

*FDCSD
Students
Succeed*



For more information on programs and schools, contact:

Fort Dodge Community School District
104 South 17th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Phone: 515-576-1161

www.fdschools.org

Butler Elementary
945 S.18th St.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Phone: 515-574-5882

Cooper Elementary
2420 14th Ave. N.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Phone: 515-574-5602

Duncombe Elementary
615 N.16th St.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Phone: 515-574-5623

Feelhaver Elementary
1300 14th Ave. N.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Phone: 515-574-5680

Riverside Elementary
733 F St.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Phone: 515-574-5740

Fair Oaks Middle School
416 S.10th St.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Phone: 515-574-5691

Phillips Middle School
1015 5th Ave. N.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Phone: 515-574-5711

Fort Dodge Senior High
819 N. 25th St.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Phone: 515-955-1770

Gordon Willard Alternative Program
104 S.17th St.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Phone: 515-576-7305

Central Administration Building
104 S.17th St.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Phone: 515-76-1161



a place for you

fdcsd

Fort Dodge Community School District

www.fdschools.org



Elementary Schools

Our elementary program is designed to provide students with the essential elements on which to build a successful educational career. A clear, well-articulated and developmentally-appropriate curriculum is the strength of our schools. Our five elementary schools house grades K-4 and provide students with instruction in basic skills such as literacy, mathematics, the sciences, social studies, and technology.

Aligned Curriculum

Our curriculum is aligned across the District and encourages learning through the Iowa Core Curriculum. Besides learning the basic skills, elementary classes also meet with special teachers in the areas of physical education, health, music, art, library-media, and computer. Our basic program is also enriched by such activities as field trips, guest presentations, special events, and assemblies to applaud students for academic accomplishments.

Personal Development

Self-development skills and formative assessment are important areas of focus. Elementary students meet with teachers for small group reading instruction every day based on their abilities. This allows each student to excel while focusing on their individual strengths and weaknesses.

Technology

Technology is introduced to our students as early as preschool. Technology education includes becoming familiar with keyboarding and computer programs, learning how to create presentations, using the internet for research, and writing and presenting reports. Educational software and technological applications are used on a daily basis to enhance classroom learning.

Early Learning

To prepare for kindergarten, a District preschool program is available to all children in the community and housed within two of our elementary buildings. Another preparation program, Transitional Kindergarten, is available for 5-year-old children to provide them the emotional, academic, and social skills needed before entering kindergarten.



Differentiated and small group instruction allows teachers to focus on the needs of each child.

What Standards Can I Expect?

Qualified Educators

Our district takes pride in our highly qualified educators. 100 percent of our teachers are certified by the state of Iowa in their specific field, while nearly half hold a Master's Degree in education, an indication of knowledge and expertise.

Teachers at all grade levels participate in professional development activities in order to continuously improve learning strategies. Educators in our district believe in differentiated instruction to accommodate the needs of the brightest students as well as those students in need of assistance.

Leadership

A seven member Board of Education oversees the operation of the District. Its members are elected by residents and serve four year terms without pay. The Board meets in public session twice a month. Our board members are dedicated to taking action that leads to student achievement and the best opportunities for kids. They engage the public in decision making and are committed to demonstrating accountability to our taxpayers.

Superintendent Dr. Doug Van Zyl is the District's chief administrator and is assisted by an assistant superintendent, directors, principals, and assistant principals.

Student/Teacher Ratio Standards

	Student/Teacher Ratio
PreK-4	20.37 : 1
Middle School (5-8)	16.7 : 1
High School (9-12)	15.18 : 1

These averages do not include Title I, Talented and Gifted, English Language Learners, Librarians, Counselors, or Special Education teachers who do not have the same students all day. The figures are 2010-2011 averages.



The Board of Education frequently recognizes students for their outstanding accomplishments. Above, the president of the Board congratulates a student after receiving an academic merit award.

What Supports are there for my Child?

Special Education

Fort Dodge Community School District is committed to help each child achieve his/her level of educational excellence. As a District, we understand that not all children develop educationally at the same rate, but our team is committed to ensuring that every child leaves school every day feeling successful. The Special Education Department does this by providing specialized instruction and a variety of educational programs for students who cannot sufficiently benefit from only general education. Programs at the PreK-12 level focus on everything from academic and behavioral needs, to significant cognitive delays and mental health issues. The Senior High also provides five programs in which the curriculum focuses on work experience.



FDCSD has a student population diverse in culture, ability, and individual interest. Our diverse atmosphere and learning environment expands students understanding for the diverse and culturally abundant world we live in.

English Language Learners

The diverse atmosphere of the Fort Dodge Community School District enriches the educational opportunities for all of its students and broadens their views about the political, economic, and social realities of a diverse society. Approximately, 22.9% of our students are members of minority groups. Some of these students are also newcomers to the United States, and through our English Language Learners program students learn how to adjust to our language, culture, and education.

Talented and Gifted

The mission of the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program is to provide educational opportunities for intellectually gifted students so they may reach their full potential. The Fort Dodge Community School District provides a K-12 Talented and Gifted curriculum designed to meet the unique cognitive and affective needs of intellectually gifted students. TAG teachers work with students to teach advanced skills and strategies and to provide the social and intellectual stimulation they need.

Middle School

Our two middle schools, Fair Oaks (grades 5-6) and Phillips (grades 7-8) provide students with a well-rounded and rigorous curriculum. In addition to the core classes of English, math, science, social studies, and reading, our students' academic day includes opportunities in physical education, music, art, technology, family and consumer science, health, and foreign language.

Learning Style

Our middle school team structure provides opportunities for individual instruction and support. Students learn each day with the same group of teachers and students, allowing them to work daily in a cohesive and familiar environment. Students have one homeroom teacher and then move to different classrooms within their team throughout the day. Students develop a feeling for working with multiple staff members and movement from one area to another. Middle school provides students opportunities for maximum growth and understanding of major ideas and disciplines. Students are encouraged to develop independent learning skills and explore special interests.



The Arts and Extra Curricular Activities

Throughout their middle school years, students may also elect to take performing arts such as band, orchestra, or choir. Instrumental music lessons are also offered to all students. Students may also elect to participate in concerts, musicals, and several performing groups, giving them opportunities to showcase their training and abilities. Students at the seventh and eighth grade level may also choose to be involved in athletics and various clubs. Athletic opportunities allow students to compete and travel at a state level, preparing them for the variety of activities and involvement opportunities offered at the Senior High.

Cutting Edge Facility

The Fort Dodge Community School District is proud to be constructing a new middle school which will accommodate 1,000 students in grades 5 – 8. The new facility represents a consolidation of the two existing middle schools. The new middle school is designed to provide our students with a 21st century learning environment that allows them to excel academically in a top notch atmosphere. The facility will contain special needs classrooms, a library, exploratory labs, conventional classrooms, science labs, and academic "learning communities" that allow for project learning, computers, and collaboration. The new middle school will open its doors during the summer of 2013.

Fort Dodge Senior High

With over 200 courses from which to choose, Fort Dodge Senior High has a reputation for offering one of the most extensive learning experiences in the area. Our high school's comprehensive program is designed for students in grades nine through twelve with diverse abilities and goals.

Freshman Academy

Freshman Academy eases the transition from middle school to high school for ninth grade students. Housed in the Senior High, the Academy groups ninth grade students together for core classes. Teachers within the academy work to ensure Freshman students excel academically and socially as they adjust to high school.

Academic Rigor

Students gain enhanced credit through Advanced Placement (AP) courses, honors classes, opportunities for concurrent college credit from Iowa Central Community College, postsecondary enrollment options, as well as vocational articulation and health occupations classes. Our broad choice of electives allows students to prosper in relation to their interests and future plans.

University and College Credit

Fort Dodge Senior High offers approximately 30 Iowa Central Community College courses which allow students to gain both high school and college credit. These courses are taught at the high school by Senior High instructors. Students from surrounding school districts come to FDSH every semester to benefit from our college curriculum. On average, students graduate with a semester of college completed, an opportunity to save money and get a head start on a college education. Our postsecondary enrollment option allows senior students to enroll part time at an eligible community college or university. Students may attend classes on the college campus, while receiving both high school and college credits.

Graduation

High school graduation is a crucial precursor to future success. The percentage of FDSH graduates is at its highest level ever. The Senior High graduation rate in 2010 was 90.5%, just two tenths short of the state goal. On average, graduating classes receive nearly one million dollars worth of scholarships.



Students involved in Computer Programming design iPhone Apps for the Apple market while learning programming and design skills.

Personal Expression and Dodger Involvement

With over 25 school-sanctioned extracurricular activities, 21 athletic teams, and an outstanding band, orchestra, drama, and choral program, there are plenty of ways to get involved at Fort Dodge Senior High. A variety of extra-curricular activities give students opportunities for personal expression and growth, extending friendships, and the opportunity to contribute to their school and community. As the largest district in the surrounding area, our Activities and Athletics Department has the ability to offer a wide range of programs that are not found at smaller districts. Some of these programs include boys' and girls' soccer, swimming, tennis, Debate, and Speech. Our certified coaches and directors include a majority of Fort Dodge teachers who encourage participants to succeed at all levels. Many of our students continue to pursue athletics and the arts at the collegiate level.

World Language

Students may choose to study various levels of Spanish, German, or French to engage in a language and culture other than their own. Students may also elect to participate in world language clubs and trips to further their understanding. Each year, exchange students live with Fort Dodge families and attend school in our classrooms, giving students an understanding for diverse national backgrounds.



Relevant Curriculum

Many of our programs at Senior High take pride in the ability to expose students to their future interests. Through our Health Care Department, students gain an understanding for the skills and knowledge required in a health related career. Our classrooms are equipped with hospital beds and technology that allows students to practice basic lab activities.

Opportunities in industrial technology are also a popular choice for many students. Senior High's Industrial Technology Department offers a wide range of courses that focus on manufacturing, building trades, automotive, and metals. Articulated credit allows students to receive college credit in certain vocational courses.

Technology

Students at the Senior High may select from several additional computer-related courses that range from computer aided drafting to computer programming and publication design. The Senior High is equipped with wireless internet, allowing students to work from laptops with uninterrupted access. At Senior High, our teachers have also expanded their regional boundaries. A classroom equipped for distance learning allows our teachers to instruct students at partnering districts. This allows our teachers and students to collaborate and learn from peers in different locations.