

Volume 5, Issue 4
Spring 2018

Message from the Principal...

Superintendent Mr. Mark A. Evans
Principal Mr. Daniel Bartels
Assistant Principals
Mrs. Amy Ellis
Mr. Donald Morrison
Dean of Students
Mr. Todd Compton
Counselors
Miss Megan Salcedo
Mr. Christopher Johnson



Dear Parents and Guardians,

This letter signals that Spring Break is right around the corner. I hope this letter finds you and your family well. The 4th Quarter will be fast to arrive, and faster to end. State testing will be in April, and May brings the end of the year MAP testing, coupled with the end of the year celebration activities. Please review the attached list of activities.

2017-18 brought many challenges and successes! I hope to see you all at the many activities we have planned during the months of April and May.

Remember – Davis is where a student's future takes off!

Sincerely,

Dan Bartels
Principal



Mark Your Calendar

3/9/18	Third Quarter ends
March 12-16	Spring Recess
3/19/18	Fourth Quarter begins
4/5/18	National Junior Honor Society Induction program - 6:30PM
4/13/18	Teacher work day - No Students
4/27/18	Glow Run - 6:30PM
5/4/18	No school for students
5/11/18	Spring Play - 6:30PM
5/15/18	Band Concert - 6:30PM
5/17/18	Chorus Concert - 6:30PM
5/22/18	6th Grade AWD - 2:00PM
5/23/18	7th Grade AWD - 2:00PM
5/23/18	8th Grade Wing Ceremony and AWD Awards - 6:30PM
5/25/18	Fourth Quarter ends - Last student day



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 - rdrrj@cox.net omahatuskegeearmen.org



6th Grade News

6th Grade Social Studies students are busy finishing up the Ancient Rome Unit. We have studies all about the influence the Ancient Romans had on art, architecture & engineering, language, and philosophy and Law. Students will demonstrate what they know about the Fall of the Roman Empire in their Curriculum Based Assessment (CBA) and then we will begin our Medieval Europe Unit.

This unit will be about the development of feudalism, the establishment of the Roman Catholic Church and life in Medieval towns. Later in the year we will study Medieval West Africa and Medieval Meso-America (Aztecs, Incas, and Mayas).

7th Grade News

Language Arts

7th graders have been hard at work in their language arts classes! They have been refining their writing skills by continuing to participate in the writing process and having the opportunity to bring multiple pieces of their writing to the "published" stage. Students have also been working on enhancing their reading skills as well. They have been reading and analyzing both informational and literary texts.

Math

Math 7 students have mastered all things algebra and are diving into Geometry! Identifying triangles and finding circumference has never been so fun for these 7th graders. Our Honors Algebra students are exponentially growing in the area of exponents and they are loving it! As the year winds down, our 7th graders are staying focused and ready to fight for success!

Science

We are currently in our new unit and new book called Earth and Space. This will be a fun and rewarding unit with discussions of the Earth's layers of the atmosphere and how to read the temperature scale. In a few weeks, we will be starting the lesson on moon phases and space exploration. Please remind your child to stay on top of their work and study for upcoming tests. Also, after spring break, MAP testing will begin as well as state assessment testing.

6th Grade Science: We are working hard learning about all different forms of energy such as kinetic and potential. We will know how to calculate different types of energy amounts, and we will also know how to convert energy from one type to another. The rest of the quarter we will keep doing physical science labs and cover concepts such as thermal energy, magnetism. Keep an eye out for information coming home about the annual 6th grade field trip!

8th Grade News

Spring is here! That means it's time for our 8th graders to prepare for their transitions into their high school selection of choice. High school counselors will make their final visit Thursday, March 8th to finalize course selections for each eighth grader. What a great send off into Spring Break, starting March 9th and returning back to school March 19th.

8th grade math students are preparing for state testing. Questions are reviewed everyday during bell work and in the computer lab through online practice tests. PreAlgebra students are wrapping up Triangles and Pythagorean Theorem. Algebra students have covered algebraic exponents and on to Quadratic Formula. Geometry has just finished working with Circles and on to Area of Polygons and Circles.

In Language Arts 8th grade students will begin the Holocaust unit after Spring break. They will be reading "The Diary of Anne Frank" in a play format, and independently reading the novel, "Between Shades of Gray".

Our Social Studies classes will start a "Mystery Civil War" project after Spring Break. Get ready!

In 8th Grade Science, students have been working hard in preparations for the MAP test coming up in April. Spring time means Physics Time! Students will be working with Force and Motion.

Congratulations to the following 8th graders who were selected to represent the Davis at the Rotary Luncheon.

Abigail Adams	Gabrielle Nielsen
Malerie Birkel	Danielle Peterson
Brooklyn Busby	Ayanna Robinson
Hannah Dalton	Logan Simmons
Gavin Hanel	Emily Tran
Bianca Martinez	Claire Williams



Honors English Language Arts

Davis 8th graders were winners in the 2017-18 Metropolitan Reading Council's Writing Contest. They are **Jackson Fisher**--Honorable Mention, **Eluria Finn**-2nd, **Sarah Elftmann**--1st place, and **Mason Wickstrom**--Honorable Mention. They will be honored at UNO on March 10.

Make Health Your Resolution! School Health News



Healthy You: Make Healthy food choices, be active, and make an appointment for a check-up, vaccinations or screening. Know your numbers-weight, blood pressure, cholesterol. Wash your hands often. Get enough sleep. Be smoke free. Learn and practice a new health tip each week. Make a new friend.

Healthy Family: Plan to eat more meals together as a family. Encourage and support physical activity. Put together a family health history. Know where to go for health care in town if you do not have insurance. Add a health related web site to your favorite list and check weekly updates. Be courteous and practice good manners.

Healthy Home: Go Green. Reduce, reuse and recycle. Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms on every level. Keep cleaning products and medication away from children. Have a winter weather emergency plan, stock your home with necessary supplies.

Healthy Community: Volunteer at your Church, school or one of the many community centers needing help or an extra hand. If you have received help from others, try to repeat the gesture. Extend a common courtesy wherever you are-they are always appreciated.

Healthy School: Stay home if you are sick. Wash your hands often. Cover your cough and sneeze with your sleeve. Get your flu shot. Drink plenty of water. Exercise 60 minutes a day. Do not share water bottles or utensils.

Other Health News Office News:

Parents and Guardians of current 6th grade students will be receiving your 7th grade packet in the mail. **Your future 7th grader will be required to have a School Physical and updated immunizations.** These Physicals must be dated AFTER MARCH 1st of this school year and returned to the School Nurse.

Gifted & Talented News

Information about Identification

The Nebraska Department of Education, Rule 3, requires schools to develop a system to identify learners with high ability. High ability learners will be identified for GATE services by meeting indicators for at three of the four criteria:

- **COGNITIVE**—Top 5% at Davis the school or national level on an *intelligence/cognitive* assessment;
- **ACHIEVEMENT**—Tops 5% at the school or national level on a standardized *grade-level achievement* assessment;
- **MOTIVATION/PERFORMANCE**—"A" or Advanced (ADV) in 60% or more courses on the most recent semester grade report (equivalent to a 3.5 un-weighted GPA) OR qualifying staff referral/recommendation and/or participation;
- **CREATIVITY/LEADERSHIP**—Qualifying staff referral/recommendation and/or participation.

While some students may not meet the criteria for identification, Omaha Public Schools believes students throughout the district have talent and potential. A student may still be involved in many of the GATE and school sponsored events and competitions. This involvement may serve as an indicator for the Motivation/Performance or Creativity/Leadership criteria towards permanent identification.

Art Department News

7th and 8th Grade Davis Art students took part in an awesome project this semester through the Jewish Community Center! It's called The Memory Project and it helps give students a historical perspective of the Holocaust while also enabling them as artists, storytellers, and creators to connect to their own family histories, of memory, of loss, and of the transformational power of the creative process.

Students spent one full class period learning about the Holocaust before commencing with the visual art portion of the project. Students chose a picture of a Holocaust victim and created a charcoal portrait. Upon completion, students prepared a written reflection on the project.

The Art & the Holocaust project culminates each year in an exhibit of art work in the gallery at the Jewish Community Center along with a reception for the artists, their parents, and their teachers. Local Holocaust survivors are also present. This year the reception will take place on April 16 from 6:30-7:30.

Our Davis Aviators created some amazing drawings! I was able to choose a few from each class that will be on display in April but all students work will be photographed and played in a video at the exhibit!



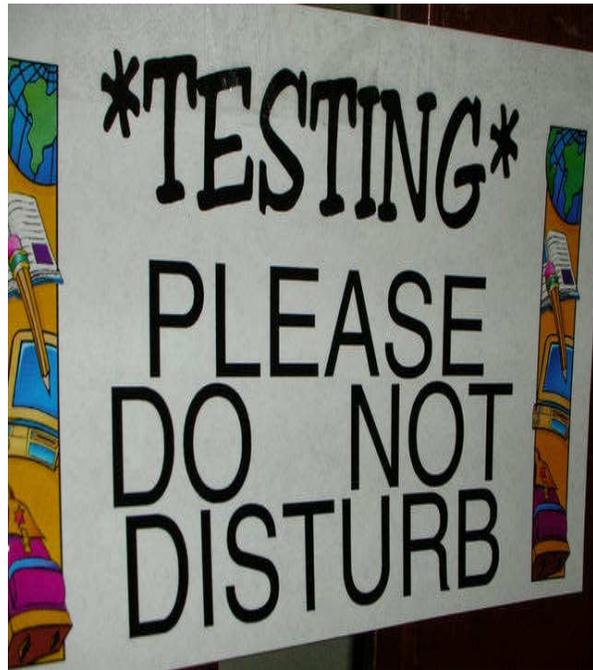
Artist: Emily Tran (Grade 8) Portrait of: Fryderyka Mangel

UPCOMING TESTING EVENTS

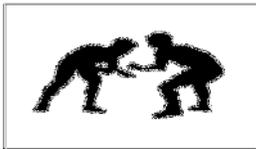
The NEW state test is called NSCAS Summative. (Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System). The test is an adaptive test to the students' specific grade. The test is created by NWEA MAP.

Davis students will take the NSCAS summative in the month of April. Sixth and Seventh grade take the math and ELA test. Eighth grade takes math, ELA and science tests. Davis students will be scheduled to take the test(s) in their math, ELA, and Science classrooms during their scheduled class time. The test is not timed, however the average time for completion of the test is 90 minutes.

The week of April 2-5 all Davis students will be scheduled to take the English Language Arts test. The week of April 9-12 all Davis students will be scheduled to take the Math test. The week of April 16-20 only 8th grade students will be scheduled to take the Science test. Please check with your student or their teacher to find out specific day(s) that your student will take the NSCAS test.



Sports News



3rd Quarter Athletics at Davis Middle School was a success which brought several City Champions & high numbers of student participation in Wrestling, Boy's Swimming, & Girl's Basketball. Eight student athletes were given the Scholar Athlete award for finishing their last week of athletics with A's in all of their classes.

4th Quarter Athletics will include Boys & Girls Soccer, as well as Boys & Girls Track & Field. These sports will both begin on Monday, March 19th, as we return from Spring Break.

See the Davis website & be sure to follow us on Twitter & Facebook

