



A Review of the
Great Things
Happening in
Our Schools.

Building Beat

September 5, 2014

Upcoming ...

Friday, Sept. 5:
Hill Walk-a-thon

Community Night, 7 p.m.
Cardinal Stadium All Davi-
son K-12 students wearing
maroon and gold, neon or
Davi-son wear get in free to
the football game!

Monday, Sept. 8:
First Day of School for
Central Elementary

Tuesday, Sept. 9:
DHS Open House, 7-8:30
p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 10:
DAE Open House,
5-6:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 12"
School Picture Day at
Davi-son Middle School

Presenter shows DCS staff how to stay positive

Best selling author and national speaker Jon Gordon delivered a powerful message on positivity to school staff at the district's Professional Development Day August 26.

"I really liked the presentation this year," said **Leigh Anne Draper**, a fourth grade teacher at Hill Elementary. "I love having a motivational speaker at our back to school PD. It helps to remind us to focus on the positive and remember every student comes from a different background. We never know what went on with them between the time they left us at the end of the day to when they come in the next morning."

Gordon, who speaks to audiences around the world including numerous professional sports teams, Fortune 500 companies, school districts, hospitals and non-profits, reminded teachers, paraprofessionals and school staffers that their attitude is contagious and plays a huge part in not only determining the culture and vision for an organization but leaving a lasting impact on students. In other words, you can decide to be either "the germ or the Vitamin C," Gordon said.

"We have to remember why we're here," Gordon said. "Schools don't exist for teachers. They're not here for you. They're not here for me. They are here for the students. Everything we do, we do for them. But your vision and mission must be clear and bold and you must be able to live it. Martin Luther King Jr. said 'I have a dream' not 'I have a lesson plan that might work.'"

Gordon's message clearly fits into Superintendent **Eric Lieske's** theme for staff this year, challenging them to define: "What's Your Why?" a philosophy developed by author, speaker and self-proclaimed optimist Simon Sinek.

"What is our purpose and why do we get out of bed every day?" Lieske asked as



Welcome Back!

Thomson Elementary Teacher Mrs. Julie VanEvery gives a student a high five on the first day of school, Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Where futures begin

A Fully Accredited District

he addressed staff on their first day back to work. "I know for most of us the answer would be 'to help kids' but our purpose has to be deeper than that. We need to be able to articulate why we do what we do and to do it with a little bit of energy and passion."

Gordon, author of numerous books including *The Wall Street Journal* bestseller *The Energy Bus*, *Soup*, *The No Complaining Rule*, *Training Camp*, and *The Carpenter*, had staff participate in several activities including coming up with one word to focus on for the next year.

"What struck me the most from Mr. Gordon's talk was the 'one word,'" said Davison High School science teacher **Blake Smith**. "I plan on posting my word at the front of my classroom: "Push." When the going gets tough, push through. I want to work harder at developing and cultivating relationships with my students this year."

"My word is stability," said Thomson Elementary kindergarten teacher **Lori O'Brien**. "I have always believed very strongly that if we do not provide stability within our classrooms, there will not be learning. Children today come from so many different chaotic situations. We have an obligation to provide stability to these students if we want those little brains to grow and develop in a healthy positive direction."

Davison Alternative Education Dean of Students **Chris Wilson** said he hasn't quite found his word yet, but has discussed with staff inviting students to come up with their one word and then posting them throughout the building.

First time in history: Boys' Cross Country Team #8 in pre-season rankings

Congratulations to the Boys' Cross Country Team, which was ranked #8 in the pre-season poll for Division I schools by MileSplit.

"The pre-season rankings are generated from a hypothetical race based on the returners from last season," said Coach **Matt Ames**. "This is the first time in our history that we have ever been ranked in the top 10 in the state."

Ames added there are currently 25 boys on the team. Top returners include **Nick Schmidt, Joe Renner, Dillon Welliver, Jacob Turgeon, Cole Davis, David Pinter, Jacob Ferguson, Austin Pifer, Nick Sleeman** and **Zach Sleeman**.

The boys kicked off their season yesterday at the Saline Hornet Early Bird Invite. Davison Cross Country took second place out of 12 with **Nick Schmidt** and **Joe Renner** rounding off the top two positions.

Ames said the team welcomes new members of all abilities. If interested, contact him at mames@davisonschools.org.

Girls' Golf Team breaks school record

Congratulations also go to the Varsity Girls' Golf Team. The girls won the Big Rapids Lady Cardinal Classic last Friday with a school record of 322. Golfers **Karsen Johnston, Gabby Stephens, Shelbe Cahill** and **Kamryn Johnston** finished in the top 10 individuals, too!

Last but not least ... Boys' Tennis Team clinches Lapeer Quad meet for 1st time

The Boys' Tennis team were crowned the champs of the annual Lapeer Quad meet, winning eight flights including four singles and four doubles. "I could shout from the rooftop of Davison High School about how happy I am," said Coach **Walt White**. "I'm so happy to see the kids reaping the fruits of their dedication."

Alumni News: 2008 DHS grad gives the "real deal" to computer science students

DHS alum **Zachary Church** (Class of 2008) spoke this morning to students at DHS enrolled in Introduction to Programming, Computer Networking and AP programming classes about his successful career in computer science. Zachary is now employed by Apple and resides in California.

"It was a great opportunity for some of this year's students to hear and ask questions about the 'real deal,' said CTE Director **Diana Allard**.

Zach worked for Ford Motor Company right after graduating from Michigan State University and recently relocated to California to begin work as a programmer with Apple. His strength is hardware-based programming.

"He talked to students about networking with the people in the computer science world and not just on social media," Allard said. "He answered a lot of questions about the classes he had to take, the internships he had while at MSU and about how much money he made!"

Allard, who had Zach in class, said she always had a good feeling that Zach would head in this direction as he excelled quickly in his CTE Computer Networking class.

"He had the desire to work on his passion for computers outside of the classroom also, which makes a big difference in the industry," Allard said. "He is a great kid and we are lucky to have such a good "real story" connection for our students."

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



Alum Zach Church speaks to high school students below about his career as a programmer at Apple.



