

WE ARE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES #TEAMGORILLA A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE DAVENPORT

Winter Newsletter 2024

You **BELONG** Here: 640 Students (TK-12)!

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! Our theme this year centers on creating a sense of belonging for every student, staff member, and parent/guardian associated with our school and community. This year we have **640 (TK-12)** students who absolutely **BELONG** in our schools. It has been a great school year so far. Our growth is unprecedented, and for the second year in a row, we are the biggest we have ever been in our district's history. To put it in perspective, we are up almost 115 students over the past three years. We are monitoring and adjusting as we navigate our new normal; for example, we hired an additional third-grade teacher to help keep class sizes small. Families continue to move here because of our amazing community and strong school system. We are grateful for your continued support! **We are ALL Davenport!**



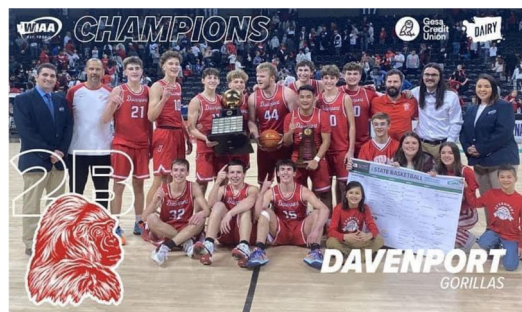
In the **HISTORY** Books: Two Program Firsts in School History

We would be remiss if we did not highlight two programs, their outstanding kids, the coaches and advisors who led these endeavors, and the amazing community support each group received during their pursuit of excellence!



It is not every day or every 50 years that we get to recognize something like this in our school and community. It is with great pride that we recognize our **FIRST** ever **FFA National Qualifying and Silver Award Placing Team!** Mr. Hargrave had a dream when he took over our FFA program a little over ten years ago, and that was to help a group of kids represent our great school and community for the first time at the National FFA convention! And that they did in November 2023!

Secondly, Davenport celebrated our school's **FIRST** ever **Boys State High School Basketball Championship** team this past school year. It was an incredible run that saw the community swell with pride and support, which culminated in the state title game at the Spokane Arena. The sea of red in the stands that evening and the line of cars that traveled home on Highway 2 bumper-to-bumper will forever live in lore, and is the epitome of what small towns stand for, representing our youth and each other with great pride and joy! This journey started for the majority of these kids when they were in the 2nd grade. Add in a few newcomers to the mix, and you have a recipe for something special. Never underestimate the power of teamwork, hard work, and togetherness!



www.davenportsd.org

PEOPLE making a difference

Meet our new staff!

#GORILLAFAMILY

We have a number of new faces in our schools, and we sure hit a home-run this year! We have added some really talented people who have our students' best interest at heart! They have fully embraced the "Davenport Way" and strive every day to make a positive impact on the students and community they serve.



Sydney Abbott
(Student Assistance Specialist)



Kristy Mielke
(Bus Driver)



Becky Hansen
(MS/HS STEM)



Dain Harden
(YES Officer)



Emily Mendoza
(3rd grade Teacher)



Michelle Overmyer
(Bus Driver)



Julie Spears
(Custodian)

Youth Engagement Specialist: YES Officer

The Davenport School District in partnership with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office were able to provide a School Resource Officer for the 2023-2024 school year. Officer Dain Harden has been a tremendous asset to our school and community. He hit the ground running and hasn't looked back. Not only does Dain help give us peace of mind knowing he is roaming our campus to help keep our kids and staff safe, but he has also gone the extra mile in building meaningful relationships with our students and staff. He truly embodies the Youth Engagement Specialist part of his title. Often you can find him playing basketball or football with the students or sitting and chatting with them in the hallways and/or at the lunch table. He has also been in the classroom teaching valuable lessons on safety, such as before Halloween to our TK kiddos. Officer Harden's position is funded fully by our Educational Programs & Operations Levy (EP&O) (formerly called Maintenance and Operations levy). The state does not give us any additional funding for a School Resource Officer. We have a tentative contract agreement with the LCSO for three-years. This partnership has been outstanding! We cannot thank Sheriff Gants and our Lincoln County Commissioners for this opportunity.



After School Studies: Amazing Support

Did you know that the Davenport School District offers students extra time & support after school? We have an amazing team of educators available to help students get caught up on their day-to-day tasks or to just receive a little extra assistance with any concepts that may be causing confusion. If your child needs extra help, please reach out to the elementary, middle school, or high school office secretary to learn more. The dream team of Mrs. Slahtasky, Mrs. Choate, Mrs. Woodland, Mrs. Telford, Mrs. Van Buren, Mrs. Wilson, Ms. Johnston, and Mrs. Cormier is ready to meet our students' needs!



Community Connections

Putting our theme into action!

So far this year, our elementary school has hosted two outstanding events that brought some special DUDES & exceptional MISSES into the buildings to share a pastry and warm drink with their little gorillas. The turnout for these two events was outstanding; we appreciate the community's support as we continue to look for ways to build connections. Additionally, watching our staff rally in order to make these two special moments in time happen truly lends credence to their ALL-in approach and that every student, every day matters!



We sure appreciate our dedicated staff! Mrs. Bodeau & Mrs. Hunt (to the left) are the two masterminds behind our Muffins with Misses & Donuts with Dudes events.



Summer School: Class of 1983

The class of 1983 was back in town over the summer and spent some time walking the hallways and sharing stories! Showcasing our amazing facilities and highlighting the outstanding programs in the DSD has become a summer tradition. Hearing the stories and the love our alumni have for Davenport is priceless! **The Once a Gorilla, Always a Gorilla** mantra is alive and well!



Foundation for Davenport Schools: Giving Back



We often brag about how awesome our community is, but to see it in action takes it to a whole different level! The Foundation of Davenport Schools is a non-profit organization that helps provide scholarship money for Davenport Graduates. These dedicated individuals help our students & alumni pursue their post-secondary hopes & dreams! **#endlessopportunities #givingback #burgercrew**

Student Voice: Student Representative on the School Board

In an effort to hear from our students, the Davenport School District Board of Directors officially took action last year and adopted a policy, which would enable a student or two from the high school to be active representatives on the school board in order to lend their voice and perspective to the Board of Directors and Administrators at their monthly meetings. The decisions being made impact everyone, and the board values the opinion of the students they represent. Recently, current School Board Student Representative Ms. Samantha Odenrider (Class of 2024) shared the perspective of her peers on a number of topics including student cell phone use at the December School Board meeting. The inaugural student school board representatives last year were Ms. Lexi Cormier and Ms. Ally Slahtasky. We will be looking for another student next year; they will have big shoes to fill.



Grants, Grants, & More Grants!

The Davenport School District is aggressive in pursuing grants to help support our students, programs, and buildings. We are always looking for ways to provide great programs while keeping our buildings looking great without a huge additional cost to our community.

Building Grants:

Davenport High School Under Renovation this Summer!



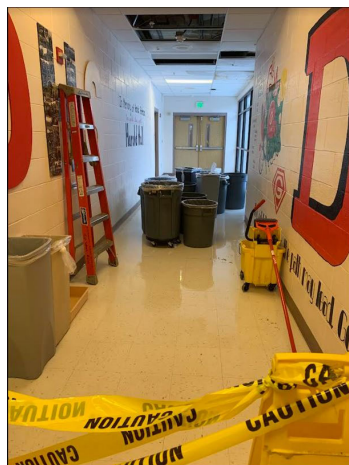
Our district was recently awarded **three high-impact GRANTS** that will put the high school building on the path for some much-needed renovation starting in the summer of 2024.

The first is a **Small School District Modernization Grant** of **\$2.186 million** awarded by the state in order for us to make significant HVAC & Electrical upgrades to the Davenport High School building. The goal will be to replace the **existing boilers, electrical, and piping** to help maximize our energy efficiency. The current boilers were built in 2002 and are at the end of their life.

Additionally, the first grant will help provide a new heating and cooling system

in the HS gym. We have never had AC in the HS gym; this is going to be outstanding to have during our traditionally large graduation ceremonies. The district was also awarded a **\$25,000 planning grant** for upwards of **\$5-6 million** in renovations over the next 2 - 4 years to continue the significant electrical upgrades to the HS building.

Lastly, our district also received a state awarded **Urgent Repair Grant** of **\$500,000** in order for us to replace the current shingle roof on our high school building. The current roof has reached its end of life, which has presented some significant challenges the past couple of winters. To the right you can see a hallway filled with trash cans to help catch the water running through the roof, causing the hallway to be temporarily closed during bad weather. With the grant in hand, we have already secured a contractor and time frame for a full roof replacement that will also take place in the summer of 2024. The new Malarkey shingle has an estimated 40-year life span and warranty. The \$500,000 grant will cover the cost of this work to be completed. This is exciting news for our community and district! Construction will start this summer!



Program Grants:



Hagan Foundation Grant:

New MS/HS Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) teacher Mrs. Becky Hansen applied for and received a grant from the Hagan Foundation in order to buy technology that will assist in the formation of our brand new E-SPORTS club at Davenport High School. This grant totaled **\$8,346.00**



Welding Booths: HS Metal Shop

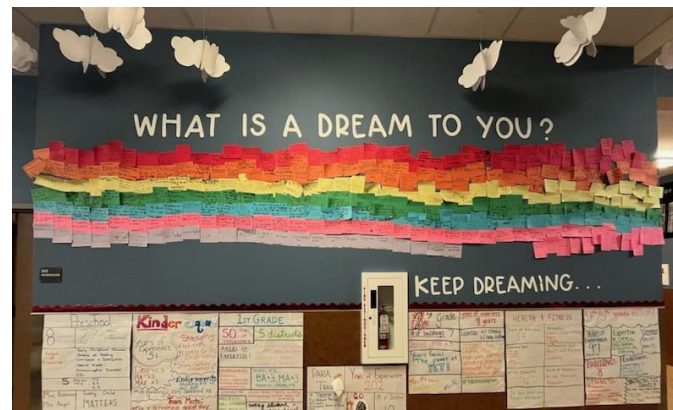
Davenport High School recently received grants from two different sources in order to put NEW self-sufficient welding booths into the metal shop. Ag West and the Perkins grant contributed \$65,000 and \$21,000 respectively for the purchase and installation of the booths. These new energy efficient welding booths come with their own ventilation system; now we can have upwards of 20 students learning a new craft while maintaining safety and energy efficiency.

The Davenport Way

Small Class Sizes: 3rd Grade

Mrs. Emily Mendoza just started a couple of months ago to help us break our large 3rd grade into three classrooms. In Davenport, we believe in small student-to-teacher ratios. We are one of the few districts with our enrollment size that tries to keep class sizes in K-3 below twenty per classroom. **Our local levy helps support this endeavor**, and our students certainly benefit from the support! Small class sizes in these early foundational years of Kindergarten-3rd grade really help us set up our students for future success, so they can truly take advantage of a future full of “endless possibilities!”

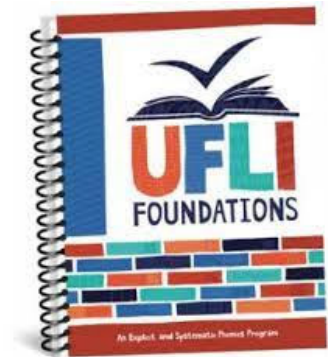
DREAM Wall: Hopes & Dreams - Endless Possibilities



We are in the hopes and dreams business! Every student K-8 has displayed their hopes and dreams for everyone to see. Both the Middle School and Elementary School buildings have DREAM WALLS up. These hopes and dreams represent why we are here: to ensure a future full of “endless possibilities” for each and everyone of the students we serve. The wall is a constant reminder to us all to strive to be our very best and that our future is very bright and full of HOPE because our hallways and classrooms are filled with the next generation of leaders.

Science of Reading: Reading Essentials

Davenport Elementary staff have been engaged in University of Florida Literacy Initiative (UFLI) Foundations Curriculum professional development this summer and spring. They are really digging into the sound practice of the Science of Reading which is not new. Our staff has been engaged in this work for a number of years. However, the UFLI curriculum is helping provide a resource for our students as they continue throughout the educational journey by helping fill in some of the “gaps” that may have been created along the way.



Academic Options: College Credits & Advanced Placement



Did you know that Davenport students have the opportunity to earn up to **75 FREE college credits** right here on our DHS campus? That is right, Davenport High School students have the opportunity to take College-in-the-High-School courses right here in Davenport. Many of our graduates are leaving our hallways a step ahead of their peers, as they have a number of transferable college credits in math, history, English and business elective courses before they even step foot on a college campus. This has saved our graduates time and money, and has even allowed some to graduate from college early or add an additional minor or double major because of their advanced placement. A number of our College-in-the-High-School courses are offered through a partnership with both Eastern Washington and Central Washington Universities. Additionally, Davenport students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement (AP), with the potential for even more credit awarded through AP exam score results. Our AP offerings have helped some of our students attend some of the most prestigious colleges & universities in the country. We are proud of both our students and staff who undertake this unique challenge. Staff who teach these courses commit to extra training in order to be accepted as an AP or College-in-the-HS instructor. The staff believes in these offerings and strive to provide the same opportunities for our rural students as their urban counterparts.



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DAVENPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER WINTER 2024



News & World Report: TOP 30 High School

Our GORILLAS continue to show their brain power by helping Davenport High School to another Top 50 State High School Ranking. This year 754 Washington high schools of all sizes, both public and private, were ranked and according to the US News & World Report Gorillas are:

#28 BEST HIGH SCHOOL in Washington State

#1 School in **Eastern Washington!!!!**

#2 "B" Size School (Orcas Island High School)

The Davenport School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Davenport School District complies with all Title IX/RCW 28A.640 and Section 504 requirements and does not discriminate against any protected class as defined by state and federal regulations. Questions/complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to: **Civil Rights, Compliance Coordinator/Title IX Coordinator Mr. Chad Prewitt**, Superintendent, 509-725-1481, 801 7th St., Davenport, WA 99122 cprewitt@davenportsd.org; **Section 504/ADA Coordinator Mrs. Alison Hawley**, High school Counselor, 509-725-4021, 801 7th St., Davenport, WA 99122 ahawley@davenportsd.org