

Des Moines Public Schools

# DMPS

## COMMUNITY REPORT

February 2013

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### Safe and Secure Schools: A Top Priority

There used to be the luxury of assuming that few public spaces were as benign as schoolhouses. But, tragic events like those at Columbine High in Colorado and Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut illustrate why safety and security are top priorities for public schools.

DMPS stopped taking safety and security for granted years ago. In this area, the district is ahead of the curve.

The use of technology plays a key role in secure schools.

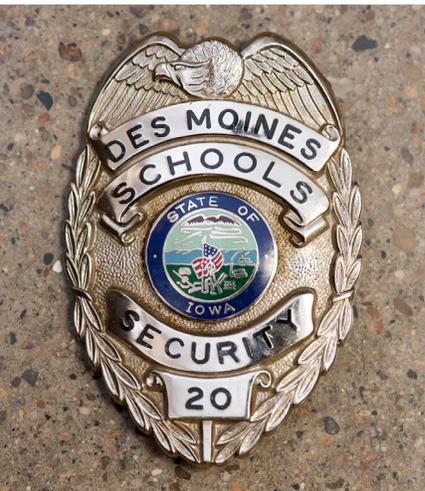
For example, in 2008, when the average percentage of badged employees among members of the Council of Great City Schools, a consortium of many of the nation's largest metropolitan districts, was only 31%, Des Moines was already at 100%. Over that same timeframe the

percentage of district facilities equipped with security card access has doubled to 100% and the number of those units installed in buildings has tripled from 111 to 328.

In 2006, 17 district buildings had security cameras. Today, it's 44 and growing each year. The number of cameras has increased fivefold, from 96 to 468, not counting security cameras installed on school buses.

School building renovations throughout the district over the past decade have also put safety and security first, according to DMPS Chief Operations Officer, Bill Good. "Ironically, on the day of the carnage at Sandy Hook I was attending a meeting on this very topic of school security," he said. "There is nothing we take more seriously."

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# Safe and Secure Schools: A Top Priority

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One example is re-designing schools so that more centralized and secure entrances are in place, with offices that have a better vantage of who is entering and exiting the school and in more cases requiring visitors to enter through the office. More and more classrooms are also being fitted with intruder locks as part of school improvements.

And mobile classrooms, which are both hard to secure as well as inefficient, are on their way out. DMPS has gone from 34 mobile units in 2008 to 15 this year, 3 of which are not in use and 3 more that will go away after this school year. That represents a reduction from about 71,000 square feet of modular units six years ago to just 38,000 square feet today (to put that in perspective, school buildings at DMPS total more than 5.5 million square feet).

By the time the 2013-14 school year begins six more of the district's 69 buildings will have been renovated, including safety upgrades, as another \$39 million



Miles Loomis, director of security for DMPS, and his staff are one part of the school district's safety and security efforts.

worth of capital improvements are completed.

Good also points out that DMPS is the only school district in the state he is aware of which maintains its own full-time security force. The 10-person security staff is on duty 24/7/365. The security staff does patrols, primarily responding to alarms at schools and overall monitoring of district properties. In addition, the staff monitors all security cameras, key card access unit, fire and intruder alarms, along with the district's Building Automation System which tracks heating, cooling and mechanical issues at each school.

Last but not least, while many districts across the country are

rushing to add a police presence in their schools in the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy, DMPS has had uniformed School Resource Officers (SROs) on duty since 1998, a year prior to Columbine. SROs are officers of the Des Moines Police Department and, under an agreement between the school district and the city, are assigned full-time to each high school along with two additional officers who work with the middle schools.

The reality in Des Moines is that our schools are being made demonstrably safer every year. That is a commitment that will not end and a process that will continue as the district is constantly looking at ways to improve. ■

## North High Robotics Teams Headed for State

Two teams from North High School created multi-functional robots for competition in the regional division of the First Tech Challenge (FTC) held on January 11 at North High School.

FTC is a national event to involve students in science, technology and engineering educational opportunities. In competition, two robots square off against each other in a 12-foot-square playing field during a timed event. This year's event was a ring challenge where the robots picked up a color ring and tried to place it on a tic-tac-toe board.

Both teams advanced to the state competition held at the University of Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City in February. For more information about the First Tech Challenge, visit: [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org). ■





## DMPS Focuses on Priorities At Legislature

With the 2013 session of the Iowa General Assembly underway at the State Capitol, Des Moines Public Schools is engaging state leader to identify ways in which greater flexibility can be provided to large, diverse school districts to better address student achievement. The School Board identified this as the district's top legislative priority.

Achieving this goal could include providing better defined "waiver" authority to the Iowa Department of Education so that districts such as DMPS have the tools and flexibility to improve student success in a variety of areas.

Examples of possible areas for greater flexibility that would benefit students include:

- Extend the time for students who need additional ELL support;
- Use districts greater flexibility in the use of At-Risk funds for student improvements;
- Allow districts to register any student in a Post-Secondary

Enrollment Option course, regardless of their Iowa Assessment scores;

- Exempt a district from the rule requiring designation of one world language as a district's world language;
- Allow 8th grade students to take high school level courses as a district sees fit.

In addition, Des Moines Public Schools is a founding member of the Urban Education Network, which now represents the largest 18 school districts in Iowa educating more than 36% of our state's public school students. The 2013 legislative priorities of the UEN member school districts are:

### Educational Policy

**Student Assessment:** The UEN supports assessments aligned with the Common Core, like Smarter Balanced, including formative and end-of-course assessments. We support a college readiness test, such as ACT, for all eleventh-graders. Iowa's state assessment should be a criterion-referenced assessment

that recognizes growth and tests grade-level specific content. While we support the value of norm-referenced assessments, they should not be used for accountability purposes.

**Preschool:** Quality preschool should be provided for all students through the statewide voluntary preschool program.

**Literacy:** Additional state funding is required to meet higher expectations for literacy at all levels and to deliver targeted intervention programs for all students below proficiency.

**Evaluation of Instructional Staff:** Student achievement growth data should be one of multiple measures included in educator evaluation. Local Flexibility – Level Playing Field for School Choice: Public schools should be allowed the same flexibility and autonomy offered to charter schools.

**Teacher Compensation and Time:** The UEN supports changes to teacher compensation that elevate the teaching profession, encourage teacher leadership, and differentiate teacher responsibilities focused on student learning. These investments must be accompanied by increased time for professional development and student instruction, driven by student needs at the local level.

### Adequate and Equitable Funding

**Adequate Funding/Allowable Growth:** The legislature should develop a multi-year plan to raise Iowa expenditures per pupil to the national average. The equivalent of 16% allowable growth would bridge the 2012-13 gap.

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# DMPS Focuses on Priorities At Legislature

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**Property Tax Equity Reform and Funding Iowa Schools:** Actions to improve property taxpayer equity are more important than measures that only address commercial property taxes. Property tax reform for all taxpayers and targeted relief to those in high-tax rate districts will be delivered by the following actions:

- PTER: Fund the Property Tax Equity and Relief Fund so that no school district has an Additional Property Tax Levy above the state average to guarantee dollar-for-dollar property tax relief.
- State Funding for Special Populations: Replace local property taxes with state funds to cover the shortfalls in special education and English-language learner local funding. These actions guarantee dollar-for-dollar property tax relief.
- Dropout Prevention: Support school districts with high numbers of students at risk of dropping out. A formula weighting of 0.3 applied to free- and reduced-lunch enrollment would support Iowa's neediest students while reducing property taxes currently funding dropout prevention.
- Equalize the district cost per pupil in the School

Foundation Formula, to close the \$175 gap in per pupil funding in school districts' general funds. In FY 2013, 170 of the 348 school districts were limited to a cost per pupil of \$6,001 while the remaining 178 districts were allowed as much as \$175 per pupil higher. State funding to close the gap would provide fair resources to Iowa's school districts currently below the maximum per pupil cost and relieve property taxes for the others. To minimize annual financial impact to the state, the UEN supports a three-year phase-in to eliminate this disparity. ■

## Roosevelt Debate Team Conquers Competitions

Even with young and inexperienced team members, the Roosevelt debate team is still making their presence known statewide and around the nation.

Earlier in January, the team won the state runner-up title in the Iowa High School State Speech Association (IHSSA) State Debate Tournament losing only to West Des Moines Valley. Individually, junior Luke Theuma led the way placing second in student congress; seniors Crystal and Stephanie Hou were semi-finalists in policy debate; and sophomore Emma Weddle was a quarter-finalist in Lincoln Douglas Debate.

Several students were octo-finalists in Public Forum Debate: Murphy Burke, Julianna Courard Hauri, Nolan Bursch and Angier Dok. In Student Congress, sophomore Elena Hildrbrandt just missed placing in the top five. Others receiving honors in Student Congress were: freshman Danny Drane, senior Tom Brown and junior Claire Yocom.

"The past four years we have been second, first, first and now second in the IHSSA state debate tournament," said head coach Harry Strong. "This was perhaps the most satisfying of the placements given the youth of our team."

Roosevelt has won every major extemp championship thus far this



Roosevelt debate coach Harry Strong waits for results with junior debator Lily Nellans.

season with junior Lily Nellans and senior Nathan Leys trading off championships. Senior Carolyn Evans has placed right behind them in those events.

The team will compete in the All Iowa Finals in March.

Strong, who is in his ninth season with the Roosevelt debate team, was honored last year as Iowa Debate Coach of the Year. ■

# 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](mailto:sarah.taylor@dmschools.org). Here are some achievements from the past few months.

**North High Schools' Academic Decathlon Team**, coached by **Mark Schmidt** and **Archie Cook**, won the regional contest in January and will be competing in the state competition on March 1 and 2. Individual awards were earned by Julius Tembe, Cody McKeehan, Mariama Corneh, Brian Schulze, Charles Overton, and Jake Sanderman.

**Jennifer Medina**, East High School Debate Coach, was named a diamond coach by The National Forensic League following the team's superb showing at a debate competition in December.

Central Campus automotive students **Brandon Cramblit** and **Jonah Bassett** won the hands-on portion of the 21st annual Automotive Skills Contest at DMACC.

**Ryan Ramsey**, Roosevelt High School senior, has been nominated by Senator Grassley to the US Naval Academy.

**Hoover High School's Real World Design Team** participated in the Real World Design Challenge state competition at the Science Center of Iowa on January 26. This year's challenge was to design

an unmanned aircraft that could perform search and rescue missions. Team members were **Tomas Read**, **Matt Murr**, **Dylan Mangano**, and **Marissa VanElsen** and coach **Mark Schnurstein**.

East High School junior **Colby Carmichael** played in the Under Armour All-American baseball game held January 26-27 in Tucson, Arizona.

**Luke Sheeley**, Roosevelt High School senior, was the overall winner in the Know Your Constitution statewide essay contest. ■

## DMPS Students Win "Know Your Constitution" Contest

Thirteen Central Academy students and a ninth grader from Gateway Middle School were selected as finalists in the Iowa State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division "Know Your Constitution" contest in December.

Of the top state finalists, Roosevelt High School senior Luke Sheeley was selected as the overall essay winner.

Other finalists were Abby Callaghan (Hoover), Olin Carty (Roosevelt), Caroline Closson (Van Meter), Mark Gee Jr. (Johnston), Elena Hicks (Gateway), William Karr (Roosevelt), Alex Lopez (North), Will Percival (Roosevelt), Prisma Ruacho (East), Luke Sheeley, Benjamin Sides (Lincoln), Josh Swagler (North), Nathan Walton

(Van Meter), and Demetrius Watson (Roosevelt).

The "Know Your Constitution" project is designed to enrich students' understanding and appreciation of the Constitution. The students participating in the project were required to familiarize themselves with Constitution related issues. A quiz was completed by each participating student. An essay question accompanied the quiz in case of a tie.

One hundred finalists were selected from the more than 1,000 students across the State of Iowa who participated in the "Know Your Constitution" competition. The finalists were honored at a luncheon at the West Des Moines Marriott Hotel in West Des Moines on January 11. This year's Keynote Speaker for the event was the Honorable

Judge Stephanie Rose, Federal District Court for the Southern District of Iowa.

"The 'Know Your Constitution' essay competition is a fantastic way for our students to think creatively about how the nearly 250 year-old United States constitution applies to current problems and situations," said Crista Carlile, Central Academy supervisor. "These finalists were selected from among Iowa's brightest and most talented students for their deep understanding of our government, and for their ability to articulate their knowledge in a well-crafted essay."

This program is sponsored by The Iowa State Bar Association, with additional funding from the Iowa State Bar Foundation and many of the county Bar Associations across Iowa. ■



Junior Mikayla Carey catches her breath after running sprints at a recent practice for the North girls' basketball team.

## North Girls' Basketball: Team Equals Family

*It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”*

— Theodore Roosevelt

The girls playing basketball for North High School may not realize it, but they are the very embodiment of that famous quote.

This is no celebration of losing. It's a salute to effort. And it's not

a sympathy card to the Bad News (Polar) Bears. It's in admiration of a team that remains “one family” despite a run of adversity that would have lesser kids tossing in the towel.

As January turned the corner into February the Polar Bears' record was a frosty 0-18. But their record is not reflected in the way they still go about their business. Absenteeism at practice is not an issue. Their collective spirit remains undefeated.

If you think it's tough just getting up and going to work or school on sub-zero mornings, try and put yourself in the trunks of JV swimmers who are in the pool swimming laps before dawn. That's what you call paying dues. Or the singlets of novice wrestlers who spend the winter getting taken down and pinned. That's a tough way to learn. Or the shoes of a winless basketball team running sprints the day after the latest in a string of losses. That's perseverance that few have in them.

As if things weren't tough enough for first-year coach Michael Stanley and his squad they lost senior Richelle Jimerson to a knee injury. Stanley describes Jimerson as the state's premiere shot-blocker. She's played for five coaches in her four years at North.

Then junior sparkplug Sebrina Dixon went down, also with a knee injury. Both Dixon and Jimerson still show up for practice where able-bodied teammates still run sprints commensurate to the number of turnovers committed in their most recent game.

Senior Shantell Cortez suited up Tuesday night after the grandmother she lived with passed away suddenly the day before. She too was at practice Wednesday. Where else would she go? After all, her teammates are family. That's what it says on the team's schedule poster and that's what it looks like when you see the girls together. While they may not be taken seriously as a basketball team by outsiders they're very serious about each other and their futures.

“The kids I hear making fun of us at school are the losers who don't try anything,” says Dixon, who also participates in track and student council and has her sights set on a Science Bound scholarship to Iowa State. “Why should I care what they think? They don't see how hard we work.”

As a senior Jimerson sometimes feels additional weight from all the losing. Last year the team won only once. “It hurts that we don't get more support and I wish I could do more,” she says softly, looking away. Jimerson, too, runs track and plans on attending Simpson College next year where she hopes to continue both sports.

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## North Girls' Basketball: Team Equals Family

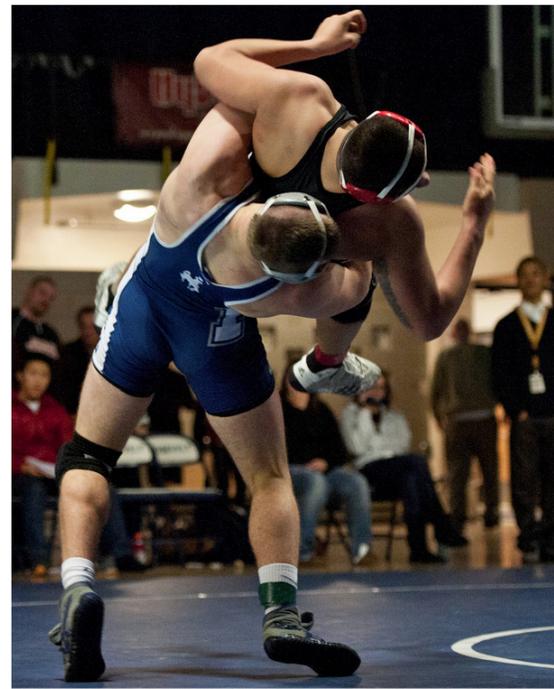
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How does a coach hold a team together during a season so empty of triumph? Stanley looks even younger than his 32 years and his infectious enthusiasm is undaunted as he awaits that elusive first victory. He grew up playing the game himself in Detroit and coached most recently at Sioux City North before coming here. Besides injuries the only attrition on the roster came when one girl quit nine minutes into the first practice of the season, before even one game was lost. The rest of the girls have been all in.

"Many of them have no background in basketball," Stanley points out, noting that it takes a while to master the finer points when you have to start out explaining the difference between

an assist and a rebound. "But there is no quit in any of them. I tell them all the time that they are all learning life lessons from basketball that have nothing to do with winning or losing a game."

Then he takes the court and goes into a drill aimed at teaching the team that it's more efficient to move the ball by passing than dribbling. "We've done a good job of reducing our backcourt turnovers," he reminds them, gesturing toward the opposite end of the practice court. "So look how far we've come from where we started and how much closer we are to our goals." Right on cue they run a play where the ball never touches the floor until it falls through the basket after a layup. ■



Wrestlers compete in district meets on February 9 to determine qualifiers for the 2013 State Tournament. East, Lincoln and Roosevelt each have wrestlers ranked among the top ten in Iowa.



The Roosevelt High School boys' swim team won the CIML Metro Conference title on January 26. Swimmers from Roosevelt, Lincoln and Hoover will compete at the state meet on February 9 in Marshalltown.

East High continues as home to one of the top girls basketball teams in Iowa. As of this writing, the Scarlets are ranked eighth in the state with a record of 18-2.



The Hoover Huskies hold a slide edge over the Roosevelt Roughriders in the race for the boys basketball crown in the CIML Metro Conference.

The Lincoln High School boys bowling team won the 2013 CIML Metro Conference championship on February 7. The Lincoln girls finished second in the CIML Metro.



# Sweet Treats and Views at Central Café

Talk about an extreme makeover!

One night the Multi-Purpose Room at Central Campus is the site for the regular meetings of the Des Moines School Board. Another day at noon, the same space might be occupied by the Central Campus Café, a tasty little bistro with signature pot pie and chocolate cake (hard to believe it's any better than either the chocolate cream pie or banana cake with cream cheese frosting that were on the dessert tray recently) complemented stunning views of the Western Gateway through floor to ceiling windows, all courtesy of the DMPS Culinary Arts program headed by Elaine Wolf.

If you're fed up, so to speak, with paying too much for a mediocre meal prepared and served by an indifferent staff, then treat yourself to lunch at this

**If you're looking to be pampered at drive-thru prices then circle at least one of the following dates on your lunch calendar:**

**Winter Dates:** February 15, 22, 28 & March 8 (spring schedule to be announced).

**Seating Hours:** 10:55 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. Methods of Payment: Cash/checks; no credit cards

**Parking:** The lot on the north side of Grand Ave. directly across the street from Central Campus is open to the public starting at 11:20 A.M. on days when the café is open.

**Reservations:** Not necessary but appreciated for groups of six or more. Call 242-7868 or email [centralcafe@gmail.com](mailto:centralcafe@gmail.com)



Patrons enjoy lunch at Central Campus Café.

too-little known spot at the edge of downtown that's smack in the middle of the great things going on at the DMPS Career and Technical Education Institute.

You might want to request Emmanuel Contreras-Ramos, an attentive, cheerful and informative senior at Lincoln High School, as your server except that on the day you visit he might be on a rotation in the kitchen as a baker or manning the host/hostess stand as the maître d' de jour. All of the kids in the program get a taste of each of the roles required in the operation of a good restaurant. Many of them also have part-time jobs at for-profit restaurants around town in addition to their schoolwork in the business.

One of the nice touches noticed by diners when the café reopened for the 2nd semester on January 24th was that each table is furnished with its own pitcher of ice water. It's the little things.

Wolf explained that proceeds, including tips, from the café are recycled back into the program and used to offset the cost of not only foodstuffs and other supplies, but also to defray fees associated with students entering district, state and regional culinary competitions

where the program has built an award-winning track record.

Chef Wolf holds a degree in Restaurant Management from Miami of Ohio and has a wide-ranging career background in the field that runs the gamut from institutional foodservice to fine dining. She's been at Central Campus since 2004.

Approximately 30 kids are enrolled in the two-year program. The first year students concentrate on basic cooking and the second years learn about quantity preparation and restaurant management. They staff the café operation which is necessarily limited by constraints like class schedules.

Besides the days when the café is open to the public for lunch (listed below), Wolf wants you to know that she and her apprentices are available for special event catering on site at Central Campus where they operate out of an updated commercial kitchen that was part of the ongoing renovations there. Recently they prepared and served a luncheon hosted by the district for Central Iowa lawmakers in advance of the annual legislative session that convenes every January. ■

# East High Once Again Wins “Get Schooled” Attendance Challenge

East High School has been crowned Division Champions in the Get Schooled Foundation’s Fall Attendance Challenge for the second consecutive year.

A total of 225 middle and high schools signed up to participate in the Get Schooled 2012 Fall Attendance Challenge. More than three quarters of schools active in the Challenge boosted their school attendance. East High School’s overall attendance increase was 2.68 percent during the fall challenge.

“The students at East High School have amazed us again this year with their extra effort to make it to class and work hard in school,” said Steve Johns, East High School Principal.

As a reward for winning their division, East High School will be a stop on the Get Schooled Victory Tour on March 14. As part of the Victory Tour, a celebrity will serve as Get Schooled “Celebrity Principal for

the Day” at the school. The celebrity will connect with students in their classrooms and host a school-wide assembly as part of the celebration of the students’ achievements.

It’s not yet been announced who the celebrity will be who visits East but past Get Schooled “Celebrity Principals for the Day” have included Nicki Minaj, Ne-Yo and Big Sean.

Get Schooled has focused on attendance as a critical metric in school and student performance because it is one of the best predictors of high school graduation rates and college readiness rates. Despite its importance, a Johns Hopkins study released earlier this year estimates that 7.5 million students in the United States miss a month or more of school, putting them at risk for failing to learn key skills and potentially dropping out of high school.

Get Schooled partners in the Challenge included Alleyoop,



Dreamworks Animation, iCivics, the Jason Project, MTV, the National Cable and Telecommunications Association (NCTA), Paramount Pictures, and Sporcle, along with talent headliners like One Direction and Ciara.

Get Schooled collaborated with these partners on a series of activities designed to inspire and motivate students during the Fall Attendance Challenge.

As a result, at East High School alone, students played more than 6,000 educational games, recognized more than 1,600 teachers, sought out close to 5,000 online educational resources via a scavenger hunt and signed up for over 500 wake up calls. Participation in these activities contributed to the overall score for the schools in the competition. ■

## Kindergarten Sign Ups to be Held in February

Parents with children entering kindergarten for the 2013-2014 school year may sign up beginning in February.

### Already Have Children Attending DMPS?

Parents or guardians who already have children attending a traditional or year-round school in the district (including preschool) may sign up on Monday, February 18, 2013 at their neighborhood school.

### New to DMPS?

Families who are new to the district can sign up one of the following ways:

- Visit the Welcome Center on Monday, February 18, 2013

from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. No appointment is needed during this time.

- Visit North High School (501 Holcomb) on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 or Tuesday, March 26, 2013 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. No appointment is needed during this time.
- Call the Welcome Center at (515) 242-7371 to make an appointment. Appointments will be scheduled beginning on February 19.

The Welcome Center is located at 1301 2nd Avenue. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Everyone is required to bring the following documents to kindergarten sign up:

- Birth certificate;
- Resident verification (two of the following items: rental or purchase agreement, valid identification, utility bill, cell phone bill or credit card statement);
- Immunization records;
- [Home Language Survey](#);
- [Registration Form](#)

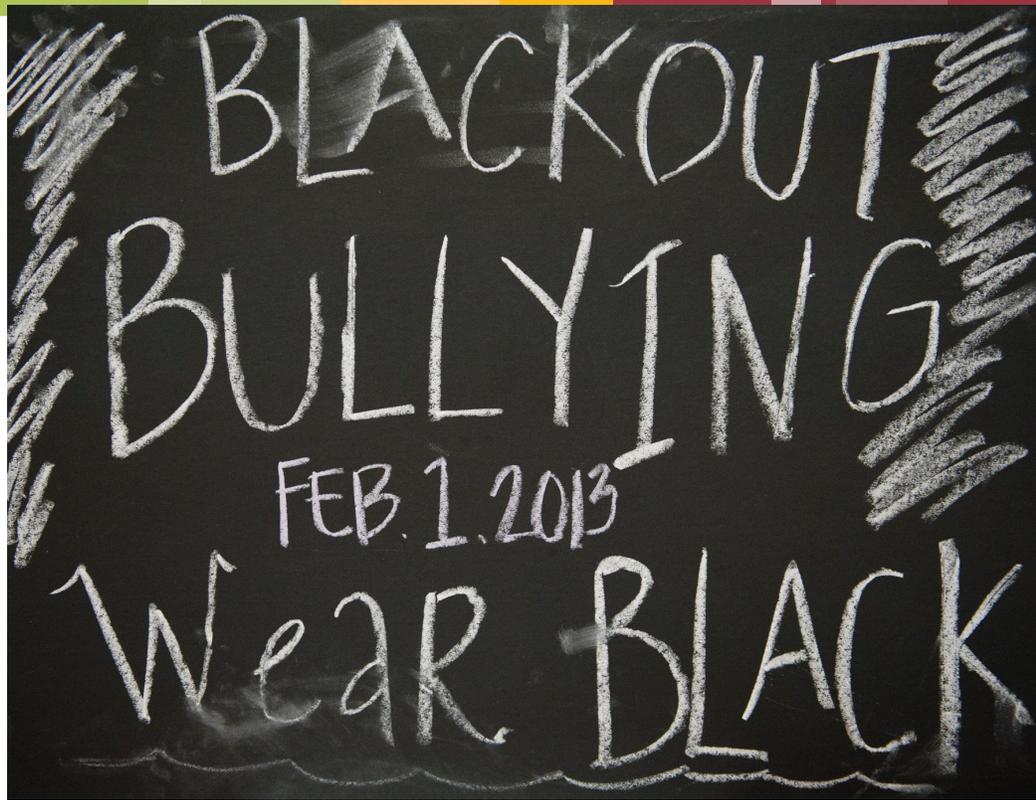
Please be aware that children must be five years old by September 15, 2013 to enroll for the 2013-2014 school year.

Families may call 515-242-7725 with any questions about the sign up process. ■

# Lincoln Fights Back Against Bullies

Conventional wisdom holds that the best way to deal with bullies is to stand up to them. And that's what Lincoln High School did last month throughout Black Out Bullying (BOB) Week at the school from January 28 – February 1, sponsored by Lincoln Leadership and teacher Cynthia Sayles.

Leadership is actually a class for elective credit taught by Sayles who also teaches journalism and is the faculty sponsor for student council. Five years ago she began a conversation about developing a class that focuses on leadership qualities and community service. The curriculum is based on the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) Leaders Program and requires students to also participate in relevant activities outside of the school day.

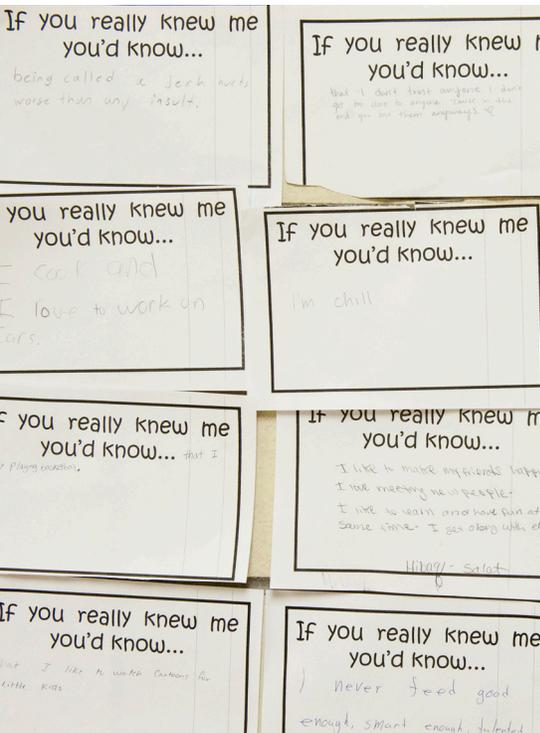


“As a group, in discussing our mission statement, we decided that one of our goals would be to improve the school climate by focusing on how we treated each other in school and particularly through the use of social media,” explained Sayles. In this context climate change is a good thing. “With a partner, students researched bullying awareness programs across the country and created an entire week of impactful, visual and engaging activities designed to make students aware of the many forms of bullying and its impact on individuals,” she added.

“The goal of the Bullying Awareness week was to engage students in a reflective process designed to educate and change their perspectives about bullying,” said Amber Boyd, Lincoln’s School Improvement Leader. “Students were confronted with personal experiences, statistics, and an opportunity to actively pledge to take a stand against all forms of bullying.

The leadership students made 200 posters that went up all around the building in preparation for BOB Week. Announcements were made each morning to remind and encourage the students. Skits and poetry readings took place during lunch in the student commons. Other activities sprinkled throughout the week included distribution of bullying awareness wristbands, grade-by-grade assemblies, essay sharing walls and “Mix it Up Day” when students were encouraged to share lunch with people outside their normal social circle. Everything culminated on Friday, designated as “Black Out Bullying Day” when black t-shirts were suggested as a uniform symbol of support for heightened bullying awareness.

“We are going to revisit the ideas introduced (during BOB Week) throughout the remainder of the year and continue to challenge students to be aware of bullying and what they can do to continue to improve the LHS climate,” said Sayles. ■





## DMPS Brings District-Wide Art Show to Capital Square

Select students from all Des Moines schools will have artwork on display at Capital Square downtown beginning Thursday, February 7 through Thursday, February 14. The week-long show will kick-off with a reception on February 7 at 5:30 PM. The Capital Square building is open daily from 5:30 AM to 8:30 PM.

## 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](http://www.dmschools.org). In addition, follow DMPS on the following social media sites:

- Facebook: [facebook.com/dmschools](https://facebook.com/dmschools)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/dmschools](https://twitter.com/dmschools)
- Tumblr: [dmschools.tumblr.com](https://dmschools.tumblr.com)
- Pinterest: [pinterest.com/dmschools](https://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](http://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](mailto:patricia.lantz@dmschools.org).

## REMINDERS

- There will be no school for teachers, associates, or students on Monday, February 18.
- Spring Break will be March 15 – March 22. No classes will be held during this time.
- Snow days will be made up on Monday-Wednesday, June 3, 4 and 5. If no more days are cancelled due to weather, the last day for elementary and middle schools will be June 4 and the last day for high schools will be June 5.

### The DMPS Community Report FEBRUARY 2013 | Vol. 5 No. 4

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