Principal’s Message

Special Notes:
- Our FDMS Family Engagement Nights/Conferences are coming up! They will be held on Tuesday, March 31 for 5th and 7th grades. For our 6th and 8th grades they are held on Thursday, April 2. Both nights will be from 4-8 p.m.

- We have Spring Break from Wednesday, March 18 through Friday, March 20. Please make arrangements as school will not be in session on those days.

- We have our annual Family Movie Night for this year's 4th graders (incoming 5th graders) on Friday, March 6th starting at 6:30 p.m. Also, for the same group of students and families we will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 4th from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at FDMS.

- We are excited about our upcoming FDMS Spring Musical. The students have been working really hard to put on a great show. The dates are Thursday, March 12 and Friday, March 13. The start time is 7 p.m. both nights.

- Parents/Guardians and Visitors are welcome at Fort Dodge Middle School. Please remember to use the south entry door when entering the building and sign up in the office every time you enter the building. The other doors will be locked during school hours. It allows us to provide a safer environment for our kids.
DATES TO REMEMBER

March
6  4th Grade Movie Night
8  Daylight Savings
12 7/8th Grade Musical
13 7/8th Grade Musical
18-20 Spring Break NO SCHOOL

April
4  4th Grade Pancake Breakfast
10 NO SCHOOL Conf. Comp Day
13 Snow Make-Up Day
20-27 ISASP Testing

*** CORRECTION! The 12 month school calendar has an error in it. The month of June is incorrect. The dates do not correctly line up with the days of the week. June 1st should be on Monday, not Friday. Please make the correction to the dates in your calendar. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused. ***

Principal’s Message continued...

Preparing for Summative/Formative Assessments: You can support your child at home by preparing him/her physically for the test. Students who are well rested and have had a good breakfast tend to perform better. You could also take an opportunity to talk with your child about how they may be feeling concerning the test. Any encouragement can help students feel better about their effort and performance. Tell them to do their very best!

What should you do if your child gets into trouble at school? Receiving a phone call from a teacher to say your child is misbehaving is never pleasant. But if you take quick action, you can almost always nip the problem in the bud.

Here’s what to do:
• Listen to the teacher. Contrary to parents’ belief, teachers don’t like calling parents to report a problem with a student. The teacher wants your child to do well. So if they are calling you, something is going on that is stopping your child from learning. Hear them out.
• Work with the teacher. It’s likely they have seen a similar problem before. What do they recommend? What can you do at home to help? Form a plan as partners.
• Talk with your child. Assure your child that you love them and that their teacher cares about them. That is why you are both trying to help. Review school rules together. Explain that following rules is not always easy, but it is something that everyone must do so the classroom can be a happy place where everyone is learning.

Character Counts News: We are proud of FDMS students as good character is being shown in school! This week we have seen many acts of good citizenship in the building. Thanks to everyone who got caught!

I appreciate hearing good news, concerns, and questions you have about your child. Please contact me if you have anything you wish to share and I will reply as soon as possible.

Aaron Davidson
FDMS (5-8) Principal
515-574-5691
adavidson@fdschools.org
Samantha Block

I’m Samantha Block and I am the 7th grade School Counselor. Before coming to FDMS I was working on my Master’s degree in Professional School Counseling through Buena Vista University while working as a Para educator at Penn Elementary in North Liberty IA. I am originally from Rockwell City, IA and I come from a big family that includes my father (Jeff), Mother (Cindy), sisters (Britney and Miranda), and brothers (Marcus and Jordan). I lived in Southeast Iowa for the past 6 years and recently moved to Manson, IA with my husband Ethan and our one-year-old son Evan. During my free time, I love to read, paint, listen to music, kayaking, and going on family walks. This year I look forward to continuing on building strong relationships with our students and staff at FDMS.

Leslie Nagel

I’m Ms. Nagel and I’m a first year school nurse at the Middle School. Before the Middle School I was an adjunct nursing clinical instructor at Iowa Central Community College and worked PRN as a nurse at the Marian Home. I took my nursing at St Luke’s School of Nursing in Sioux City, Iowa and my core classes at Briar Cliff College. I am from Kingsley a small town in western Iowa. My dad (Lowell) is a retired farmer and still lives on the farm. I have two brothers (David and Karl). My older brother Dave manages the ice cream freezer at Wells Blue Bunny in Le Mars. My younger brother Karl farms near Kingsley and has gone back to seminary school to become a pastor. I’m married to Kevin who is a computer programmer for VT Industries in Holstein, Iowa and have 5 children (April, Alex, Andy, Alison and Alyssa). April is a drug and alcohol rehab nurse at St Gregory’s in Bayard, Iowa. Alex is a coach for St Ed’s and the Parks and Rec department. Andy is a bar/restaurant manager for Cowboy Jack’s in Minneapolis. Alison is assistant women’s Basketball coach at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake and Alyssa is a waitress at Cowboy Jack’s and an It Works distributor. I have a dog named Charles that I love spending time with. I enjoy being involved in anything to do with music. I was a charter member of Sonshine Singers, I direct the Trinity Singers Choir at Corpus Christi and I play the piano for mass at St Thomas in Manson every other Sunday and for worship service the opposite every other Sunday at Friendship Haven Celebration Center. I also enjoy golfing and traveling anywhere my kids are. I look forward to learning more about and remembering the names of more students and co-workers. My goal is striving to make a difference wherever I can.
Ms. Boeckman’s Class:
There has been a lot of Math and Science learning happening during this past month on the 5B team infused with many opportunities to grow and strengthen our life skills. To highlight, students have been adding and subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators in Math using concrete models (analog clocks) and representations (area models) as well as explaining their thinking in words. Utilizing the mathematical practices through productive mathematical discussions, students are making sense of problems and persevering to solve them. The students have also been learning how to work together to problem solve and to model what they know about the problems they are solving. In Science, the students are creating a new salad dressing for the president of Good Food Production, Inc., Lauren Harold, with ingredients that mix well (no sediments) and have a good balance of flavors which will be appealing to people. Recently, we did a Flavor Ingredients Test to determine a balance of flavors using a flavor wheel. Flavors on the wheel include sweet, sour, spicy, bitter, and salty. The students are digging deep in their research to prepare a scientific explanation of their findings!

Ms. Harken’s Class:
Lots of rainforest exploration has been happening in Language Arts and Social Studies. Students have been guided by the big questions of “Why do scientists study the rainforest?” and “What can I do to help the rainforest?” We have looked at numerous texts for evidence and discussed the text’s structure. Students have been using their researching skills to gather information for whole class Fish-bowl discussions. Lots of time and practice was put into preparing notes and questions to use, and practicing academic discussion.
language. This week students began a project researching animals from the rainforest that we read about in the book “The Great Kapok Tree” by Lynn Cherry. In the upcoming month, students will be continuing their study of the rainforest and using rainforest texts to learn about figurative language, point of view, and narrative writing. Students will get to hear from forester, Lance Moore, about the importance of conservation not only for the rainforest but also for the forests in Iowa.

5B Team Happenings:
Students are combining their math and writing skills in a cross-curricular project where they will be working with fractions and doing some narrative writing using their favorite recipe. The 5B Team recently participated in the Pennies For Patients Campaign during February to raise money for children with cancer. We brainstormed ways to raise money during this time. Students chose to pay money for special activities such as Snack & Drink Day, Electronic Day, Lollipop Day, and Game Day. For each dollar the students brought, a pig was hung on our classroom door as a friendly competition between classrooms. All of the money we raised, nearly $300, was donated to the Pennies For Patients Campaign. We have also been spending time getting to know our “special friends” down the hall during visits to our classrooms, gathering for special events, and sharing Friday treats with them. Upcoming trips that our team is looking forward to are an excursion, on March 4th, to Iowa Central to watch Newsies, the broadway musical. Students will also be participating in the Iowa Children’s Water Festival in Ames on May 14th to expand their learning about the water cycle, conservation and what they can do to help keep our water clean. Our team is also hoping to go to Rosedale Rapids as an end of the year 5B team celebration.
What's Going On at FDMS...
What's Going On at FDMS...
Aden Tjalsma is the Middle School Student of the Month. Lexi Lara, Amanda Ostrander-Lawrence and Terry Madden nominated him. They said Tjalsma is a valuable contributor to class discussions. He comes to class with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. They stated Tjalsma is a natural-born helper. When asked to help another student he does so willingly while coaching, guiding and offering praise. He is very considerate of his classmates and teachers. They concluded by saying, “Aden makes school a priority. He puts his learning above all else while putting forth his best effort. He is able to share, listen, disagree respectfully and treat others kindly.” He is the son of Jon and Kristen Tjalsma.

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

Backpack buddies: Each Friday a bag of food is sent home with students to help those families stretch the food bill a little further.

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.

Food pantry: The term “food insecurity” means that a person doesn’t know where or when they’ll find their next meal. In 2013, 49.1 million Americans lived in food insecure households, 33.3 million adults and 15.8 million children. FDMS wants to help make sure everyone has food to eat. Students may visit the food pantry by visiting Student Services.

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.
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 son/daughter 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
Are You Smarter Than A K-Kid? Game Show
Benefits Dodger Academy Scholarship Program

Save the Date: March 27, 2020

Advance Ticket Price $10.00
Tickets at the Door $15.00
Ticket price includes your meal

Butler Elementary School - 945 S 18th St.
5:45 p.m. - 6:30 meal / 6:30 Game On!

Follow us: facebook: @are.smarter
twitter: @are_smarter

Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis Club.

Working together, we can achieve what one person cannot accomplish alone.

Kiwanis K-Kids
Young Leaders Helping Others

Together we can make a difference!
Family Engagement Nights

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 Tuesday, March 31 for 5th and 7th grades; Thursday, April 2 for 6th and 8th grades. Both will be from 4-8 p.m.

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!

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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.
FDCSD 7-12 Grade Athletic Physicals March 5

February 17, 2020, Fort Dodge, IA- Athletic physicals for current 7-12 grade students will be held on Thursday, March 5, from 5:15–6:15 p.m. at the Fort Dodge Senior High gym. The cost is $15.00. All 7-12 grade Dodger student athletes are encouraged to attend.

A sports physical needs to be current and on file in the nurse's office prior to the first day of practice of the athlete’s sport season. Seniors out for spring/summer sports must have a physical that stays current through the end of their season.

FDSH students can have their pre-workup (height, weight, heart rate and blood pressure) done with the athletic trainer and school nurse during lunch or before or after school March 2-5. FDMS 7th and 8th grade students will not have a pre-workup; everything will be completed the night of physicals.

All athletes will receive a physical form. The form is also available at fdschools.org under Athletics near the bottom of the page. The front of the form must be completed and signed by a parent, and brought with the athlete on March 5 in order for the physical to be completed. Payment by cash or check is also required at this time.

Parents or guardians who need additional information or have questions may contact BreAnn Drees at bdrees@fdschools.org or 574-5825.

The mission of the Fort Dodge Community School District is to provide quality learning experiences and build relationships that develop productive citizens ready for their futures. For more information about the Fort Dodge Community Schools visit www.fdschools.org or call 515.576.1161. Our Schools. Our Community. Our Pride.
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 Feehaver 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](http://www.fdcsfoundation.org) to purchase tickets or make a donation.

There will be school April 13 as a snow make-up day.
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.

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 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, who 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.