

The Middle Zone

News From DMS - March, 2025



UPDATE INFORMATION

It is very important to have current phone numbers, addresses and emergency contact information for all students on file. If you have had any changes in these areas, please notify the office to update your information.

(608)935-3307 option 3



SPRING BREAK

Spring is almost here and it's time to take a break!!!

School will not be in session from Monday, March 24th - Friday, March 28th .

Start thinking about all those things you want to do safely over your Spring Break!



END OF 3RD QUARTER

Our third quarter will be ending on **Wednesday, March 21st**. Students will be dismissed at noon. Students are encouraged to make the most of the remaining weeks in the quarter. There still is time to improve those grades! Do your homework!



BREAKFAST

Regular:

Daily \$2.25

Reduced

Daily \$0.30

LUNCH

Regular:

Daily \$3.40

Weekly \$17.00

Reduced:

Daily \$0.40

Weekly \$2.00

MILK

Daily \$0.50

Weekly \$2.50

LUNCH CHOICES

DMS students who take advantage of our hot lunch program have a choice of daily hot entree, a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a peanut butter only sandwich. or the ever popular prepared salad. Students will need to indicate their choice to their 1st period teacher so enough food can be ordered. It's always good to have a choice for lunch! See the March lunch menu at the end of this newsletter.



The Principal's Post

Greetings Dodgeville Middle School Families,

As we move into the month of March, we have many things that are happening. From the Wisconsin Forward Exam, YRBS, and the arrival of weather which allows us to be outside more frequently once again. This time of year is always filled with excitement, as we look forward to the arrival of spring, and continue to focus on academic growth, social-emotional development, and maintaining a positive and respectful school environment.

Wisconsin Forward Exam: As part of the Wisconsin state accountability system, students in specific grade levels will soon participate in the Wisconsin Forward Exam. We will start these tests the week of March 17th. This is an opportunity for our students to demonstrate their learning and progress in various subjects. Teachers will be reviewing key concepts and offering support as we prepare for the exam. Please ensure that your child gets plenty of rest, eats a healthy breakfast, and arrives at school on time to help them do their best. When we return from Spring Break we will test those weeks upon our return to DMS.

The Importance of Kindness and Respect: One of the core values we continue to focus on at school is fostering an environment where kindness and respect are at the forefront of our daily interactions. March is a great time to remind ourselves about the importance of treating others with kindness, empathy, and respect. These qualities not only create a positive school atmosphere but also help build a strong, supportive community. We encourage all students to continue showing kindness to their peers and to be mindful of their words and actions. It is important that we continue to be a united front with families so we can instill the traits and characteristics which will serve our students well now and into the future.

YRBS Social/Emotional Screener 6th-8th Grade: As part of our commitment to supporting students' overall well-being, we will be administering the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) social/emotional screener. This survey helps us better understand the social and emotional needs of our students, so we can strategize and collaborate around what the next steps are for supporting our students' well being.. We encourage parents to reach out to Justinn Jenkins or Toby Tripalin if they have any questions or concerns about this screening.

We are committed here at Dodgeville Middle School to building a school that the whole community can be proud of. The partnership with the community is vital for our schools to achieve at high levels and support the growth of the whole child. Thank you for your support and we look forward to longer days, positive interactions, and partnering with students, staff, and community because it is a great day to be a Dodger!

Sincerely,

Toby Tripalin

Dodgeville Middle School Principal

Ms. Jenkins' Counselor's Corner

Ms. Jenkins' Counselor's Corner for March 2025

Hello DMS Families! My name is Ms. Jenkins and I am the School Counselor here at DMS. We are nearing the end of the third quarter and spring is in the air!

Please don't forget to check out my [DMS Counseling Website](#) for information and resources for students and families

Resources

- [We Can All Prevent Suicide : Lifeline \(988lifeline.org\)](#)
- [What to Do if You're Worried About Suicide](#)
- [Suicide Warning Signs for Youth \(English\)](#)
- [Suicide Warning Signs for Youth \(Spanish\)](#)
- [About Teen Suicide](#)
- [My Friend is Talking About Suicide: What Should I Do?](#)
- [How Can I Help a Friend Who is Depressed](#)
- [Talking with Students About Self-Harm](#)
- [Cutting and Self-Harm](#)
- [Helping Teens Who Self-Harm](#)
- [Childhood Stress: How Parents Can Help](#)
- [Tips for Communicating with your Teen](#)
- [Teenagers and Sleep](#)
- [How Using Social Media Affects Teenagers](#)
- [Are smartphones and social media harming teen mental health? Here's why experts are split | PBS News](#)
- [How Social Media Affects Your Teen's Mental Health: A Parent's Guide > News > Yale Medicine](#)
- [Health advisory on social media use in adolescence](#)

Forward Testing

Our DMS students in 5th -8th grades will be participating in the Wisconsin Forward Exam or the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessments during the March 17-April 25 testing window. State assessments are required by both State (Wis. Stat. § 118.30) and Federal ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Law.

DMS students are scheduled to take these exams on the following dates (Please note there have been some changes since the February newsletter):

- Tuesday, March 18
- Wednesday, March 19
- Wednesday, April 2 (8th grade only)
- Thursday, April 3 (8th grade only)
- Tuesday, April 8
- Wednesday, April 9
- Thursday, April 10

All grades will be completing English Language Arts and Math tests and 8th grade will also have a Science and Social Studies test. One or more subtests may be administered daily during our selected time frame. Students not in school on testing days will be scheduled for a make-up test prior to the close of the testing window.

These assessments measure the knowledge and skills students should have for their grade-level. Students' performance on the assessment will not affect their grades. Please encourage your child to do the best they can. The results of these tests will be used to help school staff make determinations regarding curriculum, placement, and services to best support students.

We encourage students and families to prepare for these tests by doing the following:

- Get plenty of sleep (students age 6-12 need 9-12 hours and students age 13-18 need 8-10 hours)
- Eat a healthy diet (this includes eating breakfast)
- Drink plenty of water (students age 10-14 years need 7-8 cups/day)
- Be physically active
- Limit time on electronics/technology
- Have routines before school and after school

Students will also need to bring the following items to testing:

- Charged Chromebook
- **WIRED** headphones
- #2 Pencil
- Please note that electronic devices with cellular, messaging and/or wireless capabilities are **NOT** allowed. This includes cell phones, Smart watches and wireless earbuds!!
- **ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE A PAIR OF WIRED HEADPHONES!!**

[Information for Families About Assessment in Wisconsin | Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

In February we finished up the Integrity Unit in our SEL curriculum, *Kindness in the Classroom*, which focused on acting in a way you know to be right and kind in all situations. We then started the Responsibility Unit, which will focus on being reliable to do the things that are expected or required of you. Check out the links below to learn more about the specific lessons we have/will be doing! You may also check out the Kindness in the Classroom [website](#) for additional information or reach out to me if you have any questions.

Respect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th Grade • 6th Grade • 7th Grade • 8th Grade 	Caring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th Grade • 6th Grade • 7th Grade • 8th Grade 	Inclusiveness (will not be doing this year) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th Grade • 6th Grade • 7th Grade • 8th Grade
Integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th Grade • 6th Grade • 7th Grade • 8th Grade 	Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th Grade • 6th Grade • 7th Grade • 8th Grade 	Courage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th Grade • 6th Grade • 7th Grade • 8th Grade



Academic & Career Planning (ACP) & Xello Lessons

In March we will be wrapping up our ACP/Xello lessons for the year by introducing the fourth and final Xello lesson for 6th-8th grades and 5th grade students will be presenting their Career Research Presentations. Ask your 5th grade students what career they researched!

Here is what each grade is working on for their fourth lesson:

- 5th Grade: Career Research Presentation
- 6th Grade: *Time Management* Lesson
- 7th Grade: *Jobs and Employers* Lesson
- 8th Grade: *Transition to High School* Lesson

Coming up in April, Ms. Brogley, the DHS Counselor and myself will be meeting with the 8th graders to start having conversations about high school and creating their freshman schedules!

5th Grade D.A.R.E.

Our fifth graders started the [D.A.R.E. program](#) the last week of February during Health class with our School Resource Officer, Officer Pepper and will continue this 10-week program through mid-May. Upon completion, the 5th graders will participate in a D.A.R.E. graduation in May (date to be determined).



Family Resources

Emotional Wellbeing

- [What to Do \(and Not Do\) When Children Are Anxious](#)
- [How to Support LGBTQ Children](#)
- [Helping Children Cope with Grief](#)
- [Teens and Anger](#)
- [Emotional De-escalation Strategies | Edutopia](#)
- [Addressing School Avoidance | Edutopia](#)

Technology

- [GuidetoSnapchat_English.pdf\(ctfassets.net\)](#)
- [Digital Citizenship Resources for Family Engagement | Common Sense Education](#)
- [Parents' Ultimate Guide to Snapchat | Common Sense Media](#)
- [Parents' Ultimate Guide to TikTok | Common Sense Media](#)
- [Parents' Ultimate Guide to Instagram | Common Sense Media](#)
- [Girls and Social Media: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers | Common Sense Media](#)
- [What Are Some Basic Social Media Rules for Middle Schoolers? | Common Sense Media](#)
- [AAP Media Plan \(Family Media Plan\)](#)
- [How to Help Kids Balance Phones and Screens with Sleep | Common Sense Media](#)
- [Parents' Ultimate Guide to Fortnite | Common Sense Media](#)
- [Parents' Ultimate Guide to Minecraft | Common Sense Media](#)
- [What's the Impact of Media and Screen Violence on Children? | Common Sense Media](#)
- [How Can I Help My Kids Develop Good Screen Time Habits? | Common Sense Media](#)
- [Be a Role Model: 4 Ways to Balance Screen Time Around Children | Common Sense Media](#)

THE LATEST FROM THE LIBRARY

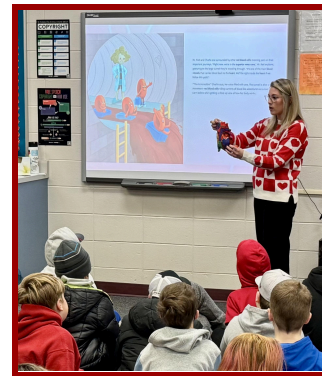


BATTLE OF THE BOOKS: STATE COMPETITION!

Congratulations to Elise Engel, Camden Lawver, Thanish Premnaath, and Ana White (alternate qualifier: Marissa White), who competed as a team in the WEMTA Statewide Battle of the Books Competition online on Wednesday, February 26th. Stay tuned to find out their placement in next month's DMS newsletter!

Author Abbey Breckling Shows a Lot of "Heart"

On February 14th, author and anatomist Abbey Breckling visited with all 5th grade students to talk about her book, *Charlie's Anatomical Adventures: The Heart*. The book was released that day, and we were honored to be the first school audience to hear her read the story aloud! Our students eagerly participated by displaying their knowledge of how our heart functions and asking many questions. We also got an inside hint about the body system Charlie will be visiting in her next book. Ms. Breckling has offered to come back to DMS again next year, and may even assist in the heart dissection in Mrs. Byers' science classes!



CLASSROOM COLLABORATIONS: Sixth Grade Newbery Project

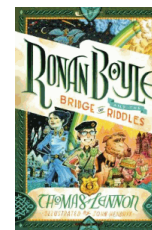
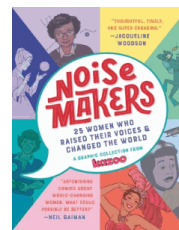


One of our favorite collaborations each year is working with 6th grade ELA teachers and students on their Newbery book projects in the spring. Students learn about the history of the award and are assisted in choosing a book that they will then present via a creative project to their classmates. The project remains fresh as new titles receive the honor each year, and students have hundreds of quality books to choose from all different genres.

MARCH BOOK PROMOTIONS

We are getting ready for spring with lots of celebrations, including:

- Women's History Month
- Celebrate Irish Heritage
- March Madness: Books About Basketball



SAVE THE DATE: DMS Annual Literacy Night & Book Fair

DMS will hold its annual Literacy Night and Scholastic Book Fair during our Spring Parent-Teacher Conference **evening**, on **Tuesday, April 22nd**. Stay tuned for more information!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

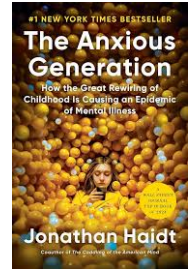
Community Read and Discussion: The Anxious Generation

The Dodgeville Public Library, Dodgeville School District, the Iowa County Health department, and UW-Extension are collaborating on an important community discussion. Dive into Jonathan Haidt's bestseller, *The Anxious Generation*, exploring how social media impacts our kids' mental health and what we can do about it. Books are available now for checkout at the Dodgeville Public Library.

- Date: Thursday, April 3rd
- Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
- Location: Dodgeville High School Library (912 W. Chapel St.)

To register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbEtIma6CVvWsjyJBy-TCJXVk_OzkHFG87NbiQKcU9a6Spig/viewform?usp=sharing



*The Dodgeville School District supports the community's efforts to come together and engage in meaningful discussions regarding the information presented in this book study. While we encourage open dialogue and critical thinking, the district is not endorsing or promoting the book itself or the ideas discussed within it.

~ Ms. Spady, DMS/DHS Library Media Specialist

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Chromebook Charger Information

Has your child lost their Chromebook charger? With Forward Exam testing coming up, students will particularly need to be charged up and ready to go at the start of their school day. Chargers can be purchased from the Main Office for a fee of \$45. Or, you can purchase a compatible USB-C 65-watt charger from many retailers. If a student's charger is no longer functioning, the IT department will replace it free of charge.

- MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH -

“Sum” Math for MARCH!

Here's what our math students are studying:

5th	This month, our students will dive into the exciting world of multiplying
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	<p>and dividing decimals and fractions! Key ideas they'll discover include how their understanding of whole number multiplication can help with decimals and fractions, viewing fractions as division problems, and understanding how the size of factors influences the size of a product. They'll also learn to use the connections between multiplication and division to tackle dividing whole numbers by unit fractions and vice versa.</p>
6th	<p>This month, our unit will focus on understanding ratios and how to represent them in different ways. Students will explore the concept of ratios by comparing two quantities, such as having a certain amount of one item for every amount of another. They will also learn about equivalent ratios, and how to find them by using their knowledge of multiples and factors.</p>
7th	<p>Seventh grade has continued to work on ratio and proportional relationships. These have real world connections to recipes, maps, finances, and a multitude of other uses. We completed the winter Iready Math diagnostic testing for the students and saw several students scores increase dramatically from the fall '24 testing!</p>
8th	<p>-Eighth grade students are exploring slope and linear equations in preparation for algebra next year! Key ideas of our unit include understanding and using the equation "$y=mx+b$", solving single equations and systems of equations, as well as creating and solving equations that represent real-world problems.</p> <p>-We completed the winter IReady Math testing and saw the entire grade, as a whole, grow <u>over</u> their expected growth rate of 50%, achieving a whopping 67%! Keep up the good work!</p>
Algebra	<p>-Algebra students are wrapping up their function unit by examining piecewise functions, and will be moving into systems of linear equations this month. Key skills will be solving systems using graphing, substitution, and elimination, identifying solutions, writing and solving systems that represent real-world situations, and determining solutions that make sense in the real-world.</p> <p>-We completed the winter IReady Math testing and saw the entire grade, as a whole, grow <u>over</u> their expected growth rate of 50%, achieving a whopping 67%! Keep up the good work!</p>

DMS SPORTS

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS AT DMS!

★ Track - Grades 6th - 8th

Practice starts Monday, March 31st.

[Middle School Track & Field](#)

Middle School Sports Sign Up:

[2024-2025 Sign Up Sheet](#)

ATTENTION ATHLETES – GET READY TO PLAY!

To participate in the DMS interscholastic sports programs **ALL** forms must be turned into the office **BEFORE** you are able to **PRACTICE**. If you are interested in being part of one of our athletic teams this year, you must take care of the following items:

- WIAA physical or alternate year card
[Physical Form](#) or
[Alternate Year Card](#)
- Athletic Code Sheet and Concussion/Sudden Cardiac Arrest Agreement
[DMS Registration Parental Consent](#)
- Upland Hills Health, consent and permission to treat.
[UHH Consent](#)
- Fee to participate (payable at the start of each sport).
[DSD Student Fees](#)



TRACK & FIELD 2025

[Track Schedule](#)

Date	Opponent	Home / Away	Dismissal Time	Start Time
Thursday, April 24	Dodgeville Invite	Home		4:00 pm
Monday, April 28	Prairie du Chien Invite	Away	1:55 pm	
Tuesday, May 6	Fennimore Invite	Away	2:20 pm	
Tuesday, May 13	Lancaster Invite	Away	2:20 pm	
Thursday, May 15	Platteville Invite	Away	2:20 pm	

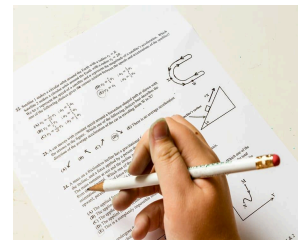


Homework Club

DMS

Tuesdays and Thursdays

3:30-4:30



Students who want some support with assignments, studying for tests, or just want to hang out and read. You do not need to sign up, just stay after school and report to Room #330 (Mrs. Thier's room)

DMS Upcoming Events 2024-2025

As of 02/18/2025 (Subject to change)

March

- 1 - Middle School Solo & Ensemble at Lancaster High School
- 21 - End of 3rd Quarter - Early Release - Noon Dismissal
- 24-28 - No School - Spring Break
- 31 - Start of 4th Quarter
- 31 - DMS Track & Field Practice starts

April

- 18 - No School - Good Friday
- 21 - No School - Professional Development for Staff
- 22 - DMS Parent Teacher [Conference Open House](#) 5:00 - 7:00 pm
- 24 - DMS Track & Field Dodgeville Invite - 4:00 pm
- 28 - DMS Track & Field - Invite at Prairie du Chien - 4:00 pm (dismissal 1:55)

May

- 6 - DMS Track & Field - Invite at Fennimore - 4:00 pm (dismissal 2:20)
- 13 - DMS Track & Field - Invite at Lancaster - 4:00 pm (dismissal 2:20)
- 15 - DMS Track & Field - Invite at Platteville - 4:00 pm (dismissal 2:20)
- 23 - DHS Graduation 7:00pm
- 26 - No School - Memorial Day
- 30 - End of School Year - Early Release - Noon Dismissal

What's happening in the Dodgeville School District

[Dodgeville School District](#)

[School Calendar](#)



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3. Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Corn Mixed Fruit Dinner Roll	4. Chicken Alfredo Romaine Baby Carrots Pears Bread stick	5. Cheese Quesadilla Wedge Fries Lettuce Refried Beans Diced Tomatoes Peaches	6. Orange Chicken Rice Broccoli Bell Peppers Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookie WG dinner Roll	7. Fish Patty w/cheese Tater Rounds Cole Slaw Applesauce WG Bun
10. Pizza Hut Pepperoni Seasoned Carrots Lettuce Salad Peaches Side Kick	11. Walking Taco Tri Taters Refried Beans Lettuce, Diced Tomato Pears Tortilla Chips	12. Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Corn Mixed Fruit WG Dinner Roll	13. Cheese Omelet French Toast Sticks Hash browns Baby carrots Applesauce Juice	14. Grilled Cheese Wedge Fries Romaine Pineapple WG Dinner Roll
17. Sausage Pizza Romaine Baby Carrots Pears Frozen juice cup	18. Mozzarella Dippers Marinara Sauce Romaine Wedge Fries Peaches	19. Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes Sliced Tomato Corn Peaches WG bun	20. Mini Corn Dogs Curly Fries Baked Beans Mixed Fruit	21. Noon Dismissal Sack Lunch Ham/Turkey String Cheese Apple slices, Carrots Sun chips Treat
24. <div style="font-size: 100px; font-weight: bold; color: orange; text-align: center;">SPRING BREAK</div>	25.	26.	27.	28.
31. Pizza Hut Sausage Romaine Seasoned Peas Peaches Sidekick	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>2nd Entrée Choice</i></p> <p><i>Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich</i></p> <p>Breakfast menus Posted in Kitchen</p> <p><u>Choice of Milk</u></p> <p>1% White Fat Free Chocolate</p> </div> </div>			

Menu subject to change without notice.

WG = Whole Grain

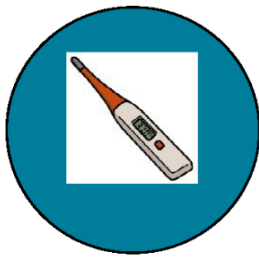
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TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?



Below are guidelines to help parents and school districts determine when to keep children/students home from school. The recommendations are based on guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state public health professionals. They were developed to help prevent the spread of potentially contagious disease. Home is the best place for a child who is ill. If your child is sick with a diagnosed communicable disease, please notify the school as soon as possible. This notification will greatly assist others who, due to medical reasons and/or treatments, have weakened immune systems and may require immediate and specialized care.



FEVER

With fever greater than 100.4° F*. Student may return when fever-free for **24 hours** (WITHOUT use of fever-reducing medicine).



VOMITING/DIARRHEA

Any unexplained vomiting episode. May return **24 hours** after last episode. Diarrhea = three or more unexplained episodes of watery or loose stool in **24 hours** **OR** sudden onset of loose stools. May return 24 hours after last episode.



COUGH

Serious, sustained coughing, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.



RASH

Any new rash accompanied by a fever. May return after rash goes away or clearance given by a health care provider.



SKIN LESIONS/SORES

Drainage from a sore that cannot be contained within a bandage **OR** sores are increasing in size **OR** new sores are developing day-to-day.



OTHER

Symptoms that prevent the student from active participation in usual school activities **OR** student is requiring more care than school can safely provide.

* Many authorities use either 100 (37.8 degrees Celsius) or 100.4 F (38.0 degrees Celsius) as a cut-off for fever, but this number actually can range depending on factors such as the method of measurement and the age of the person. CDC has public health recommendations that are based on the presence (or absence) of fever. What is meant by this is that the person's temperature is not elevated beyond their norm. In order to provide clarity the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction supports the use of 100.4°F.