

THE WEEK @ DMPS

January 10, 2020

Welcome to the end of the first full school week of 2020. And a reminder that the next two weeks are shortened: there are no classes next Thursday and Friday for professional development time for our teachers, and no classes on Monday, January 20 in observance of MLK Day. This morning we have some big news about a new partnership between DMPS and Des Moines Parks & Rec, share the perspective of teachers about the EL Curriculum that began this year at elementary schools, and feature our new Places Academy and its work to help even more people earn their high school diploma. Be sure to read on for these stories and more.

WHAT'S TO EAT? VISIT OUR ONLINE SCHOOL MENUS

STORIES ABOUT OUR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

Scholarship Programs Makes More Activities Accessible to All

Some big news this week with our partners at Des Moines Parks and Recreation as we work to expand youth services in the community and have more students involved in an extracurricular activity by the time they complete fifth grade. Students enrolled at DMPS, who qualify for free and reduced meals, can opt-in to register for Parks and Recreation youth sports and swim lessons for just \$5. This program is available to thousands of students. [Click here to learn more, including how to take part in the program.](#)



DMPS Adds a Special PLACE With New Academy

DMPS has created a special place to help more people earn their high school diploma. Partnering with Des Moines Area Community College, United Way, Iowa Employment Solutions, and the Iowa Department of Education, the PLACE Academy serves former DMPS students between the ages of 21-25 who aged out of traditional high school, giving them a second chance at becoming a high school graduate. [Click here to read more about this exciting new initiative.](#)



EL Curriculum at Work in Support of School Board Goals

Last summer the School Board adopted a set of SMART goals that included improving reading by third grade. When the 2019-20 school year began, K-5 teachers at DMPS had a new curriculum that promises to be a major tool in improving elementary reading proficiency. [Read and hear what teachers have to say](#) about the EL Curriculum, and the change they are seeing in their classrooms.



A Community Stadium? DMPS Has Been There Before

As DMPS and Drake University consider a community stadium, we share a trip down memory lane about how an important site in the history of baseball ended up with the school district. We look back at Holcomb Park, the site of baseball's first night game and current location of North High's Grubb Stadium, and how it came to be a part of DMPS. [Click here to read and see more.](#)



Mark Your Calendar: DMPS Foundation OneRun on April 25

It's not too early to mark your calendar for a big event for the DMPS Foundation. Their 2nd annual OneRun is a district-wide fundraiser for the participating K-8 schools of Des Moines Public Schools. This 2nd annual two-mile fun run is on Saturday, April 25 and will begin and end near the Des Moines Botanical Center. [Click here to learn more about the event and sign up today!](#)



PARENTS: BE SURE TO CHECK THE VIRTUAL BACKPACK

LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS MONDAY. JOIN CLAT TODAY!

The Iowa General Assembly starts their 2020 session on Monday. Of the many issues they consider, public education is one of the most important. Want to make a difference? Join the DMPS Community Legislative Action Team. Parents and other supporters of our public schools in Des Moines advocate for the needs of our students, teachers and schools, and give a voice to why state support for education is critical. [Visit our CLAT web site to learn more and join the effort.](#)

You're invited to our first monthly legislative coffee of 2020 tomorrow. Join school district leaders and parents for a discussion with local legislators. This month's legislative coffee gets underway at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning at Brubaker Elementary School (2900 East 42nd Street).



GREAT JOBS. ALWAYS HIRING. VISIT [JOBS.DMSCHOOLS.ORG](https://jobs.dmschools.org)

PHOTOS AND VIDEO OF THE WEEK



VP Biden Visits McKinley Elementary

DMPS appreciates the unique opportunity the Iowa presidential caucuses provide for candidates to visit our schools. Last Saturday night former Vice President Joe Biden held a town hall in the gym at McKinley Elementary School. [See more on Instagram.](#)

EL Curriculum Making a Difference

The new EL Curriculum was introduced this school year for grades K-5. DMPS-TV talked with several educators to get their reaction, what's new with EL, and how it's making a difference. [Click here to see more on the DMPS-TV YouTube channel.](#)

ICYMI: DMPS IN THE NEWS

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

- Do we have a great staff, or what? **WOI-TV** shares the story of the Pehlic family, who one morning this week presented bus driver Tammy "Tete" Simmons with a gift to say thank you for the care she gives to their son Sanel, a special needs student at DMPS. Spoiler alert: it's heartwarming. [Click here to see Channel 5's report.](#)
- We shared above the announcement this week by DMPS and Des Moines Parks & Rec of a new program to help make sports more accessible and affordable for thousands of students. Both **KCCI-TV** and **WHO-TV** covered the big news. [Click here for Channel 8's report](#) and [click here for Channel 13's report.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 11

Monthly Legislative Coffee - Brubaker Elementary (9:00 AM) - [click here for more info](#)

January 16-17

Professional Development Days - No Classes (except Downtown School)

January 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No Classes (all schools)

January 21

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

WINTER SPORTS

Basketball/Bowling/Boys Swimming/Wrestling - [visit activities.dmschools.org](http://visit.activities.dmschools.org) for schedules

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