Stampeeding to Excellence *Building a Better World, One Student at a Time*

The Mustang Times

ISSUE # 4 DONIPHAN WEST HIGH SCHOOL OCTOBER 30, 2026

Upcoming Events - What's Happening in the next two weeks?

Oct 31: HS XC State @TBA
Oct 31:JH Boys WR @ DW
NOV 2: HS V Scholars Bowl @ Nemaha Central
NOV 4: NHS Meeting
NOV 4: K-State College Visit Leave 12 pm
NOV 5: HS V/JV Scholars Bowl @Horton
NOV 5: JH Boys WR @Oskaloosa
NOV 6: HS FB Regionals @TBA
NOV 7: JH Boys WR @Rock Creek
NOV 9: Highland Tech Center Has School
NOV 9: No School- PD Day
NOV 9: HS JV Scholars Bowl @Nemaha Central
NOV 9: Regular Board Of Education Meeting
NOV 10: HS JV Scholars Bowl @Frankfort
NOV 11: KAY Veterans Day Assembly
NOV 11: Blood Drive
NOV 12: JH BB vs. Centralia
NOV 13: HS FB Sectionals @TBA



art by: Jace Hennigan

Red Ribbon Week

By Raelee Davis



DWHS dressing up for red ribbion day

If you or someone you know is struggling with any substance abuse call 988.

What is Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week was created to educate students and parents about the danger of illegal drugs and alcohol. Red Ribbon Week was created to encourage a drug free lifestyle. The theme this year is "make a difference, be a hero, stay drug free." Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention campaign. According to guidance counselor Mrs. Edie, "Red Ribbon Week is important because we're in a society where drug use is super normalized and a lot of kids think that everyone is doing it when in reality the statistics show that not everyone is doing it"

History of Red Ribbon Week

Red ribbon was founded in 1985 after a special agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by drug traffickers. That started a movement where people wore red ribbons to stand against illegal drugs.

How can Red Ribbon Week help students?

Red Ribbon Week can help students learn about substance abuse. Grace Winters says, "Red Ribbon Week raises awareness to students about drugs and alcohol, and it will have a lasting impact on their life." It teaches students facts about the dangers of illegal drugs, alcohol, vaping and prescription drug misuses. Red Ribbon Week can also help make it easier for students to say no to drugs and help them make positive choices and take responsibility. Red Ribbon Week is more than just saying no to drugs and other bad substances, it also helps students understand mental stress, and their well-being.

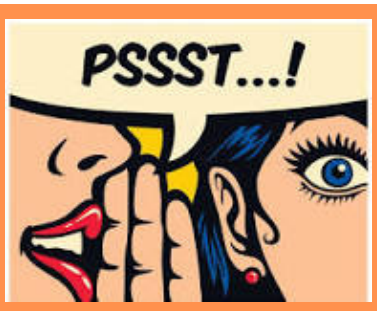
Statistics of drug use in the U.S

About 73.6 million Americans ages twelve and up (about 25.5% of population) have used illegal drugs in the U.S in the past month. 58.3% ages twelve and up have used tobacco products that include nicotine or drank alcohol. In the past month, 34.7 million Americans have consumed alcohol, 63.7 million Americans have used tobacco or nicotine, and 44.3 million have used marijuana in the past month. Guidance counselor Mrs. Edie says, "Kids aren't alone when they see other kids not doing drugs." It's important for kids to learn that not everyone is doing them and it should not be normalized that it's cool to do them.

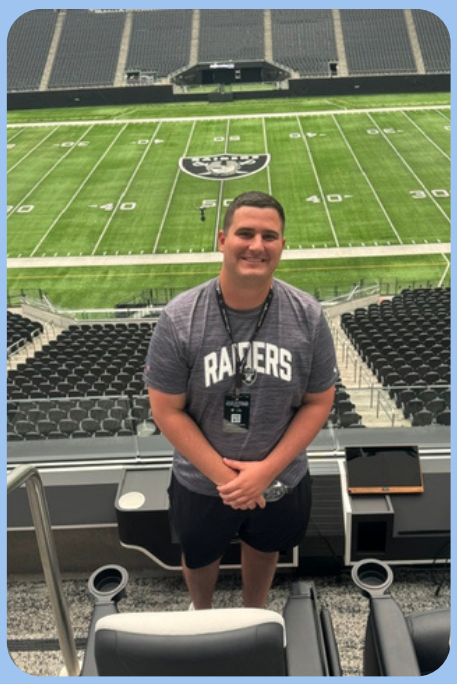




Come listen to Mrs. English sing!



Have a story you think we should cover? Send your tips to kbuschbascher@usd111.org



Mr. Watts at thr Raiders Stadium

Staff Spotlight: Mr. Watts

By: Mahayla Labrozzi

Mr. Levi Watts is a relatable role model for his students both on and off the field. Along with graduating from Doniphan West, he received an education from both Highland Community College and Kansas University, where he received his bachelors in physical education and a minor in sports management. He has previously worked at Wellsville elementary school as a PE teacher for three years, contributing to both their junior high football and high school girls basketball. Despite being a new hire this year, he has shown consistent dedication to the betterment of his students through his teaching.

He approaches teaching by giving his students a comfortable and constructive environment. His compassion shines through best with how he handled the ending of this football season, stating,"I think for the most part there was some good that came out of it... we have a chance to end the year the right way now and hopefully build some momentum going into next year." This songbird also makes himself more approachable by singing popular artists like Ella Langley and conversing with students about football games, allowing them to connect with him in a professional manner.

Outside of his work, Mr Watts likes to golf, watch sports (especially the raiders and KU), and spend time with his family.

Mr. Watts is an important part of our community not only because of the roles he fills as a teacher and coach, but also because he's someone students can see themselves in and go to when needed. The value he places on physical activity is sure to leave an imprint of healthy habits on his students for years to come.

Jaelynn's Coffee Business

McKinley Hennigan and Aliza Tracy

The United States has seen a surge of coffee shops and businesses opening in recent years. Doniphan County is no exception, with the owners of the Coffee Bus recently reopening Troy's Fast Lane, and Doniphan West Alum Jaelynn Clary recently starting Jae's Coffee. On Tuesday, Doniphan West students and staff had the opportunity to purchase a drink in honor of Red Ribbon Week. This event gave the perfect opportunity to catch up with a recent alum and learn more about her business and her future plans for it.

Starting a coffee business had been a dream for Jaelynn for several years, and this dream became a reality with the help of her senior project. When asked what made her decide to start a coffee business, she stated ¨I have always loved being creative, engaging with others, and making fun drinks". These dreams didn´t come together flawlessly, however.

Many business owners will find that, in the first stages of their business, it can be overwhelming at times. Whether it be trying to find workers or figuring out how to run everything smoothly, it can be a stressful time. These stressful times, however, typically lead to successful times. This is no different for Jaelynn.

When asked about the beginning of her business, Jaelynn said ¨In the beginning, it was very stressful, I didn´t really know what to expect, how to really run everything, and was trying to figure out how I wanted this to go.¨ Over time, Jaelynn says that it got less difficult and it became more of a hobby for her.

Of course, some events are more pressured than others. While an event with a scheduled amount of people lets Jaelynn be better prepared, a pop-up event can be more nerve-wracking, as she never knows how many people she will be making for.

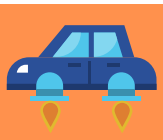
Jaelynn has been at several local events in the past few months-both pop-up and scheduled. In fact, Doniphan West wasn´t the first place she had taken these fun drinks. Some events that welcomed her included Blair Geiger´s fall market here in Highland, baby showers, and, looking ahead, the Highland Craft Fair in November!

Jaelynn´s events aren´t stopping there! In the future, Jaelynn hopes to purchase a cart, making it easier to travel from place to place. Jaelynn says that the cart will help her expand and take her business to the next level.





Flying Cars



by Alexis Thacker and Mia Potter

Tesla just came out with this new flying car. Called Model A, it is an e-VOTL- electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing. This means it can take off and land vertically without a runway like a plane would need.

When asked if they thought the new flying car would be popular, Bryler Shelton said, ¨Yes, I think that it will be very popular because it is a very awesome thing, and I think it is very AI, but it is so amazing, and I think it is so cool, and I love it¨

Bryler thinks she would get one if she had the money for it. So if the prices were cut down, she would definitely get one.

Brayden Keller- ¨No, because I don't think anybody will, and I think that it's very unsafe. We would rather have flying combines in the future than flying cars. And Johanna Scholz would be flying in a grain cart, and Dean Scholz and Henry Scholz would be in flying combines.¨

Brayden doesn´t think this would be the safest thing ever. He wouldn't get one bc he doesn't think anyone will end up getting one.

¨My name is Mrs. Scheid. I think we are close to flying cars now. The use of drones for delivering packages, I believe, is a step in that direction. It hasn't been that long that we have had drones in this new role. I think it will be like the Tesla, a true status symbol, I would think that a less populated area like Kansas would be a good place to start and test them. I don't think they will replace aircraft because the aviation industry will continue to evolve.¨

She thinks that they will evolve even more than now. ¨My name is Gage, and I think that flying cars are very bad. They are dangerous, and I think they shouldn't be a thing because they are dangerous, but they are also really cool. I don't think people in Kansas will use flying cars tho. No, I do not think people will use flying cars over planes.¨

Gage thinks that they are very dangerous and not good. He thinks that no one in Kansas would get one either. So overall, he doesn't think that flying cars are fit for him.

¨Mrs. English, yes, I would get a flying car. Yes, if they were cheaper, I think they would get more popular, maybe in Kansas, for crop dusting and herding cattle too. I don't think they are overall the safest. Yes, I think people will use them over planes in the future.¨

She thinks that it is very cool. She would get one if the prices were lower. Kamryn Heinrich, says "I think they are kind of cool, but I don't think they will be very safe. I don´t think it will be popular at all in Kansas. I wouldn't think people would take the flying cars over an airplane."

She thinks it is very cool but also very dangerous. So Kamryn wouldn't want one.

Overall, people think it is pretty cool to have a flying car. They also think that, despite all the benefits, it's very dangerous, so most said they don't want a flying car because it's too risky. It also shows that most of them don´t think that they will evolve in Kansas.

DOES HOMEWORK HELP OR HARM STUDENTS' EDUCATION?

by; Grace Winters and Riley Atkins

Since the creation of schools, students have always complained about homework, saying it doesn't actually help at all, and most teachers would argue that it does in fact help. So we are going to answer the question: does homework help students learn, or is it unnecessary?

I interviewed a variety of students and staff, and their answers might be surprising. Ms. Falk, our biology teacher, said when asked if she believes that homework is necessary to a student's success. “I think homework should only be implemented if students need extra engagement.” When asked if she thinks homework can cause unnecessary stress, she replied, “Yes, I don’t give homework because students have other things to do outside of school, just as adults do, so I try to limit homework unless it is absolutely necessary.”

Next, we interviewed a freshman football player for their opinions. Our player is Cord Windmeyer. We asked Cord a variety of questions; the most prominent answers were these. When we asked him if extracurricular activities made it harder to complete homework, he said, “It means we have less time to complete homework, so we have to rush through it just to get it done.” We also asked him if homework actually helps him learn; he replied, “ No, it just means extra work without help.”

Most students would probably believe that homework is about the subject or topic you are struggling with; without the help of the teacher who teaches, this would confuse and make you struggle more than before. We asked a variety of students in different grade levels which subject gives you the most homework, and the answer was unanimous- Math/Algebra. We asked them if this made it harder or easier, and most of the students said that in math or algebra the class moves faster than they can learn, which leads to confusion, and occasionally students are turning to AI sources like Gemini or ChatGPT. Most students report that their stress and anxiety levels are constantly increased when they have a lot of homework, especially when they don't understand it.

In Youki Terada’s article “The Pros and Cons of Homework (in 6 Charts),” He researched how homework can both be helpful and harmful to students. He stated, “Its value depends on how much is assigned and whether it supports what students are learning in class.” Homework can be helpful to all students if the appropriate amount is assigned, not 10 pages of the same topic. If a student is struggling with the subject, it would be helpful to offer them one-on-one time to work on it. Homework can be helpful, but if students are staying up past nine o’clock at night. Teenagers need eight to ten hours of sleep at night if they are staying up doing homework. They can get overwhelmed, experience panic attacks, mood swings, poor academic performance, and trouble focusing in school. Tutoring is a great way to get the fullest benefits of extra work; you can get an experienced person to help you understand the topics you are struggling with.

This supports the opinions of Ms. Falk and Cord Windmeyer because homework is most useful when students understand its purpose and have enough time and support to complete it.

Overall, both students and teachers are right to an extent. Homework can be helpful if students are not grasping the topic to their fullest potential. But you should not be assigned an excessive amount of homework that can cause sleep deprivation. Tutoring and a little bit of homework are the perfect solution for those who struggle. Teachers should make homework meaningful and connected to their students' learning needs and mindsets. Quality over quantity is the best policy when it comes to homework. Remember, if you need help with dealing with stress, anxiety, or just homework in general, you can reach out to trusted adults, whether that is a teacher, guidance counselor, or principal; there are always ways someone can be there for you!



Lydia Keebler’s photographer

Student Spotlight

by Kynleigh Jolly & Brenna Neibling

Lydia Keebler is an outstanding, kind, and very outgoing person and student. At Doniphan West, she has participated in volleyball and the National Honor Society. She is a senior this year and 18 years old. After graduating, Lydia plans to attend Northwest Missouri State to pursue either teaching or child psychology. When she’s not at school, Lydia works at Kirkwood here in Highland or hangs out with her friends. Lydia shows her school spirit by participating in dress up days like for homecoming week and football games. Lydia makes an effort to talk and get to know every person she meets. Overall Lydia Keebler is a bright and empathetic student who brings joy to those around her.

Mustang Madness

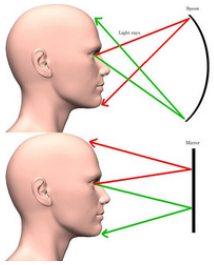
By: Jasmin and Yoselin Trembath

Fun Fact-

Why does a spoon reflect upside down?

Have you ever been eating some soup and happened to look down at your spoon? I'm guessing that you've noticed that when you do that, your reflections come back upside down. I'm sure you've wondered why this happens and how it works, and I'll tell you.

When looking into a normal mirror, your eyes look at the reflection of the flat surface, and the light reflects straight back to your eyes, bouncing back and allowing your eyes to adjust the image normally, making the image stay up-right. But a spoon is different because the surface is curved; the inside of the spoon acts like a concave mirror, which bends the reflection. Causing the light to cross; when they cross over, they make your reflection appear upside down.



Guess The Teacher

The Guess the Teacher poll was a fun way to test how well the students know the teachers. There was a total of 23 responses, and only 6 got it wrong. This means that 17 of the participants correctly identified Mrs. Blair. Her iconic curly hair might have been the giveaway.

Mrs. Blair has shared several interesting facts about herself. Her husband and two of her three children all work in the education field. This makes education an important part of her family. Also, she has lived in the same house for 26 years. And finally, when she goes on vacation, her favorite place to visit is the mountains; there she enjoys camping and just spending time outdoors.

Thank you to all of the students who participated in the poll(even though you didn't get a prize) and to Mrs. Blair for your participation. Your participation helped make this "Guess the Teacher" poll fun and successful!

Guess The Picture

The "Guess the Picture" poll was a fun and very simple challenge for students. A total of 23 students participated, and everyone who guessed was correct! Since everyone was correct, it was very clear how recognizable this painting is: a ceiling tile.

This picture, painted by Aliza Tracy, was a ceiling tile located in the art room with a painting of Dora the explorer/ the rock. Although the picture was super simple, the recognizable painting made it easy for students to identify.

Thank you to all the students who participated in the poll. And a thank you to Aliza Tracy for painting that masterpiece!



Dora the Explorer/ The Rock - By: Aliza Tracy