



November 2018

DASD News

2018-19

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

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Community facilities survey

The DeForest Area School District is seeking community input into their current facility planning process. In August, a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed to assess the district’s facility needs, evaluate enrollment growth, and develop recommendations for a long-range facilities plan to be presented to the Board of Education in January.

All residents who live within the DeForest Area School District’s boundaries are invited to complete a community-wide facilities survey to provide input into the facility planning process and possible referendum to fund new and renovated facilities and related operating costs.

Facilities survey: Nov. 26 thru Dec. 6

According to DASD Superintendent Eric Runez, “Enrollment in our school district continues to steadily increase, due in part to strong economic growth and ongoing residential development. This creates some challenges, including long-term facility planning, to ensure our students have innovative and supportive learning

Continued on page 2



All DASD residents

1 **Facilities survey**
www.dasdsurvey2018.org

2 **Framework for
Our Future 3.0**
<https://goo.gl/99NRFp>

*Parents of 4th, 8th, and 12th
grade students*

3 **Parent Survey**
Email to be sent on Dec. 10

District hosts Framework for Our Future 3.0

Since 1999, the DASD Board of Education has engaged stakeholders, such as parents, staff, students, business, clergy, civic organizations, and government officials, in conversations designed to create a shared vision that recognizes and addresses the evolving needs of all students and families. Through this Future Search process that we call “Framework for Our Future,” individuals that represent diverse stakeholder groups come together for three sessions (two evening and one morning) to contribute jointly to a vision of the future for our school district.

The Board of Education is committed to hosting a full Future Search conference every 10 years. Previous events were held in 1999 and 2009, with meetings in between to provide progress reports (such as Framework for Our Future 2.5 in 2014).

Continued on page 3

Facilities survey *continued from page 1*



spaces and top-notch facilities for our outstanding instructional and extra-curricular programs.”

The CAC has been meeting since August studying the condition of the district’s buildings, the capacity to handle the increased enrollment growth, and the adequacy of learning environments in the schools. District staff enlisted the help of an independent urban planner, MDRoffers Consulting LLC, for detailed student enrollment growth projections for each of the district’s six school buildings. Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA) also conducted a comprehensive study of district facilities. With the help of staff from EUA and J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc., the CAC was able to develop and price a base plan for addressing physical space and capacity, building conditions and providing modern learning environments for effective instructional practices.

Through the survey, the CAC is also gathering community feedback on a more comprehensive plan that would upgrade facilities throughout the District and could be added to the Base Plan. The additional projects could be addressed now, or postponed and possibly completed at some point in the future - but likely at a higher cost. The online survey asks for feedback on both options: the base plan and the more comprehensive plan.

Also included on the survey are questions relating to operating new facilities (to pay for heat and other utilities, maintenance, and staff), as well as potential support for additional funding to improve staffing levels, enhance programming, and increase supports for student needs throughout the district.

District staff are also hosting two informational meetings for residents to learn more about the planning process and possible solutions and to ask questions:

- **Wednesday, Nov. 28, 6-7 pm at DeForest Area Public Library**
- **Monday, Dec. 3, 6-7 pm at Windsor Elementary School**

“A postcard has been mailed to each household within the school district boundaries, asking residents to complete the survey and inviting them to attend one of the informational sessions,” said Debbie Brewster, School/Community Relations Coordinator. The survey will be open from November 26 to December 6, with results reported to the Community Advisory Committee on December 12. Residents wanting to complete a paper version of the survey may request a copy by calling (608) 842-6581 or emailing info@deforestschoools.org. The feedback from residents will guide CAC members as they continue the planning process and eventual recommendation to the school board.

More information about the work of the CAC and the planning process is available on the school district’s website: www.deforestschoools.org. ■

Facility Planning informational meetings for residents to learn more about the planning process and possible solutions, and to ask questions:

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 6-7 pm at DeForest Area Public Library

Monday, Dec. 3, 6-7 pm at Windsor Elementary School

We want to hear from you!

Opportunities to give input . . .

All DASD residents

1 Facilities survey
www.dasdsurvey2018.org
Nov. 26 - Dec. 6

2 Framework for Our Future 3.0
<https://goo.gl/99NRFp>
Now thru Dec. 30

Parents of 4th, 8th, and 12th grade students

3 DASD Parent Survey
Dec. 10 - Jan. 11
More info on page 3.

And, there’s actually a fourth survey that provides an opportunity to engage with DASD students.

4 DASD Parent Connection Survey
More information on page 5.

Framework for Our Future 3.0 *continued from page 1*

In October, the Board of Education hosted Framework for Our Future 3.0. About 100 stakeholders of the DeForest Area School District participated. They shared important perspectives on the future of our school district.

Below is information about the conference:

- [Video summary of the event \[youtu.be/xawjn65PYCg\]](https://youtu.be/xawjn65PYCg).
- **Creating a vision that will address the evolving needs of our students so they graduate as responsible citizens prepared for personal success:**

Taking into account everything they discussed during the conference (including the knowledge, skills and attributes they felt necessary in order for all students to graduate as responsible citizens prepared for personal success), participants were asked to imagine the year 2032 and answer two questions: what is the District doing and how is it doing this? [The themes that emerged are listed here \[https://goo.gl/LMUeou\]](https://goo.gl/LMUeou) (listed in order of what they believed to be the most important).

Thank you to the participants of this year’s conference for the time they gave to the school district as they shared their ideas and insights about how we can make a better future for our children, and address the evolving needs of students and families.

Others wishing to give input similar to what was asked of conference participants may do so [using this online form](#).

Framework for Our Future 3.0 INPUT FORM
[\[goo.gl/99NRFp\]](https://goo.gl/99NRFp)
open until December 30.

In the next several months, Board of Education and district administration will review the outcomes of this Framework experience and identify how these priorities shape the district’s mission, vision, and belief statements. The board will also look at how the input from the Framework affects the results students are expected to achieve and how to accomplish those results. District staff will then use this information in their yearly strategic planning. ■



DASD seeks parent input

Survey to be sent to parents/guardians of 4th, 8th, and 12th grade parents

The DeForest Area School District’s administrative staff is conducting their annual survey of 4th, 8th, and 12th grade parents/guardians to assess the quality of education students receive.

The three grade levels were chosen as sample groups because they reflect key transition times in our current system -- at the end of elementary school, middle school, and high school. Staff plan on surveying parents at these grades each year to collect feedback

and develop trend data.

“As we continue planning for the long-term, our strategies must reflect the goals and priorities of our parents and students,” said Superintendent Eric Runez. “In order to accomplish this goal, we need parents’ help and feedback through the survey.”

The district has hired School Perceptions, an independent educational research firm, to conduct the survey and ensure all responses are kept confidential.

On December 10th, parents/guardians who are identified as Family 1/Guardian 1 in Skyward Family Access will receive an email with a link to the survey. Those Parents/Guardians who do not receive an email invitation to complete the survey should check their “spam/junk” folder, or contact Debbie Brewster, School/Community Relations Coordinator, at dbrewster@deforestschoools.org. ■



4th, 8th, and 12th Grade Parent Survey: December 10 - January 11



In Brief

Grading for learning and behavior

As our district continues to move toward separating student learning and behavior grades, we would like to reinforce the purpose of this practice.

The most important purpose for grades is to provide information or feedback to students and parents, and academic achievement is the primary factor on which grades should be based.

Traditionally, behaviors and academics both played a part in calculating a grade. It was difficult for students and families to accurately track student learning against the learning targets or expectations.

Therefore, separating the two allows families and students to track academic learning while still being aware of their student's behavior.

Each school has identified student behaviors that promote learning and lead to success in the classroom. All are based on the three areas that make up our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS): Responsible, Respectful, and Safe.

The elementary schools use the PBIS matrix. At the middle school, behavior grades are based on the Norski Pride rubric. And at the high school, staff have organized behavior grades into three categories: work completion, participation, and citizenship.

Communicating the identified behaviors at each level is still important so we can help students develop or refine their skills for lifelong success. Behavior grades are reported at the same time as academic progress and communicated with the quarter and trimester report cards. ■

The 2019-20 DASD calendar is now posted on the district website, along with a tentative calendar for the 2021-21 school year.

Visit www.deforestschoools.org > District > Calendars

DASD receives second round of safety grant funds

The DeForest Area School District has received \$207,617 from the second round of the Wisconsin Department of Justice (WisDOJ) School Safety Grant program. Grant funds will be used for building safety improvements as well as training for faculty and staff.

According to Director of Administrative Services, Dr. Pete Wilson who submitted the grant application on behalf of DASD, the additional funds will be used for training of certified staff and counselors in "adolescent mental health training." As a requirement of the grant, districts have until August 31, 2020 to send 10 percent of teachers and counselors to a 12-hour training session.

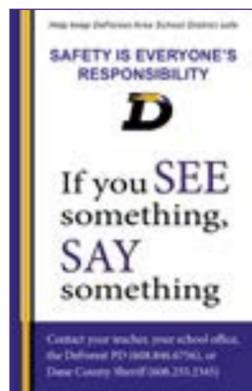
Districts are also required to establish intervention teams to monitor, assess, and intervene in the event of a threat to the schools. According to Wilson, DASD already has intervention teams

in place. These teams will undergo more specific training, following DOJ guidelines based on U.S. Secret Service model, which will engage in behavior monitoring, threat assessments, and intervention. "We are also planning to use the funds to train staff on the new reporting law for threats of school violence mandated by the school safety law and provide active threat refresher training," said Wilson.

The first round of grant funding, which totaled \$102,091, has allowed the district to purchase digital radios throughout the district, upgrading keyless entries at schools currently in need, phasing in a new process for visitors in school buildings using a software program called, Raptor, providing trauma informed training for staff, adding security cameras in schools, and adding shatter resistant glass window film to the main entrances of each school.

In 2017-18 the district moved to the practice of empowering staff, and in some instances students, to assess an emergency situation and implement a response to ensure their own safety and the safety of others in the event of an active threat.

According to Superintendent Dr. Eric Runez, "our school district worked hand-in-hand with our local law enforcement to implement active threat response protocols, using an "options-based" approach, which is sometimes referred to as, Run, Hide, Fight." ■



Share your knowledge and experience with DASD students

You may be the perfect person to help a student or group of students explore a career option and better prepare for college and career success.

If you are willing to volunteer your time to be a resource to students in the DeForest Area School District, [please](#)

[complete this DASD Parent Connection online survey \[goo.gl/mHcMqW\]](#). This survey is done each year, so please complete it even if you did so last year or you didn't receive a phone call.

Why? One of the keys to improving student achievement is providing students with relevant contexts for

studying and learning. Many times a personal connection, or real life example, helps students link school-based learning with the knowledge and skills required for success in school and the future workplace. ■



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 Runez confer about weather conditions with information from national and local weather services. County and municipal road crews are contacted to assess road conditions and the extent to which they will be safe to travel at the time students are to be transported. A professional driver travels a rural route and is consulted for their input as to the safety of travel on the road. If plows are able to have snow removed from the majority of bus routes, and there is no concern for high winds or a rate of snowfall that would prohibit keeping 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.

- www.deforestschoools.org
- > District
- > School Closings/Bus Delays
- > Look for Snow Days 101 on the right side

[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. Parents can check the website if their child is late returning home in the afternoon or the bus is late picking up him/her in the morning. In the event of an incident that significantly delays transportation, Kobussen staff will call parents directly.

Student Spotlight



Shrek The Musical nominated for 16 Jerry Awards

Congratulations to the DAHS cast of Shrek The Musical! They were nominated for 16 Jerry Awards including:

- Outstanding Orchestra
- Outstanding lead performance: Nahuel Recoba, Zybion Sherman, Makenzie Gaston
- Outstanding Supporting Performance: Hayley Swenson, Gloria Niesl, Tanner Engeseth, Clare O'Connell
- Outstanding Young Performance: Gavin Denning
- Outstanding Direction: Cortney Hammer
- Outstanding Musical Direction: Brandon Bautz
- Outstanding Scenic Design: Brett Price

- Outstanding Lighting Design: Brett Price
 - Outstanding Choreography: Michael Stanek
 - Outstanding Costume Design: Terri Treinen
- Awards will be announced in May 2019.

According to their website, the Jerry Awards, one of Wisconsin's High School Musical Awards Programs, encourages, recognizes and honors excellence in high school musical theater. Educators and industry professionals review productions at more than 85 high schools in 30 counties around the state providing valuable feedback. The program



elevates the importance of musical theater within high schools.

School and student achievements are honored and featured in an awards show held at Overture Center in June and two outstanding performers are selected to represent the program at The National High School Musical Theater Awards (The Jimmys) competition in New York City. ■

Fourth straight year for DAHS yearbook Gallery of Excellence Honor

For the fourth year in a row, the DeForest Area High School Yearbook was chosen as a Gallery of Excellence yearbook for their 2017-18 edition.

The Gallery of Excellence is awarded by the Walsworth Publishing Company, showcasing the best yearbooks printed by Walsworth. "Only a small percentage of the yearbooks we publish are included in this distinguished collection," said President Don Walsworth in a letter to DAHS yearbook advisor, Alan Ligocki.

According to Walsworth, their staff use the Gallery of Excellence yearbooks as examples and idea-generators for other schools and are displayed at regional, state, and national conventions and workshops. They also feature the covers, spreads, photos, and coverage ideas from these books in Walsworth's educational materials, such as their Possibilities idea book and Idea File magazine.



Returning yearbook students: Front Row: Lynzy Schnell, Syerra Rhodes, Kassidy Kleinert, Second Row: Cale Scholes, Stephanie McKinney, Ana Arnold, Jacob Scheel, Cassidy Schnell

"Gallery books, including yours, ignite the creativity in other yearbook staffs. The induction of your yearbook honors your staff's exceptional work and dedication to excellence. Congratulations on this tremendous achievement," said Walsworth.

The 2017-18 yearbook editors were Kassidy Kleinert, Megan Smith, and Jocelyn Reneau. ■



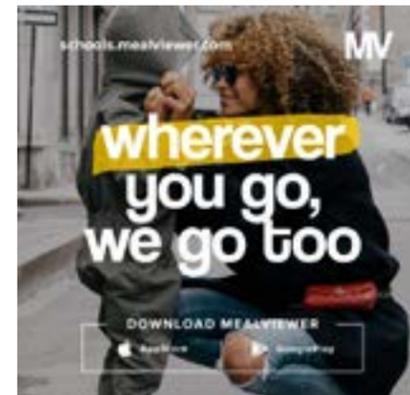
Pictured above: Front Row: Brooke Yocum, Jocelyn Reneau, Esther Lawrence, Cassidy Schnell, Cali Scholes, Lynzy Schnell, Madi Hilmershausen, Sam Gabris. Second Row: Nick Mc Kay, Trent Bachman, Stephanie McKinney, Ana Arnold, Kianna Hess-Jones, Kennedy Wittmann, Gabby Erstad, Nautica Wales, Syerra Rhodes, Megan Smith, Kassidy Kleinert, Amber Taugher, Jacob Scheel, Leah Miller, Peyton Doherty, Natalie Schultz.

Have you seen the new MealViewer app?

The DeForest Area School District's Food and Nutrition Services department is excited to introduce their new menu software, MealViewer.

You can visit the MealViewer website to view or print a menu for your refrigerator. If you prefer to have it on your mobile device, just download the MealViewer Mobile App and create your personal MealViewer profile.

The information is real time and updated if there are any menu changes. Other new features include allergen and nutrition information, student customization, and the ability to rate your favorite meals.



Find the link to Meal Viewer on the DASD website. ■

School board establishes tax levy

At the October 22nd meeting, the Board of Education acted on final approval of the local tax levy. After the annual meeting in July, three pieces of information were still needed before the final budget and tax levy could be approved: enrollment, state aid, and property values.

The Board of Education adopted a tax levy of \$26,475,994 to support students and district operations of DASD. This tax levy results in a mill rate reduction from the previous year. The 2018-19 mill rate is \$10.04, compared to \$10.10 and \$10.96 over the previous two years. The equalized

value of each municipality will determine the effect on an individual's property taxes. The current budget approval reflects the following:

- no increase in the per pupil revenue limit which is controlled by state legislation (the last increase was for \$75 per pupil in 2014-15)
- An increase in state aid from the prior year (\$1,514,241)
- An increase in per pupil aid over the prior year (\$765,280)
- increase in property value (9.36%)

More: www.deforest.k12.wi.us/district/boe-budget.cfm ■



Upcoming events in the Madison area



Fair Trade Holiday Fest
December 1st
1 John Nolen Drive, Monona Terrace
<http://www.fairtrademadison.org/>

Saturday Science at Discovery – Biorobotics: Robots and Life
December 1st
330 N. Orchard St., Discovery Bldg.
<https://discovery.wisc.edu/programs/saturday-science>

Holiday Dane County Farmer's Market
Now until December 22nd
1 John Nolen Drive, Monona Terrace
<https://dcfm.org/markets/holiday-market>

Holiday Fantasy Lights
Now until January 1st, 2019
1156 Olin-Turville Court, Olin Park
<http://www.fantasyinlights.com/>

Shine on Madison
Now until January 6th
Downtown Madison
<http://shineonmadison.com/>

Free Family Night
Now until December 5th
100 N. Hamilton St.
Madison's Children Museum
<http://madisonchildrensmuseum.org/programs-and-events/special-events/free-family-night/>

Get Festive With Agora
December 6th
5500 E. Cheryl Pkwy.
Agora at Fitchburg Center
<http://www.agorafitchburg.com/>



Fine Arts Performances in December

- December 6 DAHS Winter Band Concert, 7:00 pm
- December 11 DAMS 6th/7th/8th/Jazz Band Concert, 5:45 pm
- December 13 DAHS Winter Choir Concert, 7:00 pm
- December 18 DAMS 6th/7th/8th Grade Winter Choir Concert, 6:00 pm

All performance in the DeForest Area High School Performing Arts Center

More Dates to Remember

- November 30 End of 1st Trimester for elementary schools
- December 24 - January 1 No School (Winter Break)
- January 21 No School for Students
- January 23 Early Release (End of Semester for middle and high school)

More at www.deforestschool.org



Winterfest December 1 www.deforestarea.com

Annual community holiday gift giving program helps families

Thank you to the many businesses, individuals or groups who adopted one or more families for the 2018 Holiday Gift Giving Program. The program is organized by the DeForest Area Clergy Association, in conjunction with the DeForest Area Needs Network, Joining Forces for Families (JFF), and DeForest Area School District to help deliver holiday cheer for children from low-income families in the DeForest Area School District. The group helps identify needy families with children

in the school district who are then matched with sponsors who purchase the family gifts.

Those wishing to volunteer to help with gift distribution may contact Marlene Sobek at 846-9015 or Bob Blankenhagen at 846-9306. Gift distribution will be held on Friday, December 14, from 1:00 to 7:00 pm at St. Olaf's Parish Center. ■



Upcoming events in the Madison area



Good Day Market Holiday Edition

December 7th and 8th
301 Wisconsin Ave.,
One-One-Thousand
<https://www.oneonethousand.net/events/good-day-market/>

Children's Holiday Party

December 9th
5510 Lacy Rd.
Fitchburg Chamber Visitor & Business Bureau
<http://www.fitchburgchamber.com/event/32st-annual-childrens-holiday-party/>

Overture Center Drop-In Tours

Saturdays at 11 am through February 9
<https://www.visitmadison.com/event/overture-center-drop-in-tours/45215/>

UW Russian Folk Orchestra Annual Holiday Concert

December 15th
116 W. Washington
Grace Episcopal Church
<http://russorch.wisc.edu/concerts.html>

Cure Cabin Fever!: Stories of the Fur Trade

January 5th
30 North Carroll St.
Wisconsin Historical Museum
<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/calendar/event/6451/cure-cabin-fever-stories-of-the-fur-trade>