Message From The Principal

One focus of our building and district goals this year is improving literacy and embedding literacy standards in all our discipline areas. Literacy can be defined in broad or narrow terms, but regardless of the view you take, nothing improves literacy more than the time spent reading. Studies prove that being a reader improves your life in countless ways.

Students who read recreationally typically improve their achievement across all academic areas. They have an increased vocabulary, which allows them to communicate their ideas more effectively, and they become more empathetic humans, which will allow them to navigate personal and professional relationships for the rest of their lives. At FDSH, we don’t just want to help kids know how to read, we want to make them readers for life. We know that reading as an adult expands on all the positive effects from youth.

Studies show that adults who read recreationally are statistically more likely to maintain jobs, make higher salaries, participate as voters, participate more in their own healthcare, and are less likely to fall for scams. In addition, recreational reading has benefits on health: it decreases the amount of cortisol in the blood, which lowers blood pressure. The effects of reading on the prefrontal cortex of the brain can decrease the risk for dementia and stroke.

Unfortunately, all these benefits don’t happen just by being able to read - they happen by regular reading.

You can help us to help your teen develop as a reader. Talk to your them about what they have been reading lately. Talk to them about what you have been reading. Most importantly, help them find reading material they enjoy. As always, thank you for partnering with us to build our students a strong foundation for their future.

Staci Laird, FDSH Principal
FREE Movie Night & Pizza at the Library

When: November 12, 2019—from 5:30-7:30 pm
Where: Fort Dodge Public Library
        424 Central Avenue, Fort Dodge, Iowa
What: Movie—Resilience: The Biology of Stress & The Science of Hope

We will watch the movie and have an open discussion afterwards. Pizza will be served.

This is a FREE showing for anyone who is interested in helping their child or works with children who need help with resiliency.

Pre-register @ Email: djansen@linking-families.com or Phone: (515) 955-5437 Ext. #2

Brought to you by the CPW Area:
This past summer, right when school let out, FDSH students were able to put their world language studies to the test through two international trips: Ashley Fredrick led the group touring France and Rachel Pettigrew led the group touring Peru! The Spanish group even had the once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Machu Picchu! Both groups traveled with EF and are already planning a combined trip to France and Spain for 2021. “The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.” – Saint Augustine.

Prior to the international adventures, the World Language department had a local adventure in possibly the best professional development ever. Bryce Hedstrom is a renowned teacher, traveler, and overall language enthusiast from Colorado who was able to spend two whole days with our small group pouring out his fount of knowledge and experiences. He emphasizes a comprehensible input-based approach, and we are already seeing great dividends from our time together.

Cheryl Ketchum and Amy Hinders have implemented “passwords” in which every student is greeted at the door and must say a predetermined phrase or saying in Spanish correctly before entering class. Special Person Interviews, daily readings, and interactive writing activities are now part of the regular routine in the World Languages wing. We are happy to welcome Rina Aguilar to our department who has taken on Spanish 1 as an online option for our students this fall in Dennys Canto’s former position. Additionally, we are now offering Arabic 1 thanks to Ashley Fredrick’s expertise and willingness to offer our students another language option.

Our World Language Department continues to work diligently and creatively to support and push our school-wide goals of literacy and student engagement. Our PLC meets on Thursdays after school, now under the administration of Matt Elsbecker. We are off to a great year--despite the room temperatures. Come experience the difference between 40°F in the ELL room compared to 40°C in the Spanish and French/Arabic rooms: so cultural!

-Amy Hinders (Spanish 3 & 4), Cheryl Ketchum (Spanish 2), Rina Aguilar (Spanish 1), Ashley Fredrick (French 1-4, & Arabic 1), and Rachel Pettigrew (5-12 ELL)
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.

This Thanksgiving we pause to reflect on our many blessings. We have much to be thankful for as we think about all that we have and all that has been accomplished over the last year. We have students, staff, parents and community partners who have dedicated their time and energy to making our students and schools successful. THANK YOU!

All schools will be closed November 27, 28 and 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.
TOGETHER WE RISE: Raising the Bar, Closing the Gap, Believing All Kids Do Well If They Can

New School Nurses Facebook Page
The FDCSD school nurses have started a Facebook page to keep families up to date with important medical information. Please like and follow Fort Dodge Community School Nurses on Facebook!

Absences Add up!
#SchoolEveryday
Missing just 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year.

FDSH INVITES ALL VETERANS TO A CELEBRATION IN THEIR HONOR
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019
1:30 P.M. IN THE FDSH GYM

VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES MAY ENJOY CHILI AND CINNAMON ROLLS IN THE CAFETERIA FROM 1-1:30. RESERVED PARKING AVAILABLE BY THE AUXILIARY GYM. VETERANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR THEIR UNIFORMS
School Safety Emergency Response Protocols

The FDCSD, in collaboration with local law enforcement and first responders, has adopted four standard response protocols for use in emergencies. During an emergency, one or more of the following responses may be implemented.

1. EVACUATE: evacuate is used when there is a need to move students from point A to point B in an orderly fashion. A fire drill is an example.

2. SHELTER: shelter is used when there is a need for personal or group protection. A tornado drill is an example.

3. SECURE the PERIMETER: secure the perimeter is used, often at the request of the police department, as a preventive measure when there is a threat outside/near the school. This response was formerly known as a lockout.

4. LOCKDOWN: lockdown is used when there is a threat inside the school.

What can parents/guardians do to help our schools be prepared for an emergency?

- Ensure your contact information is current in Infinite Campus.
- Keep all medical information for your child up to date with the school.
- Talk to your child about the need to follow directions in an emergency and to pay close attention during drills.
- During an emergency, please do not come to or call the school. Listen for information, updates and instructions to come from the district.

SAFESCHOOLS ALERT

The FDCSD is now using SafeSchools Alert, a tip reporting service that allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to our administration four different ways:

1. Phone 515.373.4351
2. Text Text to 515.373.4351
3. Email 1876@alert1.us
4. Web Use the link under Events at fdschools.org or visit http://1876.alert1.us

When you submit a tip, be sure to use the FDCSD identification code 1876 in your communication.

Every tip SafeSchools Alert receives about our district is immediately logged in the system and our administration is notified so we can investigate and take appropriate action.

Together, using SafeSchools Alert, we can make our district a safer place to learn and work!
Gay Straight Alliance

The Gay Straight Alliance meets weekly at FDSH. All students are welcome. GSA operates as a place for students to find a small community within our larger FDSH community.

This year we participated in homecoming. We hosted a guest from the Pete Buttigieg campaign. We have plans to host representatives from Iowa Safe Schools in the next month. The group is really wanting to provide ways that teachers and students can help build a more inclusive community both here in our building and in our community.

Reverse Job Fair

Students are starting to prepare for an event to highlight their skills to prospective employers. On April 21, 2020, local businesses will visit the Senior High for the second annual Reverse Job Fair. Under the direction of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, students will showcase skills for entry-level employment in the areas of food service, retail, custodial and clerical to name a few. Each student is preparing a tri-fold board depicting their interests and skills, plus resume while developing a short elevator type speech. In the Reverse Job Fair format, each business circulates through booths and displays developed by the student. Businesses will have the opportunity to learn about the advantages of hiring a person with barriers and what supports are available through IVRS.
**DODGER DATES**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 1-2</td>
<td>SH Fall Play @ 7:00pm-SH Little Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>football First Round Substate Play-Offs</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Special Olympics Polar Plunge-Kennedy Park</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
<td>SAT Testing @ 8:00am-SH</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>School Board Elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>FDCS Foundation Meeting @ 6:30pm-Central Office</td>
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<td>November 11</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting @ 6:00pm-Central Office</td>
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<td>November 21-23</td>
<td>All-State Music Festival-Ames</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 21</td>
<td>OPUS Honor Choir -Ames</td>
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<td>November 23</td>
<td>Special Olympics State Bowling-DSM</td>
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<td>November 25</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting @ 6:30pm-Middle School Aud.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27-29</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break! All Offices/Schools Closed</td>
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*See web page for athletic schedules and dates*

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**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-Early Childhood 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 Corey Moody. He can be reached at 574-5469 or 819 North 25th 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. **---------------------------------------------**