



Durand Middle School Board Report
January 2025
Rebecca Shankster-Principal



I. Enrollment:

- ❖ DMS currently has 303 students enrolled.

II. School Improvement and Happenings:

❖ School Index:

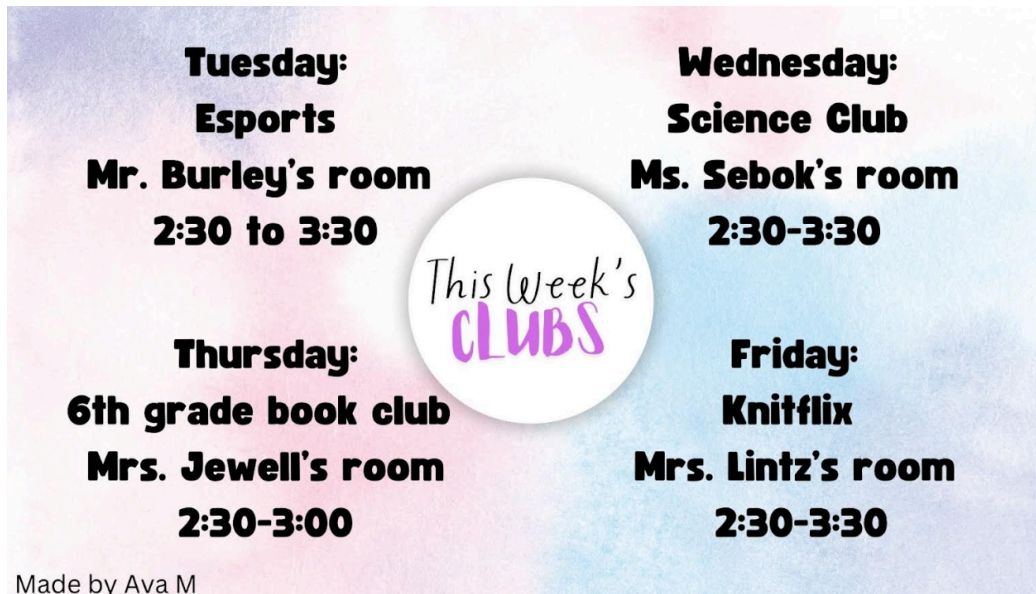
- Each year, schools are given Index Scores based on seven categories. Five of these categories apply to Durand Middle School. Two categories do not, which are English Language Learners and Graduation Rate. We do not have a sufficient amount of ELLs to be given a score and graduation rate only applies to high schools. The areas DMS is scored on are Overall Score, Growth, Proficiency, School Quality, and Participation.
- DMS has seen significant improvements in these areas over the last two years. We have been working very hard to improve attendance, academic interventions, and behaviors. All of these factors result in higher levels of learning for students which is reflected in our Index Scores which come from our state testing data. All the scores are based on a scale from zero to one hundred.
- The Index scores were recently released and based on the M-Step and P-SAT tests that the students took in the Spring of 2024.
- We are very proud of the hard work we are doing and of our students and families for working with us to help every child succeed. Our goal is to continue to grow in these areas and prepare our students for success!

	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
Overall Score	54.36	71.62	72.95
Growth	51.55	79.78	77.59
Proficiency	48.64	52.74	56.92
School Quality	66.47	86.87	91.03
Participation	100	100	100

- We are continuing with our Positive Behavior rewards on a daily (On-Track Ticket drawings), weekly (no-referral reward), and monthly basis. We also have not missed a week yet for our cafeteria Fun Fridays. One way we are targeting attendance is by working to make school more fun which is one of our school goals for this year.

❖ After School Clubs:

- We have several staff members that run clubs on a volunteer basis at DMS. We are blessed with teachers who go above and beyond for our students. Some of the clubs are E-sports, Science Club, Book Club, and Knitflix. Mrs. Frawley also runs Fast Track News in which students make our daily announcements video. The picture below is made by one of our students who participates in Fast Track News.



❖ Professional Development for Staff:

- During our staff meeting on January 8th, Elizabeth Findley from the SRES D came and worked with our teachers on de-escalation techniques for students who become unregulated and need help to recenter. This was a follow up to a more extensive training and a chance to revisit the techniques and ask questions.
- Teachers will be trained on the 20th of January in two areas. They will spend the morning continuing with our year-long training on Disciplinary Literacy. The afternoon will be focused on Social Emotional Learning. These are both areas that have proven to improve student achievement and will be time well spent.

❖ School Safety Update:

- With the assistance of Nurse Kay, DMS completed our first AED drill which utilized our procedures for the BERT Team (Building Emergency Response Team). Each member of the team has a role to make sure that all necessary measures are taken in the event we have a cardiac emergency at the school. We then met to assess our response. This is not a mandated drill, but an area we want to practice to make sure we are ready for any emergency that may happen.
- Exterior and interior door signs are being installed at DMS and will assist emergency personnel in quickly locating where an emergency is taking place. The signs will also assist students and guests in finding rooms and entrances. Not only will they be very helpful in these situations, but they look sharp!
- All teachers and office personnel were assigned walkie talkies to be used in an emergency situation. At times, linelines, intercoms, and cell phones do not work. In these situations, all staff members can communicate through the use of the walkie talkies. These are a quick way to contact the office and all other staff members. Teachers were given guidelines for use and assigned walkie talkies at our January staff meeting.

❖ Monthly Reward Competitions:

- This month, sixth graders won in every category which includes highest rate of attendance, most On-Track Tickets, and least amount of missing assignments. Sixth graders will be given a reward in their Power Hour classes to celebrate! Great job sixth grade students!

❖ Farewell to Mrs. Mavis and Welcome to Mrs. Raley:

- Mrs. Mavis served as the front desk secretary at DMS for over 20 years and we congratulate her on her recent retirement. We celebrated with a farewell staff gathering. She has now moved to Washington State and is enjoying fun and relaxing times with her grandchildren and daughter.
- Mrs. Raley has taken the position of front desk secretary and is off to a fantastic start. She will be a great addition to the office staff and already has most of the experience she needs not only with middle school families and the Durand community, but she is also connected to the staff and the systems we use at DMS. Welcome Mrs. Raley!



II. Staff and Students of the Month (January):

- ❖ Each month, staff and students are nominated by the staff members using an anonymous Google form. All the staff members who are nominated are celebrated at our monthly staff meetings and are able to spin the “Wheel of Appreciation” and receive prizes. It is important to celebrate those who are going the extra mile for our students and our students who are on TRACK..
- ❖ This is what the nominators for these wonderful examples of Railroader Pride had to say:

Staff: Mr. Zuehlke “Mr. Zuelhke is very kind. He says good morning, always checks-in, and consistently has a positive attitude. His positivity is contagious and his caring attitude towards students is appreciated.”

8th: Lillian O’Dell “Lillian is a kind caring student who goes out of her way to be nice to others. She is helpful in the classroom, humble, and not one to seek the spotlight with all her successes.”

7th: Alex Sworthwood “Alex is an all around amazing student and person. He is such a hard worker and so kind and helpful to others.”

6th: Lydia Rowe “Lydia continuously offers to help. She is a very positive student who puts full effort into everything she does. She also continuously follows expectations and has a positive impact on students around her. Her hard work and positivity are appreciated.”



CONGRATULATIONS DMS STUDENTS AND STAFF OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY!

Mr. Zuehlke



8th Lillian



7th Alex



6th Lydia



III. Upcoming Events:

- ❖ January 10th Parent Advisory Committee Meeting
- ❖ January 14th, 24th, and 29th Grade Level Field Trips to the SLOAN Museum and the Planetarium.
- ❖ January 20th No School for Students, PD for Teachers

Below are a few pictures from our December holiday celebrations, including our first band and choir performance at the PAC!







