

Dover Avenue Student Council Supports Climate of Kindness

In an effort to establish clear behavior expectations for students, Dover City Schools implemented a new initiative this year, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Through this program, we create a climate of kindness where students are encouraged to look for ways to be supportive, helpful, and kind. The Dover Avenue Student Council has lifted this initiative to a new level.

Mrs. Breanna Fuhrer and Mrs. Tennille Williams are the Student Council Advisors. They work with 52 students selected for the council to generate ideas and complete projects throughout the school year. All of the Student Council committees (Recycling Committee, Community Service Committee, BFF Reading Buddy Committee, After-School Study Club Helpers Committee and Kindness Committee) support the climate of kindness at Dover Avenue.

The Kindness Committee meets during noon recess to plan and coordinate their projects. In the fall, they surprised the 3rd graders by leaving good luck letters of support and Smarties candies on their desks for testing.



Williams says "The students have learned the importance of creating a community that is supportive and kind. They learn that a random act of kindness makes a difference in the lives of others."

Williams continues, "It teaches our students such an important lesson: Be Kind... Always!"

Fuhrer explains, "They wanted to let the younger students know that they had our support and that we knew they were going to do a great job!" A school favorite act of kindness performed by the Kindness Committee is a simple greeting. The committee stands at the entrance of the school to greet the students as they arrive and leave the school each day.

The response to this climate of kindness has been powerful. The students start their day with a smile as they are greeted by peers. The classes being recognized with posters and notes of encouragement are very appreciative. The students are building relationships through this initiative. Williams says "The students have learned the importance of creating a community that is supportive and kind. They learn that a random act of kindness makes a difference in the lives of others. Most importantly, the students that are recognized by our committee learn that they are important and that they are part of a community that cares about them."



Tornado Times



Dover Avenue students celebrated Bus Driver Appreciation Day with their bus drivers.

District Looks Ahead After Levy Defeat

As you know, voters in the Dover City School District rejected a 6.9 mill, five-year emergency operating levy. The ballot issue would have provided funding for the daily operations of the school district.

Thank you to the many community members who volunteered their time to educate their friends and neighbors on the need for this levy. As for next steps,

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the Dover Board of Education and the school district will continue the conversation about what the future holds for the school district. The need for additional funding is not going away.

Our goal is to provide excellent schools at a good value for our community. We will continue to communicate our needs so that we may protect current programs and opportunities for students that our community values.

Carla Birney

Welcome Brooke Grafe as Dover High School Principal

Seventeen years spent working at Dover City Schools has proven a solid primer for Brooke Grafe's next position. Beginning August 1, the Tuscarawas County native will be the principal at Dover High School.

"I've been really lucky to have been part of K-12 at Dover throughout my career," she said. "It's been amazing. The opportunity (to become the DHS principal) presented itself and it seemed like the right time and right fit."

Teresa Alberts, the outgoing principal, will be retiring from education July 31. Learning about her promotion well ahead of time has given Grafe the chance to prepare for her new job, with the help of Alberts before she departs.

"Knowing early enough has given me the chance to work on a lot of transitioning over the past few months," Grafe said. "Being able to do that with Teresa here has been invaluable."

Grafe spent 10 years teaching at the high school before becoming the principal at East Elementary for three years and at Dover Middle School for two. She moved back to the high school as assistant principal, this year.

"We are excited that Brooke will be the new Dover High School principal," said Superintendent Carla Birney. "Her work there as a teacher for 10 years was outstanding. Her devotion to our students and leadership skills will greatly benefit our high school staff and students well into the future."



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"Being back at the high school has been such a great experience for me," Grafe said. "Every building I've worked at has been awesome. I can't say enough about it. I have loved every job and staff I've worked with here. It's allowed me to get to know so many folks in the district and to understand the big picture."

Grafe and her husband, who also graduated from Claymont High School, settled back in the area after she earned an undergraduate degree at Baldwin Wallace University. She earned her master's degree and professional licensure from Ashland University.

Her family, which includes two daughters, has lived in Dover for the past 10 years and her daughters are currently in seventh and fifth grades.

"I could not be more thrilled with the experience my kids have had and the teachers they have had," Grafe explained. "I think that's something that's so special about Dover. It's so kid-centered and it's

about students and their success. I know when I drop my own kids off, someone is watching over them, and I think that's true of every child.

That's the greatest compliment I can pay a district. I want my own children to have that Dover experience and they've thrived here."

Topping off Grafe's enthusiasm about becoming the high school's principal is the fact she will be at the helm when the transition is made to the new Dover High School.

"I am so excited," she said. "When I look out the window of our 5th Street wing, I'm looking at the future. I don't know if there's a better feeling than to be trusted to be a part of that. It's one of the most rewarding moments I can think of and I'm just excited to get started."

South School third grade students visited The Ernest Warther Museum & Gardens where they learned about the life of Mooney Warther and his impact on Dover, Ohio.



Congratulations to Dover High School students Cameron Johnson for winning in the SumoBot Tournament and Ashton Carruthers for finishing Runner Up. There were 19 participants from several area schools.