



August 30, 2018

Duncan Lake Connections

Principal's Corner:

Dear DLMS Students and Families –

It is with great honor and excitement that I introduce myself, Jaym Abraham, as the new Principal at Duncan Lake Middle School. My passion for education and supporting the success of all students has been shaped over the past 16 years as a high school social studies teacher, assistant principal, and principal in Wayland and Allegan Public Schools. In each of my roles, I have sought to ensure the success of each student and the school, and the entire school community as a whole.

Similarly, it is my number one priority at DLMS to ensure that every student receives the most well-rounded education possible. A well-rounded education means outstanding instruction from top-notch teachers, as well as extracurricular opportunities and supports that enable students to develop character, cultivate passions, and explore the world outside of the classroom. When considering the opportunities available to students, I often look to my own experiences and involvement in high school and college courses, athletics and clubs, study abroad programs, and volunteer efforts that helped to shape who I am today.

Through this shared commitment to learning, I am excited to see students engaged in the classroom, scoring the winning point on the field, performing in the musical, or any other area that peaks student interest and passion. Most importantly, an excellent education is not possible without the great collaboration of students, parents, and staff. Over the past few days, I have had the privilege of getting to know some of the amazing staff at DLMS, while also learning about the rich school history and success. One of the greatest takeaways from these conversations has been the immense enthusiasm and pride for the school and community. It is through that same enthusiasm and pride that I look forward to becoming an integral part of the community with my own family and working with each of you to continue the great successes at Duncan Lake Middle School.

I look forward to a great year ahead of us! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, and ideas that you would like to discuss.

Kind regards,
Jaym Abraham, Principal

New Policy:

Starting Wednesday September 5th, the school doors will remain locked until 7:00 AM. We encourage parents to drop off their children between 7:15 AM and 7:20 PM. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate call the office.

Attendance Reminder:

Parents, please notify the office no later than 9:00 AM with child absences. All absences must be reported to the office within 24 hours to be excused. To excuse your student either call the office at 616-891-1380 (and leave a message if it is non-school hours), email Mrs. Boyum at boyumc@calschools.org, or you may use the attendance link on our web page. <https://www.calschools.org/duncan-lake-ms/attendance>

Student Service Center:

Welcome to the 2018/2019 school year at DLMS! If your student takes any medication (prescription or non-prescription) during the school day, the medicine needs to be provided by you and dropped off to the SSC (Mrs. Price). Students are not to have any medication in their lockers, so it is important that those medications be delivered to Mrs. Price. She has a

Mission Statement:

In pursuit of excellence, Caledonia Community Schools will empower and equip all persons to achieve their best by ensuring the highest quality system for learning.

Important Reminders:

No school August 31 &
September 3

Please Note:

This list is NOT meant to be a complete list of all activities. The goals are to improve communications with parents and students by providing another avenue to highlight as many activities and events as possible.

**9757 Duncan Lake
Road
Caledonia, MI 49316**

**Phone:
(616) 891-1380**

**Fax:
(616) 891-0833**

**E-mail:
rittengerc@calschools.org**

We're on the Web!
www.calschools.org

locked cabinet for any prescription meds for students, and will label and distribute non-prescription meds based on your instructions. If you have any questions or concerns, you may email Mrs. Price at pricel@calschools.org. Thank you!!

Sports News:

CROSS COUNTRY: 6th, 7th & 8th Grade BOYS/GIRLS

STARTS on Tues. Sept. 4, 2018.

Practices are held every day after school @ Duncan Lake MS: 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

SIDELINE CHEERLEADING: 7th/8th Grade Girls:

Sideline Cheer Clinic: TUES. Sept. 4th

Time: 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

Where: DUNCAN LAKE MS (North Upper Balcony of Main Gym)

1-DAY of SIDELINE TRYOUTS: WED. Sept. 5th

Time: 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

Where: DUNCAN LAKE MS (North Upper Balcony of Main Gym)

VOLLEYBALL: 7th Grade Girls TRYOUTS:

STARTS: TUES. Sept. 4th – 7th

Where: KRAFT MEADOWS MS

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 pm.

A shuttle bus will be provided for the girls to ride over to Kraft Meadows for their tryouts/practices.

Sport attire: Gym Shorts, T-Shirt, Gym Shoes & Knee Pads.

VOLLEYBALL: 8th Grade Girls TRYOUTS:

STARTS: Tues. Sept. 4th – 7th

Where: DUNCAN LAKE MS (MAIN GYM)

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 pm.

Sport attire: Gym Shorts, T-Shirt, Gym Shoes & Knee Pads.

Students participating in middle school sports must have a Completed and Signed Physical form, Signed Athletic Code & \$75 Participation Fee paid BEFORE their First Practice/Tryout. When all their paperwork is turned in to the Athletic Office, the student will then receive a "PINK CARD" during his/her lunchtime on the First Day of Practice/Tryouts. The student will take their "PINK CARD" to the coach at their first Practice/Tryout. This signifies to the coach that the student is cleared to Practice/Tryout.

Enrichment News:

Enrichment Office - Elizabeth Alexander- 891-1380 x7502

Students at the middle school level are encouraged to pursue and enhance their talents and interests. Each year programs are offered to enrich and integrate academics. Available opportunities are published in the *DL Connection*, communicated through daily announcements and posted outside the Enrichment Office.

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY TABLES– Will start later this Fall! Watch for announcements.

This awesome program is available for students who want to stay after school to get homework completed or need additional study help. The Study Tables will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Before Students May Stay...parents must complete and return the *After School Study Table* form found in the Main Office or Enrichment Room **AND** your student must receive their confirmation from the Enrichment Room.

In working with our transportation department, we can provide after school busing for most of our in-district students. Most students will either catch a bus at Caledonia Elementary or ride the Kettle Lake shuttle and pick up a bus at Kettle Lake Elementary.

8TH HOUR PROGRAM –

Students sign up for fun classes that staff members and parent volunteers offer. It's a great program for our new 6th graders, the "new to Caledonia" students, the students who are not currently participating in a sport or club, and those students who just want to get involved! We can provide 8th hour busing for most of our in-district students.

8th Hour this year will start in October. Registration forms will be sent home later in September.

In the past, we've had offerings such as: chess, game table, cooking/sewing, fitness walking, book clubs, art club, weight lifting, yoga, knitting, card making, introduction to sign language, drawing, Pinterest Crafts, photography...This year's classes will depend on what

our current staff and parent volunteers plan to offer. If you have a hobby or passion you would like to share with our students, please contact Liz Alexander at alexandere@calschools.org

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY – Advisor Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander

NJHS is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship. NJHS website: www.njhs.us

National Junior Honor Society members will meet in September to select the committee they would like to work on for the 2018-19 school year.

Each year NJHS members are required to pay dues. The dues are \$15.00 and are used for academic achievement awards and recognition, new student welcome gifts, new member induction and service projects. **Please submit your \$15.00 dues in an envelope with the student's name on it to Mrs. Alexander in the Enrichment Room.**

6th grade is a qualifying year for NJHS. Students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average and participate in at least 6 hours of volunteer service for the community and/or schools to be invited to apply. **Current members must also maintain the 3.5 GPA and complete 6 hours of service for the year to remain members in good standing.**

STUDENT COUNCIL –

Duncan Lake Middle School has a Student Council. Our council's purpose statement is to be a positive influence in our school and community, promote spirit and participation, as well as provide an active student voice while representing the entire student body.

Focus Representatives are selected for each focus classroom in grades 6, 7 and 8. The Representatives are responsible for disbursing information from the Student Council to the student body and the student body to Student Council.

We will also select Vice Reps and Support Reps for each class. Other activities Student Council representatives might work on for the year include candy grams, Box Top collection, assemblies, Cancer Walk and school spirit events. Student Council meets at least once a month during focus as an entire council and on an "as needed" basis as activities and events are being planned.

Student Council Focus Rep Applications will be due September 20th to the student's focus teacher. Applications are available in the Main Office or by the Enrichment/Activities Room door.

DLMS Student Council Spirit Week will be October 1-5, 2018

**DLMS STUDENT STORE – Mrs. LaValley, Student Store Manager
Will be open on Thursdays starting September 20th!**

Mark your calendars because the **Student Store will be opening on THURSDAY, September 20th**. Come take a look at all of the exciting things and pick up some spirit wear to show your Cal pride for homecoming week! We offer new items almost weekly so that you never get bored! If you are looking for something specific, ask Mrs. LaValley.

We will be **open EVERY Thursday during all three lunch hours** unless announced otherwise.

Students interested in working in the student store need to pick up an application in the main office or by the Enrichment/Activities Office door. The deadline for applications will be **September 19th**. Only **6-8 students from each grade will be accepted to work**, so if this is something you are interested in doing please make sure to get your applications in early!

KIWANIS BUILDER'S CLUB – Advisor Elizabeth Alexander

Duncan Lake has a very active Kiwanis Builder's Club...What do we build? Leaders! Builder's Club provides leadership development and guidance and is a way for members to form sound personal values based on experiences in meaningful community-service activities. Our Builder's Club is a student lead organization. The members decide, with the assistance of the Advisors, what service projects they will "take on" throughout the school year.

All students are welcome to join the DLMS Builder's Club. We will meet once a month from 7:30 – 8:00 in the library. If your student is interested in attending have them come to the first meeting or stop in the Enrichment/Activities Office for more info. Builders Club meeting dates will always be shared over morning announcements.

NUMATS 2015-2016 – Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search
Students from 3rd-9th grade can access above grade level tests (9th Grade EXPLORE, SAT, ACT) and receive feedback and assistance in interpreting test results and planning your child's future education path. If you would like additional information, visit the MATS website at www.ctd.northwestern.edu or see Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander in the Enrichment Office for an information packet.

Sixth and seventh grade students who demonstrate exceptional ability in math or language arts on the NUMATS ACT or SAT tests *may* qualify for the Kent ISD Academically Talented Youth Program (ATYP). ATYP offers programs in math and language arts that allow students to work at an accelerated pace, depth, and breadth. Please contact Mrs. E. Alexander for more information.

Science Olympiad

Have you ever thought you'd like to be able to build an invention out of junk? Be able to solve a crime like on CSI? Build a catapult-like device or airplane? Study fossils or bugs? These and many other areas in science are explored in Science Olympiad. Better yet, at the end, you will compete against other middle schools to prove the Duncan Lake's team is the best! If this sounds interesting, pick up an application from Mrs. Alexander in the Enrichment/Activities Office.

We will be holding an informational meeting for parents and students at 6:30pm on October 4th at Duncan Lake. Come check it out! ***Please try to attend as important information will be shared.*** Registration forms will also be available outside the Enrichment/Activities Office door.

We are always in need of parent volunteers to coach. Please contact Mrs. Alexander at alexandere@icalschoools.org if you would be willing to help out.

Math Olympiad-

DLMS is hoping to have a Math Olympiad team again this year! The practices would begin in November. Registration forms will be sent home soon to students who have expressed interest already. Come to the Enrichment/Activities Office to pick up a registration form or see Mrs. Alexander if you haven't signed up yet, but would like to.

Pesticide Notice:

2018/2019 ADVISORY TO ALL PARENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Caledonia Community Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this are the district's efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, this program **does not** rely on routine pesticide applications to resolve problems. We use various techniques such as habitat alteration, sanitation, mechanical means, exclusion, etc. to prevent pest from becoming a problem.

As required by Michigan law, you will receive advanced notice of non-emergency application of a pesticide (insecticide, fungicide, or herbicide), other than bait or gel formulation, which is made to the school, school grounds, or buildings. This advance notice of a pesticide application will be given 48 hours before the application by the following two methods:

1. Posting at the primary entrances to your child's school. The entrances that will be posted are the main entrance and those that have a sidewalk that leads directly to a parking lot.
2. Posting in the common area located by the main office of the school.

Please note that notification is not given for use of sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants or anti-microbial cleaners. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be

promptly notified following any such application, via the two posting methods identified (above).

You may review the school's Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application upon request by contacting Jeff VanVolkinburg at 616-891-0225 or vanvolkinburgj@calschools.org.

Parents or guardians of children attending the school are also entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the application, if they so request. If you would like to be notified by mail, please contact Gary Delger, Director of Operations and/or Jennifer Osborn, Operations Secretary at the following number: 616-891-0225. Please give your name/ mailing address and what school(s) your child/children attend and they will put your name on the advance notification by US Mail list.

Please note that after the school year is completed and during the months when school is not in regular session (summer), those parents who requested advance notice by mail, will be notified using an alternative method consisting of a telephone message notification system. Parents and guardians may call 616-891-0225, at least 1 day before an application, for advance notification. The school will also continue posting advance notification at the school by the methods identified above.

Sincerely,
Gary Delger, Director of Operation

Community News:

Caledonia Resource Center

We have Classes starting this week and next week!

so if you were considering signing up, please do not delay :)

Remember that registering 7 days before some class starts, gets you the early bird discount on most classes!

You can do it easily online at www.inspiremenow.org

Click on the big blue register now button for all dates, times, costs and locations.

Thursday - August 30

Tai-Chi @ Caledonia Ele.

Tuesday - September 4

Hatha Vinyasa Yoga @ DLMS

Private Music Lessons for all ages @ DLMS

Thursday - September 6

Kids Yoga after school @ Emmons Lake Elem

Monday - September 10

Champion Force Cheer @ Caledonia Ele

Barre @ DLMS

POUND fitness @ DLMS

Tuesday - September 11

Power 30 @DLMS

Fitness RX @ DLMS

Open Pickle ball (must know how to play and own your own racquet)

Puppy & Dog Training @ DLMS

Intro to Longsword skills @ KMMS

Fitness Line Dancing @ Caledonia Ele

Make your case - Intro to Law @ DLMS

Wednesday - September 12

Green Smoothies @ DLMS

Thursday - September 13

Power 30@ DLMS

Pickle ball - Open Play (must know how to play and own your own racquet)

Fitness Fusion @DLMS

WERQs @ Caledonia Elem.

Longsword level 2 - military saber @ KMMS

You can do it easily online at www.inspiremenow.org

Click on the big blue register now button for all dates, times and locations