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

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Help name the new Intermediate School

One of the projects approved by DASD residents as part of the April 2, 2019 referendum, is a new Intermediate School for grades 4-6. The facility projects position the district to meet our growing enrollment needs and provide educational environments that support the success of all students.

The new Intermediate School will be completed by fall 2021. At that time, our existing elementary schools will accommodate grades K-3, and the existing middle school will serve grades 7 and 8.

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Referendum project update

Groundbreaking for the new school will take place this coming spring, with the school ready by fall 2021. Until then, the Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA) design team continues to work closely with district staff and engineering consultants to finalize the structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection systems.

Discussions also continue on developmentally appropriate programming for students in grades 4, 5, and 6. In October and November, staff and administration visited three schools to view their learning spaces and to dialog with staff on how they deliver programming to their students. They visited Waunakee Intermediate School, Horizon Elementary School in Pewaukee, and Silver Springs Intermediate School in Sussex.

In addition, the selection process for furniture vendors has started. Staff and administration met with several vendors and followed up with site visits to Hartland North Elementary School, Barneveld School District, and Madison College. Demco and Duet have been selected.

Continued on page 3
Intermediate School name continued from page 1

From November 18, 2019 to January 20, 2020, parents, students, staff, and community members are invited to provide suggestions to name the new Intermediate School. Following January 20th, the following process will be used:

1. DASD Administration/Board of Education will narrow down suggestions to 3-5 choices.
2. Students in grades 4-6 will be given the opportunity to provide input into the choices.
3. The DASD Board of Education will make the final selection by March 2020.

Current school names and some historical information is available on the district website.

Referendum update

High School Additions & Renovations

New main entrance on west side of school by circle drive

The construction phase for the high school renovation and addition project will take place between spring 2020 through the summer of 2022. With the design phase nearing completion, the EUA design team will work with district staff and engineering consultants to finalize the structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection systems. Construction will begin this spring on the new pool and gym additions.

Yahara Elementary School

Plan to begin the construction of the new elementary school which is currently located on the west side of the Yahara Elementary School project. This project includes remodeling the school for the new K-3 grade configuration. The construction phase, which was originally planned for the summer of 2020, has been pushed to the summer of 2021 to avoid retrofitting the 4th grade for one year into spaces not necessarily built for them. YES staff will work with EUA this spring to finalize the designs.

Middle School/District Office

Findorff Construction has started work on the fields on the south side of the middle school (see photo at right). This includes regrading and seeding the fields to improve safety and to accommodate school and community demand. Another facility project includes moving the District Administrative Offices to a portion of the Middle School (part of the current 7th/8th grade portion). Staff have begun a pre-design phase to plan for these spaces. Design work will continue through the spring with the remodeling work scheduled to begin in Summer 2021.

New Intermediate School, continued from page 1

New Intermediate School Principal, Roy Bernards and Director of Instructional Services, Rebecca Toetz met with grade-level teams in December to provide an update on the intermediate school schedule and delivery model of curriculum and programs.

Lastly, the school district is soliciting input on the name of the new intermediate school. The deadline to submit suggestions is January 20, 2020. See separate article in this newsletter (pp.16-2).

Here’s how to submit your suggestion for the name of our new Intermediate School...

Submission deadline Jan. 20th

Online Form
bit.ly/2NYPhGv

Scan QR code

Paper versions of the survey are also available at all of our schools, at the DeForest Area Public Library, the Village of DeForest office, and the Village of Windsor office.

CRITERIA: Those making suggestions are asked to use the following criteria:

- Aligns with DeForest Area School District mission
- Represents the geographical area in which it is located
- Will endure over time without controversy
- Will not be confused with other regional school names
- Translates well in other languages
- Easily pronounced by students, ages 9-12

We are here!

Design

Construction

2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

2019-20

2020-21

2021-22

2022-23

SPRING

SUMMER

HALL

WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

HALL

WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

HALL

WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

HALL

WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

HALL

WINTER

We are here!
Property tax impact to DASD residents

The April 2019 referendum approved by residents supported the DeForest Area School District by:
- increasing capacity for our rapidly growing student population,
- addressing aging facilities and infrastructure,
- providing collaborative, flexible learning spaces to support evolving teaching and learning needs, and
- supporting operational expenses associated with new facilities and improved educational programming.

$125 million for facilities includes:
- New Intermediate School for grades 4-6
- Addition and renovations at the High School (grades 9-12)
- Renovations at the Middle School (grades 7-8)
- Renovations at Yahara Elementary School (grades K-3)

In addition, Morrisonville Elementary School was closed in June 2019 and the Holomu Education Center will be closed by fall 2022.

The operational funding will improve educational programming and operate newly expanded facilities, and includes:
- $1.5 million to fund staffing costs and other operating expenses associated with new facilities
- $1 million to support student needs with increased staffing and strategic programming and improve the District’s ability to attract and retain high-quality staff

$25 million for operations includes:
- $12 million for facilities
- $10 million to support student needs with increased staffing and strategic programming

Referendum property tax impact to DASD Residents

In April 2019, the District worked with Baird Financial Services to provide residents with an estimated tax impact to property owners. Since April, the District has been able to secure a lower than estimated interest rate on the first $50 million bond sale (see comparison below). Securing this amount allowed the District to take advantage of lower interest rates and avoid almost $28 million dollars in interest costs over the term of the bond. The District will borrow the remaining portion next year. This amount will have a smaller tax impact than the first borrowing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>2019 Estimate $</th>
<th>2019 Estimate $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>1.80 per $1,000 of property value</td>
<td>1.60 per $1,000 of property value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>9.44 per $1,000 of property value</td>
<td>8.8 per $1,000 of property value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2.74 per $1,000 of property value</td>
<td>$2.48 per $1,000 of property value</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Tax Levy Variables

The following variables impact the school district’s total tax levy and individual property taxes each year:
- Fair market and assessed property values increasing or decreasing
- Economic and residential growth in the community
- Student enrollment growth or decline
- State budget allocations for school aids and changes in school revenue limits
- Municipality tax incremental districts (TIDS) closing and increasing the number of property owners sharing in the costs of the school tax levy

More detailed information is available in the 2019 Guide for Property Owners, published by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

Food Allergy Management Plan fosters safety for students

Our school district is dedicated to fostering the health, nutrition and well-being of students with allergies by providing education and a supportive school community. This has led to the creation of a ‘Food Allergy Management Plan’ that will help students with allergies stay safe at school.

A food allergy is defined as an adverse health effect arising from a specific immune response that occurs reproducibly on exposure to a given food. The immune response can be severe and life-threatening. Although the immune system normally protects people from germs, in people with food allergies, the immune system mistakenly responds to food as if it were harmful.

One way that the immune system causes food allergies is by making a protein antibody called immunoglobulin E (IgE). The substance in foods that cause this reaction is called the food allergen. When exposed to the food allergen, the IgE antibodies alert cells to release powerful substances such as histamine, that cause symptoms that can affect the respiratory system, gastrointestinal tract, skin, or cardiovascular system and lead to a life-threatening reaction called anaphylaxis.

The plan focuses on food allergies associated with IgE because those are the food allergies that are associated with the risk of anaphylaxis. There are other types of food-related conditions and diseases that range from the frequent problem of digesting lactose in milk to reactions caused by cereal grains (celiac disease) that can also result in serious chronic health problems. These conditions and diseases may be serious but are not immediately life-threatening.

Example District Tax Levy Comparisons (click on link to open document)

Comparing school tax levy rates between property owners can be challenging. Since properties are not always assessed at the same time by the same assessor, there are often differences in the assessed value versus the fair market value. In order to help ensure a fair distribution of the school tax levies, an equalized value is used to calculate taxes. Equalized value is essentially a calculation used to estimate the current fair market value of someone’s property. Director of Business Services, Kathy Davis, has created a scenario to help illustrate how school taxes can vary by homes and by municipalities.

DASD Community Open House

On November 18th, DASD hosted a Community Open House for the referendum projects.

Have a question about the referendum projects?

Submit questions online at www.DASDconstruction.org. Give your contact information, and receive a personal reply. Frequent questions and answers will soon be posted on the website.
Snow Days 101

School district staff take decisions to delay, close, or dismiss school due to inclement weather conditions very seriously. As with most decisions that affect literally thousands of people, it will impact individuals differently. You may be interested in knowing what goes into the decision.

The most important consideration in the decision is children’s safety. Can we safely transport children to and from school – and at what point in time is it the safest? Many people and factors are involved. The process begins as early as 4:00 a.m. The manager of Kobussen and Superintendent Eric Runen confer about weather conditions with information from national and local weather services. County and professional driver travels a rural route for them to do their work clearing all the roads clear, busses can operate safely.

Few vehicles are safer than busses with professional drivers in winter driving conditions. If it is determined we cannot safely transport children to school, or cannot safely transport children home from school, then schools will be delayed, dismissed early, or closed. Our district policy is that the final decision to close or delay school will be made by 6:30 a.m. However, most often communication is made before 6 a.m.

A decision to dismiss school early depends on additional criteria. This decision requires that notice go out to the public at approximately 11:00 a.m. in order to provide reasonable notice to parents. Their safety from early dismissal to the point at which parental supervision is available is considered. In addition, we have excellent county and municipal road crews. Normal dismissal schedules allow more time for them to do their work clearing all roads in our 100 square mile district and improving conditions for safe travel.

While district staff have the responsibility to alter the school day due to weather, no decision of ours overrides the judgment as a parent. If parents have sincere concern for the safety of their child, they can certainly keep him/her home or remove them from school early.

In the end, please rest assured that the ability to safely move our nearly 3,800 students to and from school is the primary determinant for closing, delaying, or dismissing school early. That safety is determined with input from many professionals who are committed to the safety of children - a responsibility that is not taken lightly.

More about school closing and delays is available on our district website.

Or use this link directly to Snow Days 101

School bus notifications

When there is a school bus delay of 15 minutes or more, Kobussen will post an alert on the front page of the DASD website and send a text message to affected families. Parents/Guardians must opt-in to receive text messages, or they can check the website if their child is late returning home in the afternoon or the bus is late picking him/her in the morning. In the event of an incident that significantly delays transportation, Kobussen staff will call parents directly.

Have you opted-in for text messages?

In the event of an emergency or immediate safety notice, including a school closing, delay or early release due to inclement weather, and new bus delays, 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.)

Text optin to 68453.
You will receive a confirmation reply message.

DAHS students enjoy success in fall extra-curriculars

Data from a study done by the National Center for Educational Statistics shows that extracurricular activities are one of the best investments that a school can make to help promote achievement, student engagement, and the attitudes and habits that lead to college and career aspirations and ultimate success. DASD is fortunate to offer students over 90 extra- and co-curricular activities to support their development and learning.

While there are a host of benefits to students getting involved in activities, one of them is the sense of pride when they are successful as a team or individual.

With only three months into the 2019-20 school year, many students have excelled in their respective endeavors. Here are a few highlights ...
Show your Norski Pride

Sponsorship opportunities

The DeForest Area School District provides opportunities for individuals, families, businesses, and other organizations to sponsor special projects, student programming, events, and facilities.

Sponsorships can be in the form of a contribution of goods, in-kind services, or money. In return for the funding, donors align their name and/or brand with supporting DASD students, staff, and families.

In addition, contributors can leave a lasting legacy on our school/community spaces that directly impact students.

See just a few of the larger scale opportunities at right.

• **DAHS Field Turf**, led by a committee of parents, coaches, community members and Norski alumni. Learn more about how you can help replace the current playing surface to be safer and more effective for our student and community athletes.

• **Digital Video Scoreboard**

• **STEAM** programming and camps for students

• **Stadium Project**

• And more!

Dates to Remember

December 23 - January 3  No School *(Winter Break)*
January 20  No School for Students
January 24  Half Day for Students

*(End of Semester for middle and high school)*

DAMS Choir and Band Concerts are in January! Check out dates on the [DASD Events Calendar](http://dasdnews.org).

Have a great winter break!

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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.