Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. It is hard to believe that we are in the 2nd quarter of the school year already. We have had a wonderful start of this school year. However, our year is not without mistakes. At Davis we try to look at mistakes as a chance to learn and grow as a person. This is true for our staff, you as a parent, and for our students. We will continue to strive for excellence in the teaching and learning we are providing at Davis throughout this school year. Your continued support and guidance are needed and appreciated in the education of your child. I know we will succeed with what we do in the remaining three quarters of this school year.

Many students go above and beyond expectations each day at Davis Middle School. They are truly 212 students in our four B philosophy: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Inclusive. We see students soaring above each and every day at Davis Middle School. With the 1st quarter behind us, I think it is appropriate to highlight some areas where some students are failing to meet the expectations of the school.

**Be Safe:** Keeping hands to self, getting enough sleep at night, putting items like coats in lockers once in the school, not wearing a hood while in the school.

**Be Responsible:** Arrive to class on time and prepared for the lesson with materials needed, engaging in the lesson, completing course work on time and with best effort the first time, follow the electronic expectations of the school, and remember Davis is a gum free school.

**Be Respectful:** Respond to re-direction from adults, treat others the way you would like to be treated, and do not engage in conflict.

**Be Inclusive:** Engage in group work in class, include others, do not judge or tease others that may be different than you.

Davis is a Middle School that strives to provide education to all students that allow them to become the best versions of themselves. We embrace this challenge and strive for a great rest of the 2019-20 school year. Last quarter we had a football team that won the city championship! Our volleyball team was city champ runners-up, and a cross county athlete (in 7th grade) who was an individual city champ. We can learn much from these athletes. I have learned that with hard work and dedication anything is possible!

The Tuskegee Airmen also aim high, never quit, are ready to go, expect to win, believe in themselves, and use their brain. At Davis I urge you all to make this your priority for the rest of this school year and we will SOAR ABOVE. We will soar to a level that we never thought possible. Remember Davis is where a student's future takes off!

Sincerely,

Dan Bartels - Principal

Alfonza W. Davis Middle School
Home of the Aviators
8050 N 129th Ave.
Omaha, NE 68142
Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 25       PTO Meeting in Library - 7:00pm
Nov. 27-29    Thanksgiving Recess
Dec. 6        One Act Plays - 6:30pm
Dec. 10       Band & Strings Concert/Bookstore open - 6:30pm
Dec. 12       Chorus Concert/Bookstore open - 6:30pm
Dec. 16       PTO Meeting in Library - 7:00pm
Dec. 20       2nd Quarter Ends
Dec. 23- Jan. 3    Winter Recess
Jan. 6        Semester Break/Teacher Planning Day - No Students
Jan. 7        3rd Quarter Begins
Jan. 16       Open House - 6:00pm (Incoming 6th Grade)
Jan. 20       Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 27       PTO Meeting in Library—7:00pm
Feb. 17       Presidents’ Day
Feb. 24       PTO Meeting in Library—7:00pm
Feb. 27       Middle School Conferences (No School)
Feb. 28       Teacher Planning Day—No Students
Mar. 6        Third Quarter Ends
Mar. 9-13     Spring Recess

*******************************************************************************

GET CAUGHT READING IN 2019-2020!

The “Get Caught Reading” program that began at Davis Middle School in 2016 will continue this school year - starting September 3, 2019.

Students can earn a “Get Caught Reading” slip when they choose to read a book or a magazine at an APPROPRIATE time.

Students fill out the “Get Caught Reading” slips and place them in the “Get Caught Reading” box in the Davis Library. Each week Mrs. Moriarty (school librarian) will pull names from the box. Winners’ names will be announced then students may go to the library workroom to the prize cupboard and select a book to KEEP.

Questions can be directed to: Kimberly.moriarty@ops.org or you may call 531-299-8066
**Classroom News...**

**Social Studies (6th Grade)** is moving right along into our Ancient Greece unit! We will be learning all about the Ancient Greeks geography, government, and way of life! We will compare the two famous cities of Athens and Sparta and then study how Ancient Greece contributes to the modern world!

**October-November**

Things are cruising along for **6th Grade English Language Arts** students. We just finished our first book project for 1st quarter and are focusing on text dependent analysis! For our second quarter book project we are working on a flip book project where the kids get to design their own book cover and work on summarizing the chapters in their book!

They will have a writing research assignment on different kinds of phobias. Students will be able to choose and research a phobia of their choice and share it with the class. They will also begin to learn how to cite resources so that they don't plagiarize!

Our next adventure is our unit called Animal Intelligence where we will get to learn about the various animal groups and how they communicate with each other. The objective of this unit focuses on how a character is able to describe how a character responds and changes as well as their ability to analyze the point of view in a short story!

**In Math** we are starting Unit 3 which is computing with multi-digit numbers. This unit will be followed by our fraction unit both units should be done by winter break.

**6th Grade Challenge Math** students just finished up their unit on statistical questions and are now beginning their second project by designing and creating a unique cereal box for our unit on surface area and volume.

**6th Grade Science** students are finishing up thermal energy which includes the movement of heat by conduction, convection, and radiation.

The second quarter students will be studying the weather, water cycle, and climate. Students will study weather patterns and possibly use tornado tubes as an experiment to learn about a vortex.

Students will continue to learn about different tools used in the classroom. This includes how to use basic tools like a thermometer or ruler. They will also continue to use classroom tools like a triple beam balance and hanging spring scale.
More Classroom News...

**7th Grade Challenge Math**

Students are finishing up their probability unit. During this unit, they designed and built working carnival games. Data was collected at the carnival we hosted at school so students could solve the probability of winning their game.

**Pre-Algebra**

Students hit the ground running covering fractions, decimals and real numbers. They recently started equations. They’ll be focusing on one and two-step equations until the end of second quarter. Job well done 8th graders!

**Physical Science - Dr. Temple - SAVE the DATE:**

- Science Fair Essays DUE: Monday, December 2
- Science Fair Projects DUE: Monday, December 16
- Science Fair will be held in the GYM on Wednesday, December 18, 3:30-5:00pm

**Social Studies - Mr. Steward**

Students are currently focusing on the Bill of Rights. In class they are making posters of each Bill and drawing pictures that go with the laws.

**Language Arts - Mrs. Hall**

We are currently studying a horror unit. We just read "The Tell-Tale Heart" in class last week. This week we are reading "Frankenstein". Students recently finished their class novel called, "The Shadow Club". Soon they will be tested over this material. Unit 2 has a lot of focus on unreliable narrators and whether we can trust what they are saying.

**Honors Language Arts –Mrs. Fendrick - Connections Project**

Students in Mrs. Fendrick’s 8th grade honors language arts class are working on a feature news writing unit. They interviewed Omaha newcomers in Mrs. Wray’s ELL class. The honor students will write articles about their ELL partners, receive feedback, and publish their work in an in-house booklet. The Connections Project booklet will include original art and photos. A school display case will also showcase the project.
Fall Sports and Activities (First Season) Wrap-up

We have concluded our first sports season and are going strong with our second season. Here are a few of the athletics/activities we would like to recognize:

**Volleyball**

The Varsity and JV Volleyball teams coached by Megan Salcedo, Danielle Douglas and Tonya Sandoval made great improvements throughout the season finishing with a 10-3 varsity record. The team completed the season as the City Runner-Up after appearing in their 3rd straight City Championship game. The JV team also played well throughout the season finishing with a record of 8-4. Congratulations to the Volleyball teams on their successful seasons.

**Cross Country**

The Boys and Girls Cross Country teams coached by Jennie Meyer, Ryan Baldwin, Craig Hendrix and volunteer Cohl Gottschalk got stronger each meet with many fantastic finishes. The season culminated at the City meet held at Bryan Middle where Davis had two runners place in their top 10 in division. 7th grader Sama Muse won the 7th grade girls division as the Girls finished 7th overall and Reggie York finished in 8th place pacing the 8th grade boys team in a 6th place finish. The 7th grade Boys team finished 5th overall and the 8th grade Girls finished in 9th place. Congratulations for a fantastic year for Davis Cross Country!

**Football**

The Davis football teams both completed outstanding seasons. The JV team coached by Chris Johnson, Phillip Medeiros, and Andre Waller finished with a record of 4-0-1 and improved each week throughout the season. The Varsity team coached by Chad Sturek, Chris Boro and Drew Kortlever finished 6-0 winning the City Championship against King Science. This is the second City Championship the varsity team has won in the school's short history of six varsity seasons. Congratulations to both football teams on undefeated seasons.

**Drama**

The Drama Club performed their Fall Play on Friday October 11th. Cinderella in New York was a great success that entertained the crowd throughout the entire show. The Drama Club is now working on a One Act Play Game of Tiaras which they will perform at Prairie Wind and Saddlebrook Elementary Schools in Preparation for the performance at Davis on Friday December 6th. Keep up the great work Drama Club!
Winter Sports and Activities (Second Season)

Robotics

Mr. Shawn Murray and Mrs. Allison Gregg and our robotics teams are preparing for tournaments looking to follow up a very successful 2018/2019 year. Davis will host a robotics tournament on Saturday, January 25th. Good Luck Robotics!

Girls Swimming

Girls Swimming season is underway and has already competed in meets and had strong showings against Monroe and King Science. The Girls and Coaches Lisa Ostbye and Phillip Schorg plan on having another outstanding season. The team has depth and shows promise for a great showing at the City Meet which will be held at Burke High School on Friday, November 22nd, for the 7th graders and Monday, November 25th, for the 8th graders. Good Luck as your season continues Girls Swimming!

Boys Basketball

Boys Basketball finished tryouts on October 23rd and have been working hard to prepare for their first game on November 5th at Beveridge. The Varsity and JV teams coached by Craig Hendrix, Andre Waller, Phillip Medeiros, Drew Kortlever and volunteer Cohl Gottschalk are coming off of a City Runner-Up season but hope to finish as City Champions this year. There are many returning starters and a group of new players who will make Davis a contender. Good Luck Boys Basketball!

Remember to checkout our Website for up-to-date info: davis.ops.org

There are many students involved in activities and events throughout the school year. We understand that all these activities take hard work and sacrifice from the students and families. Thanks for all of your support in our success. I am excited to see the growth our students have shown so far this year and look forward to the progress as the year continues.
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 Omaha Public Schools. 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 interests of all levels of learners. Students are expected to develop self-discipline by meeting deadlines, asking questions, and acquiring organizational and study skills as they strive to become both independent and successful at the middle level and beyond.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, December 7—Davis Quiz Bowl
- Tuesday, December 10—Think Tank
- Saturday, December 14—Omaha North Robotics
- Wednesday, December 18—Davis Science Fair
- Saturday, January 11—Benson Robotics
- Saturday, January 18—McMillan Robotics
- Saturday, February 1—Science Bowl
- Saturday, February 1—All City
- Saturday, February 1—African American History Challenge
- Saturday, February 1—Beveridge Robotics
- Saturday, February 22—Norris Quiz Bowl
- Thursday, February 27—Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Saturday, February 29—Science Olympiad @ the Zoo
- Saturday, February 29—Destination Imagination @ Davis

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.
Notes from the Health Office

FLU Season is Coming!

The “flu” also known as Influenza is a very contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus. It starts around November and is usually seen up through March. It can be mild in nature or very severe, requiring hospitalization. It is different from a cold in that is usually comes on suddenly. Common symptoms of the flu are as follows:

- Fever or feeing feverish with chills (not everyone will have a fever)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Muscle and body aches
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Children may have vomiting or diarrhea

Flu is spread to others up to 6 feet away by droplets when a person sneezes, coughs or talks. It may also be spread through touching surfaces with the flu virus and touching your mouth, nose, or eyes. Washing hands or using alcohol-based hand rub is the single best method for preventing the spread of the flu.

OPS Guidelines of **When to Keep your Student Home Due to Illness**:  

- Temperature of 100 degrees or higher and must be fever free for 24 hours  
- Vomiting or diarrhea within last 24 hours  
- Red eye with purulent drainage  
- And undiagnosed rash/skin lesion (Need M.D. note stating rash is not contagious)  
- Questionable illness or injury which appears to require evaluation by a Health Care Provider  
- Students with Confirmed Strep are to take medications for 24 hours prior to returning to school

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

**Health Office Activities:**  
Starting in November 2019, the Health Office will be performing health screening on current 7th grade students. Health Screening includes, Height/Weight, BMI, hearing, vision and dental screening.
State and District Testing 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Who</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAP Testing - Initial</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Reading, Math and Science</td>
<td>6th, 7th and 8th grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAP Testing – Check Point</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>Reading, Math and Science</td>
<td>6th, 7th and 8th grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSCAS – NWEA testing</td>
<td>Late March - April</td>
<td>Reading, Math and Science</td>
<td>6th, 7th and 8th grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Testing</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Reading, Math and Science</td>
<td>6th, 7th and 8th grade</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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.youtube.com/watch?v=BN69zH5d1-A)

Parent Link to understanding MAP: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BN69zH5d1-A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BN69zH5d1-A)

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**N.I.C.E. (Native Indigenous Centered Education)**

Dear Parents and Students, (Cama’i) Welcome back!

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 (Alutiq, Aleut)
Native Indigenous Centered Education Teacher
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-2 Days). This is considered Chronic Absenteeism.

Every year, school absences spike in the weeks before and after break, as families squeeze in a few more days of vacation out of the holiday season. Let's break the cycle. Make sure your child is in school every day because the best gift you can give your child is a good education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minutes late per day or Early out per day</th>
<th>Learning time lost in a year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Minutes</td>
<td>2.07 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Minutes</td>
<td>4.14 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Minutes</td>
<td>6.21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Minutes</td>
<td>8.28 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Minutes</td>
<td>12.43 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 Minutes</td>
<td>24.86 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION 2020-2021

The Student Assignment Plan allows eighth grade students an opportunity to attend any OPS High School beginning with their 9th grade year, providing space is available. Students are guaranteed placement at their home attendance area high school if this school is selected in January.

TRANSPORTATION:
Please note that students may be eligible to receive transportation to some, not all high schools. Students who change school placement after the selection process has been completed may not be eligible to receive transportation.

OPEN HOUSE: Before making your selection, we suggest attending the Open Houses held at the high schools. The schedule is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benson High</td>
<td>5120 Maple St.</td>
<td>Jan. 21, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beryan High</td>
<td>4700 Giles Road</td>
<td>Jan. 09, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke High</td>
<td>12200 Burke Blvd.</td>
<td>Jan. 14, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central High</td>
<td>124 North 20th St.</td>
<td>Jan. 11, 2020</td>
<td>2:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North High</td>
<td>4410 North 36th St.</td>
<td>Jan. 12, 2020</td>
<td>2:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest High</td>
<td>8204 Crown Pt. Ave.</td>
<td>Jan. 23, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South High</td>
<td>4519 South 24th St.</td>
<td>Jan. 14, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL SELECTION: Every 8th grade student will receive a selection form from his/her middle school in early January 2020. Every student must return his/her selection form to their middle school by January 29, 2020. Students will register for high school classes at their current middle schools in March.

Please call the Student Placement Office at 531-299-0302 if you have questions.

SELECCIÓN DE PREPARATORIA 2020-2021

La Plan de Asignación Estudiantil permite a los estudiantes de 8vo grado asistir a cualquiera de las preparatorias de OPS a partir del 9º grado, siempre cuando haya espacio disponible. Se les garantiza a los estudiantes cupo en la escuela preparatoria de su área de domicilio si esta escuela fue seleccionada en enero.

TRANSPORTE:
Por favor tenga en cuenta que los estudiantes pueden ser elegibles para recibir transporte para algunas, pero no todas las preparatorias. Los estudiantes que cambien de escuela después de que el proceso de selección se haya completado, pueden no ser elegibles para recibir el transporte.

CASA ABIERTA: Antes de hacer su selección, le sugerimos que asista a la “Open Houses” de las preparatorias. El horario es:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benson High</td>
<td>5120 Maple St.</td>
<td>21 de enero, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan High</td>
<td>4700 Giles Road</td>
<td>09 de enero, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke High</td>
<td>12200 Burke Blvd.</td>
<td>4 de enero, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central High</td>
<td>124 North 20th St.</td>
<td>11 de enero, 2020</td>
<td>2:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North High</td>
<td>4410 North 36th St.</td>
<td>12 de enero, 2020</td>
<td>2:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest High</td>
<td>8204 Crown Pt. Ave.</td>
<td>23 de enero, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South High</td>
<td>4519 South 24th St.</td>
<td>14 de enero, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SELECCIÓN DE ESCUELA: A finales de enero del 2020, todo estudiante de 8vo grado recibirá un formulario de selección, en su secundaria. Cada estudiante deberá de regresar el formulario de selección a su escuela secundaria antes del 29 de enero del 2020. En marzo, los estudiantes se inscribirán a las clases de preparatoria en su actual escuela.