



## **Durand Middle School Board Report**

**November 2025**

**Rebecca Shankster-Principal**



### **Staff and Student Recognition**

DMS is proud of all our staff and students! We work hard to help students achieve both academically and socially. We are continuing to see improvements in our behavior data as a result of these efforts. For example, office referrals decreased by 44% for the month of October compared to the 2024-2025 school year.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the outstanding efforts of our staff and students. Each month, staff and students make nominations through a Google Form.

#### **6th Grade: Karlee-Rae Nelson**

“Karlee is a hard worker and never gives up on a problem no matter how difficult, she encourages others to keep trying, and is the perfect example of what the Student of the Month represents. Karlee consistently exemplifies the very best of our school community through her genuine kindness and helpful nature. She is a wonderful friend to everyone, making a point to include all her classmates and ensuring everyone feels welcome. Whether it's patiently explaining a difficult concept to a peer, offering a helping hand to a classmate in need, or simply greeting everyone with a warm smile, Karlee-Rae's positive attitude is infectious. Her willingness to support all students, not just her close friends, makes her an outstanding role model and a true asset to our classroom and school.”

#### **7th Grade: Mason Cox**

“If you know Mason Cox, you know he brings a lively, spunky energy to the classroom every single day. He is quick witted, full of creative ideas, and isn't afraid to speak his mind. More importantly, he is caring, often being the first student to offer a helping hand or to cheer someone up with a laugh. Mason's success is not just about improved grades, it's about making a conscious choice to embrace maturity and responsibility without losing his unique spark that makes him who he is. Great job this year Mason!”

#### **8th Grade: Makayla Lienemann**

“Makayla has been working hard this year and it shows. Makayla started this year with an increased effort of doing well in her classes and a positive attitude. Many teachers have noticed Makayla's increased effort with schoolwork and attitude making her our 8th grade student of the month.”

**Staff: Tina Franks**

“Mrs. Franks consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that everyone in our school, both students and staff, feels deeply noticed, appreciated, and valued. She has a rare gift for making personal connections and demonstrating a profound level of care in everything she does. Her commitment to fostering a positive and supportive environment is evident daily. She is an invaluable part of our middle school community.”



**CONGRATULATIONS DMS  
STUDENTS AND STAFF OF THE  
MONTH FOR NOVEMBER!**

**MRS. FRANKS**  

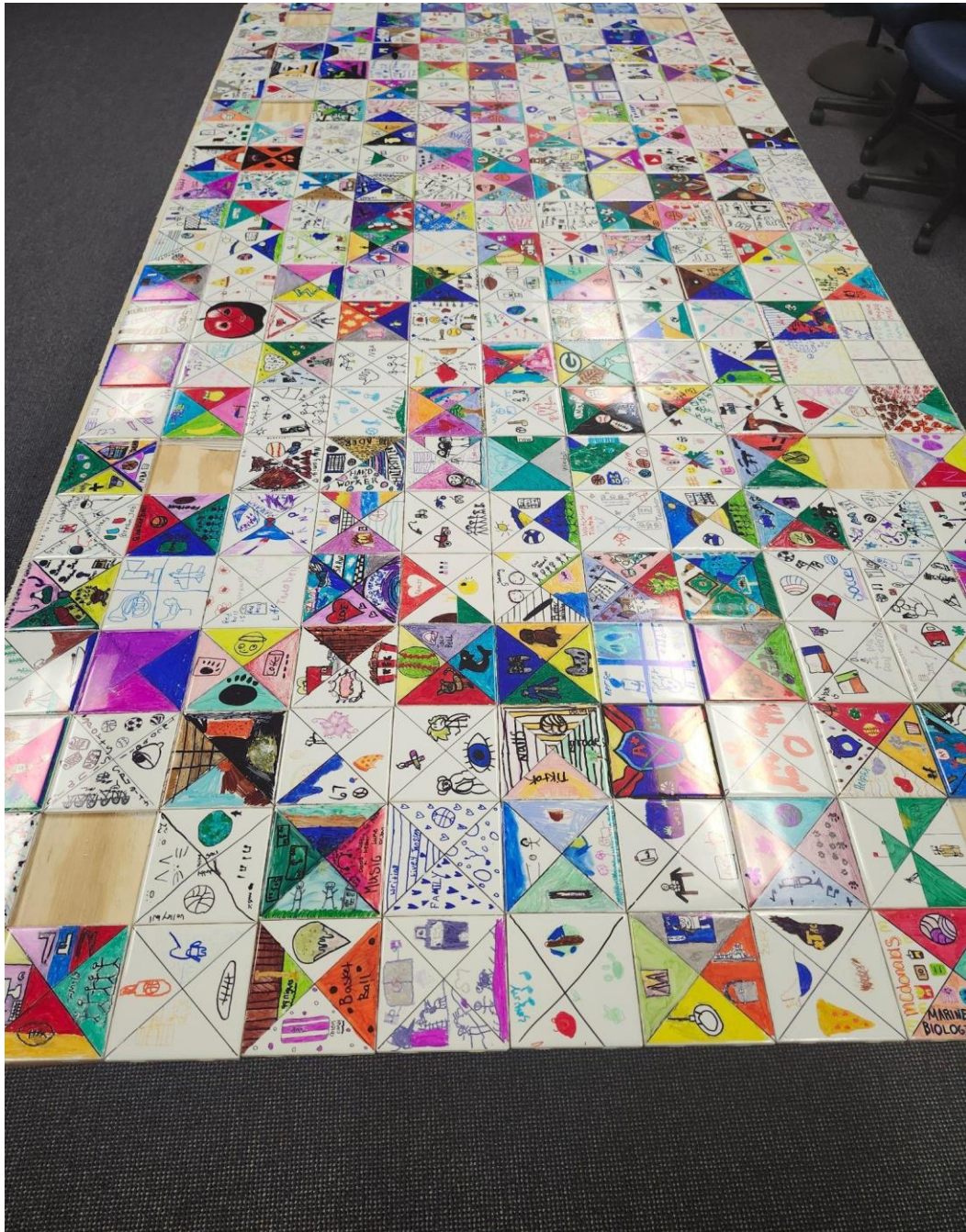

**6<sup>TH</sup> KARLEE-RAE**  


**7<sup>TH</sup> MASON**  


**8<sup>TH</sup> MAKAYLA**  


## DMS Mural Project

We have started a new schoolwide art project at DMS. We like to display student work which fosters a sense of community and belonging. All the students and staff decorated a coat of arms tile and they are all being assembled into one mural that will be displayed on the wall in the cafeteria. The current plan is to continue to extend the mural each year with our incoming students creating a tile.



# Halloween Fun

We had a wonderful time with the students for the week of Halloween. We celebrated with spirit days throughout the week and costumes on Thursday!



**DMS**

# Halloween Spirit Week

<b>Monday</b> FRIGHT NIGHT	<b>PJ DAY</b> 
<b>Tuesday</b> HAUNTED HAYRIDE	<b>WEAR YOUR FLANNELS AND FALL ATTIRE</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> HALLOWEEN HUES	<b>WEAR PURPLE, BLACK, ORANGE, AND GREEN</b> <b>BRING IN \$2 TO HAVE YOUR FACE PAINTED</b> <b>WITH THESE COLORS!</b> 
<b>Thursday</b> COSTUME DAY	<b>WEAR YOUR SCHOOL APPROPRIATE COSTUMES!</b> <b>NO GORE OR WEAPONS PLEASE!</b>
<b>Friday</b> NO SCHOOL	<b>HAPPY HALLOWEEN!</b> <b>HAVE A SAFE NIGHT AND ENJOY YOUR LONG WEEKEND!</b> 

## Archery Update

Archery is up and running with 15 current student participants. Mrs. Baker has been working hard with the start-up of this program! She has several donations already! For their Halloween practice, the students were able to shoot pumpkins! The student who shot the most pumpkins was the winner of a 3D printed blue pumpkin with an old English D. The winner of the Durand pumpkin was Tristan Cross with over 15 pumpkins hit. Jonah Perri came in a close second with 14 pumpkins. Below are some pictures of their fun. The team has their first competition on November 8th!

### ARCHERY FUN!



## M-City and Upcoming Poster Fair

All of Durand Middle School's 6th graders had an exciting field trip to M-City, which is located on the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus. This is the facility UofM uses to test their autonomous vehicles and houses other state of the art technology.

Through a generous grant from the University of Michigan, our students were able to experience a college campus visit with STEM and safety stations. The stations included bridge building, vehicle collision safety learning and hands-on activities, drone operation, autonomous vehicle demonstrations, helmet fitting, and bike/scooter road safety with real practice in this safe and controlled environment. Our students were able to meet staff from UofM's Concussion Center, current engineering students, and staff from the University of Michigan's Mott Children's Hospital.

As a follow-up to this field trip, the staff from UofM is going to come to Durand Middle School on November 17th to give feedback and help to judge a poster competition. The students in 6th grade will be creating posters and will be able to choose one area of their learning from the field trip as the topic of their poster. Parents/guardians will also be invited to our 6th grade "Poster Fair" to view the student's work. The students will be given ribbons for participating along with prizes for the top posters!

## M-CITY FIELD TRIP



## Active Learning

Students in 7th grade science are learning about molecules using hands-on modeling. 6th grade science students are learning about the cell using creativity as they are bringing in all kinds of edible cakes and cookies along with fun toppings to represent the cell structures!



## Parent Teacher Conferences and Perception Surveys

DMS is finishing up our Perception Survey window for parents, students, and staff. Each year, these subgroups fill out perception surveys. The School Improvement Team analyzes the results and shares them with the various stakeholders. We use the results to inform how we function across the school. This is one of the most powerful tools we have to get a snapshot of all the areas we are meeting our goals where we can improve for parents, students, and staff.

We held Parent Teacher Conferences on October 28th and 29th. They were a big success and went off without a hitch. Parents and guardians who attended received a copy of their child's report card and were able to visit with their child's teachers in their classrooms. The Parent Perception Survey was also set up as a station in the rotunda for parents to fill out, if they had not already done so through the link emailed home. Our school social worker, Kelly Allen, provided helpful information for parents regarding many mental health and behavioral topics. This year, we provided a Parent Teacher Conference feedback survey to our Parent Advisory Committee to see if there were any areas to adjust for next year that would improve the experience for parents/guardians.

## **Upcoming Events**

- 11-17 M-City Safety Poster Fair
- 11-20 DAS Mentee Meeting
- 11-21 DMS Trip to the PAC to View the Student Production of Moana
- 11-26 to 11-30 Thanksgiving Break