



August 29, 2018

Building Beat

Upcoming ...

Wednesday, August 29:
Gates Elementary Open House and Curriculum Night, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, August 30
School Picture Day at Central

Friday, August 31:
No School

Monday, September 3:
No School—Labor Day



DCS going gold to raise awareness & fight childhood cancer

Davison Community Schools is inviting the community to join in the fight against childhood cancer by “going gold” during the month of September. The district is working with downtown-based Hilton Screeners to raise awareness and money through the sale of “Go Gold” Cardinal T-shirts. A portion of the sale of each T-shirt will benefit “A Mission of Love” Childhood Cancer Support based in Warren, Michigan.



Abby Sieb is a Davison student battling cancer.

The charity has assisted one of our students; a very brave Central Elementary second grader who was diagnosed earlier this year with medulloblastoma, a cancerous tumor that starts in the region of the brain at the base of the skull.

It all started around Easter when **Abby Sieb** started complaining to her mom, Deborah, about having headaches. Some days the headaches would be accompanied by vomiting. Trips to the urgent care clinics and even a neurologist did not help.

“On May 3 we saw the neurologist and he patted her on the head and gave her allergy medicine,” Deborah said.

When the headaches and vomiting continued, Deborah, at her wit’s end and determined to find out what was causing her little girl to be so sick, took Abby to the hospital emergency room.

“I knew when they called me out of that room that something bad was happening here,” a teary Deborah recalled.

Abby was transferred from the emergency room at McLaren Lapeer Region Hospital to the University of Michigan. On May 7, she underwent surgery to remove the tumor. Thankfully, the tumor had not attached to the spinal cord or spread throughout the brain as often is the case with medulloblastoma.

“She has lost part of her abilities with her right arm, so it’s not in sync but she’s learning how to use her left hand,” said Deborah, adding that Abby also struggles with keeping her balance at times and experiences double vision.

Abby’s hair also fell out after six weeks of radiation, which ended in July. Last week, the family was ecstatic after learning that Abby’s latest MRI scan came back clear.

She will still have eight months of chemo and has a long road ahead of her but the 7-year-old is a fierce fighter.

“She has been a rock,” Deborah said as Abby snuggled into her mom’s lap. “You never know what things like this are like until it hits home. She has gone through things that most adults couldn’t handle.”

For now, Abby is happy to be back at school. A second grader in Mrs. Gwen Lindsey’s class, Abby was very happy to learn that her friend, Avery, was in the same class. A budding artist, Abby loves to draw and paint and has a fondness for “Fancy Nancy” books. She especially loves unicorns and horses and some day hopes to own and operate a Rescue Farm, taking in animals who aren’t wanted or don’t have a place to go.

In addition to her mom, Abby’s family includes her dad, David, and step-brother Zach Seog, an eighth grader at Davison Middle School.

Deborah has found support through connecting online with other parents whose children have been diagnosed with cancer. And while Abby’s prognosis is good, Deborah said she would trade places with her daughter in a heartbeat.

“The worry, the sadness, the fear—those will never go away,” Deborah said. “If it was me, it would be different but I will worry about her until I take my last breath.”

Please join us in supporting children who are fighting cancer like Abby by participating in the Go Gold campaign. The Go Gold T-shirt forms are attached to this newsletter or you can order online directly at: <http://hiltonscreenersinc.com/gogold/shop/home>. T-shirts will be delivered to your child’s school.

DHS student attends MSP Trooper Academy

Davison High School junior **Levi Stevens** participated in the Michigan State Police Student Trooper Academy sponsored by the American Legion this summer. Levi received the top Academic Achievement award.

Levi learned about the program after his mom, Rebecca, set up a job shadowing opportunity with a friend who is a prosecuting attorney.

“I spoke with a trooper when I was there,” Levi said. “Afterward, he remembered this program and made sure we knew about it. My mom contacted the American Legion in Davison. They came to school to interview me. They then sponsored me for the academy. I will in turn be speaking at their October meeting to thank them and share about my experience.”

The Student Trooper Academy was held at the Michigan State Police Training Academy in Lansing and lasted for six days, from Sunday until Friday.

“It was a very difficult program,” Levi said. “We had lots of physical training. Our morning started at 5:15 working out. We professionally walked everywhere we went, marching in lines alphabetically.”

In addition, Levi participated in the shooting range, defensive training, a virtual scenario training room where you have to work your way out of a situation given to you, underwater rescue techniques in the training tank, and learned how to properly approach a house after a call for police, perform a traffic stop and a traffic stop with search. A professional driving instructor also drove the students on the training track at very high rates of speed.


Levi, who wants to be an MSP Trooper and eventually work for the FBI, is a proud member of the Davison Cardinal Marching Band, Low Brass Section. He also plays trombone in concert band.



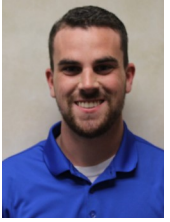
introducing... Meet our newest "Kids First" teaching staff

Davison Community Schools welcomes 20 new teachers for the 2018-19 school year. Read on to learn more about some of our newest members to the DCS Family.


- ◆ **Dee Callan** is teaching fifth grade at Hahn Intermediate. Dee has her bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from the University of Phoenix. "Since a young age I have enjoyed working with students and making a difference in their lives," Dee said. "I have mentored, tutored and coached many children over the years and thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow and learn. I am excited to start this new school year and look forward to having a positive impact on students." Dee is married to Scott and they will celebrate 17 years of marriage in September. They have two boys, Zach is a freshman, and Dylan is a sixth grader. The family also includes three Sheltie dogs, Piper, Louie and Chopper, and two cats, Daisy and Buddy. Dee enjoys spending time with her family, going up north and scrapbooking. Both of her boys play hockey so she spends most of her time at the ice rink but loves every minute of it.




Dee
- ◆ **Keegan Collins** is teaching kindergarten at Thomson Elementary. He earned his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. Keegan said he became a teacher to help make learning fun for students and lead them to connect school to the real world. Keegan's family includes parents Kris and Dennis, sister, Erin, and dogs, Mac and Breslin. Keegan's interests include playing and watching all sports, enjoying time with friends and family, reading and watching movies.




Keegan
- ◆ **Charlotte Dotson** is teaching special education language arts at Davison Middle School. She received her bachelor's degree from Ferris State University and her master's degree from the University of Michigan. "I was a cheerleader in school and I coached cheerleading and through that I realized I loved to encourage and cheer people on to do their best and never give up. And that is a great deal of what a teacher does," Charlotte said. Charlotte and her husband, Brian, have a son, Kyle, daughter, Emily, and a granddaughter, Charlotte (Charlie). In her spare time, Charlotte loves to travel, garden, read and spend lots of time with her family. She is very involved in her church, charity work, Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child and Humane Society. She also loves the Detroit Tigers and baseball.



Charlotte
- ◆ **Jennifer Galbreath** is teaching kindergarten at Thomson Elementary. Jennifer received her master of arts degree in teaching with a concentration in early childhood education from Saginaw Valley State University. "I chose to become a teacher because I want to make a difference in the lives of children," Jennifer said. "I want to share my love of learning with them and encourage them to follow their dreams. The sky is the limit!" Jennifer and her husband, Josh, have been married for three years. They have a French Bulldog named Liam. Jennifer enjoys spending time with her family, running, camping and kayaking.



Jennifer
- ◆ **Heather Hundt** is teaching music at Gates Elementary. Heather has a bachelor's degree in music education from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in the art of teaching from Marygrove College. "I am getting ready to start my 20th year as a music teacher and one thing has never changed—I love teaching kids about music," Heather said. "I love being able to see students learn new things and help guide them along the way." Heather is married to Daniel, who is also a teacher and band di-



Heather

rector. They have four children: Joshua, 17; Hannah, 16; Jonathon, 14; and Brayden, 12. The family also includes two dogs, Baby and Maggie. As expected, Heather's family is a musical one. Everyone plays an instrument and/or sings. They love to go camping in the summer and spend time together swimming, fishing and hanging around a campfire. As a CMU Chippewa, Heather performed with several of the university's performance ensembles including the marching Chippeawas while attending classes there.

- ◆ **Brandon Jakeway** is teaching math at Davison Alternative Education. He earned his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan-Flint. "I wanted to help people, to reach students who have potential they are unaware of, and to inspire," he said. Brandon is married to Emily and they have a daughter, Grace Adah, who was born March 6, 2017, and another baby is on the way. Two small dogs complete the family. Brandon enjoys spending time in nature with his family and friends, playing cards, watching movies and wrestling.



Brandon

- ◆ **Todd Jankowski** is a seventh grade social studies teacher at Davison Middle School. He has a degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University and a bachelor of arts in social studies from the University of Michigan-Flint. "I was working part time as a guest teacher and realized my calling was to become a teacher," Todd said. Todd is engaged to fiancé, Becky. His interests include reading, hunting, fishing and gardening. He is also a self proclaimed "social studies nerd."



Todd

- ◆ **Dana Johnson** is a special education teacher in the Emotionally Impaired classroom at Gates Elementary. She has a bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University and a master's degree from Marygrove College. "I became a teacher to inspire youth to become the best person they can be," Dana said. "My siblings also had learning disabilities as students and I always helped them." Dana is married to Dan. They have a son, Dominic, and daughter, Juliana. Dana enjoys gardening, taking pictures, traveling throughout Michigan, swimming and boating.



Dana

- ◆ **Tiffany Kincaid** is a counselor at Davison High School. She earned both her bachelor's in psychology and master's in counseling degrees from Eastern Michigan University. "I decided to become a school counselor because I love working with kids," Tiffany said. "I believe school counselors hold very unique and valuable roles because they are able to see kids in the intersections between their most important life roles: academic, personal, social and planning for their futures." Tiffany's brother and sister live out of state as soon will her parents. She has a rescue dog she adores named Sophie. Tiffany enjoys spending time with her friends and family, walking her dog, cycling, mountain biking, volleyball, sailing, windsurfing, baking and graphic design. In her free time, she is a dog sitter/walker.



Tiffany

- ◆ **Michelle Lynch** is teaching sixth grade English language arts at Hahn Intermediate. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Flint. "My mother is a teacher and she has always inspired me by the way she interacts with children," Michelle said. Michelle has a son, Connor, who is 5. She enjoys camping, reading and running.



Michelle

- ◆ **Jeffrey Martinez** is a counselor at Davison Middle School. He has a master's degree from Central Michigan University. "I want to help students from all backgrounds do their best and



Jeffrey

achieve their goals,” Jeffrey said. “I want to be the type of educator I needed when I was in school.” Jeff is married to Kami, a recently hired speech pathologist at Central Elementary, and has two daughters, Jocelyn and Juliana as well as a dog, Bernie, and cat, Moseby. Jeff enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, traveling and camping.

- ◆ **Margaret Rasberry** is teaching special education at Davison Middle School. She has a bachelor’s of art degree in learning disabilities from Nazareth College and a master’s degree in special education from Oakland University. “I’ve always enjoyed helping kids find their strengths and building on these to become more confident,” Margaret said. Margaret and her husband, Tim, have been married for 25 years. They have three daughters, Madeline and Kate are graduates of Davison High School and Erin is a sophomore. Margaret enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, learning about her Irish background, listening to a variety of music, singing and participating at her parish.



Margaret

- ◆ **Brooke Rutledge** is teaching English at Davison High School. She has a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan-Flint. “I had a wonderful teacher in high school who organized an international school trip and she encouraged me to teach while on the trip,” Brooke said. Brooke and her husband, Scott, have one child, Vincent, who is an eighth grader. Brooke enjoys spending time with family and friends. She has two dogs and enjoys training classes with them. She also likes to read, visit museums and scrapbook.



Brooke

- ◆ **Samantha Sny** is teaching computer aided design at Davison High School. She has an associate’s degree in applied science in computer aided drafting and design from Mott Community College. “I enjoy being around people and I want to help grow the minds of others by learning and sharing knowledge with one another,” Samantha said. Samantha is married to Chris. She has a daughter, Bristol, and a newborn, Lynken. Her pets include fish and snakes. Samantha enjoys running, going to car shows, watching drag racing, camping, fishing and traveling.



Samantha

Openings available for 3– and 4-year-old preschool half and full day programs

Looking for a preschool experience for your 3– or 4-year-old? Davison Community Schools offers a high quality preschool program taught by veteran teachers at the Cardinal’s Nest. We currently have openings in our half-day and full-day programs. Please call the Cardinal’s Nest at 591-0821 for additional information.

We love to hear from our staff, students and alums! If you have a story or accomplishment to share, or would like to let us know what you are doing since graduation, please email us at: medwards@davisonschools.org



Welcome back to all of our students, staff and families! Wishing you the best school year ever!

