DASD News . . . .
2016-17

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

September 2016

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Three of five projects complete!

DeForest Area School District

The third of five building projects approved by DASD residents in April 2015 is now complete. The addition and remodeled space for the high school Agri-Science, Technology Education, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) programs was ready for students and staff at the start of the school year.

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DASD to honor three in Alumni Hall of Fame
September 15, 2016

Please join us . . .

Alumni Hall of Fame
celebrating 2016 inductees
Patrick Rothfuss, Sean Anders, & Andrea Anders
Thursday, September 15 | 5:30 pm
(reception and ceremony)
DAHS Performing Arts Center

More information
www.deforestschools.org

Save the date!

DeForest Area High School
STEM Open House
October 12, 2016
5:30 pm

See the new and remodeled learning spaces for Agri-Science, Technology Education, and STEM. Watch for more information coming soon!
The 28th 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 form 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 23.

Staff continue to collaborate and learn through a variety of ways during the school year and summer. Strong professional development opportunities ensure that staff are fully prepared to meet the ever challenging landscape of modern education.

In addition, our custodial and building/grounds staff are busy throughout the summer getting our facilities ready for the first day of school and several staff members prepare for district-wide registration.

The video image at right (or use https://goo.gl/e71xMQ) gives a quick illustration of just how much goes on at DASD during the summer months.

DASD welcomes 30 new certified teaching staff, 14 new support staff, and four new leadership team members to our schools. Pictured above are new teachers who attended orientation on August 24.

DASD Construction program is now open! New DASD staff!

New DASD staff!

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

~Winston Churchill

Schools are busy throughout the summer
Check out the DASD e-News Blog

Local Teacher Completes National Food Safety and Nutrition Training

From Farm to Table, Teachers Explore the Science Behind Nation’s Food Supply

The theme of this year’s conference is “Cultivation of Students as Literate Citizens”.

H.DASD hosts first Girl’s Go! STEM Camp

During the week of July 17th, 28 DAMS girls attended the District’s first Girl’s Go! STEM Camp. The camp was made possible through a grant written by Judi Walsh, School Counselor and Program Coordinator for College and Career Readiness, encouraging middle school girls to get involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related courses and careers. Read more at DASDNews.


School Board Updates

New board member

The DASD Board of Education welcomes Linda Leonhart, who was appointed as a Director on July 11, 2016. Leonhart fills the Town of Burke school board seat made vacant by the resignation of Dan Choi, who left due to a job relocation.

Budget hearing and annual meeting

The DASD budget hearing and annual meeting was held on July 25, 2016. Residents of the school district approved the tentative budget and tax levy for 2016-17. More information is available in the Annual Meeting Report, which can be found on the DASD website.

School board meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6 pm.

Agendas and minutes are posted on the District website.

Bergs and Kollasch to represent DASD at symposium in China

High school teachers Jenny Bergs and Colleen Kollasch have been selected to represent the DeForest Area School District at the 3rd Annual Global K-12 Educational Research Symposium in China, to be held October 13-20, 2016. The symposium is hosted by the district’s Chinese sister school in Shijiazhuang.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Cultivation of Students as Literate Citizens in a Global Context”. Bergs and Kollasch will prepare a 15-20 minute presentation on how, as teachers, they cultivate students’ comprehension abilities. Both have received a scholarship from the symposium organizers that covers their round trip airfare, hotel, and meals.

DASD News

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DASD Parent Resource Survey

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 take a couple of minutes to complete a survey (link below). 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.

If you have questions, please contact: Debbie Brewster, dbrewster@deforestschools.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 school, 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, 6-8 pm, at the Holom Education Center (Board Room).

Middle school chair auction in full swing

The DeForest Area Middle School 7/8 Library Chair Auction began on August 29, and will run through September 11. This exciting fundraiser will support renovation of the library that serves 7th and 8th grade students. According to librarian and auction organizer Laura Shucha, “the renovation project will bring student resources, access, and library furnishings up-to-date.” As part of this renovation, the current wood library chairs were retired. “It was decided that offering them for sale to the public would be a good idea, but offering them for sale as works of art would be an even better idea,” said Shucha. “Over 20 local and regional artists have beautifully redesigned 29 former library chairs. Each chair is available for purchase through a silent auction.” All funds raised will be put toward the purchase of furnishings for the 7/8 Library.

The redesigned chairs were on display on August 29 during the middle school’s Backpack Night. The online auction began at 4 pm on the 29th and will be open until 4 pm on Sunday, September 11. Online auction services have been generously provided by Sunrise Auction Company. Chairs can be viewed and bid on at any time between the opening and closing at www.sunriseauctioncompany.com.

Individual chairs were on display at several local businesses throughout the community before the auction began (see list below). In addition, all chairs will be on display at the 7th annual Yahara Riverfest at Conservancy Commons Park on Saturday, September 10.

Thank you to the following businesses who displayed one or more chairs:

Lake Windsor Golf Club, Parkside Village 55+, Community, Village of Windsor, Windsor Family Dental, Tricor Insurance, DeForest Area Public Library, UnityPoint Health – Meriter DeForest-Windsor, Bakke Chiropractic Clinic, DeForest Area Middle School, DeForest Area School District Administrative Office, Essential Family Vision Care, Settlers bank, and DMB Community Bank.

Parent Resource Survey

https://goo.gl/forms/nwHfbsBi1mSYvALl2

More information is available on the e-Flyers webpage. Or, contact Julie Hartman at jhartman@deforestschools.org for more information.

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Jenny Bergs Colleen Kollasch

Information is available at DASDNews.

Library Chair Auction

Middle School 7/8

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DASD Updates  
In Brief

Below are updates on district initiatives that are contributing to the continuous improvement of instructional programs and services that will benefit students, families, employees and community.

**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 Rif data
- Sharing instructional strategies
- Vertical alignment
- Professional development as a PLC

**Data Retreats**

As part of the district’s efforts to continually improve, each summer staff from all the buildings participate in what is referred to as a data retreat. A data retreat is a day-long process to examine a number of student achievement and school climate indicators.

Throughout the first quarter of the school year each individual building also conducts a building specific data retreat. These retreats help guide building goals around student achievement and school climate.

**Student assessments**

As part of the Wisconsin Student Assessment System, all students in Wisconsin take the Forward Exam, which is a large-scale, standardized achievement test designed to assess what students know in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. The Forward Exam was administered to DASD students during the spring of 2016 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for students in grades 3-8, science for grades 4 and 8, and social studies for grades 4, 8, and 10. Results of this exam are sent to schools in the fall. Parents/Guardians will be sent their child’s Individual Student Report (ISR) on Sept. 15. The ISR provides information about the child’s performance on the Wisconsin Forward Exam.

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 2016-17 will be available on the DASD website soon (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.deforstedschools.org](http://www.deforstedschools.org)
  - Special DASD Alert at top of page

- **Automated phone message**
  - Use phone contact(s) provided in Skyward Family Access

- **Email message**
  - Use email address(es) provided in Skyward Family Access

- **Text message**
  - Opt-in required. Text optin to 66453. You will receive a confirmation reply message.

- **Like us on Facebook**
  - [deforstedschools](https://www.facebook.com/)

- **Follow us on Twitter**
  - [Deforstedschools](https://twitter.com/)

- **Local television and radio stations**
  - Complete list on DASD website

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### DASD News  
**September 2016**

Saturday, September 10

**Yahara Riverfest**
12:00-5:00 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](http://www.yaharariverfest.com)

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Saturday, September 24

**Heritage Fest**
11:00 am to 10:00 pm, Windsor Fireman’s Park, Windsor

Celebrate the heritage of our area with food, activities and live music for all. [www.deforestarea.com](http://www.deforestarea.com)

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### Upcoming events in the Madison area

**Things To Do**

[https://goo.gl/xRV1Xd](https://goo.gl/xRV1Xd)

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### Mark your calendar!

**Heritage Fest**
Saturday, September 10

**Forward Exam**
Friday, Sept 30, 5 pm — Homecoming Parade

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### Job Fair

**Community Trick or Treat**
5:00-7:00 pm

Celebrate the completion of the construction project.

Take a tour of the new facilities and learn about the programs taught in this new learning space.

**Holiday Gift Giving for families in need**

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.

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**Community Job Fair**
Tuesday, October 18

3:00-6:00 pm, DeForest Area High School

Job seekers, meet and greet with local companies looking to fill quality positions. You will also be able to attend workshops on Resume Writing and Work Place Readiness. Open to the public.

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**3rd Annual Community Choir**

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. Visit [https://goo.gl/eQOPMm](https://goo.gl/eQOPMm) for more information.
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.