



Donovan Middle School Principal Palladino's Update



THIS ISSUE:

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- RAR WINNERS
- STAR RAIDER WINNER
- SUPERINTENDENT SNOW DAY LETTER
- WINTER SPORTS
- SAFE SCHOOLS
- MCKINNEY VENTO
- DECEMBER CALENDAR

HALLWAY BEHAVIOR

Students are reminded, daily, over the announcements and staff during the change of classes to stay to the right of the hallway so all staff and students can pass safely and orderly down the hallway. Students are also reminded to not stop and talk in the hallways during the change of classes causing congestion. Walk and talk. We want students to have a positive, safe and social experience at Donovan. Please support us by reinforcing this with your child at home. Students who violate hallway procedures and rules will have progressive consequences assigned.

HALLWAY RULES PER THE STUDENT HANDBOOK

DMS SCHOOL-WIDE HALLWAY RULES



BE RESPECTFUL

- No yelling or inappropriate language
- Listen and follow staff directives.

BE RESPONSIBLE

- Be on time.
- Keep moving, no loitering.
- Get a pass from appropriate teacher when staying after school.
- Sign up for late bus only with teacher permission during lunch periods.
- No cell phones.
- No hoods or hats.

BE SAFE

- Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
- Walk, don't run.
- Stay to the right.

BE KIND

- Use appropriate language.
- Be considerate of others and their feelings.

*All other school rules apply.

Progressive Discipline for HALLWAY Behavior

Consequences

1 st offense	Warning
2 nd offense	1 Lunch Detention and Parent Contact
3 rd offense	After school Detention and Parent Contact
4 th offense	Half Day ISS and Parent Contact
5 th offense	Full Day ISS, Parent Contact and Suspension Letter
6 th offense	Sent Home Administratively
7 th offense	Out of School Suspension

Additional offenses may result in Out of School Suspension with a Superintendent's Hearing, and or possible Alternative Educational Setting.

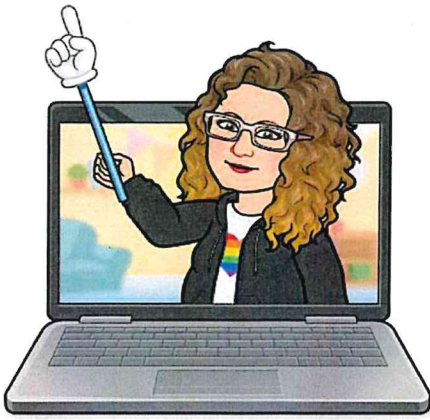
Support Services: Please note students who exhibit chronic behaviors will be referred to support services within the school.

LOOKING AHEAD

- 11/21 Go Home Early Drill
Dismissal 2:14 PM
- 11/22-24 No School
- 12/14 Winter Concert
- 12/20 Picture Retakes



Social Emotional Learning



Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. See attached resource-CYBERBULLYING.

MONTHLY AWARDS

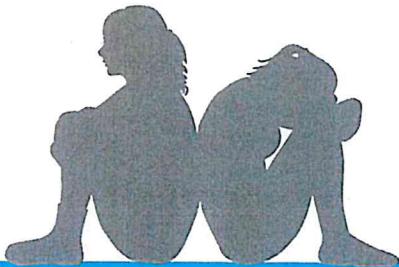
RAVING ABOUT A RAIDER (RAR) Raffle Tickets are given to students by any staff in the building for attendance, behavior and academics. Some examples of how to earn a RAR Raffle Ticket are turning in lost money, improved attendance, improved tardiness, getting a high score on an assessment, helping others and any other reason a staff member wants to reward, recognize or thank a student. Staff may also recognize other staff with RARs. 10 student winners and 2 staff winners are drawn in each.

STAR RAIDER Awards are given out by the Attendance Teachers. Teachers nominate students monthly for Citizenship, Most Improved, Best Participation and Perfect Attendance. From the nominees, winners are randomly chosen to receive a special certificate and reward.



CYBERBULLYING TIPS

Cyberbullying can happen anywhere hurtful or offensive comments or photos can be sent or posted. Children must be taught that anonymity is not an excuse to say anything you would not say directly to a person's face and to always report hurtful interactions.



Can you imagine being bullied at school and the bully following you all the way home and then straight into your house? That's what children are facing these days. Cyberbullying is persistent.

Communicate, Recognize, & Act

Communication and trust are critical in cyberbullying situations. Start cyber safety conversations early.



Talk to your kids about cyberbullying and teach them to:

- Report offensive or hurtful comments immediately, whether they are the target or not.
- Be careful what they send or post about someone else- unintentional bullying is still bullying.

Recognize signs of cyberbullying:

- Anger, depression, or frustration after using any devices.
- Stops using devices unexpectedly.
- Stops accessing social media, apps, or games.
- Uneasy about going to school.
- Abnormally withdrawn from usual friends & family members.

90% of kids have their phone, tablet, or computer in their room.*
What are your children doing when you aren't watching?



Help your children to take action:

- Save the texts/posts/emails.
- Don't reply and don't delete them.
- Report the user online and block from further interaction
- Inform schools & authorities about the situation for further guidance & instructions.

*Center's Children's Internet Usage Study

RAVING ABOUT A RAIDER

October Award Winners

Student

Yorlan Delgado
Reem Fateh
Jendrik Gonzalez
Roy Hendricks
Brylen Hernandez
Spandan Khawas
Brandon Lee
Hayden Noon
Kaydence Sarus
Robert Simon

Nominated by

Mrs. Mihajlovic
Miss A. Mancuso
Mrs. Polinski
Mr. Singleton
Mr. Ritzel
Mrs. Moss
Ms. Kilian
Miss Hyde
Mr. Elliott & Sperling
Mrs. Moss

Employee

Jessica Ciccolella
Adam Colone

Nominated by

Mrs. Kokoszki
Lucy Nguyen

OCTOBER

S.T.A.R. RAIDERS

AWARD WINNERS

Grade 7	Grade 8
Outstanding Citizenship	
<p>John Allen Nominated by: Mr. Giruzzi Alexis Bogan Nominated by: Ms. Edick</p>	<p>Gary Linen III Nominated by: Ms. Ricci Dangelyz Rivera Mejias Nominated by: Ms. Kilian</p>
Most Improved	
<p>Tyler Rah Nominated by Ms. Saville Maya Helligas Nominated by: Ms. Chesebro</p>	<p>Audrianna Figueroa Nominated by Ms. Roundtree Ella Sakanovic Nominated by: Ms. Tillotson</p>
Best Class Participation	
<p>Bilal Juma Nominated by: Mrs. Clowes Alexa Rijos Nominated by: Ms. Gordon</p>	<p>Julia Reinoso-Gonzalez Nominated by: Mr. Adams Mellody Emmons Nominated by: Ms. Buono</p>
Perfect Attendance	
<p>Nancy Lay Kamila Mangal Datchie Sheldina Plantin Chase Purcell</p>	<p>Nasraldeen Ismael Abdulkarim Paw Ka Blu Utina Htoo Araya Ward</p>

Dr. Kathleen Davis
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
kdavis@uticaschools.org www.uticaschools.org
P] (315) 792-2222 F] (315) 792-2200



UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT / 929 YORK STREET / UTICA, NY 13502

November 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

One of the most difficult decisions that a Superintendent makes is the decision to close schools due to inclement weather. This decision-making process begins well in advance of any potential closing, and a number of steps are taken so that I am able to make the most informed decision on whether or not to close school. This includes monitoring the weather on the day and night before a decision is made and giving careful attention to any weather alert from the National Weather Service.

During the early hours of the morning, usually around 3:00 a.m., our Chief Operations Officer gathers and analyzes the most recent weather data along with the most recent forecasts from the weather services. We also consult with the bus company, the Utica Police Department and the Department of Public Works to gather information on road conditions. We go out and travel the streets in order to observe the conditions first hand. Based on this information; I make a decision to keep the schools open or to close them due to inclement weather. This decision is usually made between 5:00 to 5:30 am. in order to give our 7,000 bus students and 3,000 walkers; along with our parents and staff, timely notification of any school closing. All local TV and radio stations are then notified of any school closure; usually between 5:15 to 5:30 a.m. While we receive information from other school districts, ultimately our decision is about the safety and well-being of our students which is directly impacted by our community's ability to safely and quickly clean the streets, sidewalks and parking lots.

I want you to know that "saving snow days" is never a consideration when making the decision to close schools or to keep them open. In order to make sure that we are adequately prepared for the possibility of inclement weather, we built five (5) snow days into our school district calendar. Students are scheduled to attend school the same number of days each year regardless of the number of days that school is closed due to inclement weather. Therefore, if additional snow days are used beyond the five (5) that are built into the calendar; student attendance days are added to the calendar in the spring. On the other hand, if the school district does not use all of its inclement weather days, students may not have to report to school on certain days during the spring. This information is clearly explained on the last page of the school district calendar that was mailed home to all parents before the opening of school.

In addition, we encourage all parents to have an emergency plan for their children in case the school district schedules a two-hour delay or an early dismissal due to inclement weather. While we hesitate to use early dismissals because we know that many students may not have someone at home, it is important that you have an emergency plan in place for your child in the event that an extreme emergency results in our schools closing early.

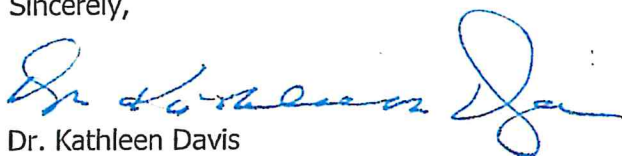
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer which fully and actively supports equal access for all regardless of Race, Color, Weight, National Origin, Ethnic Group, Religion, Religious Practice, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Age, Veteran Status or Genetic Information.

Finally, it has been the practice of the school districts in the Mohawk Valley not to close on days in which the roads are passable but there is extreme cold. If there were days in which the temperature was consistently 20-25 degrees below zero with wind chill, we would certainly consider closing due to our number of walkers; but ultimately students need to be dressed appropriately and prepared for these conditions.

As the Acting Superintendent of Schools, I want you to know that your child's safety is of our utmost concern and the school district would never knowingly make a decision that would place your child in danger. Ultimately, you as a parent will know your child best; as well as the conditions in your own neighborhood. This will enable you to adequately prepare your child for such weather conditions, or make the personal decision to keep your child home.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you can call me at 792-2222 or email me at kdavis@uticaschools.org.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kathleen Davis
Acting Superintendent of Schools
Utica City School District

KD/cac



UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 929 York Street
 Utica, NY 13502

Winter 2023-24

Athletic Manager: David Minicozzi
dminicozzi@uticaschools.org
 315-368-6684

Dear Parents/Guardian

This letter is to inform you about winter sports offered by the Utica City School District and the necessary information and requirements in order to participate in our sports programs.

The Utica City School District holds registration for athletics online through **Family ID**.

Parents/guardians can use a computer or smartphone to register by going to your child's School Website and click ATHLETICS for the link to Family ID or visit familyid.com

- If you already have an account set up from a previous sport, log in and update the Sport and all Health-related information.

Sports Offered at JFK/DMS – Start Dates – Coaches Contact

Girls Volleyball, Boys Swim Team, Boys Wrestling- **sign-ups begin Oct. 23 / Tryouts start Nov. 20**
 Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball- **sign-ups begin October 30 / Tryouts start November 27**

SPORT	NAME	EMAIL
Boys Modified Basketball	Edwin Singleton- DON	esingleton@uticaschools.org
Boys Modified Basketball	Joe Guidera – JFK	jguidera@uticaschools.org
Girls Modified Basketball	Francis Williams- JFK	fwilliams@uticaschools.org
Girls Modified Basketball	Nathan DeBan – DON	ndeban@uticaschools.org
Boys Modified Swim	Jenna Swift-JFK/DON	jswift@uticaschools.org
Girls Modified Volleyball	Joshua Schreppel -JFK	jschreppel@uticaschools.org
Girls Modified Volleyball	Michael Clark-DON	Mclark@uticaschools.org
Boys Wrestling	Dave Caruso-JFK/DON	dcaruso@uticaschools.org

BEFORE YOU REGISTER

An updated Sports Physical Exam must be after **10/20/22**.

You must give the school nurse a copy of your child's current physical or attach/upload a copy on familyid.com, located under the **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION** of the online registration page. **If not uploaded, all physicals must be dropped off** at the Nurse's Office of the school that your child attends.

IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS A SPORTS PHYSICAL:

Sports Physicals are offered during school hours at the School Nurses' Office; students see the nurse to schedule:

JFK- 10/13, 10/27, 11/3, 11/17, 11/28, 12/5

DMS- 10/12, 10/26, 10/31, 11/16, 11/29, 12/6

Registering your Child on Familyid.com

A parent/guardian can register at Familyid.com or visit your child's schools website click the link under ATHLETICS. The directions are listed below:

1. To find your program, click on the link provided above and select the registration form under the word **PROGRAMS**.
2. Next, click on the green **Register Now** button and scroll, if necessary, to the **Sign Up/Log In** green buttons. If this is your first time using FamilyID, click **Sign Up**. Click **Log In**, if you already have a Family ID account and update the sport selection.
3. **Sign Up** for your secure FamilyID account by entering the account owner First and Last names (parent/guardian), E-mail address and password. Select the agreement to the FamilyID Terms of Service. Click **Sign Up**.
4. You will receive an email with a link to activate your new account. If you don't see the email, check your email filters (spam or junkmail folder)
5. Click on the link in your activation email. This will log you in to FamilyID.com
6. Once in the registration form, complete the information requested. All fields with a red* are required to have an answer.
7. Click the **Save & Continue** button when your form is complete.
8. Review your registration summary.
9. Click the green **Submit** button. After selecting 'Submit', the registration will be complete. You will receive a completion email from FamilyID confirming your registration.

You will receive an email receipt from registrations@familyid.com. You can also view your completed registration in your 'Registration' tab. You can log into <https://www.familyid.com> at any time to update your information and to check your registration(s).

SUPPORT:

You can always find your programs at www.familyid.com by clicking "Find Programs" in the top blue banner and searching for our organization name.

If you need assistance with you registration, **please call Family ID at 1-800-311-4060 ext. 3 or email support@familyid.com**. FamilyID also offers online chat during business hours and a support center at <https://familyid.desk.com>. Support is available 7 days per week and messages will be returned promptly. For a complete list of coaches please click on the athletics tab on your child's school website.

IMPORTANT FOR THE PROCESS TO WORK

ONLY Parents/Guardians Can Sign Off Electronically on the Agreements

Note: If a Student Athlete electronically signs off on these agreements, he/she will NOT be cleared and could prevent them from starting on time.

****Please be sure to only complete 1 registration per athlete. If you need to make changes to the registration please be sure to EDIT the existing one and DO NOT create a new one. ****

If you have extenuating circumstances and do not have access to the internet via a computer, tablet or smartphone please contact your child's school and ask to speak with the Athletic Manager.



Safe Schools Mohawk Valley

How can we help support your child in school?



Improve School Attendance

Safe Schools will help to eliminate any barriers to school attendance. We will support your child in school to ensure they are motivated to attend and have the resources to be successful.



Improve School Engagement

Safe Schools will help your child be more actively involved in their education. If they are struggling in the classroom, have had a recent change in their life, are new to the school or experiencing bullying we can provide the support needed to cope with these changes.



Help Decrease Negative Behavior

Safe Schools can help your child to manage their emotions and use coping skills that keep them from acting out in anger during their school day.

Increase Social and Emotional Strengths

Safe Schools will help your child build strengths that include: self esteem, social skills, life skills, coping strategies, self-regulation and how to make positive choices.



Contact your child's counselor today to get started!



Safe Schools Mohawk Valley

Keeping kids in school

Pinney – Vento Services

Students/Families Identified as living in
Temporary Housing



For more information
contact: Vanessa at
(315) 733-7768 x212 or
vp@ssmv.org



BUILDING RESILIENCY

Supporting students to adapt to adversity, trauma, tragedy, or even significant sources of stress.



COLLABORATE WITH FAMILIES

Link families to local services/agencies to assist in bridging gaps or overcoming barriers to meet basic needs as a result of being in housing.



COLLABORATE WITH SCHOOL STAFF

Work with student's teachers, guidance counselors, social workers or other appropriate support staff to overcome barriers within the school.



SCHOOL & HYGIENE SUPPLIES

Provide school supplies and basic hygiene items, clothing, and other needed to students as a result of being in temporary housing.



HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES

Deliver basic cleaning supplies to families and can link families to agencies that can assist with beds for children and other household supplies.



CHECKING IN

Meet with students monthly and reach out to the parent/guardian needed until permanent housing is found.

DECEMBER 2023

**DONOVAN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

MISS ANN MARIE PALLADINO, Principal
Main Office: 315) 368-6541 / Nurse: 315) 368-6552



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					DAY 2 01	02
03	DAY 1 04	DAY 2 05	DAY 1 06	DAY 2 07	DAY 1 08	09
10	DAY 2 11	DAY 1 12	DAY 2 13	DAY 1 14 Winter Concert 6:00 pm	DAY 2 15	16
17	DAY 1 18	DAY 2 19	DAY 1 20 School Picture Retakes	DAY 2 21 <i>First Day OF Winter</i>	22	23
24	25 <i>MERRY Christmas</i>	26	27	28	29	30
<i>Christmas EVE</i>	WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL					
NEW YEAR'S EVE						

VISION

Students will be prepared to be successful in high school.

MISSION

DMS Staff will use data driven decision making to provide academically challenging experiences for all students in a respectful, responsible, kind, and a safe environment in collaboration with parents/guardians and community agencies.

What's Going On...

www.uticaschools.org
[UticaCitySchoolDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/UticaCitySchoolDistrict)