



# DANVILLE

COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

## Spring 2021 Newsletter

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### Caution: children playing, learning & growing

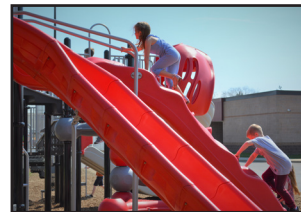
A lot of changes have been taking place at North Elementary this school year! Construction began on the 58-year-old school building in the late fall of 2020 and is scheduled to be completed in late 2021.

The project updates many original parts of the school and helps us prepare for the future as we continue to grow! The project includes the addition of a multipurpose room to be used for childcare, group instruction, cafeteria overflow and staff training. Importantly, the installation of a secure vestibule is taking place to ensure student safety at the school building entrance. Construction is never easy to work around, but our North staff and families have done an outstanding job this year!

To the joy of our students, the playground was completed this spring. The new equipment gives our students a safe space play, interact with their friends and burn off energy so they are ready to learn.



Our school nurses have played a vital role in keeping everyone safe this year! On top of their normal duties, they also conducted contact tracing when we had positive cases.



### FOLLOW US!



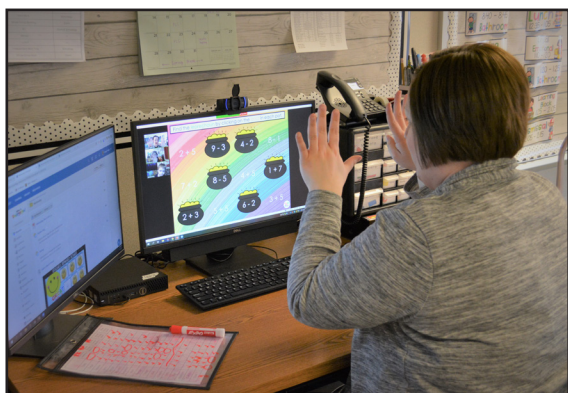
@DCSCWarriors



### Parliamentary practice makes perfect

Students on the Danville Community High School Parliamentary Procedure Team for the Business Professionals of America (BPA) club meet each morning before school to practice for local, state and national competitions. BPA sponsor Mr. Teague said they are an impressive group!





**Miss Sarah  
Walls**

## Elementary Teacher of the Year

The 2020-2021 school year has been unlike any other and nobody knows that better than our DCSC Online teachers! North Elementary was lucky to have Miss Sarah Walls step in as our kindergarten and first grade teacher for our virtual students learning from home.

Miss Walls makes online learning a fun experience by staying organized, timely and responsive. She is described as a kind, inspiring, patient and fun teacher. One parent said her child loves being in Miss Walls' class, and that he wakes up each day excited and ready to learn. Thanks to her hard work, her students stay interested in each subject and are eager to come back for more!

Understanding the struggles of virtual learning, Miss Walls also provides her students with time to work on their social skills by encouraging them to share their ideas, help each other and even tell some jokes. She sets weekly goals for her students and communicates the week's expectations with her families.

Thank you for being extraordinary this year, Miss Walls!

## Secondary Teacher of the Year

Fifth grade teacher Mrs. Stephanie Porter shares her passion and dedication with Danville Community Middle School students, staff and families each day. The atmosphere in her classroom is described as engaging, supportive and loving.

One parent said Mrs. Porter's heart is dedicated to her students and the staff of DCMS. She goes above and beyond to ensure a high standard for the district by providing each student with the attention and support they need. Her level of care and concern of each child is unmatched and goes beyond her classroom. She can often be found cheering her students on in their extracurricular activities and supporting her fellow teachers in many ways.

Her excitement, positivity and smile are contagious, and have been especially welcome in a particularly trying year. It's great teachers like Mrs. Porter that inspire lifelong learning and cause students to enjoy being at school each day.

Thank you for your dedication to the Warrior family, Mrs. Porter!



**Mrs. Stephanie  
Porter**



**Mrs. Mary  
Walker**

## Support Staff Member of the Year

It may not have been as easy to spot this year with a mask on, but Danville Community High School Head Housekeeper Mrs. Mary Walker is known for always having a friendly smile on her face. She goes above and beyond with each task requested of her, all with a pleasant and positive attitude that shines through each day.

In a year unlike any other, Mrs. Walker has led the DCHS Housekeeping Department in keeping the building safe and helping us keep school open. Her colleagues say that she takes a lot of pride in keeping the high school clean and polished. Despite a school year with increased sanitization and procedures, Mrs. Walker is always willing to help when extra assistance is needed and gracefully handles any complications that may arise.

Mrs. Walker is a Danville Warrior through and through, and she is a vital member of our team. She and her family stay active in the community and represent the Warrior Way each and every day.

Thank you for making every day brighter, Mrs. Walker!

# Danville Schools 2020-2021 Year in Review...

**It certainly has been a unique year for us all at Danville Community School Corporation! Despite the challenges we faced with the pandemic, our students, staff and families have shown that we can do anything when we work together. We are incredibly proud of the hurdles we overcame this year. Danville Warriors are in this together!**



- All Danville Schools opened for in-person learning in August 2020! Throughout the summer, a large group of administrators, teachers and support staff formed a committee and got to work creating a viable plan for our schools. Their work culminated in 50 pages of planning guides for our families. We are so thankful for their hard work and dedication!
- The DCSC Online program was formed to offer a virtual learning option for our families. About 9 percent of our student population began the school year online with teachers providing remote instruction. As the year progressed, more students returned to in-person.
- We hosted our first Chicken & Noodles Fundraiser in October 2020. Over 850 servings were purchased, raising over \$3,000 for the John Doe meal account to support students.

- The DCSC Police Department was established in the summer of 2020. We have two school resource officers.
- The National School Public Relations Association awarded DCSC Communications Coordinator Mrs. Brellenthin in the 35 Under 35 program. She was Indiana's only honoree for the 35 Under 35 Class of 2020-2021.
- Renovations began at North Elementary in December 2020 and are scheduled to be completed in late 2021.
- During the College Football National Championship game, North art teacher Miss Pourcho was recognized as the Indiana Teacher of the Year along with other State Teachers of the Year representing playoff teams.
- South students have hearts of gold! They participated in a food drive for the local food pantry, the Reuse-a-Shoe - Recycle Heart & Sole program, and the Kids Caring and Sharing for Riley Children's Hospital project.
- We said goodbye to a dear friend and colleague this year when third grade teacher Mrs. Russell ended her battle with cancer. She will be remembered through hundreds of books donated in her name to the South library. A tree was planted outside her classroom window so generations of students can sit beneath its branches and feel her love.
- Our DCMS athletes had a great year! The 7th grade volleyball team had an undefeated season and were Hendricks County Champions. The 7th grade football team had an undefeated season. Our girls' and boys' cross-country teams were Sagamore Conference Champions and the girls' and boys' reserve teams were Cascade Jon Mitchell Champions. The girls' cross-country team was also named Cascade Jon Mitchell Invitational Champions. Our 8th grade boys' basketball team was named Cascade Holiday Shootout Champions.



- DCMS ag teacher Miss Crosby received the Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District's Donald Lawson Conservation Educator of the Year award.
- The Indiana Association of School Principals named DCHS Juniors Cassandra Dayharsh, Alec Means, Eli Phillips and Justine Vandenberg to their Rising Stars of Indiana Class of 2022 to honor their impressive academic achievements.
- DCHS teachers Mrs. Day and Mrs. Jackson were awarded Hendricks County Farm Bureau STEM in Agriculture Grants, which include personal and classroom awards.
- The DCHS Academic Super Bowl team and the DCHS Business Professionals of America teams all performed well in their competitions this year!

- DCHS band students participated in individual Solo and Ensemble competitions, earning Gold in 13 separate events! The DCHS band also earned a Gold Rating at the Virtual ISSMA Organizational Festival.
- FFA students competed in multiple competitions throughout the year, regularly bringing home top honors.
- The DCHS football team racked up sectional, regional and semi-state champion status and became state finalists for the first time in 21 years. The boys' swimming team was named sectional runner-up at the state competition. Holden Higbie was named the sectional champion in diving and is a sectional record breaker in diving. Max Warner was named the sectional champion in the 100 freestyle and is a state qualifier in the 100 freestyle. Chase Burke, Luke Phillips, Max Warner and Hunter Eisele were all record breakers in the 200 medley relay. Boys' cross-country athlete Alec Means became an individual conference champion, individual county champion and a semi-state qualifier. For girls' cross-country, Izzy Flick became a semi-state qualifier.
- Mr. Neilson's government class hosted a successful Meet the Candidates Night.
- This year, the DCHS Theatre Department safely performed three shows!
- Our DCHS FFA students made 100 Thanksgiving food boxes this year. Combined with the food drive collection from our DCMS FFA students, our Warriors collected 1,532 food items and raised \$1,366 to purchase turkeys and additional food items.

**Read our complete Year in Review at [www.danville.k12.in.us](http://www.danville.k12.in.us) under Latest News until it becomes archived under Experience the Difference later this summer!**







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## COST CUTTING CORNER

If you have been to North Elementary this semester, you have likely seen crews performing renovation work. Improvements include new HVAC controls, windows, carpet, wall coverings, a new set of restrooms, a new multipurpose space, a secure front entrance and more. The changes will add to the useful life of the building.

The entire project will be repaid in 2021 and 2022. This year's debt service rate is approximately \$0.86 per \$100 of taxable assessed value, below last year's \$0.89 rate. In other words, the project will be paid in two years without an increase over prior year tax rates.

We are excited to see the renovations through to completion and look forward to watching our youngest students thrive at North for years to come! Learn more at [www.danville.k12.in.us/Page/698](http://www.danville.k12.in.us/Page/698)

## -FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT-



**F**orrest Gump would likely describe this past year as a box of chocolates. Week to week, we never knew what we were going to get. It has been an unprecedented year of protocol changes, challenges dealing with devastating illness, seemingly endless contact tracing, quarantine periods, staffing shortages and learning new technologies. Our collective life skills of flexibility, problem solving and patience have been thoroughly tested at many points. Through it all, our school community has endured, persevered and succeeded in many ways.

This year's graduation is a testament to the achievements of our students and staff alike. Not only have we accomplished consistently staying in school when it was nearly impossible, we have re-learned together the value of the educational experience. We appreciate our dedicated educators who themselves became students of technology and distance education this year. We thank them for their work ethic and creativity throughout the year. We also congratulate our students and families on staying the course to achieve another year of academic fulfillment despite the unique challenges we faced.

I am pleased to note that many accomplishments beyond academics also occurred this year. The Warrior football team had a year to remember as state runners up, we had a state finalist diver, and our softball team is currently ranked #1 in the state. Our students in drama, choir and band performed to the enjoyment of our school families. In addition, we got to see the excitement of our North Elementary students as they played on the new playground this spring. These, along with many others, are gratifying triumphs and I am proud of our entire school community for making it all happen even when the work was hard and the outcomes uncertain.

Yes, life is a box of chocolates at times, but when we have a team that can make the uncertain choices end up as milk chocolate caramels, positive outcomes will always prevail. Best wishes to our school families on a safe and fun-filled summer break.

DCSC Superintendent Dr. Tracey Shafer

# THE DANVILLE DIFFERENCE