

Board Briefs

Schools of Choice Information

Davison Community Schools will once again be accepting **limited** applications for non-resident students under Sections 105 and 105c Schools of Choice for the 2019/2020 school year. Acceptance under either plan will be based on limited availability and elementary students will be placed in school buildings according to equalized space available in all classrooms.

The application period for each program will be:

- 105c Schools of Choice, April 29 – May 10, 2019: The District will accept applications from pupils whose district of residency is *outside of Genesee County* in districts within the following bordering counties: Lapeer, Livingston, Oakland, Saginaw, Shiawassee and Tuscola.
- 105 Schools of Choice, April 29 – May 10, 2019: The District will accept applications from pupils whose district of residency is *in Genesee County*.

Applications can be completed Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Superintendent's Office located in the district's administrative offices, 1490 N. Oak Road. Applications will not be distributed or accepted outside the application period. Applicants need to bring a valid driver's license or some other proof of non-resident status.

Also, a copy of the student's behavior report for the past two years must be submitted with each application (for enrollment in grades 1 through 12).

IMPORTANT: *The student's Schools of Choice application will not be accepted without a copy of a behavior report for each of the 2017/18 and 2018/19 school years or a document from the school(s) attended in 2017/18 and 2018/19 indicating there is no behavior record for the student.*

Students who have been suspended, expelled or withdrawn in lieu of expulsion within the last two years may be denied enrollment in the district under the 105 and 105c Schools of Choice guidelines.

Parents of Schools of Choice students are responsible for transporting their children to and from school.

For further information, please call the Superintendent's Office at (810) 591-0801.



Donations gratefully accepted by Board

The following contributions were accepted at last night's meeting:

- **The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 126** made a monetary donation to the DTV program.
- **DeBuck Sod Farm** made a monetary donation to the Davison football program to help offset costs of the new weight room at Davison High School.
- The **Davison Education Association** made a monetary donation to Thomson Elementary to purchase books to be given to incoming Kindergarten and Developmental Kindergarten students at Round Up.
- **Nourmahal Chapter 282** donated 24 bottles of hand sanitizer and miscellaneous school supplies to Thomson Elementary to be used as needed by students.

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



Davison Community Schools

Where Kids Come First and Futures Begin

Connections ♦ Curriculum ♦ Opportunities

Presentations

Guest Teacher Hala Kaspar named “Kids First” February recipient

Guest teacher **Hala Kaspar** is the February 2019 recipient of the “Kids First” Award.

Each month, administrators nominate a DCS employee who best exemplifies what it means to be “Kids First.” Winners receive a \$100 Visa gift card thanks to Mark Owen, owner of MEEMIC insurance agencies in Davison and Flint Township, and a certificate. The winner is chosen at random.

Hala was nominated by Hahn Intermediate Principal **Verle Gilbert**, who wrote:

“It is my pleasure to nominate Hala Kaspar for the February “Kids First” Award. Hala is a frequent substitute teacher throughout Davison Community Schools. Hala connects with students and makes sure that lesson plans are followed. She is friendly with staff and students and has developed strong professional relationships during her time here as a substitute teacher. Due to those strong relationships, Hala has a great rapport with students and rarely needs to seek assistance from the office. Hala has helped out more than one Davison administrator by covering long-term positions for teaching staff and paraprofessionals. Many times these opportunities have come with short notice. On days when we cannot find enough substitute teachers, our office staff attempts to cover a position internally. Hala is always willing to cover classrooms on her scheduled planning time to help us out.



Left to right, Hahn Intermediate Principal **Verle Gilbert**, Guest Teacher **Hala Kaspar**, Superintendent **Kevin Brown** and Board of Education President **Kathy Sudia**.

Hala can also be seen on a regular basis at middle school and high school athletic events. During high school football games she can often be seen selling tickets at the entrance to Cardinal Stadium. Even though the weather may be dreary, she always greets people with a smile and treats them with the utmost respect. During basketball and volleyball season, she works in the concession stand and at the door selling tickets depending on where she is needed. Just as in football, she takes on this duty with the same joyful enthusiasm to ensure things run smoothly and that students, staff and the community feel welcome to each event.

Hala Kaspar is truly “Kids First” and projects that through her 23 years of service to the students, staff and community members.”

Other great DCS staff members who were nominated this month include: **Kathy Bennett**, Davison Alternative Education Counselor; **Jason Book**, Gates Elementary Monitor; **Angie Hards**, School Improvement/Title I Director; **Ashley Horton**, Hahn Intermediate Teacher; **Mary Ignatowski**, Davison High School Teacher; **Bob Konzman**, Hahn Intermediate Teacher; **John Marttila**, Davison Middle School Teacher; **Susie McCatty**, Davison Middle School Teacher; **Elisha Nichols**, Siple Elementary Paraprofessional; **Annette Niedlieski**, Thomson Elementary Paraprofessional; **Tim Rutkowski**, Central Elementary Teacher; and **Ondrea Sumner**, Hill Elementary Teacher.



Presentations



Siple Elementary Principal Christy Flowers co-coached the Stardinals LEGO Robotics Team along with Siple Elementary Teacher Rita Jones. Members of the group, along with their high school mentors from the House of Cards, shared a presentation at the February Board of Education meeting.

Robotics clubs becoming popular activity for elementary students

Robotics clubs aren't just for high school students anymore.

Students as young as kindergarten are showing more and more of an interest in this widely growing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) sport. Just ask Siple Elementary Principal **Christy Flowers**, who co-coached her school's robotics club, The Stardinals, along with kindergarten Teacher **Rita Jones** this year. Within five minutes of accepting applications, school staff not only had accepted the club's first 20 members but also compiled a waiting list with 40 more students.



A Stardinal club member waits patiently as the group prepares to present to Board of Education members at the February meeting.

"Our first bell is at 8:25 a.m. and by 8:30 we already had our first 20 applications," Mrs. Flowers said. "We had some parents drive their students to school that day so they could turn the application in and I even had two students running across the gym (to the office) to get their applications in."

Fourth grader and future engineer **Samantha Warden** said the day the applications came out, she took it home and waited for her mother to come home from work so she could sign it first thing.

"The robotics club has meant so much to me," she said.

The idea to start the club was prompted by Jones, whose son, Malachi, is a member of the House of Cards Davison High School Robotics Team. Last year, she was with the team at the World Championships in Detroit. While at the event, she noticed students from grades kindergarten through fourth presenting as part of a

LEGO Robotics event.

"I was floored to see students presenting from around the world," Mrs. Jones said. "Many nations were

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represented and they had these big, huge ideas about hydration and solving water problems. I just started snapping pictures and sending them to Christy. Little did I know, Mrs. Flowers had an underlying passion to have a Lego Robotics club here at Siple.”

The next day, Mrs. Flowers had a packet of information about LEGO Robotics as well as a Davison Educational Foundation mini grant application. They completed the application, turned it in and were ecstatic to learn their grant had been approved. The grant paid for the team’s registration and purchased robotics kits for team members.

“They had a lot of passion from the very start,” Jones said. “From the very first meeting, we knew we had a rambunctious team that was very innovative, creative and ready to learn.”

The mission for this year’s team centered on the moon as LEGO Robotics teamed with NASSA for the 50th anniversary of astronaut Neil Armstrong’s first steps on the moon. Students were charged with demonstrating how energy, water, air and other resources could be transported and used on the moon. And the students did this all with LEGOs.

Hill Elementary also had teams competing in the LEGO Robotics competition this year, too.

The Stardinals met every Tuesday, after school to 5:30 p.m. from September to December, to prepare for



Robotics teams members from the Siple Elementary Stardinals and their mentors from Davison High School’s House of Cards prepare to present at the February Board of Education meeting.

House of Cards mentors back over the Alternative Education building, where members are busy building and preparing for their upcoming season.

“It has been a wonderful, wonderful experience for me as a teacher, as a parent and as a coach of this amazing team,” Jones said. “I’m very, very passionate about this and what robotics has done for my son.”

Last month, Jones’s son learned he had earned a full ride scholarship to Kettering University after placing within the top three in the University’s Math Olympiad.

“I’m extremely proud, blessed and grateful to all of the “village” it has taken to help my son achieve this,” Jones said.

“From the very first meeting, we knew we had a rambunctious team that was very innovative, creative and ready to learn.”

Rita Jones

competition. In addition to building their moon bases, students also learned about “coopertition.”

“It is very important to FIRST Robotics that we teach students that competing and co-operating go hand in hand,” Jones said.

“This will later become what high schoolers and the House of Cards know as ‘gracious professionalism.’”

In addition to learning about working together, the younger robotics students developed relationships with House of Cards high school members who came alongside to mentor their younger counterparts. The House of Cards even provided the younger teams with team T-shirts.

“It was really exciting to see those relationships develop,” Jones said.

Following Monday’s board meeting, members of the Stardinals followed their

Presentations

Leading the Pledge

The February Pledge of Allegiance was led by members of the Central Elementary Welcoming Committee. The group is made up of students from multiple grade levels who teach their peers how to properly greet each other with a hand shake, eye contact and a friendly introduction. The Welcoming Committee also greets all new students, giving them a tour around the building and become a familiar face for new students in classrooms, hallways, the cafeteria and at recess. The group was accompanied by Principal Christine Kuzinski, Counselor Maida Demo and Teacher Ashley McCann-Markham.

