



Durand Middle School Board Report

April 2025

Rebecca Shankster-Principal



I. Enrollment:

- ❖ DMS currently has 303 students enrolled.

II. Staff and Students of the Month (April):

- ❖ Each month, staff and students are nominated by the staff members using an anonymous Google form. All the staff members who are nominated are celebrated at our monthly staff meetings and are able to spin the “Wheel of Appreciation” and receive prizes. It is important to celebrate those who are going the extra mile for our students and our students who are on TRACK.

6th Grade: Ava Martin

“Ava exemplifies what it means to be a true Railroader. She consistently excels as a student, going above and beyond expectations while maintaining a humble attitude. Ava is always prepared, actively participates in extra activities, and challenges herself to grow. She is also incredibly helpful to others, making her a standout role model in every way. Simply put, she is amazing!”

7th Grade: Natellie Boone

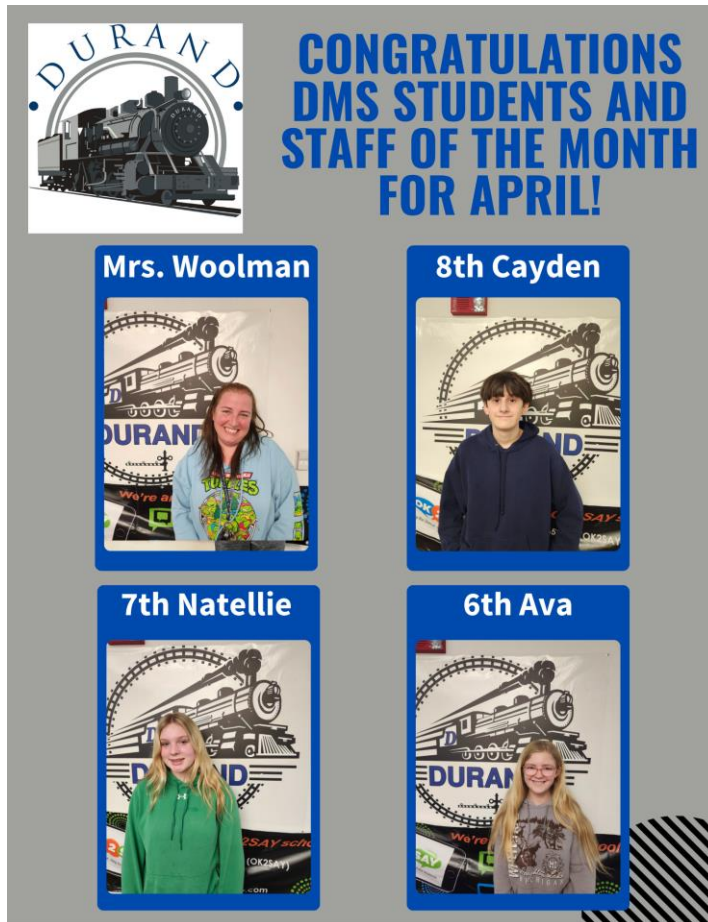
“Natallie has a great attitude. She is a hard worker and helps out wherever she can. She's just a model Railroader, always striving to do her best.”

8th Grade: Cayden Hempstead

“Cayden works really hard in class. He is an all around amazing student and person. He is such a hard worker and so kind and helpful to others.”

Staff: Mrs. Woolman

“Mrs. Hailey is always willing to help out everyone with anything that is needed. She always comes to school with a smile and positive attitude. She has a great relationship with her students and coworkers.”



III. State Testing:

- ❖ April is a short month of school with only 16 school days. Students are most likely to be absent on Mondays and Fridays and these days are not ideal for testing at the middle school level. We are completing state testing most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays that we have school in April. We should have all of our testing completed by April 25th, with only some make-up M-Step tests left to complete. Students will take our district level standardized tests, NWEA, in May. These tests are much more simple and less time consuming to administer.
- ❖ At the middle school level, the following state standardized tests are required:
 - 6th grade: M-STEP (Mathematics and English Language Arts)
 - 7th grade: M-STEP (Mathematics and English Language Arts)
 - 8th grade: M-STEP (Science and Social Studies), P-SAT 8 (Mathematics and Reading)
- ❖ Students will be rewarded for their hard work on these tests, and we also hold some fun competitions between grade levels to see which grade improves the most! We do our best to reduce stress and make this month as enjoyable as possible for the students.

- ❖ Creating a testing schedule that includes all of the necessary components of a testing day such as making sure the school and adjacent classrooms to testing are as disruption free as possible, covering all teachers for the preparation periods, and ensuring all students who have testing accommodations get what they need to be successful is a daunting task. Laura Frelich is absolutely amazing and uses her experience, attention to detail, and creativity to create a flawless testing schedule that takes into consideration the needs of all students in the school. We want to give a big thank you to Laura for all she does!
- ❖ Thank you to the Durand Education Foundation for providing special snacks for our students on testing days! We appreciate all they do for our school.

III. DMS Fun!

- ❖ Officer Salter, are SRO, now has an RC police car of his own and joined our RC car club.



- ❖ Our playground is back up and running with all age appropriate equipment! The students are enjoying the rock wall.



- ❖ Our school custodians are doing an amazing job all around! Our classrooms are all being cleaned with great care! We have a wonderful crew here at DMS! I want to thank Mike Monroe for going above and beyond to continue to make rotunda banners that the students and staff love to see. He always has one hanging for us and makes these by hand. Thank you, Mike, as well as Amber and Quinn for doing great cleaning work to make our school look nice!



- ❖ Fun Fridays-We continue with Fun Fridays every Friday in the cafeteria and with our weekly and daily PBIS rewards. Below is an example of the fun we are having! The challenge was to see how many sticky notes they could put on their bodies in three minutes. The winning table always gets a prize!



III. End of the Year Happenings:

- ❖ We are busy planning our end of the year activities! It seems early, but it sure does sneak up on us. All the end of the year field trips are planned and preparations are being made! 8th grade will attend Cedar Point, 7th grade is going to Launch Lansing, and 6th grade will be taking in a Lansing Lugnuts game!
- ❖ Our Field Day Extravaganza will take place on June 2nd and we have a fun day full of exciting stations for the students to participate in along with a picnic lunch and ice cream!
- ❖ Our end of the year awards ceremonies will be held on June 3rd and 4th. We will be celebrating all our awards!