



Durand Middle School Board Report

September 2026

Rebecca Shankster-Principal



Durand Middle School – Monthly Building Board Report

- **Month / Year:** September/2026
- **Prepared By:** Rebecca Shankster, Building Principal
- **Date Submitted:** September 9, 2026

1. Enrollment & Attendance

- **Current Student Count:** 288 (6th Grade: 89 | 7th Grade: 88 | 8th Grade: 111)
- **Average Daily Attendance:** First 13 days of school 93% average per day
- **Attendance Improvement Initiative:** DMS is celebrating perfect attendance on a monthly basis. Students with perfect attendance for the month will be recognized and receive a certificate.

2. Academic Progress & Curriculum

- **Instructional Focus:** This year we are focused on increasing time on task for students by eliminating distractions and shortening transition times. One of the ways we are doing this is by not giving students Chromebooks unless there will be a clear benefit in a lesson.
- **Assessment & Data Updates:** All students have completed their fall NWEA testing and the results show that we are reducing the summer slide over time. We feel this is an indication of true learning and long term memory activation in contrast to short term memory retrieval.
- **Student Interventions (MTSS and Title 1):** Students at DMS receive Title 1 services if they are academically below benchmark in ELA and/or Math. These services are provided everyday through Power Hour. Students below benchmark receive 50% more instructional time in these areas when compared to their peers who are at or above benchmark. As our students move through middle school, we see growth every year, although it takes time to move a student from not proficient or partially proficient to proficient. By the end of 8th grade, DMS is generally on par, and sometimes above, the state average for all core subjects. Students who are above benchmark attend Advanced STEM instead of Power Hour. Students who need the highest level of intervention are assigned to a small group Power Hour.

3. Student Culture, Athletics & Recognition

- **PBIS & Behavior:** All students have been trained in common schoolwide and classroom expectations. We are off to a great start and our students are doing amazing. We have had less than one minor or major behavior referral each day thus far in the school year!
- **Student/Staff Highlights:** Each month, students and staff members are selected for being wonderful examples of On TRACK Railroader behavior. In October, we plan to add a Volunteer of the Month to recognize some of our parent and community partners that give of their time and efforts to support the school. Please see the students and staff for the month of September below.

We would also like to recognize two very brave students who used their quick thinking and actions to help a fellow student in a scary situation. Maxwell Marsh and Brody Schneider jumped into action to use the heimlich maneuver and go get adult help for a friend who was choking in the cafeteria on a chip. We are very proud of them for doing the right thing and not hesitating to help!



CONGRATULATIONS DMS STUDENTS AND STAFF OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

MRS. JEWELL



6TH BRAYDON



7TH JESSE



8TH CHAYCE



- **Extracurriculars:** We have already started several student clubs this year with more to follow! E-sports, archery, photography, and kniflix are already under way! We are also in the middle of student government elections! Students are also involved in cross country, girl's basketball, football, and cheerleading!

4. Staffing & Professional Learning

- **Professional Learning Communities (PLC):** In PLCs this year, teachers are continuing to align their curriculum. Other areas of focus include learning related to the new dyslexia law and planning for student extension opportunities such as special speakers and field trips.
- **Professional Development:** On October 12th, teachers will attend part two of the required dyslexia training in the morning. Several staff members will then be trained on CPR and/or student academic/behavior data collection and review. The first mentee meeting will also take place in October and our new teachers will be learning about the evaluation process as well as how to use Illuminate for student data and assessments.

5. Safety Updates

- **Safety Drills Completed:** We completed our first fire drill on Sept 10th, 2026. The students and staff did a wonderful job!

6. Family & Community Engagement

- **Parent Communications:** Each full month of school, parents are sent a newsletter with upcoming events. Please see the links for two recent newsletters:
 - <https://app.smore.com/n/89wfp>
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AXe5MGkkBOmpQAfACPXGCMuJ3EZRgJsPqNrOwgyUsG8/edit?usp=sharing>

7. Upcoming Dates & Events

Date	Event Description
9/11/26	Patriot Day: Students and Staff are encouraged to take part in our red, white, and blue spirit day to celebrate the brave men and women that gave so much to protect others on 9/11. The Madrigals will be coming to DMS to sing patriotic songs for the middle school students. Finally, students will learn about the importance of this day and we will hold a moment of silence for all who lost their lives.
9/13/26	Picture day for all DMS students and staff.
10/2/26	Homecoming festivities and the DMS field trip to the Renaissance Festival.