Duncombe Elementary

Important Dates

Tuesday, March 3rd Booster Club Meeting 7 pm
Friday, March 6th, 4th grade movie night @ FDMS
March 18, 19 and 20th NO SCHOOL Spring Break
Wednesday, March 25th Kindergarten Round-up
Saturday, March 28th Fun Night 3-6 pm

If school must be cancelled, delayed or dismissed early due to weather conditions, announcements will be made via:

- Infinite Campus Phone Calls & Texts
- FDCSD Facebook and Twitter
- www.fdschools.org
- TV Stations: WHO, KCCI & WOI
- Radio Stations: KWMT, KKEZ, KXFT, KZLB, KIAQ, KVFD, KTLB
- The Messenger website and social media

If you currently do not receive phone calls/texts from the District and would like to, please log into your Infinite Campus Parent Portal and change your Contact Preferences.
Students in Mrs. Hatton’s fourth grade class made feather pens. The pens are similar to what people used in colonial times and connect to the American Revolution unit that they are currently studying.
Happy March and Welcome Warm Temperatures!!

I almost hate to say Spring is here out loud for fear there are more frigid temperatures or crazy late snow storms lingering, but I will say it...Hello Spring, we have missed you! Many times I am in social circles and I hear adults say, I wish I felt more connected to my kid’s school or I wish I could help out more at school. This month I am centering my Principal’s Message around a few key ways you can connect with Duncombe Elementary and help support our efforts:

**Help us create a safe learning environment:** We do our best keeping kids safe from bell to bell every day. We teach safe behaviors, we supervise to the best of our ability and we respond if we see unsafe behaviors. You can help us out before and after school, by slowing down at drop-off and pick-up. I know many of you have short time windows you are working with, however, no child’s life is every worth saving a few minutes. Please also be aware of where you are parking or stopping your vehicles. If you are blocking traffic, blocking a driveway or preventing our neighbors from coming and going from their own residence that is not safe or courteous.

**Help us by modeling learning friendly behaviors:** Read for yourself. Read to your child. Listen to your child read. Most importantly….unplug from phones, computers or T.V.’s to help keep your focus on learning and your child!!

**Be a part of learning:** We love to have guest readers for our classes or parents that would like to help with another learning activity. We have tremendous goals for each and every single student at our building, and we know those goals are only possible through strong partnerships with you.
Be a part of our fun activities: Duncombe Fun Night, hosted by our own Duncombe Booster Club, is a great way to make a positive contact in our building and support a wonderful group of caring adults. School should be a place to learn and grow, but it should also be a place to laugh, have fun and make memories. **Duncombe Fun Night: March 28th 3:00-6:00!!**

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Be a part of our learning activities: If your child’s class or grade is hosting a learning opportunity for parents, please come. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing the look on a students’ face when they get to showcase their learning or their project to their parents. Your kids work hard daily to better themselves, it is nice to have you in our building from time to time to see the tangible results of their hard work. **Duncombe Family Engagement Nights: April 5th and 7th. 5:15-6:00 dinner. 6:00-7:00 Family Engagement learning around Math and Reading.**

Donate or Use our Family Resource Center: We believe in the philosophy of “Communirosity” In order to be a full and complete community or family, we all have to be able to give and to receive. It is up to you to decide when it is your time to give and when it is your time to receive. Our family resource center has non-perishable food items, personal hygiene items, child birthday bags and a variety of other new items every month.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Ryan Flaherty

Duncombe Elementary Principal
Register Now for Kindergarten Roundup at the FDCSD

February 24, 2020, Fort Dodge, IA- Registration is taking place now for Kindergarten Roundup at the Fort Dodge Community School District. Families can choose the session that works best for them: 12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

March 23 at Butler Elementary
March 24 at Cooper Elementary
**March 25 at Duncombe Elementary**
March 26 at Feelhaver Elementary

The child’s home address determines which Roundup location he/she must attend. If parents/guardians are unsure where a child should attend Roundup, please call 574.5679.

Children must be five years of age by September 15, 2019, to be eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall. Parents/guardians who have a child ready to enter kindergarten may register their child for Roundup using the online form located at www.fdschools.org or may call 515.574.5679 to register their child into a Roundup session. The following information is required:

- If your child currently attends preschool or TK at Riverside ELC no paperwork is needed at this time. Please use the online form to indicate your intention to enroll in kindergarten at the FDCSD
- If your child currently attends preschool at Childcare Discovery, Community Christian, Dodger Preschool, Little Lambs or Saint Edmond proof of guardianship, proof of address and immunization records are needed. Please use the online form to indicate your intention to enroll in kindergarten at the FDCSD
- If your child currently does not attend preschool proof of guardianship, proof of address and immunization records are needed. Please use the online form to indicate your intention to enroll in kindergarten at the FDCSD. You will then receive a link to complete the pre-registration process online.

Parents and children will spend about an hour in a classroom where they will engage in various literacy, fine motor and math activities. Parents will attend a brief meeting with the building principal, nurse and kindergarten teachers. Children will remain in the classroom during the meetings to participate in art and story time as well as have a snack.

For families interested in Transitional Kindergarten (TK), pre-registration is taking place now. To be eligible to attend TK in the fall of 2020, children must be five years old by September 15, 2020. Space is limited and a waiting list will be started once the TK sections are full. TK hours will be 8 a.m. to 3:10 p.m., with the doors opening at 7:30 a.m. TK Roundup is March 27. Families may choose to attend a 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. session. **Register using the form online form at www.fdschools.org.**

Families will need to complete the full registration process online during the summer of 2020.

Please call 574.5679 for additional information or with questions.
1st grade hosts their annual Manners Tea Party.
Family Engagement Night

The Fort Dodge Community School District is implementing family engagement events in our schools over the next couple of months. These events will help increase the awareness families have of our academic expectations, will build the capacity of families to support their students’ learning and will create a strong partnership between families and our schools.

These interactive events will offer families the opportunity to practice skills and strategies they can use at home to support and extend their students’ learning. Family members and school staff working together will better support student learning and help students achieve their dreams.

Ongoing research shows that family engagement in schools improves student achievement, and reduces absenteeism. Students with involved parents and/or caregivers earn higher grades and test scores, have better social skills and show improved behavior at home and school.

Our family engagement events will take place April 7th and 9th from 5:30-7 p.m. at Duncombe Elementary.

These family engagement events will serve as our spring conferences for families. Please mark your calendars accordingly and plan to attend. Teachers will reach out to individual families for additional one-on-one conversations as needed.

Family is the most important influence in a child’s life, therefore involving families in the education of our students is critical to their success. We will continue to work to build more meaningful and personal connections with our families to better support our students in their learning and for their futures. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming family engagement event. Together We Rise!

Go Big for Kids and support the Fort Dodge Community Schools Foundation Annual Fundraiser Go Big, Go Dodgers. In 2019, your support helped add the following to our district:

- iJAG program at FDSH
- Peace corners at Duncombe Elementary
- Interactive technology at Feelhaver Elementary
- Math Talks materials at Cooper Elementary
- Surface planer for career and technical education at FDMS
- Battle of the Books program at all elementary schools
- Leader in Me district wide coming in 20-21
- and more!

The Big event is Friday, April 3, at 6 p.m. at Fort Frenzy. There will be live music by Salty View, a live auction, food, tailgating games, a cash bar and more!

Tickets are $40 per person ($20 for FDCSD employees and one guest). Go to www.fdcsfoundation.org to purchase tickets or make a donation.
At the Fort Dodge Community School District, we are professional, high-performing team players focused on delivering the best possible learning experience for each one of our 3600 students. We respect diversity, value integrity, reward competitively, celebrate success and support employee growth and development. We aim to attract, develop and retain the best people as part of our Dodger family.

We are currently looking for substitute teachers, paras and bus drivers. If you or someone you know is interested please visit the FDCSD website to apply.

2020-2021 Preschool Pre-Registration Underway Now

FDCSD preschool pre-registration for the 20-21 school year is now underway. To be eligible to attend preschool in the fall of 2020, children must be four years old by September 15, 2020. Preschool hours at Riverside Early Learning Center are 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., with the doors opening at 7:30 a.m.

Research shows children can gain a variety of skills by attending preschool and it helps prepare them for kindergarten. Students learn to follow directions and work cooperatively with each other. They are exposed to letters, numbers, shapes, colors and more. Preschool students learn how to socialize, share and get along with other children. In addition, they gain a sense of self, self-control and build their confidence in themselves and what they can do.

To complete the pre-registration for preschool, parents/guardians should bring proof of guardianship (birth certificate, DHS documents, court documents, tax documents), immunization records and address verification to the Central Administration Building. A $50 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of pre-registration to hold a student’s spot. Families will need to complete the full registration process online during the summer of 2020.

New School Nurses Facebook Page

The FDCSD school nurses have started a Facebook page to keep families up to date with important medical information. Please like and follow Fort Dodge Community School Nurses on Facebook!

School Libraries Facebook Page

The FDCSD school libraries have a Facebook page to share with families the fun learning that takes place in our libraries and makerspaces. Please like and follow Fort Dodge School Libraries on Facebook!
4TH GRADE MOVIE NIGHT

DETAILS:

WHAT: Movie night for our incoming 5th grade families for the 2020-2021 school year.

WHERE: Fort Dodge Middle School Auditorium. Park in the south parking lot, and enter the auditorium doors.

WHEN: March 6, 2020. Doors will unlock at 6:30, and relock by 7:15. Information and the movie will start at 7:00.

WHO: All current 4th graders and their immediate families are invited. All students must be accompanied by an adult.

WHY: Fort Dodge Middle School wants to welcome you to our school!

April 4th, from 8:30-10:30, will be the come-and-go Welcome Breakfast with tours, information about the Middle School, and a chance to meet your teachers. More details to come!
Fort Dodge Senior High is looking for projects in the community for our construction students. If you have a desire for a shed, garage, or small addition on your property and like the idea of helping our students learn a skilled trade, please contact Adam Kent at akent@fdschools.org with your ideas. If your project aligns well with our curriculum, we will make it happen. District administration will make the final determination on participation in any project.
Make a Child Smile Today!

In just an hour a week you can positively impact the life of a Dodger child. To learn more about BECOMING A MENTOR contact Corey Moody at cmoody@fdschools.org or 574.5469. Together We Rise!

Dodger Academy Facebook Page

Dodger Academy now has a Facebook page to share the fun learning and activities that take place in our after school program. Please like and follow Dodger Academy on Facebook!

It is the policy of the Fort Dodge Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, ancestry, age, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, physical attributes, religion, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, veteran’s status, actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, services, and employment practices. If you have questions or grievances related to this policy, please contact Dr. Stephanie Anderson (Director of Student Services - Elementary), and Dr. Kirsten Doebel (Director of Student Services - Secondary), Central Administration Office, 104 South 17th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501, (574-5678) or contact the Civil Rights Midwestern Division for U. S. Department of Education Office, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661-4544. (Alternate for Section 504 is Lynnae Harvey, Director of Special Education/Special Needs, 515-574-5675).

The District’s Compliance Coordinator for Affirmative Action is Lisa Negus, and can be reached at 574-5657 or 104 South 17th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.

The District’s Designated Investigators of Physical/Sexual Abuse of Students by School Employees are Dr. Stephanie Anderson (Director of Student Services - Elementary), and Dr. Kirsten Doebel (Director of Student Services - Secondary). They can be reached at 576-1161 or 104 South 17th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. The alternate is Lynnae Harvey. She can be reached at 574-5675, or 104 South 17th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.

The District’s Officers for Harassment Complaints and Allegations are Dr. Stephanie Anderson (Director of Student Services - Elementary), and Dr. Kirsten Doebel (Director of Student Services - Secondary). They can be reached at 576-1161 or 104 South 17th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.
The FDCSD has partnered with Peachjar and has begun sending digital flyers directly to parents. Peachjar provides an innovative flyer management system that sends school-approved digital flyers directly to parents' inboxes and posts them on the schools' web pages. Now parents can easily find and view flyers and take action immediately to sign up for activities and events.

Community organizations may register with Peachjar as a "Program Provider" and upload flyers for distribution to the desired school(s). Peachjar charges a fee for this service, but free events are free to upload. Paper flyers will no longer be distributed and the calendar format Virtual Backpack on our homepage has been removed.

After a flyer has been submitted through Peachjar, it is routed automatically to the district office for approval then emailed as a visually engaging, full-color image to parents.

To learn more or to become a Program Provider visit www.peachjar.com.