

# Board Briefs



## 2020 Bond preliminary application on its way to State Treasury

On Monday, Board of Education members voted to approve and send in the Application for Preliminary Qualification for the March 10, 2020 bond. This means that the application is now on its way to the Michigan Department of State Treasury for approval.

While the Application is still considered preliminary at this time, the district believes it is important to share the document with our families not only to be transparent in our actions but to provide information so everyone in the DCS family and community is aware of what is in the bond application. The link to the application is below.

Inside the application you will find that the district is seeking approval to place a \$71,390,000 bond on the March 10, 2020 ballot for the purpose of “erecting, furnishing, and equipping additions to and remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; erecting a new bus storage building; acquiring and installing instructional technology in school buildings; erecting, equipping, preparing, developing, and improving playgrounds, athletic fields and facilities, and sites.”

The application goes into further detail in regard to each building and what work would be included in the bond. You will find that there are upgrades to security and technology at every school building and renovations to Davison High School including the addition of a Performing Arts Center. All of these items were the top choices as selected by those who took our surveys last spring and attended our Community Forums this past fall.

We hope to have final approval from Treasury within the next 30 days. We will continue to update parents and the community as things progress.

To view the Application for Preliminary Qualification, go to:

<https://www.davisonschools.org/cms/lib/MI02211530/Centricity/Domain/1498/Preliminary%20Qualification%20for%20Bond.pdf>



### Donation accepted

Board of Education members gratefully accepted the following contribution:

- **Al Sumner** of Jack and the Beanstalk, made a financial donation to the DHS Volleyball program to help purchase a new volleyball net system.

### It's Administration Appreciation Month

November has been declared as Administration Appreciation Month at DCS. Be sure to thank a school administrator!

### January board date set

Board members will hold their first meeting after the holidays on January 13, 2020. Since the board meetings dates for the year are scheduled at the January Organizational meeting, board members needed to select the date of its January meeting. The remainder of the meeting dates for 2020 will be proposed at the January 13 meeting.

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

## DCER Supervisor Rachael Suchy is “Kids First” November recipient

Davison Community Enrichment and Recreation (DCER) Supervisor **Rachael Suchy** is the November 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.

Suchy was nominated by Director of Public Information and Community Outreach **Michelle Edwards**, who wrote:

“During her short time as the supervisor for Davison Community Enrichment and Recreation, Rachael has been the driving force behind bringing many new and engaging opportunities to meet the needs of kids in so many different areas of interest. Just one example of this is the Davison Youth Theatre troupe, which performed its first production over the summer and is planning its next performance for the holidays. Students interested in theater and the performing arts now have an opportunity to experience and practice these skills. This is just one of the areas where Rachael saw a need and provided the leadership and energy to make things happen.

“One of the reasons Rachael is so good at her job and recognizing the needs when it comes to finding enrichment activities for our youth is because she is a mom with active children. The other reason is that she is also a big kid at heart herself. She never turns down an opportunity to make her job fun, even if that means dressing up like a dragon or a clown in a local parade to promote upcoming DCER events.

“Rachael is one of those rare people who sees obstacles as opportunities. She is selfless when it comes to the time she devotes to making sure an activity goes off without a hitch and creative in coming up with themes and ideas for events. Her happy-go-lucky demeanor and huge heart are exactly the reasons why she is so good at her job and making sure that not only kids, but that everyone, comes first.”

Other great DCS staff members who were nominated this month include: Business Office Purchasing Secretary **Caitlin Bentoski**, Hahn Intermediate Teacher **Cayla Dowdall**, Davison Middle School Paraprofessional **Tracy Hackman**, Bus Driver **Norene Iseler**, Bus Driver **JoAnn McCarty**, Thomson Elementary Paraprofessional **Carly Morgan** and Hill Elementary Success Coordinator **Amy Walker**.



**DCER Supervisor Rachael Suchy is joined by her husband and three sons, Director of Public Information Michelle Edwards, Superintendent Kevin Brown and Board of Education President Kathy Sudia.**



# Presentations

## Teacher Chantel Doyle is a real “Hahn Hero” after saving student’s life

On Thursday, October 3, Hahn Intermediate Teacher **Chantel Doyle** used the Heimlich maneuver on one of her students after he began to choke on gum. The students were in the flex lab and Chantel quickly jumped in and, through her efforts, dislodged the gum.

It was a very frightening situation but rather than taking a little break, she stayed with her students to reassure them everything was OK.

“She was truly amazing and very humble, but she saved a student that day,” said Hahn Intermediate Assistant Principal Keri Collins.

Board members honored Chantel at their November meeting for her life-saving efforts.

Chantel has been teaching with Davison Community Schools since 2006.



Hahn Intermediate Teacher Chantel Doyle was recognized for saving a student’s life.

## DHS Cardinal LINKS program moves from club to classroom

A peer-to-peer mentoring program that began as a club several years ago is now a class for Davison High Schools students who want to assist and support students with disabilities.

“Sometimes school is a little tougher for some of our kids (with disabilities),” said **Holly Halabicky**, Executive Director of Student Services. “The LINKS program allows these kids to be matched up with another student they can go to if they have questions and have the opportunity to have a peer role model right in the classroom with them.”

Students must apply for the class. Once they are accepted and paired with a buddy, they attend an assigned class with their buddy.

Davison High School Teacher **Shaun Kovatch** said the LINKS program has proven to be mutually beneficial for both the mentors and their buddies. That sentiment was shared over and over as students shared their experiences so far in the program.

“We are not there just to be a mentor but we are there to be a friend,” said Davison High School senior **Levi Stevens**.

**Joshua Squires** said he was overwhelmed when his buddy, **Andrew**, took the time to draw him a New England Patriots logo because he knew it was Joshua’s favorite football team. Joshua said it also has been inspiring to watch his buddy as well as other classmates pick up on social cues while interacting with each other.

“It’s nice to see the rest of the class be nice and open to him,” he said of his buddy. “He’s never made to feel like an outcast. He is supported and liked by the other students and staff in the school.”

“Through all the hard work and high fives, we’ve become really good friends,” LINKS student **Rebekah Hall** said of her buddy, **Parker**.

**Meghan Symons**, who also serves as a mentor to Parker, said she was thankful to be a part of the LINKS program.

“Parker is one of the sweetest kids I have ever met,” she said. “What I want people to know about this program is that if someone has a disability, it does not define them.”



Davison High School student Rebekah Hall talks about the LINKS program.



# Presentations

## Hahn student's acts of kindness earns special Blueberry recognition

When it came to selecting three random acts of kindness to fulfill her duties as a Blueberry Ambassador, **Josie Rogers** did not shy away from thinking big. The then-fifth grader even made a personal sacrifice by donating 8 inches of her hair—or as she referred to it, her “pride and joy.”

“At first I was unsure if I could handle losing eight inches of my hair but I just reminded myself that someone that has gone through a lot of pain and sickness would have it,” said Rogers, now a sixth grader at Hahn Intermediate. “It made me feel really good doing it because I knew that it would end up with someone who needed it.”

In its seventh year, the Blueberry Ambassador program challenges students throughout Genesee County to make a difference in their communities by completing three acts of random kindness within a specified period of time. Davison students have been involved in the program since its inception by founder Phil Schaltz.

The acts of kindness performed by Josie impressed Schaltz so much that she was selected as Davison's Blue Ribbon Award winner by the Genesee County Educational Foundation. On Monday night, Davison school board members honored Rogers for earning the designation, which came with a \$100 contribution to her school to support educational programs.

In addition to donating her long locks, Rogers enlisted the help of her sisters to make and sell bracelets to support her cousin, who was born with pediatric congenital heart disease. With the help of other family members, she raised \$1,000 for her cousin's family to help with medical bills and financial support.



**Josie's first random act of kindness was to donate her hair. She said it was a tough decision to make.**

your words. If you use your words that's already an act of kindness and I feel that people should do that every day.”



**Josie accepts a certificate for her accomplishment as a Blueberry Ribbon Award winner from Superintendent Kevin Brown and Board of Education President Kathy Sudia.**

“This act of kindness is a lot bigger than I've ever done and I'm glad I was able to do this and help my family,” Josie said. “...I know that once my cousin's family gets through this, they are going to carry on the kindness and help someone else someday and give them the same (Blueberry) card I gave them.”

For her third act of kindness, or “Blueberry Moment,” Josie grabbed a bunch of sticky notes and got to work writing hundreds of positive messages that she later stuck on her classmates' lockers. She said she wrote kind compliments for the person whose locker the sticky note was put on.

“People are always down because of mean and harsh words, and I wanted to change that,” Josie said.

While the reactions from her classmate varied once they found the notes on their lockers, Josie said she learned a valuable lesson.

“Sure, some people didn't appreciate the act of kindness but the some that did appreciate it were worth it,” she explained. “I'm so glad I did this act of kindness because I realized that you don't need to go somewhere or do something extra special just for that to be an act of kindness. You have

# Presentations

## National Merit Scholarship Program includes three DHS students

Three Davison High School students have been recognized by the 2020 National Merit® Scholarship Program.

**Montgomery Stheiner and Robert Walker** have been named Semi-Finalists while **Jason Millis** has been recognized as a Commended Student.

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®)—which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

Jason represents Davison High School among 34,000 students of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT® to receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Commended Students are named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that may vary from year to year and is typically below the level required for participants to be named Semifinalists in their respective states. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit® Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

Montgomery and Robert are among about 16,000 high school students notified of their qualification as a Semi-Finalist. To ensure that academically talented young people from all parts of the United States are included in this talent pool, Semi-finalists are designated on a state-representational basis. They are the highest scoring entrants in each state. NMSC provides scholarship application materials to Semi-finalists through their high schools. To be considered for a National Merit® Scholarship, Semi-finalists must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards and all other requirements explained in the information provided to each Semi-finalist.

Jason is the son of Craig and Rebecca Millis. He not only excels in academics but as an athlete as well. He runs cross country and plans to run at the collegiate level. His future plans include attending Michigan State University to become a journalist. Jason has also achieved the level of Eagle Scout.

Montgomery is the son of Shane and Terri Stheiner. He is a member of the marching band, jazz band and pit orchestra. He also participates in the Lapeer Symphony Orchestra, the Flint Youth Symphony Orchestra, Flint Youth Wind Ensemble and the University of Michigan-Flint Honors Band. Montgomery is a member of the National Honor Society. He wants to pursue a career in the area of finance and is undecided between Notre Dame and Michigan State.

Robert is the son of Stephen and Amy Walker. He has challenged himself with almost every AP class that Davison offers. Robert is also the current captain of the tennis team, member of National Honor Society and Varsity Skeet team, and even owns a business. He has earned the rank of Eagle Scout and is considering several colleges with Michigan State and the University of Michigan at the top of his list to study actuarial science.



**Davison High School Principal Ron Jacobs, Superintendent Kevin Brown, Jason Millis, Robert Walker and Board President Kathy Sudia. Montgomery Stheiner (inset) was unable to attend due to his involvement in the Flint Youth Symphony Orchestra.**





# Presentations

## DECA students once again leading district's Cool to Care campaign

Three Davison High School marketing students are leading the charge for this year's annual Cool to Care campaign. Seniors **Myrna Walters**, **Zoey Nolf** and **Madelynn Dunn** are spreading the word about this year's goal of collecting two cans per student districtwide.

Cool to Care is the district's annual canned food and non-perishable drive. All money and items collected go directly to Outreach East, a non-denominational, walk-in, year-round emergency resource center dedicated to assisting area individuals and families with food and other essentials.

While the push may seem a little more low-key than goals set in the past, the trio believes more will donate if the collection is student-driven and celebrated in individual classrooms rather than school-wide.

"There will be more opportunities for prizes that way and each class will have a student ambassador," Zoey said. "This will make it more student driven."

Myrna added that by asking every student to bring in just two cans, it takes the pressure off others who feel like they are the only ones donating to the cause.

Of course, students are encouraged and welcomed to bring in more than the two cans, added Madelynn.

This year's campaign will also include a chance for the entire community to get involved with drop boxes placed at Davison home athletic events and a community wide donation day at the Davison Library. "Miracle Minute" fundraisers will also be held at basketball games.

Madelynn said when Mr. **Matt Ames**, Davison High School teacher and DECA sponsor, approached them about organizing the Cool to Care project, she first did a little research about Outreach East and our community.

"At first I didn't realize the impact of (Outreach East)," she said. "Everything we collect stays in our community and helps benefit our community."

Zoey said she hopes that her participation in this year's Cool to Care campaign will inspire younger students to want to get involved in the future.

"I want younger kids to know how big of an impact we can have when kids want to be involved," she said.



**Myrna Walters and Zoey Nolf outline this year's Cool to Care campaign goal of collecting two cans per student at the November Board of Education meeting.**





## Leading the Pledge

Students with the Davison High School Cardinal LINKS program led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at the November Board of Education meeting. The students were accompanied by Principal Ron Jacobs, Teacher Shaun Kovatch and Social Worker Melissa Biazza. Students also shared a presentation on the LINKS program later in the evening with Board of Education members.

