



Durand Middle School Board Report
October 2024
Rebecca Shankster-Principal



I. Enrollment:

- ❖ DMS currently has 305 students enrolled. We added four students since our September Board Report.

II. School Happenings:

- ❖ October Anti-Bullying Month:
 - DMS is focusing on Anti-Bullying and kindness for the month of October.
 - The Student Advisory Committee met and created many posters to hang up around the school.



- Students at lunch this month are doing activities to promote kindness. Students signed a pledge to not say certain hurtful phrases and to be kind to others. They also received anti-bullying stickers to put on their locker signs.



- Each Friday the staff and students are wearing orange as a reminder to be kind and stop bullying.



❖ Field Trips:

- Students in all three grade levels were invited to attend the field trip to the Renaissance Festival for student day. We had over 70 chaperones attend. It was a wonderful experience! Thank you to Mrs. Frawley for organizing this trip!



❖ Added Tutoring Opportunities:

- The school improvement team has been analyzing our state and local testing data. We see a trend of continued improvement as students progress from 6th to 8th grade. It does, however, take more time than we would like to see students progressing to benchmark status. We have decided to target 6th grade students with more interventions to help them make the jump to benchmark sooner. We added tutoring after school one day a week for both math and reading. We sent letters to all parents of students below benchmark with personal invitations to attend. So far, the turnout has been significant and we hope this will give some students the boost they need to make more progress earlier in their middle school career.

❖ Math Intervention:

- All PowerHour math teachers have been fully trained in Delta Math and have integrated this program into their intervention classes. Delta Math includes a screener tool, teacher lessons, practice, and finally small group instruction. The SRES D has been supporting our teachers with Professional Development as they implement this program which is designed to help fill gaps in their learning.

❖ Parent Teacher Conferences:

- Parent Teacher Conferences were held on October 7th from 3:30 PM-6:30 PM and October 9th from 5:00 PM-8:00 PM. Dinner was provided for staff on the 7th.

❖ Homecoming Festivities:

- DMS celebrated homecoming with a field trip, pep assembly, and a visit from the High School spirit team. 7th grade won the Spirit Trophy this year for the most participation in our spirit competitions!



❖ School Wide Art Installation:

- We finished our school-wide art installation! Check out the rotunda to see how beautiful it turned out! We will be adding to it on a yearly basis as our 6th grade classes create their pieces each year.

❖ Book Fair:

- Mrs. Raley has worked hard, as always, to organize our first Scholastic Book Fair of the year. The book fair was open the entire week of October 7th and included two parent nights. Thank you Mrs. Raley!



❖ Fun Fridays and Monthly Reward Competitions:

- Every Friday is Fun Friday in the DMS cafeteria with special games and prizes! Each Friday, we also reward all students who did not have a behavior referral all week. Each month, we reward the grade level with the most on track tickets, least amount of missing assignments, and best attendance. Our attendance has been fantastic! 6th grade won in all categories this month. They had an attendance rate of 95%! Our teachers gave out 1,150 On-Track tickets to 6th grade alone! We are working hard to make school fun for students and to encourage them to do their best!

September		DMS is Winning!	
	Attendance	Attitude	Effort
6th	95%	1150	103
7th	94%	356	147
8th	93%	81	197



- ❖ Parent and Student Advisory Committees:
 - In order to improve stakeholder communication, brand new student and parent advisory committees were formed this year. So far, the results have been very positive. We meet once a month with parents and twice a month with students.
- ❖ Teacher/Student/Parent Communication Improvement:
 - In an effort to teach students a real life skill, we worked with all students to learn to put events into their Google Calendars and then share their calendar with their parents. Teachers are now requiring students to add all tests, homework, projects, and special events to their calendar. This idea came about in collaboration with the School Improvement Team and the Parent Advisory Committee.
- ❖ Perception Surveys:
 - The perception survey window began on October 7th for secondary buildings and runs for two weeks. Survey links were emailed to parents and were also available at parent teacher conferences. Students took their surveys during school as well as staff. We use the results to inform change and create a school that reflects the wants and needs of our community.
- ❖ III. Staff and Students of the Month (September):
 - Each month, staff can anonymously nominate students and staff for this honor. For September, the following students and staff were nominated:
 - **Staff: Mrs. Perry**
"Mrs. Perry shows an incredible amount of patience and caring and is always willing to help out when needed. She has been an awesome addition to the DMS team!"
 - **6th Grade:Charlotte Woods**
"Charlotte consistently follows the DMS on track attributes of trying her best, having railroader pride, being safe, caring for others/teachers, and showing her knowledge in class everyday. She

consistently reaches out to see if I need help and is always so kind and respectful.”

■ **7th Grade: Nicki McCartney**

“Nicki is a very hard working student who is respectful, kind, and has a true Railroader Spirit. Nicki applies herself in everything she does. She is also a great friend to others. Her smile brightens up DMS.”

■ **8th Grade: Sophia Proctor and Jeremy Halleaux**

Sophia- “She is such a caring and helpful student, always ready for class, and is an excellent student role model for her peers.”

Jeremy- “I have never met a more polite and kind young man. He truly cares for his fellow classmates and always has a kind word. He shows true Railroader pride.”



CONGRATULATIONS DMS STUDENTS AND STAFF OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER!

Mrs. Perry



Jeremy



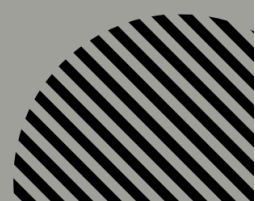
Sophia



Nicki



Charlotte



VII. Upcoming Events:

- ❖ October 4th Parent Advisory Committee Meeting
- ❖ October 7th and 9th Parent Teacher Conferences
- ❖ October 7th Perception Survey Opens
- ❖ October 14th No School

Link to the most Recent DMS Family Newsletter:

- ❖ <https://secure.smore.com/n/jue15d>