Durand Middle School Board Report

November 2026

Rebecca Shankster-Principal

Durand Middle School – Monthly Building Board Report

- **Month / Year:** November/2026
- **Prepared By:** Rebecca Shankster, Building Principal
- **Date Submitted:** November 5, 2026

1. Enrollment & Attendance

- **Current Student Count:** 285 (6th Grade: 87 | 7th Grade: 88 | 8th Grade: 110 and increase of one this month)
- **Average Daily Attendance:** October attendance was 92% average per day
- **Attendance Improvement Initiative:** DMS is celebrating perfect attendance on a monthly basis. Students with perfect attendance for the month are recognized on announcements and receive a certificate and a small reward. 58 students had perfect attendance in the month of October.

2. Academic Progress & Curriculum

- **Special Education Focus Area:** Our special education team is going to be doing training to adjust our progress monitoring for all students to make the data more uniform across grades level and students. Our desire is to tie all educational goals to a very specific monitoring tool that is then used as the data for all progress reports. We have an amazing team and it has been a pleasure to watch them work together with a desire to best serve all students.
- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Parent/Teachers conferences were held in October to review student progress during the first marking period. We had a great turn-out for conferences and enjoyed seeing so many parents. We want to adjust our conferences in the future to allow for individual time slots for students who may need more in-person conference time. Due to teachers at the secondary level having so many students, it can be difficult to meet with all families at length. We are problem solving to see how we might be able to work in some longer conference slots for those who may need more teacher support/discussion.

3. Student Culture, Athletics & Recognition

- **PBIS:** Each day, students who are caught being kind receive “On-Track” tickets. These tickets are used to go early to lunch and to get a small prize. Students also put their tickets into a larger drawing that happens once a marking period. Three lucky students won these larger prizes for the first marking period. These prizes include items such as a $20 gift card to a local fast food restaurant, a pizza party with friends, and a Durand sweatshirt in their size.
- **Veterans Day:** Students and staff have started to bring in pictures of loved ones to add to our “Wall of Honor” at DMS. Students and staff are so proud to share about the branches of service assigned and the duty that these brave individuals so graciously sacrificed for our country.



- **Staff Thank You:** We want to recognize our wonderful custodian, Mike Monroe, for his dedication to the school. He goes above and beyond in so many areas including his attention to detail, repairing broken items within the school on his own time, and making wonderful handmade decorations for the school. Check out the awesome Thanksgiving sign he handmade for our rotunda and the wooden/3D printed hanging sign for the office. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated custodian and an amazing team of hard working custodians at DMS!





- **Student/Staff Highlights:** Each month, students and staff members are selected for Student and Staff of the Month for being wonderful examples of On TRACK Railroader behavior. Please see the students and staff for the month of November below.

6th Grade: Ella Rogella

Ella can always be counted on to give 110% effort. Her quality of work surpasses many of her peers. She is always willing to assist anyone who needs help and is always looking for ways to be of service. She is a supportive friend and treats everyone with equality and fairness. She is creative, intelligent, and thoughtful.

7th Grade: Liam Allred

Liam is always respectful, grateful, and incredibly kind. He puts forth his best effort in every interaction and is always willing to help others.

8th Grade: Aaliyah Taylor

Aaliyah always smiles and greets people. Aaliyah has the most positive outlook on life and radiates happiness. She is an asset to our DMS family and a model mentor for our younger students.

Staff: Amy Perry

Mrs. Perry has been navigating the Chromebook carts, tracking down technology forms, running the library, hosting a book fair, and pushing into classrooms; therefore, I feel she deserves recognition for all her talents.



5. Safety Updates

- **Safety Drills Completed:** We have one lockdown drill and two fire drills completed. We will conduct one shelter in place and one tornado drill in November. Schools are required to hold a minimum of five fire drills, two tornado drills, and three lockdown/shelter-in-place drills.

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:
  - November Parent Newsletter
  - October Parent Newsletter

7. Upcoming Dates & Events

11-11: Veterans Day
11-24: 7th Grade Meadowbrook Field Trip
11-25 to 11-27: No School, Thanksgiving Break