

Des Moines Public Schools

DMPS

COMMUNITY REPORT

December 2012

2 High Schools Launch
New Web Sites

3 Mock Elections

4 DMPS Expands
Vets Day

5 Celebrating our
Achievements

6 Top Middle School
Student

7 Extreme Makeover

8 Hoover and Lincoln
Academic Distinction

9 Environmentalists
Take Central Tour

10 Above and Beyond
On Radon

11 Winter Weather
Reminder

Rising District Enrollment Bucks National Trends

Most large, urban school districts across the nation are reporting shrinking enrollments but Des Moines Public Schools continues to grow.

Preliminary numbers reported by DMPS to the Iowa Department of Education indicate a total of 32,061 students enrolled for the 2012-13 school year, an increase of 515 over last year.

Last year DMPS enrollment increased by 571 students, the largest increase of any school district in Iowa.

DMPS is the largest school district in the state, educating nearly twice as many students as the second largest district.

The Council of Great City Schools is made up of 67 large, metropolitan school districts across the country, including DMPS. Nearly 2/3 of its members report

a decline in enrollment according to the most recent reporting data available to CGCS.

Under state law, certified enrollment is used in the formula that determines state funding for public school districts. Certified enrollment is based on the number of students living in each school district. It also includes the “weighting,” or additional funding for students in certain programs, such as students who are English Language Learners.

Because school financing is allocated on a per-pupil basis, declining enrollment jeopardizes the depth of a district’s curriculum and its capacity to provide non-core curricula and programming.

The certified enrollment count is taken by Iowa school districts on the first

Continued on Page 6...



High Schools Go “Live” with New Web Sites

High schools in Des Moines all have new online homes, thanks to ongoing work to upgrade and improve web sites for all schools throughout Iowa’s largest district.

“Our goal in developing new web sites was to find the right balance between a consistent look and function combined with the unique identity of each school,” said Phil Roeder, Director of Community Relations for Des Moines Public Schools. “With more than 8,000 high school students in Des Moines – and thousands of parents, staff and alumni – we want the virtual front door of our five high schools to be a welcoming experience.”

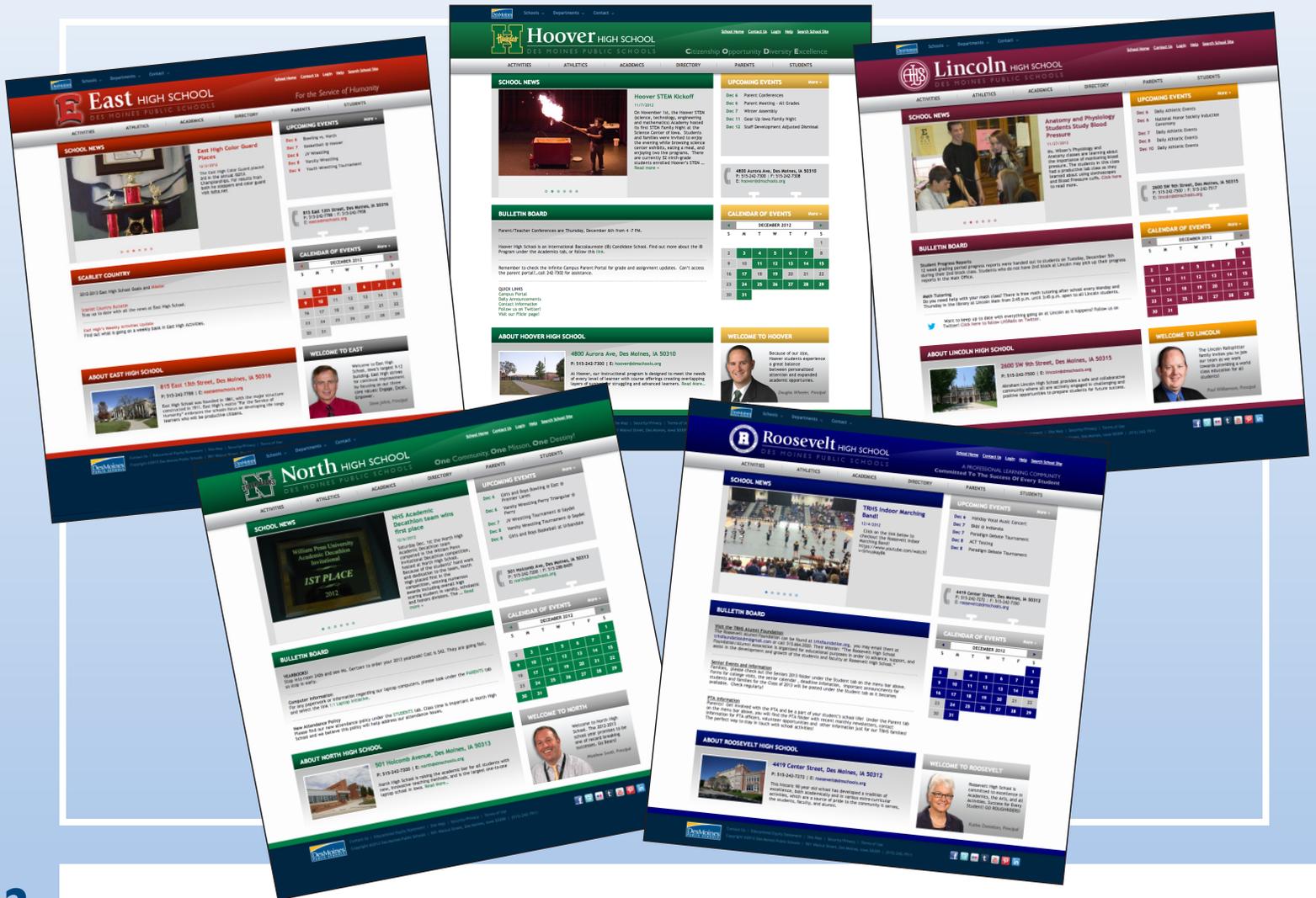
The new high school web sites are modeled on the new DMPS

web site unveiled last December (www.dmschools.org). Each is designed in the school’s colors and feature prominent news updates, announcements, a school calendar, and more on the home page. The new web sites also feature a shorter and easier to remember addresses which can be accessed at the following URLs:

- **East High School:** east.dmschools.org
- **Hoover High School:** hoover.dmschools.org
- **Lincoln High School:** lincoln.dmschools.org
- **North High School:** north.dmschools.org
- **Roosevelt High School:** roosevelt.dmschools.org

In addition, the high school web sites utilize eChalk, a K-12 software platform used to manage communication and instruction. It enables educators to keep parents and students up to date with class information. In addition, eChalk is integrated with both the district’s Infinite Campus and Office 365 platforms, allowing for interaction with students using safe and secure email, online class discussions, and more.

“As our new high school web sites continue to grow and evolve, they will become an important link between students, teachers and families, serving as a collaborative use of technology to support the education of our students,” added Dan Warren, Director of Information Technology for Des Moines Public Schools. ■



Mock Elections Let Students Flex Their Citizenship

Election years represent great opportunities to demonstrate and practice fundamental aspects of citizenship and this fall mock elections were held across the district to give students a glimpse of things to come in their lives as well as a sense of participation in the here and now.

Merrill Middle School was the site of the most sophisticated event, a mock election on October 29 sponsored by the Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI), a national civic education program based at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. With approximately one million students participating nationwide during the voting period from October 22-November 1, the YLI Mock Election is the largest secure, student-only online mock election in the nation. A national research study conducted there found that “students in classes where teachers used the YLI Mock Election and the related lesson plans reported a higher tendency towards future political participation,” according to UVA Center for Politics Director, Larry J. Sabato.

At the high school level, more than 1,200 students at East, Lincoln and North participated in the mock election conducted by the Polk County Auditor’s office.

Phillips, along with Jefferson, is one of two “traditional” elementary schools in the district. Besides an extended core knowledge curriculum sequence and increased emphases on dress codes and discipline, among other things, that means the “students gain early exposure to American history and symbols of

patriotism,” according to a banner in the main hallway. Accordingly, the Phillips mock election on November 1 was the culmination of several weeks of classroom discussion, voter registration and building preparation. The school was festooned with Americana, right down to the red, white and blue pencils in the voting booths. Outside the cafeteria was an impressive campaign display, including student essays on the issues they deemed most critical, everything from the dangers of loose shoe laces to the importance of lower taxes.

Other elementary schools holding mock elections included South Union, Garton and Hillis, where students had been following the campaign process since way back before the Iowa Caucuses



Merrill students vote online in the Youth Leadership Initiative Mock Election.

last winter. In lieu of real, live candidates, Hillis voters were presented with a slate of their favorite cookies from which to choose.

Hmm – no telephone polling, no negative advertising, no pundits, and no two billion dollar campaign price tag. Maybe the DMPs versions of the 2012 election process weren’t completely authentic, but they certainly made for a good model; a textbook example, so to speak. ■

Des Moines Community Works To Find Next Superintendent

The School Board has received public comment and held several meetings to determine what credentials should be required for the next superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools.

On December 6, the Board met to finalize details for advertising the position. Applications will now be submitted to Ray & Associates and interested applicants have until February 11, 2013 to apply.

The Board will interview semi-finalists for the position during the week of February 25. Two or three finalists will be interviewed in a public interview session during the first week in March.

For more information about the search process, please visit superintendentsearch.dmschools.org

Superintendent Search Timeline

February 11, 2013 – Deadline to apply

February 25, 2013 – First-round interviews

March 4, 2013 – Finalist interviews



Merrill students line up on November 13 to form a giant U.S. flag in honor of veterans.

DMPS Continues and Expands Vets Day Traditions

Despite that November 11 fell on a Sunday this year, Veterans Day was celebrated at every level of the district. Longstanding traditions were continued at Park Avenue Elementary and Goodrell Middle School and a new one was established at North High School.

At Park Avenue on November 9 the emphasis was on music, loud and strong!

Kindergartners and first graders belted out well-learned renditions of *Yankee Doodle Boy*, *You're a Grand Old Flag*, *This Land is Your Land* and *America the Beautiful*.

Not to be outshone, the 2 and 3 graders filed in to overflow the

stage and belt out the "fight songs" of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Veterans from each branch stood and joined in during their respective songs, many of them visibly moved by the show of respect. If the singers didn't exactly take and exit the stage with the precision of a drill team on the parade ground, there was nothing lacking in the gusto department. Lots of kids had proud parents and or grandparents seated in the center section reserved for vets, and salutes in the form of exaggerated waves were many in the ranks of choristers.

The 2 – 5 graders joined forces for *God Bless America* and *Thank You Soldiers*.

Afterwards there was a cookie reception where veterans and the Park Avenue pen pals who invited them got together and talked face to face.

A check was also presented to the local VA hospital for the proceeds Park Avenue kids earned selling red, white and blue beads in the community.

Goodrell's ceremonies on November 14 were more solemn. They got off to an early start when a crowd gathered around the flagpole on the front lawn at 7:15 and listened to the chaplain from the 132nd Fighter Wing of the Iowa Air National Guard, Captain David

Doty, talk about sacrifice. Many of those assembled to re-pledge their allegiance were students and staff with loved ones currently serving in the military.

Then the regular school day began with an assembly in the auditorium at which the featured speaker was Lt. Col. Wes White, a Goodrell alum retired from a career in the U.S. Army who was serving at the Pentagon when it was struck by terrorists on 9/11 in 2001. Friends of his were among those killed in the attacks that day. Later that same year Goodrell P.E. teacher John Walling began the school's annual tradition of an appreciation day for veterans. He still coordinates the event each year.

When Major Sean Quinlan, the fired up commandant of North's Junior Marine troops after retiring from a 26-year career in the Marines Corps, assumed his new post he was eager to make Veterans Day a special occasion at a school where approximately 13% of the student body participate in the ROTC program.

So, veterans from all across the community were invited to an all-school assembly in their honor on November 8. Each of them was escorted to their seat by a JROTC member. They were welcomed by North Principal Matt Smith. "I get to come to work daily with the best students and the best staff," Smith told the vets. "And today we get to honor the best Americans. Some things transcend the importance of time spent in the classroom and this assembly is a good example of that."

A highlight of the DMPS salute to soldiers happened at Merrill Middle School on November 13 when 650 students assembled outdoors to form an American flag as a gigantic, living thank you card. ■



A Park Avenue student speaks at the school's Veterans Day assembly.

Celebrating Our Achievements

This regular feature of the *DMPS Community Report* highlights awards and achievements of district students and staff. Please let us know if you have a notable achievement to share by e-mailing Sarah Taylor at sarah.taylor@dmschools.org. Here are some achievements from the past few months.

The **Des Moines Urban Agricultural Academy Forestry team**, coached by Craig Nelson, qualified for the National FFA Convention. This is the first team from DMUAA to earn a trip to the national convention.

Amber Davison, a U.S. and World History teacher at Hoover High School, was a finalist for Iowa Preserve America History Teacher of the Year.

Lincoln High School's Knowledge Bowl Team qualified for the Central Iowa Knowledge Bowl finals. Team members included **Chris Funaro, Anthony Hoover, Maggie Krebs, Daniel Lopez, Cole Rehbain**. The team was sponsored by Lincoln science teacher Sandy Wilson.

Twenty-six students representing four Des Moines high schools were selected to participate in the 2012 All-State Music Festival on November 15-17 in Ames. Roosevelt High School senior violinist **Sofia Kaut** participated in her fourth consecutive All-State Music Festival.

Seven DMPS high school students were selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute October 18-20 in Des Moines: **Rivkah Gardner-Frolick** (Roosevelt), **Paige Harper** (Lincoln), **Madison Holmes** (Roosevelt), **Patience Kpurukoo** (North), **Alexandra Lidgett** (Roosevelt), **Michelle Lopez** (Hoover), **Liza Strueva** (Roosevelt).

Former congressman Leonard Boswell nominated Roosevelt High School senior **Ryan Ramsay** to the U.S. Naval Academy in November.

Bridget Gervais, an 8th grade French Horn student at Goodrell Middle School was the only DMPS student selected to participate in the All Iowa Honor Band in May.

Ninety-eight **Central Academy** students displayed their superior math skills in the 40th Annual High School Mathematics Contest winning 31 of the 61 All-Academic team honors and placing second overall in the competition held at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville on November 7.

Megan Schott, Roosevelt High School sophomore, qualified for the State Cross Country Meet held in October.

North High School teacher **Joe VanHaecke** recently received the One Class at a Time \$1,000 grant from WOI-TV 5 and Banker's Trust. He will use the grant to purchase equipment to use in his Radio, TV & Film class.

Sarah Majoros, school counselor at Madison Elementary School, received the Gary Hendrichs Memorial Award from the Iowa School Counselor Association in November. The \$600 grant will be used to purchase additional counseling curriculum.

East High School senior **Xavier James** has accepted a scholarship to play football for the University of Northern Iowa Panthers.

Congratulations to Central Campus Broadcasting & Film students **Nick Peterson** and **Wyatt Oliver** whose film was selected to be viewed at the Wild Rose Film Festival in November.

Twelve students received individual awards in Central Academy's 9th Annual Golden Circle mathematics competition in November: **Andrea Babcock, Madison Baxter, Joshua Flory, Evan Hilton, Zack Lin, Maya Petersen, April Phommachack, Cole Schroder-Kelly, Madison Smith, Samuel Stevens, Giovanni Tenikat, and Jack Wahlig**.



Katharine Ross
Senior, North High School

Des Moines Public Schools was well represented at the 2012 Iowa State Swimming & Diving championship meet Nov. 2-3 as student-athletes from Hoover, Lincoln, North and Roosevelt qualified to pursue state titles. North High School senior Katharine Ross won a state title and set a new Iowa record in the 100 yard breaststroke. Her sister, North sophomore Moriah Ross, placed third in the same event.

Des Moines Student Recognized By Johns Hopkins as One of Top Middle School Students

Ankita Chatterjee, who attends Callanan Middle School and Central Academy, was honored as one of the brightest middle school students worldwide at a national medal ceremony sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY).

The Center honored Ankita, one of 40,800 participants in the 2012 CTY Talent Search, for her exceptional performance as a middle school student on the college SAT, ACT or similar test. Among the more than 900 U.S. and international middle school students invited to the ceremony on the Johns Hopkins University campus:

- All earned exceptionally high scores that place them well within the top one-half of one percent academically of all same-grade students.
- At least 102 students achieved a perfect score on the reading or math section of the test taken.

These exceptional students joined the 2011-2012 CTY Talent Search, which finds and recognizes the academic capabilities of advanced students around the world. More than 40,800 second-through-eighth grade students from 50 states and 110 countries participated in the 2011-2012 search. Enrollment for this year is currently underway at www.cty.jhu.edu/ts.

Ankita is part of a select group. The honored students are selected because they were the top students among the 13,350 seventh and eighth graders testing last year through CTY. CTY uses above-grade-level tests (such as the college SAT for middle school students) because they provide clear pictures of advanced students' academic abilities.

Students honored at the 2012 Grand Ceremony have also qualified for CTY's residential summer programs, online classes, and family academic programs, where gifted students meet others



Ankita Chatterjee at the awards ceremony at Johns Hopkins University.

like themselves from all over the world and have an opportunity to stretch their creative and intellectual wings, and discover where their special talents may take them.

"We take this moment to look on with admiration and respect for these young people and their remarkable achievements being recognized today," said Elaine Tuttle Hansen, executive director of CTY. "It's a moment of great pride for the honored students, as well as for the educators and parents who have helped these promising young people come so far on a road that will lead them to do great things."

This year, the Center presented its inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award to John Overdeck, cofounder and cochairman of Two Sigma investments and a former CTY student and instructor; and Dr. Cornelia Trimble, a noted Johns Hopkins physician who was one of CTY founder Dr. Julian Stanley's first students prior to his establishment of CTY. After receiving her award, Dr. Trimble gave the keynote address to the 250 students and families who attended.

Past participants in the CTY Talent Search include Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, Google cofounder Sergey Brin, and performer Lady Gaga. ■

Rising District Enrollment Bucks National Trends

Continued from Page 1...

day of October each school year. Official numbers are confirmed by the Iowa Department of Education and reported later in the year, meaning there may be small changes to the preliminary figures.

"We are pleased to see consecutive years of substantial growth in our enrollment," said DMPS interim Superintendent Tom Ahart. "While most

School Year	Number of Students
2012-13	32,061
2011-12	31,546
2010-11	30,975

urban districts across the country and most districts across Iowa are experiencing a downward trend, the variety of quality educational options provided by DMPS to its students has enabled us to serve 1,200 more students than we did just three years ago." ■



Hiatt Middle School is one of four DMPS schools to be recently renovated.

Extreme Makeover Continues at Hiatt, Brody, McCombs and Studebaker

Polishing up an apple the size of the Des Moines Public Schools isn't cheap, quick or easy. But four more schools are flashing a new sheen after \$20 million+ worth of renovation projects at their buildings wrapped up this fall.

On September 25 Hiatt Middle School held an open house to celebrate its new and improved look. "Hiatt is excited to finally be able to open our doors to the community and families of our students," said Dr. Debbie Chapman, principal.

Improvements at Hiatt totaled \$6,801,761 and include a new kitchen at the north end of the school, a new main office, exterior door replacement, mechanical/electrical upgrades, security/technology upgrades, and parking lot improvements. The addition of an elevator and a Boys & Girls Club at Hiatt are still to come.

A month later Studebaker Elementary officially christened their remodeled facilities with a similar event on October 25.

The \$5.1 million renovation completed at Studebaker includes

classrooms, removal of temporary classrooms (portables), mechanical/electrical upgrades including air conditioning throughout the entire building, security/technology upgrades, and window and door replacement.

"Students and staff are thrilled with the renovations," said Brian Crook, principal. "We are excited to have classroom walls and air conditioning. Everyone is

enjoying the building as if it was brand new."

October also saw completion of a \$1.6 million project at Brody Middle School the primary objective of which was the elimination of mobile classrooms.

The new construction at the school includes a four-classroom addition at the building's west end, putting an end to the need for the mobile units that dotted the school property.

Not only is the new addition more attractive, it accomplishes practical improvements as well.

One is a safer and more comfortable environment for students, as they no longer have to leave the main school building to attend certain classes.

A second advantage that is characteristic of all of the district's capital improvement projects is energy cost savings. Mobile classrooms are extremely inefficient.

In addition to the new classroom wing at Brody, renovations to the restrooms and auditorium and the addition of

Continued on Page 8...



Bill Good, the school district's Chief Operations Officer, speaks at the re-dedication of McCombs Middle School.

Extreme Makeover Continues at Hiatt, Brody, McCombs and Studebaker

Continued from Page 7...

ADA-compliant.

Finally, on November 1 McCombs Middle School joined in the festivities. The \$6.8 million worth of upgrades at McCombs include eight new classrooms, a renovated auditorium, elimination of mobile classrooms, upgrades in lighting, security and technology, and window and door replacement.

“All school spirit events are intended to show our appreciation for the beautifully renovated

facility,” said Principal Nancy Croy about a series of activities that culminated with a rededication ceremony in the school gymnasium. “The McCombs community wishes to acknowledge our past and embrace our future. We are proud of past traditions and look forward to many productive years in our updated facility.”

Meanwhile, as a backdrop to all of the other projects going on around the district, the brand new



Edmunds continues rising toward the occasion of its grand reopening in time for the 2013-14 school year. ■

Hoover and Lincoln Earn Academic Distinction

On October 22 Lincoln and Hoover high schools received national certification for their Project Lead The Way (PLTW) programs. PLTW, a nonprofit organization and the nation's leading provider of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education programs, offers a rigorous world-class curriculum that allows students to apply what they are learning in math and science class to real-life engineering and technology projects. PLTW also prides itself on high-quality professional development of teachers and an engaged network of business, community and university partners.

The national PLTW recognition program identifies schools that demonstrate a commitment to its national standards. Additionally, certification as a PLTW school provides students with the opportunity to apply for college credit at PLTW affiliate universities when they successfully complete select PLTW courses in high school. PLTW has more than 40 affiliate college and university partners, including Iowa State University and the University of Iowa. Lincoln and Hoover now join East, North and Roosevelt as PLTW certified high schools in the district.

The PLTW certification is another significant academic accomplishment this year for both schools. Last month, Lincoln was recognized by Iowa State University's Science Bound program as the High School of the Year. Hoover is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate program and is on track to become the first home high school in Iowa authorized as an IB provider.

As part of the certification process, a team composed of teachers, staff, students, and members of the community from each school submitted a self-assessment of the school's implementation of PLTW's Pathway to Engineering (PTE) program. A site visit by a PLTW team followed. PLTW's team met with each school's Partnership Team comprised of teachers, counselors, administrators, post-secondary representatives, business and industry professionals, and other community members who actively support the PLTW program within a school.

“Lincoln and Hoover should be congratulated for demonstrating their commitment to PLTW's quality standards,” said PLTW President and CEO Vince Bertram. “The real winners here, however, are students. Students benefit



from PLTW's innovative, project-based curriculum that encourages creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking. We look forward to many more years of working together to prepare Lincoln and Hoover students to become the most innovative and productive in the world.”

In order to remain competitive in the global economy, America needs approximately 400,000 STEM college graduates annually, according to a National Business Roundtable report. Currently, the U.S. is graduating only 265,000 per year. PLTW is providing students with the skills, foundation, and proven path to college and career success in STEM areas to increase the number of STEM graduates.

More than 4,200 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are currently offering PLTW courses to their students. For more information, visit www.pltw.org. ■



Central Campus students and teachers host a visit by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Environmentalists Green With Envy on Central Tour

Students became teachers on November 2nd at Central Campus when they hosted representatives of the Iowa Chapter of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) on a Green Schools Bus Tour.

Last spring Central Campus was named the first Green Ribbon School in Iowa by the US Department of Education in recognition of its leadership in recycling and environmental education. Larry Beall heads the school's Iowa Energy and Sustainability Academy (IESA) and he and his IESA protégé/ambassadors hosted the USGBC contingent.

First they briefed their guests on the remarkable district-wide energy efficiencies that have been achieved in recent years under the leadership of Bill Good, Chief of Operations for DMPS. Good's title may as well be changed to Chief Energy Star, a status conferred by the US

that's been achieved by more than 50 of the district's schools and counting, earning DMPS the distinction last year of EPA's Energy Star Partner of the Year, a national honor.

The USGBC delegation toured various departments within Central's renowned Career and Technical Education Academy to see the ways they're all integrated into the greening effort.

The culinary arts program grows its own herbs and other foodstuffs. The marine biology program grows its own coral. The auto mechanics and repair program recycles paint and parts. The graphic arts program uses soy ink and recycles t-shirts. The school's broadcasting program produces PSAs about environmentalism and airs them over KDPS, their own radio station. And so on.

Every Wednesday the IESA students tour the 450,000 square

foot premises, gathering recyclables at collection points throughout the building. Last year they amassed over 10 tons of paper and nearly 8,000 bottles and cans. This year they're on track to surpass those totals.

All of the tourists were suitably impressed with how Central Campus, originally built in the 1920s as a Ford Model T plant and later a WWII factory for Solar Aircraft, has been modified over the years into a cutting edge educational laboratory.

But what really wowed them were the IESA students and Beall's program which allows them to earn up to 18 hours of college credit over a two-year curriculum that is project-based and textbook-free. Several of them remarked on how engaged their guides were. Beall told the group that IESA started three years ago with 18 students. Last year there were 40. This year he has 60 and expects to approach 100 in 2013/14.

The Energy Stars are shining a bright shade of green at Central Campus. ■



District Goes Above And Beyond On Radon

Safe environments for students, staff, and community are the top priority for Des Moines Public Schools and the district recently took an extra step to ensure them by implementing a plan to test for radon in all district facilities that proactively exceeds state and federal requirements.

“With more than 37,000 people coming and going from a DMPS building each day, we want to make sure that we are providing everyone with a safe place to be in every way possible,” said Bill Good, the district’s Chief Operations Officer. “While we are not required to do radon testing of every school, it is a small step for us to take to provide one more assurance of the environmental safety within our facilities, and to be preventive before problems arise.”

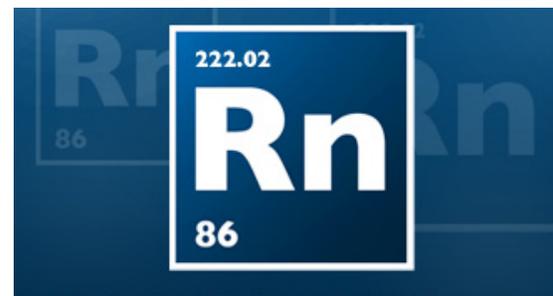
Current state and federal regulations require radon testing of school buildings with preschool classrooms. DMPS has implemented a plan for radon tests, conducted by professional and licensed testers, in each of its 67 schools and office buildings.

Tests will be performed at all buildings on a revolving three year schedule that parallels the district’s asbestos monitoring. Air samples will be taken by state certified radon measurement specialists and analyzed at a state certified laboratory.

If testing reveals threatening radon levels, remedial steps will be taken immediately based on recommendations by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Minor elevations will be resolved based upon recommendations of a licensed radon mitigation specialist and environmental consultants.

An example of the new plan in action occurred recently at Cowles Montessori School. When a routine test found levels at the school slightly above the state average, the district responded by ventilating the school and began work on a permanent ventilation system for a utility tunnel underneath the school. The result was an immediate reduction in radon levels with no interruption in classes or activities at the school.

The three-year radon testing schedule for Des Moines Public Schools is as follows:



2012-2013

Callanan, Casady, Central Nutrition Center, Cowles, Hanawalt, Harding, Greenwood, Hubbell, Howe, Lincoln, Park Avenue, Roosevelt, Ruby Van Meter, Scavo (Moore), Stowe, Windsor.

2013-2014

Brody, Brubaker, Cattell, Capitol View, Carver, Central Campus, Cowles, Downtown School, East, Edmunds, Findley, Garton, Hoover, Hoyt, Jackson, Jefferson, King, Lovejoy, Madison, McKee, McKinley, Meredith, Mitchell, Monroe, Morris, Moulton, Oak Park, Perkins, Phillips, Pleasant Hill, Smouse, Studebaker, Walker Street, Walnut Street, Weeks, Willard, Woodlawn, Wright.

2014-2015

Central Academy, Goodrell, Hillis, Lincoln South (Kurtz), McCombs, Merrill, North, Operations Center, Prospect Street building, River Woods, Samuelson, South Union. ■

New Secondary Attendance Areas Approved by School Board

For the first time in 25 years, DMPS administrators along with the Facilities Advisory Committee proposed changes to the secondary attendance areas to better serve the school district’s students and families. The changes, approved by the School Board on November 13, will allow for a more consistent feeder pattern for students in grades 6-12.

“The new attendance areas will greatly improve communication between our secondary buildings,” explained Bryce Amos, Executive Director for High Schools. “Students and families will have a

7-year support system in place since they will attend middle and high school with the same peers and educators.”

Amos also pointed out that the new feeder patterns will create better opportunities to develop improved student activity programs from middle school through high school.

The new attendance areas will take effect with the start of the 2013-14 school year. This plan is being “grandfathered” in for current middle and high school students who have the option to finish at their current school.

Opportunities for public input were provided in the fall to gain feedback from parents and the community regarding the new attendance areas. Meetings were held at each comprehensive high school and an online survey was available.

Approximately 600 students in grades 6-12 will be impacted because of the attendance area change. At this time, elementary attendance areas are not being changed.

For more information, please visit attendanceareas.dmschools.org. ■

A reminder as the winter season approaches ...

In the event of inclement weather, Des Moines Public Schools may do one of four things:

1. Cancel classes at all schools but administrative and school offices remain open.
2. Cancel classes at all schools and administrative and school offices are closed.
3. Dismiss schools 90 minutes early.
4. Delay the start of school by two hours but administrative and school offices open at regular time.

If the superintendent determines it necessary to cancel classes, dismiss early, or start late, an announcement will be made on the district's web site at www.dmschools.org, on the district's Facebook and Twitter pages, the district's cable channel DMPS-TV, and on all local media outlets.



Winter Break Dates

Des Moines Public Schools will observe winter break December 24 - January 1. No classes will be held during this time. Offices will be open December 26-28. The school year resumes on January 2, 2013.

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 our schools, news stories, data, contacts, and more on the DMPS web site at www.dmschools.org. In addition, follow DMPS on the following social media sites:

- Facebook: facebook.com/dmschools
- Twitter: twitter.com/dmschools
- Tumblr: dmschools.tumblr.com
- Pinterest: pinterest.com/dmschools

ON THE AIR

Tune in to **DMPS-TV on Mediacom Cable channels 85 and 97-3** at any time to see stories about programs and events from throughout the school district. If you do not subscribe to cable television, you can still view stories online at www.dmschools.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 GrandView University.

The Des Moines Independent Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator Patricia Lantz, General Counsel, 901 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309; phone: 515.242.7837; email: patricia.lantz@dmschools.org.

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