



DANBURY ELEMENTARY

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is that time of year at school when our students have almost completed all of their beginning of the year assessments. Our classroom teachers, along with all of our staff members, have assisted in this process. We have provided accommodations for some students, such as testing in a small group or individually, so that they can show us "all that they know."

Now comes the time when, as an educational community, our faculty will analyze, interpret, and develop different "game plans" to provide the best education environment and curriculum for our students. Our classroom teachers will collaboratively meet with Ms. Abbey, Mrs. Hurd, Ms. Mills, and myself to implement such plans.

In addition to looking at data at the student level, we are also reflecting on data at the school level. At Wednesday's Early Release, our faculty narrowed down our school goals to focus on math facts and student attendance. Over the course of the next three weeks, we will be gathering base line data as to our students' math fact knowledge. At our October faculty meeting, we will finish writing our measurable goal for math facts and will develop certain action steps. Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Connor, and I will meet to talk about different strategies centered around truancy. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will meet to develop criteria (excused vs. unexcused; number increments), levels of communication, and documentation. Lastly, we will be forming a school data team. This group of educators will look at our data with a focus on seeing school trends and patterns. All of this time, energy, and work has one purpose; to provide all of our students with the best educational experience.

We know a large piece of students' success is the relationship that teachers build with families. By witnessing the number of families who attend such events as our annual Ice Cream Social, Open House, and Student-Led Conferences, it is evident that this is one of the strengths at our school. Each of our faculty members have an email account and voicemail set up as additional ways to communicate and work with families.

If you have any feedback, questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

Have a great weekend!

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/28 PICTURE DAY

10/8 HEARING & VISION
SCREENING

Registration forms will be sent home.

10/9 NO SCHOOL
Teacher Workshop Day

10/12 NO SCHOOL
Columbus Day

10/15 FLU CLINIC

10/21 FUN RUN FUNDRAISER

What's Happening in 2nd & 3rd Grade



This year has started off with a bang! These two classes have combined flawlessly which has allowed us to dive right into the curriculum. In literacy, we just finished our 2nd week of groups. The 2nd and 3rd graders rotate through 4 groups that cater to their skill level in order to allow them to grow. We are lucky to have Mrs. Hurd in our room for literacy to assist the kids in one of their groups.



When it comes to math, we are deep into our 1st chapter. Math is broken into two stages. I start with the 3rd graders to teach them the whole group lesson while 2nd grade is on the rug completing two supporting activities with Mrs. Costigan. Then, 3rd grade heads to the rug to complete two supporting activities independently while I have 2nd grade for their whole group lesson.



The teamwork these two classes show is outstanding. They understand how to control their volume level when working independently to not interrupt the other groups. They also understand what it means to help someone else when I may be busy with another student. Our biggest goal this year is going to be learning how to teach something to another student. It is easy to show another what the answer is, but it is a whole new skill to learn how to teach to someone else. It will bring confidence to those students to be able to help one another. This is going to be a fantastic year!

It was great to see all of the parents that came out for open house. Thank you for supporting your children's education! Remember to read, read, read at home :)

Change In Drop Off & Pick Up Routine

After watching drop-off and pick-up times, getting feedback from the bus company, and keeping the safety of our students in mind; we are modifying our daily routines.

To allow for the bus company to have a smooth and consistent drop-off in the bus loop, if you are dropping your child off from 7:00-7:20a.m., please pull into a parking space and walk your child to our side entrance. Between 7:20-7:30, you may use the bus loop if it is a quick drop-off. However, if the goodbyes are going to take longer, please use a parking space to keep the flow of the bus loop going.

In the afternoon, first we will dismiss all bus students and Mrs. Robinson will allow the buses to head out of the bus loop. Then, she will dismiss pick-up students to their designated adult. We appreciate your advanced understanding of these new routines and your flexibility.



Smile! School Pictures

Monday, September 28th is Picture Day for DES. Students will take their pictures in the beginning of the day. Each student should have brought home information regarding picture packages. These packets need to be returned on Monday. Or parents may now order pictures and customize photo sheets online.

1. Visit mylifetouch.com
2. Enter the Picture Day ID: VJ085079Q0
3. Order today online!

Physical Education News with Mrs. Frost

After doing Curriculum Mapping work for the district last year, Physical Education has a new focus on teaching standards. SHAPE America Standards are now being addressed in all PE unit and lesson plans. It is important to introduce a unit on "cooperative activities" at the beginning of the school year to address, safety, sportsmanship, rules, caring, sharing, including and working cooperatively with others. This unit is one of the most important units in Physical Education.



Examples of Shape America Standards are:

Kindergarten (S4.E1.K) Follows directions in group settings.

First Grade (S4.E1.1) Accepts personal responsibility by using equipment and space appropriately.

Second Grade (S4.E1.2) Practices skills with minimal teacher prompting.

Third Grade (S4.E1.3) Exhibits personal responsibility in teacher-directed activities.

Fourth Grade (S4.E1.4) Exhibits responsible behavior in independent group situations.

Fifth Grade (S4.E1.5) Engages in physical activities with responsible interpersonal behavior.

Physical Education is not just about playing and learning new games. Components of socialization, fitness, and skills play a major role to the true meaning of PE. Safe FUN is the ultimate goal in all fitness and skill activities. Students are having a great time learning new tag games, skill activities, relays and group/team games as we move forward in the 2015/2016 school year. Each week provides a new learning experience for our children as we move forward with SHAPE America Standards.

The FUN RUN is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st 10:00-10:30. This will be our second annual all school fundraiser where children walk, jog, run for thirty minutes. Children collect money from sponsors for this fun event. Look for letters to come!



Check out our website!
des.sau4.org

