January 16th and 17th are the final days of classes for 1st semester. Final grades will be posted on Wednesday, January 22nd.

I hope you are taking advantage of the opportunity Infinite Campus affords you to continually monitor your student’s progress throughout the term. Parents have more access today than ever before to information about their child’s academic progress. We encourage you to do periodic grade checks with your child and have discussions about what they are learning and how they are progressing. That information then allows you to communicate with teachers about any specific questions or concerns that may arise. Early and frequent check-ins help your child avoid that end-of-the-term scramble that can sometimes happen.

We are in the first stages of the registration process for the 2020-2021 school year. Students are working with their homeroom teachers to update 4-year plans, and choose classes they are interested in taking next year. This is a great opportunity for conversations at home. Ask your child to show you their 4-year plan (they can access it through Infinite Campus) and take some time to review the course catalog with them (it can be found on the school website, under FDSH Counseling).

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

Happy 2020!

Staci Laird, FDSH Principal
Fort Dodge Community Schools Foundation Announces Fall 2019 Grant Recipients

The Fort Dodge Community Schools (FDCS) Foundation Board voted recently to grant more than $157,000 to the Fort Dodge Community School District for physical education, sensory room equipment, technology and more.

The Board voted to fund:

- MS CTE (Career & Technical Ed) Upgrade – Surface Planer
- Spanish 2 Classroom Literacy Library
- Hybrid Flipped Classroom (MS)
- Reading in Spanish
- MS Wrist Heart Rate Monitors
- Virtual Reality for Social Emotional Learning & STEM
- Makerspace – Robot blocks for Duncombe
- Battle of the Books – All elementary schools
- Sensory Friendly EC Initiative – Sensory Room for Riverside
- Building our "Skills" – Cooper Elementary
- Family Resource Check Out Center
- Every Voice Matters – Feelhaver
- Sensory Room – Butler
- Clever and Getting Better – Butler – Interactive TV used for education
- Leader in Me – K-12

“The board was amazed by the creativity and passion of the teachers and staff that submitted grant applications,” said FDCS Foundation Board President Jennifer Pederson. “Dr. Ulrich challenged the staff to think big and they delivered with an unprecedented ask of over $235,000. Their applications lead to some tough deliberation by the board, and we are so excited to see the impact that these ideas have in our schools.”

“Our generous donors allowed the Foundation to fund these amazing things for classrooms and we couldn’t do it without them,” said FDCS Foundation Director Jodi Martin.

The mission of the FDCS Foundation is to help students and educations go above and beyond what district funding allows with grants for professional development, technology and other educational items. The FDCS Foundation annual fundraiser, “Go Big, Go Dodgers” will be held Friday, April 3rd, 2020, at Fort Frenzy.
TAG

TAG students have been doing a variety of things at the high school this semester. Students in on-line AP classes are finishing up their first semester. Those in AP Psychology have already taken their final exams. Students are also working on AP Computer Programming, AP Chemistry and AP Spanish and Culture. They will all be taking the AP Exam in the spring. Students in AP US History and AP Language and Composition will finish their first semester in January.

Students also finished their first semester on-line Iowa Central Classes.

Students have also done some job shadowing. They've done a variety of job shadows including a trip to the Blank Park Zoo and several job shadows to local businesses.

Students also have embraced some passion projects including working on art projects and working with computer aided drafting and digital photography. Students are also learning several languages including Russian and American Sign Language.

Students have also started work on National History Day contests and Battle of the Books. Those events will happen in the spring.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921. Today, it is estimated that more than one million students participate in NHS activities. NHS chapters are found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, many U.S. territories, and Canada.

The Carl T. Feelhaver chapter of NHS carries out several projects and events throughout the school year, such as a meet & greet with foreign exchange students, selling cross country programs, the Pennies for Patients fundraiser, the Giving Tree, and assists LifeServe blood donation center with winter and spring blood drives.

Requirements for selection to NHS: Be at least a junior, meet minimum standards regarding GPA (3.5), have a low number of attendance infractions, have taken or will be taking academically challenging courses, have preferably been involved in a variety of activities and had or attempted to take on leadership positions or lead by example roles, and are recommended and approved by the faculty of FDSH.
Students come to the Alternative Program for as many reasons as there are students. It offers a flexible schedule for kids who have a conflicting work schedule or a somewhat less traditional home situation. The program is staffed from about 7:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 to 3:45 on Friday. An evening session occurs Monday-Thursday from 3:15-6:15, allowing even more scheduling options. Computer classes allow students to work anywhere...anytime the student has computer access. With the program being located here at the Senior High, it also allows a student to “dual enroll”, which simply means that a student can take classes in the Alternative Program as well as Senior High. This has allowed students to even take advantage of the college classes in Senior High. The Alternative Program has served 128 students at this point in the 2019-20 school year. 109 credits have been earned to this point with more being added daily.

The Alternative Program also oversees the FDSH Food Pantry. Every month the Food Pantry receives items from the Food Bank of Iowa. Also many community and school programs have donated needed items. For example, FDSH put on a No Shave November competition between the male teachers to see who could raise the most food items for the pantry (Mr. McBride won—he cheated, but actually cheating was encouraged). The pantry includes not only food items, but many personal care items to fulfill student needs. The Alternative Program has partnered up with the School to Work Program to give students the opportunity to gain experience with organizing items and rotating stock. Students are encouraged to stop by the pantry before and after school and take as much as they need.

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.
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.
Know Someone Who Wants to Be a Dodger?

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.

2020-2021 Preschool Pre-Registration Taking Place Now

FDSD preschool pre-registration for the 20-21 school year is underway. To be eligible to attend preschool in the fall of 2020, children must be four years old by September 15, 2020. Preschool hours at Riverside Early Learning Center are 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., with the doors opening at 7:30 a.m.

Research shows children can gain a variety of skills by attending preschool and it helps prepare them for kindergarten. Students learn to follow directions and work cooperatively with each other. They are exposed to letters, numbers, shapes, colors and more. Preschool students learn how to socialize, share and get along with other children. In addition, they gain a sense of self, self-control and build their confidence in themselves and what they can do.

To complete the pre-registration for preschool, parents/guardians should bring proof of guardianship (birth certificate, DHS documents, court documents, tax documents), immunization records and address verification to the Central Administration Building. A $50 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of pre-registration to hold a student’s spot. Families will need to complete the full registration process online during the summer of 2020.
TOGETHER WE RISE: Raising the Bar, Closing the Gap, Believing All Kids Do Well If They Can

**DODGER DATES**

January 1: All Schools/Office Closed
January 8: 6:30pm: FDCS Foundation Meeting—Central Office
January 11: NCIBA Honor Band @ ICCC
January 13: 6:00pm: Board of Education Meeting @ Central Office
January 15: DECA District II Competition @ TBA
January 20: No School - Martin Luther King Day (possible snow make-up day)
January 24: 6:30pm: Speech Showcase; Large Group @ SH Little Theatre
January 25: 6:30pm: District Speech Contest; Large Group @ SH
January 27: 4:00pm: State Jazz Band Contest @ TBD
January 27: 6:00pm: Board of Education Meeting @ Central Office

*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.

**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!

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Absences Add up!

#SchoolEveryday

Missing just 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year.