

# PBIS takes elementary kids on the road

By Katelynn Toft

Durant’s elementary school has been using an evidence-based program called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) for the last eight years to help reinforce good behavior and reward student effort.

As a result, some Durant elementary students have been hitting the road to attend sporting events as far away as Des Moines and Ames. The program got started when elementary school staff heard about other schools in the area using the PBIS program, and they were very interested in learning more.

A group of teachers including sixth-grade teacher Mr. Brent Schmidt went to Muscatine to see how PBIS was implemented in the classroom there. Eventually, the Durant staff had to find training before putting those activities into the school. The teachers started out by making a list of expectations for the Durant students.

“We came up with the CATS,

which is cooperate, act safely, take responsibility, and show respect,” said Mr. Schmidt.

To show that a student had achieved a good behavior point, teachers gave out tickets as positive acknowledgement. Those tickets were put in individual buckets and counted up. After a while, the amount of tickets became too much to manage, and PBIS created a reward system that uses scans instead.

“Students can purchase various things with their scans such as extra recess, sitting in a special chair, a treasure box item, etc,” said Ms. Kristin Milotte, the elementary school guidance counselor.

Another reward for the students are field trips, which require a certain number of scans for students to be able to go on them.

The trips take place every quarter and do not deduct from the total number of scans a student has already earned.

“We have done two women’s [college] basketball games, one hockey game in Des Moines, gone to the Festival of Trees

and gone to the Trucking Museum and got Frosty’s,” said Ms. Milotte. The third graders recently attended a matinee game for the Quad City Storm hockey team.

Some of the sports teams, including the Iowa State University women’s basketball team, the Drake University women’s basketball team, and the Quad City Storm hockey team have reached out to the school to offer those opportunities.

The school would get emails from colleges and other organizations inviting them to their events.

“And so we just kind of took that and started seeing what other types of field trips we could offer other grades and assigning a grade a field trip,” said Mr. Schmidt.

Over the last eight years, since the PBIS program was implemented in the elementary school, behavior has been better.

“There has been an overall noticeable change in behavior since the program was started here at Durant,” said Ms. Milotte.



Photo by Mayson Eddy  
Durant third graders watch the Quad City Storm hockey players warm up before a game on Feb. 1.

# Durant juniors begin exploring campus visits

By Katelynn Toft

Durant juniors interested in college should be scheduling campus visits in the coming months, according to Durant High School guidance counselor Mrs. Kristy Badtram

Many Durant juniors and seniors go on college visits throughout the year, but the best time to start visits is the summer after a student’s junior year.

“I believe you should start looking at colleges in the fall of your junior year,” said Mrs. Badtram. “Your senior year should be when you are taking your second look at a college, not your first look.”

For the students who want to play sports at the collegiate level, their process is a bit different. The visits might not start until their senior year.

Durant students often visit schools like the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) if they want a bigger school while

private schools like Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, and St. Ambrose University in Davenport are also popular. Favorite community colleges to visit are Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids, Black Hawk in Moline, and Iowa Central in Fort Dodge.

The University of Iowa offers multiple programs and tours to help students make the best decision, according to Ms. Sabrina Duke, an admissions counselor for the university.

She suggests that meeting with the high school school guidance counselor is the best way to begin a college search.

She also said that meeting with a university’s representatives will help students understand what each school has to offer them.

There are virtual tours that students can look at online to get a good idea of what type of campus they are looking for.

“Visiting a school if you are able can help get a feel for what life on campus is

really like, as that college will become your home away from home,” said Ms. Duke.

Two Durant seniors, Kennedy Jehle and Landon Marth, have already been on multiple college visits.

Marth visited the campuses at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and UNI. He eventually narrowed it down to Iowa and Iowa State since he wanted a strong engineering program. Both schools are known nationwide for their programs.

“Both have strong programs and extracurriculars,” said Marth. “I’m planning to major in software engineering due to my enjoyment of programming and general drive to create something.”

Jehle traveled to UNI and Kirkwood. She was looking for a school with good allied health programs and heard that UNI had a good sonography program.

“I really liked being able to see the student life and what it was like,” said Jehle.

Both students recommended going

on college visits.

“I would recommend going on college tours to anyone who’s even slightly interested in going to college,” said Marth. “College is about learning more about yourself and how you can turn your interests into a career.”

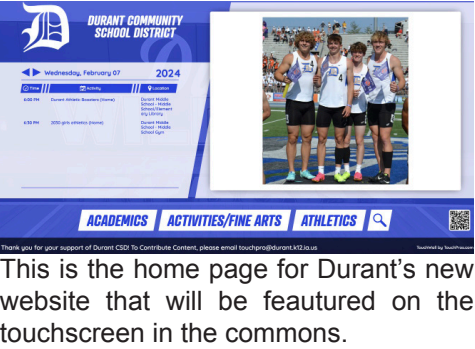
“I would recommend [college visits] because there are many things I would’ve never known if I didn’t go,” said Jehle.

The most important thing to do while on a college tour is to try new things. Students may discover new things that excite and inspire them.

There is no harm in exploring multiple colleges. There is more harm in not doing so. That way, students know they are making the right decision.

“There’s always [senior] students who don’t decide until late May or sometimes change their minds during the summer and end up going someplace completely different,” said Mrs. Badtram.

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flip through them and see all the portraits, but are unable to do that anymore,” said Mrs. Bachus, “and I think that disappoints them.”

Mrs. Bachus is excited for the projection screen when it is finished because she thinks it will be very cool to have access to all of the information of Durant’s history, but she thinks it may pose some problems for elderly members of the community.

“You still have that generation that goes up to the school for activities that ar-

en’t fully comfortable with the technology, so they might struggle with the new system,” said Mrs. Bachus.

The secretary of the Tri-County Heritage & Genealogy Museum, Mary Erickson, believes that the now dormant hard-copy senior class portraits would be a good addition to the museum but has heard no word from the school if it would like to donate them.

Mrs. Erickson understands that the

senior portraits are an important part of Durant history, but she needs to know the size and quantity of the class portraits before she can promise to display them in the museum.

“As a museum, one of the main goals is to preserve the history of our community and surrounding area,” said Mrs. Erickson.

“The portraits and yearbooks are a big part of the history of the school and need to be saved.”

Raynor Door's girls' track athlete of the month



2370 West Lake Blvd.  
Davenport, IA 52804  
563.391.9566 – phone  
www.raynorqc.com

Sophomore Kylee Hahn has been competing in track since seventh grade, and she got into the sport because she knew she was quick from previous experiences in other sports. What she enjoys most about track is that it is both an individual and team sport. Hahn's goal this season is to work on the long jump event.



Hahn

Peel's Inc. golfer of the month




755 W. Iowa 80 Road  
Walcott, IA 52773  
(563) 468-5460

Senior Collier Rockow has been playing golf since the eighth grade. He got into the sport because of his dad. What he enjoys most about the sport is spending time with his friends on the course. His goal this season is to place top five at state.




Rockow

Arty's Ice Cream and Grill's boys' track athlete of the month




609 W. 5th St.  
Wilton, IA 52778  
563-732-2222

Senior Charles Huesmann has been competing in track since the sixth grade, and he got into the sport because his mom told him to go out for the sport. What he enjoys most about track is running the relays with some of his friends. Huesmann's goal this season is to qualify for state in four events.




Huesmann

Apex Ink and Apparel's junior high athlete of the month



708 5th St., Durant, IA 52747  
563-785-6223

Eighth grader Sawyer Claussen is a member of the track team and has participated in track for three years. He got into the sport after he was told he was fast in basketball, so he should go out for track. Claussen's goal this season is to win his events at districts.



Claussen