October 2026

David City Secondary

School Newsletter



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A Note from the Principal



by Mrs. Stacy Athow

Building Resilience & Unforgettable Memories

Homecoming is always a highlight of the fall season, but this year's theme, "Out of This World," took on a deeper meaning as our students, staff, and families demonstrated what true resilience looks like in action.

When gray skies and persistent rain threatened to derail our outdoor plans, our secondary school community didn't let the weather dampen the energy. Instead, our students and staff proved that when unexpected obstacles arise, adaptability and optimism clear the path forward. Rain or shine, the spirit of our school shined straight through the storms.

A major thank you goes to Morgan Styskal and Shelby Hein, who did an extraordinary job planning and executing a seamless week of daily dress-up themes, the community parade, homecoming court traditions, and our high-energy pep rally.

A Note from the Principal (cont'd)

Our district-wide community pep rally brought together K–12 students, staff, and parents under one roof for an unforgettable afternoon of school pride. The gym packed out as the crowd was treated to a hilarious performance by Mr. Carmichael, who took to the mic for karaoke and went head-to-head in competitive challenges with our students. Special recognition goes to Tiffany Heins for her incredible energy and commitment to making the rally an engaging, memorable event for our senior class and student body.

Despite the wet conditions earlier in the week, our athletes finally got to take the field, and the week wrapped up with a fantastic turnout at the Homecoming dance. Whether it was blowing off steam after a rainy week or simply celebrating togetherness, our students danced right up until the final song when Morgan turned off the music and flipped on the lights. The collective groan of disappointment across the room proved that resilience pays off—turning a soggy, unpredictable week into lasting core memories for our kids.

In school and in life, the weather won't always cooperate with our plans, but our Homecoming celebration showed that determination, community support, and a positive mindset will always carry the day. Thank you to all our families and staff for making this a stellar kickoff to the school year!

Upcoming Events

- ***District Softball - Oct 8-10***
- ***Conference Cross Country - Oct 8***
- ***Conference Volleyball - Oct 13-15***
- ***District Cross Country - Oct 14***
- ***School Picture Retakes - Oct 21***
- ***State Cross Country - Oct 23***
- ***NSBA State Marching Band - Oct 24***
- ***Red Ribbon Week - Oct 26-30***
- ***Cross Country Banquet - Oct 27***
- ***NO SCHOOL: Parent-Teacher Conferences - Oct 29***
- ***NO SCHOOL: Hosting DC Play Production Invite - Oct 30***

Student Spotlight



Rylee Thoendel scored in the top 3% of students on the PSAT and received recognition through the National Merit Scholarship organization. We are so proud of Rylee's amazing accomplishment!

by Emily Neujahr

BLUE RIVER PANTHERS



The Blue River Panthers' season continues to prove just how special this team is! You can tell that these athletes show up every day ready to work hard, compete, and give their best. After just over half of the season, the Panthers have earned an impressive **15-2 record**! We couldn't be more proud of every athlete who has contributed to this team's success. A special shoutout to our incredible seniors: **Abby Lindsley, Tayja Slonecker, Brenna Steager, Jayden Hayes, Shelbea Reed, Isabella Christian, and Olivia Adams**. Each of these athletes has made such a lasting impact on this program, and their leadership, dedication, and presence will be greatly missed when they graduate.

This team is doing impressive things, and we are proud beyond words of everything they have accomplished so far. Pitcher Abby Lindsley has reached over 480 career strikeouts and set the school record with 13 career home runs. She also leads the team with her on-base percentage of .547. Second baseman Tayja Slonecker leads the team with 21 hits. Right fielder Taylor Slonecker is leading the team in stolen bases with 6. We have seven athletes batting .400 or higher and eight with 10 or more RBIs so far. Left fielder Emma Hoeppner has the second-highest batting average on the team with a .459.

One highlight from this season is winning the NEN Softball tournament on August 29th. Another outstanding accomplishment for these athletes was their hard-fought 6-5 victory over a talented Class B Aurora team on Parents' Night. Blue River is currently sitting 8th in points in Class B Softball. Panthers have districts October 8th-10th, where they will compete for a spot in the state softball tournament starting October 14th.

by Chad Wiseman

2026 SCOUT FOOTBALL



The 2026 Scout Football team has 34 participants on the roster this year. The Scouts opened the season with a loss to the Stanton Mustangs in the first week of the season. EMF came to Scout Nation the second game of the season, and the Scouts were able to move the ball against the Bobcats but came up short in the end. The third game of the season took the Scouts on the road to Wisner/Pilger. The Gators scored on the first two drives, but the Scouts answered back with a couple of touchdowns of their own. The second half proved to be too much, and the Gators ended up pulling away.

Week four brought the SRC Huskies to town for the Homecoming game. After several lightning delays and the Huskies ahead by six with 1:50 left in the first quarter the game was called for the evening and moved to Shelby on Saturday because of wet field conditions. The Huskies were able to take control of the game in the second quarter and the Scouts found themselves falling to 0-4 on the season. The Scouts travel to Cedar Bluffs on September 25th seeking their first win of the season. With four remaining games against the following teams: Cross County on October 2nd, at Nebraska Christian on October 9th, at Tekamah-Herman on October 16th, finishing the year at home against Twin River on October 23rd. The team has had a challenging schedule to date with the first four opponents' records at 15-1.

The Scout Football team would like to thank everyone for their support this year. Go Scouts!!



SCOUTS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD

Our cheerleaders & dancers put on an exciting homecoming this year with the theme “Scouts Are Out of This World”. The week was filled with a lot of fun activities including dress up days, decorations, pep rallies, coronation, and a dance to celebrate the Scouts! Students and staff did an amazing job participating in the dress up days throughout the week with Space Jam(jerseys/team gear), Guardians of the Galaxy (superheroes), Back to the Future (throwback), Dynamic Duos and Galactic Groups (famous pairs/groups), and of course Scout Day. The hectic week capped off with the Homecoming Coronation happening after the postponed football game on Friday night. Pictured below is the 2026 DCHS Homecoming King & Queen, Harrison Blades and Hope Aldrich along with fun photos from throughout the week! Congratulations to Harrison and Hope!! After the football game took place on Saturday afternoon, the homecoming dance came to life. Decorations from around the school were added to the New Commons area to create a fun atmosphere as the students danced the night away. Thanks to everyone who participated and made it such a fun and successful homecoming week!

GO SCOUTS!

by Morgan Styskal









HOMECOMING FUN

















What's Going on in Mrs. Olson's Room?



"As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect"

Sophomore English

If you know a Sophomore at DCHS, congratulate them on finishing their first novelette of the year: Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*. We've been focusing on how argumentative writing does not always look like an essay, and how persuasion often takes place within the stories we are told. While Gregor Samsa changed into a giant bug, real humans often face difficult changes when they are faced with situations that isolate them.

As we continue through our unit on Outcasts, students will explore argument in additional short stories, poetry, and, yes, in essays. Our unit culminates in October when students will write their own argument essay exploring ideas of isolation and the feeling of being an outsider. By Halloween, we'll be well into our next unit using stories and essays about fear to support our informative writing on why people enjoy being scared by things like movies and rollercoaster rides.

" Often, for undaunted courage, fate spares the man it has not already marked."

Senior English

Senior English students are answering the question of what makes a hero, and whether a hero has to win in the end or if standing up for one's values is enough. They've been reading essays about the different types of heroes who came out of World War I, poems about heroic acts like "The Charge of the Light Brigade," and the epic poem *Beowulf* that tells of an ancient superhero and the attributes of loyalty, honor, and bravery valued by the Anglo-Saxons who told his tale. Their final unit writing project will be to argue for their own version of heroic values and actions.



""You can always edit a bad page. You can't edit a blank page." — Jodi Picoult

Honors Senior English

Students in College English have been learning the art of planning, drafting, and revising, revising, revising to create their best writing. They've done a fantastic job of showing changes in perspective through descriptive narrative writing, and they are currently using creativity and strong organizational skills to develop a well-structured informative essay using multiple rhetorical strategies. Next, we'll start to hone research skills to prepare for the challenges of college writing. By the end of the semester, these writers will have completed five major writing assignments while earning three hours of college credit.





Local Business Spotlight

ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA & COURT

This month, we are highlighting St. Joseph's Villa & Court, a skilled nursing and assisted living facility in David City that has been serving the community since 1939. St. Joseph's is committed to providing exceptional, consistent, and quality care while creating a home where residents feel secure, loved, and respected. Their mission emphasizes meeting the spiritual, physical, and psychosocial needs of residents in a loving and compassionate environment.

We are grateful for our partnership with St. Joseph's Villa & Court and the opportunities they provide for our students. Students have the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on work experience at their facilities while learning about careers in healthcare and senior care. We appreciate St. Joseph's Villa & Court for their continued support of our students and our school community, and we are proud to recognize them in this month's Local Business Spotlight.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE, EVERY DAY