



# Fort Dodge Middle School

## Newsletter

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

### 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

## September

### 2021

### *Principal's Message*

Please allow me to extend a warm welcome to you and your and your child/ren for the 2020-2021 school year by introducing myself. My name is Aaron Davidson and this is second year as the building principal at FDMS. This is my 21st year in education and my 11th year as a building principal. I have been married to my wife Krystal for 21 years and we have three children; Jace (20 yrs.), Christian (18 yrs.), and Taytum (15 yrs.).



On behalf of the Fort Dodge Middle School staff, we are excited to have the students back at school! We are blessed to have such a beautiful state-of-the-art building and our custodial staff has done and continues to do a fantastic job of keeping it clean for us. We can't wait to be part of each one of our student's "Path to Success". Just to name a few:

- The path to being a state champion wrestler starts at FDMS with our 7/8 grade wrestling teams.
- The path to being a state qualifying softball player starts at FDMS with 7/8 grade softball teams including this past season's 8th graders that were on the high school team.
- The path to National Honor Society starts at FDMS as shown by all of our 8th grade Presidential Excellence winners.
- The path to Division 1 ratings in music starts at FDMS due to our strong Band, Choral, Orchestra, and Theatre programs.

*Principal's Message continued on next page...*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### September

**6 NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)**

### October

**4 NO SCHOOL (Teacher PD)**

**19/21 Conferences**

**21 NO SCHOOL**

**22 NO SCHOOL**

### *Principal's Message continued...*

As crazy as everything feels right now, rest assured that our utmost priority has been, and always will be, keeping every student safe. It is important that you know that together we will get through this and **TOGETHER WE WILL RISE!** I am excited that teaching and learning has started again. We are looking forward to accomplishing great things!

Sincerely,

Mr. Davidson  
FDMS 5-8 Principal  
515.574.5691  
adavidson@fdschools.org



## Dodger Health & Safety

The health and safety of our students and staff continues to be a top priority for the District.

COVID-19 is still active in our community. As of the morning of August 27, 2021, Webster County's positivity rate was 7% overall. Of that 7%, 12% are individuals 17 and under. **We strongly encourage students, staff, parents and visitors to wear a mask in our schools, regardless of vaccination status.** As we previously shared, all individuals are required to wear a mask on school buses. Exposure is still defined as being in close contact (less than six feet) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 consecutive minutes.

Beyond wearing a mask, the following are additional things you can do to help keep yourself, our students and staff, and our community safe:

- Wash your hands frequently and cover your coughs
- Stay home if you are sick. According to the health department, the best practice is for people who test positive or suspect they are positive due to symptoms, to stay home for 10 days. Additionally, students must be fever free without the use of medication for 24 hours before returning to school. A fever is considered 100.4 degrees or higher.
- Webster County Public Health recommends getting vaccinated if you have not already. For vaccination information call the county health department at 515.573.4107.

COVID-19 is now considered a "community virus," just like influenza. With school back in session, students will be exposed to various illnesses throughout the year. It is important to do what you can to protect yourself and others around you.

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 activity in our area and guidance provided by the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Public Health and will continue to follow allowable mitigation strategies under Iowa regulations.

Stay safe and healthy Dodgers!

This information was originally shared with families via Infinite Campus email and inbox on August 29.

# Mr. Davidson's Short Stops



## Explore cultures through books

Reading novels set in other countries is a wonderful way for your tween to learn about cultures and geography. It gives him a window into other people's lives and a chance to imagine himself in their shoes. Suggest picking up nonfiction books, too, to discover more about the countries in the novels.

“Nothing is a waste of time if you use the experience wisely.”

Auguste Rodin

## Just for fun

**Q:** How many times can you subtract 10 from 100?

**A:** Once. The next time you'd be subtracting 10 from 90!



**Homework coach** How can you help your middle grader get her homework done without doing it for her? Think like a coach! Offer guidance and support, but let her find her own solutions: “How could you plan your time better?” “Where can you look for help solving that equation?” You'll help build her skills—and her confidence.

## Watch out for vaping

One in 20 middle schoolers report using e-cigarettes, or “vaping.” Because these devices are small (many look like USB drives), they're easy to hide. Make sure your tween understands that inhaling nicotine and other chemicals could permanently damage her lungs and brain—and that vaping is illegal for people under 21.

# 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

## Jordan Neumann

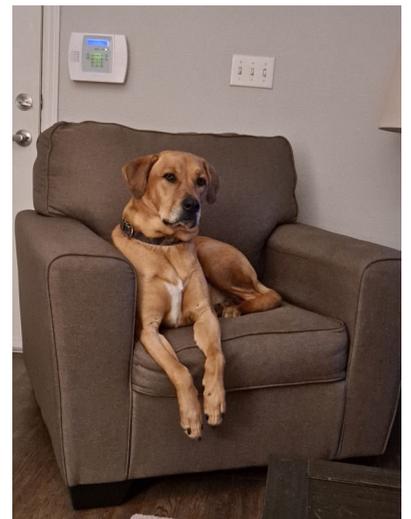


I'm Jordan Neumann, one of the school nurses for FDMS. I grew up in the Fort Dodge area, and graduated from Manson Northwest Webster High School in 2012. I attended Wartburg College in Waverly to get my BA in Biology and then Allen College for my Bachelors in Nursing. I worked at Trinity Regional Medical Center in Fort

Dodge for two years before becoming a travel nurse. I worked at Banner Fort Collins Medical Center in Fort Collins, Colorado for 6 months, and I worked at Shriners Hospital for Children in Shreveport, Louisiana for a total of 13 months. I liked it so much I took 2 travel assignments there. As much as I loved travel nursing, it was definitely time to be done and find a job a bit closer to home!

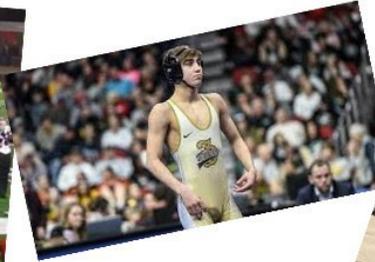
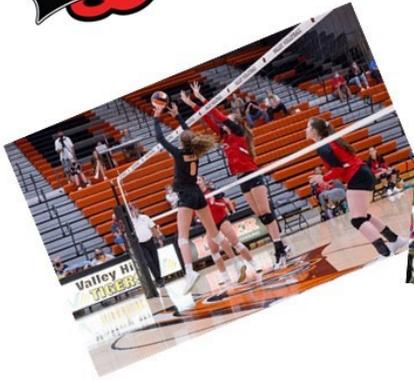
I live in Fort Dodge with my dog, Finn. He's a lab mix, and he's very spoiled. For fun I enjoy painting and other arts and crafts, playing Xbox and going to the arcade with my boyfriend, Ben, and spending time with my friends and family. I'm also in a Dungeons and Dragons group that meets once a week.

I am looking forward to getting to work with the staff and students at FDMS this year: getting to know everyone and helping students and staff with any health concerns they may have.





# DODGER ACTIVITY PASSES



## PASS OPTIONS FOR 2021-2022

Student Activity Pass

\$55 (Grades 6-12)

\$45 (Grades K-5<sup>th</sup>)

Adult Activity Pass Options

\$75 Adult Pass

\$45 Senior Citizen

Family Price

\$225 (Max for members of household)

"Passes are good for all Fort Dodge Dodgers home activities during the 2021-2022 Season"

*To purchase passes contact Ryan O'Leary by stopping at the high school or at Friday Nights Pop Scrimmage at Dodger Stadium. Cash or Check Only*

## We love seeing our stands full of our DODGER FAMILY!



Student athletes must have a current physical on file with the school nurse before they can practice or compete.

Adobe Spark

## HOME COMING

### 10.1.2021

### ASSEMBLY 1:45 PM

### PARADE 3:30 PM



# 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 900 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**

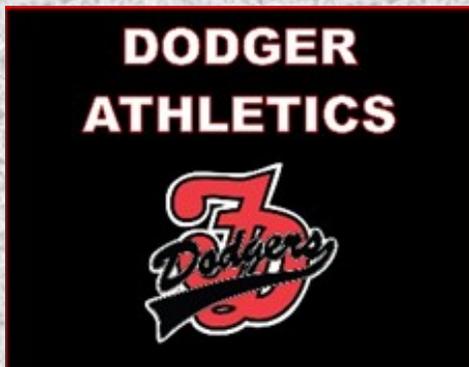


**Follow us on Twitter at @FDCSD**



**Check out Peachjar for FDCSD Flyers**

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



## DODGER STADIUM EXPECTATIONS

Admission will be \$6 per person regardless of age. We also want to remind students, parents, and community members who plan to support our team of the expectations at Dodger Stadium:

All kindergarten through 6th grade students must be accompanied by an adult to enter the stadium

5th and 6th grade students are required to sit in the west stands with an adult

7th and 8th grade students will be allowed to sit in the designated section labeled "Middle School" in the east stands. 7th and 8th grade students will only be allowed to leave the middle school section at the end of each quarter & halftime.

All fans are expected to be kind, be responsible, be respectful and be safe.

Dodger pride is a deep tradition and following these expectations will allow all spectators to have a positive and memorable Dodger Stadium experience. We hope to see you cheering on the Dodgers this season!

**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

## 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, 109 North 25th 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 Pamela Stangeland, Director of Special Education/Special Needs, 515-574-5675).

The District's Compliance Coordinator for Affirmative Action is Kimberly Whitmore, who can be reached at 576-1161 or 109 North 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 Student Services - Elementary), and Dr. Kirsten Doebel (Director of Student Services - Secondary). They can be reached at 576-1161 or 109 North 25th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. The alternate is Corey Moody. He can be reached at 574-5469 or 819 North 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.