

DMPS Community Report

Summer 2008

THINK.

LEARN.

GROW.



You Picked the Right Place to Call Home

Good Public Schools Mean High Marks For Des Moines

Good jobs. Affordable housing. Things to do. Places to see. There are a lot of reasons Des Moines is a great place to call home, and the list keeps getting longer.

The rest of the country is quickly learning why our city is a top place to live, work and raise a family, as several national publications have placed Des Moines on their "top ten" lists.

And in each of those rankings, there was a common reason for Des Moines' high marks: strong public schools.

"Strong public schools are one of the cornerstones of a strong local economy. Our reputation for quality schools helps us attract new businesses and new workforce to our community," said Martha Willits, president and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership and a former public schools teacher. "Greater Des Moines residents enjoy a great quality of life, and our public schools are one reason we are often recognized nationally as a great place to raise families."

The July issue of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* ranked Des Moines as the 9th best city in the nation to live, work and play, and cited "top public schooling" as a key factor.

In June, *Best Life* magazine said Des Moines was the 6th best place to raise a family. In an interview on NBC's Today Show, an editor with the magazine said, "What makes Des Moines so special is education" and went on to cite the district's top Advanced Placement program.

And last December, the business publication *Expansion Management* placed the Des Moines metro third on their list of top public school districts among the nation's mid-sized cities.

Education is about preparing students for their future. But schools also contribute to a community's quality of life. On both fronts, Des Moines Public Schools are helping our community earn high marks.

Kiplinger Personal Finance

July 2008

Best Cities to Live, Work and Play
Des Moines: #9

"Des Moines' friendly, hometown atmosphere, top public schooling and affordable cost of living make it an ideal place to raise a family."

Best Life

June 2008

The 100 Best Places to Raise a Family
Des Moines: #6

257 cities were evaluated; a key factor in the rankings was education, including student-teacher ratios, above-average test scores, and school district budgets.

Expansion Management

December 2007

Public Schools/ Mid-Size Metro Rankings
Des Moines: #3

Des Moines finished just behind Madison, WI and Raleigh, NC among metro areas with between 500,000 and 1 million residents.

NOTE: If studies ranked the Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, it should be noted that Des Moines Public Schools educated the largest number of students with more than 34% of the K-12 students in the metro area.





The Associates (l-r): Bill Szakacs, Connie Cook and Terrence Martin serve as Associate Superintendents for the district's three regions.

What's New For 2008-09

The start of a new school year means new people, programs and facilities for Des Moines Public Schools. These are some things to look forward to in 2008-09.

DMPS Welcomes New Associate Superintendent

Terrence Martin joins Des Moines Public Schools as an Associate Superintendent for the district's South Region. Most recently he was principal of Kankakee High School and Rock Island High School, both in Illinois. Mr. Martin joins Connie Cook and Bill Szakacs as one of three Associate Superintendents for the school district's regions.

9th Grade Academies to Open at East, Lincoln

New students at East and Lincoln will have a home of their own to begin high school. Ninth grade academies will open at both schools to help with the transition to high school. The change is expected to have a positive impact on the academic achievement of students entering high school.

World-Renowned IB Comes to DMPS

Des Moines Public Schools will be the first school district in Iowa to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma, a world-renowned high school degree

that will be available through Central Academy. In addition, Hubbell Elementary School is currently on track to be the state's first elementary IB school, while several other schools are looking at making this top-ranked program available throughout the city.

More School Renovations Completed

Students at three elementary schools – Hillis, Samuelson and Stowe – will return to their educational homes in August as year-long renovations will be complete, thanks to the public's support of the local option sales tax. In addition, the final floor of classrooms will be completed at the downtown Walnut Street School. Finally, a two-year renovation of Lincoln High School will be complete and the historic Wallace-Homestead building, next door to Central Campus, will open as the new home for Central Academy. These schools are among twenty-seven that have been renovated or built so far thanks to the local option sales tax.

Earn Two Diplomas at Once

A partnership between Des Moines Public Schools and the Des Moines Area Community College means students can receive a high school diploma at the same time they are earning an Associate of Arts degree.

Courses offered at all five high schools as well as Central Campus can count towards an AA degree from DMACC. For more information, students or parents should contact the counseling office at their high school or the office at Central Campus.

Homework Help from the Library

When the school day ends, the Des Moines Public Library will be there to help provide students with free homework help. Students in grades 4-12 can connect to live tutors for one-to-one help in math, science, social studies, and English. Live Homework Help will be available at all six library locations and online daily from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.desmoineslibrary.com or call 283-4152.

More Educators for Schools

The DMPS budget for the 2008-09 year is putting more educators back into our schools and reducing class sizes even further. This year, six elementary teachers will be added for the K-3 grades, three additional K-12 teachers will be hired and assigned based on enrollment needs, and a 4th grade teacher will be added to support growth at Walnut Street School. In addition, three full-time elementary principal positions will be restored at Cowles, Howe and Wright schools.



2007-08 In Review

Central Academy Top AP Program in Iowa

Each year, the Siemens Foundation recognizes the top Advanced Placement students, teachers and schools across the nation. This year, it honored Central Academy as the top AP school in Iowa, an announcement made in a full-page ad in *USA Today*. For being recognized as one of the nation's top 50 AP programs, the school received a \$1,000 grant to be used for math and science education. This was the fourth time in as many years that a Central Academy student, teacher or the entire school was honored by Siemens. In addition, the University of Iowa's Belin-Blank Center labeled Central Academy as in a "class of its own" for having the highest AP Index score in Iowa.

Merrill is Shining Bright

Students at Merrill Middle School are now a little brighter thanks to the school district's first venture into solar power through an educational demonstration project in renewable energy. The project generates electricity, but also introduces students to renewable energy technology and provides them with an opportunity to explore global energy issues in an interactive, hands-on way. Merrill's solar program is part of the national Solar 4R Schools program and was funded by Wells Fargo.

The DMPS Talent Pool

The good work of top administrators in Des Moines Public Schools has caught the attention of other school districts. Dr. Elizabeth Celania-Fagan, who has been Associate Superintendent for the South Region in Des Moines, is the new superintendent of the Tucson (AZ) Unified School District. And Dr. Anita Micich, the director of secondary alternative education and former principal of Roosevelt High School, is the new superintendent of the Mason City Community School District.

ACT for All High School Students

This past spring, Des Moines Public Schools paid the registration fee for any student wishing to take the ACT college entrance exam. Next year, Des Moines Public Schools is going a step further. Working with American College Testing, one of the days the ACT exam will be offered by DMPS is a weekday (Wednesday, April 22, 2009), making the exam – and the opportunity to go on to higher education – even more accessible to Des Moines students. The registration fee for taking one ACT exam by any 11th grade student will also be paid for by DMPS.

1 New, 3 Renovated Schools

Last year saw the reopening of three renovated schools: Garton Elementary School and Goodrell Middle School on the city's east side and Windsor Elementary School on the west side. In addition, a brand new school opened in the heart of the city: Carver Community School. Carver is a first-of-its-kind school for Des Moines, combining at one location an elementary school, an early childhood center and the Boys & Girls Club.

Grant Boosts Technology at Callanan

Students at Callanan Middle School are going to "Get Inspired" in their studies, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Iowa Learning Technology Commission. DMPS partnered with the Iowa Communications Network, Iowa Public Television, and the Heartland Area Education Agency to design a technology-rich pilot project for Callanan that will be incorporated into 7th grade social studies classes in the fall. The "Get Inspired" project will provide nearly 200 students an opportunity to use blogging, video conferencing, digital photography and other technologies daily as part of class learning projects.



Great Expectations for Des Moines Graduates News Ends For A New Century

Ask any student what is wrong with education today and they will tell you the truth: it's not that schools are no longer what they used to be, it's that they are exactly what they used to be.

That is why Des Moines Public Schools is working to better prepare our graduates for their own future, so they possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to be successful at the next stage of their lives in the 21st century. As Des Moines Public Schools begins a second century of service, the school district has developed a new set of ends, or objectives, for our graduates.

"The goals and expectations we set for students need to be about what is in their best interest, not what makes adults feel good," said Dr. Nancy Sebring, Superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools. "We

need to recognize that all students, no matter what they plan to do after high school, need a broad set of skills and knowledge that goes beyond the classroom."

This process began more than a year ago, when thousands of people took part in the Community Conversation project to provide input on education issues. In November, additional forums were held with parents, teachers and students throughout the community to get additional feedback. The final student ends statement was approved by the School Board on March 11.

From teachers and principals to administrators and School Board members, the great expectations Des Moines Public Schools has for its graduates bring a new focus to providing students with the best possible education.

Highlights of New Ends for a New Century

- 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 life-long 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

For a complete copy, visit www.dmps.k12.ia.us.

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.



Lovejoy’s “triple crown”(clockwise from top): Melinda Kluding, Nicole Banegas, and Nancy Covington

Lovejoy Elementary Earns a “Triple Crown”

Great Teachers, Parents Make The Difference For Students

There’s an old saying: it takes a village to raise a child. In the case of Des Moines Public Schools, that means nearly 20,000 parents and 5,000 employees working to improve and strengthen the school district.

One school that demonstrates this approach is Lovejoy Elementary School, which won an educational version of a “triple crown” this year for the exceptional work of their teachers and parents:

Kiwanis Teacher of the Year:
Nicole Banegas

Rotary Teacher of the Year:
Nancy Covington

PTA Volunteer of the Year:
Melinda Kluding

“Our school prides itself in our motto: ‘Love of learning and the joy of making friends,’” says Lovejoy

principal Peg Floden. “Nancy, Nicole, and Melinda personify our motto with their focus on providing students the best education possible.”

For example, Melinda and PTA members provided teachers with additional books for their classroom as well as the school library; helped students participate in valuable educational field trips; provided students with healthy treats during ITBS tests; contributed a new rug for the library; coordinated volunteers for the school’s Literacy Army; and sought grant funds for additional technology.

As teachers, both Nancy and Nicole have focused on professional development to improve student achievement, participating in programs such as Reading First, Cognitive Guided Math Instruction, Teaching ELLs in Mainstreamed Classrooms, and Our Kids. They take

With nearly 5,000 employees and 60 schools, great work by our teachers, staff and schools is always being recognized at the local, state and national level. These are just a few highlights from the past year:

The MetLife Foundation Ambassador in Education award went to Hiatt Middle School principal **Spence Evans** this year in recognition of his work on community collaboration. The award included a \$5,000 grant for the school.

Two Des Moines elementary schools – **Perkins** and **Windsor** – were designated as Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence by the National PTA, one of the highest honors a school can receive in recognition of parents, teachers and community members working to improve education.

The Iowa State Education Association presented their Excellence in Education Award to **Blake Hammond**, a sixth grade science teacher at Merrill Middle School.

Des Moines Public Schools were recognized at the Celebrate Business and Economic Impact Awards as the top business or organization in the metro area for encouraging employees to use alternative modes of transportation.

The Iowa Talented and Gifted Education Association gave their distinguished service award to **Julia Burton**, the district’s talented and gifted coordinator who recently became the principal of Hanawalt Elementary School.

The Association of School Business Officials International awarded their Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting to Des Moines Public Schools. The award was in recognition of high standards by the school district’s financial staff in managing and accounting public resources.

The 2007 ING Unsung Hero Award went to **Allison Arnold**, a teacher at Future Pathways who created the Think It Over program.

on leadership roles at school, too, such as the Positive Behavior Committee to encourage good behavior practices.

Nancy and Nicole have been active in getting additional resources for Lovejoy students: Nancy earned a \$10,000 grant for the school library from Prairie Meadows, Nicole is applying for a grant to access technology materials for fifth graders to learn lifelong financial skills, and both are working on an Eleanor Roosevelt grant designed to enhance school leadership experiences for girls.



For a smooth opening to the fall semester, all Des Moines Public Schools students must register before school starts. If you cannot attend registration, please call your school prior to the registration date.

What to Expect at Registration

Registration takes 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 schedules at registration, and any schedule changes can be made at that time. High school students will also 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 also 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.

Registration Dates by Region

If you do not know where to enroll your child, please call Student and Family Services at 242-7714. If you do not know what region your child's school is in, please refer to the guide on page 8.

NORTHEAST REGION

Registration for all schools in the Northeast Region, except for East and North high schools, will be held on:
August 6 & 7, 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

East High School

August 5, 12:00 - 7:00 p.m. 11th & 12th grade
August 6, 12:00 - 7:00 p.m. 10th grade
August 7, 12:00 - 7:00 p.m. 9th grade

North High School

August 5, 10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m.; 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
August 6, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
August 7, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

NORTHWEST REGION

Registration for all schools in the Northwest Region will be held on:

August 6 & 7, 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

NOTE: Hillis and Samuelson Elementary Schools will both hold registration on August 6 & 7 at Hoover High School.

SOUTH REGION

Elementary Schools:

August 6 & 7, 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Middle Schools:

August 11 & 12, 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Lincoln High School:

August 7, 8 & 11, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Scavo Alternative High School:

August 6 & 7, 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Student Orientation

6th and 9th grade Orientation

August 19, times vary by building

Central Campus Orientation

Grades 9 -12 will be held on August 19 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

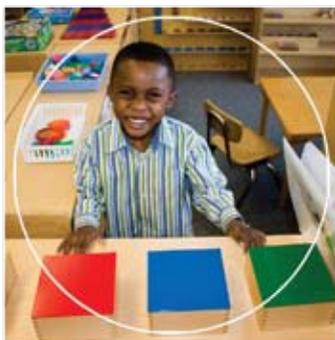
Central Academy 8th grade will be held on August 19 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Central Academy 7th grade will be held on August 20 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Future Pathways will be held August 5 - 8 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. in Room 450.



Since 1991, 29 of the 34 State of Iowa Advanced Placement Scholars have attended DMPS.



DMPS has the only public Montessori school in Iowa.



Four DMPS schools – Capitol View, Downtown, Moulton and River Woods – provide an extended school calendar.

Key Dates for the 2008-09 School Year

August

21 First day of school

September

1 No classes - Labor Day
3 120-minute elementary early dismissal
9 School Board Election
10 90-minute early dismissal for all students
17 120-minute elementary early dismissal
19 No classes

October

1 90-minute early dismissal for all students
8 120-minute elementary early dismissal
15 Conferences - 90-minute early dismissal for all students
16 Conferences - no classes
17 No classes
22 90-minute early dismissal for all students

November

5 90-minute early dismissal for all students
12 120-minute elementary early dismissal
27-28 Holidays - no classes, offices closed

December

3 120-minute elementary early dismissal
22-31 Winter recess - no classes
25-26 Holidays - offices closed

January

1-2 Holidays - offices closed
5 First day of school after winter recess
7 120-minute elementary early dismissal
16 End of first semester
19 No classes
20 First day of second semester
28 120-minute elementary early dismissal

February

4 90-minute early dismissal
16 No classes
18 120-minute elementary early dismissal

March

4 90-minute early dismissal
11 Conferences - 90-minute early dismissal for all students
12 Conferences - no classes
13 No classes
16-20 Spring recess - no classes
25 120-minute elementary early dismissal

April

8 90-minute early dismissal for all students
22 120-minute elementary early dismissal
24 No high school classes (in-service day for high school teachers)

May

6 90-minute early dismissal
13 120-minute elementary early dismissal
20 90-minute early dismissal for all students
25 No classes - Memorial Day

June

1 Last day of school for elementary & middle schools - half day
2 Last day of school for high schools - no early dismissal

2008-09 SCHOOL HOURS

Elementary Schools

A: 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 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.



The aviation technology program is one of the only high school programs in the nation licensed by the FAA.



Forty-five percent of DMPS teachers hold advanced degrees.



Two DMPS schools – Downtown and Walnut Street – are located in the heart of the city's business district.

Regions Help Streamline District

A year ago, the map of the school district had a few extra lines added. It is an effort to streamline the school district by creating three regions – Northeast, Northwest and South – each with its

own Associate Superintendent and K-8 Executive Director.

By having top administrators responsible for a smaller number of schools it helps the district be more responsive to the needs of parents,

teachers and individual schools.

The following shows how the school district is divided into three regions, which schools are assigned to which region, and the top two administrators in each region.



NORTHEAST

East High School
North High School

Goodrell Traditional Plus
Middle 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
Pleasant Hill Elementary School
Stowe Elementary School
Willard Elementary School

Dr. Bill Szakacs
Associate Superintendent

Mike Munoz
K-8 Executive Director

242-7857

NORTHWEST

Hoover High School
Roosevelt High School
Ruby Van Meter School

Callanan 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
River Woods Elementary School
South Union Elementary School
Studebaker Elementary School
Wright Elementary School

Terrence Martin
Associate Superintendent

Tina Jensen
K-8 Executive Director

242-7871



Math Winners (l-r): Emily Hutson, Aaron Eckhouse, Madison Montgomery and Doug Haefele in front of Central Academy's new home under construction at the Wallace-Homestead building.

The World Has Nothing on Des Moines Public Schools

DMPS Math Students Among Best In World Competition

It sounds simple enough: create a mathematical model to determine whether it is more cost effective to rent a car or drive your own vehicle when going on a vacation. However, when you are competing against math students from some of the nation's top prep schools as well as schools from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom, there is no such thing as simple.

But a group of high school seniors from Central Academy - Emily Hutson, Aaron Eckhouse, Doug Haefele, and Madison Montgomery - proved more than ready to take on the world.

The students took part in the High School Mathematical Contest in Modeling, an international competition designed to provide the opportunity to work as team members on both problem solving and writing skills. Teams of up to four students worked on a real-world problem for thirty-six hours straight and then submitted a solution paper to a panel of judges.

Central Academy was one of four teams receiving the highest recognition.

"This was a great opportunity for students to use their knowledge of high-level math in combination with writing,

problem-solving and team building skills," said math instructor Michael Marcketti. "It says a lot of good things about our schools that students from Des Moines are going toe-to-toe with students from some of the top math and science schools in the world."

While members of the team recently graduated, another group of Central Academy students may take their place on the world stage. A team comprised of juniors Max Hawkins and Kate Walsh and freshman Joel Schneider was recognized as one of the top regional teams in the nation.

With more than 30,000 students, a day rarely goes by when their success and accomplishments are not earning honors. Each issue of the Community Report will highlight recent accomplishments. These are just a few examples of the recent success of Des Moines high school students:

Students at **Central Campus** won state titles in several categories and will represent Iowa at the National Skills USA competition this summer. Des Moines students won in Collision Repair Technology (**Adam Wolf**), Commercial Baking (**Ericka Hussman**), Culinary Arts (**Kevin Brooks-Fernandez**), Customer Service (**Melanie Price**), Food and Beverage Service (**Elle Ploessl**) and Job Demonstration (**Andie Schooley**).

The **Roosevelt High School** debate team earned the Schwann School of

Excellence Award at the national forensic championship earlier this summer, placing them among the top ten teams in the nation.

The men's soccer team at **Hoover High School** defeated the top-ranked team in Iowa to earn their first appearance at the state championship since 1995.

DMPS was well-represented at the 23rd annual Iowa Academic Decathlon as teams from both **Lincoln** and **North** high schools qualified for the state-wide academic competition.

Thirteen students from **East High School** represented the State of Iowa at the 21st annual We The People event in Washington, DC, a competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education to raise awareness of the nation's constitution among students.

Central Academy student **Hemali Batra** won first prize in the Plant Sciences category at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Her project was based on research she conducted at the World Vegetable Center in Shanhua, Taiwan during an internship sponsored by World Food Prize Foundation.

Thanks to **Science Bound**, a partnership between Iowa State University and DMPS to increase diversity among college science students, 17 recent graduates qualified for full-tuition scholarships to ISU.

And a DMPS graduate is in the Olympics. **Lolo Jones (Roosevelt, '00)**, the world indoor hurdle champion, won the Olympic Trials and will compete in Beijing in August. In April, Lolo visited her alma mater to make a contribution to the Roughriders track team.



Preschool Expansion Helps More Children Prepare For School

More than one thousand four-year-old children in Des Moines were able to attend preschool at no cost last year.

Des Moines Public Schools was one of 52 school districts in Iowa – and the only school district in Polk County – selected by the Iowa Department of Education to receive a competitive grant in order to provide the service. The preschool program is part of a state-wide voluntary early childhood initiative signed into law by Governor Chet Culver last year.

“Access to quality preschool has a positive impact on children by helping them become prepared to learn and ready for school,” said Nancy Duey, early childhood programs administrator for the Des Moines Public Schools. “Expanding preschool will make a positive difference as we continue to improve and enhance education here in our community and across the state.”

For more information on DMPS preschool programs, as well as before and after school care, contact the offices listed to the right.

Preschool Programs

For information about the preschool programs, please call one of the following numbers:

- Preschool: 242-7234
- Head Start: 242-7588
- Special Education: 242-8213
- Montessori: 242-7818

Start times for preschool vary by school.

Metro Kids Care

Metro Kids Care hours will be from 6:30 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. on days when school is in session. Regional day care is available on nonschool days, Monday through Friday, from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except on legal holidays.

The annual registration fee is \$25 and weekly fees are: AM only - \$46, PM only - \$47 and AM/PM is \$62 per child. Full-day regional care is \$120 per week.

For more information on Metro Kids Care, call 242-7951.

Benefits Of Quality Preschool

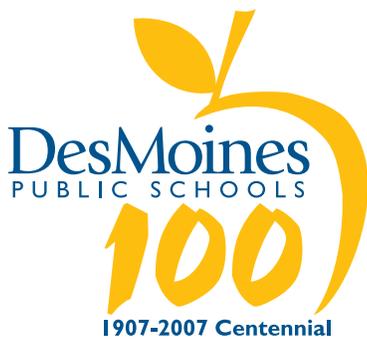
- Higher test scores
- Better social skills
- Less special education
- Higher graduation rates
- Increased earnings
- Less crime

National Institute for Early Education Research

DMPS Marks its First 100 Years

On May 21, 1907 voters approved the creation of the Des Moines Independent Community School District. While children in Des Moines were taught in more than 20 school districts during the early 1900s, voters believed it would be better if all students in the city were served by a single district.

During the past year, Des Moines Public Schools celebrated its first one hundred years while working on plans for the next century. Some of the ways the centennial was marked included:



- A special commemorative logo was unveiled at the start of the school year.
- An award-winning documentary and brochure were prepared about the district's history.
- A centennial billboard, donated by Clear Channel Outdoor, appeared throughout Des Moines.
- A "100 ½" birthday celebration was held at each school in November.
- Several classes throughout the district included the centennial as a part of history lessons and other events.

More information about the DMPS centennial can be found online at the school district's web site.



Finishing the Job Statewide Sales Tax Approved for School Renovations

In 1999, voters in Polk County approved the local option sales tax. Over the course of ten years it will mean nearly \$300 million in renovations and new construction for 30 public schools throughout Des Moines.

While Polk County was one of the first places to approve a local option sales tax, all 99 Iowa counties have also voted in favor. Because of the public's strong support for improved school buildings, legislation was overwhelmingly approved by the Iowa General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor this year to create a single statewide sales tax for school infrastructure.

"The priority is on what we need to do to better our schools, not just academically but to also create environments where people can learn," said State Representative Ako Abdul-Samad, a member of the House Education Committee and former member of the Des Moines School Board. "This is an investment in our young people and in our communities."

Until now, Iowa was one of only a few states that did not have statewide support for public school buildings. The statewide sales tax does not change the current sales tax being paid in Polk County

While the local option sales tax has meant improved schools in every neighborhood of the city, two dozen schools still remain untouched. DMPS officials are currently gathering data and studying school needs throughout the district in order to make recommendations for the best use of funds from the statewide sales tax.

Look for more details in the near future.

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 at anytime through the DMPS web site: www.dmps.k12.ia.us

While there, be sure to visit our online Flickr photo library to see the faces and places of Des Moines Public Schools: www.flickr.com/photos/DMPS

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 at their web site (www.channel12online.org) or their companion YouTube site (www.youtube.com/user/DMPSChannel12).

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 College.



The DMPS Community Report Summer 2008 Vol. 1 No. 1

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

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Designer/Photographer: Larry Castek

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www.dmps.k12.ia.us



901 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Non-Profit Organization
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PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 64

Inside
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for Important
School Registration
Information

Des Moines Public Schools DMPS COMMUNITY REPORT Summer 2008

Welcome



For many years, Des Moines Public Schools had a district-wide newsletter for parents, staff and members of the community. There was Chalk Talk. And the Insider. And the Bulletin. And then they stopped.

We have an obligation to let our community know about the many developments in our school district, which is why we will publish a regular Community Report, once each semester and again during the summer.

Each issue will combine important information for parents – such as school registration in this issue – along with news about the people, programs and schools throughout the district. Thanks to your support we are able to do great things for our students in Des Moines, and you deserve to know more.

Nancy Sebring
Superintendent
Des Moines Public Schools

THINK.

LEARN.

GROW.

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.