

DUNDEE DISPATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DUNDEE ELEMENTARY
PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION



Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Tingelhoff
as the Dundee Day Parade Grand Marshalls!

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Dundee 6th graders showed their Wildcat
spirit in the Dundee Day Parade!

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 2: No School (Labor Day)

Sept 4: PTO meeting at 6:30 pm

Sept 13: Dundee Direct assembly &
neighborhood walk

Sept 22: Grounds clean-up (1-3pm)

Sept 24: School late start

Oct 11: Fall Festival

See all upcoming events at
www.DundeePTO.org

A NOTE FROM THE PTO PRESIDENTS



Welcome back, Dundee families!

Dundee Elementary is a great school made even better by the involvement of students' families. It's why we volunteered to serve as this year's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Presidents. We invite you to join us in making our school community even stronger. Sign-up to become a PTO member online at www.DundeePTO.org. Membership gives you access to volunteer opportunities, access to a calendar of events, and an online directory of Dundee students and families.

We host just one fundraiser a year—Dundee Direct—to support our activities and it begins this month! During September, we're asking you to give what you can financially to help us meet our goal of \$30,000. Your donations help fund teacher grants, classroom activities, school improvements and PTO-sponsored family-friendly events!

The school year has already started off strong with Back to School Night, participation of sixth graders in the annual Dundee Day Parade and Dundee Day t-shirt sales so families can wear their Wildcat spirit all year long. We have a great board and group of volunteers. We invite you to join us in supporting our students, teachers and staff on their learning journeys.

Our first PTO meeting is Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30 pm in the school library with childcare provided in the cafeteria. Please make your plan now to get involved in whatever ways make sense to you and your family!

We look forward to working with you this year!

Jill Heggen and Sara Kupzyk
PTO Presidents



Meet Your 2024-2025 PTO Board

Presidents	Jill Heggen and Sara Kupzyk (DundeePTO@gmail.com)
Vice Presidents	Anne and Ben Dey
Secretary	Jaymie Aliano
Treasurer	Justin Solomon (DundeeTreasurer@gmail.com)
Past Presidents	Kelly Kelly and TJ Weiss
Principal	Kaye Kennedy

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL (1 OF 3)

September Greetings,

Our 2024-2025 school year is off to a great start! "Learning is a Journey that Never Ends" is our theme for this school year and we are thrilled to have nearly 500 students and 59 staff members on this learning journey.



It was great to see so many families at our Back to School Night. If you have not returned the Student and Family Information packet, please do so as soon as possible. We want to ensure all your information is accurate in our student information system, Infinite Campus.

Attendance Matters: Did you know it takes an average of three days for students to catch up for every day they're absent? Omaha Public Schools is committed to working with our families to support student attendance every day because we know every minute counts. Our district has updated our action plan to follow state guidelines on assisting students who miss a significant amount of class time. Our student attendance team will meet with families of students who have 20 total absences, whether or not those absences are excused. The team will work with the family to create a collaborative plan to improve attendance. You can make an impact on your student's attendance now, and we are here to help. If anything is getting in the way of getting your student to school, please contact us at 531-299-1340.

UPDATE! Attendance letters will be sent home after 5, 10, 15, and 20 days of accumulated absences. This includes BOTH excused and unexcused.

Learning is a Journey that Never Ends

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL (2 OF 3)

A few reminders. . .

Device (iPad) Protection Plan

If you plan to participate in this plan, the \$20 per device fee is due September 6, 2024. We can take cash, credit card, or check (made out to Douglas County School District 001). The Device (iPad) Protection Plan will not apply until the \$20 is received.

Breakfast Program

Dundee provides a free, nutritious breakfast each morning to any student who would like one. All students enter the building at 8:30. Those participating in the breakfast program should check in with their teacher and immediately come to the cafeteria to pick up their breakfast. Thank you for timing your drop-off accordingly. There is not adequate supervision before 8:30 a.m.

After School Activities

We understand emergencies during the day can happen, however, we receive many calls at the last minute regarding changes for a student. As you can imagine, the end of the day is very busy, and it can be difficult to get all those messages delivered by dismissal. Please discuss after-school procedures with your child each morning. If an emergency occurs and you need to leave a message for your child, please call the school before 3:15 p.m.

Student Cell Phone Use

Omaha Public Schools expectations: Cell phones and smart watches are not used at school. If your child needs to bring one, the expectation is that it is turned OFF and in their backpack during the school day. If you need to reach your child during the school day, please call the main office: 531-299-1340.

“School hours” means the time a student enters the school bus or school property until the end of the school day when they leave the school property or the bus.

We are looking forward to partnering with you for another GREAT year!

With much care,

Kaye Kennedy
Principal



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL (3 OF 3)

September is National Preparedness Month.

At Dundee, we are committed to providing a safe environment for students, staff, and visitors. To prepare staff and students for emergencies, we will be practicing all our emergency drills this month. Planned drills include:

Secure Drill – Wednesday, September 4

Takes place when an external threat is identified. All staff/students return to the building if outside and remain inside. Outside doors are locked. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an “all clear” announcement is made.

Lockdown Drill – Wednesday, September 11

Takes place if an internal threat is identified at the school. All school doors are locked, and students are confined to classrooms. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an “all clear” announcement is made.

Severe Weather/Shelter Drill – Wednesday, September 18

Students and staff take refuge in designated areas to protect themselves from severe weather or other hazards.

Fire Drill – Wednesday, September 25

The building is quickly evacuated when the fire alarm sounds.

Hold Drill – Wednesday, October 2

Students clear the hallway and remain in their classroom. This could occur if a child got sick in the hallway, or another minor incident.

Evacuation Drill – Wednesday, October 9

In certain building emergencies, students will be relocated to an evacuation assembly area. Our evacuation site is A.V. Sorenson Community Center. Our alternate site, if A.V. Sorenson is closed, is Brownell Talbot.

Ensure your child’s emergency contact information is accurate and current. Please contact us if your cell phone, house phone, or work phone numbers change. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to give us a call.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Hi everyone!

I am so happy to see the new and "old" faces this year! There is such a positive energy in our school right now as we continue learning names and faces and school procedures.

For those of you who don't know me, I am Jennifer Storm. I am the full-time school counselor at Dundee Elementary School.

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education at Peru State College in 2007. In 2020, I earned a Master of Science in School Counseling and Preventive Mental Health degree from Creighton University. And in 2022, I earned an Educational Leadership Master's degree from Northwest Missouri State.

A few things about me...

- I LOVE traveling!
- I have three kids. Aubrie (10th), Brody (8th) and Grady (5th).
- I love staying up-to-date on current counseling trends and jump on any opportunities for professional development in the field.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to send me an email at Jennifer.Storm@ops.org.

I look forward to working with your student(s) this year!

Jenny Storm

Here is a picture of me at the National School Counseling conference this summer. I was able to meet my school counselor hero, the creator of the Zones of Regulation!



What Does The School Counselor Do?

I am here to help you and your students!

Counseling Lessons

- Your students will receive their "guidance" lessons for 50 minutes throughout each 10-day cycle rotation.
- Topics are different for each grade level. Some topics I cover are tattling, organization, manners, career exploration, conflict resolution, the growth mindset, personal safety, test prep, and more!

Individual Counseling

- Both teachers and parents can refer students for individual counseling. Referrals should occur after classroom strategies have been implemented (exceptions would be family or safety concerns).
- Students might see me for individual counseling to work on decision-making, anger management, family changes, friendship skills, or another concern.
- You can email me if you would like to refer a student for individual counseling.
- Students in 3rd-5th grade can self-refer by filling out a form through my QR code.






Small Group Counseling

- Students or teachers will often request small group sessions that target any number of practice skills. These sessions typically meet for 20 minutes once a week.

SEPTEMBER

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
DRILLS EVERY WEDNESDAY

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 No school- Labor Day 	3 Dundee Direct Begins	4 6:30PM PTO Meeting School Library 	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Dine out at Don & Millie's (portion sales comes to the school)	12	13 Dundee Direct assembly & walk 	14
15	16	17	18	19 eCreamery (portion sales comes to the school)	20	21
22 Grounds Clean-Up 1-3pm 	23	24 Late Start 	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DUNDEE DIRECT

THE ANNUAL DIRECT-GIVING FUNDRAISER

September 1st - 30th

WHAT IS DUNDEE DIRECT?

Dundee Direct is our annual fundraiser. Instead of asking our kids to sell popcorn or giftwrap, we ask just one time each year for families to donate what they can. With this direct giving campaign, ALL of the money raised goes to the Dundee Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Our goal is to raise \$30,000!

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

The PTO uses the money raised to make sure our school stays amazing for all of our children. The funds are used for the following and much more:

- Teacher grants to buy classroom materials
- Classroom activities
- School improvements- stage curtains
- Enrichment clubs
- Student and family events

HOW CAN OUR FAMILY BE INVOLVED?

1. You can make a donation in any amount.
2. You can ask family members, friends, neighbors and businesses/workplaces to donate. Be sure to ask if your company matches donations!
3. You can volunteer to help with school activities and support your child at home. Visit the Dundee PTO site to learn more at www.DundeePTO.org

Students will learn more about Dundee Direct at a pep rally on September 13. Students in grades 2-6 will take a neighborhood walk with their classroom teacher to place letters in neighbors' doors. Our goal is to reach neighbors who may have had children who attended Dundee or those neighbors who would like to support our school. If your student is in grades 2-6, please return the permission form to allow them to participate.

WAYS TO DONATE

- 1 Send your donation in an envelope to school with your student. If donating by check, please make the check payable to "Dundee Elementary PTO"

- 2 Donate online by scanning the code below or visiting: <https://bit.ly/dundee-direct>



- 3 Send a check to:
Omaha Public Schools
Foundation
Attn: Dundee Direct 2024-
2025 Fundraiser
3861 Farnam St.
Omaha, NE 68131



4TH ANNUAL
DUNDEE ELEMENTARY PTO

Fall Festival

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11
4:30 - 7:30 PM
FREE ENTRY!

PANCAKE MAN (\$5/PER PLATE)
DJ - MUSIC & DANCING
PHOTO BOOTH
GAMES & ACTIVITIES