



DUNDEE DISPATCH

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DUNDEE ELEMENTARY PTO

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

September Greetings,

Our 2025-226 school year is off to a great start! University of Dundee - **Taking Knowledge to Higher Places** is our theme for this school year and we are thrilled to have **nearly 500 students** and 59 staff members working towards our goal of **ALL students reading on grade level by 2030.**

Whether you're returning or joining our Dundee school community for the first time, we are so glad to have you with us! We know that a **strong connection between home and school** is essential, and we are committed to open, honest communication throughout the year. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out. **Our doors are always open.**

On behalf of the entire staff, thank you for entrusting us with your children. We are looking forward to a wonderful year together.

With much care,
Kaye Kennedy
Principal



IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 1: NO SCHOOL

Sept. 3: 6:30 PTO Meeting

Sept. 12: Dundee Direct School Assembly and Neighborhood Walk

Sept. 23: Late Start

Oct. 1: 6:30 PTO Meeting

Oct. 3: NO SCHOOL

Oct. 8: 7:45 - 8:45 a.m. - National Walk to School Day

Oct. 10: Fall Festival

Oct. 13: Book Fair Start

Oct. 16: Book Fair End

Oct. 16-17: NO SCHOOL

See all upcoming events at
www.DundeePTO.org

WELCOME BACK!



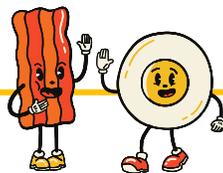
A FEW REMINDERS

ATTENDANCE MATTERS:

Did you know it takes an average of **three days for students to catch up** for every one day they're absent? Omaha Public Schools is committed to working with our families to support student attendance every day, because we know every minute counts. Our district has **updated our action plan** to follow state guidelines on assisting students who miss a significant amount of class time. Our student **attendance team will meet with families** of students who have **20 total** absences, whether or not those absences are excused. The team will work with the family to create a **collaborative plan to improve attendance**. You can make an impact on your student's attendance now, and we are here to help. If anything is getting in the way of getting your student to school, please contact us at 531-299-1340.

LUNCH MONEY AND MEAL APPLICATION

Meal applications are required if you'd like to apply for a free or reduced-price lunch. The grace period (**Sept. 24**) **is the deadline for meal applications** before students become full pay without an approved meal application. When an application is submitted and processed, the students will become whatever meal code (free, reduced, or paid) the students qualify for based on the family income or public assistance qualifications at that time. Nutrition Services is federally required to process meal applications within 10 days of receiving them. If your meal application has been processed, **the status will take effect immediately**. Full pay lunch price is \$2.50. Reduced pay lunch is \$.40. Students bringing lunch from home can purchase a milk for \$.50.



BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Dundee provides a **free, nutritious breakfast each morning** to any student who would like one. All students enter the building at 8:30. Those participating in the breakfast program should check in with their teacher and immediately come to the cafeteria to pick up breakfast. Thank you for timing your drop off accordingly.

DEVICE (IPAD)

PROTECTION PLAN:

To participate in this plan, the **\$20 per device fee is due September 12**. We can take cash, credit card, or check (made out to Douglas County School District 001). The Device (iPad) Protection Plan will not apply until the \$20 is received.



STUDENT CELL PHONE USE

Phones and smart watches are not used at school. If your child needs to bring one, the expectation is that phones are **turned off** and in their backpacks during the school day. If you need to get a hold of your child during school hours,

“School hours” means from the time a student enters the bus or school property until the end of the school day when they leave the school property or get off the school bus.



A NOTE FROM THE PTO PRESIDENTS

Welcome back, Dundee families!

Dundee Elementary is a wonderful school, and it is **made even better by the involvement and support of our families.** That's why we chose to serve as this year's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Presidents. We'd love for you to **join us** in strengthening our school community.

Each year, we host just one **fundraiser—Dundee Direct—to support our activities, and it kicks off this month!** Throughout September, we're asking families to contribute what they can toward our \$30,000 goal. Your donations help to fund **teacher grants, classroom projects, school improvements, and PTO-sponsored events** for the whole family.

This school year is already off to a great start with back to school night, grounds clean up, our sixth graders marching in the annual Dundee Day Parade, and Dundee Day t-shirt sales to show off our Wildcat spirit all year long. We're fortunate to have a dedicated board and an amazing group of volunteers—and we'd love for you to be part of it, too, as we support our students, teachers, and staff.

Anne and Ben Dey
Dundee PTO Presidents



PTO Presidents, Anne and Ben Dey, with their kids Grace (8th grade), Siri (6th) and Lily (3rd)

DUNDEE



AWESOME SINCE 1904

You can **sign up to become a PTO member online at DundeePTO.org**

Membership gives you access to volunteer opportunities, the school events calendar, and an online directory of Dundee students and families.

DUNDEE DIRECT

THE ANNUAL DIRECT-GIVING FUNDRAISER

September 1st - 30th

WHAT IS DUNDEE DIRECT?

Dundee Direct is our annual fundraiser. Instead of asking our kids to sell popcorn or giftwrap, we ask just one time each year for families to donate what they can. With this direct giving campaign, ALL of the money raised goes to the Dundee Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Our goal is to raise \$30,000!

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

The PTO uses the money raised to make sure our school stays amazing for all of our children. The funds are used for the following and much more:

- Teacher grants to buy classroom materials
- Classroom activities
- Books for all students
- Accessories for updated iPads
- Enrichment clubs
- Student and family events

HOW CAN OUR FAMILY BE INVOLVED?

1. You can make a donation in any amount.
2. You can ask family members, friends, neighbors and businesses/workplaces to donate. Be sure to ask if your company matches donations!
3. You can volunteer to help with school activities and support your child at home. Visit the Dundee PTO site to learn more at www.DundeePTO.org

Students will learn more about Dundee Direct at a pep rally on September 12. Students in grades 2-6 will take a neighborhood walk with their classroom teacher to place letters in neighbors' doors. Our goal is to reach neighbors who may have had children who attended Dundee or those neighbors who would like to support our school. If your student is in grades 2-6, please return the permission form to allow them to participate.

WAYS TO DONATE

1 Send your donation in an envelope to school with your student. If donating by check, please make the check payable to "Dundee Elementary PTO"

2 Donate online by scanning the code below or visiting: <https://bit.ly/dundee-direct>



3 Send a check to:
Omaha Public Schools
Foundation
Attn: Dundee Direct 2025-
2026 Fundraiser
3861 Farnam St.
Omaha, NE 68131

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

At Dundee, we are committed to providing a safe environment for students, staff, and visitors. To prepare staff and students for emergencies, we will be practicing all our emergency drills this month. Planned drills include:



Secure Drill – Wednesday, September 3

- Takes place when an external threat is identified. All staff/students return to the building if outside and remain inside. Outside doors are locked. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an “all clear” announcement is made.

Lockdown Drill – Wednesday, September 10

- Takes place if an internal threat is identified at the school. All school doors are locked, and students are confined to classrooms. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an “all clear” announcement is made.

Severe Weather/Shelter Drill – Wednesday, September 17

- Students and Staff take refuge in designated areas to protect themselves from severe weather or other hazards.

Fire Drill – Wednesday, September 24

- The building is quickly evacuated when the fire alarm sounds.

Hold Drill – Wednesday, October 1

- Students clear the hallway and remain in their classroom. This could occur if a child got sick in the hallway, or another minor incident.

Evacuation Drill – Wednesday, October 8

- In certain building emergencies, students will be relocated to an evacuation assembly area.
- Our evacuation site is A.V. Sorenson Community Center
- Our alternate site, if A.V. Sorenson is closed, is Brownell Talbot

You can help us by ensuring that your child’s **emergency contact information is accurate and current.** Please contact us if your cell phone, house phone, or work phone numbers change. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to give us a call at the main office.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

SEPTEMBER 2025 | ISSUE 1

INDEPENDENCE AT LUNCHTIME



We've been practicing independence at lunchtime with our Kindergarten friends. **When students learn to open their own milk cartons**, they earn their Milk Muscles! When they open their cold lunch items, they earn their Cold Lunch Muscles! These small successes build confidence and responsibility. Please encourage these "work outs" at home!

FOCUS ON LITERACY



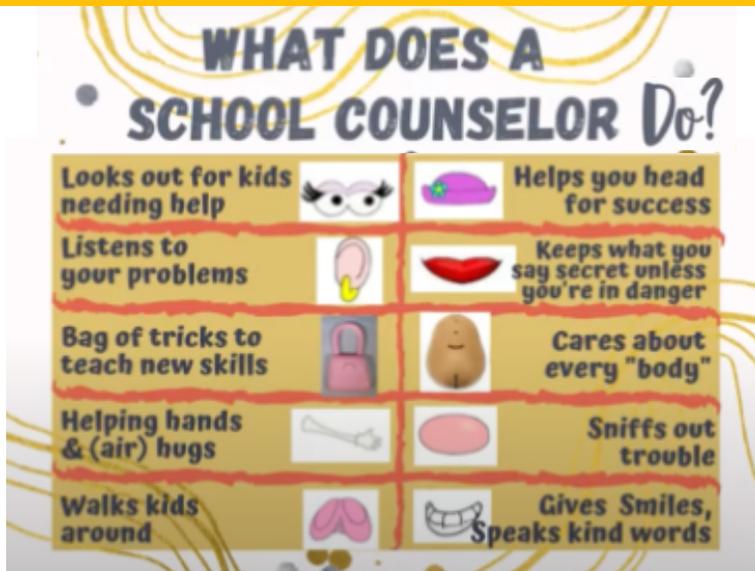
Omaha Public Schools strives to focus on literacy. One way we can support kids at home is by modeling good reading habits. Each month I'll share a **Counselor's Book Pick** to encourage this practice. My September choice is: *The Awakened Family: A Revolution in Parenting* — a thoughtful read that's even helped me in my own parenting journey and was my main reading focus this past Summer.

Hi families! I'm Mrs. Storm, Dundee's school counselor! Each week, I teach a **social-emotional lessons in classrooms** to help students in skills such as friendship, coping, problem-solving, emotional regulation and independence. I also meet with students for short-term, solution-focused counseling to support them when they are struggling, as well as lead small social skills groups.

Think of me as a "feelings teacher," "friendship navigator," and a helper who gives kids "Storm Stopping" **strategies to help them regulate emotions**. I do not provide ongoing long-term therapy; however, I do have resources that I can provide upon request.



The first two weeks were spent getting to know each other, and reviewing **"Who Is My Counselor and How Can I Use Her?"**



Please reach out if there are any support needs or questions at jennifer.storm@ops.org. I look forward to being a part of your children's life and learning journey.

Jenny Storm (Bartenbach)
M.S., School Counseling
M.Ed., Educational Leadership



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Omaha Coat Giveaways

October 11th | 3pm-7pm
Assumption Church Gym
5602 S 22nd St.



October 25th | 8am-1pm
Omaha Home for Boys
4343 N 52nd St.

Proof required for number of people in family receiving coats

To ensure everyone receives the coats they need, each person/family can only attend one giveaway.



Scan here for more info.