Durand Area High School

9575 East Monroe Road · Durand, MI 48429
Phone: (989) 288-2684 · Fax: (989) 288-2966
Nicole Carpenter
Principal

November 9, 2026 Board Report

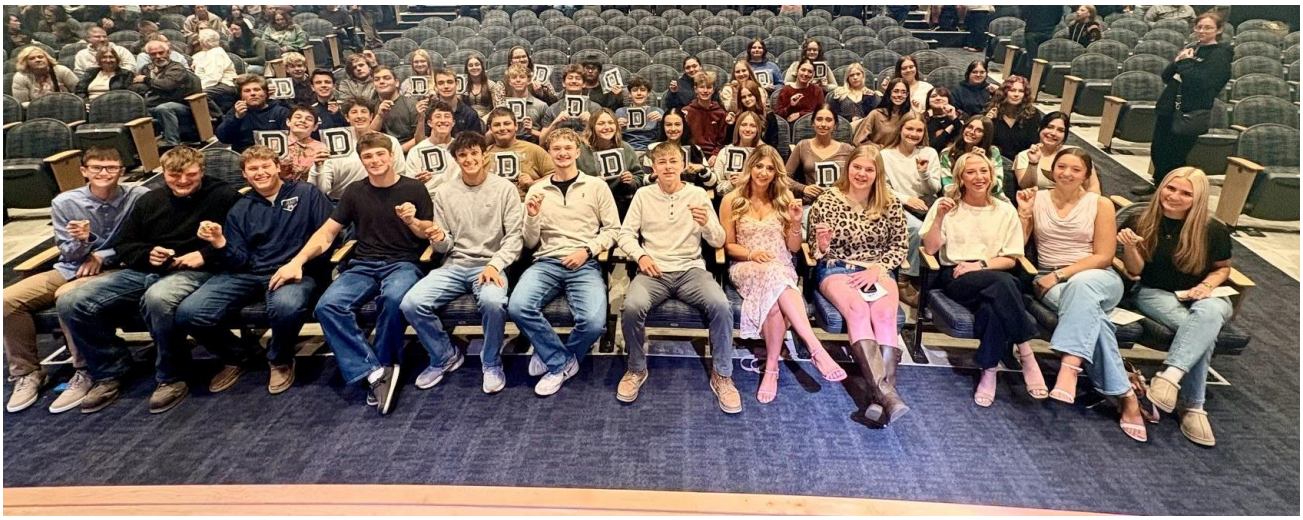
Student Recognition

DHS Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) announced their winners for the October challenge. For October's "Attendance Counts" event, we had 28% of students go the entire month without any verified/unverified absences, late tardies, or tardies in any class period! These students essentially had perfect attendance for the month of October and they all received a golden ticket for their efforts!

We are now moving into “No Zero November,” which has become a popular incentive to boost grades before final exams.

Academic Awards Night

On October 27, we held our annual Academic Awards Night for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who have achieved a GPA of 3.3 or better for one or more years. Of these three grade levels, we had 113 students who earned academic honors, which is 43% of our 10th-12th grade students! We are proud of the continued success of these hard-working students!



Leadership Class Recognition

Mrs. Tester’s leadership class has really been active this year! They published their third newsletter, Trackside Scoop, and recognized Mr. Birchmeier as the staff member of the month, along with Addison Minot and David Casemore as outstanding students of the month. They have also been running weekly polls that have engaged the students, they are taking turns broadcasting our daily announcements, and they recently began a lunchtime tutoring program. It has been encouraging to see the students discover their own important causes and pursue them with a focus on improving our school!

Blood Drive

Mr. Lincoln held a Versiti blood drive of the year on November 3. They collected over 30 units of blood, despite a few technical issues and setbacks! It's always a great opportunity for students to gain valuable experience helping facilitate the blood drive, and also to donate and give back. Students can earn cords to wear at graduation if they make three contributions to the blood drives, and between this blood drive and our summer blood drive, a few seniors have already earned their cords!

FFA National Convention and Mr. Birchmeier's Recognition

Keegan Stanton, Kyle Sutherland, Karola Geyer, Carly Sergeant, Noelle Woolman, and Taylor Redmond represented Durand as chapter delegates at the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis. This experience, overseen by allows students to expand their network and build relationships with others in the agricultural industry. They attended informational sessions and heard several motivational speakers during the trip. They also had the opportunity to tour a shrimp farm and Purdue University, and they visited an escape room to work on their team building skills. It is always a fantastic experience for these students!

During this year's trip, Mr. Birchmeier was presented with his Honorary American FFA Degree. This is the highest honor the National FFA Organization can bestow upon someone, and Mr. B. is very deserving! Thank you for your service to Durand High School, Durand FFA, our communities, and all of us who have been made better from your extensive efforts. Congratulations to Mr. Torey Birchmeier!




PURDUE


G1
EXIT


LUCAS OIL
STADIUM


WE SAVED THE WORLD!
SEND HELP!
I GOT OUT!
WE GOT OUT!
I GOT OUT!
100% SUCCESS RATE

Cookies and College Apps

October is College Application Month, and Mrs. Chandler organized our annual “Cookies and College Apps” event. Students were able to get help creating their FSA ID, beginning their FAFSA applications, and filling out college applications. For each step they completed, they earned a raffle ticket and an opportunity to win one of many awesome prizes!

DHS Madrigals Performance

The DHS Madrigals participated in the 50th anniversary U of M - Flint Chamber Choir Invitational with six other area high schools and alumni of the university. This special event showcases the legacy of choral music in the area and how our students help to continue the musical tradition.





Sophomores Visit CCRC

The 10th grade students were able to visit the College and Career Readiness Center (CCRC) in Vernon to explore CTE program offerings such as public safety, heavy equipment, welding, electrical, and more. These students will be able to apply for CTE programs, dual enrollment, and early college next semester!





Other - We held the fall choir and band concerts, as well as parent-teacher conferences. Mrs. Bowman's child development class has created a partnership with Robert Kerr to work with elementary students, and our school improvement and National Honor Society groups have been collaborating on ideas for supporting students and families for the holidays. Students also began completing their annual Xello college and career planning with Mrs. Chandler, and we have had several guest speakers in to talk with students about college, career, and military opportunities. We have given the PSAT/NMSQT and ASVAB tests. It has been a busy month!