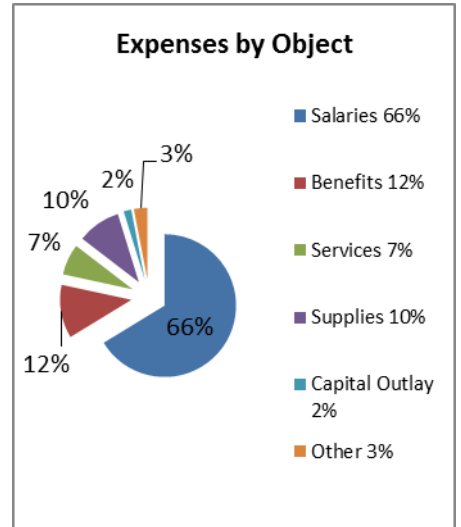
Goal 5: To obtain efficient, effective, and equitable use of resources.

While Dunlap Schools can't predict or control every aspect of local, state, or national financial conditions, we believe we can keep our community informed while being proactive on property tax matters, enrollment projections, state funding, and other factors that affect our school district finances.

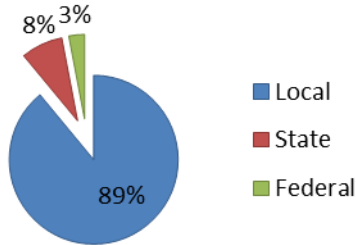
STUDENT ENROLLMENT



Expenses by Object



Revenue Sources



EQUALIZED ASSESSED VALUE INCREASES/YEAR



2014-15 At-A-Glance

Dunlap CUSD #323 ended the school year in the black in all of its operating budgets. The positive cash flow for 2014-15 was made possible through the revenue enhancements, budget reductions, and improved efficiencies the Board of Education approved to fill a projected \$2.1 million budget deficit this past year.

As the charts above show, our student enrollment continues to grow, our property values are beginning to increase again, and the school district still relies on local revenue for 89% of its budget. While increased student enrollment can be a challenge to manage, all of these trends show an outlook of financial stability for our school district. While the local property tax payer is footing most of the bill to educate students in Dunlap, our current 4.51% tax rate is still the second lowest of Peoria County Schools.

FINANCE UPDATE

Submitted by Karen Beverlin

Goal 5: To obtain efficient, effective, and equitable use of resources.

Highlights

- The district implemented bulk purchasing and central warehousing for custodial supplies and copy paper.
- Restructured the district's organizational chart to save the tax payers over \$250,000 while still efficiently and effectively operating the school district.
- A new payroll system was implemented allowing for more efficient use of staff time and more detailed reporting.
- A community financial advisory group was formed to provide networking and economic information to the district's business office.
- Worked with local and state government representatives to share necessary information about how property development and legislative decisions positively and negatively affect the district's financial stability.

2015-16 and Beyond

The district has made many changes over the past year to implement processes and procedures that have resulted in protecting the district's financial stability. The budget enhancements and reductions that were implemented this past year have resulted in balanced budget projections through 2020. The district will continue to watch projected student enrollment, local property values and action in Springfield, so that we can proactively respond to any changes that may impact the school district's funding. As we look to the future, we will continue to be diligent and good stewards of Dunlap School District resources while we continuously improve our educational programs to empower all students to excel in a global society.

Upcoming Financial Seminars

The school district will be hosting school finance seminars throughout the 2015-16 school year. The seminars will be presented in sync with the planning of the 2016-17 school district budget and cover the major processes of developing the budget. The seminars will be held at Dunlap Valley Middle School at 8:30 AM on the following dates.

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 29, 2015 | The Budget Cycle and Mechanics of a School District Budget |
| December 17, 2015 | The Tax Levy Decrypted |
| March 17, 2016 | The Nuts and Bolts of Budget Planning and Decision Making |
| May 19, 2016 | The Tentative Budget for 2016-17 School Year |

The seminars will also be recorded and made available on our web site for anyone who is unable to make the seminar in person.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES

Board Meeting Dates and Locations

The Dunlap Board of Education recently approved the schedule for the 2015-16 regular board meetings to be held on the third Wednesday of each month. The regular meetings will be at Dunlap High School. The meeting schedule is depicted to the right and posted on the district website.

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.

2015-16 Board Meeting Dates & Locations

| Date | Time | Location |
|--------------------|---------|--------------------|
| August 19, 2015 | 7:00 PM | Dunlap High School |
| September 16, 2015 | 7:00 PM | Dunlap High School |
| October 21, 2015 | 7:00 PM | Dunlap High School |
| November 18, 2015 | 7:00 PM | Dunlap High School |
| December 16, 2015 | 7:00 PM | Dunlap High School |
| January 20, 2016 | 7:00 PM | Dunlap High School |
| February 17, 2016 | 7:00 PM | Dunlap High School |
| March 16, 2016 | 7:00 PM | Dunlap High School |
| April 20, 2016 | 7:00 PM | Dunlap High School |
| May 18, 2016 | 7:00 PM | Dunlap High School |
| June 15, 2016 | 7:00 PM | Dunlap High School |

BANNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Submitted by Greg Fairchild

Goal 4: To ensure a satisfying and productive partnership with families and the community.

Banner students and families demonstrate generosity

Banner students helped support several local organizations this school year.

- In October, Banner supported South Side Mission by collecting about 2,200 boxes of macaroni and cheese. One class collected 398 boxes!
- In October, 5th grade Banner students experienced the Kid Knits program (funded by PTO). Essentially, students learn about Third World Countries and get an awareness of what they have to deal with on a daily basis. They also use yarn (made by women from Rwanda and Chile) to make stocking hats that they donated (to local military and Compassion International).
- In December, the Banner PTO organized a blood drive through the Red Cross.
- A tradition that has been in place for several years is the annual holiday collection for the Children's Home of Peoria. Students collect money that goes towards the purchasing of toys for children affiliated with the Children's Home of Peoria. The entire school goes on a "shopping trip" to three local toy stores, and the children drop off the toys directly at the Children's Home. Banner Elementary families donated \$5,900 this past December. In fact, since 2008, our Banner students/families have donated over \$34,000 total!
- In the spring, Banner 2nd grade students organized a canned food drive as part of their community unit. The food was donated to the Midwest Food Bank.

These are just some of our highlights regarding the overwhelming generosity our students and families demonstrate!



DUNLAP GRADE SCHOOL

Submitted by Mandy Ellis

Goal 1: To continuously improve student growth and achievement.

Goal 2: To obtain a satisfying and productive classroom and school learning environment.

Goal 4: To ensure a satisfying and productive partnership with families and the community.



Dunlap Grade School attained their school SMART goals, earned Accelerated Reader Empowered Educator School Status, successfully administered PARCC for the first time, more fully implemented common core learning standards, and grew as lifelong learners, critical thinkers, readers, and mathematicians. Our students and staff followed our Royal Decree: Respect Others, Respect Yourself, and Respect Learning!

What's more important is that our students grew as empathetic and compassionate individuals. Our Service and Leadership organization raised funds for the school, completed drives for other organizations, and fostered their own leadership skills. Our students engaged in learning

opportunities with the Center for the Prevention of Abuse as they learned through the Second Step Program. We partnered with the Dunlap to Peoria St. Jude Run and raised over \$15,000 for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Our students truly are ROYALS.

In addition to the accomplishments as a whole, many of the teachers achieved individual recognition:

- First Grade Teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Donovan, earned the Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Young Educator from the Peoria Jaycees.
- Third Grade Teacher, Miss Sam Mahrt, received a \$500.00 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that resulted in a new butterfly garden for DGS.
- Fifth Grade Teachers, Mrs. Susan Piper and Mrs. Rachel Wooden, led their students through a video competition with Scotties Trees Rock that resulted in a \$2,000 award and future outdoor learning area.
- Third Grade Teacher, Mrs. Natalie Lanser, and fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Rachel Wooden, led the DGS Service and Leadership Club through a project that raised over \$700.00 for equipment and supplies for specials classes.



HICKORY GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Submitted by Jeremy Etnyre

Goal 1: To continuously improve student growth and achievement.

Goal 4: To ensure a satisfying and productive partnership with families and the community.

HGES Students Participate in St. Jude Run

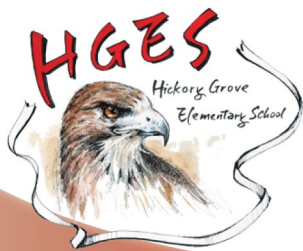
The students of Hickory Grove Elementary School partnered with the Dunlap to Peoria St. Jude Run to participate in the 3rd annual Laps for Life Kids Helping St. Jude Kids fundraising event. The students collected donations in advance and then ran during their P.E. time to honor those children who are too sick to run for themselves. Prior to the event, the students viewed a short presentation about St. Jude and its mission to advance cures and prevent childhood cancer through research and treatment, to share this information with doctors around the world and to make certain that all children receive services regardless of their ability to pay.

Through the efforts of the students, faculty and many volunteers, Hickory Grove Elementary School raised **\$6,803.35** to donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Thank you students!



Hickory Grove Elementary School Named in Chicago Sun-Times "Top 50 Elementary Schools"

We are very excited to share the news that Hickory Grove Elementary School was named as one of the "Top 50 Elementary Schools" by the Chicago Sun-Times. Hickory Grove was tied for #48 out of over 2,100 elementary schools in Illinois. Congratulations to the students, parents, and teachers on this outstanding achievement!



Congratulations

Students • Parents • Teachers
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

CHICAGO SUN TIMES

"Top 50 Illinois Elementary Schools"

RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Submitted by Todd Jefferson

Goal 1: To continuously improve student growth and achievement.

Goal 2: To obtain a satisfying and productive classroom and school learning environment.

Goal 4: To ensure a satisfying and productive partnership with families and the community.

Ridgeview Elementary School completed another successful school year full of fun, learning, and growth. We strive to develop students who are self-motivated learners, critical thinkers, effective communicators, skilled collaborators, technologically capable creators, and responsible and culturally aware citizens. We are pleased to report successful attainment of our school improvement initiatives as each grade level demonstrated significant improvement over the course of the year on mastery of Common Core State Standards as well as their proficiency in their understanding of core skills in our Second Step social-emotional learning curriculum. We look forward to continuing our improvement journey as the district works to develop a new strategic plan this year.

A Student Leadership Team was developed this past year under the guidance of our counselor, Jen Dando. Fifth grade students were provided an opportunity to apply for a position on this team based on demonstration of exemplary leadership traits and qualities. Students chosen to serve on this leadership team were required to undergo a Leadership Academy with Mrs. Dando at the beginning of the school year. The Student Leadership Team helped carry out Red Ribbon Week activities, facilitated a canned food drive for the Esther House, and developed a Buddy Bench system for recess among other activities. We look forward to the continued growth of this leadership team in the future.



The Ridgeview Building Leadership Team selected the Central Illinois Gold Star Families organization to donate monthly Spirit Day contributions to this year. The Central Illinois Gold Star Families organization supports families in the area that have lost loved ones through the military service. Building Leadership Team representative, Mrs. Dawn Gorsuch (left), delivered gifts to families served by the Gold Star Families during a December potluck which was also attended by Governor Rauner. A check presentation for \$714.96 also took place during our awards program at the end of the year. Founder and President, Patti Smith, was present to receive this check and thanked the Ridgeview students for their contributions.

We continue to celebrate our diversity at Ridgeview. Students at Ridgeview have the unique experience of gaining exposure to a wide array of backgrounds and cultures within our school community. One of the ways we celebrate our diversity is through our International Fair that we have each fall. This past year, the countries of Brazil, United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Belgium, Italy, China, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Australia, Sweden, Mexico, Norway, Germany, and Haiti were represented at our International Fair.



WILDER WAITE GRADE SCHOOL

Submitted by Stacy Berg

Goal 1: To continuously improve student growth and achievement.

Goal 4: To ensure a satisfying and productive partnership with families and the community.

Wilder-Waite Staff Celebrates Teacher Professional Development

Focused on teacher professional growth, the teaching team worked on a school improvement goal to learn more about and implement the Common Core Standards. To measure progress, the team completed a survey of their knowledge and skills in September and then compared the data to the survey re-taken in May. During the course of the year, teachers participated in trainings during school improvement days and used resources from the PROE Center (Regional Office of Education) to supplement and enhance their discussions during PLC work. Through school improvement activities, teachers learned to unpack standards and analyze curriculum and teaching practice to ensure instruction is focused on meeting Common Core State Standards. Teachers used their growing knowledge of the standards to develop targeted lessons and improve their classroom instruction. In May the individuals and team showing the most growth through their self assessment earned Starbucks to celebrate.



Students Organize WW Basketball League

From a desire for all students to have an opportunity to participate on a basketball team, the fifth grade classes planned and organized a monthly Wilder Waite basketball game. Student organizers developed and presented a proposal and then worked to meet their goal. All students participated in some way as players, cheerleaders, score keepers, etc. A highlight in the spring was a game between students and staff.



Social Emotion Growth on the Playground

To support the social emotional growth of our students, a "Buddy Bench" was built and installed on the play ground. The idea of the buddy bench is to provide a space where a student can sit to let other students know he or she would like to be involved. Peers can then invite the student to join in their recess play. Mrs. Kreutz had originally seen the idea on the Today Show and Mrs. Urbanc wrote a grant to pay for the construction materials. The concept of the bench was introduced to students through skits presented by teachers at our all-school morning meeting. The bench will be stained after it has had time to "season" outside but has been added to the playground. You can learn more about the concept of the Buddy Bench by visiting <http://buddybench.org>.



Supporting our Community

Last fall, Wilder-Waite participated in an event to support research, hope, and raise money for ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Together through the Ice Bucket Challenge over \$2000 was raised for ALS. This cause was especially important as we could support a number of families in our Wilder-Waite community who have been affected by this disease. The event culminated with grade level teams and Mrs. Berg experiencing the ice bucket during an all school assembly.



WW PTO Supports School Community with Events and Purchases

After a very successful Spook Spectacular event in October, the Wilder Waite PTO was thrilled to purchase two technology carts complete with 60 Chromebooks! Students were able to begin using them second semester. The PTO was also able to add a tire swing unit and teeter totters to the playground. Along with these valuable additions to Wilder-Waite, the PTO also organized many great activities for the school community including a Family Literacy Night in September, Spook Spectacular in October, WW Skate Night at Peoria Palace, and an Art, Book, and Culture Fair in April.



DUNLAP MIDDLE SCHOOL

Submitted by Zac Chatterton

Goal 1: To continuously improve student growth and achievement.

Goal 2: To obtain a satisfying and productive classroom and school learning environment.

Goal 4: To ensure a satisfying and productive partnership with families and the community.

Dunlap Middle School continues to embrace the district's vision of empowering all students to excel in a global society. This is done not only by staff members such as Amy Windsor, Shannon Steffen, and Denise DeDecker but also students such as Anthony Flanagan.

Mrs. Windsor and Mrs. Steffen were awarded a grant by PNC Bank this past school year to help fund a service project for the Panther Pals program. Panther Pals is an organization at Dunlap Middle School that helps promote 1:1 friendships for students with disabilities and their general education peers. The PNC grant funded materials that students used to make fleece tie blankets that were donated to the Salvation Army homeless shelter. Mrs. Windsor and Mrs. Steffen's students went to a local fabric store and purchased the fleece. For three weeks students worked together on their blankets. All students that participated were able to have a social outing at which time they presented their blankets to the Salvation Army. Students toured the facility as well as went out to lunch together. In total, 22 blankets were made and delivered to the homeless shelter.



Anthony Flanagan was the IESA Division F IESA Scholar Attitude Award Winner. The criteria for this prestigious award is as follows: the student must have maintained a 3.5 or better for their 7th and 8th grade year, they must have been a participant in IESA activities, and they must have displayed outstanding citizenship. During Anthony's middle school career, he exceeded all expectations in these three areas while overcoming adversity and becoming the role model that he is. An example of Anthony's outstanding character was during his 7th grade track season. After learning his relay team qualified for sectionals, he broke his foot. "After getting over the initial disappointment, I decided that this was a true test of my sportsmanship," Anthony said, "I chose to still continue to attend practice and to cheer on my teammates as well as the runner who took my place on the relay team. I believe that participating these last two years in interscholastic activities and learning the importance of teamwork helped me get through the injury."



Ms. DeDecker arranged with the United States District Court to have a group of our students participate in the naturalization ceremony. On April 23, 2015, 12 Dunlap Middle School students were chosen to say the Pledge of Allegiance for Peoria's largest naturalization ceremony. Nearly 600 people became citizens at this ceremony. The students were able to see the process of becoming a U.S. citizen, which was discussed in class during the Constitution Unit.

Dunlap Middle School welcomes new opportunities that not only strengthen and expand students' academic endeavors but also global citizenship. We look forward to what opportunities await us in the 2015-2016 school year.

DUNLAP VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Submitted by Jason Holmes

Goal 1: To continuously improve student growth and achievement.

Goal 2: To obtain a satisfying and productive classroom and school learning environment.

Goal 4: To ensure a satisfying and productive partnership with families and the community.

On Friday, May 29, eighth grade students from Dunlap Valley Middle School embarked on an educational journey to our Nation's Capital. The purpose of visiting Washington D.C. is intended to be a culminating event that connects the many areas of study within the history of the United States. The social studies curriculum covers the birth of our nation to present day, which coincides well with the historical environment of Washington D.C.

Students began their tour by spending their first morning at the Gettysburg National Military Park with a guided military tour, which included the museum film and Cyclorama. After Gettysburg, the students group had the opportunity to visit and receive a guided tour of the U.S. Capital to fully articulate the idea of democratic society. This allowed students to engage in a question and answer tour on all facets of the U.S. Capital.

Continuing with our trip, students visited multiple museums that included the National Holocaust, Newseum, National Archives, Mt. Vernon, and Smithsonian. Those visits exposed students to the multiple facets of our countries growth and the struggles that have existed within our countries history. In addition, the tour allowed students to engage in conversations with our own bus tour guides as we visited the many monuments that were established to celebrate lives of extraordinary Americans. Those monuments included Martin Luther King, George Washington, Franklin Roosevelt, Iwo Jima, Pentagon 9/11, and Abraham Lincoln. As we enjoyed the narration and the touring of these monuments, it became clear that our students were fully aware of the memorials that were built for those that served in the U.S. Military. For example, students witnessed cards, photos, and flowers being placed at the base of the Vietnam Wall, while individuals shaded in with pencil and paper the names of an individual that did not return from the conflict. Chaperones and students were exposed to Veterans returning to the memorials established in their honor at the World War II and Korean War Memorials. Dunlap students demonstrated great respect in honoring the Veterans while visiting the memorials in their presence.

Finally, this trip included a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where students viewed the final resting place of President John F. Kennedy and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. While at Arlington, four Dunlap students participated in the Wreath Laying Ceremony following the Changing of the Guard. A wreath from Dunlap Middle and Dunlap Valley was laid at the foot of the tomb, while taps was played in respect to the fallen. This trip has become very popular among our 8th grade students as they continue to engage in the history of the United States.



DUNLAP HIGH SCHOOL

Submitted by Tom Welsh

Goal 1: To continuously improve student growth and achievement.

Goal 2: To obtain a satisfying and productive classroom and school learning environment.

Goal 4: To ensure a satisfying and productive partnership with families and the community.

Dunlap High School New Facilities Opens for 2014-2015 School Year

On Wednesday, September 17, 2014, the Board of Education and Dunlap High School Administration and Staff were pleased to host the official grand opening of the Dunlap High School Phase 2 Construction Project. This addition includes 18 new classrooms, an upstairs teacher's lounge and a meeting room. This was quite an undertaking and the end result was a collaboration, including: Farnsworth Group Architects, Mangieri Companies Construction and our faculty.

In addition to the 18 classrooms, the project included a new kitchen and weight room that has further enhanced the Dunlap High School Campus.



Dunlap High School Parent Generosity to Promote Achievement

Mr. Srinivas Jujjavarapu, father of one current and one former Dunlap student, donated \$10,000 to Dunlap High School.

Mr. Jujjavarapu chose to have the donation offset the cost of a new student assessment aligned to the ACT. The assessment, ASPIRE, is administered to all freshman and sophomore high school students. Data gathered from ASPIRE will assist parents and teachers in efforts to prepare juniors for success on the ACT.

The entire Dunlap community thanks Mr. Jujjavarapu for his generosity and commitment to the success of our students.



Dunlap High School Hosted 4th Annual Parent Forum on Drugs and Alcohol

Dunlap High School hosted its 4th Annual Parent Forum on Drugs and Alcohol on October 30, 2014 to a record number of parents in the Dunlap High School auditorium. Detective Chris Watkins, from Peoria County Sheriff's Department, and Vickie Lewis, from Dominion Diagnostics, presented information to parents on drug awareness, including signs for parents to watch for regarding drug use.

Dunlap High School Climbs in Chicago Sun-Times Academic Rankings

Dunlap High School rose eight spots to #16 in the Chicago Sun-Times annual high school academic rankings. Dunlap High School is the only downstate school listed in the Top 20.

This achievement is the result of the contributions of many, including: (1) a tremendous teaching staff and excellent support staff, which creates a culture where students thrive both socially and academically; (2) fantastic elementary and middle schools that send students to high school with a strong academic foundation; and (3) wonderful parents who send their students to school prepared to learn with high expectations for achievement.

Dunlap High School Celebrates the Holidays

The Dunlap High School Multi-Cultural Club sponsored a one week drive to collect caps and hats for patients with cancer, collecting 225 hats total. Six members (along with the club sponsor) took some time on Monday, December 15, 2014, to bring holiday cheer to others by delivering the caps and hats to the Illinois Cancer Center of Peoria.

Dunlap High School also partnered with Youth Life in an initiative to bring joy to young boys and girls this December. DHS students purchased over 100 gifts that were recently delivered to the Friendship House and given to those in need.

The Interact Club constructed a display in the Dunlap High School courtyard for the students to enjoy.

DUNLAP HIGH SCHOOL

Submitted by Tom Welsh

Goal 1: To continuously improve student growth and achievement.

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Dunlap High School Hosted 1st Annual Marching Eagles Invitational

On Saturday, October 4, 2014, bands from across the State of Illinois performed. Marching ensembles from Dwight, Wethersfield, Cambridge, Jacksonville, Metamora, Streator, Illinois Valley Central, and Washington competed in three classes for caption awards, placement in class, and overall Grand Champion. Additionally, the Dunlap Marching Eagles performed an exhibition after the competing ensembles finished.



Dunlap High School Earns Recognition on College Board's Honor Roll

Dunlap High School is one of 547 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 5th Annual AP® District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP course work, while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of three or higher on AP Exams. 2014 is a milestone year for the AP District Honor Roll, and more districts are achieving this objective than ever before. Reaching these goals indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for the opportunity of AP. Since 2012, Dunlap High School has increased the number of students participating in AP, while improving the number of students earning AP Exam scores of three or higher.

Data from 2014 show that among African American, Hispanic, and Native American students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half of students are participating. The first step to delivering the opportunity of AP to students is providing access by ensuring courses are available, that gatekeeping stops, and that the doors are equitably opened so these students can participate. Dunlap High School is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

Dunlap High School Students Participate in WYSE Competition

We are pleased to congratulate the following students on their success at the 2015 Regional WYSE (Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering) competition.

Paul Lee – 1st in both Biology and Chemistry

Josh Han – 1st in both Mathematics and English

Daniel Whelan – 1st in Computer Science

Jack Yang – 1st in Physics and third in Chemistry

Mike Yang – 2nd in Physics and third in Chemistry

Phillip Copeland – 3rd in both Mathematics and English

Jarius Lin – 2nd in Computer Science

Shane Ferraro – 3rd in English

Taste of Dunlap High School

Dunlap High School students of Foods II put on a fabulous end of the year presentation of tastes from around the world with foods from Denmark, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Lebanon, Sweden, Japan, China, Britain, Korea & Australia.

After three weeks of intense research, students produced a presentation on their findings and generated a menu of five recipes that are popular within their country: finding the recipes, converting ingredients, assigning groups, placing a market order, and overseeing the labs. The students had a large responsibility to make this project a success. During the course of the semester we prepared meal after meal one for every country researched allowing students to experience the different tastes and meanings behind each dish.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

Submitted by Ali Bond

Goal 1: To continuously improve student growth and achievement.

Goal 2: To obtain a satisfying and productive classroom and school learning environment.

Goal 4: To ensure a satisfying and productive partnership with families and the community.

Special Education

Dunlap provides special education services at all levels and in all buildings. The type of special education services may differ among the buildings. However we have a full continuum of services throughout the district. Speech services and cross categorical services (resource support) are provided at every school.

Dunlap has center based Early Childhood programs housed at Hickory Grove Elementary School; Early Childhood Special Education and Bright Futures/Blended Early Childhood Special Education Program.

We also provide an Instructional program for students who require a modified curriculum. The K-5th grade instructional program is housed at Ridgeview Elementary School, grades 6-8 at Dunlap Middle School and grades 9-12 at Dunlap High School.

In addition to the instructional modified curriculum, we have a Life Skills program for students who require an alternative curriculum. The Life Skills program for K-5th grade is housed at Banner Elementary School, grades 6-8 at Dunlap Middle School and grades 9-12 at Dunlap High School.

Our Pathways Program is designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities who have completed four years of high school, but need an opportunity to develop vocational and community living skills. To ensure maximum learning, skills are taught in the environment where they are needed, over an extended period of time. Students spend time in the classroom part of the day and then spend time in the community learning skills, as well as participating in volunteer projects, fitness, and recreational opportunities. A large focus is placed on development of vocational skills. Students will work in community based job sites, with job coaches available to assist with skill development. Students exit the program when parents and IEP team determine they are ready or they turn 22 years of age.

The Special Education Advisory Committee, represented by teachers, administration, student services staff and parents meets a few times each year. The purpose of this committee is to collaborate with all stakeholders in order to effectively monitor services and provide input and suggestions for continuous improvement. Throughout the past four years this committee has identified many areas for improvement. Among the long list of accomplishments are: the Student Services Website, continuum of services and program descriptions, curriculum mapping for instructional and life skills programs, development of the Pathways transition/vocation program for students ages 18-22, professional development for staff, activities to provide a more seamless transition to the next level, and many, many more. This year the committee focused on three key areas: development of a Paraprofessional Handbook, information and resources on inclusion and executive functioning. Please visit the Student Services website for more information and access to resources.

<http://www.dunlapcusd.net/StudentServices/Pages/default.aspx>

Response to Intervention/Social Emotional Learning

Dunlap provides RtI to students in all buildings throughout the school district. We continue to make improvements to our processes, procedures and supports each year. In the 2015-16 school year we will focus on providing a more systematic approach to providing RtI for Social Emotional Learning. This will begin at the elementary level and continue to the secondary level as we refine these processes. Please see the Dunlap website for information about RtI and the revised Dunlap RtI Plan which includes the process, decision making matrix and referral specific to Social Emotional Learning. You will find this and other resources on the Student Services page under the departments tab or click on the link that follows:

<http://www.dunlapcusd.net/StudentServices/Pages/default.aspx>

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

Submitted by Ali Bond

Goal 1: To continuously improve student growth and achievement.

Goal 2: To obtain a satisfying and productive classroom and school learning environment.

Goal 4: To ensure a satisfying and productive partnership with families and the community.

Nursing/Medical

Dunlap School District recognizes the need to ensure student safety at all times. As student enrollment increases, so does the number of students with medical and health concerns. Dunlap has increased the number of nurse aides that will assist and support student medical and health needs for the 2015-16 school year.

Dunlap School District would like to thank Advanced Medical Transport for their generous donation of bags and first aid supplies for each of our schools! These materials will allow us to better provide treatment to our students if an injury would occur while at school.

English as a Second Language Summer School 2015

It has become a tradition for our District to provide elementary students, qualified for placement in English as a Second Language, class during the academic year with an opportunity to continue learning the language during the summer. This summer, Hickory Grove Elementary School hosted 52 participants in the 2015 ESL Summer Program funded by a federal Title III grant.

The goal of ESL Summer School is to increase English proficiency of the English learners by focusing on reading, writing and vocabulary. The students were divided into groups based on their grade level and current ACCESS 2015 Test scores. In the case of a newcomer, WIDA Placement Test scores were taken into consideration. The students were then placed into smaller groups based on their individual needs. Each group spent approximately 30 minutes in each key area 4 times a week (Monday -Thursday) for four weeks from June 15th to July 9th. Students benefited from this targeted support during small group instruction.

The early elementary students (K-3) focused on learning about animals for the entire duration of summer school. The upper elementary group of students consisted of 4th/5th graders (including those who are going into the 6th grade). This group's focus was on deepening the students' knowledge about the United States and other countries of the world (mostly the countries ESL students and their families come from). Through daily reading and discussions the students traveled to China, Japan, India, and Brazil. Summer School curriculum for these students has been designed around the central idea of creating a book "Me on the Map." Writing this book allowed the students to review grammar rules and actively follow the steps of the writing process.

Jessica Nauman, Genia Workheiser, Sara Solorio and Stacey Combs from HGES were teaching this year. They were joined by Brooke Norman from DGS, Tetyana Ovsienko from DMS/ DVMS/DHS, and Katie Pintoizzi from RES/ DGS. Great additions to the teaching team this year were two intern students: Mr. Cole Stalter (Bradley University) and Mrs. Felicia Beeny (Benedictine University). Both, Mr. Stalter and Mrs. Beeny are working on their ESL endorsement, and chose Dunlap ESL Summer School 2015 to be their training site. Families were provided with resources to support learning at home including leveled A- Z books, and useful web resources.



NEW FOR 2015-16

Heather Bowman: Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Mrs. Heather Bowman has been named the Director of Curriculum and Instruction effective July 1, 2015. Her work will primarily center on District Strategic Goal #1: To continually improve student growth and achievement. As the District continues to focus on 21st Century teaching and learning, Mrs. Bowman will work to engage teachers in relevant professional development and monitor student growth and development. She will develop and align the District curriculum, working closely with the Director of Student Services, building principals, teachers and students. The Director of Curriculum and Instruction position demonstrates Dunlap School District's commitment to ensuring a top notch educational program for all of our students.

Mrs. Bowman comes to us having served as a building principal in East Peoria for the past five years. She previously served as a literacy coordinator, kindergarten and second grade teacher.

Mrs. Bowman has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Wisconsin Lutheran College and Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Aurora University. She also has her Educational Specialist Degree from Eastern Illinois University.



Kristin Mason: Dunlap High School Assistant Principal

Dunlap High School is pleased to welcome Kristin Mason, as our new Assistant Principal.

Kris Mason is a lifelong Peoria County resident. She holds a B.S. Ed. and M.S. Ed. from Illinois State University. She received her Administrative Endorsement from Bradley University.

Mrs. Mason has taught for 23 years at Peoria County Schools. She achieved National Board Certified Teacher certification in 2003. She has worked for the Illinois State Board of Education for 10 years, travelling the state, leading professional development for teachers and coordinating services for downstate Illinois with the National Board Resource Center.

Kris is honored to be chosen as the assistant principal of Dunlap High School and excited to be an Eagle. She looks forward to working with our students, families and staff.



BACK TO SCHOOL 2015-16

Back-to-School Nights

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Pre-K Open House for Bright Futures and ECSE (Parents/Students) | Monday, August 10 Hickory Grove Elementary School | 6:00 pm |
| Kindergarten Orientation (Parents/Students) | Tuesday, August 11 | 6:30 pm |
| Grades 1-5 Open House (Parents/Students) | Thursday, August 13 | 6:30 pm |
| Middle Schools | Tuesday, August 18 | 6:30 pm |
| Dunlap High School | Monday, August 24 | 6:30 pm |
| K-5 Elementary Back-to-School Night (Parents Only) | Tuesday, August 25 | 6:30 pm |

Upcoming Dates for the 2015-16 School Year

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Thursday, August 13 | Freshman Orientation |
| Monday, August 17 | First Day for Students - Full Day |
| Monday, September 7 | Labor Day - No School |
| Friday, September 11 | Progress Reports Issued |
| Wednesday, September 16 | School Improvement Day - Early Dismissal |
| Monday, October 12 | Columbus Day - No School |
| Friday, October 16 | End of First Grading Period |
| Thursday, October 22 | Parent/Teacher Conferences - No School |
| Friday, October 23 | Parent/Teacher Conferences - No School |

View the complete 2015-16 District Calendar
on our website at www.dunlapcusd.net.

