

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**THEWEEK@DMPS**

March 9, 2018

Good morning from TheWeek@DMPS on the first day of Spring Break. Today we celebrate East's Natalie Niemeyer on receiving national recognition as a journalism teacher, note how students and staff took part in a campaign to end the "R-word," and highlight the work of our food and nutrition staff during National School Breakfast Week. Also, there are reminders that universal preschool registration is now underway and the deadline for students to register for Advanced Placement exams is on March 28. Read on for these stories and more.

We hope everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable Spring Break. TheWeek@DMPS will be taking next week off, too. We look forward to seeing our students and staff back at school on Monday, March 19.



**PARENTS: BE SURE TO CHECK THE VIRTUAL BACKPACK**

### STORIES ABOUT OUR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

#### East's Niemeyer: Master Journalism Educator at Critical Time

The days of quills and scrolls are long gone, but at East High School, the Quill and Scroll are in their primes, thanks largely to Natalie Niemeyer. She teaches journalism at East in an era when that profession is under siege, but has never been more vital. She does it so well that she was recently named a Master Journalism Educator by the Journalism Education Association, the same organization that tabbed her a Rising Star in 2014. She is one of only 179 educators in the nation to earn this latest distinction. [Read more about another nationally-recognized DMPS educator.](#)



#### Students and Staff Pledge to "End the R-Word"

Administrators, students and staff joined the launch of "Spread the Word to End the Word" on Wednesday, pledging to stop the hurtful use of the "R-word." At DMPS, our special education teachers and consultants, Early ACCESS teachers, psychologists, social workers, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists serve more than 5,000 students with individual education plans. [Click here to read and see more.](#)



#### Next Generation of Educators "Dream to Teach"

Thursday morning, 170 students in the district's "Dream to Teach" program gathered for a meeting at Central Campus, representing a new generation of educators who will bring greater diversity to the classroom. "Dream to Teach" is an extracurricular program that provides students interested in becoming teachers with a mentor to help them prepare for college and careers. There are currently "Dream to Teach" chapters at 7 middle schools and all 5 comprehensive high schools. Interest in the program, which began in 2014, has led to an expansion of the Urban Teacher Academy at Central Campus, a program open to high school juniors and seniors. [Read more here.](#)



#### Judge, Attorney "Preside" Over AP Government Classes

Iowa Court of Appeals Judge Mary Tabor and attorney Alfredo Parrish "presided" over moot court exercises last Friday in the AP Government classes of teacher Amber Graeber at Roosevelt High School. [Read and see more of the class,](#) and how experts sharing their expertise and experiences with students contributes to learning.



#### National School Breakfast Week Launches New Dish at DMPS

It's long been said that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. At DMPS, every elementary student has access to a free breakfast at school. Our food and nutrition staff held a range of events to mark National School Breakfast Week, including the launch of a new menu item: the Egg-a-Doodle-Doo! [Read and see more about our work to help students get a nutritious start to the day.](#)



#### Jackson Hosts VIP Storytellers for "Read Across America"

Superintendent Tom Ahart, State Representative Brian Meyer and members of the North High basketball team were among the recent VIP storytellers at Jackson Elementary School who celebrated Read Across America. We stopped by to [share some photos of the students and their guests.](#)



#### Need a Spring Break Activity? Get a Shot!

Do you have a student starting 7th or 12th grade in the fall? Not without a meningitis vaccine or state waiver! A relatively new state requirement means students will not participate in class, athletics or activities until they have the vaccine. [Read more about the reason behind the change,](#) and why county health officials are hoping you'll make an appointment now.





**WHAT'S TO EAT? VISIT OUR ONLINE SCHOOL MENUS** 

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW UNDERWAY**

Registration for our Universal Preschool program is now underway for the 2018-19 school year. This state-funded program provides voluntary, universal access to high-quality preschool education programs for Iowa's four-year-olds. More than 1,000 preschoolers are served at DMPS in this program at classrooms located throughout the city at comprehensive schools, our Early Learning Centers, and in partner locations. If you have a child who will be four years old by September 15, [click here to register online.](#)

**PHOTO GALLERIES OF THE WEEK**



**Photo Students Get Exhibit Tour**  
Students participating in our Project STAGE photography workshop had class at the Des Moines Art Center on Wednesday, where they were given a tour of an exhibit of works by famed photographers Larry Fink and Garry Winogrand. [Click here to see more.](#)



**Roosevelt Ensembles Make-Up Concert**  
Bad weather postponed a recent evening concert at Roosevelt High School. So, on Tuesday morning, the Wind Symphony, Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Choir, and Philharmonic Orchestra took to the stage for a wake-up make-up. [Enjoy photos of our student-musicians in performance.](#)

**ICYMI: DMPS IN THE NEWS**

Recent items in the news or online about or of interest to students, teachers and parents at Des Moines Public Schools:

- Jake Troja, Director of School Climate Transformation at DMPS, was a guest on **Iowa Public Radio's** "Talk of Iowa" program this week to talk about programs underway to address bullying in school. [Click here to listen to IPR's program.](#)
- Noted below in the calendar is a reminder that the Advanced Placement exam registration deadline is later this month. What can AP exams and other college-credit options mean for parents? A lot. The **Des Moines Register** reports on some of the options available at DMPS, and the time and money these can save when it comes time for college. [Click here for the newspaper's story.](#)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- March 9-16**  
Spring Break - No Classes (All Schools)

---

- March 10**  
Legislative Coffee - Hubbell Elementary School (9:00 AM) - [click here for more](#)

---

- March 20**  
School Board Meeting - Central Campus Multi-Purpose Room (6:00 PM)

---

- March 28**  
AP Exam Registration Deadline - [click here for more information](#)



---

- Spring Sports**  
Girls' Golf/Soccer/Tennis/Track & Field - Visit [athletics.dmschools.org](http://athletics.dmschools.org) for schedules

**TheWeek@DMPS is a recipient of the 2016 Award of Merit from the National School Public Relations Association.** 





*It is the policy of the Des Moines Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you believe you (or your child) have been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact Anne Sullivan at 2323 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312 or 515-242-7709 or [anne.sullivan@dmschools.org](mailto:anne.sullivan@dmschools.org).*







March 2, 2018

Good morning from TheWeek@DMPS. Today we include a couple of reports on education work at the State Capitol, including an update on an anti-diversity bill that would have a negative impact on DMPS; congratulate Superintendent Ahart on being named the Pride Ally of the Year; and share a story on how students paid tribute to the victims of a Florida school shooting while also calling for change. And an important reminder: Spring Break is just one week away. Read on for these stories and more.



**PARENTS: BE SURE TO CHECK THE VIRTUAL BACKPACK**

### STORIES ABOUT OUR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

#### Impact of Anti-Diversity Bill Discussed at Forum

Superintendent Tom Ahart joined Senator Herman Quirnbach and Margaret Buckton of the Urban Education Network at the State Capitol for the Moral Mondays forum, an event hosted by the Interfaith Alliance. The topic this week? A bill to end diversity plans, an effort that would have a negative impact on DMPS and, as one speaker noted, would re-segregate public schools. [Click here for more information and what you can do to help.](#)



#### Board Member, East Student Share Day-on-the-Hill Experience

Members of the DMPS Community Legislative Action Team spent last Wednesday at the Iowa State Capitol. At a time when public education is under-funded, and even under attack by too many elected officials, this delegation of parents, students, volunteers and school board members was there to advocate on behalf of the schools and students of Des Moines. School Board member Cindy Elsbernd and East High student Maddie Miller teamed up as [guest bloggers to share their experience of advocating for public education at the State Capitol.](#)



#### Superintendent Ahart Honored as Pride Ally of the Year

When Superintendent Tom Ahart was asked to host the inaugural Capital City Pride Gala last Friday night, he didn't realize there was a surprise in store for him. When it came time to announce the awards, Dr. Ahart was named the Pride Ally of the Year, recognizing his leadership in supporting and serving the district's diverse population of students. [Read more about the honor and why it recognizes important work underway at DMPS.](#)



#### Hubbell Closes Black History Month With "Dream Walk"

Hubbell Elementary School began February by ringing in Black History Month with an assembly in the gym that included the sounds of Roosevelt High School's Bridges 2 Harmony gospel choir. Students and staff marked the conclusion of a month-long observance and study of Black history by holding a "Dream Walk" on Wednesday morning around their neighborhood. [Read and see more here.](#)



#### Donor Helps Students See Black Panther

Thanks to a GoFundMe effort, tickets were purchased for more than 100 DMPS students to attend a showing of *Black Panther* at the Jordan Creek Cinemark Theater. Nick Mahlstadt, who set up the fundraiser, says he wants to change the narrative in mainstream media and for young people of color to see themselves as super heroes. Thanks to Nick for his support of our students. [We took a few photos of everyone arriving for show time.](#)



#### Superintendent: "I Will Not Ask Them to Take Up Arms"

Superintendent Tom Ahart responds to the political rhetoric around arming teachers in their classrooms with a reminder of the real work and challenges facing educators today at Des Moines Public Schools, and vows that arming teachers is not happening on his watch. [Click here to read Dr. Ahart's complete statement.](#)



#### Students Rally for Florida Peers, Against Gun Violence

Students at Goodrell Middle School and Roosevelt High School paid tribute to the victims of Broward County and issued a call for action on Thursday. Goodrell students sold t-shirts and held a dance to raise funds for the victims, and met at the campus flagpole to honor them. During "Rider Time" at Roosevelt, students gathered in front of the school to eulogize the victims in poetry and song, and urged classmates to contact elected officials in support of measures to address gun violence. [Click here to read and see more from both schools.](#)





WHAT'S TO EAT? VISIT OUR ONLINE SCHOOL MENUS



DON'T FORGET: NO SHOT? NO SCHOOL.

It's not too early to make sure some things are ready for next school year. One of those is a meningitis vaccine. State law requires that incoming 7th and 12th grade students without a meningitis vaccine or a state waiver won't be able to start school or participate in activities in the fall. Meningococcal disease is serious. Approximately 10-15% of people with meningococcal disease die, even with appropriate treatment. Of those who recover, up to 20% suffer from serious after-effects, such as permanent hearing loss, limb loss, or brain damage. Iowa health officials say the meningococcal vaccines are safe and are 85-100% effective at preventing infection. Contact your health care provider for more information.

PHOTO GALLERIES OF THE WEEK



Season Ends for Hoover, North

Tough ends to big seasons for both Hoover and North at Tuesday's Substate basketball finals. Hoover lost to Valley, 34-31, while North fell to Johnston in overtime, 85-79. We're proud of all of our Huskies and Polar Bears! [See photos from both games on the DMPS Flickr page.](#)



DTS Raises \$12K for Heart Assoc.

Downtown School students, teachers and staff show they have heart, raising more than \$12,000 for the American Heart Association - that's 240 lives saved! [Click here to enjoy a time lapse video of students and teachers celebrating their effort.](#)

ICYMI: DMPS IN THE NEWS

Recent items in the news or online about or of interest to students, teachers and parents at Des Moines Public Schools:

- With families from a hundred different nations, our Center for New Americans helps parents acclimate to life in Des Moines. **KCCI-TV** takes a look at the good work of both our staff and parents. [Click here for Channel 8's report.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 6  
Read Across America - Merle Hay Mall (5-7 PM) - [click here for more information](#)

March 9-16  
Spring Break - No Classes (All Schools)

March 10  
Legislative Coffee - Hubbell Elementary School (9:00 AM) - [click here for more](#)

March 20  
School Board Meeting - Central Campus Multi-Purpose Room (6:00 PM)

Spring Sports  
Girls' Golf/Soccer/Tennis/Track & Field - Visit [athletics.dmschools.org](http://athletics.dmschools.org) for schedules

TheWeek@DMPS is a recipient of the 2016 Award of Merit from the National School Public Relations Association.



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

FORWARD TO A FRIEND

It is the policy of the Des Moines Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you believe you (or your child) have been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact Anne Sullivan at 2323 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312 or 515-242-7709 or [anne.sullivan@dmschools.org](mailto:anne.sullivan@dmschools.org).

Des Moines Public Schools, 2100 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [theweek@dmschools.org](mailto:theweek@dmschools.org) in collaboration with



Try it free today



NEWS AND UPDATES FROM DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS



# THE WEEK @ DMPS

February 23, 2018

Good morning from TheWeek@DMPS. Today we include a reminder that next Tuesday is ACT Day when hundreds of DMPS high school juniors take the college entrance exam for free (no classes that day for grades 9, 10 and 12), a report on the diverse topics our teachers and staff covered during Monday's Educator University, highlight recent success by our student-athletes, and share information on how you can support families victimized in last week's tragic school mass murder in Florida. Read on for these stories and more.



**PARENTS: BE SURE TO CHECK THE VIRTUAL BACKPACK**

**STORIES ABOUT OUR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS**

**Tuesday, February 27 is ACT Day at DMPS**

Next Tuesday, February 27 is ACT Day at DMPS as the college entrance exam is provided - for free - to all high school juniors. DMPS was the first district in Iowa to provide the exam at no cost to students, and this is the 11th year DMPS has offered the ACT to all 11th graders. NOTE: There are no classes for grades 9, 10 and 12 on 2/27, and no classes for grade 11 on 2/28. [Click here for more information.](#)



**From Tech to Trafficking to Trauma: Educator U at DMPS**

With more than 33,000 students born in a hundred different nations, DMPS prides itself on being not only Iowa's largest provider of education, but also its most diverse. That diversity was reflected in a different way on Monday at Educator University. While students didn't have classes, teachers and other members of the DMPS staff had a full day of learning that covered issues ranging from the latest in classroom technology to identifying the signs of human trafficking to responding to mass casualty traumas. [Read and see more about this school day for teachers on our web site.](#)



**Show Support for the Victims at Broward County Schools**

DMPS joins with other members of the Council of the Great City Schools in supporting Broward County Public Schools. If you would like to contribute to a fund supporting the victims of last week's horrific mass shooting, please visit the [Broward Education Foundation](#) or their [GoFundMe page](#), or simply text PARKLAND to 20222 to make a \$10 donation.



**North JROTC Finishes Second in the Nation**

Congratulations to the North High School JROTC Olympic air rifle team on a second place finish at the Marine Corps JROTC High School National Championships in Anniston, Alabama. The competition began with qualifying rounds in December as more than 300 teams competed for spots in the finals. Twenty-seven teams advanced to the national championship this past weekend. Team members are: Kevin Nguyen, Nicole Masteller, Gunnery Sgt Michael Gettler (team coach), Sydney Krejci, and Adrianna Campos.



**North 9th Grader Wins State Bowling Title**

Congratulations to North High School 9th grader Samantha Meade ... Iowa's Class 2A high school bowling champ! She rolled a two game score of 452 yesterday for a two pin win over the runner-up. The Lincoln High School girls bowling team competed in the Class 3A division of the state tournament for the sixth year in a row; the Rails' Brittney Miller finish 7th overall.



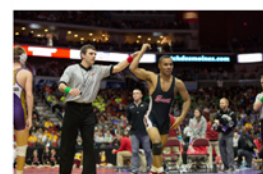
**Lincoln, Roosevelt Standouts Picked for Iowa Shrine Bowl**

Two Des Moines football standouts - Kendell Jackson of Roosevelt and Will McElvain of Lincoln - have been selected to play in the 2018 Iowa Shrine All-Star Football Classic. The game will be played Saturday, July 21, 2018 at the UNI Dome in Cedar Falls. Both soon-to-be graduates are heading off to college later this year to continue their education and football careers. Jackson is going to Iowa State University while McElvain is off to the University of Northern Iowa. [Read more about them and this recognition.](#)



**Wrestlers Earn Podium Spots at State Meet**

Wrestlers from East, Hoover/North, and Lincoln qualified for last week's state high school wrestling tournament at Wells Fargo Arena. For the Scarlets, three wrestlers qualified and all three finished on the podium, including Deville Dentis who was state runner-up at 138 pounds. And congratulations to the Rails' Nate Kahoe on a 7th place finish at 113 pounds. [See photos from the competition on the DMPS Flickr page.](#)



**UI Orchestra Pays a Visit, Gives a Performance at Lincoln**

Many thanks to the University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra for visiting Lincoln High School yesterday afternoon to share their music and talent with students. While we can't share the sounds, we have shared a story and some photos from Thursday afternoon in the Lincoln auditorium. [Click here to read and see more.](#)





WHAT'S TO EAT? VISIT OUR ONLINE SCHOOL MENUS



NEW SCHOOL HOURS: WHAT ABOUT PRESCHOOL?

In August, all schools at Des Moines Public Schools will have new hours. In TheWeek@DMPS we will be posting the answers to questions about what the change will mean for various programs and services at DMPS. This morning: what does this mean for preschool? Preschool classrooms located at elementary schools will follow the elementary bell times (7:30 AM - 2:25 PM). Preschool classrooms located in one of the district's four early learning centers will continue to use the current tiered schedule, which are set to accommodate parent drop off/pick up, parking and transportation. For more information, be sure to visit [schoolhours.dmschools.org](http://schoolhours.dmschools.org).

PHOTO GALLERIES OF THE WEEK



An All-School Slam at North

Cold outside - hot inside. It was a full-house Tuesday morning at North High School for an all-school poetry slam. We stopped by to take a few snaps and [share them on Flickr](#).



Chinese New Year at Walnut Street

Last Friday marked the Chinese New Year. At Walnut Street Elementary School - one of our IB schools that also teaches Chinese - [students and staff celebrated the Year of the Dog](#).

ICYMI: DMPS IN THE NEWS

Recent items in the news or online about or of interest to students, teachers and parents at Des Moines Public Schools:

- The Flex Academy operates at all high schools in Des Moines, a program to provide greater flexibility for students who might otherwise fall behind in a traditional school setting. **WHO-TV** recently visited Lincoln High School to talk with teachers and students about the difference the program is making, and how it helps more students make progress towards graduation. [Click here to see Channel 13's report](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 27

ACT Exam Day - 11th Grade Takes ACT Exam / No Classes for 9th, 10th, and 12th grades

February 28

No Classes for 11th Grade - All other students report to class as usual

March 9-16

Spring Break - No Classes (All Schools)

March 20

School Board Meeting - Central Campus multi-purpose room (6:00 PM)

TheWeek@DMPS is a recipient of the 2016 Award of Merit from the National School Public Relations Association.



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

FORWARD TO A FRIEND

It is the policy of the Des Moines Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you believe you (or your child) have been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact Anne Sullivan at 2323 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312 or 515-242-7709 or [anne.sullivan@dmschools.org](mailto:anne.sullivan@dmschools.org).

Des Moines Public Schools, 2100 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) {recipient's email}

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [theweek@dmschools.org](mailto:theweek@dmschools.org) in collaboration with



Try it free today