

Norski Pride

Message from Machell Schwarz

2nd Quarter, 2018-19

As we move through the fall and approach the winter season, growth continues at a fast pace at DAHS. Since the beginning of the year I have several updates that I'd like to provide. First, I would like to take a moment to celebrate and congratulate the students and staff on meeting several of our goals this past year. Next, I'd like to give an update on safety and what has been happening at our building. Finally, I'd like to remind parents about what is coming with regard to scheduling for next year.

Recently the high school received data on how our students did both on the statewide ACT testing for juniors and also on how we did on our school report card. The ACT data feeds into two of our building goals and so we were able to track our progress on

those as well. The good news is that our 11th grade students from last year performed very well on the ACT test they took last spring. We not only continued our growth trajectory from all previous years, but also landed in the top 10% of high schools in the state of Wisconsin with a composite of 21.7. In addition, our school report card showed that we have made progress in closing gaps with sub- group populations with an overall score in the Exceeds Expectations range. Again, our school report card score has shown continual growth over the last several years. Finally, the areas of modeling and key ideas and details that we targeted in our building goals also showed tremendous growth and in fact exceeded our goal targets. What does



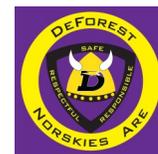
Machell Schwarz, DAHS Principal

all of this mean? We certainly are proud of this growth and want to celebrate it. We do want to be careful, however, not to sit back and be content with that. These numbers do tell us that the things our staff and students are doing to focus and improve readiness are effective and because we don't look at just one year and

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Calendar of Events

December

- 6 DAHS Winter Band Concert, PAC, 7:00
- 8 ACT Test Date
- 12-13 FFA Fruit, Meat, Cheese Delivery
- 13 DAHS Winter Choir Concert, PAC, 7:00
- 12/24-31 No School - Winter Break**

January

- 1 No School - Winter Break**
- 2 School Resumes**
- 4 ACT Registration Deadline-February
- 21 No School - Staff Development**
- 18-23 First Semester Exams**
- 23 End of 2nd Qtr -Early Release after Exams**
- 25 DAHS Music Dept. Trivia Night 6:30pm
- 26 DECA Dad & Daughter Dance, North Gym, 6:00-8:00pm

January Cont'd

- 28 Junior Post HS Planning Night, PAC, 6pm

February

- 2 DAHS DECA Winter Formal, 8pm
- 4 No School - PLC day for staff**
- 9 ACT Test Date
- 9 DAHS Capella, PAC, 7pm
- 11 DECA Mr. Norski Contest, PAC, 7:00pm
- 19 DAHS NHS Blood Drive, 7am
- 20 No School for grades 9,10,12—Statewide ACT Testing for Juniors**
- 20 Parent Teacher Conf. 3:30-6:30pm**
- 21 No School Parent Teacher Conf. 8-10am, (Staff PLC 10-2:00pm)**
- 22 No School**
- 28 DAHS Talent Show, 7 pm

Message from the Principal

(Continued from page 1)

one group of students we can also see that over many years the work the staff is doing is the right work. So, congratulations to students and staff on these gains.

I also want to give students a shout out for the input they gave as we designed our safety roll-out for this year. A group of about 20 students that represent all grade levels and many populations in our building helped to structure the presentations and detail of our safety roll-out this year. They brainstormed what they felt would be most effective to engage students and that was the basis of the plan. Advisory teachers presented some basic information on how we keep our school safe. Students in each advisory then generated a list of questions that they have on school safety. A couple weeks later we held an all-school assembly with district safety officials answering these questions and providing some additional training for students. We followed that up with a cognitive drill around an armed intruder and then an advisory debrief. We will continue to get feedback from students on other things we can do to engage them in the goal of making our school as safe as possible.

Finally, I wanted to remind parents and students that after the winter break we will begin the scheduling process for next year. I am pleased to tell you that students have also had a voice in new course offerings. We have several new Advanced Placement offerings, multi-media news courses, and courses that have a global perspective. We are excited about all of the new offerings and encourage you and your student(s) to take a close look at the course description book when it is available so that you can peruse the new offerings. Watch for updates from the guidance office on timelines!





Talk with Your Teen About E-cigarettes:
A Tip Sheet for Parents

E-Cig Parent Tip Sheet

THE KORNER STORE

NEW PRODUCTS & HOLIDAY GIFTS!

Introducing Gift Cards, a perfect holiday stocking stuffer!

The Korner Store is now selling gift cards, which students can use to purchase food, drinks, school supplies, or even apparel! Contact jwebster@deforestschoools.org for details!



***Need help with school work?
Want a place to collaborate?
Don't know how to start a project?***



***Come to Homework Study
Tables!!***



**Wednesdays 3:30-4:30
Room A125
Hosted by Ms. Yang and NHS Members**

From the Guidance Office

Next Year Scheduling:

Right after winter break we will begin the process of having students select their classes for next year. Students will meet by grade level between Jan. 3-11 to learn about their options. They will input their selections into Skyward on their own or in advisory on Jan 28.

Completed course selection sheets should be turned in at that time. Parents are encouraged to check their students' selections on Skyward and approve them by signing the course selection sheet.

Seniors:

Seniors who have not yet applied for financial aid for college should do so soon. The window to apply for financial aid opened on Oct. 1. Students can apply for federal financial aid by going to www.fafsa.gov. Make sure you fill out the FAFSA before your college's financial aid priority deadline.

Seniors should also be checking the scholarship page of the high school's website regularly: <http://www.deforest.k12.wi.us/schools/high/dahs-scholarships.cfm>

Juniors:

Wisconsin will require all juniors in the state to take the ACT + Writing on Feb. 20. Your student will be able to use the ACT score they receive on that administration for college application purposes. Many students may opt to take the ACT more than once, and colleges will always consider the highest score the student receives. There is a national test date on February 9 if your student would like to take the ACT once before the Feb. 20 test. There will also be additional national ACT test dates in April, June, July, and September if your student decides to re-take the test. You and your student will receive detailed information about the required ACT as we get closer to Feb. 20.

Students have begun working on preparing for the ACT using Method Test Prep in advisory. The counselors will set up optional practice test sessions during study halls during December and January.

There are other resources available to help students prepare for the ACT. Method Test Prep is a free ACT prep resource accessible through students' Xello accounts. This program offers much more test prep than students will be exposed to in advisory, so please encourage your student to spend some time exploring it.

In addition, there are ACT prep workshops scheduled in the area:

Zaps Test Prep Workshops (www.doorwaytocollege.com):

- Feb. 1 at Sun Prairie High School
- Feb. 9 at Monona Grove High School
- Feb. 13-14 at Edgewood High School

ACT Strategies Workshop: Dec. 1 or Feb. 2 at UW-Baraboo (<https://ce.uwc.edu/baraboo/catalog/act-prep-class-1>)

Juniors will also be taking the ACT WorkKeys assessment on Wednesday, March 13, 2019. This assessment measures foundational skills required for success in the workplace. Students will have an opportunity to earn a National Career Readiness Certificate in levels bronze, silver, gold and platinum. For more information, go to www.actstudent.org.

We will be hosting our annual Juniors' and Parents' College Planning Night on Monday, Jan. 28 at 6:00 PM in the PAC. Guest speakers from the UW System, Wisconsin's private colleges, and Madison College will be here to share their expertise. We will also present a great deal of information regarding post-high school options and the college planning process, including key dates and deadlines. We strongly encourage all juniors and their parents to attend this meeting.

Sophomores:

The school counselors have begun scheduling students' Academic Career Planning (ACP) meetings. All sophomores and their parent/guardian(s) should schedule an appointment to meet with their school counselor. Appointment times are available between 8:00-3:30. We will look at the transcript, career goal, course selections and work-based learning experiences specifically for your student. You will also receive a folder of post-high school planning information. You can schedule an ACP meeting by clicking on the SignUpGenius link for your school counselor or you may contact your child's counselor directly.

Counselor Assignments:

Sara Ensign Last names A-G
842-6628 sensign@deforestschoools.org
SignUpGenius Link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094BA4AE22A4FF2-acpmeeting>

Chris Micklos Last names H-O
842-6622 cmicklos@deforestschoools.org
SignUpGenius Link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0949ACAF2BAAF58-10th1>

Rebecca Schneider Last Names P-Z
842-6629 rschneider@deforestschoools.org
SignUpGenius Link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094BABA62DAAF58-acpmeetings>

Students of the Month



September

L-R: (back) Hanna Lewis, Calvin Xiong, Kaden Simpson, Lillian Allen (front) Katrina Hanson-Herrem, James Holte, Alex Elvekrog, Isabelle Schaffer-Stubbendick
Not Pictured: Jacob Burgener, Trinity French, Chenani-ah Loucks, Cree Risen



October

L-R: (back) Justin Higgins, Alonzo Blevins, Bailey Dye, (front) Claire Spitz, Victoria Fischer, Nina Parrott, Rachel Anderson. Not Pictured: Mesa Ehle, Tim Frye, Mason Kirchberg, Hannah Mngodo

We want to hear from you!

Opportunities to give input . . .

All DASD residents

- 1** **Facilities survey**
www.dasdsurvey2018.org
November 26 - December 6
- 2** **Framework for Our Future 3.0**
<https://goo.gl/99NRFp>
Now thru December 30

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

- 3** **DASD Parent Survey**
December 10 - January 11
An email will be sent to parents/ guardians from School Perceptions.

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

- 4** **DASD Parent Connection Survey**
<https://goo.gl/mHcMqW>

DeForest Area High School

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(608) 842-6615 fax



Machell Schwarz, Principal
Doug Crowley, Assistant Principal (grades 9 & 10)
Matt Bauer, Assistant Principal (grades 11 & 12)
Mike McHugh, Athletic/Activities Director

The mission of the DeForest Area School District is to provide an excellent education by engaging, challenging, and inspiring all students to pursue their full potential.

**We're on the web:
deforestareaschools.org**