



Durand Middle School Board Report

December 2024

Rebecca Shankster-Principal



I. Enrollment:

- ❖ DMS currently has 305 students enrolled, the same number of students we had for the October Board Report and two less than the November Board Report.

II. School Happenings:

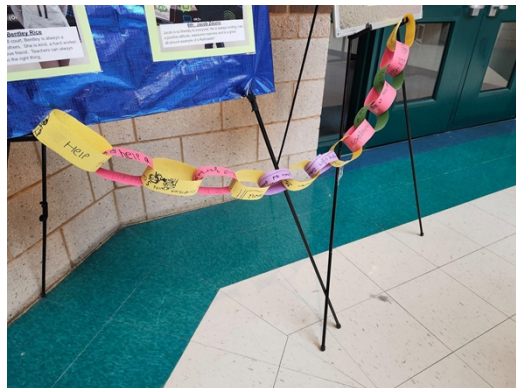
- ❖ Nothing but Numbers November:
 - DMS is focusing on mathematics during the month of November as this is an area we are focusing on for improvement. We called this month, "Nothing but Numbers November". This is the first time we have dedicated a month to celebrating math and hope to continue to do this in the future and add to this focus each year.
 - We are holding our first ever Math-Off, which is a contest to see which student in each grade level knows their multiplication facts with the most accuracy and the fastest. This is a skill that we find students continue to struggle with and knowing these facts helps with all other forms of more advanced mathematics.
 - Our Fun Friday cafeteria activities this month were numbers based including BINGO and Lucky Number 11.
- ❖ Field Trips:
 - 7th grade students are attending the play, "A Christmas Carol", on November 26th. We want to give a big thank you to the Durand Education Association for greatly reducing the cost for students to attend.
 - We are planning a trip for all grade levels to the Flint Planetarium and Sloan Museum. Students will be seeing a show at the planetarium and then exploring the museum in groups. Most of our students have never been to these locations, so this will be a wonderful opportunity for them. The staff at the Planetarium worked with me to reduce the cost for our students so their combined ticket will only be five dollars.
- ❖ School Improvement:
 - The school improvement team has been meeting and analyzing data to make plans of improvement. On November 25th, we met for a two hour

block and looked at the results of our SAEBRS and MySAEBRS data. These surveys are filled out three times a year. The students complete the MySAEBRS and the teachers complete the SAEBRS. We were able to screen over 99% of our students. These surveys give us a complete picture of each student in regards to their social and emotional well being as well as any areas of risk such as failing grades or poor attendance. By drilling down to the student level, we can ensure that all of our students have the support they need. During these meetings we recommend students for tutoring, counseling, staffing meetings that include parents, truancy, and mentoring using our check-in check-out model. Our goal is to have 80% of our students not scoring as at risk by May of 2025. Our 8th grade students are already above 80% not at risk, which was a huge celebration given they have been at the middle school going on three years, which tells us that our interventions are working for our students.

- The School Improvement Team has some celebrations. 6th grade had a 29% decrease in behavior referrals and 7th grade had a 59% decrease. We also planned a review of the behavior expectations returning from Thanksgiving break. We were excited to see these gains as we have been working very hard on kindness and appropriate behaviors in and out of the classroom.
- At our upcoming staff meeting, teaching staff will be working on plans to ready our students for standardized testing in the spring. After the holidays, the school year seems to move so quickly and we want to make sure we are on track for all students to succeed.

❖ Holiday Festivities:

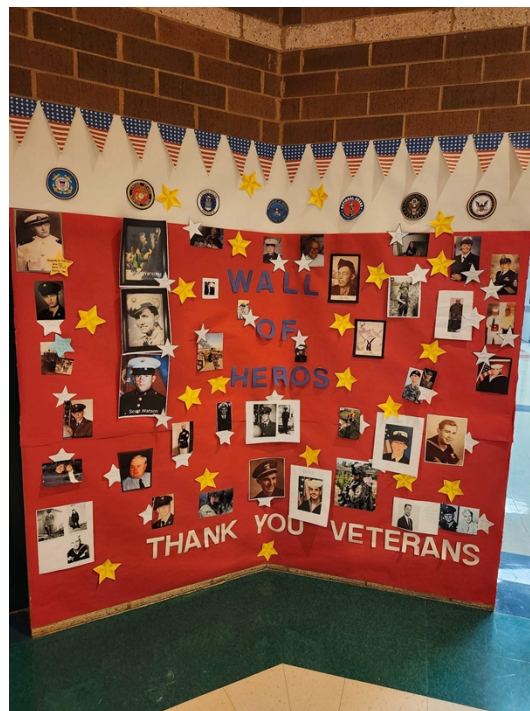
- December's theme at DMS is "The Best Gifts are Free". Our student advisory committee is putting together a challenge for the students to spread kindness in a way that is free every day in December. They met on November 25th and brainstormed ideas. They decided to create a paper chain and each day in December they will take off one link and read the kindness challenge on the announcements. They came up with great ideas!



- We will be holding our annual DMS Holiday Dinner on the 18th of December. This is a special day when all the staff and students share a special meal with amazing desserts and decorations. Our students and staff look forward to this event and everyone pitches in to make it extra special.

❖ Veteran's Day:

- For Veterans Day this year, our 8th grade students lined the school drive with flags to show our respect for those who have served our country. We also created a Wall of Heroes and students were encouraged to bring in pictures of loved ones to add to the wall. We feel it is important to take time to thank those who have given so much.



❖ Monthly Reward Competitions:

- This month, every grade level earned an extra recess reward. 7th grade had the highest rate of attendance at 93.74%, 6th grade only had 8 total missing assignments, which is amazing, as well as the most On-Track tickets, and 8th grade had the least number of office referrals. Way to go students!

| | Attendance | Attitude | Effort |
|-----|------------|----------|--------|
| 6th | 93.62% | 517 | 8 |
| 7th | 93.74% | 308 | 82 |
| 8th | 93.31% | 108 | 118 |

III. Staff and Students of the Month (December):

- This month, we are dedicating the entire month to Mrs. Mavis who will be retiring at the end of December. Mrs. Mavis has worked as the Durand Middle School front desk secretary for 24 years. She has dedicated herself to this job and has poured so much into our school throughout the years. Mrs. Mavis always finds students who need an adult to connect with and takes them under her wing, collecting many “adopted grandkids” along the way. Jackie also takes pride in making sure our Toys for Tots box is always overflowing each year. She is serious about keeping the school running efficiently, but is even more dedicated to the people in the school and is an integral member of our DMS family. She is an expert at getting the job done while always keeping her sense of humor. I can’t begin to describe what Mrs. Mavis means to me and all the staff and students. She will be missed greatly, but she is headed to her next adventure and we are all so happy for her. Jackie Mavis is moving to Washington State to be a full time grandma. Her shoes will be impossible to fill and we will never forget her dedication and love. Thank you, Jackie Mavis, for your years of service to thousands of children and families as well as the staff at Durand Middle School.



VII. Upcoming Events:

- ❖ December 18th DMS Holiday Meal
- ❖ December 20th End of Marking Period Two