



August 2018

DASD News

2018-19

Engage, challenge,
and inspire all students to pursue their full potential

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District update

A look back at 2017-18 and what's ahead

The DeForest Area School District invites the community to read our **2017-18 DASD Annual Report**. This publication helps to inform current and potential residents about the programs and services offered by the DeForest Area School District, our accomplishments during the 2017-18 school year, and shares information about two community engagement activities occurring this fall (see “long-range facility planning,” and “Framework for Our Future” on page 2).



This annual report was emailed to all DASD families in early August, and print copies were made available during the August 2 and 6 on-site registration. Copies will also be available during Backpack or Back-to-School Nights held at each school. Or, it can be accessed from the [DASD website](http://www.deforestschooldistrict.org).

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WELCOME

Back to school

Please join us in celebrating our
2018 Alumni Hall of Fame
Inductee



**Roland “Rollie”
Manthe**
Class of 1953

Distinguished PhD graduate of UW-Madison, 35-year military veteran, and teacher/leader for countless youth and adults, with a long-time commitment to service at the local, state, and national level.

Friday, September 21
4:45-6:15 pm

DAHS Little Theater

4:45-5:45 Reception with heavy appetizers
5:45 Program

More information
www.deforestschooldistrict.org

Long-range facility planning

Over 50 residents and staff within the DeForest Area School District have volunteered to serve on a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to assist in developing recommendations for a long-term district facilities plan. The group represents parents from all schools, community youth activities, child care/preschool, local government, business/industry, and social/civic organizations. They will meet twice a month beginning on August 22, through mid-January.

Throughout the process, the CAC progress will be shared as follows:

- The CAC webpage will be updated after each meeting.
- Parents/Guardians will receive direct emails from superintendent@deforestschoools.org.
- Information will be sent to those who sign up to receive our district's Email Newsletter.

Background to forming the CAC

Article published in the March 2018 DASD News

As the economy has healed the past few years, municipalities served by our school district have experienced strong economic and population growth. There are many commercial and residential housing units being added each month. And, hundreds more are planned to be added in the district. "Our school district is poised to continue this positive trajectory resulting in growing residential developments and steadily increasing school enrollment," said Dr. Eric Runez, DASD Superintendent. "This creates some welcomed challenges, including the need to continue long-term facility planning, to ensure our students have innovative and supportive learning spaces and top-notch facilities for our outstanding extra-curricular programs."

Last year (2017-18 school year), as part of the planning process, Eppstein

Uhen Architects (EUA) reviewed a 2013-14 district-wide facility study and provided a current analysis of all buildings, for both the physical structure and enrollment capacity.

Since the last planning process, and given the faster than anticipated growth within our communities, the school board and district leadership have continued to monitor enrollment capacity of our schools and evaluate the physical condition of district facilities. "As our school facilities continue to be heavily used by school and community members, some of the lower priority concerns identified in 2013 are starting to move into a higher priority level," said Runez. This understandably requires the district to make adjustments in both the short and long term when it comes to managing class sizes, making the best use of available space, and scheduling capital maintenance projects.

On Monday, March 12, representatives from Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA) and J. H. Findorff & Sons, Inc presented a summary of the facility study they conducted from September 2017 to January 2018. Their report included review of the January 2014 report by PRA and additional information that was compiled by EUA and Findorff.

Phase 1 of the facilities study was presented to the school board on November 27, 2017, and reported on Morrisonville Elementary School and the High School pool. The Phase 2 presentation on March 12 included information on capacity, projected enrollment and utilization at the other buildings in the District. According to their report, projections indicate that by 2025-2026 the high school will be at capacity, the middle school will be approximately 17% over capacity and the elementary schools will be approximately 7% over capacity. Capital maintenance findings from individual buildings (Yahara Elementary, DeForest Area Middle School, DeForest Area High School,

and Holum Education Center) were also reported, as well as observational highlights on educational adequacy.

Based on the building needs identified in their report, a ten-year capital maintenance plan was created. Preliminary conceptual studies and options were also shared if the district wanted to consider a natatorium at the high school. Finally, several options for renovation of the District Office/Holum Education Center were shared.

Superintendent Eric Runez recommended, based on the results of the facility study and identified needs, that the Board convene a group of community stakeholders (Community Advisory Committee) to further study the results of the report and develop a recommendation for the School Board for next steps in master planning. At their meeting on April 9, school board members debriefed the facility study report and approved the administration's recommendation. ■

District update

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DASD Update and Long-Range Planning

To complement the Annual Report, the district hosted three information sessions for residents in August.

Dr. Eric Runez, DASD Superintendent, has narrated the presentation, which is now available on the [district website](#) -- or check it out on the [DASD YouTube channel!](#)



Thank you to the DeForest Lions Club and DMB Community Bank for sponsoring the **Stuff the Bus** event. DASD families and community members were very generous with donations of school supplies for students.



In addition, we would like to recognize **Vogel Bros Construction** for their support in helping to ensure students have the supplies they need to be successful in school. ■



Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.

~ Albert Camus



District to host Framework for Our Future 3.0

Since 1999, DASD 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 has 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). A summary of all Future Search events is available on the DASD website.

The Board of Education will host Framework for Our Future 3.0 in October. A Design Team is currently planning the event, and more information will continue to be communicated to parents, staff, and residents.

Framework for Our Future 3.0 schedule:

- Wednesday, October 17 (5:00-9:00 pm)
- Thursday, October 18 (5:00-9:00 pm)
- Saturday, October 20 (8:00 am-12:15 pm)

Participants are asked to commit to all three sessions. Those interested in participating may contact Debbie Brewster at dbrewster@deforestschoools.org, or call Ann Stettbacher at (608) 842-6582.



In July, 34 students attended the annual STEAM Camp, which included many hands-on activities such as agriscience, forensics, 3D printing, and robots. [More at dasdnews.org](#)





Get the latest on our 1:1 project coming this fall!

Visit our frequently updated questions & answers:
goo.gl/nU2cLP

Which device?
Acer C771 Chromebook—it's built to stand up to student use and last for four years.



Why devices? We started with Chromebooks and GoogleApps before many other districts. Because of that long experience, our students and teachers are ready for the next step: devices in the hands of 5-12 students.

We're going to begin with grades 9-12. We are currently planning to distribute devices to high school students later in September. Parents and families, please look for communication in mid-August and early September with more detailed information. Please visit the site listed here (goo.gl/nU2cLP) for the latest updates.

For grades 5-8, we'll be adding devices at DAMS and building our way toward 1:1. The devices will **stay at school** though instead of traveling home.

The big "WHY" though is student learning. We've known for a long time that student learning is happening any time and any place. Devices will not only support that type of learning, but would allow students and teachers to collaborate more seamlessly. There's research available, but the short version is that we think having more devices for more students will have a big impact on learning.

DASD receives \$102,000 safety grant

The DeForest Area School District has received \$102,091 from the first 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.

"Our school district and our local first responders (police, fire, EMS) continually review and update our safety plans and protocols for a variety of emergencies to ensure we align ourselves with best response practices," said Director of Administrative Services, Dr. Pete Wilson. These grant funds will support priority needs that we have identified.

According to Wilson, who submitted the grant application, the district will be adding digital radios throughout the district, upgrading keyless entries at schools currently in need, phasing in a new process for visitors in school

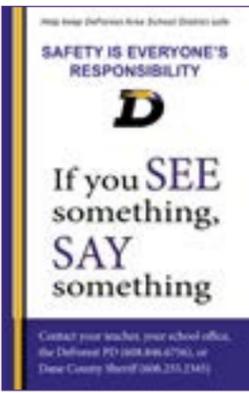
buildings using a software program called, Raptor, providing trauma informed training for staff, adding security cameras in schools, and adding shatter resistant glass window film to the main entrances of each school.

Wilson said that he has submitted a letter of intent on behalf of the district to apply for the second round of grant funding that will be available this fall. According to Wilson, the next round of grant applications will include training for staff to attend adolescent mental health training and establish a school safety intervention team, as required by DOJ. The intervention team will follow DOJ guidelines based on U.S. Secret Service model, which will engage in behavior monitoring, threat assessments, and intervention. "We are also planning to request 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.

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." ■



Updates & News for DASD parents/guardians



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.

Parent Career Connections

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 watch your email in the next few weeks for a survey. 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.

Parent Support Group

Sara Totten, the new Director of Pupil Services for DASD, is continuing the 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, 6-7:30 pm, at the Holum Education Center (Board Room)

Sept. 19	Feb. 20
Oct. 17	Mar. 20
Nov. 21	Apr. 17
Dec. 19	May 15
Jan. 16	

Information is available on the [Families webpage](#). Or, contact Tonya Teeters at tteeters@deforestschools.org for more information.

Kohl nominations due September 21

The 30th annual Herb Kohl Fellowship program is now taking nominations to recognize teaching excellence and innovation in the State of Wisconsin. Teachers can be nominated by parents, teachers, students, community members, or school district administrators. The applications of the public school Kohl fellowship recipients are

School Board Updates

Budget hearing and annual meeting

The DASD budget hearing and annual meeting was held on July 23, 2018. Residents of the school district approved the tentative budget and tax levy for 2018-19. More information is available on the [DASD website](#) [<https://goo.gl/HVqfvx>].

The final levy will be determined after enrollment, equalized aid, and property values are known in October.

Did you know?

DASD is the only public school district in Wisconsin to earn the highest Standard & Poor's bond rating.

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

Agendas and minutes are posted on the District website.

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 Rebecca Toetz, DASD Director of Instructional Services.



New DAHS digital video scoreboard ready for 2018-19

Thanks to local business sponsors, a large screen video display is now a part of the scoreboard in the DeForest Area High School main (south) gym.

According to Superintendent, Dr. Eric Runz, "The video board will not only enhance the experience for event attendees, it will also allow us to promote student achievements and school/community events."

The new video board was unveiled during the Class of 2017 graduation ceremony on June 2, and highlighted each graduate as they walked across the stage.

The video board was purchased from Daktronics and is being funded with local sponsorships. To date there are three anchor sponsors: REG Madison, LLC, The Lea Agency - American Family Insurance, and EVCO Plastics. One additional anchor sponsor is available.

Founding sponsors include Kobussen Buses, Ltd, Complete Mobile Dentistry, Inc., Paulson Development LLC, and DeForest Sports Boosters.

Both sponsor partnerships offer advertising opportunities with digital and multi-media content.

According to Activities Director Mike McHugh, "In addition to the district's ability to celebrate student



achievements and upcoming school activities, sponsoring businesses may create content that promotes their company and special events, as well as advertise job openings to the thousands of community members and visitors that annually attend our high school events and youth activities in our gym." Unlike other fundraising opportunities, all funds raised by the video board sponsorships go directly to DASD and cover the initial cost of the equipment, software, and installation. "We anticipate covering those costs within the first two years with all future proceeds then going to support the needs of all high school extra-curricular activities," said McHugh.

Those interested in becoming a sponsor can learn more on the DASD website, under District < News/ Information - <https://goo.gl/Dmb2WH> or contact Mike McHugh, Eric Runz, or Debbie Brewster. ■

Preventative dental program available for students

Bridging Brighter Smiles (formerly Smiles 4 Life Dental), is a non-profit organization formed in January of 2012. Their vision is to create a community where every child is given the opportunity to receive preventative oral care.



Bridging Brighter Smiles increases access to preventative oral hygiene care by bringing portable dental equipment right into schools. They offer services such as oral screenings, cleanings, fluoride varnish, individualized oral hygiene instructions, sealants with retention checks, dental referrals when medically necessary, and follow up care.

They accept the Forward Card (BadgerCare) and no child is ever turned away due to a lack of financial resources. More information is available on the [Families section of the DASD website](#). ■

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.deforestschoools.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 68453. You will receive a confirmation reply message.
-  Like us on Facebook
[deforestareaschools](https://www.facebook.com/deforestareaschools)
-  Follow us on Twitter
[DeForestSchools](https://twitter.com/DeForestSchools) & [DASDAlerts](https://twitter.com/DASDAlerts)
-  Local television and radio stations
Complete list on DASD website

Mark your calendar!



Friday, September 21

Alumni Hall of Fame Celebration

4:45 pm Reception with heavy appetizers

5:45 pm Program

DeForest Area High School Little Theater

815 Jefferson Street, DeForest (parking on north side of high school)

More: www.deforestschoools.org



September 17 - September 22

Homecoming 2018

Monday, Sept 17, 7 pm Community Pep Rally

Friday, Sept 21, 5 pm Homecoming Parade

Saturday, Sept 22 High School Dance, 8-11 pm; Grand March, 9:30 pm

Students, alumni, and community - show your Norski Pride.



Tuesday, October 30

Community Trick or Treat

5:00-7:00 pm throughout DeForest Area High School

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.



November 8-11, 2018

DAHS Musical
Performing Arts Center

Upcoming events in the Madison area



Dane County Farmer's market

April 14 to November 10, 2018
Capital Square
<https://dcfm.org/>

Sensory-Friendly Museum Time

July 30 to November 26, 2018
100 N. Hamilton St.
Madison Children's Museum
<http://madisonchildrensmuseum.org/programs-and-events/special-events/sensory/>

41st Annual Willy Street Fair

September 15-16, 2018
944 Williamson Street
Wisconsin Union
<https://www.cwd.org/willy-street-fair/>

Free Family Night

August 1st to December 5th, 2018
100 N. Hamilton St.
Madison Children's Museum
<http://madisonchildrensmuseum.org/programs-and-events/special-events/free-family-night/>

The Art of Papel Picados with Folklore Village

September 29th, 2018
30 N. Carroll St.
Wisconsin Historical Building
<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/calendar/event/6395/the-art-of-picadas-with-folklore-village>

International Music with Folklore Village

October 20, 2018
30 N. Carroll St.
Wisconsin Historical Building
<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/calendar/event/6394/international-music-with-folklore-village>

Great Halloween Hunt

October 27th, 2018
5530 Lacy Road
Fitchburg Chamber Visitor & Business Bureau
<http://fitchburgwi.gov/822/Library>

Madison Night Market – Winter Market

November 17th, 2018
100 block of State St.
Madison's Central Business Improvement District (BID)
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1000808890087814/>

More activities at www.visitmadison.com/things-to-do/family-fun

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](#)



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