



COMET COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Dream. Discover. Connect.

Dear Comet Families,

Welcome back. It is so nice to see all of the children's smiling faces. The first week of school was devoted to establishing relationships, building routines, and relearning school rules and classroom expectations. At each of the buildings, administrators and teachers spent time going over these with your child(ren).

Routines are extremely important for children. As families, it is important you do the same to ensure a successful school year. Please create or re-establish your household guidelines around bedtime, screen time, homework time, and getting up in the morning to ensure your child is ready for school on-time. If you need assistance with these conversations, please reach out to your child's school administrator / pupil service's office.

Family conferences are right around the corner. Please be sure to put them on your calendar, ask for time off, or reach out to your child's teachers to schedule a time if you are unable to make the designated night. These meetings are extremely important to your child as teachers hear from you and you hear from them. Establishing this relationship with families and teachers is just as important as the first week of school where the teachers established them with your child.

Finally, Homecoming is next week. Please join us at all of the fun activities. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate!

• WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:

Boys' Volleyball (4:30 PM), Girls' Powder Puff (6:30 PM) and a community Bonfire (8 PM). All activities are located at Delavan-Darien High School. The DDHS (indoor 4:30-6 PM) and Borg Stadium Spirit Stores (outdoor 6-7 PM) will be open during the volleyball and powder puff games.

• FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23:

Homecoming Parade (4 PM), Free Community Pig Roast (5 PM), Kid-Friendly Yard Games & Activities (5 PM), Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the NEW Borg Stadium (6 PM), and the Homecoming Football Game vs. Monroe (7 PM). The Borg Stadium Spirit Store will be open from 6 to 8 PM.

Comet Proud,

Jill Sorbie, EdD

District Administrator

jsorbie@ddschoools.org



District Calendar Events:

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

Two-hour early release

OCTOBER 14, 2022

**No school /
Teacher in-service**

OCTOBER 18, 2022

**Parent Teacher
Conferences:
Turtle Creek and
Darien Elementary
Schools**

OCTOBER 20, 2022

**Parent Teacher
Conferences:
Delavan-Darien
High School,
DD Technical School
and Phoenix
Middle School**



A Message from Mary Burke, Pupil Services

Attendance is one of the most powerful predictors of academic achievement and having your student in their seat, ready to learn for the entire school day will benefit them, their classmates, and our whole school community.

Let's work together to make sure your child has great attendance and can get the most out of their learning opportunities this school year.

Per Wisconsin Statute 118.15 (5), parents are allowed to excuse their child from school for up to 5 days per semester and 10 days per school year, this includes tardiness. All absences after this are considered to be unexcused unless verified by a professional such as a doctor, lawyer, dentist, etc.



- Follow the Delavan-Darien School District's ["When to Keep Your Child Home From School"](#) guidance.
- The Delavan-Darien School District will implement and follow the newly created ["Habitual Truancy Plan"](#) [\[ENGLISH\]](#) [\[SPANISH\]](#).

A Message from Anthony Klein, Food Services

2021-2022 Free and Reduced Lunch Benefits Expire October 18, 2022.

If you have previously qualified for these benefits, please fill out the free and reduced lunch application by October 17, 2022, if you have not done so already.

The district is unable to provide "FREE" breakfast and lunch meals to all students for the 2022-23 academic year due to federal guidelines. With this in mind, we strongly encourage all families who are in need of financial assistance to complete a free and reduced lunch application prior to the start of the school year. You can complete this application online in your parent portal on [Infinite Campus by following this link](#).

It is our mission to provide all students with a healthy and nutritious meal every day and this program is vital in accomplishing that mission. In addition, these applications help ensure that the District receives additional federal funding to help economically disadvantaged students in the classroom, allows the Food Service Department to provide free community meals during the summer and qualifies the District for additional state funding to provide property tax relief to our local taxpayers. With this in mind, we encourage any family who needs to complete these applications even if they are unsure if they will qualify. If you have any questions regarding this application process, please reach out to Julie Hartman at 262-233-6764 or jhartman@ddschools.org.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH ARE NO LONGER FREE!

APPLY TODAY FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PLANS!

At this time, it does not appear that the Federal Government will be extending free meals for all students into the 2022-23 academic year.

 Delavan-Darien School District



A Message from Delavan-Darien High School & DD Technical School



The DDSD Supports the Sept. 24 Delavan Lanes Bowling Event

AS PART OF OUR HOMECOMING CELEBRATION, DDHS & DD Tech are encouraging our community members to take advantage of the complimentary bowling sponsored by Delavan Lanes on Saturday, September 24!

This event is open to students, families and staff that attend the Delavan-Darien School District.

- Students that attend grades K-4: Bowling is from 3:00-5:00 pm.
- Students that attend grades 5-8: Bowling is from 6:00-8:00 pm.
- Students that attend grades 9-12: Bowling is from 9:00 pm to 12:00 am.

This event is limited to a certain number of people and reservations must be made in advance by **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022!**

To reserve your spot, call LaVonne Horgan at 262-374-1838.

**This is not a sponsored school event. The DDSD is merely promoting the event as K-8 students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.*

Students & Staff at DDHS and DD Tech have been getting to know one another over the past couple weeks. Our staff are invested in our students, your children, and this community. We're now excited and ready to enjoy the end of September by celebrating Homecoming 2022, where the theme will be a play of words from the Wizard of Oz: "There Is No Place Like Hoco."



HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE STUDENTS NEXT WEEK INCLUDE:

- **Monday, Sept. 19:** Poppy PJ Dress Up Day
- **Tuesday, Sept. 20:** Soccer Moms & Bar-B-Que Dads Dress Up Day
- **Wednesday, Sept. 21:** Career/College Dress Up Day, Class Games (4-9 PM)
- **Thursday, Sept. 22:** Twin Dress Up Day
- **Friday, Sept. 23:** Class Color Day (Frosh = Red, Sophs = Green, Jrs = Yellow, Srs = Blue), Homecoming Assembly (11:33-12:43), Early Dismissal (12:43 PM)
- **Saturday, Sept. 24:** Homecoming Dance (7-10 PM)

FINALLY, WE INVITE THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY (INCLUDING STUDENTS) TO COME OUT AND JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- **Wednesday, Sept. 21:** Class Games 4-9 PM (Boys' Volleyball / Girls' Powder Puff / Bonfire)
- **Friday, Sept. 23:** Homecoming Parade (4 PM), Free Community Pig Roast (5 PM), Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the NEW Borg Stadium (6 PM), and Homecoming Football Game (7 PM)
- **Saturday, Sept. 24:** Delavan Lanes Bowling Event (high school students 9 PM-midnight)



Classroom instruction has begun and we want to remind all parents/guardians that they have 24/7 access to their student(s) grades, behaviors, and attendance through Infinite Campus. We encourage families to download the Infinite Campus app on their phones so they have easy access. If anybody needs help, please contact any administrator at the high school.



Looking Ahead to October

WE WOULD LIKE FAMILIES TO BE AWARE THAT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 WILL BE A TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY, upon which students will have the day off. Additionally, we hope parents/guardians will make plans to join us on Thursday, October 20, for Parent/Teacher Conferences at the high school for both DDHS and DD Tech students, from 4-8 PM. Please add these dates to your calendar!

A Message from Phoenix Middle School



Homecoming Week: Sept. 19-24

OUR STUDENTS AT PHOENIX WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN OUR DISTRICT-WIDE HOMECOMING EVENT the week of September 19-24. Students and staff are encouraged to participate in the dress-up days; Monday, September 19: Pajama Day, Tuesday, September 20: Soccer Mom/BBQ Dad, Wednesday, September 21: College/Career Day, Thursday, September 22: Twin Day, Friday, September 23: Comet Nation T-shirts or Gear.



Thank you to our families who joined us for Open House. Please join us for Parent/Teacher Conferences on Thurs., Oct. 20th from 4-8PM.



Phoenix Middle School started off our school year with a welcome back school-wide assembly for all students and staff. It was an opportunity for our students to get to know our staff members and celebrate the start of a new school year. We also had a balloon game with a team from each grade level as well as a staff team. The staff team came in first place!!! We look forward to a re-match at our next assembly.

Our administrative team, Amanda Urmanski (Principal) and Blake Rowe (Associate Principal) visited all classrooms on the second day of school

to meet with students to discuss our school-wide expectations at Phoenix Middle School. We continue to focus on the Comet Code: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be a Learner. We shared our expectations for student behavior and the potential consequences when students are not meeting the Comet Code.

Our third day of school was spent going through our "Cool Tools".

This is part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS - which is our Comet Code) where students are explicitly taught expectations in certain locations throughout the building. Students were specifically taught what the expectations are in the bathrooms, in the cafeteria, and outside during recess. We are off to a great start and our students are doing an amazing job following the Comet Code.



Prevention, Intervention, and Enrichment

ALL STUDENTS IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL HAVE ONE CLASS PERIOD MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY CALLED PIE TIME.

Students are placed into a class based on their scores from different assessments and teacher observations.

PIE classes change three times throughout the school year. Our first round started on Monday, September 12th.

The opportunities for students in this first round focus on interventions for reading and math and extension activities for students in the areas of math, reading, Spanish literature circles, band, orchestra, and choir.

Ask your child about what PIE class they are in and what they are working on!



All staff members at Phoenix spent the first week of school spending time getting to know our students and building a positive classroom environment. We will be moving forward with our academics as we complete an assessment with our English Language Arts curriculum. Students will also be taking the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) test in the areas of reading and math. The MAP assessment window is September 27-October 21. Please encourage your child to do their best.

A Message from Darien Elementary



Adaptive resources to support and further student learning

LEXIA® CORE5® READING IS AN ADAPTIVE BLENDED LEARNING PROGRAM that accelerates the development of literacy skills for students of all abilities, helping them make that critical shift from learning to read to reading to learn. Our students have begun using this online resource during their intervention and enrichment time to help fill any skill gaps as well as to continue to move them forward in their learning. Dreambox is another adaptive online resource that our students use regularly during their math instructional block. Dreambox lessons are designed around the standards and adapt in real time while students work. Students can use either Core5® Reading or Dreambox math while at home too! It's important to note that students are to work on the lessons without adult assistance to allow the program to adapt appropriately.

We are off to a great start for the 2022-2023 school year at Darien Elementary School! We welcome all of the new students and their families that have joined us this year. May this be a great year for everyone!

Delavan-Darien School District hosted its 1st Hope Squad Student Retreat in late August with six current Darien students attending along with others from grades 5-12. Hope Squad members spent time learning a portion of this year's curriculum, team building, and learning from our Hope Squad building advisors Mrs. Hooverson, Mrs. Cardelli, and Mrs. Hemmerich. Hope Squad members and advisors will meet monthly to plan and promote activities around positive mental health, school safety, anti-bullying, school connectedness, and friendship. We will also participate in district and county wide activities with other Hope Squads as well.



Several teachers gathered this summer to review reading, math, behavior and attendance data in order to make school improvement goals for the coming year. These team members are working with other Darien staff to put the finishing touches on the goals and activities for the year. Here's a brief summary: The reading team determined a need to focus on the areas of key ideas and details as this was a lower performing area by our students on state and district assessments. Math teachers noticed that measurement and data is an area of focus, along with building academic math vocabulary. The PBIS team noted that last year there was an increase in the number of student behavior referrals related to defiance and disrespect, so the PBIS team and teachers will focus on this for the coming year. The attendance team felt it was important to educate parents of the importance of regular attendance for students, especially those who missed large numbers of days last year. The family engagement team will be hosting several events throughout the year to inform, build school spirit, and bring families together in fun school related events.

Our next family activity is being held in conjunction with the high school Homecoming football game on September 23rd. All students will receive a free ticket to the football game, scheduled for 7:00pm. Attending students drop their ticket into the container for a chance to win a school prize. At least one adult must be present with the student at the game. Plan to come out to see the newly renovated football stadium, support the Comet football team, and give your child a chance to win a prize!

“It was wonderful seeing so many families at our Open House event!”



Fall NWEA MAP testing to begin soon!

STUDENTS WILL BE COMPLETING THE ONLINE MAP READING AND MATH ASSESSMENTS between September 27 and October 21. Please ensure they get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast when they are to test. We will provide them adequate time they need to demonstrate their knowledge. After the testing is completed, the teaching staff will review student data to make decisions for instruction.

A Message from Turtle Creek Elementary



Comet Code

AT TURTLE CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WE LEARN AND RESPECT OUR COMET CODE.

We want our students and staff to Be Respectful! Be Responsible! and Be Safe! If we follow these important characteristics, we will all be Proud Comets! Ask your child what they have learned about being respectful, responsible, and safe at Turtle Creek! Throughout the year, we will recognize our students for displaying these important characteristics

Look for our monthly recognitions coming soon!

Relationships and Routines

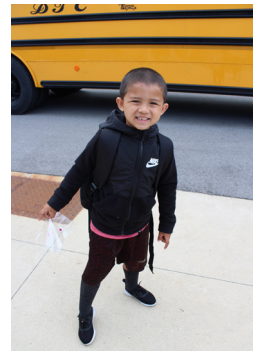
Building strong, positive relationships and routines are important for the healthy development of a child.

From the very beginning of the school year, the Turtle Creek Family works to build positive relationships with our students and families. When students feel safe and welcome, they can better focus on teaching and learning. In addition, routines for children support healthy social emotional development. Regular routines also help support self-regulation skills, which are solid building blocks for positive mental health development.

Our children need consistent routines, like bedtimes and morning schedules. The students at Turtle Creek are our youngest learners, and we understand the importance of helping them develop self-regulation so they are better able to adapt to everyday challenges and new expectations. This process takes time, and the support between home and school helps the process. Families can help by talking to their children about their feelings and experiences. Children thrive in predictable environments built around positive relationships.

At Turtle Creek, we value these important key components as we plan for our school days. All of our staff take extra time to create safe, welcome learning environments.

They build positive relationships and establish consistent routines. We appreciate the connections made with families to support relationships and routines. Thank you for working with our Turtle Creek Family to support the development of each child.



Dousman Bus is the Best!

THANK YOU TO DOUSMAN BUS COMPANY FOR COMING TO EXPLAIN ALL ABOUT BUS SAFETY

to our students and staff. Many of our students ride the bus every day to and from school. We also love to go on field trips and might take the bus to go to special places. It is very important to know the rules and expectations on buses so that we can travel safely. We appreciate the connection with Dousman Bus Company!



A Message from Phoenix & Delavan-Darien High School Athletics, Clubs & Activities

Conference Affiliation

The 2022-2023 school year starts the last year that Delavan-Darien will be a member of the Southern Lakes Conference. High School sports will be participating against Badger High School, Burlington High School, Elkhorn High School, Union Grove High School, Waterford High School, Westosha Central High School and Wilmot High School for the last time as members of the Southern Lakes Conference in the sports of Cross Country, Girls and Boys Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Girls and Boys Swimming, Girls and Boys Tennis, Girls and Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Golf and Track and Field.

Varsity and JV 2 Football teams start play this year in the Rock Valley Conference. The Rock Valley Football conference has the Comets facing: East Troy, Jefferson, Whitewater, Evansville, Edgerton, Monroe and McFarland. All the DDHS High School sport teams will enter the Rock Valley Conference in the fall of 2023. The Comets have played many of these teams in recent years for non-conference events and in the WIAA Tournament series. While Delavan-Darien High School has enjoyed our time as a charter member of the Southern Lakes Conference, we look forward to the move into the Rock Valley Conference for more competitive balance for our sporting teams.

Middle School Athletic Conference

The Phoenix Middle School participates in the Southern Lakes Middle School conference with Burlington, Elkhorn, East Troy, Lake Geneva and Waterford, in the sports of Cross Country, Girls and Boys Basketball, Girls Volleyball, Wrestling and Boys and Girls Track and Field. Events are kept local with no early release times for away events. Most events start at 3:45 and finish by 5:30. Practices are right after school at Phoenix Middle School.

Rock Valley Conference Admission Prices

If you are attending an event that is in the Rock Valley Conference, **spectator prices have changed.** Please note the Rock Valley Conference admission prices are \$5.00 for Adults and \$2.00 for Students. High School students will be allowed free entry with a student ID. Anyone 55+ may pick up their FREE pass from the School Administration Center at 324 Beloit St., Delavan.

#CometNation

Dream. Discover. Connect.

