



Graduation dates set for 2017

Board of Education members approved the following commencement ceremony dates for the Class of 2017:

- Davison High School, 7 p.m. June 5, 2017, at the Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center
- Davison Alternative Education, 7 p.m. June 7, 2017, in the Ude Auditorium at Davison High School.

Board approves merit pay and one-time payment to employees

Michigan law requires school districts to establish a method annually of compensating administrators and teachers based on performance. Last night, the Board of Education complied with the law by voting to pay administrators receiving an effective or highly effective evaluation rating with merit pay of \$500 and teachers receiving an effective or highly effective evaluation rating with merit pay of \$300. The payments are one-time and off-scale.

In keeping with the spirit of encouraging high performance for all Davison school employees, the Board also voted to offer a one-time off-scale payment of \$200 to all regular, hourly employees working five or more hours. District level supervisors will receive a \$400 payment and hourly employees working less than five hours will receive a \$100 merit payment.

“Even though the law doesn't specify merit pay for staff other than administrators and teachers, the idea of merit pay for all staff members keeps with the spirit of ‘we are all in this together,’ if we acknowledge all employees,” said Superintendent **Eric Lieske**. “We have a great school district because we have great employees. Honestly, I wish I could sit here and recommend much more to the board but, unfortunately, we're not in the position to do so.”

Employees can expect to receive their merit pay at the end of the month.

 **Davison Community Schools**

Where Kids Come First and Futures Begin

Connections ♦ Curriculum ♦ Opportunities

Board Briefs is a monthly newsletter published after Board of Education meetings. For additional information, please contact the Communications Department at 591-0852.

Donations accepted

The following contributions were accepted:

Hope Urgent Care donated 10 book bags and lunch boxes full of school supplies. The items will be provided to students in our district who are in need.

WoJo's Garden Splendors donated two barrels of flowers to Thomson Elementary.

Consolidated Electrical Contractors of Lansing sponsored the Davison Varsity Dance Team with a check for \$250. This donation will be used to purchase camp gear and shorts for each member.

United Way of Genesee County donated \$1,000 to provide monetary assistance toward the district's early literacy efforts.

Davison Family Dollar provided the District \$1,122 in school supplies, backpacks, etc. that were donated by customers who purchased items in store.

Members of the **Davison Assembly of God Church** donated backpacks and school supplies to Central Elementary to assist students in need.

Welcome new teachers!

Board members had the opportunity to meet and mingle with new teachers at a brief reception held prior to the September 12 Board of Education meeting. This year, 13 teachers have joined the Davison school family. Right, Board President Kathy Sudia and Gates Elementary Principal Theresa Wendt chat with Rebecca McConnell, who is teaching first grade at Gates Elementary.



Above, Davison Alternative Education Dean of Students Chris Wilson and Shawn Lewis, who is teaching math at DAE. Below, Board Trustee Andrew Hall and Treasurer Kim Lindsay get to know Gwen Lindsay, who is teaching second grade at Central Elementary.



Above, new Davison High School Teachers David Binkley, Jackie Arvaneh and Erin Woodruff have a conversation with Assistant Superintendent Kevin Brown. Below, Director of Finance Leslie Young chats with new Central fourth grader Teachers Ellen Meinecke and Mixsy Trinidad and Principal Lance Harper.



Presentations

Vegetables and self confidence sprout at Community Garden

You can find more than 20 varieties of vegetables growing in the Hahn Community Garden at the corner of Rising and Genesee streets but the students who planted and nurtured the plants are reaping much more than the harvest they have sown. In addition to tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and corn, you will find seeds of self confidence and satisfaction sprouting as well.

Hahn Intermediate Teacher **Bob Konzman** and his classroom planted their first garden in 2013 after Konzman was approached by community member Jim Theolet who offered the space. Three seasons later, Konzman has students who have since left his classroom returning to help plant and tend to the garden.

Each year, students plan the garden, research a vegetable they would like to plant—learn how deep to plant the seeds and research recipes and meals in which they can cook and use their vegetables. Then comes the real work of planting the seeds, pulling the weeds and watering.

“During the summer we encourage the parents to come and pick the vegetables and maintain the garden,” Konzman said.

After school begins, the students gather tomatoes and herbs to make such dishes as salsa and pesto.

“They are trying vegetables for the very first time for a lot of them,” Konzman said.

The students harvest the vegetables. Some of the produce is consumed while it’s fresh while other items such as corn and squash are frozen or canned to be used later for the classroom’s annual Thanksgiving feast.

“It’s better than just buying fruits and vegetables in the store—you can just pick it right out of your garden,” said Hunter, a former student of Konzman’s who returned this year to help with the garden.

“The garden inspired Parker so much that he did his own garden at home,” said the father another student. “It was a hot summer but he watered the plants every day and took care of the weeds so he learned a life skill.”

In April, the district received a \$950 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint Davison Fund (Justin M. Jury Fund and Sherri E. Stephens Fund) thanks to the efforts of **Matt Lobban**, Math/Science Curriculum Coordinator. The money was used to purchase plywood, plastic covering and hardware to construct a hoop house in order to expand the Hahn Community Garden.

“I was blessed to be able to see this special community and see the love that is shared between Mr. K and his students,” said Lobban, who helped students and the Konzman family construct the hoop house.

Lobban said Mike Wojciechowski from Wojo’s Garden Splendors was also instrumental in helping with not only donating the hoops, brackets and equipment but sharing his knowledge so that the construction could be completed. He also thanked community member Dave Mansfield for tilling up the garden areas, Mr. Woodfield for donating the mulch and Jim Theolet for allowing the students to use the space.

Konzman thanked his students’ parents and families for all that they do in order to make the garden and events such as the before school family barbecue held at the garden such a success.

“Without the family members, I just couldn’t do it,” he said.



Students joined Hahn Intermediate Teacher Bob Konzman and Math/Science Curriculum Coordinator Matt Lobban at Monday night’s Board of Education meeting to talk about the Hahn Community Garden.

Action Items

Konkle reappointed to DCER Advisory Board

Board members last night voted to reappoint Skip Konkle as the school district's representative on the Davison Community Enrichment and Recreation Advisory Board.

DTV students to attend fall NSPA Conference

DTV instructor **Randy Scott** will accompany 11 high school DTV students who qualified to compete in the National Scholastic Press Association Fall Conference November 10-13 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The team will compete for the Pacemaker, an award recognizing the best high school newscast in the country.

Students will also be attending classes while at the conference. Students attending include: seniors **Kate-lin Abdella, Jordyn Bruns, Jillian Burger, Hailey Garrett, Calvin Phillips, Haley Thompson** and **Alesia Paxton**, and juniors **Chris Kazor, Abby O'Neil, Bailey Talaska** and **Tyler Theodore**.



Not one, but two grant recipients for Davison ...

Congratulations to Davison Middle School Teachers **Susie McCatty** and **Jan Crawford**, both recipients of grants from the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel. Mrs. McCatty received a \$60 grant to purchase safety glasses for STEM activities while Mrs. Crawford was awarded a \$500 grant for technology in her social studies classroom including subscriptions to several websites and Channel 1. Sue VanHollebeke of the southeast chapter of the MARSP, said the organization normally selects just one winner from its chapter area, which includes six school districts.

Leading the Pledge

Members of the Central Elementary Safety Patrol, along with teacher sponsor Mrs. Kelly Fritz and Principal Lance Harper, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

