

Volume 6, Issue 1
Fall 2018

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Principal Mr. Daniel Bartels

Assistant Principals

Mrs. Amy Ellis
Mr. Donald Morrison

Dean of Students

Mr. Todd Compton

Counselors

Mr. Christopher Johnson
Miss Megan Salcedo
Ms. Lauren Davis

Message from the Principal...



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the 2018-19 School Year. At Davis we have a motto of being 212 degrees. Please ask your student to explain this to you! 212 is vital to our success and your student's untapped potential! Please mark your calendars, Open House is Tuesday, September 25th, 6:30 - 8:30pm. This is a great time to meet your student's teachers and learn about the curriculum they are learning. Please plan on attending!

Please take time to review all the information in this online newsletter. It is full of important information! Please note: There is no school on October 18th and 19th. Also, please prioritize student conferences. Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2018 from 12:00 - 7:00PM. You will pick up your student's report card in the cafeteria and then visit with each teacher in the gym. Please try to keep each conference with the teacher to 5 minutes or less. If additional time is needed I encourage you to make an appointment to visit with the teacher at a later time. Conference time is essential time to check your student's progress and learn about areas of strength and areas of growth. To help plan ahead, teacher break time during conferences are as follows: Last names N-Z = 4:00 - 4:30PM; A-G = 4:30-5:00PM; and H-M = 5:00-5:30PM. Teachers will not be available to conference during their break time.

The use of agendas daily by your student is a vital skill needed to stay organized. Please help us encourage daily use by checking your student's agenda for assignments, upcoming assessments, and other important information. We provide time in each class so students may document these items. If there is no information, your student is not completing this in the time they are provided. In addition please visit our school's web site and read the daily announcements. This is your way to learn about potential activities your student can become part of and a way to encourage participation in activities they are already part of. Daily announcements are posted online each school day.

Please feel free to contact the school any time we are here to help and serve. Remember - Davis is where a student's future takes off.

Dan Bartels - Principal
Alfonza W. Davis Middle School - Home of the Aviators
8050 N 129th Ave.
Omaha Ne 68142



Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 24	PTO Meeting in Library - 7:00pm
Sept. 24-28	Omaha Education Week
Oct. 12	Davis Fall Play/PTO Flower Sales/Bookstore Open - 6:30pm
Oct. 18	Davis Middle School Conferences 12:00 –7:00PM
Oct. 19	Teacher Planning Day - No Students
	1st Quarter ends
Oct. 22	2nd Quarter begins
Oct. 29	PTO Meeting in Library - 7:00pm
Nov. 21	Teacher In-service - No Students
Nov. 22-23	Thanksgiving Recess
Nov. 26	PTO Meeting in Library - 7:00pm
Dec. 11	Band & Strings Concert/Bookstore open - 6:30pm
Dec. 13	Chorus Concert /Bookstore open - 6:30pm
Dec. 17	PTO Meeting in Library - 7:00pm
Dec. 21	2nd Quarter ends
Dec. 24 - Jan. 3	Winter Recess
Jan. 4	Semester Break/Teacher Planning Day - No Students
Jan. 7	3rd Quarter begins

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. (TAI) ALFONZA W. DAVIS CHAPTER (AWD)

The naming of the Alfonza W. Davis Middle School after an Omaha born Tuskegee Airman is a great honor that is shared by all Tuskegee Airmen as well as all of us who support them and pursue the mission of the organizations bearing their names. The fact that the Tuskegee Airmen and their accomplishments have been brought from obscurity to the light of day is testament to the success of our endeavors.

The AWD Chapter partnership with Davis middle school provides great opportunities to provide unique educational and extracurricular activities not available at any other OPS location. Current Chapter members pledge their full support and focus toward providing as much programmatic opportunity as time and schedules permit.

Tuskegee Airmen Inc. (TAI) was incorporated in 1972 as a not for profit, 501 3© entity. The Alfonza W. Davis Chapter (AWD) was chartered on Offutt Air Force Base in 1988. Both organizations share the same statement of mission “to perpetuate and preserve the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen”. The organizations focus upon youth as the vehicle to accomplish the mission. The idea is to impart to today’s youth the traits and qualities of the Tuskegee Airmen such as professionalism, tenacity, work ethic, and the desire to succeed. TAI and AWD use aviation and aeronautics as “hooks” to gain the young adults attention-then convince them that they can accomplish anything that they desire, are prepared for and are willing to work for.

We invite any/all parents, teachers and interested adults to join us in making the Davis Middle School experience one that no student will ever forget.

For information/membership/share information-contact:

Robert D. Rose

Alfonza W. Davis Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

President Central Region Representative to TAI Board of Directors - 402 292-8912 - rdrjr@cox.net

omahatuskegeeairmen.org



6TH GRADE

English Language Arts

In 6th grade students are introduced to a new textbook called Collections. This new curriculum is more rigorous and aligns smoothly with the skills and standards essential for 6th grade. The textbook is definitely more challenging for students, but with practice and support students show success. We encourage you to go online and experiment with the online textbook.

1. Go to office365
2. Log in to student account
3. Click on Waffle.
4. Click on myHRW and explore Miss Rowley, Ms. Lane, and Mr. Waller



Social Studies

6th Graders in Social Studies are hard at work learning about Ancient History!

We have just completed our Early Man unit, in which we learned about how man began to use agriculture and settle into permanent shelters and communities and then city-states. We will be continuing our journey into ancient history by studying Ancient Egypt. We will begin with the geography of Ancient Egypt, then learn about their famous pharaohs and then their daily life.

Please talk to your students about what they are learning in their Social Studies classes and check the portal of ten!

Thanks!

Mrs. Cyr and Mrs. Petersen



In Advanced math 6 we are learning about ratios and rates for unit 1 and unit 2 will be about rational number. Students will be using both the 6th grade math book and the 7th grade math book for both units.

In Challenge Math, students are working with fractions and decimals. We have completed two parts of our first project, which consisted of creating cupcakes and recipes, and designing a menu for our shops. From here, students will come up with a cumulative list of ingredients needed and their amounts and determine the cost to make their cupcakes.

In Math 6, we just finished up the first chapter, relating to rates and ratios. Students learned how to express data as a rate and ratio, as well as how to graph their data to solve problems. We are not starting chapter 2 with fractions, decimals, and percents.



Science

Mr. Murray and Mrs. Coniglio have been teaching about the water cycle which includes evaporation, condensation, precipitation, infiltration, and sublimation. They have had the chance also to learn about water quality and how humans affect the water cycle. They are now starting to learn about weather and climate as part of the unit.



7TH GRADE

Mrs. Coniglio and Mrs. Waller 7th Grade Honors Science

Students have been so excited about science! We are studying the unit Ecosystems and were analyzing and interpreting data to identify patterns of biodiversity that are similar in different ecosystems. The students studied Nebraska Wetlands and talked about invasive species such as zebra mussels in Lake Cunningham. Some of the classes had the opportunity to go out before we had that week of rain, to explore Davis Middle School's ecosystem. The students saw crickets and frogs, and a decomposing dead bird on the school's lawn. After exploring the grounds of Davis, Mrs. Coniglio's class watched a big wolf spider crawl from outside right into Dr. Temple's room. Mr. Kubik, 8th grade science teacher, was so gracious to catch it and place it outside in the bushes.

Please check Infinite Campus and talk with your student(s) about the awesome thing they are doing in science.



Social Studies: Seventh grade is an exciting year for Social Studies! Our students are currently hard at work learning about Southwest Asia (The Middle East) during the first quarter. They are also learning to think like historians, to analyze or "dig deeper" into our topics, and to work together in collaborative group. Second quarter will bring us to the Africa unit which has many exciting new topics of study as well, and will provide students the opportunity to complete a research project about an African country.

Math: Math 7 is finishing chapter 1, which covered proportions. We will be starting chapter 2, which covers percents, sales, and tax! Challenge Math is working on building a food truck, while calculating area, perimeter, and volume of the shapes involved.

ELA: Students are working on analyzing grade level text and learning new critical vocabulary. Novels were checked out the first week of school and the first book project is Due Oct. 12. Students were given directions for their book projects last week. Students have time to read their novel in class everyday. They should also be reading for at least 20 minutes each night. Nice work 7th graders!

Reading Skills: Read 180n students are working on learning the classroom rotations as well as viewing media with a purpose. New vocabulary relating to the content is added each week. We have been working on knowing the difference from everyday and academic conversations. System 44 students are working on learning rotations. They have also been working on how to answer text based questions and analyzing words. We add new word families throughout the week. A big congratulations to **Cody**, **Natalie**, **Aiden**, and **Skylar** for passing out of the reading skills program this week.



8TH GRADE

8th Grade ELA

Students are studying what it means to belong to a group as they analyze passages from a variety of genres as part of the first-quarter theme “Culture and Belonging.” They use the R.A.C.E. strategy to prepare written responses to various prompts. This involves restating the question, answering all parts of the question, citing the source, and explaining how evidence supports the answer.

Mrs. Fendrick’s ELA

Students are exploring the relationship between the writing process and app design process. They learned block coding of JavaScript to create simple projects on Code.org.

The Relationship Between Different Kinds of Writing	
App Design Process	Traditional Writing Process
Plan: state problem or purpose.	Plan: write thesis statement.
Sketch paper templates.	Draft on graphic organizer.
Code.	Write (type).
Debug.	Proofread and revise.
Publish	Publish



Wow! What a start to the year for the Davis World Language Department! At the beginning of the year a new full time WL teacher position was approved and posted so that we could hire another Spanish teacher to join Sra. Scurlock to teach the overwhelming demand for Spanish instruction. Spanish became an elective class, so many students have the option to take Spanish. Students responded with almost half of the student body desiring to learn Spanish! Currently we have a fabulous long-term substitute, Sra. Posada, who is certified in teaching Spanish.

Our students are well on their way to acquiring Spanish. We discuss what it is like to be in a Spanish class that is based on acquiring (speaking from the heart) through Comprehensible Input instead of memorizing long vocabulary lists and grammar rules. They created brochures that they will share with their family/friends at Open House.

We have been practicing daily routines such as greeting each other at the door, discussing the calendar (day, date, special events) and weather. We are learning fun songs to help us acquire (ask them about “los pollitos dicen”, “pollito pio” and “taco” songs). Students are creating and reading their first class stories, and most importantly, getting to know each other. We do all of these things in Spanish, spending almost half of the class or more in Spanish!

The students are about to take their first assessments in Writing, Reading, and listening! They will not know about these assessments until they happen. We are pretty confident that the students will do well, and by conferences in October, they will be able to share their progress in acquiring Spanish through their portfolios after only one quarter (or a year and a quarter for 2nd year).

Team 8A News

Language Arts is beginning our unit on Culture and Belonging. Students shared information about their own culture and thought about ideas like favorite food, customs, and family values. We read a story called, “My Favorite Chaperone”, about a young girl who recently moved to the United States from Kazakhstan, and how she adjusts to a new culture.

8A team members are rocking the American Revolution and setting the stage for a new America. Eighth graders are invited to join us on the Washington, D. C. trip in April. Contact Mrs. Hibler or Mr. Steward for more information.

In 8th grade Science we are rubbing two sticks together to generate enough friction to ignite the science world on fire. Tuesday, November 27th from 3:00 - 5:00PM is our Davis Science Fair. Let’s get a jump start on your solar systems and volcanos! Please remind your student to bring a pencil and notebook to class.

We are very impressed with our 8A Pre-Algebra students. They show up with wonderful questions and have done a great job completing daily work. We started off reviewing operations (X,/,+,-) with positive/negative numbers, decimals, and fractions. Our Aviators will have completed working with scientific notation and one and two step equations this quarter. Map testing has been completed and areas have been charted for areas of concern. Please contact your teacher and subject to learn his/her charted areas of enhancement.

Our ESL students have done such a wonderful job of seeking our help on daily work through Mrs. Becker, assigned teachers, and tutoring after school.

Remember, tutoring takes place every week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Join the fun!

Team 8B First Quarter Update

Ms. Wagner's ELA classes have completed our first round of MAP Reading tests. Each student received a print out of his/her seventh grade MAP reading results prior to testing. After the students looked at their seventh grade results, they each wrote a Sept. 2018 MAP Reading goal for themselves on their respective print out. Many students met their September goals and will be sharing this information with their parents/guardians at our upcoming open house. They will also be sharing their revised copies of their family form poems and their summer haikus there as well. These student created poems compliment our ELA Unit I theme of culture and belonging.

In Social Studies we just finished up with the Eastern European Explorers Unit and now students will be learning about the 13 colonies and the American Revolution.

NJHS

During this month, we put together water bottles to support the substitutes. They felt welcomed and appreciated. Currently, our message gram committee is working on October message grams for this fall. The message grams are expected to spread positivity and smiles throughout Davis!





Notes from the Health Office:

Reminders: Parents and Guardians don't forget! Nebraska State Law requires that all 7th Grade students must have a Physical Exam and Updated immunizations. If you have not provided this to this to the school, please contact the Davis School Nurse at 531-299-2341.

Screening assessments will be performed this school year for 7th grade students. This information will be provided using their 7th grade physical exam and nursing assessment.

OPS Guidelines for Dismissal of Students with Health Concerns:

1. A student with a Temperature of 100 degrees or more
2. Red eye with purulent drainage
3. Vomiting
4. An undiagnosed rash/skin lesion
5. Diarrhea with includes stomach cramps
6. Questionable illness or injury which appears to require an evaluation from MD
7. Students with confirmed Strep are to take medication for 24 hours before returning

Remember: Hand Washing is the most effective means of preventing the spread of communicable diseases. Remind your child to wash their hands frequently and cover their nose and mouth with their elbow/sleeve when coughing or sneezing.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Hello Davis Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Friends!

My name is Cindy Dmyterko (A.K.A. Deputy "D") and I am the new School Resource Officer (S.R.O.) and what an honor it has been to be welcomed into Alfonza Davis Middle School. A little bit about myself: I was born and raised here in Omaha, NE. I graduated from Daniel J. Gross High School and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. I was a social worker with Visinet Inc. for 3 years before becoming a Deputy Sheriff with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office in 1998 (20 years). I have two amazing and talented boys who are 13 and 11 who attend Elkhorn Middle School. So, I also have children at the middle school age at home, which gives me a little bit of experience working with this age group. My passion has always been helping others and I am privileged to be able to use my skills to make a difference in the lives of the students at Davis. I have been contacted to attempt a new traffic pattern and it has been working very well so far in the mornings. My goal is to keep everyone at Davis safe, so please be patient with us as we implement this traffic pattern. I am looking forward to getting to know all of the students and being able to take part in a fun filled school year! A big THANKS to Principal Bartels, Mrs. Amy Ellis, and Mr. Donnie Morrison for entrusting me with the students at Davis and for allowing me to try a new traffic flow here at Davis to keep all safe!

*Please feel free to contact me at the school via email at Cindy.Dmyterko@ops.org if I can assist you with any concerns relating to Law Enforcement at Davis.

Thank you!

Deputy Cindy Dmyterko, Douglas County Sheriff's Office

State and District Testing 2018 – 2019

	When	What	Who
MAP Testing - Initial	September	Reading, Math and Science	6 th , 7 th and 8 th grade
MAP Testing – Check Point	January	Reading, Math and Science	6 th , 7 th and 8 th grade
NSCAS – NWEA testing State Testing	Late March - April	Reading, Math and Science	6 th , 7 th and 8 th grade
MAP Testing – Final	May	Reading, Math and Science	6 th , 7 th and 8 th grade

District Testing- Students will spend one or two days in their Math, ELA and Science classes to take the MAP test during the month of September, January and May.

State Testing – NSCAS takes place in the student’s math, ELA and science classes. More information to come!

Parents: We give students MAP Growth tests to determine their instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year (and from year to year) in math, reading and science.

MAP Growth tests are unique in that they adapt to your child’s level of learning. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. This results in a detailed picture of what your child knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below their grade level.

Since MAP Growth tests provide immediate and accurate information about your child’s learning, it’s easy for teachers to identify students with similar scores that are generally ready for instruction in similar skills and topics, and then plan instruction accordingly.

We are truly excited to focus on your child’s individual growth and achievement. For more information about the MAP Growth test, visit: [NWEA.org/Parent-Toolkit](https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit).

Parent Link to understanding MAP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BN69zH5d1-A>

N.I.C.E.

Native Indigenous Centered Education

Dear Parents and Students, (Cama’i) Welcome back! It has been a great start to the year. We are off and running. NICE students attended their first field trip to UNO. During that field trip students participated in an exercise on Historical Trauma that was facilitated by Big Mama – Caroline Fiscus (Winnebago). Next, they worked on a Self-Care Medicine Wheel that gaged where they felt they were Mentally, Physically, Emotionally and Spiritually. They played Project Venture games. These games are Native based. They had lunch and during that time, they listened to a UNL presentation for college.

Our focus this year is Leadership. We want our native students to be tomorrow’s leaders. We have monthly themes that will be taught. We will also

continue with our culture classes at lunch one day a week. We have started with students making a ball from deer/elk hide.

If you have a student that is Native and not in our program, please contact me at Davis and I will send home a Federal 506 Form to fill out. Your child does not have to have a Tribal number. If you yourself or a grandparent has a tribal number, you may use that or use the name of the grandparent.

For more information, please contact me at: Tracy.hartman-bradly@ops.org or 531-299-7785

Thank you,
Tracy Hartman-Bradley (Alutiiq, Aleut)
Native Indigenous Centered Education Teacher



Davis Aviators

Establishing Good Attendance Habits

- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Lay out clothes and backpacks the night before
- Good attendance will help your child do well in high school, college, and at work
- When possible, schedule appointments after school hours. If you need to schedule an appointment during school hours, consult the school calendar to choose a day when the students have the day off.
- When planning vacations, please note that vacation days are considered unexcused absences.
- Strive for 95%=No more than 2 absences a quarter (Excused & Unexcused)
- Many of our students miss 10% of the school year, equaling 18 days a year. (Monthly Average- 2Days). This is considered Chronic Absenteeism.

Strive for 95%
Research shows that students who attend school at least 95% of the school year, are more likely to graduate from high school .

Omaha Public Schools
Every student. Every day. Prepared for success.

Specialists

A Consistent Practice Routine: The Key to Success in Band and Strings

Mr. Baldwin-Instrumental Music Teacher

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! With the beginning of a new school year it is important for all middle school students to establish a routine for their day and week that will ensure their greatest success at school. This is even more important for students that are involved in band and/or strings. With our schedule at Davis allowing for music instruction on an every other day basis, it is pivotal to a student's success that they are practicing at home to reinforce the instruction they are getting at school. The best way for students to practice is in small chunks (15-20 minutes) on a daily basis, as opposed to big chunks (60 minutes +) once a week. Playing an instrument is a physical skill which requires daily repetition so that muscle memory is formed correctly. If students practice regularly they will increase their skill which will also increase their enjoyment in playing the instrument. That is a goal that we all want to accomplish!

In addition, a portion of the student's grade does come from at home practice. In order to achieve a "4" for their practice log, students should practice 75 minutes per week. Students are given monthly calendars to

record this practice time. They should write the amount of time practiced on the day that it occurred. Parents should sign the practice calendars at the end of each week.

There are two goals for every student that walks into the band and strings classroom:

1. They will become better musicians every day.
2. They will enjoy making music.

The single biggest contributor to the success of these goals is a student's practice routine.

Parental involvement is extremely important! Parents should help their students establish a consistent practice routine and encourage them to stick with it. A middle school student's desire to practice will certainly decrease as their life gets busier so parents should stay diligent in enforcing the practice routine so progress continues.

If you need suggestions for your student's practice routine please contact Mr. Baldwin at

ryan.baldwin@ops.org or 531-299-8086.

Happy Practicing!



PE/Human Growth and Development

The Physical Education/Human Growth and Development department is off to a great start. Each quarter this year the students will participate in skills and activities in these three units:

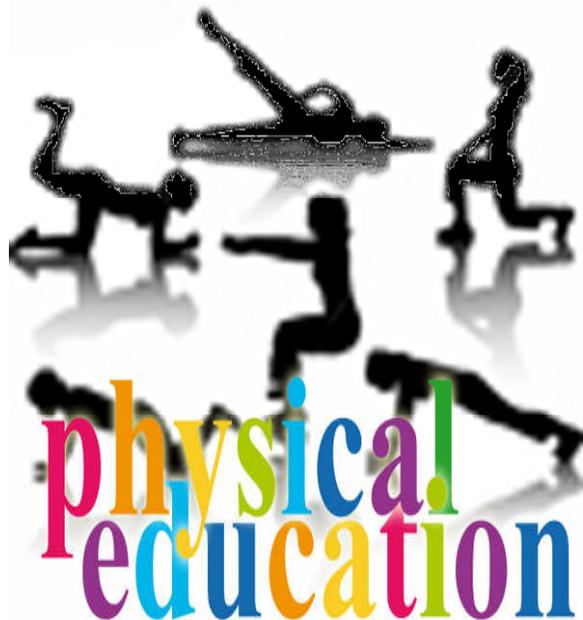
1. Team Sports
2. Lifetime Activities
3. Fitness

Students will also participate in Fitness Testing each quarter. Those test may include:

1. Mile
2. Pacer
3. Sit-ups and push-ups

7th and 8th grade students will participate in one quarter of Human Growth this year.

Please make sure your student is prepared for PE by having the proper comfortable athletic wear. 7th and 8th graders are provide a locker to change into clothes for PE. 6th grade does not dress out for PE, but required to have tennis shoes. If you have questions, please contact the PE department



2018-2019
7th and 8th Grade Sports

1st Sports Season

Boys/Girls Cross Country (August 20th-October 10th)

Volleyball (August 21st- October 15th)

Football (August 20th- October 17th)



2nd Sports Season

Boys Basketball (October 22nd- December 18th)

Girls Swimming (October 16th –December 13th)



3rd Sports Season

Wrestling (January 7th - March 1st)

Girls Basketball (January 7th - March 5th)

Boys Swimming (January 7th- March 7th)



4th Sports Season

Boys/Girls Soccer (March 18th- May 7th)

Boys/Girls Track and Field (March 18th - May 10th)

Competition Schedules may be found at davis.ops.org under the Athletic Tab



Please join us for...



Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday, October 18, 2018

12:00pm to 7:00 pm

Please plan to arrive by 6:30 to ensure you will have time to meet with each teacher.

Start in the cafeteria to pick up your student's grade worksheet.

Teacher dinner schedule by first letter of last name

4:00-4:30 N-Z

4:30-5:00 A-G

5:00-5:30 H-M

What is MTSS-B?

MTSS-B stands for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior. Omaha Public Schools has adopted this model with the intention of teaching behaviors we would like to see in our schools. At Davis Middle School we have chosen to focus on building responsible, respectful, inclusive and safe students.

Teachers have developed their classroom expectations and procedures around Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Inclusive and Be Safe.

What are 212 tickets for?

212 tickets are given to students by adults in the building when they observe students practicing the four "Be's." Students can then collect 212 tickets and use them at the school store each Thursday during lunch.

