



Fort Dodge Middle School

Newsletter

TOGETHER WE RISE: Raising the Bar, Closing the Gap,
Believing All Kids Do Well If They

January 2022

Fort Dodge Middle School

Building Principal

Aaron Davidson

Assistant Principals

Shawn Bennett – 6/7th grade

Jason Lampe - 7/8th grade

Tom Daniel—Dean of Students

Student Services Office

PH: 515-574-5711

FX: 515-576-3160

Lynsey Froisland - Secretary

Nicole Ritenour- Secretary

Administration Office

PH: 515-574-5691

FX: 515-576-3160

Amy Kinseth- Secretary

FDCSD Main Office

109 N. 25th St.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

PH: 515-576-1161

FX: 515-576-1988

Superintendent

Dr. Derrick Joel

Director of Human Resources

Kimberly Whitmore

Director of Special Needs

Pam Stangeland

Director of Education Services

Stephanie Anderson - Elementary

Kirsten Doebel - Secondary

Principal's Message

Dear Fort Dodge Middle School families,

Let me begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year filled with many successes and continued progress. During winter break, I hope you had a chance to catch up with friends and family and enjoy some rest and relaxation. I certainly spent some time reflecting on 2021 and thinking about the work and opportunities that lie ahead in 2022.



As we approach the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. King's work, and his legacy, I am reminded of one of my favorite quotes of his, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

One of the things I appreciate most about our FDMS staff is that we are not silent about things that matter and together we continue to provide a high-quality service for children and families. At FDMS, we place great value on seeing our students showing continued success and academic progress as they move through their academic journey while here at the middle school. I am excited to begin our work in the second half of the school year to ensure that learning continues. As we ring in the new year, we see this as an opportunity to check in with students and families to ensure that our students are on-track, prepared and ready for the second half of the year. What I observed, as we approach the midpoint of the school year, is the students are progressing both academically and behaviorally and our instructional and support teams remain energized.

FDMS continues to strive to become a school focused on educational equity and finds unique and innovative ways to partner, support, and create opportunities that make our school a place where all children enjoy learning, develop strong relationships, and continue to grow each day socially, emotionally, and academically. As always, thank you for your continued support. To the parents of FDMS, let's make 2022 one to remember!

Respectfully,
Aaron Davidson
FDMS Principal



Leader in Me®

Starting Jan. 4th all students will start learning the 7 habits during Dodger Time. Students will learn by completing grade specific Lead Journals. The first habit we will be covering is "Be Proactive" Below you will find information about Habit 1: Be Proactive and some at home activities.

? QUESTIONS?

Below are questions to start a conversation with your child about Being Proactive. Students are encouraged to use Habit 1 at school. Talking with your child will help them to use the Habits at home as well.

If you are angry or upset, how do your choices affect others?

What can you do to change your mood?

What can you do this week to help someone without being asked?

Talk about things you can control and things that are out of your control.



FAMILY ACTIVITY

Take initiative and start a new habit for the month or stop an unhealthy habit. Make a plan for 21 days and work together to see it through.

THE 8 HABITS AT HOME ↑

HABIT 1 BE PROACTIVE: YOU'RE IN CHARGE

Habit 1 is Be Proactive. This teaches students to be in charge of their own lives, to take responsibility for their actions and attitudes. This habit encourages students to do the right thing even if no one is looking.

Nurse Notes



Too Sick for School?

With minor symptoms you often cannot tell whether your child is going to get better or worse. When trying to decide if you should send your student to school, the following guidelines may help. Remember that sending an ill child to school, puts other children and staff at risk.

Stay At Home -

- **Appearance, Behavior** - unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, or irritable.
- **Eyes** - thick mucus or pus draining from the eye. With pink eye (conjunctivitis) you may see a white or yellow discharge, matted eyelids after sleep, eye pain and/or redness.
- **Fever** - temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Remember that a child must be fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication before returning to school.
- **Greenish Nose Discharge, and/or Chronic Cough** - should be seen by healthcare providers.
- **Sore Throat** - especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck. (With strep throat, the child may return to school after 24 hours on antibiotics).
- **Diarrhea** - 3 or more watery stools in a 24 hour period especially if the child acts or looks ill.
- **Vomiting** - vomiting 2 or more times within the past 24 hours.
- **Rash** - body rash, especially with fever or itching. Heat rashes and allergic reactions are not contagious.
- **Ear Infections without Fever** - do not need to be excluded, but the child needs to get medical treatment and follow-up. Untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss.

Go To School -

- **Sniffles**, a runny nose and mild cough without a fever.
- **Vague complaints** of aches, pains, fatigue
- **Single episode** of diarrhea or vomiting without any other symptoms

Your student will be sent home from school if he or she demonstrates any of the above listed signs and symptoms.

Back To School After an Illness

The school environment can be an excellent medium for the rapid spread of illness. Any child assessed in the health office may be dismissed if any of the following symptoms are present.

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Temperature of 100.4 degrees or above
- Suspected or confirmed communicable disease
- Upper respiratory illness with significant coughing or nasal drainage

A student may return to school from an absence when:

- He/She has been on an antibiotic for 24 hours
- No vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours
- Fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever relieving medication
- All chicken pox lesions have crusted over and evaluated by the school nurse



Staff Spotlights

Robin Hundt

My name is Robin Hundt, and I am excited to be the newest eighth-grade ELA middle school teacher. I teach in the Gold Pod and enjoy working with my caring and dedicated colleagues. The students are animated, kind, and energetic, and we are learning new things together every day. Prior to taking this position at Fort Dodge Middle School, I taught English at Glenwood High School for 14 years. I have been teaching for a total of 25 years and have taught in four states: Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Virginia. I have taught sixth through twelfth grade English, journalism, and communications classes. My favorite class is always the one I am currently teaching.

I was born and raised in Ames, Iowa (go Cyclones!) and graduated from the University of Iowa (go Hawks!) with a degree in English and Journalism. Prior to teaching, I worked in public relations and advertising. I went back to school at Virginia Wesleyan University to get my teaching credentials. And most recently I earned my master's in school administration from the University of Nebraska Omaha (can't quite bring myself to say, go Huskers).

I am married to my wonderful husband, Bryan Hundt. He works in sales for a company in Story City called Eby. They manufacture and sell trailers. We have three adult children. James, Samantha, and Alexandra. Jim is an attorney practicing in Des Moines. He and his lovely wife Emily made us grandparents this year when McKinley James was born in November. Samantha and Alexandra are both graduating from college this school year. Sami with an art education degree and Allie with a public relations degree. Allie is already working in public relations and Sami is looking for an art teaching position in the Omaha area. Sami is also busy planning her wedding in July to a great guy named Michael.

Just want to close by saying everyone has made me feel very welcome. Go Dodgers!



7 Plum Down Teachers

Jeff Hatcher- English Language Arts
Martha Mericle- English Language Arts
Alyssa Faylor- Science
Kaitlyn McIntyre- Social Studies
Chris Donnelly/ Tamisha Benedict- Math
Tina Gerdes- Special Education Teacher
Zack Ingles- English Language Learner Teacher
Welcome- Ms. DeBoer, our new math teacher! :)

7 Down

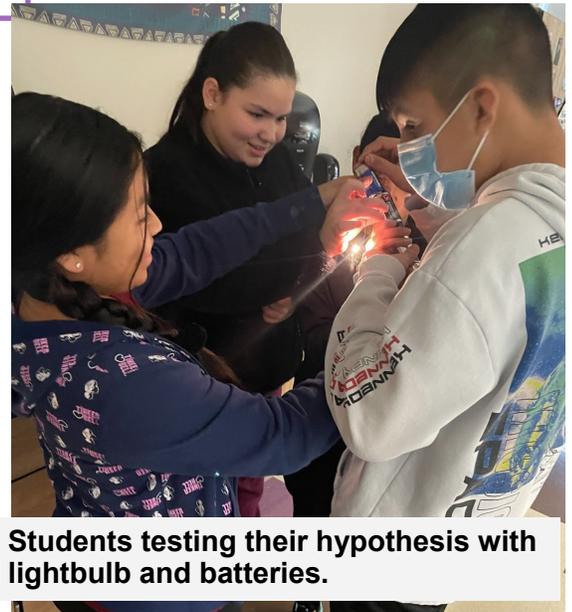
In Science... we are learning about forces at a distance. We are focusing on how a speaker works and even made our own homemade speaker. We learned about compasses and how the Earth has a magnetic pull. We are learning about how different electromagnets work and the magnetic fields around them.

In Social Studies... we are learning about how our government works. Students created a mascot for our pod and held a class and pod election using the electoral college system. We are also studying how the crisis with the Venezuelan government and inflation have caused human rights violations to occur.

In ELA... students learned about Sudan by reading *A Long Walk to Water* and the need for water in the country. They wrote a narrative essay and then turned it into a children's eBook. Students had a lot of fun using their creativity to make their eBooks. ELA students are now learning about epidemics and reading *Patient Zero*, in which they will write a research paper about a specific epidemic and then create a podcast.

In Math... students have learned about unit rates, ratios, multiplying and dividing fractions, finding the area and circumference of a circle. Students get extra math practice during their skill building class.

In ELL... students are learning how to introduce themselves to others by asking and answering conversational, everyday questions. They have been practicing through both written and spoken forms of communication in order to get to know one another better. This will help them build the confidence needed to introduce themselves and interact with their English-speaking peers.



Students testing their hypothesis with lightbulb and batteries.



Students working on making an electromagnet in Science.



Choir

6th—Audra Sells

7th—Amelia Stephan

8th—Kate Birkey

Band

6th—Miura Novencido

7th—Teagan Loots

8th—Makinley Nore



Art

6th—Cienna Jones

7th—Davis Underberg

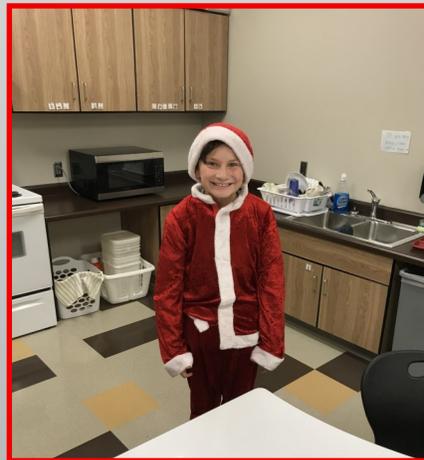
8th—Oria Page & Zuri Rowe

Orchestra

6th—Zach Palm

7th—Jillian Cook

8th—Piper Stockdale



Student of the Month



Joshua Beekman

Josh Beekman is the Middle School Student of the Month. The 7 Plum Down team of Alyssa Faylor, Martha Mericle, Kaitlyn McIntyre, Jeff Hatcher and Chris Donnelly nominated Beekman. They said he is always raising his hand to participate and answer questions. He turns in work that is full of detail and done exceptionally well. He gets his work done and then offers to help other students.

His contributions help the whole class learn. Beekman is polite and respectful to all students and adults, he includes everyone, asks others how their day is going, uses manners, and always has a smile on his face. They concluded by saying, "Josh is a natural leader in and out of the classroom. He's an invaluable part of his cohort and helps keep the group glued together." He is the son of Jesse and Heather Beekman.



Fort Dodge Middle School is committed to partnering with our families and community. We have several resources for all our families!

Clothing closet: Stocked with clothes, shoes, socks, etc. Students can come to Student Services if they are in need or families can reach out and set up a time to pick out what they may need.

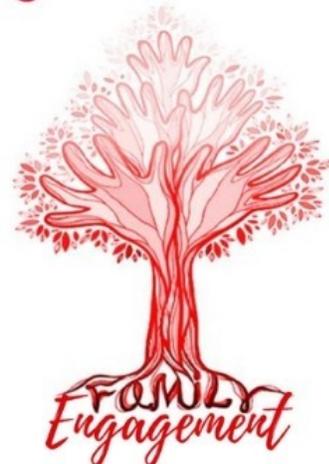
Family Engagement Room: A place where families can come to use computers to check grades, play games or meet with staff. The family engagement room also offer a small library of free books for students to take home as well as parenting resources. We also have personal hygiene items to take home when needed.

Referrals: Our student support team regularly make referrals to outside services that support families in need such as therapy, BHIS, and other community resources.

Fortdodgeresources.com is a website with information for links to resources in our community.

Visit Student Services if you have any questions or would like to access any of our resources.

Together **WE RISE**



Fort Dodge Middle School

Know Someone Who Wants to Be a Dodger?

Open Enrollment Deadline for 2022-23 is
March 1, 2022

Our mission at the FDCSD is to provide quality learning experiences and build relationships that develop productive citizens ready for their futures. A child's educational experiences including coursework, activities and relationships, will prepare him for his future; what his post-secondary experience will be and the career choice he will make. With our variety of classes and activities, we truly offer something for everyone!

If you know someone whose child currently does not attend our schools but who could benefit from what we have to offer, please share this information with them. The open enrollment deadline for the 2022-23 school year is March 1, 2022. The application can be found at http://www.fdschools.org/en/student_registration/ or is available in the superintendent's office at the FDCSD Central Office.



Tell Me Something Good!

Got news? Is something good happening in your school or your child's school that the community should know about? Do you have good news to share about a class project, school activities, student and staff achievements or interesting people in the District? If so, the FDCSD Communications department wants to know and help spread the word! There is now a [Tell Me Something Good](#) form located under Departments, Communications on our fdschools.org website. Please use it to share news about great things happening in your child's school.

Together **WE RISE**
RAISING THE BAR • CLOSING THE GAP • BELIEVING KIDS DO WELL IF THEY CAN

From The Student Services Office (Attendance):

Phone Messages:

Every day at around 2:30pm, we call students to the office for any message they have received during the day. Please ensure you have called in before this time. Also, please keep in mind that with close to 1,200 students, if you have a reoccurring message, please discuss this with your child in the morning *before* school. This will help us keep classroom interruptions to a minimum.

Early Dismissals From School:

There will not be early dismissals from school this year unless classes need to be dismissed for weather-related reasons.

Time of Arrival at School:

Students should not arrive at school before 7:30, as supervisors are not on duty before that time. The doors open and breakfast starts at 7:30. *Please help us keep your children safe by not sending them to school before that time!*

Checking Out of School:

Please sign and send a written note to school if your child has to leave school during the day. They are to bring the note directly to the Student Services Office first thing in the morning for office personnel to sign. They will then show that note to their teacher to get excused from class and use the note to check out from the office.

Pick Up/Return:

Parents/guardians are required to pick up their child on the south side of the building. They will be waiting in the office or door area until you arrive. If they return to school they must first check in with the Student Services Office for attendance purposes before returning to class.



It is important to call your student in absent if they are going to be late or miss a day of school. Please call the number below when your child is unable to make it to school.

ATTENDANCE LINE: 574-5711

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY

FDCSD students will act in a responsible manner in school, on school grounds and at all school sponsored activities. Students, staff and guests will treat each other with respect and courtesy, use appropriate behavior and language, and follow expectations. Here is our complete [School Discipline Policy](#) for your review.

Keep connected with FDMS:



Follow us on Facebook at Fort Dodge Middle School



Follow us on Twitter at @FDCSD



Check out Peachjar for FDCSD Flyers

<https://app.peachjar.com/flyers/all/schools/70018>

WINTER WEATHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



**JOIN OUR
TEAM!**

FORT DODGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT Adobe Spark

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](http://www.fdschools.org) to apply.

Non Discrimination Policies

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 Elementary Education, and Dr. Kirsten Doebel, Director of Secondary Education, Central Administration Office, 109 N 25th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501, 515-574-5678, 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 Pamela Stangeland, Director of Special Needs, 515-574-5675).

The District's Compliance Coordinator for Affirmative Action is Kimberly Whitmore, who can be reached at 515-574-5657 or 109 N 25th 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 Elementary Education, and Dr. Kirsten Doebel, Director of Secondary Education. They can be reached at 515-576-5678 or 109 N 25th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. The alternate is Pamela Stangeland, Director of Special Needs. She can be reached at 515-574-5675 or 109 N 25th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.

The District's Officers for Harassment Complaints and Allegations are Dr. Stephanie Anderson, Director of Elementary Education, and Dr. Kirsten Doebel, Director of Secondary Education. They can be reached at 515-576-5678 or 109 N 25th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.