Message From The Principal

Mother Nature gave us some challenges as we finished up first semester, but after some rescheduling, we were able to finish up the term and get a strong start to second semester. I hope you have had a chance to talk with your student(s) about their second semester classes and help them set some personal goals for the second part of the year.

The start of a new semester is an opportunity for our teachers to revisit expectations and procedures with students and spend time getting to know students who are new to them this term. I encourage you to reach out to teachers with any information you believe would help them provide your child with their best possible experience. You can find contact information for all your child’s teachers using the Staff Directory on the school website, under the Staff tab.

Due to the challenging weather at the end of January, we have 2 snowdays to make up. Please note in your calendars that our first snow make-up day will be on Monday, February 17, and our second snow make-up day is scheduled for Monday, April 13.

We’ve seen a slight uptick in illnesses in our students and staff over the past few weeks, so we’d like to remind all parents that if your student(s) has a fever of 100 or above, flulike symptoms, vomiting, or diarrhea, they need to stay home from school for at least 24 hours after symptoms end. Thank you for your help hindering the spread of these viruses.

As always, I appreciate hearing from our parents, so please don’t hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, or ideas at any time.

Staci Laird
FDSH Principal
Make a Child Smile Today!

In just an hour a week you can positively impact the life of a Dodger child. To learn more about BECOMING A MENTOR contact Corey Moody at cmoody@fdschools.org or 574.5469. Together We Rise!
Physical Education students are currently finishing up their Fitnessgram pre-assessments for the 2020 spring semester. Students will do fitness tests two more times throughout the semester at midterm and at the end of the year. This semester there are six different class options being offered for students to satisfy their physical education requirements. Outside of the general physical education options: Outdoor Recreation, Moving to Wellness, Event Training, and Weight Training are also offered to the students. This semester there 24 students enrolled in event training class and they will be completing the DAM to DSM half marathon on May 30th down in Des Moines. In the picture below you will see the Outdoor Recreation class sledding at John F. Kennedy Memorial Park.
The Fort Dodge Senior High has been busy again this season competing in the First Tech Challenge robotics competition. After the game was released in September, the students then designed, built, and fabricated their robots and then competed in five league matches that took place in Manning, Grundy Center, Humboldt and Waukee. Throughout multiple meets this season, Team 7332 DodgerBots placed 3rd out of 28 teams in the league while team 10185 From the Island of Misfit Robots placed fourteenth.

On January 20th, Fort Dodge hosted the League Championship where all 28 teams from our league came to compete in a tournament to see who will advance to the next level. Both Senior High teams made it all the way to the semi finals of the meet which was the first ever since having two teams at Fort Dodge Senior High. Team 7332 was the only Fort Dodge team to advance, by winning the Design Award and 3rd Place Inspire Award. The awards are given by a panel of judges at this event.

The next level of competition that took place on February 1st in Johnston, Iowa, was another tournament called The Super Qualifier that had the 12 advancing teams from our league compete against a different leagues advancing teams. Unfortunately the DodgerBOTS did not advance but did get a 3rd place design award from the judges that day.

Students will now be building robots to compete in SkillsUSA Robotics:Urban Search and Rescue, a competition that will take place in April. Not to mention the outreach that they actively participate in.
North Central Career Academy

The following academic paths are available: Business, Engineering Technology, Health Sciences, Teacher Academy, Liberal Arts, Manufacturing Technology, or NEW for 2020-21 School year Computer Science

Why attend a Career Academy?

- It provides an opportunity for a group of students from different school districts to enroll in a specific set of courses associated with a designated career area.
- Provides clear and precise career pathways through a specific sequence of courses.
- Allows school districts to pool resources and instruction
- Provides more educational opportunities to students
- Allows students to study all the basic courses AND get a skill they will keep for a lifetime... all while getting a head start on a career path.
- National Credentialing where available and applicable, such as the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)
- If accepted, students may participate in two different career pathways, over the course of two years. Students that are eligible to apply are Juniors, Seniors and TAG students.

Structure: Participating students will travel to the North Central Career Academy 5 days a week and take part in a career pathway from 8:20am – 11:10am each day. Students will take a specific sequence of courses that will provide skills and an educational base that will allow students to either transfer these college credits into an academic program at the post-secondary level, or seek employment. Students have the opportunity to gain college credit courses in a discipline that interests them, while still attending high school. These career pathways are designed to lead into multiple college programs giving the most flexibility to students who participate.

Student Commitment: Students who are accepted into the North Central Career Academy are committing a full academic year to the career pathway. This means they will attend the academy 5 days a week, for the entire school year. The student will also be held to the same standards that a regular college student is held, and will follow Iowa Central academic calendar. They will be held accountable to all college policies and procedures that are listed in the Iowa Central student handbook, including our Administrative Withdrawal policy which states a student will be withdrawn from a class if he/she misses 25% or more of that classes scheduled class meetings. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in industry tours, access to guest speakers and possible job shadowing, as well as college visits and career fairs.

Savings and Scholarships: By participating, students have access to college credits that can save them both time and money when it comes to entering an academic program at the post-secondary level. Based on Iowa Central tuition rates, students can save between $2,873 (17 credits) and $3,211 (19 credits), not to mention the savings on the text books, materials and supplies which can average between $400 and $1,000 a year, depending on the career pathway. As another incentive, all students that participate and successfully complete a career pathway will be issued a $500 academic scholarship that can be used if they enroll as a full time college student at Iowa Central Community College after their high school graduation.
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.

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 2020-21 school year is March 1st, 2020. The application can be found at http://www.fdschools.org/en/student_registration/ or is available in the superintendent’s office at the Central Administration Building.

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.

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

DODGER DATES

February 1: State Speech Contest; Large Group @ TBD
February 5: 6:30pm: FDCS Foundation Meeting @ Central Office
February 6: FCCLA Legislative Day
February 8: 8:00am: ACT Test @ SH Library
February 8: State Speech; Large Group @ LeMars
February 10: State Jazz Choir Festival
February 10: 6:00pm: Board of Education Meeting @ Central Office
February 13: 10:00am: Special Olympics Basketball @ Butler
February 17: President’s Day (no school, possible snow make-up day)
February 17: NCIBA District Jazz Festival @ SH Little Theatre
February 20: 7:00pm: Pops Concert @ FDMS Aud.
February 22: 8:00am: All-State Large Group Speech Contest @ Ames
February 23-24: DECA State Career Development Conference @ DSM
February 24: 7:00pm: Band/Orchestra Mid-Winter Concert @ FDMS
February 24: 6:00pm: Board of Education Meeting @ Central Office
February 28: 6:30pm: Individual Speech Showcase @ SH Little Theatre
February 29: District Speech Contest; Individual Events @ Algona

*See web page for athletic schedules and dates

STUDENTS IN THE ARTS® RECOGNITION Winter 2020

Vocal: Logan Eddington—Dodger Men’s Chorus
          Alaina Porter—A Cappella Choir
          Grace Tolliver - Women’s Chorale
          Rylie Reed - Vox Femina

Instrumental: Alexis Kenney, Geoff Astor, Bethany Pyland, Anna Marxen

Art: Jalen Adams, Isabelle Berger, Brooke Greene, Jackson Shimkat

Theatre: Antavion Adams, Grace Champagne, Julia Sande, Isabel Beekman

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 Lynnnae 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 Lynnnae 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.