

Volume 5, Issue 2
Fall 2017

Superintendent Mr. Mark A. Evans
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

Message from the Principal...



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the 2017-18 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 September 12th, 6:30 - 8:30pm. This is a great time to meet your student's teachers and learn about the curriculum they are learning.

Please take time to review all the information in this on line newsletter. It is full of important information! Please note: There is no school on November 2nd and 3rd. Also, please prioritize student conferences. Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2017 from 8:00AM - 6:30 PM. You will pick up your students 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 H-M = 11:00 - 11:30AM; O-Z = 11:40AM - 12:10PM; and A-F = 12:20 - 12:50PM. 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

Oct., 20, 2017	First Quarter Ends
Oct., 23, 2017	Second Quarter Begins
Nov., 2, 2017	Parent/Teacher Conferences - 8:00AM - 6:30PM - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Nov., 3, 2017	Teacher Work Day - NO STUDENTS
Nov., 22, 2017	Teacher In-service/Work Day - NO STUDENTS
Nov., 23-24, 2017	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec., 22, 2017	Second Quarter/First Semester Ends
12/25/17 - 1/5/18	Winter Recess
Jan., 8, 2018	Semester Break/Teacher Work Day - NO STUDENTS
Jan., 9, 2018	3rd Quarter/ Second Semester Begins
Jan. 15, 2018	Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL



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



7th Grade

Science: It has been an exciting start to the school year with the once in a lifetime solar eclipse!!!! Thank you to all who helped make our Eclipse Viewing Party a success! The students were able to watch and participate in the excitement of this beautiful gift of nature.

Upcoming in science is our first unit which is Flow of Matter and Energy. In this unit we will discuss animal interdependence, carrying capacity, energy flow in an ecosystem, and dissection of an owl pellet. Remember to look at your child's infinite campus account to see if your child is staying on top of their homework. If you are unsure how to log into infinite campus, please ask your child or call the school.

Social Studies: This year in 7th grade Social Studies we will focus on being global citizens and learn not only about Geography but also about the history and culture of various nations around the world. We started the year with a review of map reading skills but we will soon begin our journey into Southwest Asia looking at Arabia, Iraq and of course the numerous conflicts in the region. Please remind your student that they need to have their books every day in class and feel free to contact Mrs. Cyr or Mr. Steward with any questions or concerns.

Honors Algebra: So far this year we have reviewed items from last year, we are now moving into functions!

Math 7: The year starts off with rates and proportions.

Language Arts: Language Arts is off to a vibrant start after completing a level set test with the Achieve 3000 program. This program offers reading articles at the students' reading level and adjusts as student skills increase. We also have new curriculum materials for which students will have a textbook, an online version, and a workbook in which they can annotate as they practice skills. Language arts units move quickly, so students need to be sure to maintain their focus and organization to have all assessments completed on time. Those students who need additional support or to catch up on missing work are asked to stay after for tutoring on Tuesdays. Wednesday after school is our Writing Wizards Workshop for students who want to enjoy creative writing, compete in contests or work with a mentor to improve writing skills. Students visit the library regularly for book checkout and are expected to always have their reading source with them. We look forward to an amazing year with these inspiring students! Mrs. Douglas, Ms. Prem and Ms. Siemek





8th Grade



Your 8th grade Davis staff members: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Mederios, Mrs. Scurlock, Mrs. Temple, Mrs. Hall, Miss Davis, Mrs. Fendrick, Miss Naderi, Mr. Drummond, Ms. Wagner, Mrs. Hibler, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Murray, Mr. Kelyv welcomes 8th grade students and families. Across the board we're off to a great start for the year. First a few housekeeping tips for you and you're 8th grader:

- Visit the Davis Webpage for up to date calendar of events: band, orchestra, drama and sporting news
- Make sure you're actively using Infinite Campus to monitor grades and completed assignments
- Don't hesitate to call or email your teacher directly when you have a question
- Keep your eye out for OPS High School Open House dates

In Mathematics our 8th graders will be spending the first few weeks pre-testing and running through foundations review that will carry them throughout the rest of the school year. Plan on your math student having an assignment every day.

English Language Arts students have started off the year reading The Shadow Club. Students now have their own books from the library and will soon be doing book projects based on the readings.

The Science department extended the Solar Eclipse into a building wide lesson. It was an enjoyable once in a life time event taking the entire student body out to the track to view the solar eclipse take place.

The Davis Social Studies department has started the year off learning about the American Revolution. They'll simulate the American Revolution with a real "tug of war battle!"

Wellness is a new addition to our lunch agenda. Students get to burn extra calories, share a laugh and work as a team during fun and engaging challenges.

Special Education

Davis Middle School has 4 special education programs offered for the 2017-2018 school year: Resource, Speech and Language, Behavior Skills Program, and Alternate Curriculum Program. We are an inclusive middle school, meaning students in the Resource or Behavior Skills Program are mainstreamed within the general education setting with proper support and accommodations within the curriculum. The special education teachers co-teach with a general education teacher in the areas of Math and English Language Arts across the grade levels; as well as, work with students on organization and social skills. When necessary, extra support is given in the areas of science and social studies by a special education teacher or para-professional. Our Alternate Curriculum Program is mainstreamed throughout the day in various activities.

Native Indigenous Centered Education

Tracy Hartman-Bradley (N.I.C.E. Teacher)

What is a federally recognized tribe?

A **federally recognized tribe** is an American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States, with the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations attached to that designation, and is eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Furthermore, federally recognized tribes are recognized as possessing certain inherent rights of self-government (i.e., tribal sovereignty) and are entitled to receive certain federal benefits, services, and protections because of their special relationship with the United States. At present, there are 566 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages. (BIE 9/15)

If you or your child is Native American or has Native heritage, see Mrs. Bradley for a 506 form.



Please join us for...

Davis Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday, November 2, 2017

8:00 am to 6:30 pm

Please plan to arrive
before 6:00 pm to ensure
you will have time to meet
with each teacher.



Teacher lunch times	
11:00-11:30	H-M
11:40-12:10	O-Z
12:20-12:50	A-F



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:

- A student with a Temperature of 100 degrees or more
- Red eye with purulent drainage
- Vomiting
- An undiagnosed rash/skin lesion
- Diarrhea with includes stomach cramps
- Questionable illness or injury which appears to require an evaluation from MD
- 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.



State and District Testing 2017 – 2018

	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
NeSA – NWEA testing State Testing	Late March - April	Reading, Math and Science	6 th , 7 th and 8 th grade
MAP Testing – Final Progress	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 – New this year! 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.

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

Gifted & Talented News

The Goal of the Gifted & Talented Program

Alfonza W. Davis offers many academic courses and activities to enrich the curriculum established by the Omaha Public School. Our Gifted & Talented (GT) program is designed for students who wish to be challenged through academic competition, honors courses, special activities, and programs. We believe that all students need high expectations and challenges based on individual needs. Our classroom teachers use differentiated instruction in their lessons to meet the needs and interest of all levels of learners. Students are expected to develop self-discipline by meeting deadlines, asking questions, and acquiring organizational and study skill as they strive to become both independent and successful at the middle level and beyond.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, September 23—Beveridge Quiz Bowl
- Tuesday, September 26—District Quiz Bowl
- Saturday, October 7—Norris Quiz Bowl
- Saturday, October 28—McMillan Quiz Bowl
- Saturday, November 11—Bryan Quiz Bowl
- Tuesday, November 14—7th Grade Scholars Gallup Workshop
- Wednesday, November 29—Poetry Slam
- Saturday, December 2—Lewis & Clark Quiz Bowl
- Tuesday, December 12—Think Tank

Specialists

5 Questions Teachers Wish You Would Ask Them about Screen Time, Tech, and Internet Privacy By Caroline Knorr, Common Sense Media Parent Contributor 9/5/2017

They're on the front lines of the tech-infused school day, so teachers are a great resource for parents of middle and high schoolers trying to manage tech and media at home.

"No TV until your homework is finished" used to be the easiest way to separate school work from screen time. Today, with IMs, YouTube, texting, and social media, that boundary is super blurry. And because middle and high schoolers often have media and technology as part of their lessons and take-home assignments, it's tough for parents to know where to draw the line. Fortunately, the folks whose job it is to prepare kids to take on the world (including the digital one) know all about managing screen time, multitasking, online privacy, and even using tech tools at home. And they know your tweens and teens pretty well, too. Teachers -- who are on the front lines of the tech-infused school day -- are experts at helping families manage this stuff so that kids can learn. Here are the questions teachers wish you'd ask about the issues that affect students the most.

How much non-school-related screen time should I allow on a school night? Rather than allotting a certain amount, first list out *everything* your kid needs to do in a 24-hour period. Assign a time limit for each activity -- for example, 30 minutes for chores, one hour for physical activity, 45 minutes for reading, 20 minutes for dinner, etc. Don't forget to add 9 to 12 hours for sleep! In the remaining time, figure out how much can be used for screen-based entertainment. It will probably vary throughout the week. Try the American Academy of Pediatrics Family Media Plan to calculate a schedule that works for your family.

How can I curb my kid's multitasking during homework?

In the classroom, teachers who use tech often have to personally monitor students to make sure they're focusing on work, not fooling around on their devices. At home, it's a good idea to reduce or eliminate multitasking because it really takes a toll on learning -- and it drags out homework duties. Set up a homework zone in a common area where you can keep an eye on their activities. Make it device-free if possible -- although sometimes kids legitimately need them for study apps or for checking assignments. Keep devices out of the bedroom, because texting and sleeping is about the worst multitasking kids can do. If they have to use devices and you can't closely supervise, consider downloading a parental control app that limits access to entertainment during homework, such as unGlue. You can also enable Restrictions or Guided Access on iPhones or use Google's Family Link on Android devices to help keep kids on task. But you'll probably still need to spot check.

What do I need to know if my kid has to download an app or register for a site for homework?

Teachers who use technology or expect students to use it at home generally have a plan for keeping you in the loop. They should supply a list of the tools that kids will need access to at home and a process for notifying you if anything changes during the year. One of the most important issues with kids using technology at home is student privacy. Your kid's school ideally vets third-party vendors to ensure that they're not taking advantage of your kid's information. If your kid has to register for anything, read the privacy policy on the company's website and provide only the most basic information required.

What should I do if I find out about cyberbullying by kids in your class?

Teachers definitely want to know if there is cyberbullying happening. Ideally, kids are learning about digital citizenship either on its own or in the context of their instruction (for example, a team project using Google Docs that students have to collaborate on), so it should be something that is discussed and dealt with. Tell the teacher -- or have your kid report it -- so it can be worked out using the school community's conflict resolution methods, just like any other problem affecting students. Teachers can keep an eye out for more of this behavior in school. They should also have clear systems in place to monitor and moderate any class activity online for inappropriate behavior or bullying.

(Continued on page 11)

Specialists

How can I use technology at home to support in-class learning?

Nearly every app for kids in the app stores is labeled "educational," but not all of them are really good for learning. If you're looking for tech tools that you can use to support your kid's in-class learning at home, think of three broad categories: instructional tools that teach academic subjects; creation tools that let kids express themselves; and communities that offer a supportive, collaborative sharing space. These can be apps, websites, games, design programs, and social worlds. Here are some to try:

Instructional:

Khan Academy
PBS Kids
BrainPOP
IXL
Google Art Project
One Globe Kids Friends
Around the World
CK-12

Creation:

Minecraft
Algodoo
Procreate
Popplet
Explain Everything Classic
Animoto Video Maker

Social:

DIY
LittleBigPlanet 2
Historypin
Project Noah
Figment
Scratch

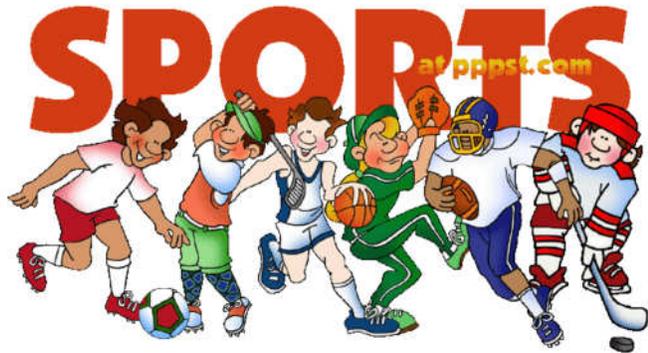
Davis Volleyball

For 2017, the volleyball team has added some new faces. Mr. Johnson (the counselor) is still the head coach but we have added Megan Salcedo and Danielle Douglas as assistance to go along with Jessa Rower from last season. The coaches were put to the challenge early as over 60 7th and 8th grade girls tried out over four days. We selected 19 girls for our JV and Varsity teams and they are a very talented group. Volleyball games will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays both home and away starting around 3:30 with the Varsity team playing first followed by the JV team. Both teams would love your support if you are able to come and cheer us on.



Aviators JV Football

The Alfonza W. Davis Aviators Junior Varsity football team has been working hard during practice for the last couple weeks. The squad has 28 members working together everyday to improve. Their first game is September 8th at Morton. The team is itching to get on the field and give their best. Looking to start out with a good win and keep that momentum through the next 4 games. The following games are: Sept. 13th: Buffett @ Buffett, Sep. 22nd Lewis & Clark @ Davis, Oct. 5th King @ King, Oct. 12th Monroe @ Davis. Please come out to the games to support these great student athletes!





TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY RISE ABOVE

ALFONZA W. DAVIS MIDDLE SCHOOL
 Students will enjoy the
RISE ABOVE Experience during school on
 September 13th and 14th!

The Commemorative Air Force Red Tail Squadron in
 Partnership with the

**METRO COMMUNITY COLLEGE and
 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN OF NEBRASKA INC.**



bring the RISE ABOVE traveling exhibit to Davis Middle School. This traveling exhibit is a one-of-a-kind climate controlled movie theater with a 180-degree screen providing you with a multimedia experience that you will not forget! The *RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit* is a truly unique opportunity for the young and the young-at-heart to not only learn, but experience the inspiring story of the Tuskegee Airmen while being immersed in a theatrical experience.

JOIN US AT A DAVIS AVIATOR FOOTBALL GAME FEATURING A P-51 AIRPLANE FLY OVER

When: September 13th @3:15

**Where: Alfonza W. Davis Middle School
 Football Field**

