Message From The Principal

We’ve had a fantastic start to the school year. Students and staff are adjusting to the new schedule. As always, we’ve loved welcoming our students back. It’s also an early Homecoming this year, so we are in full school-spirit mode.

As each new school year begins, students, parents, and staff welcome a fresh start. We often get asked what you can do as a parent to support your child’s educational experience and keep them on a positive track. Communication is key. Keep an open line of communication with your child’s teachers and counselors. If you have concerns about classes, credits, or your child’s well-being, reach out and connect with us. Communicate with your child about their learning. It’s tempting as a parent to focus on grades and assignment completion, but make time for substantial conversations about what your child is learning. Great things to ask are “Tell me about the best part of your day,” “What was something that you found hard to do today and how did you handle it?” “What are you reading?” “Which class do you participate in the most and why?” “Where is your favorite place to be in school and why?” These questions will get your kids talking and thinking about their day, and may get you more of a response than the standard “fine” when you ask how their day was. We are looking forward to partnering with our parents and students this year as we continue to raise the bar for learning and supporting our kids. Feel free to reach out with questions, concerns, or ideas at any time and be on the lookout for opportunities to engage with us in this journey.

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Fall Play

Auditions are underway for Fort Dodge Senior High’s annual fall play, A Little Piece of Heaven. In this production, an unlikely relationship between restless biker Mike and the sassy elderly Lily is forged in the quirky tourist shop called “A Little Piece of Heaven.” The shop, owned by an odd couple Elizabeth and Henry, is itself a little odd as the patrons who visit often find things that have been lost to them.

In my opinion, the fall play is an educational extension of the school day. While we have fun doing it, it should still provide a learning opportunity for the students. Every year, I like to select a play that showcases a different genre in order to provide drama students with a well-rounded theatrical experience in their four years at FDSH. Last year, we produced a melodrama. The year before was a comedy and the year before that was a literary adaptation. This year, A Little Piece of Heaven is a heart-warming drama about the relationships between people and a little magic.

The cast list will be posted on September 6th and rehearsals will begin the week after Homecoming. This year’s fall play will be presented on November 1 and 2, 2019 at 7 pm. Tickets are $5 and will be available at the door. Activity passes will not be accepted.
TOGETHER WE RISE: Raising the Bar, Closing the Gap, Believing All Kids Do Well If They Can

- Reminder: School Pictures September 19/20
- Senior pictures will be due to Mrs. Hartley by January 15, 2020. Students will need to submit a head shot (not a full body picture.) You can send them to Mrs. Hartley at thartley@fdschools.org
- Spirit Days Schedule: Match Up Monday, Pop-Culture Tuesday, Class Color Wednesday, Decades Day Thursday and Dodger Friday

- Homecoming Assembly @ 1:45pm (Parade/Dismissal immediately after)
- Homecoming Dance: September 14th @ 8:00pm.
Fort Dodge Senior High Newsletter

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

MONDAY
Match Up Day

TUESDAY
Pop Culture Day

SRs
JRss
SOS
FRs

WEDNESDAY
Class Color Day

THURSDAY
Decades Day

FRIDAY
Dodger Day
English Department

All English teachers agree that students need to read well and enjoy what they are reading. Last year English 9 devoted a lot of time for students to read independently. That reading time paid off. English 10 teachers said kids are really wanting classroom time to read their books.

Journalism I students hit the ground running with a lesson on storytelling telling and the use of technology. The students introduced themselves to the class using the Voice Thread program. It allows students to create a slideshow and then do voice-over recordings telling about themselves. Students could use photos already on their phones, or take photos, or use videos as well. It's a good way of getting them comfortable telling a story and meeting a deadline.

In journalism 2, students have already organized and assigned stories for the first issue of the Little Dodger. There will be 9 issues this year of the Little Dodger. Students also spent time selling ads for the year.

Literature classes are on the hunt for novels to read for their independent project. In class, students were able to spend a day exploring books for their project. Some students were drawn to a book immediately while others are still looking. If you have a student in literature class, see if you can help them discover a book that meets the requirement for his or her class.

Speech students are reflecting and focusing on how to be a great audience. This is something we all could probably review.

Intro to theater is investing how culture and entertainment are linked. The classes are reviewing live theater scenes that has been filmed. Their focus is on the interpretation of the director. How is what we see on stage compared to what really happened?

Intro to writing students are working hard on the 6 traits of writing and the writing process. This group is looking forward to a great semester of writing and more writing.
September 2: Labor Day - All Offices & Schools Closed

September 4: 6:30pm: FDCSD Foundation Meeting @ Central Office

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

September 13: 1:45pm: Homecoming Assembly @ FDSH

DODGER DATES

September 13: 3:30pm: Homecoming Parade

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

September 14: 8:00pm: Homecoming Dance

September 19/20: School Pictures

September 23: 6:00pm: Board of Education Meeting @ Central Office

September 28: NCIMBI @ Dodger Stadium

*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 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. 

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