



# Dixon High School

April 2025

## ACT DAY TESTING



Last Tuesday, DHS students took the required ACT and PreACT assessments. Last year, the state of Illinois made the decision to switch required testing from the SAT to the ACT. While both tests measure a student's college and career readiness in the areas of ELA and math, the ACT also includes a section focused on science readiness, which eliminates the former Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) test for Juniors. Many months of planning and preparation went into organizing testing day for DHS students, who rose to the challenge and completed the assessments with determination. Of special note is the flexibility and resilience of our staff, who once again stepped up to learn a new testing platform required to administer these digital exams. As we now move into the makeup testing and finalization phase of state testing, we are eager to see how our students performed.



## SWEET FUNDRAISING



After a couple of years' hiatus, the Dixon Tri-M Honor Society brought back the "Pie a Staff Member" fundraiser to raise money for music in our schools. This year, 14 staff members were divided into teams, and students donated money to pie the winning team. Thanks to the friendly competition, the event raised nearly \$500! At a special assembly, select students were chosen to pie the "winning team" of Mr. Shaner, Mrs. Brigl, Mr. Bishop, and Ms. Rogers.



# PATHWAYS - NURSING



On Friday, April 4th, DHS sent a small group of students interested in healthcare-related fields to the first annual Health Science Symposium, hosted by the Regional Office of Education at Sauk Valley Community College. These students had the opportunity to attend various seminars led by local healthcare professionals. The afternoon concluded with a celebration of Colin Wright, DHS's first Health Science Pathway Endorsement recipient. This unique honor was awarded to only 30 students in the ROE 47 region. Congratulations, Colin!

The Pathways program offers students a unique opportunity to explore career fields while still in high school. To earn a Pathway Endorsement, students must complete a variety of requirements, including career exploration activities, team-based challenges, and a 60-hour work experience, in addition to taking specific career-focused courses. Currently, DHS students can pursue endorsements in Education and Health Sciences (Nursing). However, DHS administration is actively working to expand the program to include additional offerings aligned with local industries.



## TAKING THE PLUNGE

Like last year, DHS students once again participated in the Polar Plunge. This year, over 30 students and staff formed teams and collected donations in support of Special Olympics. To help promote the cause and the event, DHS held a special assembly before spring break, where students had the chance to watch their peers take the plunge into a pool of freezing cold water. This always-popular event is a great opportunity for students to support a worthy cause—while having fun doing it!