



Durand Middle School Board Report

May 2026

Rebecca Shankster-Principal



Celebrating the 2025-2026 School Year

As we look to finish the 2025-2026 school year strong, we move into celebration mode at DMS. We like to celebrate the end of the year in several ways with our students and families. Below are a few of the highlights!

- Field Day: On May 29th, students and staff will be spending the day rotating through fun stations and eating a picnic lunch together outside! This is a day to enjoy all the relationships we have made throughout the year and give the students positive memories!
- 8th Grade Going Away Dance: On May 29th, all the 8th grade students are invited to attend a free going away dance. The theme of the dance is, "A Night in the Tropics". The going away dance is a Durand tradition and many parents who attended this dance as students are coming back to help chaperone.
- Bounce House Fun: On May 15th, we are celebrating all the hard work from students on the end of the year state and local testing with bounce houses and inflatable games! Our kids work hard and this is a way to recognize all their efforts!
- Awards Ceremonies: Families will be invited to celebrate with us on June 1st as we hand out awards for perfect attendance, academic achievements, students of the month, middle school completion, and special area awards.
- End of the Year Video: Each year, we end the school year with all the students and staff together in the gym. Mrs. Jewell creates an amazing video that features every student and staff member and is a compilation of all we have done together over the current year. This is a treasured tradition that we all look forward to.
- Grade Level Field Trips: Each grade level participates in a fun end of the year trip in late May. This is another opportunity to celebrate and just have a great time together!

Upcoming Field Trips

We have many field trips planned for the second half of May!

- On May 19th, 8th grade students will be visiting the Shiawassee County Career and College Readiness Center to be introduced to all the programs and services they have available to them in high school.
- On May 22nd, 7th grade students will be visiting Launch Lansing for a fun day of jumping, laser tag, and pizza!
- On May 22nd, 8th graders will have the opportunity to go to Cedar Point for the day with a food and drink pass for the park!
- On May 27th, 6th grade students have the opportunity to attend a Lugnuts game with access to the Pepsi porch and unlimited concessions.

Staff and Student Recognition

Each month we celebrate students and staff who show true Railroader Spirit! Please see below as we celebrate the following students and staff for the month of May!

6th Grade: Gabby Nelson-Landin

Gabby is kind and caring and looks out for her classmates. She also thinks deeply and has great contributions to class discussions. She cares a lot about people and our school.

7th Grade: Christopher Mogg

No matter the issue we may be having in the classroom, from finding information to fixing technology, Chris is behind the scenes researching how to help or how to fix it. The next thing you know, Chris has come up with the answer and the problem is solved. Chris is respectful and willing to listen. He always has something worth listening to to contribute and makes fantastic connections to diverse subjects.

8th Grade: Rylie Hutchinson

Rylie has consistently demonstrated what it means to be a dedicated and positive member of our school community. Through her hard work and commitment to learning, Rylie maintains excellent grades and approaches every assignment with responsibility and determination. In class, she is always willing to lend a helping hand to classmates, contributing thoughtfully to discussions and creating a supportive environment for everyone around her. Rylie has a strong work ethic, respectful attitude, and positivity that she brings into the classroom each day. She is known not only for her academic success, but also for the bright smile she wears and the encouragement she offers to others. Rylie truly represents the values of Durand Middle School, and we are proud to celebrate her achievements. Congratulations, Rylie, on being named 8th Grader of the Month!

Staff: Amber Lawrence

Mrs. Amber puts so much extra into her work, caring for kids and staff members in addition to doing a fantastic job cleaning and taking care of our building. She is always looking for ways to have fun and make connections with students. She also goes out of her way to make the building and staff lounge feel welcoming and inviting.

**CONGRATULATIONS DMS
STUDENTS AND STAFF OF THE
MONTH FOR APRIL/MAY!**

MRS. AMBER

6TH GABBY

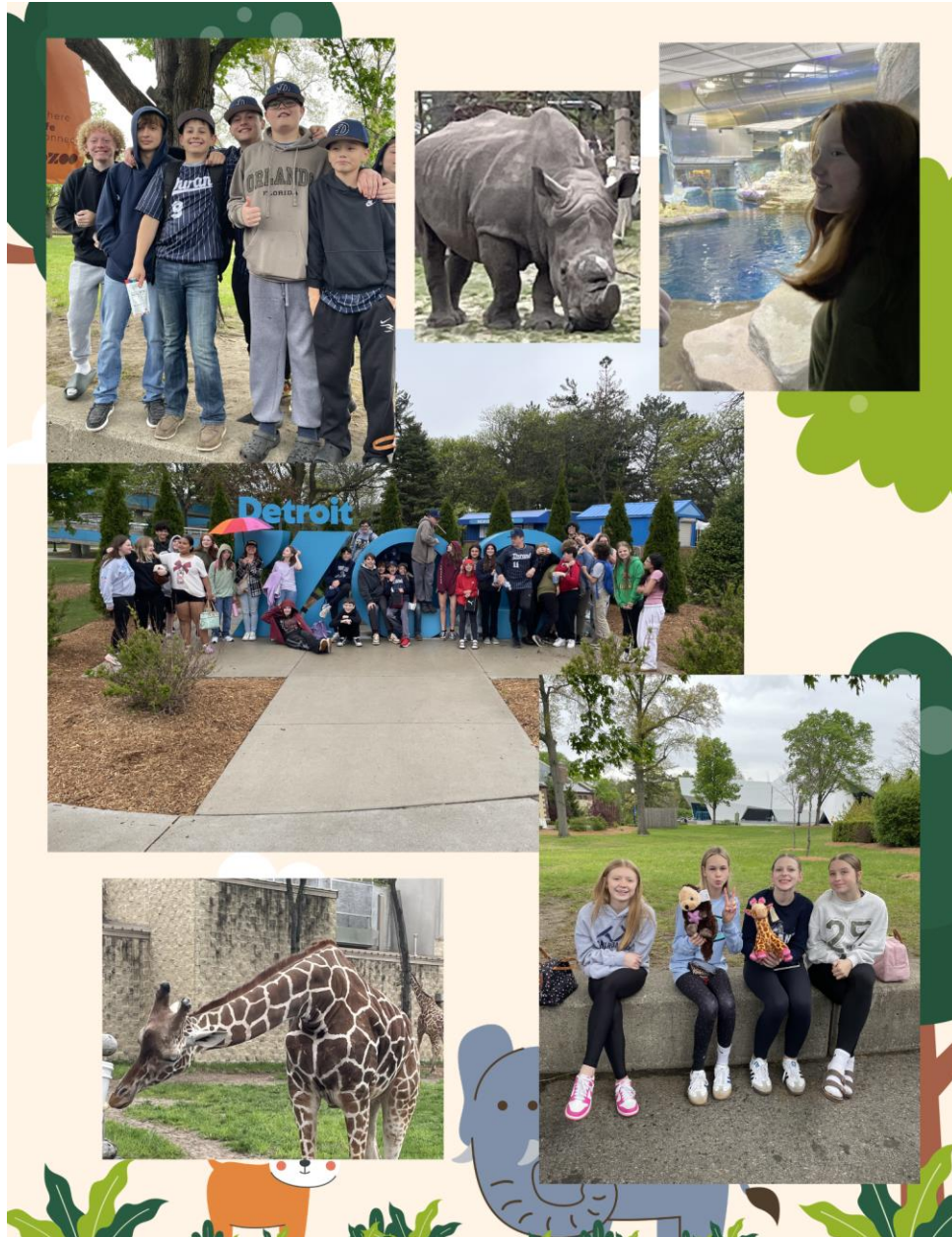
7TH CHRISTOPHER

8TH RYLIE

7th Grade Detroit Zoo Field Trip

On May 5th, 7th grade students had the opportunity to visit the Detroit Zoo. This was not an ordinary field trip. They were able to get up close and personal with a real zoo keeper, Emily! Students met with Emily via live video chat to learn about her job and

ask questions prior to the trip. They were then introduced to her in person during the trip. Students completed a Zoo Scavenger Hunt which kept them engaged as they learned about animals and their habitats. We want to give a big thank you to Mrs. Frawley for arranging this opportunity for our students.



Upcoming Events

- 5-15: Celebrate Learning Afternoon Fun Day!
- 5-19: 8th Grade Field Trip to the Career and College Readiness Center
- 5-22: 7th Grade Field Trip to Launch Lansing

- 5-25: No School
- 5-27: 6th Grade Lugnuts Field Trip, 8th Grade Cedar Point Field Trip
- 5-29: 8th Grade Free Going Away Dance 6:00-8:00 PM (Semi-Formal/Dressy Casual Theme: A Night in the Tropics), Student Fun Day (Outside most of the day)
- 6-1: Half Day, Award Ceremonies (8th Grade 7:40 AM, 7th Grade 8:45 AM, 6th Grade 9:50 AM)
- 6-2: Half Day, Last Day of School

"In the End, Only Kindness Matters"