

Viking Voice

Ruby Van Meter 515-242-8220

6/3/22

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From Laurel Friedman - Associate Principal

Transitioning to Summer: Tips for Families that Support Students with Significant Disabilities

- **Plan Retention Activities:** Find out if your child's present and future teacher have any recommendations for activities over the summer that can help maintain and practice skills that will be beneficial for the next school year. This can include skills to increase independence and social skills.
- **Break out a social story or video:** Take videos and photos of your student in the summer. This could be activities in the home, with the family in the community, or any other activity. These videos and photos are fun for them to watch and look at and a great way to have a conversation. These photos can be sent to school so your child can write and communicate about to their peers and staff.
- **Schedule Playdates with familiar faces:** Talk to other parents of your child's classmates to find out if there is interest to get together over the summer for play dates. This is a great way to help your child have opportunities to build and strengthen relationships with classmates outside of school.
- **Plan a daily schedule:** This is especially important if your child has limited and restricted interests. They may settle into routines of playing video games or watching television for long periods of time. This may result in more challenging habits to break when it comes time to transition back to school in September. Setting up other activities helps to break up the time and to give your child new experiences.
- **Plan family activities:** Whether it is vacation, day trips or fun activities on the evenings and weekends. Take photos, draw pictures and write down all the fun things that your child enjoys at the summer. This is a great way to work on skills, but captures memories of summer for him/her to remember and share when they return to school. Summer is a time for your child to enjoy himself/herself and to get a break from the academic expectations that come from the school year.
- **Make a Calendar:** A few weeks before school starts, it will be beneficial to remind your child that school will be starting up again. Feel free to contact the school with any questions or if it would be helpful for your student to come in early to meet teacher and see their classroom.

If you have specific questions, contact Laurel Friedman for support at 242-8220, or Laurel.friedman@dmschools.org



SUMMER BREAK

It is the policy of the Des Moines Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you believe you have (or your child has) been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact Mary Grinstead, 2100 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321, (515) 242-7664, mary.grinstead@dmschools.org.

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Upcoming Events

7/11: Online Registration Begins

8/24: First Day of School



Our Celebration!

Congratulations to our 2022 Ruby Van Meter graduates! The ceremony took place Friday evening with 22 graduates crossing the stage. The RVM gym was filled with family, friends and staff to join in the celebration. Several of our graduates will move on to the Stride program which focuses on building the foundational skills that students need to move toward independence in adulthood. Other graduates will take advantage of opportunities in the community. We wish our graduates success - we will miss you!



At far left, Colby Collins celebrates big! Left, Jordan Robinson, Shea Reeves and Eli Dajane share their accomplishments!

From the Office -

BUS VESTS Please make sure that your student's bus vest is turned in to the Bus Driver or to Ruby Van Meter at the end of the school year. Vests are washed over the summer; damaged or expired vests are destroyed. The school will make arrangements to get a new vest to you before school starts August 24, 2022.

ONLINE REGISTRATION Online Registration for students returning for the 2022-2023 school year begins on Monday, July 11, 2023.

- You will access the Parent Portal to register for next year. Call the Ruby Van Meter office at 515-242-8220 if you need assistance with your Username and/or Password.
- You may schedule a time to come to the school to use a computer or to get one-on-one assistance with registration.

Families needing the help of interpreters can attend one of the registration events planned by the Bilingual Family Liaisons.

Hoover High School (4800 Aurora Avenue)
Tuesday, July 19th, 7:30 a.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Roosevelt High School (4419 Center Street)
Thursday, Jul 21st, 7:30 a.m. — 6:30 p.m.
East High School (815 East 13th Street)
Saturday, July 23rd, 8:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

North High School (501 Holcomb Avenue)
Tuesday, July 26th, 7:30 a.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Lincoln High School (2600 SW 9th Street)
Thursday, July 28th, 7:30 a.m. — 6:30 p.m.