

DANVILLE

COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

DANVILLE DISPATCH

November 2021 • Volume 3, Issue 1



Games, goodies and ghouls - oh my!

We were excited for the return of the Safe Trick or Treat event at Danville Community High School this Halloween! Hosted by our dedicated DCMS Student Council members, goblins both big and small came for fun games and sweet treats.



"This event has always been a big Student Council project," DCMS Secretary and Student Council Advisor Mrs. Siller said. "It's one of the students' favorites because they get to dress up and see all the community children show up in their costumes."

Various clubs, groups and organizations can sign up to participate. The Student Council members shop, decorate and setup for the event.

"Our Student Council does a wonderful job and I can't thank them enough," added Mrs. Siller.

DCMS Senior Class President Abigail Walker said participation in the event has helped improve her communication and organizational skills. But in the end, it's all about having a fun event for the community.

"Even though all of the games are simple, everyone has so much fun regardless of their age," she added. "I just enjoy how happy it makes the kids."



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Pumpkins are dropping at South



Members of the STEM Club at South Elementary braved the elements this fall to conduct their pumpkin drop experiments. With the assistance of our Maintenance Department on the lift, packages

containing carefully wrapped pumpkins were dropped 25 feet to see if they would break.

"Students are taught the engineering design process during the month of October," explained STEM Club sponsor Mrs. Dodd. "Their constraints are that they may only use household items such as boxes, cotton balls, bubble wrap, blankets, balloons, etc."

The experiment began by dropping an unprotected pumpkin from the lift. Then each team's carefully wrapped pumpkin took the plunge. Cheers and squeals of delight rang out as each team's package was dropped.

"My favorite part of this project is seeing how well students work together and how excited they get," Mrs. Dodd added. "Even when groups 'fail' and bust their pumpkins, they are still all smiles! We talk about how scientists are almost never successful on their first try. It's all about collaborating."



Getting into character at North

Our friends at North Elementary always mark Halloween with a Book Character Parade to showcase their favorite book. Our staff really gets into it, too! (Ahem - Mr. Vrabel, for example, as Gooney the Fabulous.)

Book Fair fun at DCMS

Each year at Danville Community Middle School, the media center is transformed into a book shop for one week. The Book Fair is a fundraiser for the library and raised \$1,500 for new books this year.



Solving mysteries at DCMS

Freshmen in Dr. Calhoun's English class practiced their understanding of parallel sentence structure with an interactive lesson. Students followed clues placed around the room to solve the mystery.





200 Warrior Way

Danville, IN 46122

317-745-2212

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-FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT-

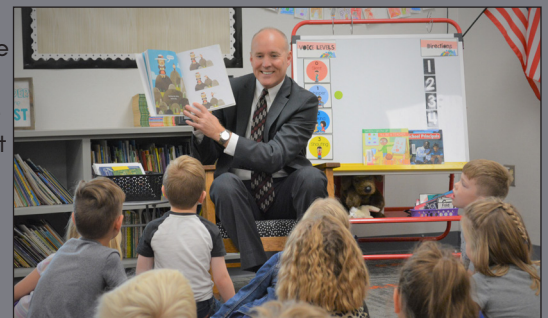
I recently had the privilege to read the book "My Teacher is a Monster," by Peter Brown, to the students in Mrs. Pritchett's kindergarten classroom. What an impressive group of young learners! In the story, Bobby is a student who believes his teacher is a real monster because she is loud and yells at him when he misbehaves. She even keeps him in during recess! One day, however, Bobby sees his teacher when he visits his favorite spot in the park and strikes up a conversation with her. Wow! Bobby begins to see his teacher in a different way and finds out that monsters are not always what they seem. He develops a better relationship with his teacher and realizes she is not really a monster at all.

As part of our school district's journey toward excellence, one of the efforts the school board and district are making is to assess the learning climate in our schools. This review included examining the rigor and relevance in our curricular offerings in addition to the value of relationships among faculty and students. A series of surveys to our students, faculty, staff and community members as well as classroom observations provided us insights into how we can collectively continue to build a culture of excellence at Danville Schools.

"My Teacher is a Monster" reminded me of how special the relationships are between teachers and students in our schools. We can all remember teachers, probably at every grade level, who made us feel special, inspired us to do our best and to try things we may not have ever done without their support.

The core of positive student and staff interactions are what make The Danville Difference in our school system. We are thankful to have such great young people and staff members working together to realize the support they provide to others. I also appreciate the honest feedback that everyone provided so that we can use the insight to further build upon these relationships in our schools.

Dr. Tracey Shafer, Superintendent



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Going for the gold

With the Winter Olympic games in full swing, North Elementary students in Mr. Yoder and Mr. Callighan's P.E. classes had the opportunity to participate in a lesson that only comes around once every four years - just like the Winter Olympics! Stations were set up in the gym and included freestyle skiing, hockey, curling, figure skating, speed skating, cross-country skiing and bobsledding.



"The events are unique and not something that the students get to do very often, such as soccer and basketball that they experience all the time," Mr. Yoder explained. "We hope they learn about each event, and understand that athletes take pride in representing their country and train hard to become Olympic competitors."

Adapting ideas from physical education networks, the teachers used equipment creatively to simulate the events. Cross-country skiing, for example, used pieces of carpet and children's golf clubs. Figure skating used paper plates to glide across the gym floor.

"For homework, we have students go home and watch the Olympics," Mr. Yoder added. "We have many students come back the following week, excited to share the events they saw. They really enjoy it."



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Succeeding in life and staying safe

Our School Resource Officers play an important role in Danville Schools that goes well beyond building security. Students in the fifth and sixth grade at Danville Community Middle School have been visiting DCSC Police Department's Officer Carter in his classroom to learn valuable life lessons that help keep them safe now and help prepare them for a successful future.

"As a School Resource Officer, I put a big emphasis on being a resource to the students," Officer Carter said. "I am here to help them be successful in a safe environment."

Mrs. Slack's fifth grade class recently participated in a lesson titled *Navigating the Digital World* with Officer Carter. He spoke to them about platform addiction, becoming lost in the way a digital environment can make you see or feel about yourself, and how to know when you should take a break from it all.

While some students do hear these types of life lessons from other adults in their life, some don't. Listening to another perspective can bring the message home for all.

"One of the questions I ask is, has anyone talked to you about this topic? Often they respond with yes, my parents or my teachers have," Officer Carter added. "I think that hearing from me adds another voice and confirms what their parents and teacher are telling them."



Love you to pieces in LWLC

Our Little Warrior Learning Center preschoolers took their Valentine's Day craft to heart and created something special for their families! They pasted pieces of paper inside a heart that said "Love you to pieces."

Sweet Valentines at South

South Elementary students let their creativity soar by crafting unique Valentine's Day boxes! Fourth graders in Mrs. Rodgers' class enjoyed collecting sweet treats and notes from their classmates on the special day.



Expert analysis at DCHS

Students in Mr. Spears' forensics class at Danville Community High School welcomed Danville Fire Department Investigator Troy Clements to learn more about how he uses science to do his job.



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To prepare for future growth, we have been working with a demographer and at first glimpse it shows what most of us are starting to feel around the community. Houses, families and students are coming to town. How does this impact you? As houses increase, so does our Net Assessed Value (NAV) which is a key factor in how the school district acquires tax dollars to operate. As NAV grows it allows the district to keep your tax rate level or reduce it. Looking back on 2018, the debt service tax rate was \$1.0368 compared to this year's at \$0.8900. As houses continue to be built, this allows the school to fund projects that are needed and not raise tax rates.

-FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT-



In the Spring of 2020, the DCSC board of school trustees approved a \$5.35 million project for the renovation of Danville North Elementary School. Today, the project is very near completion with only a few small "punch list" items remaining. The completed renovations include the replacement of all the exterior windows of the building, a new secure double vestibule

front entry to the school, a complete refresh of all classrooms, and new hallway carpeting and wall coverings throughout the building. Our staff and students are also enjoying new classroom technology and improved, energy efficient LED lighting. Our heating, ventilation and air conditioning controls have been upgraded along with additional space for our PACE before and after school program as well as preschool services. Students are also enjoying new playground equipment.

As the weather permits, we will be completing our developmental preschool playground, making parking lot improvements, and updating the school sign. We are appreciative of the community support of these improvements for our school families. I am pleased to report this project was completed within budget and without increasing the school tax rate for our community stakeholders. Many thanks to our community for supporting our students!

Dr. Tracey Shafer, Superintendent



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-FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT-



As we conclude another successful year with commencement exercises for our seniors on June 3rd, it is fulfilling to look back at the trials and tribulations from this school year. What an amazing year! Our dedicated staff and students have shown real perseverance starting and maintaining the school year through COVID-19 while getting the job done well. Our new partnership with Hendricks Regional Health providing nurses to our buildings was a significant blessing through it all. Student learning was our focus and our success. Even through difficult circumstances, over 86% of our third graders have already passed the IREAD-3 exam this spring with more to succeed this summer. And, what wonderful news that Danville Community High School's own Justine Vandenberg was named a Lilly Scholar by the Hendricks County Community Foundation. We are so proud of the academic accomplishments of Justine and all of our students.

Other significant accomplishments this year included the Danville Community High School band receiving a rating of Gold with Distinction this spring from ISSMA along with numerous athletic accomplishments by our student athletes, not the least of which was Holden Higbie winning the state diving competition. Our agriculture and FFA programs were likewise back in the action this year earning numerous state competition awards and tripling their food drive efforts this year to support our community.

Also earning honors this year was our DCSC school board which was recently awarded a Commendable Board distinction by the Indiana School Boards Association through the Exemplary Governance Awards. Their leadership is so valuable. This year the district has been strategically planning for student success, and to meet the opportunities and challenges that community and enrollment growth promises to bring. With community support our students and staff at Danville North Elementary are enjoying renewed, safe and vibrant learning environments. This combined with a new commitment to increase teacher and staff salary has helped the district with teacher attraction and retention as we move forward in a very competitive environment statewide for teacher talent.

Reflecting back, this has been an exemplary year of growth opportunities for us all. This year, much like life in general, the challenges have forced us to adapt, grow and ultimately make us better. I am incredibly proud of our students, staff and school community. Things may be tough at times, but our Warriors will always respond with their best effort! Thank you for a prosperous 2021-2022 school year.

DCSC Superintendent Dr. Tracey Shafer

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Making an Impact

Our Warriors are simply amazing! Danville Community High School juniors and seniors on the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) have dedicated hours this school year connecting with our younger Warriors at North Elementary, South Elementary and Danville Community Middle School. For elementary school visits,



SAAC students visited classrooms to read books about sportsmanship, inclusion and team work. They also joined P.E. classes to share their sport with students. At the middle school, SAAC students met with our

5th through 8th graders to answer questions about participating in athletics, extra-curricular activities, balancing academics and more.

"Instead of elementary school students seeing athletes from the sideline, the elementary students get the chance to see a high school athlete in person and interact with them," DCHS Assistant Athletic Director and North Elementary P.E. Teacher Mr. Kyle Yoder said. "This can significantly impact a goal they may set for themselves in the future and help promote being an athlete or even being involved in other extracurricular activities."

These students demonstrate exemplary leadership on and off the field or court. We are so proud of the impact they are having!



Hope and inspiration for the future



Danville Community High School senior Justine Vandenberg has been a lifelong Warrior who is incredibly involved academically, extracurricularly and in her community. As she crosses the graduation stage this year, she also adds Lilly Endowment Community Scholar to her list of accomplishments.

"I am incredibly honored and grateful to be a Lilly Scholar," Justine said. "Being selected has given me so much hope and inspiration for my future, and I am excited to explore the valuable opportunities that await me."

Each scholarship provides full tuition, required fees, and an allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and equipment for four years of undergraduate study. Justine plans to attend DePauw University this fall to pursue an education in creative writing and environmental/agricultural studies.

Growing up in Danville, Justine said she has developed an appreciation for our inviting community and the geniality of the people in Danville, and that DCSC teachers and staff have made an impact on the person she is today.

"I think that the outstanding quality of our teachers and educators truly does make Danville stand out as a community," Justine added. "The meaningful relationships I have developed will continue into the rest of my life."

Read more about her in this month's issue of See the Difference, available on our website.



A Princess appears at North

DCHS 2019 graduate and UIndy junior Maddy Phipps visited North this month as a 500 Festival Princess. She read a book to Mrs. Stierwalt's second grade class and even brought an Indy 500 pace car with her for students to see!

Getting crabby at South

Third graders in Mrs. Rupp's class at South welcomed hermit crabs as class pets. They have learned about the hermit crab, what it eats and the environment it lives in. While one crab is a bit shy, the other loves to explore!



Math fun at DCMS

The challenge was on in Mrs. Jeffries's sixth grade math class - the cereal box challenge, that is! Students used their knowledge of rectangular prisms to create cereal boxes with construction paper.





Elementary Teacher of the Year

North Elementary has been lucky to call Mr. Sean Murphy a member of the Warrior family for nine years now. The second grade teacher's classroom is described as creative, engaging and exceptional.

In their nomination, one parent said Mr. Murphy establishes a culture of learning in his classroom by setting clearly defined and overarching goals for his students. He develops the problem-solving skills they need to be successful both in and out of the classroom.

As a high ability coordinator for North and the Computer Club sponsor, Mr. Murphy is investing in more than just the students he works with each day. He is a go-to for teachers with questions and develops aligned high ability curriculum with other building coordinators.

Thank you for being exceptional, Mr. Murphy!

Secondary Teacher of the Year

True dedication can be found in the classroom of Social Studies Teacher Mrs. Tina Campbell at Danville Community High School. She is described as an energetic and passionate educator that creates a positive classroom culture where students feel safe and supported.

One student said Mrs. Campbell invests in them as a student and a person by always asking how they are doing and following up on their outside interests. Another student said Mrs. Campbell saw their potential and helped them excel in the Advanced Placement class.

Mrs. Campbell takes her passion beyond the classroom by sponsoring the Rotary Interact Club. One student said that Mrs. Campbell's guidance has helped her grow in confidence and leadership within the club.

Thank you for your dedication, Mrs. Campbell!



Support Staff Member of the Year

It's no exaggeration to say that Danville Schools would be a different place without Food Service Secretary and Custodial Central Coordinator Mrs. Valerie Preecs. She meets challenges head on, never hesitates to lend a hand when help is needed and does it all with a positive light.

Multiple staff nominations were received for Mrs. Preecs, each one filled with high praise and respect. One staff member said she always has a smile on her face, and that she looks for opportunities to find a positive outcome in everything thrown her way. Despite the overwhelming amount of work that everyone has to do, Mrs. Preecs consistently finds ways to help her co-workers in order to make things easier on them. She makes being an amazing team member look effortless.

Thank you for being a positive light, Mrs. Preecs!

Danville Schools 2021-2022 Year in Review...

It has been a great year in the Danville Community School Corporation! We are so proud of our students and staff for their dedication to education, excellence and the Danville community. Here is a brief look at all of the amazing things our Warriors were up to this year. Danville Schools is where you belong!



- Our Warriors continued to work together to make sure school was safe and open this entire year, despite the continued pandemic. Teachers put in a lot of extra work to make sure students at home sick or in quarantine were up to speed. Our contact tracing teams really went above and beyond. We are so grateful for our staff!
- In partnership with the Town of Danville, we installed new solar-powered beacons at three crosswalks for increased student safety. Two were installed on Lincoln Street and one on Mackey Road.
- We successfully partnered with Hendricks Regional Health this year for school nurses and clinic resources.
- All building security cameras were updated this year for a more secure learning environment for all.
- Our Little Warrior Learning Center Preschool saw extensive growth this year with tripled enrollment since the program began in 2018. New classrooms were added to accommodate the increase.

•Major renovations were completed at North Elementary in the spring of 2022 with only a few items remaining this summer. The front entrance is complete with a secure vestibule now in place. New windows were installed throughout the building, along with new lighting, wall coverings and flooring. A multi-functional space was added for childcare, group instruction, cafeteria overflow and staff training. Original restrooms were updated and our classrooms received updated technology.

•North Elementary Art Teacher Miss Pourcho was invited to the Indiana Statehouse by Governor Eric Holcomb to view a display of the outfits she wore in her role as Indiana Teacher of the Year. Students who created her clothing designs joined the trip. They were excited to see the pieces they created on display for all to see!

•Our South Elementary students have hearts of gold! They participated in a food drive for the local food pantry and the Kids Caring and Sharing for Riley Children's Hospital project. They also held a fundraiser for the Misty Eyes Animal Center.



•It was a loud day in the South Elementary gymnasium for the return of the Battle of the Books! Our outstanding students had a 90% participation rate in the voluntary reading challenge.

•The United Way ReadUP program also returned to South this year! We are so grateful for the adults who volunteered to work with third graders to improve their literacy skills once a week.

•The DCMS HAWK Garden Club received a grant from the Indiana Thriving Schools Program to improve the HAWK Outdoor Lab as well as create pollinator and vegetable gardens.

•Our DCMS athletes had a great year! Our girls' 8th grade basketball team were Sagamore

Conference Champions; the 8th grade football team had an undefeated season; the girls' cross-country team were Jon Mitchell, David Landes and Greencastle Tiger Cub Champions; records were broken by our track team.

•The DCHS Academic Super Bowl, Business Professionals of America and Tribe Tech Robotics teams worked hard this year and performed well in their competitions. We are so proud!

•DCHS band students participated in individual Solo and Ensemble competitions, earning 10 Gold ratings and one Silver! The DCHS band also earned a Gold Rating with Distinction at the Indiana State School Music Association Organizational Festival. Great work, Warriors!

•FFA students competed in multiple competitions throughout the year, regularly bringing home top honors. For their annual food drive, FFA made 110 Thanksgiving food boxes this year. Combined with the food drive collection from our DCMS FFA students, our Warriors collected

3,926 food items and raised \$1,046.27 to purchase additional food items. This was more than double than last year - wow!



•Our DCHS students in French and Spanish Clubs hosted their first Cultural Fair! The event featured 27 countries with information, food, dancing and karaoke. It was a fun night for all involved!

•Our DCHS athletes were on fire this year! We had 11 fall academic all-state athletes, 17 fall 1st team all-conference athletes; eight winter academic all-state athletes, seven winter 1st team all-conference athletes; a football player named to state all-star team; cheer placed 5th at the state competition; IHSAA boys' 1-meter diving state champion; boys' cross country conference and county champ with three qualifying for semi-state; a female wrestler qualified and competed in girls' wrestling state finals; boys' basketball sectional champs and regional runners-up; 15 track athletes qualified for indoor

state meet; state champ in indoor track high jump, with new school record of 6'8". Our spring athletes are finishing the year strong and we can't wait to see what they accomplish!

•Mr. Neilson's government class hosted a successful Meet the Candidates Night this spring.

•The DCHS Theatre Department performed *Clue* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

Read our complete Year in Review at www.danville.k12.in.us under "Latest News" until it becomes archived under "Experience the Difference" later this summer!

