



August 2015

Special
Back to School
Edition!

Building Beat

Upcoming ...

Monday, August 31:

Author Bruce Boguski presentation to students, 3 p.m. DHS Auditorium

Author Bruce Boguski presentation to parents, 7 p.m. DHS Auditorium

Monday, September 8:

School Begins! Full Day of Classes for All Students

Open House Schedule

GSRP Preschool
5:30-7 p.m. September 1

Central Elementary
4:30-6 p.m. September 2

Gates Elementary
5-7 p.m. September 24

Siple Elementary
4:30-6 p.m. September 2

Thomson Elementary
4-5:30 p.m. September 2

Hahn Intermediate
5:30-7 p.m. September 9

Davison Middle School
6:30-8 p.m. September 10

Davison High School
7-8:30 p.m. September 15

Davison Alternative Education
5-6:30 p.m. September 15

What's new? Early release times planned for K-8 students

The district's "Kids First" mission is a driving factor in the decision to implement four early release days for K-8th grade students in the 2015-16 school year.

Students will be released two hours earlier than normal on **October 7, 2015; January 13, 2016; March 2, 2016; and May 11, 2016**. All students will continue to have a lunch hour on these days.

"We are excited that these release days will provide us with an opportunity to conduct three hour sessions of professional development with our teaching staff," said Assistant Superintendent **Kevin Brown**. "This will directly impact our students in ensuring that our teachers have been given the tools, training and best practices to deliver the curriculum so all of our students can achieve success."

Students will also benefit as the district hopes to reduce the loss of instructional time when teachers have to be pulled from the classroom for professional development purposes.

"If we can minimize the amount of time we need to pull staff members out of classrooms for training, the more our "experts" can be in front of kids providing high quality teaching experiences," Brown said.

Who's new? Or, who has a new title or role at DCS?

The district has hired 13 new teachers this year and filled a variety of other roles that were vacated due to resignations, retirements or transfers. We will introduce the new teachers in an upcoming Building Beat but here's what you need to know as far as where some of our familiar faces have set down new digs this school year:

- New to these administrative positions are: **Sue Kenkel**, Davison High School Principal; **Verle Gilbert**, Hahn Intermediate Principal, and **Christine Kuzinski**, Hahn Intermediate Assistant Principal.
- Davison Middle School Teacher **Dena Downey** is now the district's new Language Arts/Social Studies Coordinator. "Dena has a sound understanding of both the English Language Arts and the Social Studies curriculum, she is extremely knowledgeable about best instructional and assessment practices, is very per-



Dena Downey

Where futures begin

A Fully Accredited District

sonable and has demonstrated tremendous leadership skills,” said Assistant Superintendent Kevin Brown.

- **Christina McWilliams** has been named as Supervisor of Services for Davison Community Enrichment and Recreation (DCER). “Christina is extremely creative, organized and efficient,” said Brown. “She has an outstanding skill set for this position. I am excited about her return to Davison and eager to see the impact that she will have on the DCER program.”
- **Joshua Evans** has been hired as the district’s accountant. Josh replaces Justin Weston who recently moved to Arizona.
- Transfers include:



Christina McWilliams

- **Staci Lambaria**, moving from 4th Grade Teacher at Gates to Kindergarten Teacher at Thomson
- **Melissa Barraco**, moving from 2nd Grade Teacher at Central to Literacy Specialist at Thomson
- **Kelly Hilgendorf**, moving from Kindergarten Teacher at Siple to 2nd Grade Teacher at Central
- **Keri Collins**, moving from Special Education Teacher at Hahn to Central Elementary
- **Patricia Jozwiak**, moving from 2nd Grade Teacher at Hill to Central Elementary
- **Katie Skidmore**, returning as Kindergarten Teacher at Siple Elementary
- **Amy Leach**, moving from Davison Alternative Education Teacher to English Teacher at Middle School
- **Jenifer Green**, moving from Special Education Teacher at Hahn to Davison Middle School
- **Janey McGlashen**, moving from Coordinator to English Teacher, Davison High School
- **Tiffany Hopper**, moving from 6th Grade Teacher at Hahn to Science Teacher, Davison Middle School
- **Benjamin Price**, moving from 1st Grade Teacher at Siple to 6th Grade Teacher, Hahn Intermediate
- **Andrew Wieczorek**, moving from Davison Alternative Education Teacher to Social Studies Teacher at Middle School
- **Jodee Collick**, moving from 5th Grade Teacher at Hahn to Special Education Teacher, Hahn
- **Susie McCatty**, moving from Science Teacher at Middle School to Technology Teacher, Middle School
- **Mindy Parrott**, moving from 1st Grade CAP Teacher at Central to 1st Grade Teacher, Central
- **Jenna Stegall**, moving from Kindergarten Teacher at Siple to 1st Grade Teacher, Siple

New locations to serve you better ...

The faces may be the same but you might have to look in a different area to find these dynamite Davison staffers:

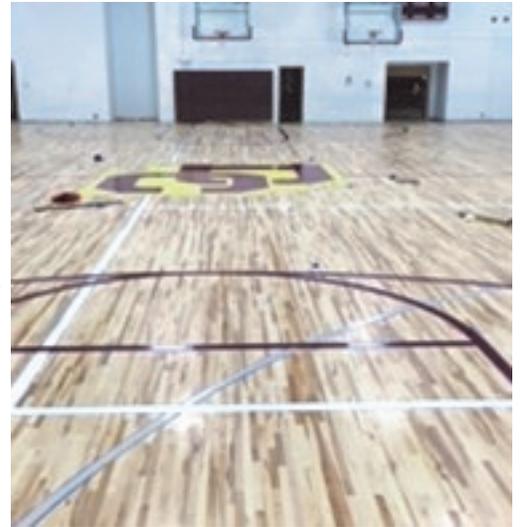
- Coordinators Office: You can now find Coordinators **Angie Hards, Eric Chorley, Matt Lobban and Dena Downey** and Secretary **Janell Streu** on the second floor at Central Elementary. Early Learning Coordinator **Susan Vamos** is at Central, too, but located in the GSRP wing.
- **Tracy Bennett** is still the secretary for the Transportation Department; she just now has an office located just outside of Transportation Supervisor **Mark Fahr’s** office.

Work in progress! No summer slow down for Operations, Technology

While summer normally means a slower pace for most DCS staffers, it’s the busy season for our Operations and Technology departments.

Thanks to the voter-approved Building and Site Sinking Fund, summer normally means a construction project or two in the district and this year has been no different. Work continues on the new Tennis/Marching Band/Soccer complex and the installation of new gymnasium floors and bleachers at Davison Middle School is nearly complete. Unfortunately, the weather has caused several hiccups in the tennis court project and completion of the courts is now expected by mid-September. While some of the asphalt courts have been installed, the remaining courts are expected to be completed next Monday.

Director of Operations **Phil Thom** said the soccer announcers' booth should be completed within the next 10 days and the soccer pavilion will be ready for use between September 15 and October 1, depending on final state inspection.



The new gymnasium floor at Davison Middle School.

Thom said the new Marching Band practice field will be seeded the week of September 14.

The new student parking lot at Davison High School will be lined in the next week, as well as numbered. Thom said the high school gained four parking spots by replacing the parking area that was removed for the construction of the new tennis courts to the former tennis court site.

In addition to the construction, Thom said he has coordinated more than 80 projects this summer including:

- Painting throughout the district, interior and exterior and parking lot lines
- Upgrading the bathrooms next to the auditorium at Davison High School
- Parking lot renovations at Siple Elementary and asphalt patching/repairs at Gates and Thomson Elementary buildings
- Upgrading locking systems and hardware at Hill Elementary, Davison Middle School and Cardinal Stadium
- Repairing storm drain structures at Central Elementary, Davison High School and Hahn Intermediate
- Removal of storage containers at Central Elementary
- Power washing, cleaning and painting at Cardinal Stadium
- Installation of pea rock and wood chips at playgrounds
- Concrete work at Davison High School, Davison Middle School and Hahn Intermediate

The Technology Department has also been pretty busy the last couple of months. Technology Supervisor **Chris Lesko** and his staff replaced the equipment for the entire networks at Davison High School and Hahn Intermediate, upgrading the wireless and desktop connections for each device from gigabytes to megabytes. The upgrade will allow the system to better handle traffic (no, it does not make the internet faster!). The terrific Technology staffers also replaced all staff computers at Hill, Thomson, Siple and Gates Elementary buildings, replaced three student computer labs at Davison Middle School, installed a technology lab for student use at the Robert Williams Nature and Historical Learning Center and deployed 13 Chromebook carts for student use at Davison High School, Davison Alternative Education and Davison Middle School, a laptop cart for Auto Technology students and an iPad cart for Career Technical Education students.