

# Durand Area High School

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## October 12, 2026 Board Report

### Kahlan Gilson Designed This Year's Golden Ticket

Each year, Durand High School art students submit entries for the PBIS golden ticket design. Durand senior Kahlan Gilson submitted this year's winning design, which will be featured on the golden tickets! Staff members pass out these golden tickets to reward students for small acts of positive behavior and for excelling in monthly contests as part of our PBIS initiatives. Way to go, Kahlan!



### Cook Foundation/Shiawassee Scholars Trip

Our Class of 2027 Shiawassee Scholars visited the University of Michigan on September 14. They met with current U of M students from Shiawassee County, learned about supports offered through the Cook Foundation, sat in on classes, toured facilities, and met with admissions and financial aid. Our Class of 2027 Shiawassee Scholars includes Elise Drauch, Jake O'Bryant, and Nate Schaefer!



Congratulations to the Class of 2030 Shiawassee Scholars - Simon Ball and Jaxson Justice.

## Student Recognition

DHS Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) announced their winners for the September "First Impressions" PBIS event. All staff at DHS submitted the names of students who had made good first impressions to start the year in the areas of behavior, preparation, grades, attendance, and work completion. We had several dozen students nominated and they all received a DHS PBIS Golden Ticket.

The following students were recognized multiple times and earned a PBIS fast food gift card:

12th Grade- Ellie Frey, 11th Grade- Keegan Stanton, 10th grade- Nicole Hook, 9th Grade-Kaylne Wood.

## Homecoming Activities

Thank you to Mrs. Chelsea Schaub, our student government advisor, for a fantastic homecoming! It is a huge undertaking and she does a great job organizing everything and making it a special week for the students. The halls, won by the seniors, all looked fantastic! We had lunch activities with prizes, the seniors won powderpuff, and we had an epic battle of "rock-paper-scissors", ultimately won by Tron Archer. The sophomores easily won tug-o-war, and our halls were filled with spirit for all of the dress-up days. We had a great student section for the football game, and 250 students and guests attended the dance!





## Congratulations to our homecoming court!

Senior boys: Colten Fryer, Blake Chapman, Tyler Underwood, Brody Demo, Ryan Hunt. Senior girls: Linnaea Griffith, Kaylee-Ann Nelson, Abbegale Bartholomew, Isabella King, Josephina DeYoung. Junior representatives: Cooper Boisclair and Trinity Williamson. Sophomore representatives: Tru Mikan and Madison Peele. Freshman representatives: Easton Tanner and Allison Vsetula.



**Congratulations to our homecoming king and queen, Brody Demo & Josey DeYoung!**



## **DHS Art Department Collaborates with Shiawassee County Fair**

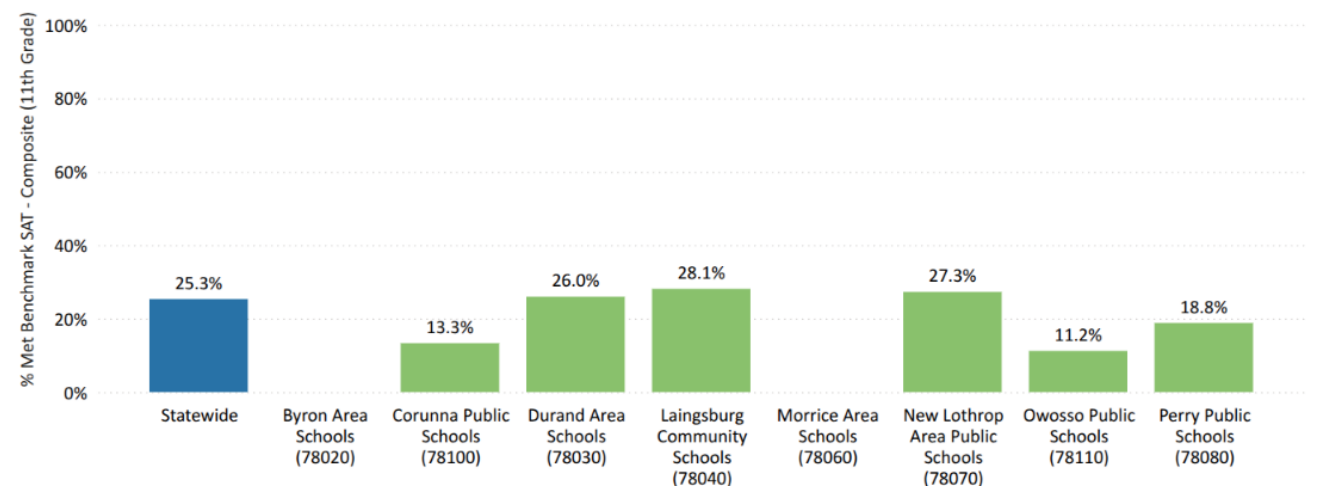
Over the summer, art teacher Mr. Shankster and sophomore Lilian O'Dell participated in designing and painting a new mural on the commercial building at the Shiawassee County Fairgrounds. Mr. Shankster took the lead on designing the framework for the mural, spelling "Welcome to the Shiawassee County Fair" and helping students from schools across the county draw and transfer the mural design onto the 200-foot long building. Lilian O'Dell was one of many students of Shiawassee County who painted in the words of the mural with imagery depicting different subjects of the fair.

DHS received a \$600 donation from the Shiawassee County Fair for our art department as a "thank you" for their work and participation in the mural.



## Student Achievement Update

Snapshot - 2025-26 - % Met Benchmark SAT - Composite (11th Grade) - All Students/Staff - Statewide



\*Our 964 avg SAT score exceeds the state average of 944. This is the first time in 5 years we have exceeded the state average.

\*26% of students were proficient in both English and Math. This is up from 18% in 2025 and 15% in 2024. 25% of Michigan students were proficient in both - again, we were above state average for the first time in years.

\*Highest English score in 5 years. 496 Durand vs 484 State.

\*60% of DHS students were proficient in English vs 52% State.

\*Average Math Scores- 468 Durand vs 460 State.

\*26% of DHS students were proficient in Math vs 26% State. First time we've tied or beaten the state average in 5 years.

Attendance Improvements:

At the end of September 2024, just over 70% of our students had On-Track (0%-4.9% periods missed) or Warning (5%-9.9% periods missed) attendance figures.

Almost 30% of our students had Chronic (10%-19.9% periods missed) or Severe Chronic (20%+ periods missed).

As of October 1, 2026, just under 85% of our students have On-Track or Warning attendance. Only 15% of our students had Chronic or Severe Chronic attendance. We had 112 students with Chronic or Severe attendance. Now we have just 49!

We cut the percentage of Chronic or Severe Chronic students in half in just 2 years!

Thank you to our Academic Interventionist, Mr. Inman, for collecting and maintaining this data for us! We are very proud of our staff and students, and we continue to work hard to continue improving these outcomes for our students.

## Parent Teacher Conferences

Our conferences are coming up on October 20 and 21.

## Cookies and College Apps

Seniors were invited to our annual “Cookies and College Apps” event last week. Mrs. Chandler and Mr. Dallas organized the event to encourage students to create Parchment accounts for sending transcripts, complete college applications, and begin the FAFSA process. Many college applications are free this month, so we want students to take advantage of that free opportunity! The Durand Education Foundation generously awarded us a grant to provide prizes for participating students, which will be handed out in the coming days when the event wraps up.

## Count Day Treat!

DHS students were treated to ice cream on count day! Mrs. Powell and I took the ice cream cart around during 4th hour (ice cream truck music and all) to show students how much we appreciate their good attendance on count day and every day!



