



Durand Middle School Board Report

October 2025

Rebecca Shankster-Principal



Thank You from DMS

On behalf of DMS, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Durand Area Schools and the greater Durand community for the extraordinary support shown to Tim Krupp, his family, and our staff during this difficult time. Your kindness and generosity enabled us to honor Tim's life in meaningful ways that deeply impacted his family and our school.

We miss Tim more than words can convey. We are committed to carrying forward his legacy of kindness, compassion, dedication, and passion in all we do. Thank you for standing with us.

Staff and Student Recognition

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. Although there was protest from Mrs. Shankster that someone else should be nominated, the staff would not allow her to step aside.

6th Grade: Braedyn Cermak

"Braedyn is a great role model for all of his peers. He is always working hard in class and makes certain that his actions allow others to do their best learning. Braedyn is kind to his peers and is very respectful to his teachers. Braedyn has a true Railroader character!"

7th Grade: Christopher David

"Chris is a leader in his grade level. He participates fully in his classes, always answering questions and thinking hard about his contributions to class discussions. He is kind and caring towards his fellow classmates, respectful and helpful to his teachers, and ready with a smile or a joke when someone needs it."

8th Grade: Lauren Dunavan

"Lauren is a consistently bright and uplifting presence in the classroom. Her excellent mood translates directly into action, as she is always the first to genuinely offer help with class tasks. She is an excellent asset to any class. She brings a sense of humor to different situations, and the timing is very spot on. It is a privilege to be one of her teachers. I can't wait to see all the things that Lauren is going to accomplish."

Staff: Becky Shankster

"Mrs. Shankster gives her all every day to DMS. She takes care of a huge list of things each day in order to ensure that our building is safe and runs smoothly. Mrs. Shankster cares about every student and staff member and always wants to make sure that everyone has what they need to be successful. She leads by example, never asking anyone to do something she wouldn't be willing to do herself and is the first to step up and volunteer to help if someone needs encouragement or is struggling. Thank you for being an amazing principal, Mrs. Shankster!"



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

MRS. SHANKSTER



6TH BRAEDYN



7TH CHRISTOPHER



8TH LAUREN



Homecoming Events

The students and staff at DMS participated in several fun and rewarding activities for homecoming. Most of the activities included the opportunity for grade levels to win spirit points towards earning the coveted DMS Spirit Cup for their grade! The staff had a great time participating as well as the students! In the end, our 7th grade class won the 2025-2026 Spirit Cup! The activities included a food drive in which all donated items were given to a local food bank, dress up days, pep assembly with games, and the HS fall sport and band parade through the halls of the MS.

DMS HOMECOMING FUN 2025



Professional Development and Professional Learning Communities

Two of our science teachers, Mr. Burley and Mrs. Frawley has been trained in PRISMS, which allows students to use virtual reality to manipulate models of science concepts that would otherwise be difficult to visualize. The SRES D came to our 7th grade science classes to assist in the implementation of the free and very engaging student

experience. Teachers who are trained can check out the VR devices to use in their classrooms when they feel the content would be enhanced by the use of this modeling.

VIRTUAL REALITY LEARNING

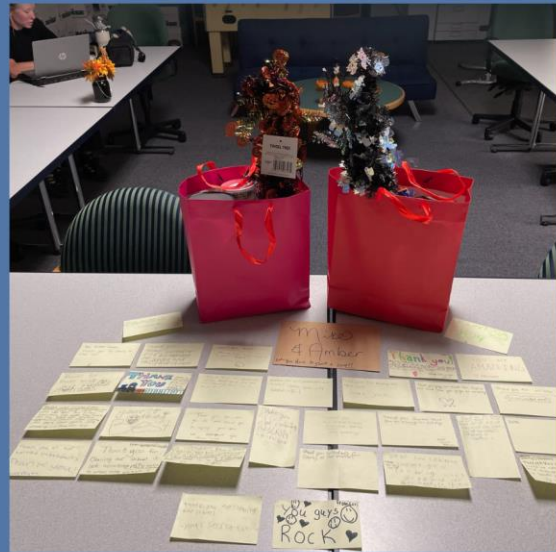
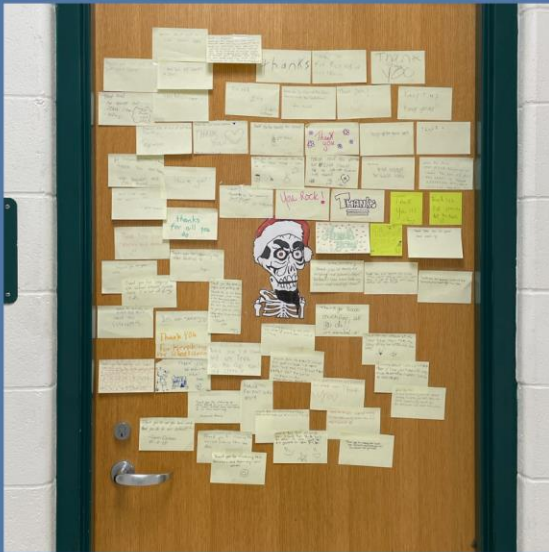


On October 13th, students have the day off school and teachers will have a day of professional development. All the administrators along with staff from the SRESA are working together to ensure a successful and useful PD experience. This year, we are focusing on curriculum alignment during PD days and monthly Professional Learning Community meetings. This is a high priority focus that has been requested by staff. This work will allow teachers to pinpoint priority standards for their grade level and ensure their curriculum is aligned and focused on these standards. They will identify any missing standards and also review state testing data to see what standards students are not mastering. They will use this information to adjust what they are teaching to meet the needs of the students and to ensure all content standards are being fully taught and mastered by students. There may be standards in the curriculum that are taught, but may need to be modified to ensure student understanding.

Custodian Appreciation

National Custodian Day was October 2nd. DMS celebrated our amazing custodians with positive notes and special gifts. Mike, Amber, and Quinn do a fantastic job at DMS!

CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION



Active Learning

Students in our Advanced STEM class are busy learning science and engineering concepts through designing rollercoasters and human arcade games! The students are engaged, learning, and having fun!

ACTIVE LEARNING



Field Trips

Ms. Delay's middle school honors choir attended a field trip to UofM-Flint to join several other schools for a day filled with collaborative learning and performing.

The entire school was invited to attend a field trip for Schools Days at the Renaissance Festival in Holly, MI. The students enjoyed this experience and we had about 190 students and many parents attend!

REN FEST AND CHOIR FIELD TRIPS



Upcoming Events

- 10-6 to 10-10: DMS Book Fair
- 10-13: PD for Teachers, No School for Students
- 10-15: 6th Grade Field Trip to M-City
- 10-17: End of Marking Period One
- 10-28 and 10-29: Parent Teacher Conferences
- 10-31: No School