



Durand Middle School Board Report
October 2026
Rebecca Shankster-Principal



Durand Middle School – Monthly Building Board Report

- **Month / Year:** October/2026
- **Prepared By:** Rebecca Shankster, Building Principal
- **Date Submitted:** October 10, 2026

1. Enrollment & Attendance

- **Current Student Count:** 284 (6th Grade: 87 | 7th Grade: 88 | 8th Grade: 109)
- **Average Daily Attendance:** September attendance was 95% average per day
- **Attendance Improvement Initiative:** DMS is celebrating perfect attendance on a monthly basis. Students with perfect attendance for the month will be recognized and receive a certificate and a small reward. 62 students had perfect attendance in the month of September.

2. Academic Progress & Curriculum

- **Assessment & Data Updates:**
 - We are happy to share improvement in our state testing proficiency data in Mathematics and ELA from the spring of 2025 to the spring of 2026.

	Mathematics	ELA
6th Grade	4% Increase	9% Increase
7th Grade	8% Increase	7% Increase
8th Grade	4% Increase	2% Increase

- We have noticed an increased need for academic support in our co-taught math and ELA classes which include a general education teacher and a special education teacher. We are invested in making sure that all students have every support they need to be successful. To respond to increased special education needs, we are adding a paraprofessional to each co-taught math and ELA class. We were able to work with our current staff to make this possible without hiring more paraprofessionals and we are excited to see the impact they will make.

3. Student Culture, Athletics & Recognition

- **PBIS:** DMS students participated in a local can drive during the first week of October and they were able to help those in need. 8th grade won by bringing in the most items!

They also won the overall spirit cup for winning the door decorating contest and having the most participation in dress up days.

- **Renaissance Festival Field Trip:** Students had an amazing time on the Renaissance Field Trip. Thank you to Mrs. Frawley for planning in.



- **Student/Staff Highlights:** Each month, students and staff members are selected for being wonderful examples of On TRACK Railroader behavior. In October, we plan to add a Volunteer of the Month to recognize some of our parent and community partners that give of their time and efforts to support the school. Please see the students, staff, and volunteers for the month of October below.

6th Grade: Cheryl Craven

Cheryl is an all-around outstanding student and a wonderful role model. She works hard in class, takes pride in her work, and genuinely cares about doing her best. She is kind, helpful, and always willing to support those around her. Cheryl is a true team player who can be counted on to step up and show leadership both in the classroom and throughout the school. Most importantly, she is a genuinely good person who treats others with kindness and respect.

7th Grade: Cambria Smith

Cambria has been a terrific helper to Izzy L. while Izzy has been on crutches, not only ensuring they leave class on time (early), but making sure all of Izzy's work is taken care of. She takes care of her little sister in 6th grade and is a "mother hen" to all of her friends in class. I can always count on her to make responsible choices.

8th Grade: Chris Helland

Chris pays attention to others and knows how he can help them. He is responsible, kind, and caring. He does his work and helps the people around him.

Staff: Victoria White

DMS is incredibly fortunate to have Victoria as our Head Cook, whose extraordinary heart and genuine warmth transform our cafeteria into a welcoming space where every student feels valued and seen. Victoria's remarkable dedication to learning each student's name—remembering personal details, and celebrating birthdays—creates meaningful connections that often provide the first kind words students hear each day. Her enthusiasm shines through her spirited participation in theme days, festive seasonal decorations and her attentive care for students who may be struggling, understanding that for some, her meals represent the most reliable part of their day. Victoria embodies the values we hope to instill in our students—kindness, dedication, and genuine care for others—demonstrating daily that every role in a school community matters and that showing up with your whole heart makes a profound difference, reminding us all that excellence isn't just about what you do, but about how you make people feel.

Volunteer: Heather Benedict

Heather is always willing to volunteer her time to help the students and community. She runs the concession stand during home events to raise money for DMS student activities, such as field trips. Her positive attitude and gracious gift of her time are appreciated!



CONGRATULATIONS DMS STUDENTS AND STAFF OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER

MRS. VICTORIA



6TH CHERYL



7TH CAMBRIA



8TH CHRIS





CONGRATULATIONS TO DMS VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER



HEATHER BENEDICT

- **Extracurriculars:** We have already started several student clubs this year with more to follow! E-sports, archery, photography, and kniflix are already under way! We are also in the middle of student government elections! Students are also involved in cross country, girl's basketball, football, and cheerleading!

4. Staffing & Professional Learning

- **Professional Learning Communities (PLC):** In PLCs this year, teachers are continuing to align their curriculum. Other areas of focus include learning related to the new dyslexia law and planning for student extension opportunities such as special speakers and field trips.
- **Professional Development:** On October 12th, teachers will attend part two of the required dyslexia training in the morning. Several staff members will then be trained on CPR and/or student academic/behavior data collection and review. The first mentee meeting will also take place in October and our new teachers will be learning about the evaluation process as well as how to use Illuminate for student data and assessments.

5. Safety Updates

- **Safety Drills Completed:** We now have one lockdown drill and two fire drills under our belt! The students did great and Officer Brian Smith was a big help with our lockdown drill.

6. Family & Community Engagement

- **Parent Communications:** Each full month of school, parents are sent a newsletter with upcoming events. Please see the links for two recent newsletters:
 - [October Parent Newsletter](#)
 - <https://app.smore.com/n/89wfp>
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AXe5MGkkBOmpQAfACPXGCMuJ3EZRgJsPqNrOwgyUsG8/edit?usp=sharing>

7. Upcoming Dates & Events

10-5 to 10-9: Scholastic Book Fair
10-12: No School for Students PD for Teachers
10-16: End of 1st Marking Period
10-20: Parent Teacher Conferences 3:00 PM-6:00 PM
10-21: Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00 PM-7:00 PM
10-29: Halloween Costume Day
10-30: No school for students