



February 2019

DASD News

2018-19

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

In this issue

- 2019 DASD referendum 1
- News In Brief..... 2
 - school board election
 - making up school closing days
- Alumni Hall of Fame 3
- DASD to begin using new visitor management system 3
- Unique scholarship program begins in 5th grade 4
- Chambers and Williams named 2019 National Merit Scholarship Finalists 4
- Mark your calendar! 4



Our school libraries work with students to develop many types of literacy: text, information, technology, research. STEAM activities combine many of these literacies with creativity and innovation skills. Using tools like [Bloxels Builder](#) (above), students can create their video games in the physical world and transfer them to an app where they can be played! DASD's elementary libraries incorporate STEAM or "maker" activities regularly, whether it's green screen newscasts, coding online, creating augmented reality, or programming robots like Lego WeDo or Ozobots.

Did you know?

Kobussen posts AM and PM bus delays of more than 15 minutes on the DASD website. Watch for the alert drop down message.

2019 DASD Referendum



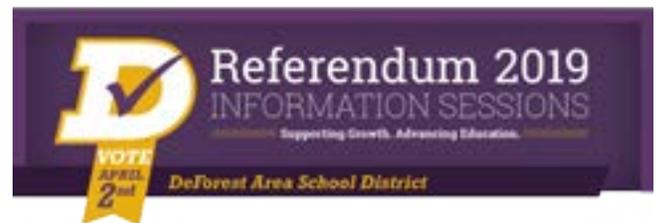
On April 2, 2019, DeForest Area School District residents will be asked to vote on two referendum questions. This referendum is a result of extensive planning, study and community engagement. It reflects

the input from the 40+ residents serving on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and from the 1,300 responses to a community-wide survey.

The plan:

- Increases capacity for our rapidly growing student population
- Addresses aging facilities and infrastructure
- Provides collaborative, flexible learning spaces to support evolving teaching and learning needs
- Supports operational expenses associated with new facilities and improved educational programming

continued on page 2



JOIN US TO LEARN MORE

**Tues. Feb 26 // 6:30 PM // DeForest Area High School
815 Jefferson Street, DeForest**

**Wed. Feb 27 // 6:30 PM // Windsor Elementary School
4352 Windsor Road, Windsor**

**Wed. Mar 13 // 6:30 PM // Yahara Elementary School
234 N. Lexington Parkway, DeForest**

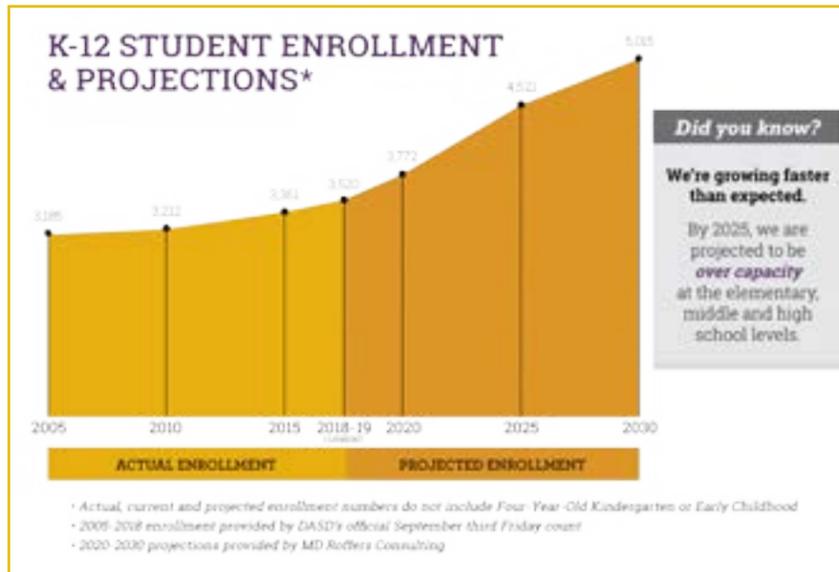


More referendum information is available at:
www.DASDreferendum.org



2019 DASD Referendum

continued from page 1



An informational newsletter (shown at right) has been sent to all households within the DeForest Area School District's boundaries.

The newsletter includes:

- a summary of needs
- facility planning process
- what is included in the two questions being asked of the community
- proposed changes to grade configurations
- estimated tax impact
- where to find more information

Those who do not receive the newsletter may read a copy on the DASD website: www.DASDreferendum.org, or obtain a copy by contacting the School/Community Relations Office at (608) 842-6581 or 6582, or email astettbacher@deforestschoools.org.

Another newsletter will be mailed to all households in early March and will include site plans and more details about the proposed solution, the potential design and construction timeline, official ballot language, and voting information. ■



In addition to the informational sessions on February 26 & 27 and March 13, presentations will also be made to school and community groups, such as school PTOs, DeForest Windsor Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, DeForest Area Community & Senior Center, and more.

If your organization or group would like to receive information or schedule a presentation, please contact Ann Stettbacher at astettbacher@deforestschoools.org.

News

In Brief

School Board election



Four incumbent school board members will be seeking re-election as part of the April 2nd election.

Two seats representing the Village of DeForest:

Jan Berg
Brian Coker

Two seats representing the Village of Windsor:

Steve Tenpas
Keri Brunelle

Making up school closing days

Information was emailed to all DASD families on February 12 indicating how the District will make up the 5.5 days (thus far) that were canceled due to weather conditions.

As of Tuesday, February 12, these dates will now be **full days** of school for students:

- **Friday, April 19** (previously planned as a professional development day for staff)
- **Friday, June 7** (previously a half day for students)
- **Monday, June 10** and **Tuesday, June 11**

Any additional cancellations will be added to the end of the school year (after June 11).

The letter sent to families is posted on the DASD website (under [School Closings/Bus Delays](#)).

Alumni Hall of Fame honors graduates of DeForest Area High School

Applications now being accepted. Deadline is April 15.

The DeForest Area School District is soliciting nominations of distinguished graduates for consideration to the DeForest Area School District Alumni Hall of Fame. This program recognizes and honors former DeForest Area School District graduates as having achieved a significant degree of success in their pursuits of higher education and/or in their professional careers. The Alumni Hall of Fame recognition provides outstanding role models for the students in the DeForest Area School District and celebrates the outstanding achievements of our graduates.

Nine alumni have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since it began in September 2015.

To be considered for this honor, a Nomination Form must be submitted providing information based on the following criteria:

- Graduate of DeForest Area High School.
- Attended the DeForest Area Schools for more than two years.
- Graduated from high school a minimum of 10 years before being nominated.
- Up to three recommendation letters supporting the individual's nomination.
- Application signed by the person making the nomination.
- Documentation (i.e., resume) demonstrating the work history and professional/academic successes of the nominee.

DASD to begin using new visitor management system



The DeForest Area School District will begin using the **Raptor Visitor Management System** in our schools to strengthen building safety for students and staff. "Part of keeping students and staff safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times, and the Raptor system will allow us to do that," says Director of Administrative Services, Pete Wilson.

According to Wilson, the Raptor system will better allow staff to screen visitors, contractors, and volunteers in the schools and provide for a safer environment for students and staff. Funding for the system is coming from the Wisconsin Department of Justice safety grant that the district received in Fall 2018.

How does Raptor work?

Upon entering a district building, visitors will be asked to present an ID (such as a driver's license), which can be scanned into the system. The Raptor system checks the visitor's name and

date of birth for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders. The registered sex offender database is the only official database checked by the Raptor system. No other data from the ID is gathered or recorded and the information is not shared with any outside agency. Once the entry is approved, Raptor will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of his/her visit. A visitor's badge will not be necessary for those who visit our schools simply to drop off an item in the office or pick up paperwork.

"A district team is working on a visitor protocol handbook with more details," says Wilson. "We are fortunate to base our protocols after other districts in Dane County who have used this system for a few years."

A letter about the Raptor Visitor Management System will be emailed to all DASD families the week of February 18th.

Nomination Form available at

www.deforestschoools.org >
Community > Alumni Hall of Fame

Applications for this honor can be made by self-nomination.

This spring the Hall of Fame committee will consider nominations and determine the inductees for 2019. The Alumni Hall of Fame reception and ceremony will be held on September 27, 2019. ■



[More Alumni info on the DASD website.](#)

The implementation schedule for Raptor in the district is as follows:

- **March 2019:** begin pilot implementation at the high school
- **April 2019:** soft roll-out in all schools. The emphasis in April and May will be educating visitors about the new system and allowing time for staff to work out real-time issues that may occur.
- **August 8, and 12, 2019 on-site registration:** demos and updated visitor handbook available
- **Fall 2019:** full implementation in all schools ■

Unique scholarship program begins in 5th grade

Student applications now being accepted. Deadline is April 1.

For nearly 20 years, local businesses have supported a scholarship program to provide 5th grade DASD students an on-going financial incentive to do well in school and pursue post-secondary education. The program began in 2000 with a \$1,000 donation from Ideal Crane. Since then several businesses have contributed to the scholarship fund, however, four local ones have consistently provided financial support for several years.

Thank you to **DMB Community Bank, Essential Family Vision, Paulson Development, LLC, and Dr. Meredith Bakke** for their continued support.

What is unique about this scholarship program is that students begin earning the \$1,000 scholarship in 5th grade! Fifth grade students apply and are selected by the school district's Business & Education Partnership Committee (represented by local business people and school staff) based on financial need, academic achievement, demonstrating potential, personal involvement, and school attendance. Once in the program, students are evaluated each year on the same criteria (except financial need), earning additional funds into their scholarship account. Students meeting the criteria each year are then awarded their \$1,000 scholarship during the Senior Awards Night, held each year in May. Since the first scholarship in 2007, \$17,000 has been awarded to graduating seniors.

More information about the 5/12 Scholarship Program is available on the [DASD website](#). ■

Chambers and Williams named 2019 National Merit Scholarship Finalists



The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has announced which of the 16,000 Semifinalists named in September 2018 have met all requirements to advance to Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program competition. **Jacob Chambers** and **Audrey Williams** have been chosen as finalists and will be considered for 2019 National Merit Scholarships.

The selection of some 7,500 Merit Scholarship winners is now in progress. Jacob and Audrey will find out in March if they receive scholarship offers.

In order for semifinalists to become a finalist, students must:

- Continue to meet all program entry requirements (published in the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT® Student Guide).



- Have a consistently very high academic performance in all of grades 9 through 12 and in any college course work taken.
- Take the SAT® and earn scores that confirm their 2017 PSAT/NMSQT performance.
- Take (or have taken) the SAT between October 2016 and December 2018,
- Provide additional documentation and information that NMSC requests. ■

Mark your calendar!



4K Registration

March 7
2:00-6:30 pm

Holum Education Center Gym

For all families with children who will be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2019.

- Staff will be available to answer questions about 4K.
- Free vision and speech screening will be available for 4K children.
- A free t-shirt and book will be given to all children who attend.

More information is available on the DASD website: www.deforestschoools.org > Schools > GT4K (4-year-old kindergarten).

Parent-Teacher Conferences

February 20: 3:30-6:30 pm

February 21: 8:00-10:00 am

Feedback survey: goo.gl/kyN2V6

Spring Break

March 25-29

Upcoming events in the Madison area



Please visit
www.visitmadison.com