

# DMPS Community Report

Summer 2009

THINK.

LEARN.

GROW.



Hubbell Elementary fifth-graders Aaron Westphal, Gage Stackhouse, and Jalen Jones share their life cycle terrarium projects with each

## Schools Become First in Iowa to Implement International Baccalaureate Program

In the fall of 2008, Des Moines Public Schools became the first and only school district in Iowa to offer an International Baccalaureate (IB) program as another method of learning for students. More than 110 DMPS teachers have received formal IB training and during the next two years, a total of seven schools in Des Moines will become International Baccalaureate World Schools.

The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. Students are encouraged to ask challenging questions, learn how to learn, develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture, develop the ability to communicate with and understand people from other countries and cultures, and become independent, self-motivated learners.

Schools in every region of the school district are participating in the IB program. This

year, Central Academy became the first school to offer the IB Diploma Programme, with 18 high school students currently participating in this approach to learning. Hubbell Elementary School and Merrill Middle School became International Baccalaureate Candidate Schools, a designation granted to schools for taking positive steps toward authorization. Park Avenue and Stowe Elementary schools, and Goodrell Middle School have completed the “consideration phase” of the authorization process and are submitting applications to become Candidate Schools in fiscal year 2010; and Walnut Street School is currently engaged in the “consideration phase.”

“This process has been a collaborative effort between our parents and teachers to find the best possible program that would be both effective and exciting in improving our academic accomplishments,” said Alex Hanna, principal at Merrill Middle School.

IB assessment is varied, authentic, and takes place over the entire course of IB instruction. It culminates in a series of

examinations. Subjects for the examination at the Diploma level are drawn from six subject groups: language, second language, experimental sciences, individuals and societies, math and computer science, and the arts.

There are three programmes of international education known as the IB Continuum:

- The Primary Years Programme (PYP) for students ages 3 to 12
- The Middle Years Programme (MYP) for students ages 11 to 16
- The Diploma Programme for students ages 16 to 19

Hubbell Elementary School Principal Tim Schott said the shift to the guided-inquiry instructional focus of the IB program has challenged teachers and students to think differently about learning.

“Planning concept-driven — rather than content-driven — units at each grade level

*Continued on page 4*



Gov. Chet Culver visited Melissa Mullen's preschool class at Walnut Street School in May to announce statewide preschool grants.

## What's New for 2009-2010

### New Principals

Four new faces are joining the principal force at Des Moines Public Schools. Craig Saddler, former principal at Johnson Elementary School of Arts in Cedar Rapids, is the new principal at Moulton Extended Learning Center. James Mollison, former vice principal at Roosevelt High School, is the new principal at Weeks Middle School. Craig Leager, who was serving as the Released Assistant at the Walnut Street School, has been appointed as principal of the school. Dr. Bill Szakacs, formerly associate superintendent for the Northeast Region, has been named principal of Lovejoy Elementary School.

### Facility Updates

King Elementary School renovations are complete and students will return to their new digs in the fall. Jackson Elementary School is currently undergoing renovations and students will be housed at Mann for the 2009-2010 school year. The geothermal project at Roosevelt High School will be complete by the start of the school year, adding geothermal wells and a storm sewer line under the parking lots and providing significant energy savings. The McKee Educational Center will open this fall at the former McKee Elementary School site (2115 E. 39th St.) and will house a universal preschool program and the new Middle School Alternative Education Program.

### Lincoln High School 21st Century Academies

Beginning with the sophomore class this fall, Lincoln High School will introduce 21st Century Academies — a new way of learning that allows students to explore personal career interests and prepares them for postsecondary education and employment. Studies show that interest academies have a 10-19 percent lower dropout rate than non-career interest schools.

### Middle School Alternative Education Center

A new Middle School Alternative Education Center (AEC) will open this fall at the McKee Educational Center (2115 E. 39th St.) to address the behaviors of at-risk youth and help keep them in school. In addition to small group settings for academics, students will receive weekly individual and/or family therapy and daily social skills instruction. The AEC program will assist students with re-entry into the traditional school setting through guidance and transition services provided by the Department of Learning Services and the student's home school.

### Additional Preschool Programs

Thanks to an Early Reading First grant from the federal government, Des Moines Public Schools is able to expand its preschool programs for the 2009-2010 school year. Four full-day programs will be created at Carver, Capitol View, Moulton and Findley schools. Special education, Head Start and state universal preschool funding will be used to employ teachers and associates at the new McKee Educational Center preschool, and additional preschool classes at Casady and Mann.

### Notable Achievements and Awards

Two Central Campus students graduated from high school and college this spring thanks to a DMPS-DMACC partnership formed this year. Jared Stoen, Hoover High School grad, and Derrek Meath, East High School grad, received college degrees from DMACC along with their high school diplomas. Through the DMPS-DMACC initiative, many courses offered at Central Campus, along with all five Des Moines high schools, help students complete an Associate of Arts degree.

King Academy of Math and Science and school counselor **Meredith Dohmen** received the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation, which recognizes schools committed to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program and an exemplary educational environment.

**Aaron Eckhouse**, Roosevelt High School and Central Academy student, was the recipient of the 2008 male State of Iowa AP Scholar Award. Historically, 30 of the total 36 students receiving the state of Iowa AP Scholar Awards have attended Central Academy.

Roosevelt High School's speech and debate team crowned three individual champions at the Iowa High School Forensic League's All-Iowa Speech and Debate Championships. Senior **Chris Oman** won the Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking state title, junior **Mirza Germovic** won the Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking championship, and sophomore **Minh Le** won the Congress Debate state championship.

**Jean Phillips**, DMPS Health Services supervisor, was named 2009 Iowa Nurse Administrator of the Year by the Iowa School Association of Nurses. Jean has been with the district for 20 years.

**Courtney Bozeman and Katie Price**, East High School seniors, were named 2009 Iowa High School All-State Poets in the first annual Iowa High School All-State Poetry contest.

**Sally Hedgepeth**, teacher at Ruby Van Meter School, received the 2009 MetLife Foundation Ambassador in Education Award from the National Civic League for building school and community partnerships. The award included a \$5,000 grant for the school.



Students are eager to answer a question in Pete King's social science class at Merrill Middle School.

## District Striving to Produce Well-Rounded Graduates

A common question asked throughout the Des Moines community is how are Des Moines Public Schools preparing students to be successful beyond high school and into the 21st century? We have the answer. Since 2007, the district has been hard at work to develop and implement Graduate Ends — new expectations for graduates the school board approved in 2008. The Ends are objectives to help prepare our graduates for their future, so they possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to be successful at the next stage of their lives.

The Ends statements were created in the spring of 2007 as a result of 10 community conversations held throughout the district, nine focus groups, phone surveys and an electronic staff survey to determine what parents, staff, business leaders, and the community believe are the most important assets children can gain from their school experience. The Ends statements are an integral part of the state of Iowa's new Core Curriculum requirements. The finalized Iowa Core Curriculum will be released in the fall by the Department of Education.

The top five areas of emphasis from the forums and surveys were identified as reading, communications, math, critical thinking, and character. Some comments included:

“Students need to know how to succeed outside of an institution.”

“I want children to be the producers of ideas.”

“Personal success occurs when kids feel good about their own achievements.”

“Prepare students for the future by applying what they learn to everyday life.”

Schools across the district have been incorporating the Ends statements into their classrooms. A few examples are:

- Students in Jason Danielson's U.S. history class at Hoover High School completed a unit of study where they were assigned to cabinet departments in the federal government. During their finals, students presented proposals to the president on what our nation should be doing to prepare for the next 20 years. Elected officials from local, state, and federal government attended to observe their presentations and provide constructive comments and questions. The project was a practical application of several Ends statements, including lifelong learning, proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening, proficiency in civics and government, and world awareness.
- At the Downtown School, second- and third-graders demonstrated financial and economic literacy with projects about fair trade, including a food drive and paper sale.
- Eighth-graders in the pre-integrated algebra and civics classes of Josh Brown and Mark Schwark at Goodrell Middle School used Webquests to research different structures and landforms and then constructed a scaled-down model of the structure or landform as a theme for a miniature golf course hole. Students also created a realistic monthly budget by researching potential careers and finding average costs of living expenses. The two projects reflected several Ends statements, including lifelong learning and technology and information literacy.

### DMPS Graduate Ends

These are the main points of the Graduate Ends statements. To view the entire Graduate Ends, please visit our Web site at [www.dmps.k12.ia.us/schoolboard/newendsfornewcentury.htm](http://www.dmps.k12.ia.us/schoolboard/newendsfornewcentury.htm).

### THE DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXIST SO THAT GRADUATES POSSESS THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT THE NEXT STAGE OF THEIR LIVES.

Graduates demonstrate the ability to adapt successfully in educational, workplace and community settings through their ability to think, communicate and interact.

Graduates demonstrate strategies for lifelong learning.

Graduates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a rigorous curriculum integrated into all content areas.

Graduates possess technological and information literacy.

Graduates have world awareness.

Graduates possess the knowledge and skills to be self-directed and autonomous.



# Back to School: How to Register for 2009-2010

To ensure a smooth beginning to the fall semester, all Des Moines Public Schools students must register before school starts. Some schools offered an early registration period for students. If you did not register early and cannot attend registration, please call your school prior to the registration date.

## What to Expect at Registration

At registration you can take care of a number of things to make sure your child is ready for the start of a new school year. Middle and high school students will be given their class schedule at registration, and any schedule changes can be made at that time. High school students also will have their yearbook photos taken. Parents should be prepared to pay any fees, if applicable, as well as update their contact information. Students who ride the bus to school will receive a tentative bus schedule. If you have further questions about registration, please call your school. A directory of schools can be found at [www.dmps.k12.ia.us](http://www.dmps.k12.ia.us).

## Registration Dates by Region

If you do not know where to enroll your child, please call 242-7781. If you do not know what region your child's school is in, please refer to the guide on page 6.

### Northeast Region\*\*

**Elementary Schools:** August 6 and 10  
1 p.m. to 7 p.m. each day

**Middle Schools (except Goodrell):** August 6 and 10  
11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each day

**Goodrell Middle School:** Students returned registration packets over the summer.

**East High School:** August 6, 7, 10  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day  
August 6: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
August 7: 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
August 10: 9<sup>th</sup> grade

**North High School:** August 6, 7, 10  
10 a.m. to 12 noon and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. each day

### Northwest Region\*\*

**Every School:** July 27–31, 2009  
Please call the individual school for hours.

### South Region\*\*

**Elementary Schools:** August 6 and 10  
1 p.m. to 7 p.m. each day

**Downtown School:** August 5 and 6  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day

**Middle Schools:** August 6 and 10  
11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each day

**Lincoln High School:** August 6, 7, 10  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day  
August 6: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades and siblings  
August 7: 10<sup>th</sup> grade and siblings  
August 10: 9<sup>th</sup> grade and siblings

**Scavo:** August 5 and 6  
1 p.m. to 7 p.m. each day

**Orientation for Sixth and Ninth Grades:** August 25  
Please call the individual schools for hours (except Harding).

**Harding Middle School Sixth-Grade Orientation:**  
Students either attend August 18 or 19 from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

\*\* Schools may include an early registration in July if desired.

### Central Campus

**High School:** August 25  
Grades 9 through 12  
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### Central Academy

**Middle School:** August 26  
Grades 7 and 8  
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### Future Pathways

August 6–14 (returning students only)  
Please call the school for hours.  
New students will be contacted after Sept. 2 for orientation.

... Continued from page 1

was liberating for teachers and engaging for students," Schott said. "Our students began seeing themselves as global citizens, and the community rallied behind us during the transition. We are ready to implement all parts of the program beginning in the fall."

The IB Diploma is increasingly being viewed as a strong indicator of academic

promise and achievement. IB students often have an advantage in the admissions process at selective universities. In addition, IB courses and exams are recognized for the purpose of advanced credit and/or placement at over 900 North American colleges and universities. In fact, more than 150 postsecondary institutions now grant a full year of credit to students who have earned the IB Diploma.

"We are thrilled to add this method of learning to the curriculum offered at Des Moines Public Schools," said Dr. Nancy Sebring, superintendent. "The experience so far has been rewarding for teachers, principals, and students involved in the program."

"We look at IB as bringing together best practices, not just in the country, but in the world," commented Dennis Johnson, Central Academy supervisor.

# Dates for the 2009-2010 School Year

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## August

- 20 First-year teachers report per contract
- 21 First-year teachers and associates report per contract
- 24 All teachers & associates report
- 25 All teachers & associates report
- 26 All teachers & associates report
- 27 First day of school

## September

- 7 Holiday — no classes, offices closed
- 8 School board election
- 9 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 18 Staff development for teachers — no student classes

## October

- 7 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 14 Conferences — 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 15 Conferences — no classes
- 16 No classes
- 28 120-minute early dismissal for all students

## November

- 11 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 26-27 Holidays — no classes, offices closed

## December

- 2 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 21-31 Winter recess — no classes
- 31 Holiday — offices closed

## January

- 1 Holiday — offices closed
- 4 First day of school after winter recess
- 6 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 15 End of first semester
- 18 No classes (MLK in-service day, required for all teachers)
- 19 First day of second semester

## February

- 3 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 15 Staff development for teachers — no student classes

## March

- 3 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 10 Conferences — classes will be held, 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 11 Conferences — no classes
- 12 No classes
- 15-19 Spring Recess — no classes

## April

- 7 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 23 High School — no school for 11<sup>th</sup> grade, a.m. only for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 28 High School — no school for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> grades, a.m. only for 11<sup>th</sup> grade

## May

- 5 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 19 120-minute early dismissal for all students
- 31 Holiday — no classes, offices closed

## June

- 4-6 High school graduations
- 7 Last day of school for elementary & middle schools — half day
- 8 Last day of school for high schools

### SCHOOL HOURS

Elementary Schools  
A: 8:15 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
B: 8:35 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Middle Schools  
7:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

High Schools  
7:40 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.



DMPS employs 4,875 people serving 31,000 students.



DMPS's cable Channel 12 has an audience of more than 300,000 viewers in the Des Moines metro area.

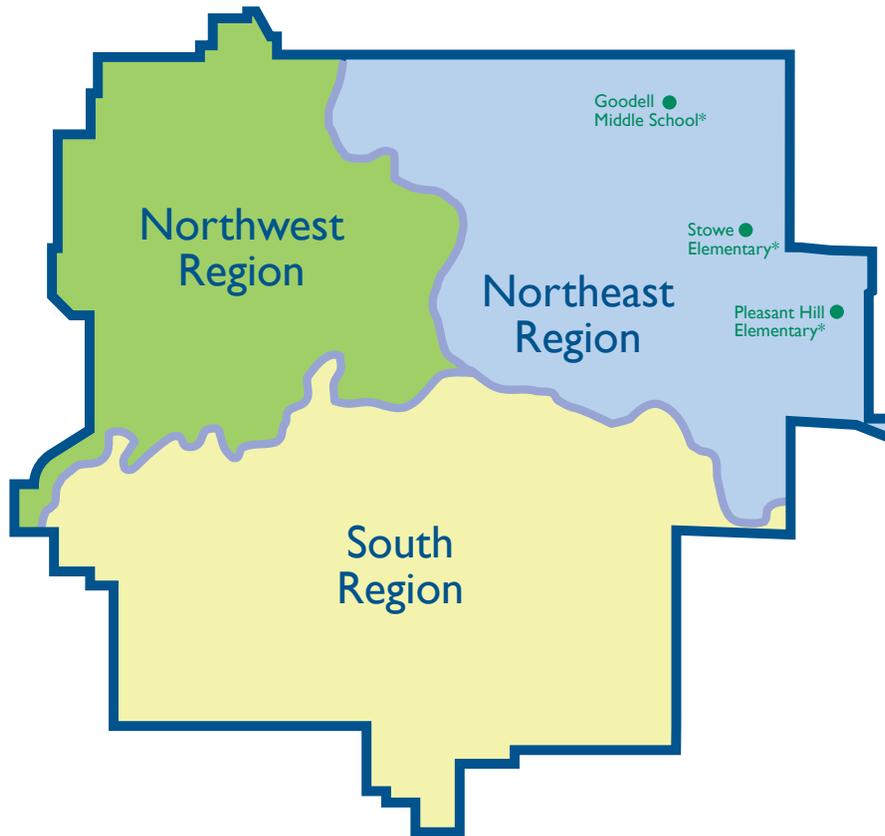


Two Des Moines choice schools (Downtown and Walnut Street) are located in the heart of the city's business district.

# Update on District Regions for 2009-2010

The boundaries of the three regions of Des Moines Public Schools — Northeast, Northwest and South — will remain the same for the 2009-2010 school year. However, due to administrative reassignments within the Northeast region three schools — Goodrell Middle School, Pleasant Hill

Elementary School, and Stowe Elementary School — will be supervised by administrators from either the Northwest or South region. Every region will still have two administrators assigned to oversee the schools in that region.



## NORTHEAST

East High School  
North High School

Harding Middle School  
Hiatt Middle School  
Hoyt Middle School  
Moulton Extended Learning Center (K-8)

Brubaker Elementary School  
Capitol View Elementary School  
Carver Community School  
Cattell Elementary School  
Findley Elementary School  
Garton Elementary School  
Madison Elementary School  
Oak Park Elementary School  
Phillips Traditional School  
Willard Elementary School

**Bryce Amos**  
Executive Director

**Mike Munoz**  
Executive Director

242-7660

## NORTHWEST

Hoover High School  
Roosevelt High School  
Ruby Van Meter School

Callanan Middle School  
Goodrell Traditional Middle School\*  
Meredith Middle School  
Merrill Middle School

Cowles Montessori School  
Greenwood Elementary School  
Hanawalt Elementary School  
Hillis Elementary School  
Hubbell Elementary School  
King Elementary School  
Monroe Elementary School  
Perkins Academy  
Samuelson Elementary School  
Smouse School  
Walnut Street School  
Windsor Elementary School

**Connie Cook**  
Associate Superintendent

**Susan Tallman**  
K-8 Executive Director

242-7725

## SOUTH

Lincoln High School  
Central Campus  
Orchard Place  
PACE

Brody Middle School  
McCombs Middle School  
Weeks Middle School  
Bridges

Downtown School  
Edmunds Elementary School  
Howe Elementary School  
Jackson Elementary School  
Jefferson Traditional School  
Lovejoy Elementary School  
McKinley Elementary School  
Morris Elementary School  
Park Avenue Elementary School  
Pleasant Hill Elementary School\*  
River Woods Elementary School  
South Union Elementary School  
Stowe Elementary School\*  
Studebaker Elementary School  
Wright Elementary School

**Terrence Martin**  
Associate Superintendent

**Tina Jensen**  
K-8 Executive Director

242-7871

\* Administratively reassigned from the Northeast region.



Des Moines students participate in an after-school program.

## Vote September 8 on the DMPS Revenue Purpose Statement

**T**uesday, Sept. 8, is not only the date of the next school board election, but also when Polk County residents will be asked to vote on the school district's revenue purpose statement.

During the 2008 session, the Iowa Legislature enacted a statewide one-cent sales tax to benefit school districts across Iowa. In Polk County, the statewide penny is meant to replace the one-cent local option sales tax approved by Polk County voters in 1999, which expires June 30, 2010.

Approval of the revenue purpose statement\* provides funds to:

- Remodel, repair, expand, and improve buildings or grounds, with emphasis on:
  - Safety and security
  - Replacing obsolete, inefficient, or worn-out equipment or systems
  - Money-saving strategies
  - Improving buildings that have not yet received major improvements
  - Technology infrastructure upgrades
  - Installation of air conditioning ventilation
  - Infrastructure improvements to enhance research-based student achievement or accommodate educational program changes
- Accommodate emergency repairs or respond to changes in demographics
- Purchase, lease or lease-purchase buildings or equipment to implement energy conservation measures

- Build and furnish new school buildings, as needed
  - Pay principal and interest or retire general obligation construction bonds
- \*To view the official language of DMPS's revenue purpose statement, go to [www.dmps.k12.ia.us](http://www.dmps.k12.ia.us).

## Destination Graduation: Reach Out to Dropouts Walk Planned for September

Des Moines Public Schools is collaborating with United Way of Central Iowa to plan the first-ever Reach Out to Dropouts Walk in Des Moines on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009 — a school and community effort to re-enroll students in school.

Volunteers from the school district and community will join forces armed with maps of the city and addresses to the homes of students who have not enrolled in school for the 2009-2010 school year as of Sept. 11, 2009. Teams will go door-to-door to find students and encourage them to re-enroll in school. All high schools also will be open that day to re-enroll students.

"We believe our efforts will be successful and students will return to school and be on the road to graduation," commented Bryce Amos, executive director of Learning Services for Des Moines Public Schools. "The walk is just one part of a new overarching DMPS initiative — Destination Graduation — designed to provide a one-stop source for helping at-risk students graduate."

The Reach Out to Dropouts Walk replicates an effort begun in Houston, Texas, in 2004 that has proven effective.

If you would like to volunteer to help out the day of the walk, please call Rachel Manuel at United Way at 246-6550.

## More DMPS News and Information Available Online and On Air

Des Moines Public Schools is the largest provider of public education in Iowa, which means one newsletter alone cannot provide all of the information or share all of the stories about everything taking place in your school district.

More news and information is always available online and on air.

### ONLINE

You can find information on schools, news stories, data, contacts, and more on the DMPS Web site at [www.dmps.k12.ia.us](http://www.dmps.k12.ia.us).

### ON THE AIR

Tune in to Mediacom **Channel 12** at anytime to see stories about programs and events from throughout the school district. If you do not subscribe to cable television, you can still view Channel 12 stories on the Web at [www.channel12online.org](http://www.channel12online.org). And if you're in the mood for interesting talk and music, tune into Des Moines Public Schools' own radio station — **KDPS 88.1** — where your hosts are students from Central Campus and Grand View University.

**VOTE**  
Sept. 8



... Value in Education

## The DMPS Community Report Summer 2009 Vol. 2 No. 1

The *DMPS Community Report* is published three times each year (fall semester, spring semester and summer) by the office of Community Relations.

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## Des Moines Public Schools DMPS COMMUNITY REPORT Summer 2009



**A**s the DMPS Community Report begins its second year of publication, it's a great opportunity to communicate how the district is adapting to serve students' ever-evolving needs. Much has been discussed about changing the "old" public education model to provide options and choices for learning and Des Moines Public Schools is doing just that!

No longer a one-size-fits-all approach, DMPS offers a traditional learning emphasis (Jefferson, Phillips and Goodrell); or a year-round environment (the Downtown School, Moulton Extended Learning Center, River Woods and Capitol View). From Central Campus' career and technical training and Future Pathways' project-based learning to the International Baccalaureate model, expanding to four more schools (Goodrell, Stowe, Park Avenue and Walnut Street), all are designed to help students learn and thrive.

Explore the options and know with confidence the district will continue to provide value in education, ensuring each student has a successful academic career from preschool to graduation.

Nancy Sebring  
Superintendent  
Des Moines Public Schools



The Des Moines Public Schools prohibits discrimination in educational and employment programs and activities based on age, race, creed, color, sex, marital status, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. Complaints of discrimination may be filed with Mary Lynne Jones, the District's Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator and 504 Coordinator at 901 Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, (515) 242-7781.