Message From The Principal

It’s hard to believe that we are in December and quickly approaching the half-way point in the school year. As winter approaches, here are some things to keep in mind.

Over the next few weeks, there are abundant opportunities to see our students excel in the areas they love. Winter sports are underway, so each week will give you opportunities to see our wrestlers, boys’ swim team, basketball teams, and bowlers in action. In addition, our performing arts students will be showcasing their talents at our winter concerts: our bands, orchestra, and choirs will each be entertaining us before winter break. Check out the district website’s activities calendar for times, dates, and locations, and join us as we highlight the many reasons it’s great to be Dodger!

As we move toward the end of the term (January 17th), please continue monitoring your child’s progress and reaching out to teachers and counselors with questions and concerns. We have lots of learning left to do this term. Check in with your student and ask them what projects and activities they are working on and make sure you are having conversations about finishing the term strong.

There was a wonderful article in the Fort Dodge Messenger about our district’s various food pantries. We want to make sure our families are aware that one is located here at FDSH. Students and parents are welcome to utilize this resource by reaching out to any staff member here at FDSH.

Thank you as always for partnering with us to give your child the best experience possible.

Ms. Staci Laird, FDSH Principal
Science

Biology students started the year by studying one of my favorite subjects, ecology. Students studied the animals and plants found in Serengeti National Park. We looked at the connections between these animals and plants. While we were studying this, students created a closed ecosystem using pop bottles. This was a fun project that allowed students to experience first hand the interactions between organisms. Each bottle contained grass, a snail, and a water plant. If the experiment is set up correctly, the materials that each organism needs to survive should be present and are able to cycle from plant to animal. Through condensation and evaporation, a mini rain cycle is created within each bottle. We checked recently and in many of the bottles all the organisms are doing well after about two months.

For the last half of the ecology unit, we studied global climate change and learned about one possible remedy. Planting trees can help to take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, and the carbon is captured for the lifetime of the tree. We found out, for example, that a bur oak tree in Iowa with a 14 inch diameter can take 259 lbs of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere in one year. As the tree grows, that number increases. While we were discovering about trees’ ability to store carbon, we were also learning about photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and osmosis. At the end of the unit, we compared the ability of a tree to take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere to the amount of carbon dioxide kept out of the atmosphere by a wind turbine or solar panels for a house. Trees do take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, but it takes a great many of them to take as much carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere as a wind turbine or solar panels. It just so happens that there is a group called Team Trees that has been raising money to plant 20 million trees. We learned that these are the kinds of projects that will be necessary if trees are to be a part of the solution to climate change.
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.

Readers Anonymous

It has been a busy beginning to book club this year. We have picked up a few new members, but of course, we are always looking for more. Last year, our group decided to meet more than once a month, so this year we have continued the same schedule. We meet once to discuss a common reading book while the other time we pick a different theme, so we can share our favorite books that we’ve read in the past. Themes so far this year have been: addictive books, murder mystery, and mental health.

If you are interested in joining, you should stop by and see what is happening. We also offer coffee or hot chocolate. We meet the first and third Thursday in the library after school. We would love to have you. Listen to the announcements for our next meeting.
All schools will be closed for winter break December 21 – January 1. We look forward to seeing our students back in class on January 2 and wish all of our Dodger families a happy and safe holiday season!

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!

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.

WINTER BREAK
"Absences Add up!"
#SchoolEveryDay
Missing just 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year.
December 4: 6:30pm: FDCS Foundation Meeting @ Central Office

December 6-8: DECA Central Region Leadership Conference @ Minneapolis

December 8: 2:00pm: Instrumental Winter Concert @ FDMS Auditorium (admission to 7-12 grade concerts is as follows: $1/student, $3/adult or $5/family. Activity passes are honored.)

DODGER DATES

December 9: 6:00pm: Board of Education Meeting @ Central Office

December 12: 7:00pm: Yuletide Choir Concert @ FDMS Auditorium

December 13: 4:30pm: Poetry Out Loud Competition @ SH Little Theatre

December 14: 8:00am: ACT Test @ SH Library

December 20: 8:30am: NHS Blood Drive @ SH Aux Gym

December 23-January 1: Winter Break

*See web page for athletic schedules and dates

District Compliance

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 Steph Anderson, Director of Student Services-Elementary and Dr. Kirsten Doebel-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 Needs, 515-574-5675).

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

The District’s Designated Investigator of Physical/Sexual Abuse of Students by School Employees are Steph Anderson (Director of Student Services-Elementary), and Dr. Kirsten Doebel (Director of Student Services-Secondary). They can be reached at 574-5678 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 Steph Anderson-Elementary and Dr. Kirsten Doebel-Secondary, Director of Student Services. They can be reached at 574-5678 or 104 South 17th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.