



Greetings to our DMS Community!

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR FALL 2018 STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

We are nearing the time for student-led conferences that are scheduled to take place on October 11th and 16th. Please view the attachment for additional information about conferences and to sign up online.

SCHOOL CULTURE

This year you'll notice a strong presence around the building about our school culture, or in other words, the way we do things around here. This has been summed up with three pillars: COMMUNITY. EMPATHY. PURPOSE. We will be spending a lot of time this year referencing these core values because when we focus on them, our culture thrives.

Take every day as opportunity TO BE YOUR BEST SELF and do the right thing....even when no one is watching.

We are glad you are part of Dodge Middle School. Let's make it a great year! #ShowYourStripes



To further enhance our school community every student and staff member will have a T-shirt ordered through the school. Students will indicate their size preference through Tiger Connections. **We are asking for a contribution of \$5.00 to help defray the cost of the shirt.** This can be sent with your child to give to their Tiger Connections teacher or you can log into your FeePay account and add that to your cart for checkout. All students will receive a shirt regardless of ability to pay the \$5.00. We are excited about strengthening the student experience and our culture at Dodge Middle School. Thank you for your support!

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK

4 ICONS. 4 YOU. 4 FREE

Order a yearbook and personalize the cover with a name, crest or monogram. When you do, you get up to four free cover icons of your choice. **Offer ends Friday, September 14, 2018. Click [here](#) to order.**

DMS SPIRIT WEEK – SEPTEMBER 17th – 21st

Let's show our DMS spirit in honor of Homecoming with dress-up days.

Monday: America Day
Tuesday: Jersey Day
Wednesday: Neon Day
Thursday: Hat Day



Friday: Tiger Pride

ACTIVITY EVENT AT DMS – THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH

We invite students to join us for our first Activity Event of the year! This student only, fun event takes place from 2:30 to 4:30 at DMS. The cost is \$5.00 and there will be concessions available for purchase. These events offers games, music and dancing and so much more! Watch for posters in the hallway and announcements on Schoology for more information.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY: FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

Is your middle school student interested in engineering? Middle school teams will be forming, starting at our first after school meeting. DMS and BMS will meet together for this activity.

- Location: DMS
- Starts: Monday, **September 24, 2:35-4:15** → Ends: **Late January**
- BMS students may ride the activity shuttle bus to DMS. It leaves from the north doors immediately after school. Parents may pick up students at pool doors at DMS.
- Registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/Njma9IMyS6cSFPsn1>

Students in this competition have a blast working as a team to imagine and then build a city engineered to meet the needs of a community **100 years in the future**. Participants complete five deliverables: a virtual city design (using SimCity); a 1,500-word city essay; a scale model; a project plan, and a presentation to judges at the MN Regional Competition in January.

Future City starts with a question—how can we make the world a better place? To answer it, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future that showcase their solution to a citywide sustainability issue. **The 2018-2019 theme is The Resilient-City**. Teams will *design a resilient power grid for their future city that can withstand and quickly recover from the impacts of a natural disaster*.

Future City takes commitment from its participants. We meet mostly on Mondays, September through December, and then more often in January to prepare for the competition. There is no cost to participate. Families will be able to support students with a few low-cost supplies when model cities are being built. Students can learn more from fliers and promotions in each middle school and through Schoology student announcements.

Questions? Contact Mrs. Ammerman kammerman@farmington.k12.mn.us or 651.460.1458

PICTURE RETAKE DAY IS FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH

If you want your student to have their picture retaken simply return the original package on Picture Retake Day. If you missed Schedule/Picture Day this summer please plan to have your picture taken on Friday, September 29th. Order forms are available in the office and more information can be found at MYLIFETOUCH.COM – DMS Picture Day ID: MI628039Y1

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!



We have launched our own Twitter account for the latest updates from Dodge Middle School. This is a great way to stay in touch with all of the great things happening in a way that is convenient for our parents. We encourage you to follow us on Twitter @DodgeTigers and look forward to growing our fan base!

MEET THE SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Jennifer Hogan, School Counselor (A-K)
651-460-1598
jhogan@farmington.k12.mn.us

Glee Slater, School Counselor (L-Z)
651-460-1599
gslater@farmington.k12.mn.us

As school counselors, we are here to serve as advocates for your student. Feel free to call or email with any questions or concerns about the education and well-being of your child.

STUDENT GROUPS

As part of the School Counseling program, we offer support groups that students have the option to join. Topics include; ADHD, Anger Management, Anxiety, Boys’ Group, Change to Chill, Family Changes, Girls’ Group, and Grief and Loss. Groups meet during the school day on a rotating schedule, so students do not miss too much of one class. Student support groups will be starting in late fall, and vary in length.

If you do NOT want your child to participate, please inform the counselors; otherwise, we will assume we have your permission for their participation.



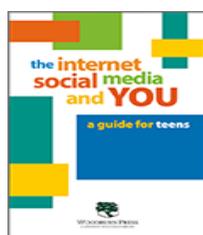


SchoolShelf is a web-based program that provides students, parents/guardians, and school staff instant access to hundreds of materials covering topics such as academic success, student development, parent involvement, and college and career.

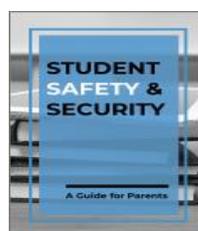
Dodge Middle School is excited to offer this valuable resource from Woodburn Press to our students and parents/guardians. The 6th grade Transitions class will be utilizing some of the resources, and we encourage you to use them at home as well.

Access SchoolShelf through the following URL: <http://www.schoolshelf.com/982010-levi-p-dodge>

New resources in SchoolShelf this year:

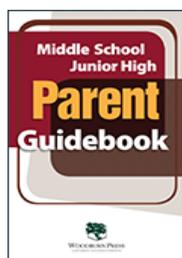


(Located in the Student Development Section)



(Located in the Parent involvement section)

Two of our favorite books are:



(Located in the Parent Involvement section)



(Located in the Student Development section)

FAMILY WEB ACCESS & SCHOLOGY

FWA (Family Web Access) allows parents to access information for grades, attendance and information to student progress.

Schoology helps parents communicate with their student's team of teachers, access assignments, projects and much more. We encourage every family at Dodge Middle School to have both accounts to fully support your student in their learning.

[Please click HERE to learn more or contact our office at 651-460-1500 with any questions you may have.](#)

PARENT AMBASSADORS

We are excited for what the 2018-2019 school year has in store for our students, teachers, staff and parents at Dodge Middle School! Our first meeting is set for September 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center at DMS.



The Parent Ambassadors consists of parents and staff working together to provide a greater understanding of how we can support young adolescents to the fullest. Parent ambassadors work to support positive communication between school and our Dodge Community by providing a forum for information on middle level education.

Our approach is vastly different than the elementary in that we work to help build a stronger understanding of the middle school years and not on fundraising and volunteering. Rest assured the time commitment is significantly less!

We are looking forward to another fabulous school year at Dodge Middle School! Please feel free to contact Chris Bussmann, Principal with any questions you may have!

Enjoy the last days of summer!

Chris Bussmann, Principal

DID YOU KNOW?

ATTENDANCE LINE: 651-460-1505

If a student will be absent, a parent/guardian must call Dodge Middle School's attendance line at 651-460-1505 between 7:00 AM and 8:15 AM each day of the absence. We ask that parents/guardians provide the reason for the absence at the time they call. The school determines if the absence falls within the excused or unexcused parameters. If the school does not receive a call from the parent/guardian the day of the absence, the student's absence is automatically unexcused. To request a pre-excused absence, a parent/guardian needs to complete the online "[Request to Waive Unexcused Status of Absence](#)" form (a link to the form is provided here).

You can access this link by visiting the Dodge Middle School webpage and clicking on the green icon located on the bottom right of the page titled "Pre-Arranged Absence". Below is the image of the icon on the DMS website:



Please note that the form should be submitted at least 5 school days in advance of the absence.

ASSIGNMENTS & HOMEWORK SHORTCUTS

We've created a shortcut for you to view your child's weekly assignments and homework that are maintained in a Google Doc organized by grade level houses.

You can access these shortcuts by visiting the Dodge Middle School webpage and clicking on the yellow icon located on the bottom right of the page titled "Assignments". Below is an image of the icon on the DMS website:



You can also click [HERE](#).

The most recent information is located at the top of the document while past week's information can be viewed by scrolling down the document. This information is also present through Schoology.

Should you have a need to access specific assignments, please use your Parent Schoology Access Code or have your



student visit the specific course in Schoology. Questions related to specific assignments should be directed to your student's teacher.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 18th: Parent Ambassador Meeting @ 6:00 pm in the Media Center
- Sept: 21st: Homecoming Football Game @ FHS
- Sept: 27th: Activity Night @ DMS in the gyms, 2:30pm to 4:30pm
- Sept. 29th: Picture Retake Day
- Oct. 1st: Fall Fund Raiser Kick-Off
- Oct. 11th: 2-Hour Early Release
Student-Led Conferences, 12:30pm to 7:15pm
- Oct. 12th: Flex Learning Day
- Oct. 16th: Student-Led Conferences, 2:30pm to 7:15pm
- Oct. 18th & 19th: NO SCHOOL – State Teacher’s Convention

COMMUNITY RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

We are always updating the [Community Resources page](#) on our website with new events and actives that support our Farmington community. Click to learn more!

FARMINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOLS INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

Register online at: www.farmingtonCE.com or call (651) 460-3200 for more information.