Engaging, challenging, and inspiring all students to pursue their full potential.

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Two of five projects complete!

Thank you again, community members, for your commitment to the DeForest Area School District.

With the passing of the April 7 referendum, work began immediately to create learning spaces that:

- Increase Capacity
- Improve Learning Spaces
- Improve Safety & Security
- Address Aging Buildings & Infrastructure

DASD to honor four in Norski Walk of Honor & Alumni Hall of Fame

Please join us:

Dale Jenkins & Sue Paulson
Norski Walk of Honor
Sunday, September 20 | 1:00 pm
(lunch and ceremony)
DAHS Performing Arts Center
RSVP required

Chris Dorsey & Laura Green
Alumni Hall of Fame
Thursday, September 24 | 5:00 pm
(reception and ceremony)
DAHS Performing Arts Center
RSVP not required

More information
www.deforestschools.org

More on page 2....
Two projects complete!

- Yahara Elementary School
  - Completed
  - New office to better support a secured entrance
  - Create safer separation of bus and parent traffic

- DeForest Area Middle School
  - Completed
  - Remodel space for STEM and Technical Education

- Eagle Point Elementary School
  - Design phase
  - Build new school on existing site
  - Create safer separation of bus and parent traffic
  - Demolish existing school after completion of new

- Windsor Elementary School
  - Design phase
  - Build major additions and remodel portions of school
  - Create safer separation of bus and parent traffic
  - Demolish oldest sections after completion of additions

- DeForest Area High School
  - Design phase
  - Build addition and removal space for STEM, Technical Education, and Agri-Science

Follow our progress!
www.DASDconstruction.org

Celebrating progress!

Ground breaking for the Yahara Elementary School project took place on June 16.

An Open House was held on July 23 to kick off the DeForest Area Middle School STEM project.

Eagle Point, Windsor, and High School STEM
(Below) Staff representing WES, EPES, and High School Tech. Ed./Agri-Science continue to meet with Bray Architects and Findorff Construction staff to design and refine these spaces.

(Below) Current rendering of common space that will separate the remodeled Tech. Ed./Agri-Science spaces and the new addition at the high school.

Kobussen, new school bus service

Last spring the DASD Board of Education approved Kobussen as the district’s new school transportation company. Contacts for the new company are as follows:
Office: (608) 842-2218
Route information: Mary Baumann
Manager: Steve Rammer

Kohl nominations due Sept 25

The 26th annual Herb Kohl Fellowship program is now taking nominations to recognize teaching excellence and innovation in the State of Wisconsin. The Fellowship Foundation awards $3,000 to 100 Wisconsin teachers and each Kohl Fellowship recipient’s school receives a matching $3,000 grant. Teachers can be nominated by parents, teachers, students, community members, or school district administrators. The applications of the public school Kohl fellowship recipients are automatically used as the applicants for the Wisconsin Teacher of the Year program. More information and nomination forms are available at www.kohleducation.org. Completed nomination forms can be submitted directly to the Department of Public Education or to Sue Wilson, DASD Director of Instructional Services at the District Administrative Center. They are due to DPI by September 25.
Check out the DASD e-News Blog

Whitetails Unlimited grant supports Big Hill

High school Agriculture and Natural Resources Instructor, Dan Kvalheim, recently received a $1,000 grant award from Whitetails Unlimited to purchase tools for maintaining the school district’s Big Hill Environmental Learning Center. The funds were matched with another $1,000 from the FFA’s Land Lab proceeds. In addition, two businesses, Johnsons Sales and Stihl, provided a discount on the purchase of the tools. Read more at www.dasdnews.org.

Teachers and Chamber members learn about pathways to success for students

Several DASD teachers and local business people came together on Thursday, August 20 to learn more about Wisconsin’s labor market and academic and career planning for students. Read more at www.dasdnews.org.


DASD Parent Support Group

Barbara Buffington, Director of Pupil Services for DASD, is again facilitating a discussion group for parents/guardians of students with disabilities or students with 504 plans within the DeForest Area School District. This group of parents provide support to each other in areas of special education, collaboration with schools, mental health, behavior, autism, severe disability areas, as well as technical assistance in special education issues. The meetings are confidential and are held on the third Wednesday of the month, 4-6 pm, at the Holmen Education Center (Board Room)

September 16
November 18
January 20
March 16
May 18

Information is available on the eFlyers webpage. Or, contact Julie Hartman at jhartman@deforest.schoool.org for more information.

Brandl and Williams to represent DASD at symposium in China

Eighth grade science teacher Jen Brandl and reading specialist Kathy Williams have been selected to represent the DeForest Area School District at the 2nd Annual Global K-12 Educational Research Symposium on science and reading in China. The symposium is hosted by the district’s Chinese sister school in Shijiazhuang. The three-day symposium, which will include science and reading teachers from other sister schools around the world, will use a format similar to Ted Talks. Brandl and Williams will prepare a 15-20 minute presentation on how, as teachers, they cultivate students’ abilities in science/reading. Both have received a scholarship from the symposium organizers that covers their round trip airfare, hotel, and meals.

DASD News
September 2015

School Spotlight

New students treated to breakfast in August

In August high school and middle school counselors each held their annual breakfast for students new to the DeForest Area School District. Staff shared information about their school’s daily schedule, answered questions, and gave a tour of the school. Pictured above are new students to DAMS.

High school marching band prepares for Homecoming

DAHS Band Director, Brandon Bautz, leads the student marching band in practice on Friday, August 28. Over 50 students were in attendance to prepare for the “Bruno Mars Spectacular Show” at the Homecoming half-time show on Friday, Sept. 25. Homecoming festivities are planned for the week of September 20.

Rotary exchange student prepares for year in Taiwan

Rianna Taylor, a junior at DeForest Area High School, left on August 22 for a year in Taiwan, through the Rotary International Exchange Program. She is traveling to Zhunan (Miaoli County), a small town in the northern part of Taiwan, near Taipei. Rianna will live with four different families throughout the year, and attend school, until she leaves in July 2016. Rianna has been studying the (Traditional) Chinese language since finding out in January 2015 that she was being placed in Taiwan. When she arrives in Taiwan, she will be asked to give a presentation – in Chinese – about herself, family and her hometown of DeForest. DeForest Rotary members served as her practice audience during their July 29 meeting. Rianna gave the presentation in Chinese, stopping to provide an English translation along the way. “We were amazed at her command of the language and fluency by which she spoke,” said DeForest Rotarian Debbie Brewster. The DeForest Area Rotary Club will follow her exchange experience throughout the year.

“Don’t you use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.”
—Maya Angelou
DASD Updates

In Brief

Student assessments
Students in Wisconsin will continue to be given standardized tests during the school year. One change, however, is that students in 3rd-8th grades will not take the Badger Exam, which was administered this past spring. While students in these grade levels will be administered standardized tests in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math during the Spring of 2016, the State of Wisconsin has not yet made a decision on which test will be utilized.

The tentative testing window for these exams is March 28 - May 20. District staff will communicate with parents when more information is available.

The tentative testing window for these exams is March 28 - May 20. District staff will communicate with parents when more information is available.

Additional, please note that the Spring 2015 Badger and ACT/Appear assessment results were recently made available to the district and will be shared with families in the very near future.

Our school district also uses assessment tools that help teachers see if students, and the district, are making progress with their individual achievement goals.

Students in kindergarten through fourth grade are administered various assessments designed to determine their literacy skills and independent reading levels. Additionally, all students in K-10th grade take a standards-based assessment called STAR at several points during the school year to monitor their progress in English/Language Arts and Math.

Additional information and a list of testing dates for 2015-16 are available on the DASD website (home page, under Current Topics). Parents may also review some of their child’s assessment results through Skyward Family Access.

Emergency Communication
In the event of an emergency or immediate safety notice, including a school closing, delay or early release due to inclement weather, DASD will communicate with staff, students, parents and the community through text messages*, email, the DASD website, and automated phone calls.

*Parents and staff must opt in for text messages. (No need to opt in again, unless the phone number has changed.)

Information will be communicated when appropriate, at the direction of the Superintendent, and as immediately as possible in the following ways:

District website www.deforestschool.org
Special DASD Alert at top of page

Automated phone message Uses phone contact(s) provided in Skyward Family Access

Email message Uses email address(es) provided in Skyward Family Access

Text message Opt in required. Text optin to 66645. You will receive a confirmation reply message.

Like us on Facebook deforestareaenschools

Follow us on Twitter deforestareaenschools

Local television and radio stations Complete list on DASD website

Early Release Days
Student achievement continues to be dependent on educational professionals collaborating and assessing student progress. Early release days are scheduled throughout the school year to provide teachers with blocks of time to work together in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). During the two hours that students are released, teachers work in their PLCs on the following tasks:

• Aligning curriculum
• Developing common assessments
• Analyzing data to inform instruction
• Developing and/or analyzing SMART Goals
• Consensus grading
• Analyzing RfD data
• Sharing instructional strategies
• Vertical alignment
• Professional development as a PLC group


Mark your calendar!

Saturday, September 12
Yahara Riverfest
12:00-7:00 pm, Conservancy Commons Park, DeForest
Come out for a fun-filled day of family-friendly activities for all ages that celebrates our community’s largest natural asset. www.yaharariverfest.com

September 20-26
Homecoming 2014
Sunday, Sept 20, 1 pm …Norski Walk of Honor Induction Monday, Sept 21, 7 pm …Community Pep Rally Thursday, Sept 25, 5 pm …Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Friday, Sept 26, 5 pm …Homecoming Parade Saturday, Sept 26 …High School Dance, 8-11 pm …Grand March, 9:30 pm

Students, alumni, and community - show your Norski Pride. Join in the festivities and athletic events at DAHS!

Scholastic Book Fairs
October 1 - Yahara Elementary School
October 20-22 - Windsor Elementary School
November 9 - Eagle Point Elementary School
November 2-9 - DeForest Area Middle School

Thursday, October 29
Community Trick or Treat
5:00-7:00 pm
Hosted by DAHS National Honor Society

Holiday Gift Giving for families in need
DeForest Area Clergy Association in conjunction with the DeForest Area Needs Network (DANN), Joining Forces for Families (JFF), and DeForest Area School District will be sponsoring this annual program, which responds to needs in the community. Eligible families will receive information in the mail in late September. Community members may donate gifts in November and December.

2nd Annual Community Choir
Join the fun! The Community Choir is back! This is a chance for singers from the DeForest Area of all ages and backgrounds to join together with students from the DeForest Area High School Choral Department and make some truly beautiful music. This year, we will be performing Aaron Copland’s The Promise of Living from The Tender Land. The piece will finish out our Winter Choir Concert on Thursday, December 10th. More info.

Upcoming events in the Madison area
Saturday Science at Discovery: Bugs, Bugs and More Bugs September 5 discovery.wisc.edu/SaturdayScience
IronKids Fun Run September 12 www.visitwisconsin.com/ironkids
Arboretum Family Walk: Fun with Fungi September 13 arboretum.wisc.edu/visit/events
World Dairy Expo September 29 – October 3 Alliant Energy Center worlddairyexpo.com
Wisconsin Book Festival October 1, 6-7 pm Madison Public Library www.wisconsinbookfestival.org
Halloween at the Zoo October 25 Henry Vilas Park Zoological Society www.vilasoo.org/events
Aldo Leopold Art Discovery Day October 31 www.aldoleopold.org/home.shtml
Wisconsin Dog Fair November 1 Alliant Energy Center badgerkenneclub.com/event/sun-nov-1-2015-wisconsin-dog-fair
Show your Norski Pride at stadium

Show your Norski Pride with a personalized engraved paver for you, your family, business or organization at DMB Stadium!

8x8, 8x16, and 16x16

To be placed in the “D” in the Central Plaza

As part of the DASD school-community partnership campaign to continue raising funds for enhancement of the high school stadium renovation, local businesses and organizations, as well as individuals and families, may consider one of the various sponsorship or donation opportunities.

More information and order forms

The DeForest Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap in employment and its educational programs and activities.