

Dike-New Hartford Community Schools

www.dnhcsd.org



Communique

December 2013-January 2014

“Dike-New Hartford School District is an equal opportunity provider.”



Christmas Break and Winter Recess

Classes will dismiss early on
Friday, December 20
for winter break at the following times:

3rd - 8th & High School – Dismiss at 1:10 pm
Elementary – Dismiss at 1:25 pm
Buses Depart at 1:30 pm

Classes Resume
Thursday, January 2

The Dike-New Hartford High School is selling lunch tables. The cost is \$75 per table. If interested please contact the Administration Office @ 319-989-2552. These are on a first come first serve basis.

Don't miss the December concerts!

All concerts are held in the auditorium; admission is free except on Dec. 16.

Monday, Dec. 9 @ 5:45 p.m. (Dike & NH students) Kindergarten,

Monday, Dec. 9 @ 6:30 p.m. (Dike & NH students) Grades 1 & 2;

Monday, Dec. 9 @ 7:45 p.m. 6th Grade band and 7th & 8th Grade band and vocal

Monday, Dec. 16 @ 7:00 p.m. High School Band and Choir (**admission \$5/person, Kindergarten and younger are free**)





Congratulations! Five DNH Band Members were selected to participate in the NCIBA District Honor Band! They are: Alexa Schmitz - alto sax, Krissy Nielsen - trumpet, Abby Klug - trumpet, Mallory Laube - flute, and Jenna Hensley - tenor sax. Dr. Michael Golemo from Iowa State University will be directing the 11-12 Band and Dr. Timothy Mahr from St. Olaf University will be directing the 9-10 Band. The concert will be held in Mason City on the NIACC campus on Saturday, January 11th.



4th Annual Cookie Walk

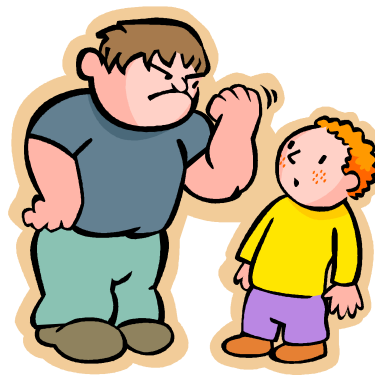
The Spanish Club will be hosting their 4th Annual Cookie Walk Monday night, December 9 – the evening of the elementary and Jr. High Concerts. It will be in the DNH Multi-Purpose Room from 5:15- until the goodies are gone. We will give you a container and you may fill it with your choice of **HOMEMADE** cookies and candies. The cost is \$10.00 per container and all proceeds go towards the 2015 Mexico Trip.

Stand for the Silent---December 5th at 1 p.m. in the auditorium for all students, staff and parents it will hold, all over flow for parents will be simulcast in the multi-purpose room. Grades 3-12 will be attending and parents are welcome to attend as well.

Stand for the Silent was started in 2010 by group students from the Oklahoma State University- Oklahoma City Upward Bound Chapter after they heard the story of Kirk and Laura Smalley's son, Ty Field-Smalley. At eleven years-old, Ty took his own life after being suspended from school for retaliating against a bully that had been bullying him for over two years.

Stand for the Silent exists as a platform to allow Kirk and Laura to share their story and offer education and tools that will prevent their tragedy from happening to another child and family. Kirk and Laura's mission is to continue to change kids' lives and bring awareness to bullying and the real devastation it causes. Since May 2010, Kirk and Laura Smalley have traveled to hundreds of schools and spoken with more than 700,000 kids.

If you have any questions, contact Jann Miller at 983-2206.



**Needed: Quart Mason Jars for
“Gifts in a Jar”**

The Spanish Club is once again selling “Gifts in a Jar” for \$10.00 each, this year we are selling Chocolate Chip Cookies, Brownies with or without nuts, Hot Chocolate Mix, and Cherry Nut muffins. If anyone has Quart Mason Jars they are willing to donate please contact Sara Paar. You may call the school (319-989-2485) or email: sara.paar@dnhcsd.org.




Junior’s After-Prom Fundraising

Fundraising efforts for After- Prom are coming along great! I want to say a big “**Thank-You**” to all the parents that volunteered this fall selling 50/50 at the home football games, selling DNH necklaces, selling Texas Roadhouse rolls and peanuts and of course our craft show and food sales in New Hartford was great!!

During the winter months, we will be selling Wolverine Christmas ornaments and elementary t-shirts. If you are interested in ordering these items, please contact Sarah Bixby. We also will be working concessions so volunteers will be needed. So those of you that have not had a chance to volunteer, there are still opportunities coming up for you.

Thank you to all our community members for supporting our efforts this fall! We greatly appreciate it!



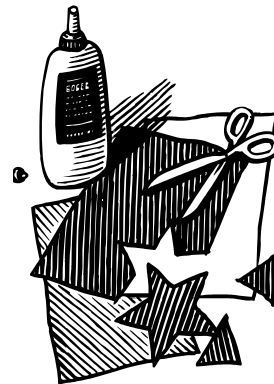
Attention Seniors

Seniors need to submit 2 vertical pictures (no hats, please) and a baby picture to Mrs. Harms by December 20, 2013 for the yearbook.



FCCLA is having a ‘Soles4Souls’ shoe drive now through December 18th. Bring in your new or gently worn shoes to Mrs. Box’s room at the high school and receive a candy cane for each pair you bring in. All types of shoes are needed. Shoes will be given to local churches, Salvation Armies, and Goodwill locations.

A big thank you to all of you who attended the DNH After Prom Craft Sale. It was a great fundraiser; we appreciate all your support.





Basketball Season Pass

Basketball season passes available for home events.

Cost: \$50/Adults & Students.

Passes may be purchased in the principals' office



“Table Tennis Table Needed”

Anyone who has a table tennis table you are no longer using and willing to donate, the Jr. High Physical Education Dept. is in need of one or two. Please email Jann Miller @ jann.miller@dnhcsd.org if you have one to donate. Thank you.



Attention Drivers...

Of Snowmobiles & 4-Wheelers

Please **DO NOT** drive snowmobiles or 4-wheelers onto school property. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter in order to keep our school grounds in their best condition.



Emergency Weather Plans

It's that time of year again when adverse weather conditions make for adjustments in school openings or closings. There are various resources available to check for school closings, late arrivals or early dismissals:

1. Radio/TV (see below)
2. DNH Webpage (for early dismissals)
3. KWWL Webpage: www.kwwl.com
4. Email Notification by Iowa School Alerts - (sign up at <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov>)
5. Cell Phone Notification by KWWL - (sign up at www.kwwl.com)

Please be sure to include on your list the following radio and TV stations to listen for information pertaining to school closings, late arrivals, or early dismissals due to inclement weather.

<p> KOEL (AM 950) KWLO (AM 1330) KKCV (HOG-FM 98.5) KQCR (FM 98.9) WMT (AM 600) KWAY (99.3 FM) KCRR (FM 97.7) </p>	<p> KXEL (AM 1540) KCVM (FM 96.1) KLMJ (FM 104.9) KKHQ (FM 92.3) KWWL-TV (Channel 7) KCRG-TV (Channel 9) KGAN-TV (Channel 2) </p>
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Pre-School Late Arrival & Early Dismissal Procedures

Whenever school is delayed due to adverse weather conditions the following guidelines apply:

If there is a delay of more than one hour there is no preschool.

Early Dismissal: If an early dismissal is announced BEFORE the start of afternoon class, there is no afternoon pre-school.



LATE ARRIVALS AND EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Please take note: Whenever school is delayed, all before-school meetings, practices and rehearsals are canceled. All after-school, evening meetings, practices, rehearsals and events are cancelled when school is dismissed early or cancelled because of adverse weather conditions.

Parents/Guardians, be sure your child knows what to do or where to go in the event school is dismissed early because of weather or emergency conditions. Parents/Guardians of rural elementary children riding buses are encouraged to inform their child's teacher of any special arrangements in the event of such an emergency.

EARLY DISMISSAL SCHEDULES

Scheduled 1:30 early dismissal procedures:

3rd-8th & High School dismiss at 1:10.

Shuttles leave at 1:15.

Elementary students dismissed in time so all students are on buses by 1:30.

1:30 – Route buses depart.

Early Dismissal for WEATHER:

(follow same procedures as above)

3rd-8th and High School dismissed 20 minutes before announced dismissal time.

Shuttles depart 5 minutes later. Route buses depart at announced dismissal time.



Weather Related Services

KWWL Cell Phone Notification

KWWL is offering a great service for parents, teachers, or anyone who wants immediate information on school closings, cancellations, or delays. This important information can be delivered directly to your cell phone!

Signup is easy...

- Just go to the KWWL website: www.kwwl.com
- Click on the "Weather" tab
- Click Text Alerts icon in Storm Track 7 advanced tools section
- Enter mobile number, etc.
- Under School Closings, check "Public Schools" then choose Dike-New Hartford
- You will receive a confirmation text message with a code number.

If you have any questions, please email sms@kwwl.com.

Iowa School Alerts E-mail Notification

As winter weather season approaches, may you be reminded that our school district uses an automatic notification system managed by the Iowa Department of Administrative Services. This system is called Iowa School Alerts. If you have not signed up for this service, please do so by going to: <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov/>. Also remember to update e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers in the system. This system sends text messages and e-mails to subscribers.



FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Trisha Ames, High School Counselor

Covering the cost of higher education can be a challenge. The good news is that financial aid can help. The more you and your parents know about financial aid, the better prepared you'll be to make the best choices. The most important thing you can do to secure financial aid is to start planning as early as possible.

ARE YOU HEADING OFF TO COLLEGE?

Come to the FREE Financial Aid Presentation at Dike-New Hartford High School

- Dike-New Hartford High School guidance office has invited a representative from the Iowa College Access Network (ICAN) to provide a free financial aid presentation **at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2013** in room 113.
- The goal of the Financial Aid Program is to help high school seniors and their parent/guardian understand the process of applying for financial aid and scholarships, offer effective tools for college cost comparisons, and learn how they can access additional help. The following topics are covered during the presentation.
 - Financial Aid Process
 - FAFSA Application Review
 - Understanding the Results
 - Understanding Costs - College Comparisons
 - Aid Options
 - Scholarship Process
 - Where to Go for Help



Attention Parent/Guardians of 2014 Seniors

Senior choices for class motto, flower and colors for May 25, 2014 graduation:

Class Motto:

"The past holds our memories,
But the future holds our dreams:
Anonymous

Class Colors: Black and Light Blue

Class Flower: White Rose



DNH Booster Club

The DNH Booster Club would like to thank all of the families and businesses that have already joined the booster club. It is NOT too late to join and get involved with this great organization. You can get forms at any DNH school site, or by going online at www.dnhwolverines.org.

We would like to thank all of our fall sponsors of our football and volleyball games listed below. If you are interested in sponsoring any of our winter activities, wrestling or basketball, please contact Suzanne Neuroth at 319-239-1732 or ksneuroth@aol.com. It is a great opportunity to support the Wolverines and get your business name out into the community. The cost is \$100 and includes 2 free tickets into the game, 2 drinks, and 2 popcorns. We will work with you to promote your business throughout the event and put your name in the program. We will have clothing out and available on the dates listed below just in time for Christmas! Please make sure to stop in and support the booster club and get some great WOLVERINE merchandise. If you can't make it, you can always order online at www.dnhwolverines.org.

Dec. 9 – Elem/JH music concert
Dec. 10 – high school basketball game
Dec. 16 – high school music concert
Dec. 19 – high school wrestling meet
Sec. 20 – high school basketball game

DNH BOOSTER CLUB GAME SPONSORS:

Waterloo Warehousing
Peoples Savings Bank
Konken Electric, Inc.
PAR Farm Company
Remington Seeds, LLC – Dike
Kruger Farms
Bolhuis Repair
Farm Bureau Financial Services - Bill Dunkelburger
Gene Drachenberg - Lockard Realty
MidAmerican Energy
Ubben Building Supply
Dietrick Mobile Home Park
State Bank & Trust
Cedar Valley Electric
Wingert Chiropractic
HTS Ag - Terry Johnston
Outdoor & More
The Den - Agape Therapy
Beaver Creek ATV Club
K & E Trucking - Kelly & Elaine Smith
Simply "I DO"

December 2013 Communique - Technology Update

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The first trimester of our 7-12 1:1 laptop program (also known as Digital Learning Environment) is in the books. For the most part, students have done a great job with protecting the devices from breakage. Our district has had a few instances where a fee was assessed for damage.

To date, we've had the following physical damage incidents:

Cracked Screen - 1
Damaged Power Adapter - 3
Physical Damage to Case - 2

Please talk with your child(ren) about the importance of caring for the laptop(s). Make sure household pets can't chew on bags, power cables, or laptops. Please remind the student(s) to make sure the laptop is not left outside in a car during extreme temperatures. If this happens, please wait 30 minutes at room temperature before powering up.

Also, we have noticed a tremendous amount of playing games on these devices. Our district uses several educational gaming websites, so it's difficult to block Internet traffic to the "gaming" category entirely. However, we are considering placing restrictions on which gaming sites students can get to. This has the possibility of becoming a management nightmare, so we are looking at alternative options. Gaming during school hours is not allowed unless a teacher instructs students to go to a specific site.

Music is allowed by utilizing iTunes exclusively. Our policy states the streaming of music (via programs such as Spotify and Pandora) is only allowed for schoolwork. We also request that students do not have sound files with "explicit" or inappropriate content in their iTunes library.

Our policy also states students may not instant message, tweet, or utilize other social networks during school hours unless relative to academic related expectations. Please remind your child(ren) that the purpose of the laptops is to enhance and improve their learning. During school hours, they are to follow the rules of the Acceptable Use Policy. When teachers or staff asks students to change a behavior or refocus on schoolwork, they should do so without argument.

Just a reminder that Iowa State Trooper Sigwarth recommended that parents check the student laptops for website history, pictures, movies, song playlist, and applications. Our district will block categories such as "pornography" exclusively, but other categories such as social networking are potentially used in classes, and left unblocked. It is important to be aware of your child(ren)'s digital footprint. District staff will begin weekly random checks of student issued laptops owned by Dike-New Hartford Schools. Parents/Guardians will be notified if a student has violated the Student Laptop Computer Policy Handbook.

As items relating to our digital learning environment come up, the district will communicate to parents and students via the Communique.

Please visit our policy [HERE](#) or via the direct link:

[https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bz4NynTZThblcncxN3JUNVZINWs/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bz4NynTZThblcncxN3JU NVZINWs/edit?usp=sharing)

If you have any questions, please contact:

Irvin Laube – High School Principal
Jerry Martinek – Junior High Principal
Joanna Seymour – Technology Integration Spec.
Jeremiah Lehr – Technology Coordinator



Share Your Christmas Project

The Health II class will be sponsoring Share Your Christmas project this Christmas season. The project will run from December 2nd thru December 13th. We will be overseeing 3 different projects. We will have a mitten tree at all 3 locations in Dike and New Hartford. The trees will allow everyone to place mittens, scarfs, and stocking caps on trees to help support families in need in our local communities. We have organized a food drive for our local food banks in New Hartford and Dike. Our themes this Christmas will be paper products and condiments. Finally, we will have buckets in each classroom as well as in the offices to help raise money for Adopt A Family's in our local communities. We will be working with our local churches in supporting families in need. We will have mitten trees, buckets, and carts during our activities after school if you would like to donate to any of the causes. If you have any questions, please contact Barry Cuvelier. Have a Merry Christmas.



From The Superintendent Larry Hunt

Congratulations – I would like to congratulate all of our students and coaches/sponsors for their accomplishments this fall in all of their activities. The students did a fantastic job in the musical and we have received a lot of very positive comments from community members about how great it was. Our sports seasons were also successful with two of our cross country team members, Kadi Wright and John Crew qualifying for the State meet. The football team had a fine season, ending with a 10-1 overall record, an undefeated regular season, and a second round playoff appearance. The Volleyball team was once again State Champions in class 2A with their only loss of the season to a nationally ranked team from Kansas. And last, but certainly not least, our cheerleaders competed in their State meet for the first time and placed 4th. For a school our size to be as successful in such a variety of programs is simply amazing and we are truly blessed to have the students and coaches/sponsors we have that are willing to put in the time and effort they do to be considered among the best in the State in their respective activities.

Sportsmanship – The winter seasons are fast upon us and if you are planning on attending these activities, please remember that we want you to be loud, proud, and positive for the Wolverines. We ask that you support our students and coaches in a positive manner and never show disrespect for them or opposing teams and fans. We also ask that you show respect for all officials and realize that some calls will go against us. In these situations, it doesn't help the outcome of the game to yell at or be disrespectful towards an official.

Winter Weather Dismissals - With the possibility of inclement weather quickly approaching, please be sure to listen to the radio or watch your local television channels for weather related announcements. Make sure you have a plan in place for your child if weather conditions alter the start or dismissal times of our school day.

I hope that everyone has a safe and restful holiday season and we look forward to a prosperous 2014.

DIKE-NEW HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION November Board Minutes

The Dike-New Hartford Board of Education met on November 18, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room with Nielsen presiding and members Koop and Lotts. Hinde and Lizer were absent. Also present were administrators Hunt, Laube, Lehr, Textor and Martinek.

Visitors present at the meeting included Leah Johnson.

The minutes of the October 21, 2013 regular meeting were approved as written on motion of Koop and second of Lotts. Vote all aye.

The agenda was approved as amended on motion of Koop and second of Lotts. Vote all aye.

Reports of the building principals and technology coordinator were reviewed with no action taken.

On motion of Lotts and second of Koop, the 2013-14 special education contract with Gladbrook-Reinbeck Schools was approved. Vote all aye.

At 7:23 p.m., Lotts moved and Koop seconded to go into closed session under section 21.5(1)(a) of the open meetings law to review or discuss records which are required or authorized to be kept confidential. Roll call vote: Nielsen – aye, Koop – aye, Lotts - aye. The closed session ended at 7:27 p.m. on motion of Koop and second of Lotts. Roll call vote: Nielsen – aye, Koop – aye, Lotts - aye.

On motion of Koop and second of Lotts, the early graduation request of Stevi Ehmen after her junior year subject to meeting all graduation requirements was approved. Vote all aye.

A contract for Kelsey Box for Family Career and Community Leaders of America Club for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year was approved on motion of Lotts and second of Koop. Vote all aye. Funds for membership and other activities will be raised by the club, and other CVW schools will be asked to join the DNH organization.

On motion of Koop and second of Lotts, 2013-14 contracts were approved for Brandy Bingman as Part-Time Technology Associate, and for Jean Loger as .5 FTE HS Musical Director. Vote all aye.

The excavating bid from Ragsdale Construction in the amount of \$10,217.50 for the HS baseball field driveway was approved on motion of Koop and second of Lotts. Vote all aye.

The preschool playground bid from the National Playground Compliance Group was tabled until the December meeting.

Monthly Bills of the General, Activity and Nutrition Funds were approved on motion of Koop and second of Lotts. Vote all aye.

On motion of Lotts and second of Koop, the Financial Reports of the General, Activity and Nutrition Funds were approved. Vote all aye.

Hunt reviewed with the Board plans for 2014-15 at-risk and dropout prevention expenditures in preparation for the upcoming Modified Allowable Growth for Dropout Prevention Application. On motion of Koop and second of Lotts, it was approved to apply for funding for the current program plus one new reading interventionist position. Vote all aye.

The SBRC Application for Increasing Enrollment in the amount of \$206,890 was approved on motion of Lotts and second of Koop. Vote all aye.

Hunt informed the board of an intermediary grant recently written by Sherri Walker, CVW Coordinator in conjunction with HCC. Also discussion was held about building the 2014-15 school calendar and the new hours vs. days legislation.

On motion of Lotts and second of Koop, the Board went into closed session at 9:10 pm to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose performance is being considered to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation as that individual has requested a closed session. Roll call vote: Koop – aye, Nielsen – aye, Lotts – aye. On motion of Lotts and second of Koop, the closed session ended at 9:35 p.m. Roll call: Koop – aye, Nielsen – aye, Lotts – aye.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.